

**IMPACT OF POVERTY ON FAMILY DYNAMICS IN SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS IN  
EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA EDO STATE.**

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY**

**OCTOBER, 2025**

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**BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
WORK, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
AWARD OF BACHELORS OF SCIENCE (B.SC.) IN SOCIAL WORK.**

**OCTOBER, 2025**

## CERTIFICATION

We the under sign certify that this project was carried out by **ENABULELE MIRACLE EWMINLOGHOSA** with Matriculation Number: **SSC 2106039** and is adequate in scope and standard in partial fulfillment for the award of Bachelor degree in the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City.

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**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This research work is dedicated to God almighty for his guidance, protection and good health throughout my period of study.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I give all glory and thanks to God Almighty for His unwavering grace, strength, and presence throughout this academic journey. His unfailing love and presence have been my anchor throughout this academic journey. Without Him, this project and all that led to it would not have been possible.

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Oghene Blessingg, my best friend, love you, my guy...God bless you always.

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With all my heart, thank you.

Enabulele Miracle .E.

## ABSTRACT

*This study examined the impact of poverty on family dynamics in selected households in Egor Local Government Area Edo State. Specifically examine the relationship between poverty and patterns of interactions among relatives, o find out if there is a relationship between poverty and roles and relationships, to evaluate if a relationship exists between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions, examine if there is a poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges, and also find out the effectiveness of government program that focus on reduce poverty rate in Nigeria. Questionnaire was used as instrument of data collection. The sample size of the study will be approximately 400 consisting of both male and female adult living in Egor Local Government Area. The major finding showed that poverty has significant impact on family dynamics in selected households in Egor Local Government Area Edo State. In analysing the respondent opinion it was also discovered that there is a relationship between poverty and patterns of interactions among relatives, there is a relationship between poverty and roles and relationships, a relationship was found between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions, poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges. Respondent revealed that government program on poverty eradication are not effective in reducing poverty rate in Nigeria. The study recommend that Nigeria should increase their effort toward poverty reduction program which could in turn reduce the issue among relative in Nigeria.*

**Keyword: Poverty, Family, Relationship, Relationship, Family Dynamic, House Hold, Economy**

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

In recent time efforts have been directed at poverty reduction to improve the wellbeing of the poor especially in the developing regions of the world. India is a lower-middle-income country, became the world's most populous country in 2023. While India has seen significant progress in reducing extreme poverty, a substantial portion of its population still experiences relative poverty. Average household sizes in India are around 4.63 to 5 persons. Poverty in India can lead to increased intergenerational co-residence, where multiple generations live together, often to pool resources and support each other. Economic growth in India has sometimes been accompanied by rising inequality, which can exacerbate societal poverty and strain family relationships (World Bank, 2022).

Afghanistan is among the countries with the largest average household sizes, often exceeding 5 individuals. Persistent conflict and economic instability have deepened poverty, forcing families to adopt coping mechanisms such as child labor and early marriages. The presence of "other relatives" in households is high, indicating complex, extended family structures that provide mutual support in challenging environments. However, these structures can also lead to increased dependency and limited individual autonomy, particularly for women and children (Mohammad & Sumit, 2022)

In Europe, countries generally exhibit smaller household sizes and a higher prevalence of single-person households. Hungary, for instance, shows a significant proportion of one-person households headed by adults aged 50 or older, reaching around 25%. While extreme poverty is less prevalent, relative poverty and social exclusion can still impact family dynamics, particularly for vulnerable groups. Economic uncertainties and welfare state dynamics can influence

household formation and the timing of life course events, such as delayed parenthood and marriage (Eszter, 2020)

Ireland, while experiencing a widespread decline in household size across Europe, has shown relative stability around 2.8 persons per household over 45 years. This stability might be influenced by cultural factors and specific economic conditions. Poverty in rich countries like Ireland often manifests as homelessness and lack of affordable housing, which can disrupt family stability and lead to social isolation. The dynamics of intra-household transfers and caregiving patterns are also affected by the aging population and smaller family networks (Barra, 2025)

The United States, a high-income country, has an average household size between 2.6 and 3.13 persons. While the official poverty line in the US is distinct from international measures, poverty still significantly impacts family dynamics. Single-parent households and those experiencing economic deprivation can face challenges related to loneliness and social exclusion. The share of older adults in households is around 9.7%. Changes in household size and composition are linked to broader social and economic processes such as urbanization and housing dynamics (World Bank, 2022).

Mexico is an upper-middle-income country, has seen a decline in average household size, consistent with global trends. Poverty in Mexico, particularly in rural areas, can lead to migration for economic opportunities, which in turn affects family structures and relationships, often resulting in transnational families. The presence of children and other relatives significantly contributes to household size variations, reflecting a mix of nuclear and extended family arrangements (World Bank, 2022).

Argentina with an average household size between 2.6 and 3.13 persons, aligns with the trend of decreasing household sizes in Latin America. Economic instability and inflation can push families into poverty, affecting their ability to afford basic necessities and leading to increased stress

within the family unit. The decline in household size in the Americas is approximately one person per household every two decades (World Bank, 2022).

Brazil is another upper-middle-income country, also exhibits decreasing household sizes. Poverty in Brazil is often characterized by significant inequality, with marginalized communities facing limited access to resources and opportunities. This can lead to fragmented family structures, with members often living apart due to work or housing constraints. The societal poverty line, which considers both absolute and relative poverty, is particularly relevant in countries like Brazil where economic growth may not translate into equitable distribution of wealth (World Bank, 2022).

Australia, a high-income country, has an average household size between 2.3 and 2.6 persons. The poverty rate was 13.4% in 2019-20, meaning over three million people, including 761,000 children (16.6% of all children), lived below the poverty line after housing costs were accounted for. This poverty line is set at 50% of the median household income. While the rate fluctuated significantly in 2020 due to COVID-19 income supports. But as 2025 poverty rates is lower compared to developing nations, relative poverty can still impact family well-being, particularly for indigenous populations and single-parent households. Single-person households headed by younger adults have increased, reflecting changing social norms and delayed transitions to adulthood (Saunders, Hill and Bradbury 2024).

Papua New Guinea is an exception to the widespread decline in household size in Asia and Oceania, with relatively stable or even increasing household sizes. High poverty rates, particularly in rural areas, contribute to larger, often extended, family units that serve as crucial support systems. The presence of children and other relatives is a significant factor in household composition, reflecting traditional social structures and reliance on communal support (World Bank, 2024).

Ethiopia is a low-income country, has maintained a relatively consistent average household size around 4.8 people for about three decades. In Ethiopian households, children and teenagers (ages 0–19) account for approximately 55% of household members, reflecting high fertility rates and a young population structure. Poverty in Ethiopia often necessitates children contributing to household labor, potentially affecting their schooling and overall well-being. The reliance on subsistence farming means that monetary income is not the sole measure of living standards, with home production contributing significantly to household welfare (World Bank, 2024).

Poverty rates vary significantly across West African nations, with countries like Niger having the highest extreme poverty rates (around 50% living below the US\$2.15/day line), while Cabo Verde has the lowest (around 3.4%). Other countries with high poverty include Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Togo, and Sierra Leone, with poverty also being a widespread issue in the region due to factors like conflict, poor employment, and lack of access to education and health services (World Bank, 2024).

The incidence of poverty in an area could be attributed to a variety of socio-economic, demographic (including lifestyle) and biophysical factors, including where people live (Akinlabi, et al., 2015).

Poverty is a serious and pervasive problem in Nigeria and other developing nations (Odeyemi and Olamide, 2013). In Nigeria, poverty is defined by ecological difficulties, limited access to public utilities, the lack of viable education, infrastructure deterioration, insecurity, illness, economic marginalisation, along with socio-political prejudice (Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, 2010). As stated by Sunday (2024), this situation has led millions of youngsters to work (child labour) in order to supplement their family's income and ensure the household's continued existence.

Nigeria continues to be one of the nations with the greatest need in spite of its oil discoveries, as well as extraction activities that have brought in over \$400 billion in income (Akpotor, 2018). The

country's impoverishment has been attributed to a number of issues, including unemployment, corruption, an excessive reliance on oil, the lack of economic diversification, income disparity, laziness, and an inadequate educational system (Nduka & Duru, 2014). Despite the efforts of previous governments to address the issue of poverty in the country by implementing various initiatives like the Family Support Programme (FSP), Better Life Programme (BLP), Peoples' Bank of Nigeria (PBN), and National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) among others. Being impoverished is a very significant social sickness that is still quite common. Edo State with an average household of 4 in 2008 ranked the 29 of the 37 States of the Federation in terms of poverty headcount using self-rated lines with about 83.1% of the population classified as poor. This is far above the national average of 78.3%. Though some other poverty indicators seem to be improving in Edo State as suggested in the average statistics presented by NBS; these evidences actually suggest a significant improvement in human well-being from 2007 to 2008. However, they represent the aggregate statistics for the State. They neither account for the spatial differentials in poverty between the lower units (LGAs, wards and communities) nor for the rural-urban differentials in poverty profile and access to poverty-reducing or wealth enhancing resources including health, income, natural and social capital (Akinlabi et al., 2015).

Family is the first and foremost institution. It imparts information in terms of all values and norms that are necessary in emerging into moral and ethical human beings. The parents are regarded as the first and foremost teachers of their children. They are the ones, who have one of the primary goals of leading to progression of their children (Radhika, 2023).

Family dynamics refer to the patterns of interactions among relatives, their roles and relationships, and the various factors that shape their interactions. Because family members rely on each other for emotional, physical, and economic support, they are one of the primary sources of relationship security or stress. Secure and supportive family relationships provide love, advice, and care,

whereas stressful family relationships are burdened with arguments, constant critical feedback, and onerous demands (Jabbari et al., 2023)

Children raised in the families with lower income are disadvantaged in numerous aspects in comparison with those from economically well established families. Studies conducted by Currie and Stabile (2003) demonstrate that children from families, which can be classified as poor, have lower birth weight, higher risk of infant mortality. The presence of poverty in a family limits also the development of children through budget restrictions of family sources, which parents invest into them. Apart from the direct impact of poverty on individual family members, it endangers and disrupts the functioning of the family system as a whole. The family functioning is a multi-dimensional construct reflecting family interactions and activities (Andrea, Jana & Martin, 2014).

Nigeria has implemented various poverty reduction interventions, primarily through the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP) (2016), which includes initiatives like the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) for the poorest, N-Power for skill development and employment, and the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme. Other strategies include agricultural development programs, support for small businesses through micro-credit, and broader economic policies focused on employment and entrepreneurship. However, the effectiveness of these programs has been debated due to issues like corruption, lack of proper monitoring, inadequate scale, and persistent structural economic problems.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

A significant percentage of adolescents in Nigeria's juvenile justice system have psychiatric disorders, with disruptive behavior disorders, substance use disorders, and anxiety disorders being particularly prevalent. Studies indicate that the majority of children and adolescents in Nigerian correctional facilities exhibit significant psychopathology. For instance, a study conducted in a Borstal Institution in North-Central Nigeria found that 82.5% of adolescent residents had at least

one psychiatric disorder. Disruptive behavior disorders were the most common, affecting 40.8% of the adolescents, followed by substance use disorders (15.8%), anxiety disorders (14.2%), psychosis (6.7%), and mood disorders (5%). Another study at the Ibadan remand home reported that 97% of assessed children demonstrated significant psychopathology, with anxiety, suicidal, and depressive symptoms being the most commonly elicited. These findings align with global trends, where almost two-thirds of youth in juvenile justice detention meet the criteria for one or more mental disorders. Juvenile delinquency in Nigeria is a multifaceted issue, with distinct trends observed across different states. Lagos, as a highly urbanized economic hub, experiences a higher prevalence of cybercrime, gang violence, and drug trafficking among its youth. All these issues can be traceable to non dynamic of family.

Several research has been carried out on the factors that contribute to the growth of crime committed by the juvenile and youth in Nigeria and what can be done. For example Niyi (2015) examine Factors Responsible for Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria, Mariam (2018) analyse the causes of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria from the legal and empirical perspectives, Etifit (2012) evaluate the nature and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria. Christian (2018) examine socio-cultural factors that influence juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Abuja, Nigeria. To the best of researcher knowledge, no study has been done on impact of poverty on family dynamic in Egor local government area of Edo State. This study will fill this gap by examine how poverty affect family dynamic, and also evaluate how poverty result to juvenile and adolescent crime which result from non family dynamic in Egor Local Government area Of Edo State Nigeria.

### **1.3 Objective of the study**

The main aim of this study is to examine the impact of poverty on family dynamics in selected households in Egor Local Government Area Edo State. The specific objective of this study are to:

1. Examine the relationship between poverty and patterns of interactions among relatives
2. To find out if there is a relationship between poverty and roles and relationships
3. to evaluate if a relationship exists between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions.
4. Examine if there is a Poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges.
5. To find out the effectiveness of government program that focus on reduce poverty rate in Nigeria.

#### **1.4 Research Question**

This study was guided by the following research questions

1. what is the relationship between poverty and patterns of interactions among relatives
2. how does poverty affect roles and relationships
3. what is the relationship between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions.
4. What is the relationship between poverty and various juvenile crime that result from non family dynamic.
5. What is the level of effectiveness of government program that focus on reduce poverty rate in Nigeria.

#### **1.5 The Scope of the Study**

The scope of this research work is restricted to an evaluation of the impact of poverty on the family dynamic with particular reference to Egor Local Government area Edo State between the periods of 2015 to 2023. This study will critically evaluate how poverty result to level result to adolescent and youth committing various crime in Nigeria and also recommend policy that can be helpful to government and policy maker in Nigeria at large. The study will be covered all male

and female who are 18 years and above. Both primary and secondary research instrument will be use in this study. The primary instrument will include interview and the secondary instrument will include journal article online source and books.

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study is as follows:

The study is relevant to government organizations in understanding how poverty affect patterns of interactions among relatives, their roles and relationships, and the various factors that shape their interactions and unturn improved public service delivery. Governments develop a wide range of policies, including those related to social welfare, education, healthcare, and taxation, all of which implicitly or explicitly affect families. A deep understanding of family dynamics allows policymakers to anticipate the potential impacts of these policies, both intended and unintended

Poverty is a multifaceted issue that extends beyond mere economic deprivation, encompassing social exclusion and heightened vulnerability. Governments aim to alleviate poverty through various programs and initiatives. Studying family dynamics helps identify the specific vulnerabilities within different family structures that contribute to poverty.

The study of poverty and family dynamics is significant to community leaders because it provides crucial insights into the root causes of societal challenges, informs the development of effective interventions, and highlights the importance of a holistic approach to community well-being. This understanding enables leaders to address issues such as diminished cognitive development, physical health concerns, mental health issues, and reduced economic mobility that disproportionately affect children and families experiencing poverty.

Governments depend on families to successfully care for, educate, feed, house, nurture, and socialize children. Therefore, understanding family dynamics is paramount to creating policies

that support healthy child development. Issues like childcare problems, declining child Medicaid enrollment levels, and increased childhood poverty rates directly impact children's health, education, and future prospects.

Studying family dynamics helps governments assess the effectiveness of these programs and ensure that resources are allocated efficiently to achieve desired outcomes. It allows for the identification of gaps in services, unintended consequences, and areas where policy adjustments are needed.

Families transmit cultural and social norms, values, and behaviors, providing stability for society. Governments recognize this vital role and implement policies to strengthen the family unit. By studying family dynamics, governments can identify factors that contribute to family breakdown or instability, such as economic hardship, lack of access to resources, or social exclusion

The study on poverty and family dynamic is significant to individuals because it will highlights why most family member is unable to provide love, advice, and care. It will help researchers who may want to research on such topic or related topics on development in the academia in the future, the society organization.

### **1.7 Operational Definition of Terms**

**Poverty:** the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions

**Family:** a group of one or more parents and their children living together as a unit.

**Family dynamic:** the patterns of interaction, relationships, and behaviors among family members that shape their emotional and social development

**Relations:** a person who is connected by blood or marriage; a relative.

**Relationship:** the way in which two or more people or things are connected, or the state of being connected.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 REVIEW OF RELEVANCE CONCEPT**

##### **2.1.1 CONCEPT OF POVERTY**

Poverty in Nigeria has been a persistent challenge, marked by fluctuating levels and significant regional disparities over the decades. As at 1985, the poverty rate was standing at 47.8%. The period between 1992 and 1996. The poverty rate reach its highest measured point at 58.4%. the poverty rate dropped to its lowest level at 30.9% in 2018. The combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the removal of fuel subsidies increased poverty rate from 30.9% in 2018 to 38.9% in 2023, leaving about 87 million Nigerians in poverty.

Poverty is a complex socioeconomic condition that affects individuals, families, and communities. Poverty refers to the state or condition in which people or communities lack the financial resources and other essentials for a minimum standard of living, preventing them from meeting their basic human needs. It is also described as the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions, existing when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs. The definition of basic needs can vary, ranging from those strictly necessary for survival (such as avoiding starvation or death from exposure) to those reflecting the

prevailing standard of living in a community (where nutrition, housing, and clothing may be adequate to preserve life but fall below the average) (Li, 2019).

Poverty, much like many other terms, lacks a singular universal definition, making it a complex and elusive concept. It is widely acknowledged as a global issue. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (2018) cited in Alfa, Otaida, and Audu (2022), poverty refers to a condition where an individual cannot adequately provide for their basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter. This condition also includes an inability to meet social and economic responsibilities, a lack of gainful employment, skills, assets, and self-worth, and limited access to essential social and economic services like education, healthcare, clean water, and sanitation. Consequently, individuals experiencing poverty have limited opportunities to improve their well-being to their full potential. Kankwanda in Barnes (2023) views poverty as a multidimensional issue influenced by various factors, including a lack of access to income-generating activities and essential amenities.

Taiwo and Agwu, 2019) define poverty as the inability of individuals to attain a minimum standard of living and gain respect and recognition in society. This lack can lead individuals to resort to desperate measures to support their families. Based on these definitions, poverty can be understood as the inability to meet life's basic needs, which can contribute to increased criminal activity. A closer examination reveals that individuals engaged in serious crimes often lack employment or skills to sustain themselves and their families, either due to poor health or old age. It is evident that poverty and unemployment can lead to social problems by heightening social tensions that weaken the societal fabric. Lately, there has been a considerable focus among researchers on poverty reduction strategies and their execution in Nigeria.

Nwachukwu and Onwubiko (2008) categorized poverty into two: absolute and relative poverty. Absolute poverty refers to a situation whereby an individual lacks resources necessary to sustain

him or herself. Such an individual lacks the basic human needs of food, shelter, and clothing. This definition of poverty in terms of subsistence is predominantly used by scholars to analyze poverty in Africa and in developing countries in general. On the other hand, relative poverty refers to a situation where an individual lacks the necessary resources when compared with other members of the society such that it limits or prevents him from partaking in the normal or desirable activities of life that exists in such a society. The present study aligns with absolute poverty conception because people who suffer from absolute poverty are mostly need of government social welfare packages.

In Nigeria several attempt has been made which aim is to raise the standard of living of people living in a condition regarded as undesirable to a condition considered desirable. Poverty reduction is operationalised to mean the process of alleviating people or community from condition that keep them in perpetual lack and penury or a state of improving the financial means required for a basic quality of life of a people or a community.

In Nigeria, government had purposively designed series of social investment programmes in the time past mainly with a view to solving the incessant problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality. In some point in times, it is categorically geared towards reducing the rate of youth restiveness in volatile areas and states of the federation. At Nigeria's independence in 1960, there were serious of notable youth programmes aimed at facilitating social investments especially for the youth population. For instance, Nnamdi, Aminu and Emeka (2013:6) noted that between "the periods between 1962 -1968, 1970 – 1974 (National Accelerated Food Production Programme-NAFPP), 1975 – 1980 and 1981- 1985 were designed by various governments to provide basic infrastructure, diversify the economy, reduce the level of unemployment, achieve dynamic self-sustaining growth and raise the living standard of people." In the same trends, Adoba (2005) and Orji (2009) also stressed that the subsequent social investment programmes, after 1985 up till

1999, were geared towards small and median enterprises and scale trading, reduction of poverty especially among the youth as well as sectoral engagements in the operationalisation of the state economy.

In retrospect, some policies were introduced in the 70s aimed at eradicating the poverty in Nigeria are; Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) in 1977, Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE) in 1977, Green Revolution (GR) in 1980, etc. On the one hand, GR and OFN programmed were designed and implemented to increase the production of agricultural output and facilitate the effectiveness of the performance roles of subsectors in the agricultural sector (Ibrahim & Umar, 2008). On the other hand, FCPE was established to reduce high level of illiteracy across local areas in Nigeria. Notably, these programmes recorded a lot of laudable achievements by improving the educational and social qualities of many people residing at the rural areas (Agboola & Lamidi, 2017). However, CBN (1998) identified the inability of the programme continuity to poor political will, social instability and peoples' commitment. Subsequent discussions take note of an overview of some of the programmes in relation to their output and outcome in Nigeria.

#### **2.1.1.1 Social Investment in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, government had purposively designed series of social investment programmes in the time past mainly with a view to solving the incessant problems of poverty, poverty reduction and inequality. In some point in times, it is catKaurally geared towards reducing the rate of youth restiveness in volatile areas and states of the federation. At Nigeria's independence in 1960, there were serious of notable youth programmes aimed at facilitating social investments especially for the youth population. For instance, Nnamdi, Aminu and Emeka (2013:6) noted that between "the periods between 1962 -1968, 1970 – 1974 (National Accelerated Food Production Programme-NAFPP), 1975 – 1980 and 1981- 1985 were designed by various governments to provide basic infrastructure, diversify the economy, reduce the level of poverty reduction, achieve dynamic self-

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### **Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP)**

In 1986, Nigeria adopted Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which was designed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This was with a view to enhancing a rapid shift from the previous reform agenda and institutionalising the need for reliance on the private sector than the government set-up for solving the fundamental issues of the nation-state economy (Bakare, 2010). Nnamdi, Aminu and Emeka (2013) affirmed that the World Bank assisted the programme with a contribution of about US\$450 million to facilitate international trade and globalisation. Furthermore, the SAP aimed at diversifying the economy of the state; restructuring the

government formations and functionaries; reducing the heavy reliance on mono-economy status of the oil sector; promoting the economic growth in a non-inflationary manner; and, implementing viable mechanisms for balance and fiscal trade payments (Obadan, 2001 & NBS, 2017).

It was however argued that the SAP encouraged inflation with a noticeable adverse effect on income redistribution. Its inducement also influences a decrease in personal satisfaction of the state clients; and the increase in personal insecurity of the state oligarchy. In addition, the SAP heightened the interpersonal conflicts, institutional and cross-sectoral tensions. At economic level, it somewhat inhibits consumer expenditure and local investments for homegrown industrialization purposes (Okoye & Onyukwu, 2007). Aku, Ibrahim & Bulus (1997) identified other shortcomings from SAP to include but not limited to: the deficit of payment positions, diminution of foreign reserves, the drain of managerial talents from managing production to non-economic activities, maintaining organizational efficiency and technological innovation.

### **Better Life Programme (BLP)**

The Better Life Programme (BLP) was established by then Wife of the Military Head of State in person of Late Dr. (Mrs.) Maryam Babangida. She was the Founder of the Better Life Programme aimed at engendering the local women. This programme was designed to cater for the improvement of life quality and social status of the local women. It however aims at creating awareness on the social and economic issues of the rural communities. The expected result of the programme was to bring the rural women to the realization of their full economic potentials for the fulfillment of their livelihood at the local communities (Adoba, 2005). The programme enjoyed a level of acceptability which had impact on the spheres of life of the rural dwellers, especially women.

The programme was regarded as the point of reference for national growth plans and strategies. It provides a tenable component for governing structure across levels of government in Nigeria. In fact, the programme was acknowledged as a basis for the establishment of the National Commission for Women. The commission was later upgraded to the Ministry of Women Affairs. More remarkably, the programme sought to address the continuous rural-urban migration and the catKauraization of residents that are mostly needed for economic and agricultural activities in the rural areas (Okoye & Onyukwu, 2007). However, over-dominance was notable as a major challenge in the implementation of programme, especially by elitist women and those in the corridor of power. This also brought about the change of attention to the partisan women in the rural communities (Lamidi and Igbokwe, 2021).

### **National Directorate of Employment (NDE)**

Similarly, in the 1986, the NDE was set up to reduce the level of massive poverty reduction especially among the productive youths in Nigeria. This Directorate geared towards strengthening self-employment, skill acquisition and labour-intensive potentials. The core missions of the Directorate are to, according to Nnamdi, Aminu and Emeka (2013:8) “design and implement programmes to combat mass poverty reduction; articulate policies aimed at developing work programmes with labour intensive potential; obtain and maintain a data bank on employment and vacancies in the country.” These were with a view to serving as a medium of linking the job seekers with available vacant opportunities in the government offices and ensure good access to job opportunities by teeming youth population of the country. This underscores the significant role of the leadership structure on the board for the national assignment (Agboola, Lamidi & Shiyanbade, 2017).

More notably, the Directorate engaged in partnership with youth groups and organizations. It also provides training courses for graduates under the auspices of National Employment Training Scheme (NETS) for direct employment into leading sectors of the economy, such as Oil and Gas, Telecommunications and Banking sectors. This Directorate is one of the age-long government agencies; which up till date seeks into direct and indirect employments into the various sectors of the Nigerian economy (Bakare, 2010; Shehu, Abdulahi & Aliero, 2012).

### **People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN)**

In the early 90s, the PBN was set up with a goal of encouraging the act of savings and provisioning of credit facilities for the rural downtrodden with little or no access to conventional banks. The institution of this bank is mainly to cater for rural dwellers that need access to loans for agricultural economic development. Using the similar trend, the framework for the PBN was further decentralized for the establishment of Community Bank (CB). It was further extended to facilitate easy access mechanisms to banking facilities for the people living in the rural area, thereby supporting medium and small enterprises in the local communities. It is worthy of note that the two banking schemes recorded some levels of successes.

Nnamdi, Aminu and Emeka (2013:8-9) noted that “PBN released about N1.7 billion as ‘in-house’ loans from funds derived from the Federal Government coffer and N0.9 billion as loans from funds provided by the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP).” Nevertheless, the banking schemes also encountered some challenges in the course of operation. It was reported that the report of external auditors exposed a loss of over 80% largely due to poor management and corruption. Bakare (2010) maintained that the audit reports revealed that there were public funds which were in some liquidated banks within the country. Also, there was a high degree of non-adherence to the business rules of the banking systems, most especially by the board executives of the banks. Put simply, public trust was simply betrayed. Furthermore,

people also abuse the benefits and potentialities of the banking schemes through seeking for favouritism in their loan requests. There was an attitude of non-repayments of loan received by some politicians.

### **Family Support Programme (FSP) & Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)**

The military junta of late General Sani Abacha launched the two family-oriented programmes. They were wellconceived family productivity programmes. The late General Sani Abacha introduced 'FEAP'; and his wife introduced the 'FSP'. The former was set up for the provision of health service care delivery, women fertility, child care, youth engagement and balance diet for rural families subsisting in the rural areas (Lamidi and Igbokwe, 2021). In the same vein, the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) was established with statutory obligations to create platform for accessing credit loans for the production of agricultural use and processing; and upgrading the small and medium enterprises through the formation of local cooperative societies at the community level.

The contents of programmes were therefore aimed at creating opportunities for employment at various strata of the local communities. It also induces the planning and setting up manufacturing industries, plants, machineries and equipment at the grassroots levels, thereby providing job opportunities for the training and engagement of the village-based youths. Although, the two (2) programmes, namely, FSP and FEAP were put in place for the improvement of the life quality of the rural people. The programmes were however confronted with noninspectoral supervision and poor monitoring projects and loans by the supporting local and international agencies as well as community banks (Suich, 2012).

In addition, there were purported cases of inflating the cost of purchasing needed equipments for the beneficiaries and procurement of sub-standard machineries for the training of

village based youths, thus, weakening the vision and mission of the two (2) programmes at the community level.

### **National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)**

In 1993, the NALDA was established with the intent of providing strategic, tactical and operational supports for the development of land and its resources. This development authority also sought to promote and facilitate optimum utilization of land and its resources at the rural communities. It further encourages the initialisation of economic-size rural settlements. There are notable programmes linked with this development authority, such as: Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP) and the strategic Gains Reserves Programmes (SGRP). These supporting programmes had a remarkable impact on the agrarian sector within intending effect on poverty reduction (Bakare, 2010; Orji, 2009; UNDP, 2010).

It was noted that these programmes recorded a significant success on the acquisition of suitable lands in various parts of the country for agricultural development purposes. Nnamdi, Aminu and Emeka (2013) noted that the acquired lands were economically right-sized; and they were technically allocated with regards to the control of land conservations and degradations. However, the programmes encountered some hiccups which include, but not limited to over-stressing the statutes, overburdening the contents and benefits of the programme, thus rendering some to be ineffective.

### **Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)**

In 2000, PAP was introduced with a view to creating jobs for the unemployed youth as a matter of exigency in the events of youth restiveness. This programme was to engage and stimulate the teeming unemployed youths into fast-driving economic activities and human capital development. A common engagement activity of the programme was direct labour

engagement in patching of potholes, vegetations control along high-ways, maintenance of public buildings and environmental sanitations (Morphy, 2008).

However, inadequate funding was acknowledged as a militating factor for the success of the programme. Dangana & Akpan (2009) also identified poor programme design, inadequate coordination, poor monitoring and evaluation. The PAP execution raised outan outright public decry; as it was accused of corruption and shoddiness. As a result, the federal government constituted a committee headed by Prof. Ango Abdullahi shadowed with the responsibility of reviewing the contents of PAP. Nonetheless, Bakare (2010) also noted other problems of the programme to include: excessive politicization, administrative centralization, unbalanced payment, awkward management as well as high- profile level of corruption. Afterwards, it is upon this basis that the committee drafted the blueprint of the establishment of National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP).

### **National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)**

Sequel to the above, NAPEP was set up in 2001. This programme adopted a holistic approach by incorporating all important stakeholders in the operation of governance and poverty eradication in Nigeria. This constituted both formal and semi-formal institutions, namely the Federal, State and Local Governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the organized private sector, research institutions, women groups and concerned individuals (Okoye and Onyukwu, 2007). Mainly, the NAPEP placed a high premium on the eradication of poverty in its mildness or absoluteness. This objective was clearly set out in policy framework of the programme as measures standing against poverty among other fundamental reasons for the implementation and coordination (Apata, Apata, Igbalajobi & Awoniyi, 2010). This particular motive got adequate intention in the formulation, design and implementation of NAPEP; and made it distinguishable from the previous exercises.

NAPEP ensures effective evaluation and monitoring of its functional aspects. For instance, it closely monitors supportive initiatives at a periodic interval with the purpose of confirming location of the project, its implementation, service delivery, livelihood impact, even distribution and positive influence on the poverty status across communities in Nigeria (Yahaya, Osemene & Abdulrahman, 2011). Also, the evaluation of these indices is subject to broad performance platforms, such as the project objectives, quality of materials used for the implementation, and target groups upon which the achievement can be measured, as well as what is scheduled for its completion and financial implications and costs (Victor, 2018).

The programme is regarded as an improved or modernized version of the previous PAP type by the Nigerian government. Analysis revealed that the programme has successfully trained about 130, 000 youths and engaged over 216, 000 persons; it was however noted that poor cautiousness and forethought seem challenging to the beneficiaries across cities and communities (Okoye & Onyukwu, 2007). In summary, the programme could be rated poor due to inadequate focus on the contents of programme, weak budgetary system, corruptions and poor implementation etc. Project substitution is also a fond version of challenges confronting NAPEP; others include misappropriation of project finances, diversion of the resources, the conversion of public funds for private uses, etc (UNDP, 2015). Above all, what stands commendable about NAPEP is the active engagement of the programme beneficiaries in the identification of the type, structure and process of project implementation. More surprising is that, in a situation where the beneficiaries enjoyed enhanced capacity and active involvement, they still lack insufficient empowerment to become sustainable in the further engagements of the programme for their livelihood.

**Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)**

SMEDAN was promulgated through the act of parliament, called the SMEDAN Act of 2003. This agency was institutionalised to advance the course of development for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises [MSME] sector of the economy in Nigeria. It was reported that MSMEs comprise more than 75% of all categories of enterprises in Nigeria (Umar, 2010). This is acknowledged as a result of ease in setting up human and capital resources needed for the establishment of MSME. The expected outcome roles of the agency are to seek reduction in the high level of poverty; uproot the inability to generate daily income by teeming populations; and facilitate the advantageous capacity of the opportunities in the country.

The roles are planned to be achieved through generation of employment opportunities, open business competitiveness, entrepreneurship development and local resources mobilisation. In addition, this agency is shadowed with the responsibilities of initialising and formulating policy ideas for MSMEs' growth and development. It encourages the promotion of development programme in the area of agro-allied production, provision of technical instruments and operational support services aimed at accelerating the growth, development and modernisation of MSME operations across the country.

There are wide ranges of hiccups associated with the difficulties facing SMEDAN as an agency for poverty reduction. These include, but not limited to urban sensitivity, poor information/communication network, low access to credit facility, poor state of technological infrastructure, inadequate entrepreneurial capacity, stringent collateral condition for loan, corruption, poor synergy among the three levels of government amidst other conditions with attitude, knowledge and skills of the beneficiaries (Orji, 2009 & Umar, 2010).

However, it is important to stress that the problems confronting SMEDAN in Nigeria appear not different to the obstructing factor bedeviling the other government agencies in the discharge of responsibilities on poverty reduction. This is simply because a good number of

these agencies are yet to constructively fit into the architecture of social upliftment and economic revolution of individuals and groups from the bottom pyramid of poverty (Ijaiya, Ijaiya, Bello & Ajayi, 2011).

### **NEEDS Programme**

In 2004, the Federal Government under President Olusegun Obasanjo launched an economic empowerment and development strategy at the three catKaural stages of governmental administration. At the federal level, NEEDS simply represent the policy framework for the actualization and coordination of the empowerment activities. In the same vein, SEEDS is the state level framework for the implementation of economic empowerment and development strategy across the federation (Lamidi and Igbokwe, 2021). Similarly, LEEDS stands for the local government agenda for the of rural economic and development strategy. The context of the programme in series has the propensity to gain lofty feet to liquidate the external debt and create the growth of gross domestic product (Morphy, 2008; Bakare, 2010).

However, the trickling effect of the economic acceleration was to sharply guide against the possible shortfall in the power and oil sectors of the economy, transport operational systems, rural-urban migration, educational institutions, health sector, among other questions hinging on the state of poverty reduction (Yahaya, *et al*, 2011; Shehu, *et al*, 2012). The institutional development of NEEDS requires a strong political will and social dedication by the populace. The non-feasibility of these trends would possibly have negative influence on food security and sustainable development programme (UNDP, 2015). In other words, there is need for a well-coordinated economic growth with considerable level of human support and genuine political will. Job creation is largely acknowledged to be instrumental tool for equitable distribution of economic gains. This would remarkably enable the rural downtrodden to generate sustainable income for livelihood.

## **The Seven-Point Agenda**

The seven-point agenda was political and economic programme set out by President Musa Yar'Adua. The programme content constitutes the tenets of key sectors of the economy, such as land reform, energy and power, agriculture and food sufficiency, mass transportation, wealth creation and employment, security, qualitative and functional education systems (Nnamdi, Aminu and Emeka, 2013). The potency of these sectors was eulogised in different ways, but the underlining factor precipitates on the efforts which energize development of the present economic status without jeopardizing the possible future economic needs and challenges (Olawoyin & Lamidi, 2019).

The activities in the sectors could simply help in the catalysis of development in Nigeria. The sectoral agenda hinges on the essentiality of average Nigerians. It is therefore important that issues concerning the populace should be given an outstanding priority. This would also be amplified using the state-of-the-art technological facilities and making the social environment conducive for the satisfaction of present and future needs (Dangana & Akpan, 2009).

### **Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P)**

The removal of subsidy regime could be said to have given birth to the formation of SURE-P by the federal government under the President Goodluck Jonathan's administration. The programme precipitated the functionality of SURE P on the public works, empowerment of youths and women (Lamidi and Igbokwe, 2021). It is driven by the rate of poverty reduction status of the teeming youth in Nigeria. Hence, the major mission of SURE-P is to set up the Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) with a view to reducing poverty reduction among graduates especially from higher institutions of learning.

Also, the establishment of the programme is geared towards the stimulation of economic growth, standards and opportunities for the actualisation of vision 2020. Operationally, the

scheme aims at engaging the unemployed graduates for a period of one year in related firms, companies and organizations to their chosen field of professions. A common goal of this engagement is to acquire necessary skills, garner sufficient experience, and enhance high level of their employability. The expectation becomes goal-oriented as it engenders the engaged graduates to meet the criteria of potential employers in the very competitive labour market in Nigeria (Umar, 2010 & Suich, 2012).

The lifespan of this scheme was somehow short due to the change in government in 2015. To this end, it might be inconsequential to have subjected the scheme for programme assessment. Nevertheless, the scheme has targeted beneficiaries mostly among the educated ones, leaving behind those that are extremely indigent and poor to get access to tertiary educations. Bello and Abdul (2010) noted that the scheme is somewhat jettisoning the poor individuals who necessarily need skills and knowledge to drive economic support and livelihood, not those individuals with an acquired formal skills and lessons for socio-economic prosperity. Hence, the scheme is targeted at youth elites in the country; and suffer adequate coverage of the rural downtrodden who are actually needed to be liberated from poverty circles in Nigeria.

### **National Social Investment Programme**

In recent time, President Muhammad Buhari launched the NSIP as a platform for the empowerment of the unemployed Nigerian youths in three categories: either young graduates, semi-skilled or semi-literates and unskilled labour with little or no level of education. For the actualization of this NSIP, the programme content was compartmentalized into three dimensions; and in each of the dimensions, some sub-dimensions were enlisted. N-Power Teachers' Corps was one of the dimensional components of NSIP with subsidiaries on N-Power Agro, N-Power Health, N-Power Teach and N-Power Community Health.

Another notable dimensional component of NSIP is the pack of N-Power Knowledge which is designed not necessarily for graduates from tertiary institutions, but for individual youths with requisite level of education at least secondary school. Its subsidiaries include: NPower Creative, N-Power Tech Hardware and N-Power Tech Software. Also, the third component of the NSIP is N-Power Build with civil divisions in the area of building services, construction, environment services, utilities, automotive, as well as aluminum and gas.

### **2.1.2 CONCEPT OF FAMILY**

The concept of family centers around a group of people connected by ties of kinship, often living together and providing mutual support. It's a fundamental social institution found in virtually all human societies, playing a vital role in raising children, transmitting culture, and providing emotional and economic support. Families can vary greatly in structure, including nuclear (parents and children), extended (including other relatives), and diverse forms that reflect changing social norms.

As the most important part of the social structure, the family is the foundation of society, because it is where people take their first steps into social life (Dikici et al., 2020). The adventure of socialization starts in the family and continues until the end of his/her life as a result of the interaction he/she establishes with those around him/her and the institutions he/she is involved (Walsh, 2017). It is very difficult to define what constitutes a family and what it is. However, in general, the family is a social institution that ensures the continuation of the human lineage as a result of biological relationships, where the grouping period first emerged, where bilateral relations are ensured by certain rules, and which transfers the material and spiritual cultural values that have taken place in society until today to generations; it is a social institution with biological, psychological, economic, social, egal, etc. sides (Sayın, 2020). According to the Turkish Language Association (2011), the family is defined as the smallest unit in society, based on the

bonds of blood and marriage, formed by the relationships between siblings, husbands, wives, and children.

Unlike other institutions, the roles and obligations that the family institution imposes on human beings continue from birth to death. This is due to the characteristics of the family institution, which are different from other institutions. Gökçe (1976) lists these characteristics as follows: Family is universal, family is based on an emotional foundation, the family has a shaping characteristic, family is limited in scope, family is a nucleus in social structure, family is surrounded by social rules, the family has a permanent and at the same time a temporary nature.

Adem (2023) defines the structure of the family as the rules governing the interaction of individuals within the family. In other words, family structure is the set of rules and principles that regulate the interactions of family members with each other. Within the family, each individual is affected by the behavior of the other individual. This ensures a certain stability and order in the ideas and actions of family members. Two important factors come to the fore when it comes to family members' relationships with each other (Adem, 2023). The first factor is the principles that apply to every family. For instance, there is a hierarchical structure in that parents and children have different levels of power positions within the family. The second factor is the hidden or open agreements that are formed in ordinary interactions that can be considered unique to that family, which include the expectations of family members from each other (Akün, 2013).

It is important for the continuation and consistency of social life that values and rules are learned in family life (Çağan, 2016). With modernization, the number of children has decreased due to reasons such as the inclusion of women in business life, the fact that children are not seen as an economic factor, and the increase in the costs of raising and educating children. These are acceptable reasons from a generalizing point of view. The main problem is that with the increase

in the concept of family, responsibility and individualization have started to dissolve and social life has been disformed (Bayer, 2013). The family has different functions. These include:

**The biological function of the family:** is to meet the basic needs and desires of individuals. Through the institution of marriage, individuals have functions such as fulfilling sexual desires, having children, and ensuring the continuation of the generation (Özalp, 2016).

**The psychological function of the family:** The loving environment between parents and children is the first element to overcome every difficulty. An environment of love is the most valuable spiritual element for a child. The individual experiencing spiritual fulfillment forms a healthy personality and identity (Kır, 2011).

**The economic function of the family:** All family members work within the framework of a certain division of labor. They spend time working together and their relationship is cordial and strong. People gain the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to sustain their lives and make a living in the family in systems where the economic structure based on human labor is dominant (Çağan, 2016).

**The protective function of the family:** While the traditional family carries out protective and security work, this understanding has been left to state protection, although not completely in the nuclear family. The state pursues a policy based on protecting not only the family but also children, the elderly, and the disabled (Epik et al., 2017).

**The educational function of the family:** The process of education ensures the socialization of people and on the other hand, ensures their adaptation to social life. Family members, especially children, are equipped with knowledge and values that will facilitate their adaptation to society. Through this process, family members develop, become stronger, and learn what to do, how to do it, and what they need to improve to gain a respectable place in society (Çağan, 2016).

**The religious function of the family:** The main purpose of the institution of family and religion is to raise people who are sensitive to society. Since the influence of religion is seen in the environments where children enter into social communication, the family institution alone is not sufficient (Özalp, 2016).

**Family leisure function:** In traditional societies, except for religious ceremonies, holidays, or special days, the workload of life is high and the understanding of entertainment is limited (Çağan, 2016).

**The prestige-providing function of the family:** Education provided by the family affects the prestige of the individual, as the family is the smallest building block of society and the first step in socialization. We take on certain statuses brought by our family from the past and the family's means take the lead in many matters, including the education we receive (Aktaş, 2015; Bozkurt, 2007).

**Socialization function of the family:** As the family socializes the child, culture is passed on from generation to generation (Özkalp, 2008; Dikici et al., 2020). There are three functions of the nuclear family: Reproduction, socialization of young individuals, and ensuring the psychological balance between spouses (Sertelin, 2003).

#### **2.1.2.1 FAMILY DYNAMIC**

Family dynamics refer to the patterns of interactions among relatives, their roles and relationships, and the various factors that shape their interactions. Because family members rely on each other for emotional, physical, and economic support, they are one of the primary sources of relationship security or stress. Secure and supportive family relationships provide love, advice, and care, whereas stressful family relationships are burdened with arguments, constant critical feedback, and onerous demands (Gunn & Eberhardt, 2019).

Interpersonal interactions among family members have lasting impacts and influence the development and well-being of an individual via psychosocial, behavioral, and physiological pathways (Thomas, Liu & Umberson, 2017). Thus, family dynamics and the quality of family relationships can positively or negatively impact health.

The definition of family itself has morphed over the years. In previous generations, families stayed close to each other, and multiple generations helped raise the children. It is now more common for families to be spread across the country and grandparents to have less involvement in their grandchildren's lives. Without family close by, some develop a core group of local families, which they consider their family. This family structure can change as people move locations, so a person's family can be fluid. Another aspect of family that has changed over the years is the acknowledgment and acceptance of nontraditional families and the increase of blended families.

Family dynamics play a significant role in health outcomes and merit attention in clinical settings. Unhealthy family dynamics can cause children to experience trauma and stress as they grow up. This type of exposure, famously known as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), is linked to an increased risk of developing physical and mental health problems (Polenick et al., 2018).

A literature review of the effect of family dynamics on sleep health and cardiovascular health demonstrated negative family dynamics correlate with poor sleep outcomes, increased heart rate, and increased blood pressure, which leads to an increased risk of developing hypertension. The same study also found evidence that mutuality among family members is associated with better sleep outcomes in children (Gunn & Eberhardt, 2019). Other studies demonstrate that unhealthy family dynamics caused by poor-quality interactions between parents and children are associated

with an increased risk of childhood obesity. In contrast, positive interactions are a protective factor against childhood obesity (Anderson & Keim, 2016).

Family dynamics are also important determinants of health and wellness for elderly patients. For example, healthy family dynamics that facilitate supportive interactions among family members increase the likelihood that older patients will elect to receive hip and knee replacement surgeries (Demiralp, Koenig, Nguyen & Soltoff, 2019). As a result of these joint replacement surgeries, patients experience less pain and regain the function of their diseased joints.

#### **2.1.2.1.1 Various Factors that Shape Family Member Interactions.**

Some researchers have identified individuation, mutuality, flexibility, stability, clear communication, and role reciprocity as the primary factors contributing to healthy family dynamics. In particular, mutuality, a shared feeling of cohesion and warmth, has been identified as the most vital contributing factor. In contrast, factors contributing to unhealthy family dynamics include enmeshment, isolation, rigidity, disorganization, unclear communication, and role conflict (White et al., 2013).

According to Walsh (2017), state some factors that shape the family which include Economic functions, prestige functions, educational functions, protective functions, religious functions, biological/childbearing functions, entertainment and recreation functions, and the function providing psychological and spiritual satisfaction (Walsh, 2017).

## **2.2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POVERTY AND FAMILY DYNAMIC**

The impact of extreme poverty on family structure is profound and far-reaching, leading to a disintegration of traditional family norms and a rise in non-traditional household arrangements. The financial strain of living in poverty often forces families to separate or reconfigure, resulting

in a higher incidence of single-parent households, female-headed households, and extended family living. In some cases, children may even assume the role of primary caregivers, forming child-headed households. This disruption of traditional family structures can lead to increased stress, conflict, and emotional distress, as family members struggle to cope with the demands of poverty. Furthermore, the absence of a stable, two-parent household can deprive children of emotional support, guidance, and role modeling, ultimately affecting their cognitive, social, and emotional development. The breakdown of family structure also perpetuates the cycle of poverty, as families are left without the collective resources and support needed to escape their economic circumstances (Suchitha, 2025).

Parenting in extreme poverty presents a unique set of challenges, as caregivers navigate the complexities of raising children in resource-scarce environments. The chronic stress of poverty can lead to increased anxiety, depression, and emotional exhaustion, eroding parents' ability to provide nurturing, discipline, and guidance. The constant struggle to meet basic needs, such as food, shelter, and healthcare, can evoke feelings of guilt, shame, and helplessness, compromising their self-efficacy and parenting capacity. This can result in harsher discipline, reduced emotional support, and decreased parental involvement, ultimately affecting child development and well-being. Children may experience increased behavioral problems, emotional distress, and decreased cognitive functioning, as their caregivers' mental health and parenting abilities are compromised. Moreover, the intergenerational transmission of poverty and trauma can perpetuate a cycle of disadvantage, making it essential to address the mental health and support needs of caregivers in extreme poverty (Suchitha T. (2025).

Children growing up in extreme poverty endure a myriad of hardships that can have long-lasting impacts on their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Limited access to quality education hinders their cognitive development and future opportunities, while inadequate

healthcare and nutrition lead to malnutrition, stunted growth, and increased susceptibility to illnesses. Many children are forced to assume adult responsibilities, working long hours in hazardous conditions to support their families, sacrificing their childhood and education. The constant struggle to survive can lead to emotional and psychological trauma, as children experience hunger, abuse, neglect, and separation from caregivers. Furthermore, the lack of safe living environments and exposure to violence can erode their sense of security and trust. The cumulative effect of these experiences can lead to reduced self-esteem, social isolation, and decreased resilience, making it even more challenging for children to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential (Fine & Fincham, 2013).

Poverty can have a corrosive effect on social cohesion and trust, leading to increased competition for resources, conflict, and disconnection. It is essential to recognize the importance of social support networks and community ties in mitigating poverty's effects. Suchitha (2025) study reveal that poverty poses significant challenges to family relationships, roles, and overall well-being, perpetuating cycles of disadvantage and limiting opportunities for education and employment (Fine & Fincham, 2013).

## **2.2 Theoretical Review**

### **The Family Stress Model (FSM)**

The Family Stress Model (FSM) evolved from research on how economic hardship impacts families, particularly children. It was developed in the 1990s by Rand D. Conger and Glen Elder, building on earlier work in family stress theory (Deonte, 2022). The Family Stress Model (FSM) is a theoretical framework that explains how economic hardship can affect family dynamics and child development. It proposes that financial difficulties lead to economic pressure on parents, which can negatively impact their mental health, parenting practices, and ultimately, the well-

being of their children. The model highlights the mediating role of family processes in this relationship.

The FSM suggests that economic hardship, such as low income, high debt, and negative financial events, creates economic pressure within the family. This pressure manifests as unmet material needs, the inability to pay bills, and the need to cut back on essential expenses. These pressures can lead to emotional distress in parents, including depression, anxiety, and anger. This emotional distress can then increase conflict between parents, which can disrupt supportive parenting and lead to harsh or inconsistent childrearing practices. These disrupted family processes are, in turn, linked to negative child outcomes, such as behavioral problems and reduced social competence (Masarik & Conger 2017).

Poverty and economic hardship represent two distinct features of economic inequality. For instance, poverty measures the flow of cash resources to households (income and government transfers), measured yearly in the U.S. Census (Iceland 2019). Economic hardship represents (1) unmet material needs such as inadequate food or clothing, (2) the inability to pay bills or meet day-to-day needs, or (3) having to forgo necessary expenses (e.g., health insurance, car insurance, medical expenses) (Conger et al. 2010). The theory suggest that economic stress may affect mother-child relationships by restricting the ability for families to put financial resources into activities that cultivate positive mother-child relationships.

### **Ecological Systems Theory**

Ecological Systems Theory was developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner in the 1970s, presented in his 1979 book *The Ecology of Human Development*. It posits that an individual's development is shaped by multiple, interconnected environmental systems, moving beyond earlier theories that

focused solely on the individual (Olivia, 2025). The theory views individuals as interconnected within various systems, emphasizing reciprocal influences between individuals and their environments. This theory delineates several layers of influence, this includes Microsystem, Mesosystem, Exosystem and Macrosystem.

According to ecological systems theory assumption, poverty significantly impacts family dynamics by influencing various interconnected layers within Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, particularly the microsystem, mesosystem, and exosystem, and is often understood through the lens of stress and resource deprivation. Poverty, as a pervasive macrosystem influence, shapes family dynamics primarily through increased stress, limited opportunities, and societal stigmatization, which then cascade down to affect more immediate systems like the family (microsystem) and its interactions with other environments (mesosystem).

Poverty is considered a macrosystem influence in Bronfenbrenner's theory, representing the overarching cultural ideologies, attitudes, and social conditions that permeate a child's environment. This broad context of economic hardship influences all lower-level systems, including the family. The triarchic model of poverty posits that poverty affects development through three primary mechanisms: social stigma/marginalization, limitations in opportunity structure, and chronic and excessive stress. These factors, individually or in concert, can place children and families on different developmental trajectories compared to those not experiencing poverty.

The family is a core component of the microsystem, representing the child's most immediate and direct environment. Poverty directly impacts family dynamics within this microsystem in several

critical ways which include Increased Parental Stress and Conflict, Altered Parenting Styles and limited resources and stimulation

The mesosystem involves the interactions and connections between different microsystems in a child's life, such as the home and school, or the family and neighborhood. Poverty can disrupt these crucial interconnections by reduced parental involvement in education. Parental stress and limited resources can hinder parents' ability to engage actively with their children's schools, such as attending parent-teacher conferences or volunteering. This can negatively impact a child's academic performance and overall school experience, as a strong home-school connection is vital for development.

Ecological systems theory assume that poverty can disrupt neighborhood-family interactions. While familial poverty often overlaps with neighborhood poverty, the neighborhood itself can exert unique effects on family dynamics. Disadvantaged neighborhoods, characterized by factors like high crime rates, lack of safe spaces, and limited community resources, add another layer of stress and limited opportunities for families, even beyond their individual financial situation. Research indicates that neighborhood poverty can uniquely predict neural activity related to response inhibition and amygdala reactivity to ambiguous social cues, even when controlling for family-level SES. This suggests that the environment where a child lives can be as critical as their family's direct resources in shaping brain development and, by extension, family functioning.

The chronic and excessive stress associated with poverty is a significant factor in how it affects family dynamics and child development. Children in poverty are exposed to more family turmoil, violence, instability, and chaotic environments. This sustained stress can overwhelm coping resources and lead to socioemotional maladjustment. At a neurobiological level, stress exposure,

particularly through the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenocortical (HPA) axis response and glucocorticoids like cortisol, can impact brain development, especially in regions supporting executive function and stress/emotion processing. This biological embedding of adversity means that the experiences of poverty "get under the skin," shaping brain structure and function in ways that can be adaptive in the short term (e.g., heightened threat detection) but detrimental in the long term (e.g., increased stress-related health problems).

The timing and chronicity of poverty also play a crucial role in its impact on family dynamics and child development. Chronic poverty, as opposed to transitory poverty, is associated with more detrimental effects. Early childhood experiences of adversity, such as harsh parenting or neighborhood disadvantage, have been shown to predict amygdala function, while adversity experienced later in childhood and adolescence may more strongly impact prefrontal cortex function. This highlights sensitive periods in brain development where specific environmental influences can have a more profound and lasting impact. In the context of poverty and family dynamics, ecological systems theory is relevant because it helps social workers to understand how economic hardship (a macrosystem influence) can affect family functioning (microsystem) and, consequently, the well-being of individuals within that family

### **2.3 REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES**

Deonte H. (2022) Examining the effects of family stress and family strengths on the quality of mother-child strengths on the quality of mother-child relationships in married and unmarried black families relationships in married and unmarried black famili. Using data from the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study, I conduct OLS regression to analyze the individual and joint effects of poverty, economic hardship, social support, and religious attendance on mother-child closeness and the time children report spending with their mothers. The results revealed that

social support and religious attendance were associated with increased mother-child closeness and more time children report spending with their mothers. Moreover, the results revealed that poverty and economic hardship had no significant impact on mother-child closeness, or the time children spend with their mothers.

Kathleen and Austin (2020) the role of the Investment Model and the traits which influence investments, on relationship satisfaction among 146 volunteers (age  $M = 28.76$  years,  $SD = 10.23$ ). Relationship satisfaction was predicted by investments which in turn were predicted by attachment, personality and love style. Clinicians working with individuals or couples with relationship issues may benefit from knowing how invested they are in the relationship and their love style. Insight into imbalances in these constructs between partners may be used to facilitate relationship satisfaction.

Andrea, Jana & Martin (2014) examine how life in poverty affects the functioning of family system. We focused on family functioning in the dimensions based on McMaster model. We employed The Family Assessment Device. The result shows that there is an association between poverty and disrupted family functioning. Family functioning in different dimensions is in the range of "unhealthy", mainly in communication, behaviour control and family role. Family stress caused by problems with the fulfilment of the family economic function, affects the way parents fulfill their parental role.

Ho, Li, Cheung, Luo, Xia and Chung (2022) impact of poverty on parent-child relationships, parental stress and parenting practices. Four hundred and eighty five Hong Kong Chinese parents who had children aged 3-6 years, and who were from low-income families. Eleven of these parents were randomly selected for individual semi-structured interviews. A sociodemographic questionnaire, the parent-child relationship score, the Parental Stress Scale and the Perceived

Parental Aggression Scale. The parents were found to have an impaired relationship with their children. The findings indicated that employment status, parental stress and harsh parenting were significantly associated with parent–child relationships. The qualitative findings revealed that parents from low-income families encountered a wide range of difficulties, which made these parents more likely to experience parental stress, thereby increasing their tendency to adopt harsh parenting practices that undermined parent–child relationships.

Mohammad, Noor, Rashed, Tahmina and Muhammad (2024), examines the multifaceted relationship existing among poverty and juvenile delinquency in a developing country. The paper employs the multi-dimensional approach that focuses on root causes through constructs such as Economic Deprivation (ED), Family Dysfunction, Community Disorganization, Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency. The results highlight the strong relationship between poverty and delinquency, suggesting efforts to target interventions as well as other support systems. Suggestions range from public awareness campaigns and training of judges to promotion measures for economic self-determination, as well as legislative changes that would protect the rights of minors.

Laurie, William, Ankie, Yuanhui, Wei and Joyce (2022), explore the impact of poverty on parent–child relationships, parental stress and parenting practices. Four hundred and eighty five Hong Kong Chinese parents who had children aged 3-6 years, and who were from low-income families. Eleven of these parents were randomly selected for individual semi-structured interviews. A sociodemographic questionnaire, the parent–child relationship score, the Parental Stress Scale and the Perceived Parental Aggression Scale. The parents were found to have an impaired relationship with their children. The findings indicated that employment status, parental stress and harsh parenting were significantly associated with parent–child relationships. The

qualitative findings revealed that parents from low-income families encountered a wide range of difficulties, which made these parents more likely to experience parental stress, thereby increasing their tendency to adopt harsh parenting practices that undermined parent–child relationships.

Ratzinger (2021), evaluate poverty and the challenges of parenting: Issues and prospects. This study in its exposition reveals that regardless of culture, poverty has a significant impact on the parental practices adopted by parents. In other words, poverty stands as a serious barrier to proper parenting hence, speedy effort should be made to alleviate poverty as well as teach parents good parental practices for the best outcome of the child.

Muhammad, Ibrahim, Maryam and Yahanasu, (2020), examine how puberty makes an impact on the live with the children because most of the existing works have not been detailed on the aspect. Secondary data were employed for the data collection in conducting this work study. The findings of this study indicate some ways on how to curtail or reduced child poverty in the country with the conclusion that the country is rich. Little evidence found that gross misappropriation of resources, poor management, sociocultural factors and corruption are responsible for the current situation of child poverty in the country.

Nwamaka and Patricia (2015), takes a critical look at impacts of poverty on child health and development. The paper perceives poverty as the major barrier to human development especially the children. Some of the causes of poverty were identified such as war, history, national dept, discrimination, social inequality, vulnerability to national disaster, workless ness, low paid work, low wages, part time work, high cost of child care etc. The impacts of poverty on the health, cognitive development, social, emotional and behavioural, educational attainment, disability and physical health of the child were seen. The paper equally x-rayed pathways through which

poverty operates which include: health and nutrition, home environment, parental interaction with children, parental mental health and neighborhood conditions. Certain strategies that will improve the well-being of children living in poverty were discussed. The paper concludes that poverty has detrimental impact on the health development of the child now and in future if not curbed and thereby recommends among other things that government should pay urgent attention to avoid further damage in order to reduce poverty among the populace so that children would have an appreciable level of health.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter deals with the methods and procedures that are employed in the research study to collect and present the data.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy procedure (Asika, 2005). The research design for this study was the survey research design. This study basically adopted the descriptive survey research design in which well-structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the respondents. A survey could be defined as the systematic gathering of information from respondents for the purpose of understanding or predicting some aspects of the behaviour of the population of interest.

#### **3.2 Population of the Study**

Population is made up of all conceivable elements, subjects and observations relating to a particular phenomenon of interest to the researcher from which sample and conclusion are drawn. Thus, the population of this study comprises of 339,899 adult male and female according to 2006 population census. randomly selected in Egor Local Government Area.

#### **3.3 Sample Size**

Egor Local Government Area according to 2006 population census comprises of 339,899 adult male and, The sample size was obtain using the formula:  $n = \frac{N}{1+Ne^2}$  ( Taro Yamane, 1981).

where N represented the population size, n represented the sample size, e represented the chance allowed for error or the level of significance and 1 represented the constant value.

The sample size was computed as:

$$N = \frac{339,899}{339,899(0.05)^2}$$

$$N = \frac{339,899}{1+339,899(0.05)^2}$$

$$N = \frac{4997}{849.75}$$

$$N = 399.9988.$$

The sample size of the study was approximately 400 consisting of both male and female adult living in Egor Local Government Area.

### **3.4 Sample Technique**

The study employed the sampling techniques which is tinted towards the simple random sampling techniques in getting appropriate data from the study respondents area. To get the sample size of the study, convenience sample method was employed. This was due to limited time, low financial strength of the researcher. The sample of this study was 400 respondent which were selected from Evbuomore community, Benin City Edo State.

### **3.4 Research Instrument**

Questionnaire was used as the instrument in this study to collect data. Questionnaire employs a typical form of fixed- response alternative questions that required the respondent to select from a predetermined set of answers to every question or fill close-ended statement(s). For the purpose of

this study, the survey method was adopted with the use of questionnaire instrument designed to elicit the appraise information for the study. The questionnaire administered to the respondents was divided into two Sections of A and B. Section A was concerned with the demographic data of the respondents among which are: gender, age, educational qualification, and marital status of the respective respondents. Section B consists of questions directly related to the objectives of the study and set in Likert scale and ranking forms. The administration was by approaching the respondents and handing over the questionnaire to them. They were therefore expected to complete and return them. This was basically allow to be free and analyze the questions objectively. Four hundred (400) copies of questionnaire was administered to resident in Egor Local Government Area.

### **3.5 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument**

In this study, adequate consideration was given to issues of face and content validity of the instrument used. To ensure face and content validity, the instrument was given to supervisor and two other experts in Faculty of social Sciences. They basically required review and criticize the items on the instrument in terms of their clarity, appropriateness of the language and instructions that the respondents are expected to adhere to. They also aided in determining whether the items in the questionnaire can elicit the relevant information that they are expected to generate from the respondents. Their criticisms was incorporated in modifying the items on the instrument used. In addition, content validity was further ensured by making sure that each item in the questionnaire addressed a specific problem of the study as identified from the trial testing of the instrument to ensure its reliability.

### **3.6 Sources of Data**

The source of data for this study was primary data source. Primary data come from original sources and have not been previously collected or used. The data consists of the information which was

elicited from the sampled respondents using the research instrument (questionnaire). The questionnaire was designed using a summated rating scale (Likert scale) to measure the degree of agreement by the respondents to a statement that describes a situation.

### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

The social sciences statistical tools (SPSS) of data analysis were deployed in the analysis of data derived from the field. Frequency and simple percentage. The simple percentage which is a descriptive tool for statistics was used for analysis in this study

### **3.8 Ethical Consideration**

Ethical approval for this research was sought from a recognised Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Research Ethics Committee to ensure adherence to internationally accepted ethical standards. Participants was provided with a detailed information sheet explaining the purpose, scope, and voluntary nature of the study. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant prior to the commencement of data collection, affirming their willingness to participate and their right to withdraw at any stage without consequence. As the study explores significant impact of poverty on family dynamic.

Confidentiality and anonymity was strictly maintained through the use of pseudonyms and the removal of any identifiable information from the data and final report. Audio recordings, transcripts, and notes was securely stored and accessible only to the researcher and supervisors. Ethical sensitivity was exercised during interviews, particularly with women who may recall distressing experiences; therefore, interviews was conducted in safe and respectful environments. The principle of non-maleficence was underpin all stages of the research, ensuring that the dignity, autonomy, and cultural values of participants are upheld throughout the study. Where necessary, referrals was made to social workers or support services for participants who exhibit signs of emotional distress during or after the interview process.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

This section of this study focus at analyzing the data collection from the respondent for this study. 400 research instrument was distributed to the respondent but only 397 was correctly fill and returned. Frequency, percentage and crosstabulation method was use in the analyzing the data for this study.

#### 4.1 Analysis of the Respondent Profile

		Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>SEX</b>	Male	224	56.4
	Female	173	43.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>AGE</b>	20-30	109	27.5
	31-40	208	52.4
	41-50	48	12.1
	51 and above	32	8.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>	Secondary School certificate	96	24.2
	OND/Diploma	64	16.1

	HND/BSC	176	44.3
	Master Degree	46	11.6
	PhD	15	3.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>RELIGION</b>	Christian	381	96.0
	Muslim	16	4.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Researcher's compilation, 2025**

The above table revealed the sex distribution of the respondent in this study. In the above, 224 respondent representing 56.4% were male, 173 respondent representing 43.6% were female. It can be deduced that both male and female participation in the filling of the research question.

On the age distribution of the respondent, 109 respondents representing 27.5% were between the 20-30 years, 208 respondents representing 52.4% were between 31-40 years old, 48 respondent representing 12.1% were between 41-50 years, 32 respondent representing 8.1% were 51 years and above. It can be concluded that respondent in this study were adult male and female who are mature enough to understand the concept of poverty and family dynamic

On the educational qualification of the respondent, 96 respondent representing 24.2% were secondary school certificate owners, 64 respondent representing 16.1% were OND/Diploma certificate owners, 176 respondent representing 44.3% were HND/BSc certificate owners, 46 respondent representing 11.6% were master degree owners, 15 respondent representing 3.5% were PhD certificate owners. It can be concluded that the respondent in this study were male and female who are educated and know the concept of poverty and it effect on human behaviour.

On the religious of the respondent, 381 respondent representing 96.0 were Christian, and 16 respondent representing 4.0% were Muslim. It means that both Christian and Muslim participated as the study respondents.

#### 4.2 Analysis of the Respondent on the Issues of Poverty and Family Dynamic

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
Poverty has increased tension and arguments among members of my extended family	192 (48.4%)	109 (27.5%)	16 (4.0%)	32 (8.1%)	48 (12.1%)	397 100%
Due to financial difficulties, my relatives and I communicate less frequently than we used to.	110 (27.7%)	208 (52.4%)	16 (4.0%)	47 (11.8%)	16 (4.0%)	397 100%
When facing financial hardship, my relatives and I tend to rely more on each other for support (e.g., childcare, financial aid, emotional support).	158 (39.8%)	127 (32.0%)	48 (12.1%)	48 (12.1%)	16 (4.0%)	397 100%
My financial situation often makes it difficult for me to spend quality time with my children	237 (59.7%)	0 (0.0%)	112 (28.2%)	32 (8.1%)	16 (4.0%)	397 100%

On the statement that poverty has increased tension and arguments among members of my extended family, 192 respondent representing 48.4% strongly agreed, 109 respondent representing 27.5% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 32 respondent representing 8.1% disagree, and 48 respondent representing 12.1% strongly disagree. It can be concluded that poverty has increased tension and arguments among members of my extended family.

On the statement that due to financial difficulties, my relatives and I communicate less frequently than we used to, 110 respondent representing 27.7% strongly agree, 208 respondent representing 52.4% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 47 respondent representing 11.8%

disagree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% strongly disagree. It can be deduced that due to financial difficulties, my relatives and I communicate less frequently than we used to.

Most respondent agree with the statement that When facing financial hardship, my relatives and I tend to rely more on each other for support (e.g., childcare, financial aid, emotional support). In the above table 158 respondent representing 39.8% strongly agree, 127 respondent representing 32.0% agree, 48 respondent representing 12.1% were neutral, 48 respondent representing 12.1% disagree, and 16 respondent representing 4.0% strongly disagreed.

176 respondent representing 44.3. and 64 respondent representing 16.1% strongly agree, and agree with the statement that poverty has made it harder for my family to participate in social gatherings or activities with relatives. 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 94 respondent representing 23.7% disagree, 47 respondent representing 11.8% strongly disagree. It can be deduced that

On the statement that my financial situation often makes it difficult for me to spend quality time with my children, 237 respondent representing 59.7% strongly agree, non of the respondent agree, 112 respondent representing 28.2% were neutral, 32 respondent representing 8.1% disagree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% strongly disagree.

STATEMENT	SA	A	N	D	SD	
I feel more stressed as a parent due to the financial challenges my family faces	0 (0.0%)	192 (48.4%)	48 (12.1%)	141 (35.5%)	16 (4.0%)	397 100%
Poverty sometimes leads me to be more impatient or harsh with my children than I would like to be.	205 (51.6%)	48 (12.1%)	16 (4.0%)	96 (24.2%)	32 (8.1%)	397 100%

I believe my financial circumstances negatively affect my children's perception of our relationship	144 (36.3%)	96 (24.2%)	15 (3.8%)	47 (11.8%)	95 (23.9%)	397 100%
Poverty significantly increases stress within families, leading to more frequent conflicts among family members.	176 (44.3%)	141 (35.5%)	16 (4.0%)	48 (12.1%)	16 (4.0%)	397 100%

Respondent agree to the assertion that I feel more stressed as a parent due to the financial challenges my family faces. In the above table, 192 respondent representing 48.4% agree, non of the respondent strongly agree, 48 respondent representing 12.1% were neutral, 141 respondent representing 35.3% disagree, and 16 respondent representing 4.0% strongly disagree.

Most respondent agree with the statement that poverty sometimes leads me to be more impatient or harsh with my children than I would like to be. In the above table, 205 respondent representing 51.6%strongly agree, 48 respondent representing 12.1% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 94 respondent representing 24.2% disagree, 32 respondent representing 8.1% strongly disagree.

On the assertion that I believe my financial circumstances negatively affect my children's perception of our relationship, 144 respondent representing 36.3% strongly agree. 96 respondent representing 24.2% agree,15 respondent representing 3.8% were neutral, 47 respondent representing 11.8% disagree, 95 respondent representing 23.9% strongly disagree.

Respondent agree with the statement that poverty significantly increases stress within families, leading to more frequent conflicts among family members. In the above table, 176 respondent representing 44.3% strongly agree, 141 respondent representing 35.5% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 48 respondent representing 12.1% disagree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% strongly disagree.

STATEMENT	SA	A	N	D	SD	
Financial hardship often limits opportunities for shared family activities and experiences, weakening family bonds.	240 (60.5%)	48 (12.1%)	62 (15.1%)	32 (8.1%)	16 (3.8%)	397 100%
Parents experiencing poverty are more likely to exhibit harsh or inconsistent parenting styles due to chronic stressors, impacting child-parent relationships.	64 (16.1%)	221 (55.7%)	32 (8.1%)	64 (16.1%)	16 (4.0%)	397 100%
Poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges.	80 (20.2%)	192 (48.4%)	64 (16.1%)	16 (4.0%)	45 (11.3)	397 100%
Economic hardship forces family members to rely more heavily on each other for support	80 (20.2%)	176 (44.3%)	16 (4.0%)	94 (23.7%)	31 (7.8%)	397 100%

On the view that financial hardship often limits opportunities for shared family activities and experiences, weakening family bonds, 240 respondent representing 60.5% strongly agree, 48 respondent representing 12.1% agree, 62 respondent representing 15.6% were neutral, 32 respondent representing 8.1% disagree, 15 respondent representing 3.8% strongly disagree.

On the statement that parents experiencing poverty are more likely to exhibit harsh or inconsistent parenting styles due to chronic stressors, impacting child-parent relationships, 64 respondent representing 16.1% strongly agree, 221 respondent representing 55.7% agree, 32 respondent representing 8.1% were neutral, 64 respondent representing 16.1% disagree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% strongly disagree.

Most respondent agree to the statement that poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges. In the above table, 80 respondent representing 20.2% strongly agree, 192 respondent representing 48.4% agree, 64 respondent representing 16.1% were neutral, 16 respondent representing 4.0% disagree, and 45 respondent representing 11.3% strongly disagree.

STATEMENT	SA	A	N	D	SD	
Facing poverty encourages family members to cooperate more effectively in household tasks and resource management	160 (40,3%)	144 (36.3%)	32 (8.1%)	46 (11.6%)	15 (3.8%)	397 100%
shared economic struggles strengthen family unity and a sense of collective purpose	191 (48.1%)	110 (27.7%)	32 (8.1%)	48 (12.1%)	16 (4.0%_	397 100%
Poverty can lead to increased conflict and strain within families, rather than greater cooperation	64 (16.1%)	128 (32.2%)	32 (8.1%)	158 (39.8%)	15 (3.8%)	397 100%
Current government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria are adequately funded to achieve their stated objectives	47 (11.8%)	78 (19.6%)	16 (4.0%)	112 (28.2%)	144 (36.3%)	397 100%

Respondent uphold the assertion that economic hardship forces family members to rely more heavily on each other for support. In the above table, 80 respondent representing 20.2% strongly agree, 176 respondent representing 44.3% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 94 respondent representing 23.7% disagree, 31 respondent representing 7.8% strongly disagree.

On the statement that facing poverty encourages family members to cooperate more effectively in household tasks and resource management, 160 respondent representing 40.3% strongly agree, 144 respondent representing 36.3% agree, 32 respondent representing 8.1% were neutral, 46 respondent representing 11.6% disagree, and 15 respondent representing 3.8% strongly disagree.

On the statement that shared economic struggles strengthen family unity and a sense of collective purpose, 191 respondent representing 48.1% strongly agree, 110 respondent representing 27.7% agree, 32 respondent representing 8.1% were neutral, 48 respondent representing 12.1% disagree, and 16 respondent representing 4.0% strongly disagree.

Majority of the respondent agree with the view that poverty can lead to increased conflict and strain within families, rather than greater cooperation. As revealed in the above, table, 64 respondent representing 16.1% strongly agree, 128 respondent representing 32.2% agree, 32

respondent representing 8.1% were neutral, 158 respondent representing 39.8% disagree, and 15 respondent representing 3.8% strongly disagree.

STATEMENT	SA	A	N	D	SD	
government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria effectively target the most vulnerable populations	30 (7.6%)	64 (16.1%)	64 (16.1%)	159 (40.1%)	80 (20.2%)	397 100%
government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria have transparent and accountable mechanisms for implementation and monitoring	32 (8.1%)	48 (12.1%)	16 (4.0%)	205 (51.6%)	96 (24.2%)	397 100%
government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria provide sustainable pathways out of poverty for beneficiaries	80 (20.2%)	79 (19.9%)	16 (4.0%)	128 (32.2%)	94 (23.7%)	397 100%
government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria provide sustainable pathways out of poverty for beneficiaries	80 (20.2%)	79 (19.9%)	16 (4.0)	128 (32.2%)	94 (23.7%)	397 100%

On the statement that current government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria are adequately funded to achieve their stated objectives, 47 respondent representing 11.8% strongly disagree, 78 respondent representing 19.6% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 112 respondent representing 28.2% disagree, and 144 respondent representing 36.3% strongly disagree.

Respondent disagree with the statement that government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria effectively target the most vulnerable populations. In the above table, 30 respondent representing 7.6% strongly agree, 64 respondent representing 16.1% agree, 64 respondent representing 16.1%

were neutral, 159 respondent representing 40.1% disagree, and 80 respondent representing 20.2% strongly disagree.

Majority of the respondent disagree with the statement that government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria have transparent and accountable mechanisms for implementation and monitoring. In the above table, 32 respondent representing 8.1% strongly disagree, 48 respondent representing 12.1% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 205% respondent representing 51.6% disagree, and 96 respondent representing 24.2% strongly disagree.

On the view that government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria provide sustainable pathways out of poverty for beneficiaries 80 respondent representing 20.2% strongly agree, 79 respondent representing 19.9% agree, 16 respondent representing 4.0% were neutral, 128 respondent representing 32.2% disagree, and 94 respondent representing 23.7% strongly disagree. It could be deduced that government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria provide sustainable pathways out of poverty for beneficiaries

#### **4.3 Discussion of Finding**

##### **Relationship between poverty and patterns of interactions among relatives**

The finding of this study showed that there is a relationship between poverty and pattern of interaction among relatives. A very high number of the respondent agree to the assertion that poverty has increased tension and arguments among members of my extended family, and due to financial difficulties, my relatives and I communicate less frequently than we used to. Respondent asserted that when facing financial hardship, relatives tend to rely more on each other for support (e.g., childcare, financial aid, emotional support). According to the respondent, poverty made it harder for family to participate in social gatherings or activities with relatives. This finding is inline with the view of Akinlabi et al (2015), which suggests that poverty can both strengthen and strain familial ties, depending on the specific context and cultural norms. It also support the work

of Walsh (2017) that economic hardship often necessitates increased reliance on kin for various forms of support, including financial assistance, childcare, housing, and emotional solace. This can lead to more frequent interactions, deeper interdependencies, and the formation of robust social networks among relatives as a coping mechanism against adversity. Studies in various regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Latin America, have shown that extended family networks play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of poverty by pooling resources and providing a safety net. Conversely, prolonged poverty can also introduce significant stress and conflict into family relationships. According to Akinlabi (2015), financial strain can lead to disputes over resources, resentment, and a breakdown in communication, potentially weakening familial bonds. The demands of poverty, such as long working hours or migration for employment, can also limit opportunities for regular interaction, leading to a perceived or actual decrease in closeness among relatives.

### **Relationship between poverty and roles of relationships**

the result from the analysis of the respondent responses showed that there is a relationship between poverty and roles of relationship. The study revealed that financial situation often makes it difficult for relations to spend quality time with children, and most parent feel more stressed due to the financial challenges family faces. Poverty sometimes leads to be more impatient or harsh with children and other relations than they would like to be. Respondent revealed that financial circumstances negatively affect my children's perception of relationship. This finding is inline with the study of Laurie et al., (2022) that Poverty significantly impacts relationships by creating strain and stress on individuals and family units, often leading to a breakdown in communication and an increased risk of separation or conflict. Conversely, strong relationships can act as a buffer, helping families cope with the challenges of economic deprivation. It also support Tatzinger (2021) that poverty negatively affects family relationships through stress,

limited resources, and negative psychological impacts on parents, leading to issues like marital conflict, harsh parenting, and poorer parent-child bonds.

**Relationship between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions.**

The study revealed that there is a relationship between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions. Poverty significantly increases stress within families, leading to more frequent conflicts among family members, and most cases financial hardship often limits opportunities for shared family activities and experiences, weakening family bonds. Poverty has diverse negative impact on family relationship. According to the respondent Parents experiencing poverty are more likely to exhibit harsh or inconsistent parenting styles due to chronic stressors, impacting child-parent relationships. This finding support the work of Kir (2011) who propounded that poverty significantly impacts family interactions by increasing stress, conflict, and mental health issues, while decreasing emotional support, warmth, and effective communication. These effects are shaped by factors including financial pressure, access to resources, and parental education

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDING, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 Summary of Finding**

This study evaluate the impact of poverty on family dynamics in selected households in Egor Local Government Area Edo State. Specifically it was carryout to examine the relationship between poverty and patterns of interactions among relatives, to find out if there is a relationship between poverty and roles and relationships, to evaluate if a relationship exists between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions, to examine if there is a Poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges, and to find out the effectiveness of government program that focus on reduce poverty rate in Nigeria.

The sample size of the study consist of 400 consisting of both male and female adult living in Egor Local Government Area. The social sciences statistical tools (SPSS) of data analysis were deployed in the analysis of data derived from the field. Frequency and simple percentage. The simple percentage which is a descriptive tool for statistics was used for analysis in this study

The finding showed that poverty has significant impact on family dynamics in selected households in Egor Local Government Area Edo State.

Respondent revealed that poverty can increase tension, result in stress with family and arguments among members of extended family. In most cases when facing financial hardship, relatives tend to rely more on each other for support such as childcare, financial aid, emotional support. Respondent agrees that poverty sometimes leads parents to be more impatient or harsh with children, and also can lead to increased conflict and strain within families, rather than greater cooperation. According to the respondent, government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria have not effectively targeted the most vulnerable populations and have not been able to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty for beneficiaries.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Based on the analysis of the respondent responses in this study, it was discovered there is a relationship between poverty and patterns of interactions among relatives, there is a relationship between poverty and roles and relationships. A relationship was found between poverty and various factors that shape family member interactions, the study revealed that poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges. On the other hand, the study found that government programs on poverty eradication are not effective in reducing poverty rates in Nigeria.

## **5.3 Recommendation**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendation for Nigeria should increase their efforts toward poverty reduction programs which could in turn reduce the issue among relatives in Nigeria. Non-government organizations should gear their efforts toward curbing the issue of poverty eradication which could create problems among relatives. The study recommends that the Nigeria government should improve on the economy system which could help to curb the issues of poverty in Nigeria.

### 5.3 Contribution to Knowledge

1. This study conducted gather data on the levels of parental stress, the types of harsh parenting behaviors observed, and the perceived quality of parent-child relationships within this specific geographical context. This research would provide localized data that could inform targeted interventions, similar to studies conducted in other regions.
2. This study explore how local community structures, traditional support systems, or specific cultural norms influence how families cope with financial hardship and how these factors affect parent-child interactions and parental well-being. For example, understanding the role of extended family networks or community-based cooperative societies could reveal unique resilience factors or additional stressors.
3. Assessing the effectiveness of existing or proposed community-based interventions aimed at mitigating the negative effects of poverty on family dynamics in Egor LGA. This would involve evaluating programs that offer financial literacy, parenting skills training, mental health support, or access to social networks for low-income families. Such an assessment would provide evidence-based recommendations for improving support services and promoting healthier family environments within the local government area

### 5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies

While this study provides valuable insights, it has some limitations that can be addressed by future research:

**Geographical Scope:** The study was limited to Egor Local Government Area. Future studies should consider comparing multiple states to provide a broader understanding of effect of poverty on family dynamic.

**Sample Size:** With a sample of 397 respondents, results may not fully capture the diversity of experiences within Nigeria. A larger sample could enhance generalizability.

**Use of Mixed Methods:** Future research could adopt a mixed-methods approach by combining quantitative (survey) and qualitative (interview) techniques to provide deeper insight into behavioural and institutional dynamics.

**Longitudinal Analysis:** Future studies should explore the long-term effects of procurement reforms over time to assess whether improvements in poverty effect.

This study did not cover all factors that negatively affect family dynamic, further studies can capture other factors which are not included in the present study.

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- government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria provide sustainable pathways out of poverty for beneficiaries

## APPENDIX

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY  
INFORMED CONSENT**

**Dear respondent,**

### **REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING A QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am a final year student undergoing a programme in the University of Benin. As part of the requirements for the programme; I am conducting a research on “impact poverty on family dynamic in selected household in Ego Local Government Area” In this regard, you have been duly selected as a member of the sample.

I wish to appeal to you to assist this study by kindly sparing a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. You are not required to disclose your identity. I also wish to assure you that your answers will be treated with strict confidentiality and used for the stated academic purpose only.

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Researcher.

### **SECTION A**

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES**

- i. Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ]
- ii. Age: 13 years [ ], 14-16 years[ ], 17-19 years[ ], 20 years and above[ ],
- iii. Class: JSS3[ ] SS1[ ] SS2[ ] SS3[ ]
- iv. Religion: Christianity [ ], Islam[ ], African tradition[ ],

- v. Ethnic group: Benin [ ], Esan[ ], Igbo[ ], Yoruba[ ], Hausa[ ], Others[ ]

### SECTION B: The core subject matter

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree to the following statement.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

		SA	A	N	D	SD
1	Poverty has increased tension and arguments among members of my extended family.					
2	Due to financial difficulties, my relatives and I communicate less frequently than we used to.					
3	When facing financial hardship, my relatives and I tend to rely more on each other for support (e.g., childcare, financial aid, emotional support).					
4	Poverty has made it harder for my family to participate in social gatherings or activities with relatives.					
	My financial situation often makes it difficult for me to spend quality time with my children					
	I feel more stressed as a parent due to the financial challenges my family faces."					
	Poverty sometimes leads me to be more impatient or harsh with my children than I would like to be.					
	I believe my financial circumstances negatively affect my children's perception of our relationship					
	Poverty significantly increases stress within families, leading to more frequent conflicts among family members.					
	Financial hardship often limits opportunities for shared family activities and experiences, weakening family bonds.					
	Parents experiencing poverty are more likely to exhibit harsh or inconsistent parenting styles due to chronic stressors, impacting child-parent relationships.					
	Poverty can foster greater reliance and cooperation among family members as they collectively navigate economic challenges.					
	economic hardship forces family members to rely more heavily on each other for support					
	facing poverty encourages family members to cooperate more effectively in household tasks and resource management?					

	shared economic struggles strengthen family unity and a sense of collective purpose					
	poverty can lead to increased conflict and strain within families, rather than greater cooperation					
	current government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria are adequately funded to achieve their stated objectives					
	government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria effectively target the most vulnerable populations					
	government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria have transparent and accountable mechanisms for implementation and monitoring					
	government poverty reduction programs in Nigeria provide sustainable pathways out of poverty for beneficiaries					

