

POVERTY REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA

Oluyemisi Omobola AGBOOLA (Ph.D).

Department of Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management Sciences, Ekiti State University,
Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria. PMB 5363, Ado-Ekiti.

Email: oluyemisi.agboola@eksu.edu.ng. **Phone No:** 08035737326

Williams Omodara ALABI, (Ph.D).

Department of Entrepreneurial Studies, School of Vocational and Entrepreneurial Studies,
College of Technology, Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and
Technology (BOUESTI), Ikere-Ekiti, Nigeria

Email: alabi.omodara@boueti.edu.ng. **Phone No:** 0806009781

Wanita OKORONKWO (Ph.D)

Email: Wanitaokoronkwo87@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Nigeria has the potential to devise policies that can effectively reduce poverty and drive social development. However, the successful implementation of these policies often poses a significant challenge. This implementation gap undermines the achievement of social development goals, particularly those related to poverty reduction. This study investigates the effect of poverty reduction on sustainable development goals with reference to Ekiti State. The study population comprised of 3,592,100. Multistage sampling technique was used to select 400 respondents using Taro Yamane (1967) formula to determine the sample size for the study from the age of 20-69 years. Questionnaire was used to gather information from the selected respondents. The study employed regression analysis to test the hypotheses. The findings of the study unveiled that employment opportunity has significant effects on social development. Furthermore, the study indicated that social condition has adverse influence on income level of people. The study recommended that the government should create more job opportunities to boost social development among its citizens and prioritize essential services, including quality healthcare, education, hunger eradication, combating substance abuse, and eliminating employment discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty has remained a persistent problem in Nigeria since independence in 1960 as the gap between the poor and rich widens each decades. Poverty reduction is regarded as measure for sustainable development which tends to tends brings about soundness of economic policy and contribute tothe alleviation of poverty and sustainable development. The impact of povertyon sustainable development in Nigeria is devastating. The inability of the poorpeople to harness the resources that will improve their living conditions hashelped to dismantled their hopes of life. The unsustainable use of natural resources inevitably causes poverty. Policy to reduce poverty must focused on removing overdependence on oil revenue and show other means of generating revenue for the government such as improvement on agricultural production which tends to bring about increase in standard of living of the people (Utuk, 2022). The greater Nigerian population practice agriculture, which in spite of its neglect, feeds the nation and contributes significantly to the nations GDP (Utuk, 2022). The improvement on

agricultural production can be achieved by increasing supply of inputs such as machinery, improved seeds, fertilizer, storage facilities, good road and price stabilization.

The rural areas people have been seen to be the mostly affected people by poverty in Nigerian than people in the urban areas. Record from past event showed that in 1992, rural poverty increases from 46% to 71.7% in 1996 and correspondingly, urban poverty increase from 37.5% in 1992 and had increased to 59% in 1996. Worst still, about 78% of the population lived below poverty line in rural areas and 34% in urban areas (Utuk, 2022).

According to the report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2019), it was gathered that poverty and inequality from September, 2018 to October, 2019, 40% of people in Nigeria lived below its poverty line of 137,430 naira (\$381.75) per year. It said that represents 82.9 million people in Nigeria 40.1 percent of total population were classified as poor, in other worlds, on average 4 out of 10 individuals in Nigeria has real per capital expenditures below 137,430 Naira per year. The lethargic growth and increasing inflation have amplified poverty from 40 per cent in 2018 to 46 per cent in 2023, pushing an additional 24 million people below the national poverty line (Punch, 2024).

In 2024, the World Bank projects observed that Nigeria's poverty rate is estimated between 38.8% and 40.7% which is below the international poverty line by the end of year 2024. This is as a result of some menaces such as lack of job creation, high inflation, and poor economic management. Nigeria's chronically high inflation reached an all-time high of 24.7 percent annually in 2023, driven by continually increase in energy and food prices, the removal of the petrol subsidy, loose monetary policy, and naira depreciation. Nominal earnings have not kept up with inflation, pushing another 10 million Nigerians into poverty in 2023 (World Bank Group, 2024).

A lot of research has been conducted in relation to poverty reduction and sustainable development goals but only a few have focused on the poverty reduction and its effect on sustainable development goals.

None of these studies examined the effect of poverty reduction such as employment opportunities and social conditions on sustainable development and goals in Ekiti State. Based on this backdrop, the study empirically investigated the effect poverty reduction on sustainable development and goals in Ekiti State.

Several scholars have carried out researches on the impact of poverty reduction programmes on rural development in Nigeria. This has prompted the search for alternative modes and mechanisms for poverty reduction that could bring about economic development. Over the past decade, interest in poverty reduction and rural development has grown significantly in various parts of Nigeria. In the country, government and rural representatives view poverty reduction programmes as important vehicles for rural economic development (Adejumo & Adejumo, 2016).

The advent of modern societies and the development of states or nations brought to the fore, the need for even development to reduce disparity and inequality, which are closely associated with poverty in the spatial context (Ajiye, 2017). This underscores the need for concerted efforts towards poverty reduction since the government alone cannot be relied upon for this. According to Amzat (2009), the rural area and the people have not fared well in what? The

rural areas have continued to be backward and low in economic and social well-being over the years. Ezedinma (2016) also observed that the concentration of investment and government expenditure in the urban areas makes the rural areas to be neglected in development programmes.

The government at all levels made several policies and programmes to address the problems of rural poverty and inequality. Despite these efforts, the rise in the standard of living noticed in the advanced world has not trickled down favourably on the developing countries as a gap still exist between the haves and the have not. This phenomenon has led to constant review in approaches to poverty reduction programmes in the country. Some of the major poverty reduction programmes are World Bank Agricultural Development Projects, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and among others (Ibadan, 2016).

1. Literature Review

Conceptual Review

Poverty Reduction

Poverty is said to be related to individuals that are believed to have an income below the poverty line set by the government. Hashim, Osman and Zaman (2016) identified various classes of poverty namely, absolute poverty and relative poverty. Poverty reduction can be defined as a measure put in place to transform the lives of certain targeted population by providing resources which tend to improve their standard of living and socioeconomic condition. People in the rural area needs some basic amenities to help them cushion the level of poverty in their area such as education, quality and affordable healthcare, motorable roads, pipe-borne water, rural electrification, security of life and property etc. (Nwambuko *et.al.*, 2023).

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development refers to development that caters to the present generation's needs without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. At its core, sustainable development prioritizes persistence and continuity, emphasizing the importance of considering the well-being of succeeding generations in development plans. This approach necessitates the equitable management and judicious use of resources to achieve development goals. Effective sustainable development relies on institutions of government that implement policies and legislation addressing poverty, both in the present and future. A strong civil society is crucial to the success of sustainable development. This emphasizes the need to incorporate local knowledge into the development process, recognizing local communities as primary stakeholders. Ultimately, the goal of sustainable development is to achieve lasting improvements in quality of life, rather than fleeting short-term gains that disappear at the end of a project cycle (Achimuguet *et.al.*, 2012).

The goals of sustainable development are outlined to ensure sustainable future for people and such goals are regarded to as seventeen (17) sustainable development goals which includes: poverty eradication, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender

equality, good pipe borne water, affordable and clean energy, economic growth, reduce inequalities, industry, innovation and infrastructure, climate change, and peace, justice and strong institutions etc. According to Ogunyemi (2024), sustainable development is defined as a development approach that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Balogun (2023) identified the following as the challenges of poverty reduction and Social Development Goals in Nigeria:

Lack of Political Will: Nigeria has the capacity to formulate effective policies aimed at reducing poverty and promoting social development. However, the country consistently struggles with implementing these policies, hindering progress toward achieving social development goals, particularly in poverty reduction. The lack of implementation is largely attributed to the indifference of political office holders responsible for policy-making. Even when policies are enacted, their execution is often thwarted by inadequate funding, leading to delays and mismanagement. In some cases, funds allocated for poverty reduction are misappropriated by those entrusted with implementing the policies. This pervasive mismanagement undermines Nigeria's efforts to alleviate poverty, perpetuating a cycle of underdevelopment.

Insecurity: Nigeria's development and poverty reduction efforts have been severely hindered by rampant insecurity, particularly in the Northern region. Persistent cases of banditry, farmers/herders' conflicts, cattle rustling, kidnapping, and other forms of violence have devastated communities.

The insurgency has left numerous families in a state of vulnerability, forcing them to live in poverty and fear. The pervasive nature of these security threats has undermined economic growth, social stability, and human well-being, exacerbating Nigeria's poverty challenge.

Misplaced Target:

When programs are designed, they are created with a specific rationale and particular target which the policy is set to achieve. But when such policy is formulated and fail to meet the target or rationale for the formulation, they are tends to be considered ineffective. A noticeable example of this is the provision of financial aid and relief materials by governments and international organizations to support displaced persons affected by insurgency in northern Nigeria. Regrettably, a significant portion of these resources often fails to reach the intended beneficiaries, undermining the program's intended impact.

Corruption: Numerous efforts have been made by past and present Nigerian Nigerian government both the past and current to bring about lasting solution to poverty in Nigeria but has been proven futile due to pervasive issue of corruption. The corruption is believed to have eaten deep in the society and therefore lead to lack of accountability and transparency within government institutions. Corruption has become so ingrained that it is now perceived as the norm, with individuals who refuse to engage in corrupt practices being viewed as outliers. In such an environment, sustainable development is impossible, as the institutions responsible for ensuring progress have been compromised.

Social condition

Social condition can be said to be situations surrounding people that influence their lives, both individually and collectively. These circumstances can comprise of poverty, quality of housing, education, employment, and social inequalities. Understanding social conditions is crucial for addressing social problems and promoting well-being. Social conditions can also include lack of differences in social outcomes based on social factors like ethnicity, race and socioeconomic status.

2.3 Theoretical Literature

2.3.1 Situational Theory of poverty

The situational theory of poverty was promulgated by Ragnar Nurkse in 1953. The situational theory of poverty holds that the poor behave differently because they do not have the resources and opportunities for adopting the middle-class life styles. The situational theory highlights some factors such as lack of accessibility to education and healthcare, limited job opportunities, low purchasing power among others are belied to trap individuals and families into poverty. Young people have few opportunities to go to college and so they drop out. Women prefer multifocal family because it allows them to have greater claim upon their children. Poverty resulting from negative functions of capitalism (Royce, 2018).

The situational theory emphasizes the role of societal structures in perpetuating poverty, while also examining how individuals adapt to these circumstances. Unlike the culture of poverty theory, it doesn't assume that the poor share a distinct subculture. Instead, the situational theory suggests that individuals make rational choices based on their situation, often leading them to prioritize short-term needs over long-term aspirations. As a result, the poor may not adopt middle-class values, recognizing they are unattainable, and instead accept significant deviations from these ideals – a phenomenon known as the lower-class value stretch (Rodman, 1963; Della Fave, 1974).

Empirical Literature

Jaka (2025). He examined the strategies of poverty alleviation based on data from the regions in the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta province, Indonesia, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals category of No Poverty (SDGS 1). This study estimated a poverty model based on panel data of regencies from 2014 to 2023. The research found that local governments have successfully alleviated poverty by maintaining the minimum wage policy, effective human resource development programs, and allocating their spending to lower poverty. This study highlights that local governments are on the right path in their public policies regarding poverty alleviation.

Aliyu, Dennis and Kolo (2024) investigated the impact of Sustainable Development Goals on poverty alleviation in Minna Metropolis Niger State, Nigeria. This study adopted a survey research design, and descriptive statistics, correlation coefficient and multiple regression analysis were used to analyze the data. The study found that quality education and peace and security all has positive but insignificant impact on poverty alleviation in Minna Metropolis, Niger State. This study concluded that sustainable development goals (quality education and peace and security) do not yield significant result to alleviate poverty in Minna Metropolis Niger State.

Ogunyemi (2024) explored the determinants of sustainable development in Nigeria using secondary data from World Bank Development indicators over the period of 1981 to 2022. GDP Per capita, Inflation, consumer prices (annual %), Total Natural Resource Rent, Unemployment Rate and Terms of Trade were proxies for determinants of sustainable development. The study made use of Unit root test using both Augmented Dickey Fuller and Phillip Perron. Fully Modified Ordinary least square estimation was used to test the study and found that GDP per capita and total natural resources rent emerge as significant drivers of sustainable development, while the unemployment rate, terms of trade, and inflation rate do not bear significant weight in this regard.

Nwambuko, Nnaeto and Nwobi (2023) conducted a research on poverty reduction and sustainable development goals in rural areas in Nigeria with focused on selected Local Government Areas in Enugu state, Nigeria. The study employed descriptive survey research design. The study population was made of 722, 664 people of three local government areas in Enugu. Cluster and purposive sampling technique was used to select 400 respondents for the study. Questionnaire was used to gather information from the selected 400 respondents and was analyzed with chi-square. The study established that there are factors contributing to increasing rural poverty and that there are challenges of implementing Sustainable Development Goals to reduce poverty in rural areas in Nigeria.

AbdulKareem, Jimoh and Shasi (2023) used vector autoregressive model to carry out research on socioeconomic development and sustainable development in Nigeria: the roles of poverty reduction and social inclusion. The study covered the period 1970 to 2019 and data were gathered from the World Bank's World Economic Indicators database. The finding of the study unveiled that gross domestic product per capita and inflow of foreign direct investment to the gross domestic product ratio and life expectancy and school enrolment have a positive effect on social development in Nigeria.

Mohammed, Hassan and Zakari (2020) investigated the impact of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) on poverty alleviation among rural women and youth in Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria. Descriptive survey and documentary design was employed for the study. The population of the study comprised of 9,682 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) empowerment programme in Federal Capital Territory Abuja. 366 respondents was selected as sample for the study using Robert and Krejeie sample size determination. Both primary and secondary data were collected for the study and analyzed with the descriptive and inferential analysis technique. The Analysis of Variance result indicated that Sustainable Development Goals empowerment scheme has positive and significant relationship between poverty alleviation among rural women and youth in Federal Capital Territory.

Research Method

This study used descriptive research design to examine the effect of poverty reduction on sustainable development goals in Ekiti state. The population of the study consist of the of the entire individual residing in the three senatorial districts in Ekiti State comprising of Ekiti central senatorial district, Ekiti North senatorial district and Ekiti South senatorial district. The population of the state is given in the Table 3.1 below according to the senatorial districts.

Table 3.1: Population for Ekiti State Senatorial Districts

SENATORIAL DISTRICT/LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	POPULATION
EKITI CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT	
Ado Ekiti	469,700
Efon	130,600
Ekiti West	268,900
Ijero	332,200
Irepodun/Ifelodun	196,700
Total	1,398,100
EKITI NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT	
Ido/Osi	239,600
Ikole	255,200
Ilejemeje	65,100
Moba	217,700
Oye	206,300
Total	983,900
EKITI SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT	
Ekiti East	207,100
Ekiti South West	247,200
Emure	141,200
Gbonyin	221,600
Ikere	222,400
Ise/Orun	170,600
Total	1,210,000
Grand Total	3,592,100

Source: National Population Commission of Nigeria (web), National Bureau of Statistics (web) (2022).

A multistage sampling technique was employed for the study. Firstly, the study selected the entire population of the people in Ekiti State, which was later reduced to 5 categories of people who are believed to belong to the working age. However, the five categories which are of age distributions were purposively selected they represented sizeable ages of people for employment population. The purposive sampling technique was used to determine the appropriate age groups from the list of the age distributions for Ekiti State. The five age groups selected are shown in the table below:

AGE DISTRIBUTIONS	POPULATION
20-29	464,898
30-39	277,497
40-49	209,275
50-59	126,226
60-69	77,255
Total	1,155,151

Source: National Population Commission of Nigeria (web), National Bureau of Statistics (web) (2022).

Stratified sampling technique was adopted to select the respondents drawn from the age distribution.

The study employed Taro Yamane (1967) formula to determine the sample size for the study.

Taro Yamane formula is expressed as: $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$

Where: n = Anticipated total sample size; N = Total number of age grades; and E = Accepted Error limit (0.05)

The sample size for the study will be obtained thus:

$$n = \frac{1,155,151}{1 + 1,155,151(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1,155,151}{2887.8775}$$

$$n = 400$$

This study made use of primary data to obtain information from targeted respondents through a carefully constructed questionnaire consisting of a five-point likert scale which was designed to capture all vital answers for the study. The scales used in the questionnaire were strongly agree (5), agree (4), undecided (3), disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1). The result of data collected was subjected to statistical analysis using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Simple percentage (%), frequency distribution to analyze the demographic information of the respondents. Regression analysis was employed to test the study hypotheses.

Model Specification

The study employed Ogunyemi (2024) model, which looked at Determinants of Sustainable Development in Nigeria. The model was modified to align with the objectives of this research. The original equation from Ogunyemi (2024) is presented as follows:

$$ANS_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 GDPPC_t + \beta_2 TNR_t + \beta_3 TOT_t + \beta_4 UR_t + \beta_4 INFR_t + \varepsilon_t \dots \dots \dots 3.1$$

Where:

ANS = Adjusted Net Savings measure for sustainable development

GDPPC = GDP Per capita

INFR = Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)

TNR = Total Natural Resource Rent

UR = Unemployment Rate

TOT = Terms of Trade

β_0 = Constant,

β_1 – β_4 = Coefficient of the independent variables and

ε_t = is the error term.

However, for this study, the dependent variable in Equation (3.1) was modified to represent the employment opportunities (EMO) and social condition (SOC) which are measures of poverty reduction. Also, the independent variable, Adjusted Net saving was replaced with

Sustainable development Goals (SDGs). The modification aimed to explore the effects of poverty reduction on sustainable development goals.

Thus, equation employed for this study was specified in the following ways:

$$SDGs_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EMO_t + \beta_2 SOC_t + \varepsilon_t \dots \dots \dots 3.1$$

SDGs= Sustainable Development Goals
EMO = Employment Opportunities
SOC = Social Condition
 β_0 = Constant,
 β_1 – β_4 = Coefficient of the independent variables and
 ε_t = is the error term

1. Results and Discussions

4.1 Personal Data of Respondents

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

VARIABLES	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Sex	Male	261	65.3
	Female	139	34.7
	Total	400	100.0
Age	20-29	187	46.8
	30-39	69	17.3
	40-49	72	18.0
	50-59	38	9.4
	60-69	34	8.5
	Total	400	100.0
Edu. Qualification	O'Level	74	18.4
	B.Sc.	192	48.0
	M.Sc.	85	21.3
	Ph.D.	49	12.3
	Total	400	100.0
Years of Experience	EMPLOYED	193	48.3
	UNEMPLOYED	112	28.0
	SELF-EMPLOYED	95	23.7
	Total	400	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The table above demonstrates the demographic information of the respondents chose for the study. Table 4.1 above indicates 65.3% of the respondents were male and 34.7% of the respondents were female. The respondents ages demonstrates that 46.8% of the respondents are between the age of 20-29 years, 17.3% of the respondents are between the ages of 30-39, 18% of the respondents were between the ages of 40-49, 9.4 % of the respondents are between the ages of 50-59and 8.5% of the respondents are within the age of 60-69.

The table above shows that 18.4% of the respondents indicate their highest level as O'Level, 48% of the respondents indicated their highest educational level as B.Sc., 21% of the respondents indicated their highest educational level as M.Sc., while 12.3% of the respondents indicated their highest educational qualification as Ph.D. holders. This is an indication that the respondents are educated and can give correct information needed for the study. Table 4.1 indicates that 48.3% of the respondents are employed, 28% of the respondents are unemployed and 23% of them are self-employed. This means the respondents had knowledge about the happenings and can provide necessary information for the study.

4.2 Testing of Hypotheses:

Hypothesis One:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between employment opportunity and sustainable development goals.

Table 4.2: Relationship between employment opportunity and sustainable development goals.

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.998	.140		21.377	.000
	INCLEVEL	.210	.020	.457	10.562	.000
	GOVTPROG	.272	.024	.500	11.420	.000
	IMPJOBSEC	.033	.021	.068	1.548	.002
	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-stat	Sig.	
	.582 ^a	.339	.334	67.780	.000 ^b	

Source: Author's Computation, 2025.

The table 4.2 above depicted the regression result of employment opportunities and sustainable development goals. It showed that there is 58.2% ($R=0.582$) relationship between employment opportunities and social development goals. The table above also indicated that 33.9% ($R^2 = 0.339$) of the variation in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variable. The F-Statistic value of 67.78%, with a probability of $0.000 < 0.005$, demonstrates that the fitted regression model is statistically significant and therefore, appropriate, reliable and acceptable for assessing the effects of employment opportunities on sustainable development goals. The INCLEVEL (Income levels is a determinant of poverty reduction) has a significant with a coefficient of .210 ($P=0.000 < 0.005$).

GOVTPROG (Government programmes awareness can help bring about social development) shows a positive and significant effect on the sustainable and development goals, with a coefficient of .272 ($P=0.000 < 0.005$). IMPJOBSEC (Improvement in job security and job creation can bring about development and poverty reduction) has a positive and significant effect on sustainable and development goals with a coefficient of .033 272 ($P=0.002 < 0.005$).

Hypothesis Two:

H0₂: Social condition has no significant influence on sustainable development goals.

Table 4.3: Influence of Social Condition on Sustainable Development Goals.

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.930	.152		19.227	.000
	ECOSIT	.433	.037	.468	11.838	.000
	POVELEV	.251	.018	.560	13.873	.000
	SOCICOND	-.251	.024	-.449	-10.511	.000
	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-stat	Sig.	
	.678 ^a	.460	.456	.445	.000 ^b	

Source: Author's Computation, 2025.

The table 4.3 above indicated the regression result of social condition and sustainable development goals. It showed that there is 67.8% ($R=0.678$) relationship between social condition and social development goals. The table above also indicated that 46% ($R^2 = 0.46\%$) of the variation in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variable. The F-Statistic value of 44.5%, with a probability of $0.000 < 0.005$, demonstrates that the fitted regression model is statistically significant and therefore, appropriate, reliable and acceptable for assessing the influence of social condition on sustainable development goals. The ECOSIT (The economic situation brings about challenges in accessing essential goods and services) has a significant with a coefficient of .433 ($P=0.000 < 0.005$). POVELEV (The social condition does not affect poverty) shows a positive and significant effect on the sustainable and development goals, with a coefficient of .251 ($P=0.000 < 0.005$). SOCICOND (Social condition has effect on income level) showed a negative effect but was also significant with a coefficient of $-.251$ ($P=0.000 < 0.005$).

Discussion of Findings

The research work investigates how poverty reduction has influence the social development goals in Ekiti state, Nigeria. According to the findings of the regression analysis in hypothesis one revealed that an employment opportunity has significant effects on social development goals. The result of this research is in tandem to the study of Nwambuko, Nnaeto and Nwobi (2023) poverty reduction and sustainable development goals in rural areas in Nigeria.

The second hypothesis showed that social condition has influence on the social development goals. The result supports the study of AbdulKareem et.al. (2023) who looked at socioeconomic development and sustainable development in Nigeria: the roles of poverty

reduction and social inclusion. From the analysis, the study also indicated that social condition has adverse influence on income level of people.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the effects of poverty reduction on social development goals in Ekiti state. The study concluded that employment opportunity has significant effect on social development goals in Ekiti state. This indicated that employment opportunity is the best index of poverty reduction. The study also evident that social condition has influence on the social development goals. Based on the study's findings, the researchers recommended two-pronged approach to significantly reduce poverty in the state. Firstly, the government should create more job opportunities to boost social development among its citizens. Secondly, to fully achieve social development goals, the government should prioritize essential services, including quality healthcare, education, hunger eradication, combating substance abuse, and eliminating employment discrimination.

REFERENCES

- AbdulKareem, H. K., Jimoh, S. O., & Shasi, O. M. (2023). Socioeconomic development and sustainable development in Nigeria: the roles of poverty reduction and social inclusion. *Journal of Business and Socio-economic Development; Manama*, 3(3), 1-11.
- Aliyu, Z. I., Dennis, I. A., & Kolo Ibrahim (2024). Impact of Sustainable Development Goals on Poverty Alleviation: A Study of Minna Metropolis, Niger State. *Journal of African Innovation & Advanced Studies (JAIAS)*. 06 (2). 13-32
- Balogun, O. S. (2023). Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the challenges of poverty reduction in Nigeria. *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)*, 16(2), 682-693.
- Jaka, S. (2025). Poverty Alleviation in the Local Economy to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals. *Journal of lifestyle and SDGs Review*, 5(2), 1-15
<https://doi.org/10.47172/2965-730X.SDGsReview.v5.n02.pe03942>
- Kabir, J. B., & Nwogo, O. O. (2021). Poverty reduction and rural development in Nigeria: A study of sustainable development goals (SDGS), 2015-2020. *European Journal of Humanities and Educational Advancements (EJHEA)*, 2(12), 190-198.
- Mohammed, A., Hassan, H. T. & Zakari (2020). The impact of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) on poverty alleviation among rural women and youth in Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria. 6(1): 109-122
- Nwambuko T.C., Nnaeto, J.O., & Nwobi, U.A. (2023). Poverty reduction and sustainable development goals in rural areas in Nigeria: A Study of Selected Local Government Areas in Enugu State, Nigeria. *Global Journal of Political Science and Administration*, 11(3), 58-77.
- Ogunyemi, A. A. (2024). Determinants of Sustainable Development in Nigeria. *ACU Journal of Social Sciences*, 3(1), 1-19.
- Punch (2024). Nigeria's poverty rate will surpass W'Bank 104 million estimate soon – Economists. Downloaded from <https://punchng.com/nigerias-poverty-rate-will-surpass-wbank-104-million-estimate-soon-economists/> 7th September, 2024.
- Utuk, I. O. (2022). The impact of poverty on sustainable economic development in Nigeria. *Aksu Journal of Management Sciences (Aksujomas)*, 7(1&2), 80-95.
- World Bank Group (2024). Poverty and equity brief. Downloaded from <https://datacatalogfiles.worldbank.org/ddh->