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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES BETWEEN THAILAND AND NIGERIA

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Abstract

Poverty remains a significant challenge around the world. In 1990, it was estimated that 1.9 billion people were living in extreme poverty 36% of the world population. In 2015, global poverty estimated that 735 million people were living in extreme poverty 10% of the world population. Thailand has implemented a poverty alleviation strategy and has achieved. In contrast Nigeria has failed in implementing poverty reduction strategies. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to 1) examine the poverty and factors that cause high poverty rate in Nigeria from 1990 to 2022. 2) To analyze the strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction from 1990 to 2022. And 3) to propose the recommend that Nigeria should adapt from Thailand. The data collections of this study used semi structure interviews by interviewing 12 participants who have relevant experience in the area of poverty reduction. The results of the interviews illustrated the factors that are causing the poverty rate in Nigeria such as Corruption, conflict and insecurity, political democracy, Nigerian Policy implementation, inadequate infrastructure. The results also indicated the mechanism that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction such as: comprehensive sustainable development, social protection, human capital, sufficiency economy, and food security. From the conducted interviews the discussion identifies the three main factors providing high poverty rate in Nigeria which are: Corruption, conflict and insecurity, inadequate access to employment opportunities Also, the five main strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction are: comprehensive sustainability, human capital, social welfare and protection net.

Keywords: ECOWAS, ASEAN, MDGs, SDGs, Poverty Reduction

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Introduction

Poverty is one of the most persevering and significant problems in the globe. Every nation has been trying to reduce it by any means. Poverty leads to a high unemployment rate, at the same time it causes insecurity because when the people have no means to survive, they might likely be a threat to society (United Nations, 2019). For example, insurgency in sub-Sahara West African ECOWAS/Nigeria, poverty is one of the major causes of insecurity in sub-Sahara West Africa/Nigeria and other regions in the world (Bala & Tar, 2021). Thus, poverty increases health risk (Gundersen & Ziliak, 2015). Moreover, lower-income earning individuals encounter higher rates of illness, chronic disease, and disabilities than those higher-earning individuals who have higher incomes. Those lower-earning individuals have higher rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and Cancer (Gundersen & Ziliak, 2015).

Reducing global poverty was a key aim of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs target was to reduce the number of people living in poverty line by half between 1990 and 2015. At the same time ending poverty also is one of the priorities stands at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched in 2015. The first of its seventeen goals is no poverty by 2030, Thus, tracking the global progress on international poverty tell us how close the world is to achieving and sustaining these aims telling sustainable development goal to fulfill a better future for human in general (United Nations, 2015a).

In 1990, it was estimated that 1.9 billion people were living below the extreme poverty line 36% of the world population during that time. Perhaps in 2015, there was a significant achievement in poverty reduction, and it was the most historical year for which global estimates are, that 735 million people were living in the extreme poverty line 10% of the world population. Though, Poverty significantly reduced during the MDG era (post-2000 especially), indicating the power of intensive global efforts. Besides, the goal to reduce extreme poverty by half was achieved in 2012, three years ahead of schedule (Nayyar, 2019). The global share of the world's population living at the poverty level has been continuously decreased to 10% from 2015 to 2016. The SDG era 2017 was the most recent year whereby global estimates have been published by the World Bank that 714 million individuals were living in extreme poverty -9 percent of the world population and estimates the global poverty rate in 2019 at 8.2 percent 690 million individuals living in extreme poverty in 2019.

Poverty is one of the major significant challenges in West Africa Nigeria though in 1990, around half of the population in West Africa Nigeria and Southeast Asia Thailand were living on less than \$1.25 purchase power parity (PPP) in a day. From 2015 to 2022 the poverty rate in Southeast Asian Thailand significantly dropped to below 10% despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenge while in sub-Sahara West Africa Nigeria it relatively kept increasing instead of decreasing to above 40%, despite sub-Saharan West Africa Nigeria has more resources and the capacity to overcome the poverty rate within their region (United Nations, 2019).

Despite the vast geographical and cultural differences between Thailand and Nigeria the researcher selected these two countries because they have much in common, having similar political views of the world and substantial economic link with huge potential growth.

The researcher selected Thailand in ASEAN because Thailand is a regional hub of Southeast Asian that have done remarkably well in terms of boosting economic growth in recent decades, driven by its export-oriented manufacturing sector, social protection safety nets, and human capital development. Thailand has made significant investments in education resulting in improved literacy rates, school enrollment, and educational attainment levels and investments in infrastructure. This growth has contributed to the creation of employment opportunities, lower unemployment rates, and a growing middle class that leads to the reduction of poverty rates within their region. However, in 2015 Thailand become among the best country that fulfilled the remarkable progress on poverty reduction in Southeast Asian region in and 1962

among the first South East Asian countries to establish bilateral relation and diplomatic cooperation with Nigeria was Thailand (Oye, 2013). Thailand also agreed to assist Nigeria in terms of political consultation on matters of international and regional interest and economic development for Nigeria to become industrialized country. In contrast, the researcher selected Nigeria in ECOWAS region because Nigeria have not been archived to lower the poverty level. Nigeria has faced challenges in implementing effective poverty reduction policies, despite having various poverty alleviation programs such as the National Social Investment Program. Thus, Nigeria has struggled with economic instability, driven by factors such as oil price volatility, inadequate infrastructure, and political instability. Despite being Africa's largest economy, Nigeria faces high unemployment rates and widespread poverty and insecurity. Nigeria continues to face significant challenges due to economic instability, governance and weak social protection systems which is not the best for ECOWAS/Nigeria because poverty is a threat to society and economic development (United Nations, 2019). This is the main reason why conducted this research studying.

Research Objectives

- 1) To examine the poverty rate and factors that cause poverty high rate in Nigeria from 1990 to 2015 and to 2022 to know whether does the Nigeria could not be able to manage to apply effective strategy/mechanism properly.
- 2) To analyze the practice strategy/mechanism that Thailand implemented towards poverty reduction within the region from 1990 to 2015 and from 2015 to 2022.
- 3) To propose the recommend that Nigeria should adapt/learn from Thailand whether to apply similarly strategy/mechanism that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their Region and in this study.

Literature Review

Development Theory

Development theory is a group of theories about how to achieve the best beneficial reform in society. Therefore, to transform and achieve the best progressive society obviously can't shy away from economic development. The term economic development here is defined as global share and sustainable economic growth along with the systematic societal change in production, economic, and political to become an innovation-based economy and improvement in living standards. This definition differentiates economic development from economic growth that's barely based on production and distribution example: exploitation of natural resources, restructuring of the country's production GDP (Gross domestic product) to become a more export-dependent country, and sustaining the living standards of the poor (Adelman & Morris, 1997). Development theory has a long history and has three historical theories, below are briefly outlined: Modernization theory, Dependency theory, and World System theory.

Regionalism

Regionalism has become a research field in itself, rather than being limited to a narrower state- or policy-driven process conceptualized in terms of 'regional integration' in the classical sense. The multidimensionality of regionalism has given rise to several new puzzles and challenges for both academics and policymakers, with a subsequent proliferation of a very large number of theories and concepts. The end of the Cold War saw a surge in regionalism. While the number of preferential trading agreements (PTA) exploded (Mansfield & Pevehouse, 2013), long-standing regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), experienced the delegation of more political authority and policy competencies in the past two decades (Börzel, 2013). These two trends of more and deeper regionalism, respectively, are often attributed to processes of diffusion or interdependent decision-making. Regional cooperation and

integration spread across time and space once the constraints of geopolitics had ceased to exist (Börzel, 2013)

Poverty

Poverty is one of the most persistent problems in the world, which countries try to eradicate by any means while setting sustainable development goals to achieve a better future for mankind in general. There is no specific definition of poverty, Perhaps, Poverty is a condition of impoverishment, which involves multiple aspects, from limited income to vulnerability. There are mainly two conceptual approaches to poverty in this research (Wratten, 1995).

According to Wratten (1995), there are two conceptual approaches to rural poverty. The first conceptual approach is the conventional economic approach that defines poverty as the inability to get a minimum standard of living. The second conceptual approach is the Islamic approach which defines poverty as a failure of an individual to make a provision for food, housing, education, and healthcare for a minimum standard of living. Therefore, poverty positively affects the development of society hence it prevents individuals from getting the minimum standard of living, At the same time it's abstracting the individual to make a provision for food, housing, education, health treatment, and security. Thus, Poverty is one of the major problems that every nation needs to overcome for the betterment of the people and the development of society.

Global Poverty

The share of the global population living in extreme poverty below the standard of living decreased to 10% in 2015, from 16% in 2010 and 36% in 1990. Respectively. Thus, Thailand has made remarkable achievements against extreme poverty rates within their region, fulfilling to reduce the global rate further (United Nations, 2015a). The global poverty rate has been reduced remarkably and the quality of life has improved for a huge number of Southeast Asia's 625 million residents. Gross domestic product (GDP) has been achieved by US\$2.4 trillion and is still growing at 5% annually. Regional trade among the ASEAN members has jumped from \$10 billion in 1967 to \$2.3 trillion in 2015. But in 2021, had dropped to 3% percent (19 million people). This rate of poverty reduction is unmatched anywhere else in the world (Development Initiatives, 2021). Collective efforts by Thailand not to leave anyone behind and strategy to overcome the poverty rate have helped Thailand to achieve large gains in poverty reduction. At the same time, life expectancy improved (United Nations, 2015a). Therefore, the strategy that Thailand implemented to overcome poverty reduction within their region has been positively effective since they can achieve the above number despite the coronavirus threat. According to the World Bank report: the poverty rates significantly remain peak in the sub-Saharan West African/Nigeria region. The latest extreme poverty estimates from the World Bank revealed that West Africa/Nigeria is lagging behind the rest of the world. Thus, the Development expert Francisco Ferreira says it's not too late to turn things around. Hence Sub-Saharan west Africa/Nigeria is the only region in the world where the overall number of extremely poor people is increasing rather than decreasing (Müller-Jung & Oneko, 2018). Extreme poverty remains a major challenge in developing countries specifically in sub-Saharan West Africa a country that has been affected by conflict and political upheaval, out of the 736 million people who lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 413 million were in West Africa sub-Saharan region. This figure has been scaling in recent years and is higher than the number of poor people in the rest of the globe collectively. Yet, in 2021, the region is still home to more than 457 million individuals living in extreme poverty below the standard of living. As poverty has reduced elsewhere around the world, extreme poverty in countries in sub-Saharan West Africa now represents a global share of over 66% of the people who live in extreme poverty around the globe (Development Initiatives, 2021). Global poverty is defined as the number of individuals worldwide who live and earn less than \$1.50 a day. Globally, rates of extreme poverty have dramatically declined, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to approximately

736 million. However, an estimated 413 million people in Africa currently live in extreme poverty more than half of the world's total (World Bank, 2018).

Regional Poverty

Regional poverty is defined as the number of people living below the standard level of less than \$150 a day in each region. Since 1990, the regions of East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia have each remarkably reduced the number of people who live in extreme poverty. Though East Asia and the Pacific have indicated the most remarkable change (Development Initiatives, 2019). However, the West Africa sub-Sahara ECOWAS region is the only region in the world where the number of extreme poverties is increasing instead of decreasing. The agenda for sustainable development goals (SDGs) has been set and committed, as stated in the declaration of agenda to extend the Millennium Development Goal and finish the MDGs The Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) was established in 2001 which disclosed unprecedented political fidelity and have given restore that poverty reduction should be the major Objectives of international development attainments. Alleviating poverty now stands at the depth of the SDGs that were initiated in 2015. The first seven goals of SDGs are zero poverty by 2030. Tracking global development on the international poverty level tells how close the world is due to the coronavirus pandemic. In 2015, the global poverty of people living below the standard level is slower progressive against the higher poverty line to below 8%. The 2030 Unfinished aims to overcome extreme poverty and it all forms and dimensions around the globe by 2030. Thus, Thailand strategy for achieving poverty reduction was: Rural area comprehensive development, social protection, and safety net, enhancing food security, environmental sustainability, social justice and rights, capability to control communicable disease, Human capital development, building disaster resilient promotion of free healthcare systems, and Education (United Nations, 2015b)

Countries that Successful in Poverty Reduction

In the global battle to overcome the poverty rate, the World Bank published an analysis in 2019 of the 15 countries that are successfully overcoming poverty eradication. 7 countries from sub-Sahara Africa: Tanzania, Chad, Congo Republic, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Ethiopia, Congo, and Dem. Republic while, three countries in Europe and Central Asia: Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Moldova. Also, three from East Asia and the Pacific: Vietnam, Indonesia, and China, and two from South Asia, which are India and Pakistan.

Current Situation of Thailand and Nigeria for Achieving Poverty Reduction

Thailand has made phenomenal progress in terms of poverty reduction within their region by implementing strategy over the last two decades. In the form of the century, over a third 34.3 percent of the population fell below the global poverty line (\$1.90) per day (Asian Development Bank, 2023). However, in the year 2022, only 3.3% of individuals remained below the poverty line in Thailand. In contrast, Nigeria is one of the regional organizations that failed to fulfill the poverty reduction strategy. According to the (United Nations, 2019), there are (713 million) individuals who lived in extreme poverty below the standard of living of less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 10% (United Nations, 2019) .is shown Extreme poverty remains stubbornly high in low-income countries and countries affected by conflict and political upheaval, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa Nigeria. Among the 713 million people who lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 413 million were in sub-Saharan Africa and Nigeria (Development Initiatives, 2021).

Research Methodology

This research was conducted in the pattern of qualitative method. Semi-structure interview with open-ended questions was used to collect information from participants as it is direct communication so that it allows to obtain personal opinions and in-depth information. Approximately 12 participants were selected by purposive sampling technique. These 12

participants consist of 4 Thailand government officers from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development in Thailand, who have work experience in poverty reduction, 4 Nigerian Government officials from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs who have also work experience in the field of poverty reduction as well as 4 Policy makers those that have work experience in the field of poverty reduction. They were divided into 3 groups. These 3 groups were interviewed by using semi-structured, open-ended questions.

The first group includes 4 Nigeria government official from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs these 6 representatives were divided into two groups. The first group consisted of 3 Nigeria government official from the Ministry of Humanitarian, and the second group consisted of three policy maker who has experience working alongside ECOWAS in the field of poverty reduction. The first group 4 Nigeria government official from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has criteria as follows: 1) having working experience at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria on poverty reduction for 10 years 2) Having work experience working alongside ECOWAS for at least 5 years. 3) At least having experience working on a Master plan for 5 years.

The second group of Thailand Government officials consists of 4 government officials from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development All 4 participants in the second group have criteria 1) Having working experience in the Ministry of Economic and Social Development on poverty reduction for 10 years 2) Having work experience working alongside the ASEAN Association in the area of poverty reduction strategy for at least 5 years 3) At least have experience working on a Master plan for 5 years.

The third group includes 4 policy makers from Ministry of Economic and Social Development in Thailand as well as the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria and These policy makers have criteria as follows: 1) Having work experience in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria or Thailand from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development both in the area of poverty reduction at least 5 years. 2) Working in the position of development and poverty analyst for at least 10 years 3) At least have experience working on a Master plan for 5 years. In order to protect the anonymity of all groups of participants, this research will identify the participant as Participant A, B, C. below is the details of all participants:

Table 1 List of interviewed participants

Number	Name	Nationality	Workplace/Position
1	Participant A	Thai	National Economic and Social Development
2	Participant B	Thai	Social Issue Officer
3	Participant C	Thai	External Officer affair
4	Participant D	Thai	Asian Pacific Development
5	Participant E	Nigerian	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
6	Participant F	Nigerian	National Committee of War against Poverty
7	Participant G	Nigerian	National Economic Strategist
8	Participant H	Nigerian	Information Officer
9	Participant I	Thai	Development Analyst
10	Participant J	Thai	PSIA Analyst
11	Participant K	Nigerian	Poverty Analyst expert
12	Participant L	Nigerian	Poverty Analyst expert

The data analyzed in this research was conducted in the pattern of qualitative method. Development theory was used for analyzing the research findings.

Research Findings

The research results were collected by semi-structured interviews with the group of Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center in Abuja headquarters center, government officers from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development from Thailand, as well as the group of policy maker from both Thailand and Nigeria those who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction strategy.

Poverty Rate and Factor that Causes Poverty in Nigeria Region

There are five important factors provide the poverty high rate in Nigeria that were mentioned by interviewed Nigerian government committee member participants who work on poverty reduction in Abuja headquarters in Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center as well as those who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies in Nigeria These seven important factors are.

1) Nigerian political democracy all six interviewed Nigerian government committee member participants who work on poverty reduction in Abuja headquarters Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center, one out of six interviewed who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies in Nigeria. Mentioned that, political democracy is not the major problem and is not the factor in the contributing poverty rate in Nigeria. The types of leaders, people, and leadership that we are always having in Nigeria are the main cause of the poverty high rate because they are not there to serve the people who are voting them in, most of the time incompetent people that might not be able to win in a free and fair election can be the winner through influence voters, electoral officer or judiciary just for the incentive that will follow not for the country's development. As Participant I (Personal Communication, August 20, 2022) reported that: "subscribing to fundamental freedom, equality, and justice in terms of power, resource distribution and guaranteed access opportunities to all of its citizens has failed by providing a poverty high rate in Nigeria. This factor adversely affected Nigerian Achievement by preventing societal development.

2) The second factor is policy implementation. The policy implantation in Nigeria can be judged as backward policies because of the failure of economic development promises from the colonial master's period to this present time. Different policies are adopted and most of these policies became the agents of rural class formulation and differentiation where its implementation benefits only ex-bureaucratic, army officers, politicians, business, and traditional rulers. This factor was also mentioned by all six Nigerian government committee member participants who work on poverty reduction in Abuja headquarters Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center. Similarly, one interviewed Participant who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies in Nigeria Participant G (Personal Communication, August 20, 2022) reported that Nigerian Government Policies are frequently not helpful to SME business holders. The policy is a colonial legacy for the continuation of exploitation and dependency.

3) The third factor is corruption. Nigeria has been facing corruption as a major challenge because it gets to the point of complete and outrage theft for which no feasible notable or historical justification can be advanced, and which has played a major role in different sectors and is one of the key major in contributing the poverty high rate in Nigeria. This factor was also mentioned by all six Nigerian government committee member participants who work on poverty reduction in Abuja headquarters Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center as well as those who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies in Nigeria.

4) The fourth factor is conflict and insecurities. This factor was also mentioned by all six Nigerian government committee member participants who work on poverty reduction in Abuja headquarters Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center as well as those who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies in Nigeria. Participant

L (Personal Communication, August 20, 2022) reported that: “Conflict and insecurities have created a cycle of poverty, especially in the affected area. These factors have disrupted economic activities, resulting in underdevelopment, job losses, and lack of access to basic services such as education and healthcare at the same time have caused a lot of life loss.”

5) The fifth factor is inadequate infrastructure. This factor was also mentioned by all six Nigerian government committee member participants who work on poverty reduction in Abuja headquarters Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center as well as those who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies in Nigeria. Nigeria is far left behind when it comes to adequate infrastructure, because no good roads, rails and steady electricity as Participant L (Personal Communication, August 20, 2022) reported that: “Good infrastructure drives the economic growth of the country and ease the movement of goods and services, but Nigeria’s infrastructure is moving slower and it's what providing the poverty high rate. For example, lack of steady power in Nigeria has Leeds inflation because the cost of generator diesel is high also it's affecting the manufacturing industries and abstracting the foreign investment.

Strategy/Mechanism that Thailand Implemented to Reduce the Poverty Rate within Their Region

There are 5 main strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction within their region that were mentioned by the interviewed Thai government officials’ participants who work on poverty reduction and strategy in the Bangkok Thailand from the Ministry of National Economic and Social Development as well as those who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand were reported by them these 5 important factors are:

1) Comprehensive sustainable development strategy promoted and developed the rural area, also improved Thailand's economic growth and a better standard of living, at the same time it strengthened the agricultural sector in rural areas. This advantage was reported by all 6 interview Thai government officials’ two out of six interviewed participants who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand.

2) Social protection and safety net strategy helps Thailand examine the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line, provides them with financial support and strengthens the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line by aiding and delivering basic social services net. This strategy was reported by four participants who work on poverty reduction and strategy in the Bangkok Thailand from (the Ministry of National Economic and Social Development) as well as two those who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand. For example, Participant D (Personal Communication, August 20, 2022) mentioned that” Thailand is among the country that gets social safety and protection net, and this strategy has enriched Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within the region, such as, cash transfer, child grants, school meals, skill development, healthcare, nutritious food and quality education given to all children.”

3) Human capital development strategy helps the poor individual’s access to education and innovative farming especially those that are in rural areas in Thailand. Thailand has accomplished and improved the quality of education within their region including the teachers, high school and university curriculum development, these achievements have helped Thailand promote skill and competitive development to their people at the same time government’s commitment towards education combined with a focused approach and collaboration across all sectors has been a key success on achieving poverty. This strategy was reported by five participants who work on poverty reduction and strategy in the Bangkok Thailand from (the Ministry of National Economic and Social Development) as well as one who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand.

4) Sufficiency economy philosophy strategy was keen on improving the living quality of Thai people in rural areas, the better living country's development should be guided by three principles of moderation, reasonableness, and sustainability. This strategy was reported by four participants who work on poverty reduction and strategy in the Bangkok Thailand from (the Ministry of National Economic and Social Development) as well as two those who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand. For example, Participant K (Personal Communication, August 20, 2022) reported that "Thailand's sufficiency economy philosophy has presented a special approach and sustainable development focusing on self-sufficiency, equity, and environmental sustainability in Thailand, because most of the Thai people go into more production of their products to be self-sufficient and self-contained."

5) Food Security strategy Thailand has accomplished pivotal progress in advancing SDGs about ending hunger and promoting safe nutritious and sufficient food. This strategy was reported by five participants who work on poverty reduction and strategy in the Bangkok Thailand from (the Ministry of National Economic and Social Development) as well as one who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand.

Recommendations from Participants that Nigeria Should Adopt from Thailand to Reduce the Poverty Rate within Their Region

There are four main recommendations on what Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region by the research participants. The first recommendation is Nigerian government should invest in some kind of infrastructure that would enable their citizens to be more productive such as, better road, rail, and train like in Thailand and providing steady electricity because if the electricity is reliable then manufacturing, foreign direct investors, and other production firms would come and invest or run their business, but without the steady electricity they will not do that if the electricity is there for only a few hours a day. Secondly, all groups of participants also recommended that the Nigerian government should learn and adapt from Thailand's strategy on poverty reduction by investing more in human capital development such as: quality education and restructure their healthcare system by giving social service and providing adequate facilities, knowledge, and skills to all citizens. Moreover, Nigerian government should adopt from Thailand in form of maintaining the securities because without security foreign direct companies won't come and invest and without the legal certainty provided by good law and regulations which are also enforced no one will come. For these reasons, security and legal order have to be among the priorities for the Nigerian government were also recommended. Fourthly, they emphasized the importance of social welfare and protection net also to reduce the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusions within their regions. For example, cash transfers, free school meals, orphanage support and more help that will ease the hardship to their citizens, at the same time economic diversification, particularly a country like Nigeria which is heavily dependent on extractive industries, thus extractive industries can contribute to sustainable long-term growth but only if the benefit is reinvested in more sustainable resources that won't run out eventually.

Discussion

From the conducted interviews and collection of all data, the following step is the discussion to identify the factors providing high poverty rate in Nigeria Also, the mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty within their region, and the recommendation that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region.

Factors that Are Causing the Poverty Rate in Nigeria

There are three main factors that contributing the poverty high rate in the Nigeria mentioned by interviewed Nigerian government officers from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs

Department as well as who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies from Nigeria.

The first factor is corruption. According to Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I agreed that corruption deprives people, resources, and opportunities and undermines economic growth. Atuobi (2007) mentioned in his research that corruption is one of the key significant factors providing the poverty rate, because corruption represents a threat to the stability and security of societies, and undermines the institutions of democracy, ethical values, and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law.

However, Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I also have mentioned another important factor. For example, Nigerian political democracy is one of the factors contributing to the high poverty rate in Nigeria, and directly affects the equity and political balances particularly the policies adopted by the political leaders. For example, most of the Nigerian policies lack direction, transparency, and accountability, particularly poverty reduction policies, instead, the political leaders to make policies that decrease the suffering and starvation among the people they are more of accumulating the country's wealth for their benefits, rather than focusing on reducing the poverty among their people. Day (2022) mentioned in their research that political democracy is a form of government in which equality, political balance, accountability, and transference in a fair and free election for the benefit of citizens. While Dependency theory argues that the international economic and political system is the key major contributor that causes unjust situations and poverty in less developed countries such as inequalities, trade inequalities, and lack of financial aid (United Nations, 1950).

Secondly, conflict and insecurity factors are also another factor providing the poverty high rate in Nigeria, because conflict and insecurity institutional fragility and violence are associated with rising poverty across the world. The existence of a widespread conflict in Nigeria with the threats of Boko Haram, banditry, Fulani headmen, Biafra's, and Niger delta's militant is one of the big drivers of slowing the progress and increases of poverty in the region. This research finding is aligned with Adelaja & George (2019) who report absence of law and order is one of the big drivers of slow progress and increases in poverty in any region. However, Participants E, F, G, L, H and I also have mentioned another important factor. For example, policy implantation in Nigeria is also among the factors in contributing to the high poverty rate within their region. It can be judged as a backward policy because of the failure of economic development promises from the colonial master's period to this present time. Because different policies are adopted and most of these policies became the agents of rural class formulation and differentiation where its implementation benefits only ex-bureaucratic, army officers, politicians, business, and traditional rulers.

Thirdly, inadequate access to employment opportunities is one of the significant factors providing poverty rate, because the design and implementation of national policies for employment generation and inequality reduction were not effective and the majority of the people from rural areas have no equal opportunities when it comes to civil service and government work. For example, high-ranking government officials or politician normally put their children or relatives to well-paid job. World-system theory focuses on inequality as a separate institution from development and analyzes changes in the global capitalist system (Gutkind & Wallerstein, 1976). Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I agreed that inequality access to employment opportunities had a negative effect on poverty reduction in Nigeria because Majority of the Nigerians in rural areas have no equal rights and opportunities in government work or civil service because elected political leaders, traditional rulers, and high-ranking military and government officials usually put their children or relatives to well-paying job like CBN, NNPC, rather than a qualified person.

However, Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I still mentioned another important factor. For example, inadequate infrastructure because, Nigeria's infrastructure is moving slower and is

one of the factors providing the poverty rate within their region. For instance, the lack of steady power in Nigeria has leads inflation because the cost of generator diesel is high, and it is affecting the manufacturing industries and also abstracting the foreign investment in Nigeria. This research is aligned with Pouliquen (2000, as cited in Gaal & Afrah, 2017) found that inadequate infrastructure is one of the essential figures for the country's economic growth, Without the infrastructure of a nation country would not move forward. For example, trains, good roads, seaports, airports, and electricity are one of the key factors for a country to succeed in reducing poverty within the region. Subsequently, Orogun (2010) found that dependence on an extractive industry increases less productivity for the people and when a lot of the growth is coming from an industry that is capital intensive that does not employ many people, and that does not have many linkages to the rest of the economy it would contribute to poverty high rate. Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I also agreed that this factor is one of the causes of the poverty high rate in Nigeria. For Example, Nigeria is Africa's largest economy, and it's well diversified in some ways, but in terms of exports, it's still hugely dependent on oil. And heavily reliant on extractive industries.

The Mechanism/Strategies that Thailand Implemented on Poverty Reduction

There are 3 main strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction within their region that mentioned by interviewed Thai government officials' participants who work on poverty reduction and strategy in the Bangkok Thailand center from the Ministry of National Economic and Social Development as well as those who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand. These 3 important strategies are:

The First strategy that Thailand implemented is comprehensive sustainable development. Participants A, B, C, D, J, and K mentioned that it has strengthened the agricultural sector in the rural area and has placed Thailand in a very blessed economic position and environmental sustainability. This research result was similar to previous studies conducted by United Nations (2019) that comprehensive sustainable development has strengthened the agricultural sector in the rural area and has placed Thailand in a very blessed economic position and environmental sustainability. However, A, B, C, D, K, and J still mentioned another important strategy. For example, sufficiency economy philosophy offers a practical guideline for people in Thailand to live their lives in a sufficient manner. Also, served as a model for other developing countries that are seeking to achieve sustainable development. This research finding is aligned with Rostow (1990) who report that Thailand's sufficiency economy philosophy strategy on poverty reduction has presented a special approach and sustainable development focusing on self-sufficiency, equity, and environmental sustainability in Thailand.

The second strategy is the social protection and safety net. Participants A, B C, D, K, and J reported that Thailand is among the beneficiary of the social safety program and this factor enrich Thailand to reduce the poverty within their region. because numerous international organizations such as the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, and the IMF, support and strengthen poor individuals who are living below the poverty line by providing and delivery of Basic social services in the region This result of this research is aligned with United Nations (2019) found that social protection and safety net is one of the inclusive sustainable development strategies. However, participants A, B C, D, K, and J still mentioned another important strategy. For example, food security with regards to ending hunger and promoting access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, Thailand managed to reduce the number of people living in the food poverty line. And accomplished pivotal progress in advancing SDG2. This research finding is aligned with Meechoovet (2022) emphasizing that food security had a positive effect on poverty reduction in Thailand. The result revealed that Thailand has achieved extensive and significant progress on poverty reduction, both with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Particular progress has been made in addressing extreme poverty, as illustrated by the absence of persons living with an income below the standard of living.

The third strategy is Human capital development. This research finding is aligned with Dr. Gabriel Demombynes, the World Bank's Program Leader for Human Development, told in the ASEAN (Invest in Me) seminar organized by the World Bank and Chulalongkorn University's School of Integrated Innovation in Bangkok. Narrated that Human capital development by investing in people for greater social equity and economic to prevent poverty is one of pivotal strategies. For example, investing in good health, nutrition, education, and skills that make it possible for people to have a productive and prosperous life is one of the significant factors that Thailand fulfilled towards poverty reduction (Tephaval, 2019). Participants A, B C, D, K, and J mentioned that human capital helps the poor individual's access to education and innovative farming, especially in rural areas in Thailand.

Moreover, participants A, B C, D, K, and J mentioned another important strategy, for example: Education. Thailand has improved in terms of quality education, teachers training, high school and university's curriculum development, these developments help Thailand promote skills full youth and competitive development to their people, at the same time government's commitment towards education, combined with a focused approach and collaboration across all sectors, and has been a key success on reducing the poverty within their region. This research finding is aligned with previous studies conducted by Helble et al. (2019) found that education is one of the most important ways to reduce poverty by educating the poor since education opens up a wide range of economic opportunities for people.

However, participants A, B C, D, K, and J still mentioned another important strategy. For example, promoting healthcare. This strategy benefit Thailand citizens receive health care at less minimal cost and have been successful in improving access to health care service and reducing the health inequalities in Thailand. Ensuring the public health is soundly productive capacity not just undermined people die prematurely or experiences serious health complication from preventable disease. Helble et al. (2019) found that access to healthcare and the promotion of free healthcare benefit Thailand citizens receive health care at less minimal cost is one form of universal healthcare when the government pays for the healthcare needs of its residents meaning free healthcare. This is often called the "single payer" system.

Recommendation on the Strategies that Nigeria Should Adopt from Thailand to Reduce the Poverty Rate within Their Region

There are five important recommendations that were mentioned on the strategies that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region.

The first recommendation is adequate infrastructure. Asian Development Bank (2010) found that infrastructure is one of the essential figures for the country's economic growth. For example, trains, good roads, electricity, and technology is one of the key factors in reducing poverty. Participants A, B C, D, G, and J recommended that Nigerian Government should learn and adapt from Thailand's strategy on poverty reduction by providing adequate infrastructure specifically steady electricity because if the electricity is reliable then manufacturing, foreign direct investors, and other production firms would come and invest.

The second recommendation is human capital development. Participants A, B C, G, D, and J recommended that paying attention to the young generation to support the development of knowledge and training skills on human capital development. For example, quality education and restructure their health care system by providing adequate facilities to the citizens should be the main focus as they are the back born of the society who are keen on learning new skills also have the potential to be the divers of society.

The third recommendation is maintaining the security. Participants A, B C, D, G, and J recommended that Nigerian Government should adopt from Thailand on maintaining the securities because without security and certainty provided by good law and regulations foreign

direct companies won't come and invest. For these reasons, security and legal order have to be among the priorities for the Nigerian government. Adelaja & George (2019) found that Conflict and insecurity and institutional fragility and violence are associated with rising poverty and the absence of law and order.

The fourth recommendation is social welfare and protection. National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh (2017) studied social safety and protection programs to reduce the brunt of poverty and also prevent people from falling into poverty in the first place to prevent, ease poverty and inequality at every stage of people's lives, such programs make societies more inclusive and stable. The initiative also studied social safety and protection programs to reduce the brunt of poverty and also prevent people from falling into poverty in the first place by helping to prevent and ease poverty and inequality at every stage of people's lives, such programs make societies more inclusive and stable to provide social welfare and protection that will covers the range of policies and programs. Such as school meals, child grants, skill development, and cash transfers to all children (National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh, 2017).

The fifth recommendation is the trade agreement (Attavanich et al., 2019) found that free trade agreements promote regional economic integration and build shared approaches to trade and investment between two countries. Also create business activities that many businesses will benefit from substantial trade and investment. Participants A, B C, D, G, and J recommended that Nigerian should learn and adopt from Thailand to Cooperate more on bilateral free trade agreement to revise on their bilateral trade agreement with their neighboring countries.

Conclusion

There are three main factors that caused the poverty high rate in Nigeria that should be improved. These factors are:

1) Corruption is one of the causes of poverty high rate in Nigeria that should be tackle. Nigeria has been facing corruption as a major challenge to the point of complete and outrageous theft for which no feasible notable or historical justification can be advanced that adversely affected Nigerian political democracy system Achievement by preventing the societal development in Nigeria.

2) Conflict and insecurities are other factors contributing the poverty rate in Nigeria that should be improve, because this factor become widespread and have created a cycle of poverty, disrupted economic activities and loss of lives in Nigeria due to the Nigerian policy implantation. Hence different policies were adopted and most of these policies became the agents of rural class formulation and differentiation where its implementation benefits only colonial masters, ex-bureaucratic, army officers, politicians, business, and traditional rulers.

3) Inadequate access to employment opportunities because Majority of Nigerians have no equal rights and opportunities in government work or well-paid job, Though, inadequate infrastructure and the reliability of the extracted company is also one of the factors contributing the poverty that should be improve in Nigeria.

However, there are another three main important strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction.

1) Comprehensive sustainable development strategy, this mechanism has helped Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region. It improved Thailand's economic growth and standard of living at the same time it strengthened the agricultural sector in the rural area and has placed Thailand in a very blessed economic position and environmental sustainability. For example, Thailand's sufficiency economy philosophy.

2) Social protection and safety net, this mechanism has helped Thailand to reduce poverty within their region by examining the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line and giving them a financial support foundation to be resilient, and self-sustaining households

and communities. For example, food security enriched Thailand in accomplishing pivotal progress in advancing SDGs about ending hunger and promoting safe nutritious and sufficient food.

3) Human capital development, this mechanism has helped Thailand by investing in people for better equity, economic growth, good health, nutrition, and skills that give poor individuals access to education and innovative farming. For example, Education in Thailand has reduced the poverty within their region.

Moreover, there are important recommendations that were mentioned by the participants that Nigerians should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty within their region. Nigerian government should emphasize more on 1) adequate infrastructure because adequate infrastructure is one of the keys to the country's economic development. For example, steady electricity, good roads, and rails. 2) The Nigerian government needs to tackle the conflict and insecurity issue in the Nigeria region. Because conflict and insecurity are associated with rising poverty and provide social welfare and protection net.

Recommendation

For Government: To make good progress on poverty reduction, the government should prepare for the following actions 1) Nigerian Government should find out more information about Thailand's strategy on poverty reduction concerning adequate infrastructure that would enable their citizens to be more productive such as, better roads, rail, and electricity like in Thailand because the more people's goods can flow the faster their goods can reach the market and that would help the Nigerian economy to growth. 2) Nigerian should learn from Thailand and invest more in human capital development such as quality education, healthcare system, providing social service, adequate facilities, knowledge, and skills to all citizens not to leave anyone behind. 3) Nigerian should adopt from Thailand on maintaining the securities because without security foreign direct companies won't come and invest and without the legal certainty provided by good law and regulation which are also enforced no one will come. For these reasons, security and legal order have to be among the priorities for the Nigerian government. 4) Nigerians should adopt from Thailand social welfare and protection programs to reduce the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusions within their regions. For example, cash transfer, free school meals, orphanage support and more help that will ease the hardship to their citizens.

For Policy makers 1) Nigeria need to consider economic diversification because it is very important, and it will help Nigeria to reduce the poverty within their region. Therefore, I suggest and recommend Nigeria to learn and adapt from Thailand on economic diversification, particularly a country like Nigeria which is heavily dependent on extractive industries. Thus, extractive industries can contribute to sustainable long-term growth but only if the benefit is reinvested in more sustainable resources that won't run out eventually. 2) Nigeria should learn from Thailand enhancing food and safety by ensuring the safety of the food as a public health priority Hence is an essential stage in achieving food security, because effective food safety and quality management systems are the key not only to safeguard the health and well-being of people but also fostering economic development and improving live hoods. 3) Enchasing free trade could provide a significant opportunity for SMEs and big enterprises in the Nigeria region, such as job creation, business opportunities, and economic activities. Many businesses will benefit from substantial trade and investment and suggested that the Nigerian government needs to revise their bilateral trade agreement with their neighboring countries.

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