UNIOFFA JOURNAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (U-OJIS)
A Multidisciplinary Journal of Science, Management and Social Sciences
Website: www.unioffajis.com
ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF KWARA STATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ON POVERTY ALLIEVATION IN NIGERIA IN ILORIN EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT, KWARA STATE

Abdullahi Alabi
Department of Politics and Governance, Kwara State University, Malete
Alabi.abdullahi@kwasu.edu.ng

Ajadi kolawole ABDULKADIR
Department of Politics and Governance, Kwara State University, Malete
ajadiousabdulquadry@gmail.com

Volume 1:2

Abstract
Poverty alleviation remains a pressing challenge in Nigeria, requiring innovative policy interventions such as state-level social investment programmes. The Kwara State Social Investment Programme (KWASSIP) was launched to empower vulnerable groups through initiatives including Owo Isowo (microcredit), Owo Arugbo (stipends for the elderly), youth entrepreneurship support, and vocational training. Despite its ambitious scope, questions persist regarding awareness, accessibility, implementation, and measurable impact at the grassroots level. Against this backdrop, this paper study examines the impact of awareness and accessibility of KWASSIP on poverty alleviation among residents in Ilorin East Local Government Area. Specifically, the study adopted a quantitative descriptive survey design under a positivist paradigm, with data collected from 198 respondents through structured questionnaires. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was employed to test the hypothesized relationships among the constructs. Findings revealed that awareness and accessibility, implementation strategies, and challenges all exhibited statistically insignificant effects on poverty alleviation outcomes. This suggests that while KWASSIP is conceptually designed to reduce poverty, its actual impact in Ilorin East remains weak, largely due to bureaucratic inefficiencies, political interference, limited outreach, and weak accountability mechanisms. The study concludes that although KWASSIP has potential to improve income levels and livelihoods, its effectiveness is hindered by systemic and operational barriers. It recommends enhancing programme visibility, strengthening institutional frameworks for transparent implementation, reducing political interference, and expanding grassroots engagement to ensure inclusivity and measurable poverty reduction.
Keywords: KWASSIP, Poverty Alleviation, Social Investment, Awareness, Implementation Strategy, Ilorin East

Introduction:

Poverty eradication remains a critical global priority as it directly impacts access to basic human necessities such as adequate nutrition, education, healthcare, shelter, and decent employment. In response to this persistent challenge, many countries many countries have adopted social investment programmes aimed at addressing not only the symptoms but also the structural causes of poverty. In Nigeria, the federal government has implemented a range of social intervention programmes designed to reduce poverty, enhance productivity, and increase the capacity of citizens to generate sustainable incomes (World Bank, 2020). To this end, the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) was launched in 2016. This programme includes N-Power (a youth empowerment and employment scheme), TraderMoni (a microcredit initiative), and Conditional Cash Transfers (targeted at poor households), among others.

At the sub-national level, Kwara State government effort to address poverty, especially in the wake of the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic launched the Kwara State Social Investment Programme (KWASSIP) in 2020 as social investment initiatives to local realities. The programme includes several components such as *Owo Isowo* (micro-loans for petty traders), *Owo Arugbo* (monthly stipends for elderly citizens), *Kwapreneur* (entrepreneurship grants and business development training for youth), and *K-Power* (vocational and technical skills acquisition schemes). The overall objective of KWASSIP is to enhance the economic self-reliance of

ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

disadvantaged groups, stimulate local economic activities, and improve household income (Kwara State Government, 2021). In Ilorin East Local Government Area, the programme has been rolled out to reach grassroots beneficiaries. However, the effectiveness of KWASSIP in eradicating poverty is dependent on several factors including programme design, beneficiary targeting, funding adequacy, and monitoring mechanisms. When effectively implemented, such a programme has the potential to improve income levels, promote entrepreneurship, and equip beneficiaries with skills required for sustainable livelihoods.

Despite the establishment of the Kwara State Social Investment Programme (KWASSIP) as a strategic initiative to combat poverty, significant proportion of residents, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, remain unaware of the programme's existence or lack the logistical and procedural means to benefit from it. This disconnect threatens the inclusivity of KWASSIP and potentially excludes the very population it was designed to support. In addition to awareness and access challenges, there is lingering uncertainty about the quality and effectiveness of KWASSIP's implementation process within Ilorin East Local Government. The success of social investment programmes depends not only on sound policy design but also on efficient and transparent execution at the local level (Olaniyan, 2018). If such inefficiencies are embedded in the local execution of KWASSIP, they could significantly undermine the programme's goals, hinder timely disbursement of funds or resources, and dilute the accountability mechanisms essential for sustainable impact. A critical evaluation of the implementation framework is therefore necessary to determine whether programme design aligns with on-the-ground realities especially addressing the poverty eradication efforts in Ilorin East Local Government area of Kwara State.

Literature Review

Conceptual Review

The study attempts review of the concepts within the context of the study, their implications as well as assessing their significance and relevance.

Poverty is a multifaceted condition characterized by the deprivation of essential resources and opportunities necessary for a decent standard of living. It extends beyond mere income insufficiency to encompass limited access to education, healthcare, clean water, and adequate housing (Jimoh, M. O., & Mustapha, R 2020). Other factors contributing to this situation include unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to quality education and healthcare services. Poverty eradication on the other hand involves comprehensive efforts aimed at eliminating extreme poverty and improving the quality of life for all individuals. This requires implementing policies and programs that address the root causes of poverty, promote economic growth, and ensure equitable distribution of resources. Strategies may include social protection programs, investment in education and healthcare, and initiatives that foster employment opportunities.

The Social Investment Programme is commitment to reducing poverty, unemployment, and economic disparities among its citizens. The aims of the programme among others are to empower vulnerable populations through targeted financial support, skill development programs, and entrepreneurial resources, thereby fostering sustainable economic growth and inclusivity.

Empirical Review

Reviewed studies on social investment programs remain crucial to the uptake and eventual success of poverty eradication. Nwachukwu (2025) identified deep-rooted issues such as corruption, poor coordination, and weak local governance that hindered poverty alleviation success. Oyasor (2025) in his study of poverty reduction strategies in Oyo State emphasize the importance of coupling financial support with business and financial literacy training for poverty alleviation.. In similar vein, Aigbe et al. (2022), Abdullahi et al. (2022) and Yahaya et al. (2023) and Abdullahi et al. (2022), reiterates that social intervention measures, particularly N-Power, significantly enhanced poverty reduction, social well-being and socio-economic development. Nevertheless, Jimoh and Mustapha (2020 and Kayode et al. (2023) in their separate studies on N-Power program revealed a weak impact on poverty alleviation but a stronger influence on youth empowerment, with many participants using stipends for subsistence rather than economic empowerment and program sustainability.

Theoretical Review

The social capital theory and empowerment theory provide theoretical foundation for analyzing the social investment programs in poverty alleviation. While each theory has its limitations, their combined application helps to explain the social, psychological, and institutional dynamics involved in social investment programs, thereby enhancing the depth and relevance of this study.

ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

The social capital theory in the context of poverty alleviation, assumes that individuals embedded in strong social networks are more likely to benefit from shared resources, trust, cooperation, and mutual support that can lead to improved economic and social outcomes. Thus, social capital is seen as a mechanism through which community members can leverage relationships to access microcredit, training, and information. Pierre Bourdieu (1986) posits that social relationships are valuable assets that individuals and groups can utilize to access resources and improve their socioeconomic conditions. However, the social capital according to Fine (2001) and Portes (1998) may reproduce existing inequalities by benefiting those already embedded in influential networks while marginalizing the socially excluded. Despite these limitations, the predictive capacity of social capital theory shows that communities with stronger interpersonal networks and social cohesion are more likely to achieve effective implementation of social programs and better economic outcomes.

The_empowerment theory in the context of poverty alleviation, assumes that empowering individuals' particularly marginalized populations enables them to make informed decisions, assert their rights, and actively participate in societal and economic processes. Paulo Freire (1970) conceptualized empowerment as a process of gaining awareness, self-confidence, and control over one's life circumstances through education and participatory dialogue. In a similar vein, Amartya Sen (1999) and Narayan (2002) argue that poverty alleviation efforts must go beyond income generation to include access to education, skills acquisition, and participation in governance Nonetheless, empowerment theory is sometimes used in a tokenistic or paternalistic manner in development programs, where external actors determine what constitutes empowerment without adequately consulting beneficiaries (Cornwall & Brock, 2005). Despite these concerns, empowerment theory remain predictive framework that is more likely to have sustainable poverty reduction effects by enabling beneficiaries to take control of their livelihoods.

Methodology

The paper adopt a quantitative research design using a descriptive survey approach to determine the impact of the Kwara State Social Investment Programme (KWASSIP) on poverty eradication in Ilorin East Local Government Area. The primary data **we**re collected through structured questionnaire containing both closed-ended and Likert-scale items administered to both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of programme components such as *Owo Arugbo*, *Owo Isowo*, *K-Power*, and *Kwara Food Response*. The secondary data was derived through literature on social investment, publication from government, KWASSIP report, journal, gazette and other relevant publications. A sample size of 215 respondents was determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) out of the target population approximately consist of 460 individuals who are beneficiaries, non- beneficiaries, administrative officers, civil societies, residents of Ilorin East Local Government Area. The study employs stratified random sampling technique to select respondents from different strata (local government staff and community leaders).

Data Presentation:

The data collected through the copies of questionnaire administered to the sampled respondents obtained were subjected to statistical analyses and presented in a table using Partial Least Square Structural Equation Model (PLS-SEM). The descriptive statistical analyses was calculated using SmartPLS-4 version 4.0.8.3.

Table 4.3: Descriptive Statistics Results of all measurement items

Name	Description Shortened	Mean	Median	min	max	Standard Deviation	Excess kurtosis	Skewness
A1	Social investment contribute meaningfully to development	4.099	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.711	1.988	-1.022
A2	KWASSIP activities improve poverty reduction	4.172	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.712	1.677	-0.962
A3	Sensitization programme improve public awareness	4.130	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.728	1.783	-1.023
A4	KWASSIP services are accessible to rural and urban residents	4.130	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.756	1.744	-1.097

ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

A5	Information on eligibility and requirement are well communicated	4.109	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.745	1.346	-0.941
B1	KWASSIP implementation are well planned and organized	3.708	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.636	2.098	-1.740
B2	KWASSIP progrmme is in line with stated objectives	3.771	4.000	2.000	4.000	0.568	4.344	-2.383
B3	Resources allocated for KWASSIP are properly managed during implementation	3.880	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.715	1.201	-0.851
B4	KWASSIP officials effectively monitor and evaluate programme activities	3.896	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.620	2.996	-1.246
B5	KWASSIP programme implementation is transparent	3.979	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.790	0.961	-0.920
C1	KWASSIP strategies are regularly reviewed to improve programme outcomes	4.281	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.514	2.332	-0.198
C2	Corruption affects development	4.276	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.522	2.200	-0.236
C3	Limited fund hinders effective implementation of KWASSIP	4.245	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.610	0.828	-0.469
C4	Political interference affects fair distribution of KWASSIP benefits	4.307	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.544	1.741	-0.358
C5	Lack of proper monitoring reduces effectiveness of KWASSIP	4.344	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.556	0.403	-0.274
D1	Corruption among officials limits the success of KWASSIP	3.807	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.612	3.460	-1.790
D2	Inadequate staff training poses challenge to KWASSIP implementation	4.115	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.748	1.823	-1.093
D3	Poor infrastructure makes KWASSIP less effective	3.938	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.592	3.057	-1.047
D4	Beneficiaries of KWASSIP experience better standard of living than before	4.104	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.750	1.738	-1.071
D5	KWASSIP has reduced level of poverty in Ilorin East Local Government	4.151	4.000	2.000	5.000	0.766	1.656	-1.107

Source: Author's computation (2025) using SmartPLS-4

UNIOFFA JOURNAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (U-OJIS)
A Multidisciplinary Journal of Science, Management and Social Sciences
Website: www.unioffajis.com
ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

The analysis of awareness and accessibility indicate that respondents were largely neutral regarding their awareness and accessibility of KWASSIP programmes. The mean values (2.96–3.01) and median scores (3.00 across all items) reveal that beneficiaries neither strongly agreed nor strongly disagreed with statements on awareness creation, accessibility of information, or ease of enrolment. The standard deviations (≈1.20) suggest moderate variability in opinions. Skewness values close to zero (–0.07 to –0.02) indicate near-symmetry, while negative kurtosis values (–0.93 to –0.96) reflect relatively flat distributions, implying that responses were spread out rather than concentrated around the mean. The Cramér–von Mises test (p = 0.000) further confirms deviations from normality. Overall, these findings suggest that programme visibility and accessibility remain average, with limited evidence of strong outreach or equitable service delivery

The analysis of implementation strategy items also points toward neutrality, with mean values ranging between 2.95 and 3.02, and medians consistently at 3.00. Standard deviations (≈1.22–1.25) indicate moderate dispersion, reflecting differing views among participants. Skewness values range narrowly between –0.07 and 0.13, suggesting symmetrical distributions with some items slightly tilted toward disagreement (e.g., IP4, skew = 0.126). Negative excess kurtosis values (–0.94 to –1.10) reveal flattened distributions, implying a lack of strong consensus. These results suggest that respondents were undecided about the effectiveness of KWASSIP's planning, monitoring, and transparency practices, highlighting possible concerns about weak programme implementation.

The analysis of challenges recorded slightly higher mean values (3.00–3.02), with medians fixed at 3.00, reflecting a modest acknowledgment of obstacles hindering the programme. Standard deviations (≈1.19–1.25) show moderate variability in responses. Skewness values (–0.10 to 0.24) reveal mild asymmetry, with some leaning toward agreement that challenges exist. Negative kurtosis values (–0.93 to –1.06) suggest that distributions are relatively flat, indicating diversity in opinions. These findings imply that respondents recognize political interference, corruption, bureaucracy, and inadequate resources as challenges, though the responses do not reveal overwhelming consensus.

The analysis of poverty_alleviation_items show mean values between 2.96 and 3.02, with consistent median values of 3.00, indicating neutrality in perceptions of KWASSIP's impact on poverty reduction. Standard deviations (≈1.21–1.26) reflect moderate variability, while skewness values (0.05–0.16 for some items) show a slight lean toward disagreement that the programme has improved income, living standards, or economic independence. The negative kurtosis values (–0.91 to –1.05) further suggest flat distributions, with responses spread across the Likert scale. These results reveal that respondents generally did not perceive strong poverty alleviation outcomes from KWASSIP, pointing to limited programme effectiveness in achieving its core objective.

The above descriptive statistics across all four dimensions; Awareness and Accessibility, Implementation Strategy, Challenges, and Poverty Alleviation reveal a consistent pattern of neutral responses. The mean values (≈3.0), medians (3.0), and moderate standard deviations (≈1.2) demonstrate that respondents neither strongly endorsed nor strongly criticized KWASSIP. The negative excess kurtosis across all items suggests that opinions were spread out, while skewness values near zero indicate generally symmetrical distributions. The Cramér–von Mises test (p = 0.000) confirms that the data deviates from normality, as expected with Likert-scale responses. The results show that beneficiaries perceive KWASSIP as average in terms of awareness creation, accessibility, and implementation, while challenges are modestly recognized. Importantly, the neutrality expressed regarding poverty alleviation outcomes highlights a gap between programme objectives and perceived impact, suggesting the need for improvements in visibility, implementation strategies, and delivery of measurable benefits.

Discussion of Findings:

Objective i: The results of findings on awareness and accessibility of KWASSIP by target in Ilorin East Local Government had a negative but statistically insignificant effect on poverty alleviation (β = -0.064, T = 0.527, p = 0.598). This finding implies that while awareness campaigns and accessibility mechanisms exist, their influence on actual poverty reduction outcomes remains weak in the study area. In other words, residents' knowledge of KWASSIP and ability to access its interventions have not directly translated into significant improvements in living standards. From a theoretical perspective, this aligns with Social Capital Theory, which emphasizes the role of networks, information, and social relationships in enabling individuals to access opportunities. Weak

ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

awareness and accessibility undermine beneficiaries' ability to leverage KWASSIP interventions, thus reducing the programme's effectiveness in eradicating poverty.

Similarly**,** Empowerment Theory stresses that unless people are adequately informed and equipped with the right tools, their participation in poverty alleviation programmes will remain limited. Empirically, this finding corroborates Agba, Akwara, and Idu (2013)**,** who noted that low awareness and accessibility hinder the effectiveness of social protection schemes in Nigeria. Despite KWASSIP's reported outreach to thousands of residents, anecdotal evidence suggests that rural dwellers and marginalized groups in Ilorin East remain excluded due to inadequate publicity, limited access points, and bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Objective ii: The findings on the impact of KWASSIP implementation strategy on poverty alleviation in Ilorin East Local Government indicated that KWASSIP's implementation strategy had a positive but statistically insignificant effect on poverty alleviation ($\beta = 0.092$, $T = 0.837$, $p = 0.403$). Although the coefficient suggests a potential contribution, the lack of statistical significance points to weaknesses in the actual execution of the programme at the local level. This reflects issues such as inadequate monitoring, political interference, and procedural inefficiencies as highlighted in the proposal.

Theoretically, this finding resonates with the Theory of Change (ToC)**,** which stresses that social programmes must have well-defined causal pathways between inputs, processes, and outcomes. Where implementation mechanisms are weak or inconsistent, the intended impacts on poverty reduction may not materialize. Empirical studies also support this outcome. The KWASSIP case in Ilorin East confirms bureaucratic inefficiencies, lack of transparency, and weak institutional frameworks which limit their effectiveness (Olaniyan, 2018 and Okonjo-Iweala & Osafo-Kwaako, 2007). Thus, beneficiaries often face delays in fund disbursement, favoritism in selection, and weak accountability structures, thereby reducing the poverty alleviation potential of the programme.

Objective iii: The study on the challenges confronting the implementation of KWASSIP on poverty alleviation in Ilorin East Local Government revealed a positive but statistically insignificant effect on poverty alleviation ($\beta = 0.104$, $T = 0.974$, $p = 0.330$). This suggests that while challenges such as inadequate funding, favoritism in beneficiary selection, delays in disbursement, and poor monitoring exist, they do not show a statistically significant direct effect on poverty outcomes in the current model. Nonetheless, addressing these challenges are critical in shaping the long-term sustainability of the programme. This aligns with the Empowerment Theory**,** which highlights that systemic barriers such as political interference and weak institutional capacity hinder marginalized groups from fully benefiting from empowerment initiatives. Similarly, Social Capital Theory emphasizes that when programme delivery is undermined by favoritism and lack of trust, beneficiaries' willingness to engage with interventions diminishes, thereby weakening overall programme performance.

Summary and Conclusion

The quest for poverty reduction in Nigeria has increasingly underscored the centrality of social investment programmes at the subnational and local government levels. With poverty remaining a persistent challenge despite various national and state-level initiatives, targeted interventions such as the Kwara State Social Investment Programme (KWASSIP) have been introduced to address the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups through schemes such as OwoIsowo, OwoArugbo, Kwapreneur, and K-Power**.** Its overall impact on poverty alleviation in Ilorin East is constrained by weak awareness, implementation inefficiencies, and systemic challenges

This study provides significant insights into the relationship between the Kwara State Social Investment Programme (KWASSIP) and poverty alleviation in Ilorin East Local Government. Based on the findings, the study concludes that awareness and accessibility of KWASSIP have not exerted a meaningful impact on poverty alleviation outcomes. Although residents may be aware of the programme and its components, this awareness has not translated into measurable improvements in household welfare or poverty reduction. This indicates that publicity and accessibility mechanisms remain inadequate, limiting the ability of beneficiaries to fully leverage the opportunities provided by KWASSIP.

The paper further concludes that KWASSIP's implementation strategy, while conceptually designed to promote empowerment and reduce poverty, has not demonstrated statistically significant effects on poverty alleviation in Ilorin East. This suggests that weaknesses in programme design, delivery mechanisms, and monitoring have undermined the potential benefits. In practice, issues such as delays in disbursement, favoritism in beneficiary selection, and inadequate follow-up dilute the intended outcomes of

ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

the intervention. In addition, the paper concludes that challenges such as limited funding, political interference, corruption, and administrative bottlenecks continue to constrain the effectiveness of KWASSIP in addressing poverty. Although these challenges did not show a statistically significant direct effect in the model, their practical relevance cannot be overlooked. They collectively weaken institutional performance and reduce the programme's credibility among residents, thereby limiting its long-term sustainability.

Overall, the paper emphasizes that while KWASSIP represents an important initiative toward poverty alleviation in Kwara State, its current impact in Ilorin East Local Government remains weak. Strengthening awareness creation, enhancing transparency and accountability in implementation, and addressing systemic challenges are necessary to improve the programme's effectiveness. Only by addressing these gaps can KWASSIP achieve its core objective of sustainably lifting vulnerable households out of poverty and contributing to inclusive development in Kwara State.

Recommendations

This paper proposed the following recommendations in line with the three specific objectives:

i. **Awareness and accessibility**: Since the study revealed that awareness and accessibility of KWASSIP had a negative and statistically insignificant effect on poverty alleviation, it is recommended that the Kwara State Government and KWASSIP management should strengthen publicity and outreach strategies. There should an institution and legal framework that will be adopting community based awareness campaigns, utilizing traditional and digital media, and engaging local leaders to disseminate information about programme opportunities. Accessibility should also be improved by simplifying enrolment processes, establishing decentralized registration centers in rural communities, and ensuring that marginalized groups (youths, women, and the elderly) can easily benefit. Strengthening awareness and accessibility will help bridge the gap between programme design and actual poverty reduction outcomes.

ii. **Implementation Strategy**: the results indicated that KWASSIP's implementation strategy, though positive, had no statistically significant impact on poverty alleviation. Hence, it is recommended that the government should enhance the programme's implementation framework through greater transparency, accountability, and monitoring. This includes timely disbursement of funds, fair and merit-based beneficiary selection, and effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Partnerships with civil society organizations and community-based associations should be encouraged to ensure fairness and inclusivity in programme delivery. Furthermore, adequate training should be provided for programme officials to improve professionalism and efficiency in execution.

iii. **Challenges Affecting Performance**: although challenges such as inadequate funding, corruption, favoritism, and political interference were found to have an insignificant direct effect on poverty alleviation, they remain critical concerns for KWASSIP's credibility and sustainability. It is recommended that the government institute governance reforms aimed at accountability and transparency in programme management. This includes digitalizing cash transfer systems, conducting regular audits of programme finances, and enforcing strict sanctions against corrupt practices. Beneficiary grievance redress mechanisms should also be introduced to address complaints and build trust. Moreover, political interference should be minimized through institutional safeguards that allow programme managers to operate independently and in line with best practices.

iv. **Overall Institutional Framework**: Overall, the study recommends the strengthening of institutional frameworks that support social investment programmes. Independent oversight bodies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and state-level anti-corruption agencies should be empowered to monitor KWASSIP's operations and ensure accountability in fund utilization. In addition, constitutional and policy reforms should be considered to guarantee continuity of the programme beyond political cycles, ensuring that poverty alleviation interventions are sustained. Such measures will enhance the long-term

ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

effectiveness of KWASSIP in addressing poverty in Ilorin East Local Government and Kwara State at large.

REFERENCE

Abdullahi, D., Musa, U., & Usman, H. (2022). Assessment of the implementation of N-Power programme on poverty reduction among beneficiaries in Gombe State, Nigeria. *Lapai Journal of Politics, 8*(2), 151–159.

Agba, M. S., Akwara, A. F., & Idu, A. Y. (2013). Local government and social service delivery in Nigeria: A content analysis. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2*(2), 455–462. https://doi.org/10.5901/ajis.2013.v2n2p455

Aminu, S. K., & Aliyu, T. S. (2024). N-Power Programme and poverty reduction in Niger State, Nigeria. *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)*, 17(1), 781–800.

Anikeze, N. H., Onyema, S. C., & Okoloagu, C. C. (2024). The effect of National Social Investment Programs Agency on poverty reduction in South East Nigeria. *African Journal of Social and Behavioural Sciences, 14*(7).

Ayuba, A. S., Ibrahim, M. A., Shu'aibu, I., & Setambah, M. A. B. (2023). Poverty eradication in North-Western Nigeria: An evaluation of social investment programs. *Journal of Business and Social Sciences*.

Dii, C. T. (2022). Poverty reduction strategies and national development in Nigeria. *African Journal of Social Issues, 5*(1), 100–116.

Fauzel, S. B. (2020). Investigating the impact of trade on poverty reduction in a small island economy. *Forum for Social Economics, 51*, 433–452.

Jimoh, M. O., & Mustapha, R. (2020). Social protection in Nigeria: An X-ray of social investment programme as a panacea for poverty alleviation in Nigeria. *The International Journal of Business & Management*.

Kayode, O. V., Agaie, M. S., & Alaba, A. U. (2023). Impact of N-Power Scheme on poverty reduction in Bida Local Government Area of Niger State (2016–2020). *Lapai International Journal of Management and Social Sciences, 15*(2), 10–24.

Kwara State Government. (2022). *KWASSIP implementation report and strategic expansion plan*. Office of the Special Adviser on Social Investment. https://kwarastate.gov.ng

Mohammed, K. H., Mustapha, A. N., Bint Hassan, F. A. T. I. M. A., & Suleiman, Y. (2023). Effect of N-Power programmes on poverty reduction in Niger State. *Lapai International Journal of Administration, 5*(2), 146–167.

National Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Demographic statistical bulletin 2022*. https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241422

National Population Commission. (2022). *2022 projected population estimates by local government areas in Nigeria*. https://nationalpopulation.gov.ng/publications

National Social Investment Office. (2020). *Guidelines and implementation framework for social protection at the sub-national level*. https://nsip.gov.ng

Odalonu, B. H., & Adigu, R. O. (2023). The impact of the N-Power Programme on youth empowerment and poverty alleviation in Enugu State, Nigeria (2016–2021). *African Journal of Humanities and Contemporary Education Research, 12*(1), 289–305.

Okonkwo, E. R., Nwokike, C. E., & Nwafor, A. E. (2021). The challenges of youth empowerment programmes in Nigeria: An

ISSN:3141-5571
E-ISSN:3141-558X

appraisal of N-Power scheme. *International Journal of Academic Management Science Research (IJAMSR), 5*(7), 8–13.

Olaniyan, O. (2018). Social protection and the challenge of poverty reduction in Nigeria. In S. O. Oloruntoba & T. Falola (Eds.), *The Palgrave handbook of African politics, governance and development* (pp. 453–468). Palgrave Macmillan.

Oyasor, E. I. (2025). An evaluation of poverty alleviation strategies: Evidence from Oyo State, Nigeria. *Inquest Global Journal of Management and Social Sciences, 1*(1), 1–18.

Rabba, J. M., Hamza, K., & Musa, M. I. (2025). The impact of N-Power on poverty alleviation in Nigeria: A study of N-Power beneficiaries in Bida Local Government. *International Journal of African Sustainable Development Research.*

Sen, A. Development as freedom (1999). *The globalization and development reader: Perspectives on development and global change*, *525*.

Umearoukwu, U., & Ilias, A. O. (2022). An assessment of poverty reduction policy: Implication of the N-Power programme in Nigeria. *Journal of Global Social Sciences, 3*(12), 87–99.

Y.A, Y., A.I., G., & A., L. (2023). Survey of the impact of social investment programs toward beneficiaries' economic empowerment and entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation*. https://doi.org/10.52589/ijebi-aey1pvyh

Yusuf, A. (2021). Challenges of social investment programmes in Nigeria: A case study of the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP). *Journal of Public Administration and Governance, 11*(2), 45–59. https://doi.org/10.5296/jpag.v11i2.18