CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The concept of poverty has been perceived as a challenging phenomenon in achieving sustainable development globally. The World Bank Group (2017) affirm that poverty and other related factors play a greater role in slowing down socio-economic landscape and development trajectory. The Group acknowledged Africa as the epic center to a momentous share of the world's poorest and socially exclusive population. Regardless of some indices of economic development in some part of Sub-Saharan countries, Dia, Oaya & Joshua, (2024) posit that poverty lingers extensively with a huge part of the population existing below the poverty line of 2 dollar.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2024) reiterated that intense poverty is predicated to be hugely distilled in Sub- Saharan Africa by 2030, where it is projected that over 450 million people will be living under the 2.15 dollar per day intense poverty line and almost 850 million people in outright poverty. The issue of poverty has been viewed from three focal components: health, which is inclusive of the lack of adequate nutritional value and rate of mortality, education, measured by the period of completion of school and attendance to school, and standards of living embodying the lack of access to sanitation, electricity, water, the utilization of cooking gas, housing and household asset ownership (World Bank, 2024).

However, poverty and social inclusion are two diverse socio-economic variables, but shares some level of connections. Social inclusion is the involvement of the active and increased participation in the process of human development and efforts in achieving access to opportunities

for enhanced well-being (World Bank, 2020). According to the World Bank (2020) social inclusivity in governance occupies a salient position in addressing issues of inequality and marginalization in the society, as the dearth of social inclusion stampedes individual potential, bringing about deprivation of ones' sense of dignity, security and creative activities.

As part of the enactment of the World Summit for Social Development to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations cautioned that the inability of countries to making efforts in the actualization of social inclusion, can culminates in social degradation and marginalization, and creating inequalities and putting great exertion on individuals, families and institutions, due to increased pace of social change (UN, 1995). In the same vein, Dugaraova (2015) accentuated that the World Summit for Social Development programme of action had advocated the need for strategic policies gears towards the eradication of poverty, the reduction of disparities and combating social exclusion,

The issue of social exclusion in any Sub-Saharan countries, most especially in Nigeria can be a paradox, if it's economy can be expanding and the beneficiaries from the economy have been harvested by a few and excluding the majority of the populace, thereby increasing the scale of economic inequality (OXFAM, 2019). However, in explicating the role of government in orchestrating social inclusivity in the society, it is not restricted to the promotion of diverse society through the distribution of wealth and resources, it is also in poverty eradication, fostering sustainable development and employment creation (Okonmah & Arimie, 2023).

According to the World Bank (2020), promoting inclusive growth is multi-dimensional, as it influences all façade of endeavor, both individual and institutions, thereby integrating the craving

and aspirations of all the citizens, ensuring the acknowledgement of the worth of each person and the stimulation of each person's capabilities and potential for self-actualization. It is therefore, in the light of the foregoing that this research tends to assess the relationship between poverty and social exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The instituting of institutions, systems, structures and processes that are pivotal in offering individuals the opportunities to be involved in economic, political and political life brings about an inclusive society. Dugarova (2015) aver that combating social exclusion, inequalities and the eradication of poverty hinges on the design and implementation of policies gears towards employment creation, eradicating discrimination and orchestrating the involvement of citizens, in addition to having cordial social relationships.

However, despite the acclaimed economic growth performances of Nigeria, there are extreme cases of rising inequalities, unemployment and worsened exclusion in many of the states in the country, most especially in Oredo local government area of Edo state, thereby deflating efforts recorded and threatening social cohesion. In addition, in spite of the poverty alleviation programmes and safety nets initiated, the number of poor individuals has increased overtime. For instance, the Nigerian Multi-dimensional Index of 2022 indicates that 130 million Nigerian are multidimensional poor, this figure is representation of sixty-three percent of the total population. The poverty value is also revealed to be higher in the rural regions, as it is indicating that seventy-two percent of the people are poorer in comparison to forty-two percent of the people in the urban regions (MPI, 2022).

The pervasive state of poverty in Edo state is evidenced through income disparity. According to OXFAM (2019) poverty and social exclusion are not prevalent because of the dearth of resources, but it is as a result of misappropriation and misallocation of such wealth and resources. OXFAM (2019) noted that the intersection between economic and power, shifts the distribution of opportunities, wealth and income to certain privileged individuals and prejudices policy making in preference to the rich. In that regard, the management of public resources is hinged on state capture, rent seeking and corruption thereby culminating to social exclusion, poverty and truncating the prospect for inclusive growth.

According to Balogun (2023) the unequal distribution of wealth and resources enhances the rate of poverty levels across levels of different strata in the society. Souring rate of unemployment, most especially among the youth and the female folks further heightens social exclusion and stampedes efforts towards poverty alleviation (World Bank, 2020). More so, the lack of access to basic needs, such as education, portable clean water, healthcare and safe environment further exacerbates poverty. Weak state of infrastructure, such as electricity and roads hampers social exclusion and efforts to enhance individual wellbeing (Balogun, 2023).

In recent times, the policy of government at the federal level has further widened the gap between the rich and the poor. According to Dia, *et al* (2023), the subsidy removal policy of the government has resulted into sporadic inflationary trend due to the increase in the price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS). The implication has been the sharp increase of the price of both the consumer and industrial goods. Transportation cost is gradually beyond the affordability of the lower rung in the society due to the enormous reduction in their purchasing power. According to Odui & Obiora (2023) this reality has brought about untold frustration and discontent among Nigerians as

the administration has become insensitive, thereby turning many Nigerians into a state of acute poverty. However, despite several policies measures to address issues of poverty and inclusive policies, Nigerians are thrown into abject poverty as a result of the indiscriminate and unfair distribution of public resources (Umeji, 2021). It is in the light of these issues that the dearth of quantitative research to buttress the correlation between poverty and social exclusion necessitated the need for the study.

1.3 Research Questions

The research question s for the study are as follows:

i. What is the prevalence and depth of poverty in Oredo local government area of Edo State?

ii. What is the relationship between poverty and social exclusion in the local government?

iv. What role do social protection programmes play in alleviating poverty in the local government?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate poverty and social exclusion in Oredo local government area of Edo State. The specific objectives are to:

i. To investigate the prevalence and depth of poverty in Oredo local government are of Edo State.

ii. To examine the relationship between poverty and social exclusion in the local government

iii. To ascertain the role of social protection programmes in the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of social inclusion in the local government.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

For this research, the following null hypothesis will be tested:

1. There is no prevalence of poverty in the local government
2. There is no significant relationship between poverty and social exclusion in Oredo local government of Edo state
3. There is no relationship between social protection programmes, poverty alleviation and the poverty eradication in the local government

1.6 Scope of the Study

Oredo Local Government of Edo State is one of the most populated and urbanized areas in the state. Despite its strategic location and economic importance, the area is plagued by poverty and social exclusion. The study aims to assess the prevalence, causes, and consequences of poverty and social exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo state.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The study contributes to the comprehension of poverty and social exclusion in Oredo LGA, offering important insights for policy makers, practitioners and community stakeholders. The finding of the study contributes in informing evidence-based policy amid programmes to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion.

The study is significant in the sense that it will enhance community engagement and participation in poverty reduction initiatives and offer actionable recommendations for local government, non-governmental organizations and community organizations.

Finally, the research findings is significant when completed, because it contributes in the generation of new knowledge and stands as a useful material for future referencing.

1.8 Operational Clarification of Terms

Poverty

This is the dearth of basic necessities of life, such as food, water, shelter and clothing. It connotes living below a particular standard of living in comparison to the overall population. It is multidimensional in the sense of deprivation in myriad areas such as health, education and living standards.

Social Inclusion

This is the process of ensuring equal opportunities, resources, and services for all individuals and groups. It can be access to education, employment and financial services, the participation in social networks and community activities and the participation in decision making process.

Social Exclusion

This is the process of marginalizing or excluding individuals/groups from social, economic, and political opportunities.

Social Protection Programmes

Social protection programmes are policies enacted strategically to address poverty, vulnerability and social inclusion, they are in the form of cash transfer, food assistance, health insurance, unemployment benefits and pension schemes.

1.9 Organization of the Work

This study is composed of five chapters. Chapter one comprises of the background to the study, statement of the research problem, the research questions, and objectives of the study, the research hypotheses, and the significance of the study, scope and limitations of the study, operational clarifications and organization of the work. Chapter two covers areas such as the review of literature, theoretical framework, empirical review and organizational context of the study. Chapter three is the methodology, while chapter deals with data presentation, analysis, and discussion of findings. Chapter five is made up of the summary, conclusion, recommendations and contributions to knowledge.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Framework

2.1.1 Poverty

The concept of poverty is multi-dimensional. According to Touray (2016) it is geared towards measuring the levels of deprivation faced by an individual, household or community. Even though many of the researches conducted placed emphasis on the gauges of deficiencies, such as access to housing and income etc. The selection of indicators for the measurement levels of deprivation can many times be subjective and therefore may not reflect a complete degree of unmet essential needs in diverse social setting (Touray, 2016). Therefore, according to Spicker (2020) poverty implies a broad spectrum of connecting issues. Nevertheless. it has many a time been construed in a very constructed academic context. Chambers in Spicker (2020) described poverty in the following sense:

> *"Poverty is utilized in two main senses: in its first common usage in development, it is a broad, blanket word used to refer to the whole spectrum of deprivation, and ill-being: In its second usage, poverty has a narrow technical definition for purposes of measurement and comparison. In the words of one authority…. "Poverty" has to be given scientifically acceptable universal meaning and measurement. Poverty is then defined as low income, as it is reported, recorded and analyzed, or often as low*

> *consumption, which is easier to measure. This is the normal meaning of poverty among economist, and it is used for measuring poverty lines, for comparing groups and regions, and often for assessing progress or backsliding- the classical pattern in erudite analysis is to start with a recognition that poverty is much more than income or consumption, but then to allow what has been measured to take over and dominate"* (Chamber in Spicker, pp.81)

However, in grasping the concept of poverty, Spicker (2007) categorized the meaning of poverty into groups. First, it considers poverty to be related to material condition, connoting the dearth of a particular goods and items, inclusive of housing, fuel or food, an overall low standard of living which connotes to an overall experience rather than an exact deprivation. Second, viewing poverty from the economic condition perspectives, this means a dearth of a required means of livelihood, such as low income, or inadequate assets, the denial of people from accessing wealth and resources, the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor, culminating in the increasing deprivation as with regards to productivity and labour market.

Third, poverty relating to social relationships, this is another aspect of assessing poverty. Social relationship is termed as relating to low status and social dishonour, that is creating local or under class due to extreme deprivation. It can also be an aspect of the issue of exclusion, where people are not given access to vital resources due to the fact that they are pushed out. Lack of entitlement and insecurity as accentuated by Wrensinski (1987) results to poverty when they affect many areas of an individual's life, when they are insistent and when they impact negatively on people's capability to take up responsibilities and to exercise their rights.

According to Spicker (2020), poverty can be viewed as a moral evaluation. This connotes a condition where unfavourable economic realities results to chronic hardship where citizens find it difficult to have access to basic needs of life. In the same vein, poverty is relative when its disposition and character deter with the society where it occurs. This might connote any four somewhat diverse things. First, relative poverty can be seen as socially driven, this means that the least standard that pertains in a society are diverse in varied places. Second, according to Sen (1999), the product and services amid which potentials are achieved are varied in diverse areas. For instance, the potential of transportation can be attained in diverse areas by varied products such as a car, boat or a bicycle. What matter as shelter or food is dependable not just on social preference, but a multifarious system of rules, therefore these are societies where the erection of shanties is not possible and for another clime it is practicable (Sen, 1999).

According to Townsend in Spicker (2020) relative poverty can be viewed socially, meaning it may be referred to as the prospects, patterns of behaviour and customs acceptable in a particular environment. Third, relative poverty may also connote that the standard that can be utilized are specific, rather than general, meaning it is dependable on the particular social context where they are practical. Fourth, poverty can be perceived as comparative, it is on the converse between those who are poor and those who are not (Spicker, 2020).

In the same vein, Ngwuta, Nwosu & Eze (2023) assert that poverty is relative and in converse, the understanding of the concept of poverty connotes differently depending on comprehension and conception. Some may view it as acute deprivation of basic needs of life, such as food, shelter, education and health, at the same time, for others it can connotes the lack of access to wealth and resources to enable them live life to the fullest. In a nutshell, it can be said that

poverty places a limitation on an individual to realize their potential and to maximize it for the benefit of their social wellbeing.

2.1.2 Conceptualizing Social Inclusion and Exclusion

The discussion of the issue of social exclusion cannot exhaustively be addressed without conceptualizing the concept social inclusion. Social inclusion shares some similarity with terminologies like social cohesion or social integration which according to the United Nations (1995) is a representation of the vision for a "society for all" in which every person, each with its rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. However, social inclusion as accentuated by Dean (2016) is process in which those endangered by poverty and social exclusion accesses the prospect and resources that are required to completely engage in meaningful activities. The capability to address the issue of poverty, inequality and social exclusion is hinged on the adequacy of income and employment (Dugarova, 2015).

According to Duran (2020), social inclusion can be viewed from the relational perspective; to provide explicit exposition on this ideology, the UNDP in Duran (2020) explicate social inclusion in the following manner:

> *"A systematic and permanent process of societies to enforce, respect and protect the human rights of all individuals in a society through the guarantee of conditions of equality, regardless of origin of the people. In other words, at the core of social inclusion is the possibility of access to social relations which is deeply mediated, first by human rights and by the way in which they are respected*

> *and fulfilled by the state. Secondly, by the options offered by the market and the legal, security, that is behind the economic transactions and thirdly, by ties and relations of collaboration or cooperation that are a basic source of cohesion and social capital of contemporary society*" (Duran, 2020:121).

Duran (2020) believes that it was important to reiterate that the definition focuses on the relational aspect of the focal point of social inclusion. Drawing from the relational perspective, social inclusion has been viewed as processional and a dynamic expression of poverty, exclusion and inequality. Social inclusion has also been viewed as having a link to development. According to UNDP (2015) issues of social exclusion and poverty poses hindrance to development.

Therefore, the UNDP (2015) describes social exclusion as those processes by which persons or social groups are alienated from having access to citizenship, human rights, and resources that will promote social wellbeing. In the same light, concerning assessing the pivotal role of social inclusion in addressing issues of exclusion, UN DESA (2010) referred social inclusion as the tool for providing solution to the issue of social exclusion of persons and social groups from political, economic and societal processes in society thereby preventing the people's complete engagement in the society. This connotes that social inclusion play a vital role in enhancing the prosperity and improving the potentials, prospects and dignity of the marginalized groups in the society through access to markets, services and space.

2.2 Literature Review

2.2.1 Dimension of Poverty

Sida (2019) model for multidimensional poverty analysis (MDPA) recognizes four dimensions of poverty: (i.) resources, (ii) opportunities and choice, (iii) power and voice, and (iv) human security. These four dimensions seeks to identify the major methods in which poverty reveals itself and how it is experienced by people living in poverty. Multiple causes interplay to push people into a situation of poverty – and, in many cases, to keep them there

i. Resources: Being poor in terms of resources means not having access to, or power over, resources that can be used to sustain a decent living standard, meet basic needs and improve one's life. Resources can be both material and non-material: a decent income or physical and human capital, such as being educated or having professional skills, being healthy, having agricultural tools or a cart to transport goods.

ii. Opportunities and Choices**:** Being poor in terms of opportunities and choice refers to one's possibilities to develop and/or use the resources to move out of poverty. Access to productive employment, education, health clinics, infrastructure, energy, markets and information affect the choices available and opportunities to escape from poverty.

iii. Power and Voice**:** Being poor in power and voice relates to people's ability to articulate their concerns, needs and rights in an informed way, and to take part in decision making affecting these concerns inside the household, in local communities and at the national level. Discrimination and violation of human rights are important aspects when analyzing this dimension. Power is a relational concept that allows us to better understand socio-

cultural hierarchies and relations of which gender is one. Others include age, caste, class, religion, ethnicity and sexual identity. Reinforcing forms of discrimination based on socio-cultural relations may increase an individual's poverty in this sense

iv. Human Security**:** Being poor in terms of human security means that physical, sexual, and/or psychological violence and insecurity are constraints to different groups and individuals' possibilities to exercise their human rights and to find paths out of poverty. According to Sida (2019), a person living in poverty is resource poor and poor in one or several other dimensions.

2.2.2 Approaches to Measuring Poverty

Income

Poverty measurement has been governed by the acclaimed income approach. Commencing from a theoretical outlook, the concept "money-metric" is more suitable as some of the acclaimed income pointers can hinge on expenditure or consumption data (Boltvinik, 1994). However, Chamber (1995) has noted that irrespective of how this group of indicators is gotten, it is conveyed in money-metric terms.

According to Boltvinik (1994), this method to measurement of poverty supposes that persons and families are poor if their income or consumption is below a particular limit, usually delineated as a least, socially adequate amount of well-being by a society. The weight is laid on material well-being, and income, a "means" indicator, is employed as a proxy for poverty. According to Chamber (1995), the most extensively used income poverty pointers are the headcount index and per capita GNP. The headcount index is hinged on a poverty line (or set of

lines) that are recognized by estimating a least case of critical goods for necessary human existence, utilizing income, consumption or expenditure data of nonpoor households. The occurrence of poverty is then computed as the percentage of the population whose incomes fall below that threshold (Chamber, 1995).

According to Anand (1998), income indicators can also be utilized to determine the gravity and harshness of poverty. The poverty gap indicator appraises the extent to which the average income of the poor varies from the proven poverty line. However, evaluating delicate measures, such as the balanced poverty gap indicator, denote disparity in income levels among the poor. Lipton (1992) noted that in the dearth of household survey data, income deprivation is occasionally appraised in per capita GNP terms. However, this concluding index is a very rudimentary degree and can frequently be misrepresenting as it is possible for per capita GNP to develop while personal incomes continue to be constant or even wane among target population.

For this cause, according to Lipton (1992), per capital personal income is a desirable collective income index. "Increasing per capita Gross National Product is quite reliable with dormant per capita personal income of the agricultural households if: development is focused in sectors other than agriculture; or the condition of trade turn against agriculture; or macroeconomic policies bring about a redistribution in favour of income/accumulation in the public sector; or a combination of the above circumstances occur." (Lipton, 1992).

According to Chamber (1995), some of the appeals of income poverty values are that they are totals of manifold inputs; they are shown in units that are of proximate and extensive significance, and they are conceptually objective, that is., they balance inputs to well-being based

on to how the "real world" esteemed them. The restriction in line with income index of poverty have been widely documented. In short, Lipton (1992) believes that the shortcoming relates to price and commodity differences, the segregation of nonmonetary and "free" items (such as publicly offered goods and services), and the absence of other factors, such as time necessitated to receive a product. While scholars consent on the integral shortcoming of this approach, it nevertheless persists to be the most extensively utilized channel of appraising poverty, fairly due to the comparative wealth of data and fairly due to its simplicity (Lipton, 1992).

Basic Needs

According to Ravallion (1992), the basic needs concept of poverty advances the income method further. It describes poverty as the deficiency of necessities, majorly material for addressing basic needs of life. The approach seeks in addressing some of the inadequacy of the income pointer households by differentiating amid personal income, overtly offering services and diverse forms of noncash "income." (Ravallion, 1992). Shaffer (1998) opine that the basic needs method to measurement of poverty is inclusive of having the capability to access requirement such as food, shelter, schooling, health services, potable water and sanitation facilities, employment opportunities, and even with regards to occasions for community participation. Basic needs indicators are many a times categorized in the "means" group (Shaffer, 1998).

However, Anand (1994) affirms that while the basic needs approach is one step nearer to result than income evaluation, they are occasionally positioned in a group of their own culminating in "indirect ends." Basic needs gauges supplement an extensive array of facets to income measures. The huge vantage of the former over the latter is that they assess products unequivocally with

regards to the people's welfare. For instance, Anand (1994) mentioned that an increase in housing or pivotal transport expenses would be regarded as a decrease in well-being utilizing basic needs indicators, while per capita Gross National Product (GNP) would reveal this as an upshoot. Some intricacies linked with basic needs indicators are that there is no way of accumulating them profoundly for reasons of in-country investigation and they are typically articulated in terms that do not generate the same kind of acquaintance as financial ones (Anand, 1994).

Human Capacity

The human capacity approach to measurement of poverty endeavors to assess poverty in terms of results or "ends." According to Chamber (1995), this approach describes human capacity as the lack of basic human capacities to perform at a nominally satisfactory level within a society. Prominence is laid on individual's abilities and prospect to experience extensive healthy lives, to be educated and to engage freely in their space of endeavors. Highly capacity poverty pointers are direct, they are: literacy rates, life expectancy, malnutrition, etc. (Chamber, 1995).

The participation by the deprived individuals in their community is not a sphere that offers itself willingly to quantification. It is much easier to reckon participation as a degree of equity, somewhat than that of poverty. For instance, Lipton (1992) posit that the amount of political participation by relegated groups can be determined by their capacity to be represented in political fora. However, measuring the participation by the deprived individuals in the society is a more demanding undertaking. Theoretical index of participation by the poor are more illuminating concerning the conveyance of information, but they lean to only show up in minute sample sizes, which results in the limitation of their worth from an extensive policy area. The huge value of

capacity indicators, in its entirety is that they quantify well-being with regards to complete results rather than as alternatives for those results (Lipton, 1992).

In addition, many of them are considered mainstream in terms of national statistics, so data is often available. The main disadvantages are similar to those of the basic needs group. There are no perfect aggregates for this family of indicators and they are expressed in terms with varying degrees of familiarity. In addition, some capability indicators are group measures and cannot be used to gauge household or individual well-being (i.e., life expectancy). Furthermore, some of the capability indicators are stock variables, which change slowly over time, thus limiting their usefulness for short- and medium-term poverty monitoring.

2.2.3 Significant Participation

Participation can be defined as "the organized efforts to increase control over resources and regulative institutions in given social situations, on the part of groups and movements of those hitherto excluded from such control" (Pearse and Stiefel 1979:7–8). It encompasses involvement in various aspects of life, whether social, cultural, economic or political, by all members of society based on equality of rights and opportunities. Meaningful participation is therefore not only about giving disadvantaged individuals or groups a voice at the table; it is about strengthening their capacity to influence decision-making processes and exercise their claims on external actors and institutions that affect their lives. In this sense, participation is a prerequisite for inclusive development (Kabeer, 2000).

While the term of participation has been widely assimilated into mainstream development discourse over past three decades, it has often been reduced to consultations with selective

stakeholders or other actors in positions of power (Dugarova and Utting 2013). As a consequence, such processes often sideline organized efforts, despite the fact that more collaborative and participatory processes can facilitate the mobilization of resources, the pooling of competencies, and ensuring synergies that otherwise might not exist. One of the key issues here therefore relates to the need to go beyond such a narrow perspective of participation and open up space to a diverse range of voices.

According to Dugarova, and Utting (2014), there are three types of participation that are specifically germane for social inclusivity and development, they are (i) resource utilization at the community level; (ii) having access and the capability to shape decision-making and governance procedures; and (iii) support by civil society systems to influence policy discussions on development priorities and routes (Dugarova and Lavers 2014). Such processes of empowered participation may challenge existing structures and relations of power, yet they are crucial for both fair decision making and equitable outcomes and are thus central to achieving an inclusive and sustainable development path (UNRISD 2014).

For instance, countries may offer patterns of committing citizens' engagement through the constitution, thereby opening up opportunities for individuals to be part of the formulation, management and monitoring of policies so that there is better reflection of their needs (UNRISD, 2014). Many governments have also utilized policies on affirmative action for the promotion of huge access of marginalized or underrepresented groups to public sector organizations and ensuring equity and fairness to participation and representation of all strata in the society. Quota systems or the federal character principles as advocated by the Nigerian government, for instance,

are usually viewed as the most useful tool for enhancing a balanced representation of marginalized groups in the political process (Dugarova and Lavers 2014).

Dani & De Haan (2008) cited Chile as an instance for promoting the course of persons with disabilities. The persons with disabilities receive 10 extra points when applying for public aids or housing programmes, while Brazil has proportions for admission into university for black and indigenous people, and many countries in Latin America assure marginalized people political representation by extending a number of seats in the federal legislature on the footing of gender, race or ethnicity (Dani and de Haan 2008).

2.2.4 Social Protection Initiatives in addressing Poverty and Social exclusion

Social protection as accentuated by UNRISD (2010) is associated with the prevention, management and the overcoming of circumstances that negatively affect people's well-being (UNRISD 2010). It is made up of policies and programmes that seeks to provide people with access to crucial social services such as health and education, and also ensuring that a sufficient level of protection in manifold exigencies of life connected to being without a job, illness, incapacity or old age (ILO 2014). According to UNRISD (2010), social protection methods are a vital portend of alleviating poverty and can be an effective tool in the promotion of social inclusion, as they not only assist to avert individuals and families from dwindling or continuing in poverty, but also empowering them to achieve their rights and guarantee their active participation in societal processes.

However, ILO (2014) assert that while social protection policies has often been ignored within national and international development efforts, it is now fast gaining extensive credit as a

core instrument in achieving inclusive and sustainable development, as proven by myriads of social protection initiatives around the world. In some of these initiatives to alleviate poverty and achieve social inclusion, there has been a change from a constricted approach to social protection that focuses on a particular susceptible group via cash transfers to more all-inclusive social policies, such as universal services and legal entitlements to income transfers, such as social pensions or child allowances (IFAD, 2011).

For instance, the World Bank (2013) has noted that the Universal Coverage Scheme in Thailand initiated in 2001 realized comprehensive health-care coverage in less than fifteen years, thereby furthering better health outcomes and the alleviation of social exclusion and substantial decline in poverty. In addition, the occurrence of Rwanda offers additional remarkable instance of a widespread and inclusive method to social protection (World Bank, 2013)

McCarthy (2010), also affirm that social protection arrangements in some countries has afforded the need to focus on vigorous labour policies and a rights-based approach to social security and social protection. For instance, the India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, which was reckoned as one of the world's main rights-based incorporated employment and social protection initiatives, is a strong approach for approaching inclusive growth in rural India through its influence on social protection and democratic governance, thus promoting to the decline of susceptibilities and the development of resources that galvanize people, specifically women (McCarthy, 2010)

Fischer (2011) also confirmed that in Mozambique, social protection has been perceived as a pivotal approach for the advancement of social inclusivity and development and social justice

with considerate enhancements taking place in achieving fairness and pervasiveness in citizens' access to health and education. The country's Basic Social Security Regulation adopted in 2009, for example, launched the social protection rights of susceptible groups and enhances the social and economic inclusion of persons living in poverty through labour intensive public works (Fischer, 2011).

According to ILO (2014), these and other experiences shows that all-inclusive social protection programmes not only promote efficiency and advance human capital through the delivery of income and quality social services. It was noted such approaches enables the effort of government in the reduction of poverty and inequality in its diverse components and aid in contributing to the achievement of more socially inclusive societies.

However, the expansion and the consolidation of the achievements in these spheres becomes essential for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (World Bank, 2013). In spite of pivotal task of social protection programmes, countless persons in developing countries continue to be in want, or have small levels of access to, social schemes and services. It is projected that approximately 73 per cent of the world population has no access to sufficient social protection that would allow people to chase wholesome means of support (ILO 2014). Notwithstanding, tackling these issues should be on the main concern in the agenda of governments if they desire to develop an inclusive society in the future (ILO, 2014).

2.2.5 Community Based Initiative

According to Nwachukwu and Ezeh (2007), in the quest to make an impact towards promoting social inclusion, the World Bank gaining from the practices of the past, thereby

introduced a new approach, which was a paradigm shift from the defective top down to the new bottom-up approach which utilizes the Community Driven Development (CDD) (Nwachukwu and Ezeh, 2007). However, the Community Driven Development is a novel community – based participatory approach to development which takes cognizance of the grassroots in the design and management of projects. It makes sure that the inclusion of all the social strata in the society is achieved and that the project implemented has direct impact and empowers the recipient to have control of their development agenda while injecting sustainability method and also taking advantage of their sense of proprietorship.

Nwachukwu, Agwu, Mbanasor & Kamalu (2008) preceding the establishment of CDD based projects, the efficacy of nearly all the foregoing poverty reduction programmes of the government became uncertain having become unsuccessful to develop to a significant point of enhancing the quality of life of the grassroot levels. Consequently, the top-down approach revealed the observable indicators of ineptitude having discounted some classes of the recipient of the project. However, this has generated prospect for political capture and made such projects obscure to those persons to whom they were envisioned for (Nwachukwu et al., 2008)

According to Okon (2012) Community Driven Development Initiative is a development initiative that offers hegemony of the development process initiative with decision making authority candidly connected to community groups. The causal postulation of Community Driven Development projects is that communities are the valuable critics of how their lives and livelihoods can be enhanced and, if offered with ample resources and evidence, they can categorize themselves to offer for their immediate needs.

Moreover, Community Driven Development programmes are enthused by their confidence in people (Kamalu, 2008) and hence it encourages people varying their own situation as a potent drive for development. Thus, by handling deprived people and making them to be involved in the development process, Community Driven Development initiative to poverty reduction pledges to be receptive to local needs, social and gender inclusivity and therefore more result oriented in comparison to other development approaches (Kamalu, 2008). Community Driven Development's social inclusiveness strategy also has the prospect, due to its capability to add all the social strata designed to benefit from the programme (Omonoria, 2010).

2.2.6 **Relationship between Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Social exclusion as a concept has been acclaimed to have begun in 1974 from Les Exclus; the work of René Lenoir, a French government official at the time. According to Estivill (2003) this concept emanated due to the exclusion of some French residents from economic and social growth (Estivill, 2003). Despite its prominence amid some policymakers and researchers especially in Europe, this concept has many drawbacks due to its broad nature (Levitas et al., 2007) and nevertheless it arose as a retort to variances in the concept of poverty (UNESCO, 2017). The concept of poverty precedes that of social exclusion and hitherto, there is a conceptual linkage between the two (Sen, 2000). This viewpoint is reinforced by additional scholar who opined that 'The concept of poverty has its foundation and development through economic exclusion.' (Estivill 2003, p. 14).

There are myriads of definitions of social exclusion. According to Levitas (2007), a set of researchers from Townsend Centre for the International Study of Poverty and Bristol Institute for

Public Affairs recognized twelve different meanings, each of which has a slightly diverse understanding of the concept social exclusion (Levitas et al. 2007, p.21). The researchers in the long run lay claim to the following definition:

> *"Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional process. It involves the lack of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas.*" (Levitas et al., 2007, p.9)

The definition has been viewed as comprehensive as it plainly demonstrates the linkage between poverty and social exclusion. conversely, the description is inclusive of the lack of resources which connotes a dearth of income or the means of production and therefore poverty on the contrary is mentioned as a denial which could connote either enforced exclusion or self-exclusion from accessing resources.

While the concept of social exclusion is extensive and multi-dimensional, a fact that has given rise to a torrent of critiques concerning its boundaries the concept of poverty looks to be more directed on either lack in resources, which can imply repudiation (Golden and D'Arcy, 2004), or incapacity to meet basic needs (Ravallion, 1992). The differential of view on the issue of poverty largely revolves around this opinion, and in some cases, it is an issue of semantics contingent on the area of the fields of study. According to Lister (2004 p,4), 'scholars on poverty usually describe poverty in comparative footings, as having inadequate resources to meet communally recognized needs and to engage in the varied society".

According to Townsend (1979), poverty connotes as follows:

> *"Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies in which they belong." (Townsend, 1979 p.31)*

Townsend (1979) further asserted that due to the severe dearth of resources, a society living in poverty are excluded from the normal mode of life in the community. Therefore, it is the exclusion of the people from engaging actively in the society that draws a link between poverty and social exclusion. Sen (2000) contended that the influence of scholarly works on social exclusion can be comprehended by observing it from a wider scope of poverty. In a related development, Estivill (2003), also viewed the concepts of social exclusion and poverty as interrelated. He analyzed from observing the extent social exclusion has a relationship with, and how it is differentiated from poverty and other concepts. Marginalized groups are understood to have been in actuality from the time memorial when humans began living together in neighborhoods, for instance the 'Expulsion in Athens, exclusion in Rome, the lower castes in India, the many forms taken by slavery, deportation and banishment, the existence of ghettoes and excommunications …' (Estivill, 2003, p.5).

Levitas (1998) recognized three converses of social exclusion, namely redistributionist discourse (RED) principally bothered on poverty, the moral and underclass conversations (MUD),

which centers on ‘moral and behavioural dereliction of the excluded themselves’, and the social integrationist discourse (SID), which is chiefly about inclusion through employment (Levitas 1998, p.7). Developing on Levitas’s approach, Carlisle (2001), opined that the RED model is connected to poverty or inequality and is common with varied scholars on fairly distribution of resources. Carlisle (2001) also affirms that there is some parallel line between Redistributionist Discourse (RED) and Social Integrationist Discourse (SID) methods due to the fact they both pursue for the reduction of inequality by reducing the gap between the rich and poor.

The Moral and Underclass conversations (MUD model is not generally a novel notion due to fact that the concept of the underclass can be trailed as far back as the 1880s (Welshman, 2006). Welshman (2006) examined the various definitions of ‘underclasses by range of scholars and came to the conclusion that describing ‘underclasses has been difficult for researchers. People who are within this category have been offered divergent descriptions since the advent of the concept and more recently such descriptions is inclusive of ‘distressed families’, ‘families at the lowest of society’, ‘difficult to reach’, ‘jobless’ and ‘unemployable’, ‘protracted marginalized’ (Welshman, 2006).

Nonetheless, what is evident from these descriptions is that ‘the lower class” is a classification of people who are deprived of resources and are confronted with exclusion from social, economic and political participation of the broader community.

2.2.7 **Poverty Profile in Nigeria**

In spite of Nigeria’s plentiful human and material resources, poverty has remained an increasing concern in Nigeria. The country is conceded as one of the most resource-endowed in

the comity of nations and yet its residents are acclaimed to be among the poorest in the World (Edet, Akpan & Akpan, 2024). According to Aderounmu, Onahuga, Ebenezer & Azu (2021), Nigeria has the ultimate intensity of enormously deprived persons in Sub-Saharan Africa with a stumbling 91 million people living in abject economic deprivation. More so, a major number of Nigerian states are also confronted with economic poverties. Nigeria is classified as the sixth biggest oil producer globally, still nearly 70 percent of Nigerians struggle on less than one dollar per day (Akpabio, 2005).

Kakwani and Subbarao (2005) reported that in 1996, 63.5 percent of Nigerians lived in extreme poverty. Overtime, the condition of economic deprivation has worsened over the years, culminating into Nigeria been described as one of the twenty poorest countries in the world (IFAD, 2006). Wright and Weiss (1995) contend that poverty has contributed greatly in the rate of corruption in the country as the actions of Nigerian in the political landscape is influenced by the propensity to fight poverty. Poverty has become pervasive and has worsened since the late 1990s, (IFAD, 2006). Examining the worsening state of poverty as the years goes by, UNDP (2018) reported that Nigeria was ranked low on human development index, 158th out of 189th countries in the world.

According to the World Bank (2024), Nigeria's persistently extreme inflation reached an all-time high of 24.7 percent yearly in 2023, compelled by escalating food and energy cost, the removal of the petrol subsidy, sloppy monetary policy, and naira depreciation. Nominal earnings have not kept up with inflation, pushing additional 10 million Nigerians into poverty in 2023. Based on World Bank projections, about 40.7 percent of Nigerians are projected to live under the international poverty line by the end of 2024.

To ease the inflationary impact of topical reforms on the most susceptible, the Nigeria government has launched temporary cash transfers with the goal of reaching 15 million households (World Bank, 2024). Yet, reaching the people and the monetary benefits remain insufficient. The broaden development and consolidation of the social protection system will be pivotal to assist in mitigating the influence of future tremors, granting poor households to making essential investments into human capital to evade inter-generational spread of poverty. This short-duration involvement needs to be supplemented by economic expansion that develops the non-oil sector and produces private sector jobs and the broadening of investments into public services, particularly in health, education, and infrastructure. Advancing the choice of and returns on public investments is specifically essentially in the situation of limited fiscal space (World Bank, 2024).

2.3 **Empirical Review**

In view of the investigation on the influence of poverty on social inclusion, this section intends to examine empirical studies embarked on issues of poverty and thereby identify the gap in knowledge.

However, according to the research embarked upon by Adebayo, Yusuf & Imonikhe (2010), which is “social inclusion: a poverty reduction approach”, while utilizing the descriptive research method, the study assesses the linkages between social exclusion, social inclusion and poverty. the study reveals that social exclusion is not just a foremost reason for poverty but a pivotal factor in the severity of poverty in any clime. However, social inclusion, as a medium to alleviating poverty in Nigeria, can be realized through the concept of employment prospects, the access to education and skills acquisition as well as the minimization of social exclusion.

In the study of the impact of Financial Inclusion on Poverty Reduction: An Empirical Evidence from Sub-Saharan African embarked upon by Mansi, Hysa, Panait & Voica (2020), they found that Sub-Saharan Africa has been acclaimed to be the epic center of poverty, with huge number of persons living in intense poverty and social exclusion. The study examines forty- nine African countries utilizing data spanning the period of 1980-2017, the study employs a static panel data model to analyze the data. During the analysis, it was realized that savings, credit offered to the private sector, access to ATM, access to information Technology, Inflation, and Government expenditure play a vital role in poverty reduction. On the bases of the findings, the study concluded that financial inclusion is a viable tool for poverty reduction strategy in Sub-Saharan African countries. It was also recommended that the apex regulatory institutions should embark on the reduction of the interest rate in order to induce low-income earners access to financial resources from financial institutions. In addition, there was the need to re-introduce rural banking scheme and affordable internet services in both urban and rural areas.

Obasi, Nwosu & Okoro (2020) empirically examined the impact of entrepreneurship training and education on poverty reduction in Nigeria. The researcher adopted a stratified random sampling technique, 500 entrepreneurs and apprenticeships were selected from the six recognized Local Government in Lagos State. The best linear unbiased estimator was used to test the relationship between entrepreneurship training and poverty reduction Nigeria. The result derived from the findings portends that there is a positive and significant connection between entrepreneurship and poverty reduction and this was also confirmed by the value of R 2, that is the coefficient of determination. The study therefore recommends that the government should be

intentional in encouraging entrepreneurship training in all level of government as well entrenching it in the curriculum of secondary schools and tertiary institutions in the country.

2.4 **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical footing adopted for the study is the Social Exclusion theory. The theory was propounded in the 1960ˇˇs, and the concept stemmed from the economic crisis of France at the time and credited to the works of Rene Lenour (Silver, 1995). Social exclusion can be seen as multi-dimensional, operationalized as a merger of impoverishment, inadequate access to human rights, a low-level degree of social participation and A lack of normative integration (Figueiredo, & Arjan de Haan, 1998). The theory accentuates the deficiency or disallowance of Resources, rights, goods and services, and the incapability to engage in any form of common relationships and activities, accessible to general populace of a society, either in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. The Relevance of the theory is strictly from the fact that income inequality could result to social exclusion which intensify poverty.

Social exclusion theory states that individuals or groups within a society are systematically disadvantaged and marginalized by the dominant structures and institutions, leading to their exclusion from full participation in economic, social, and political life (Solow, 1995). This exclusion can be a result of various factors such as poverty, discrimination, lack of access to resources and opportunities, and unequal power dynamics. In the circumstances of poverty and inequality, social exclusion theory suggests that those associated with poverty are mostly discriminated and barred from the overall society, leading to a lack of access to basic needs, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. This exclusion increases the level of poverty

and inequality, as those who are already disadvantaged continue to be further marginalized and unable to break out of poverty. This is compounded by factors such as deficiency in attainment of quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, as well as existence of few infrastructure and social services (Lenoir. 1974).

Furthermore, the absence of proper healthcare and social services can lead to poor health outcomes and limited social mobility. Individuals living in poverty are more likely to suffer from chronic illnesses and face barriers to accessing quality healthcare, further exacerbating their marginalized status and limiting their ability to participate fully in economic and social life. Additionally, the human development approach, as outlined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), could provide a useful lens through which to analyze the influence of poverty on social inclusion in Oredo Local Government. This approach emphasizes the importance of investing in people's capabilities, such as education, healthcare, and access to basic services, as a means of achieving sustainable development.

In conclusion, social exclusion theory provides a framework for comprehending the impact of poverty on social inclusion in Oredo Local Government of Edo State. By recognizing the systemic barriers that individuals face in accessing resources and opportunities, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards addressing these root causes and creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all. Only through addressing these issues can we break the cycle of poverty and inequality and achieve sustainable development for all residents of Oredo Local Government.

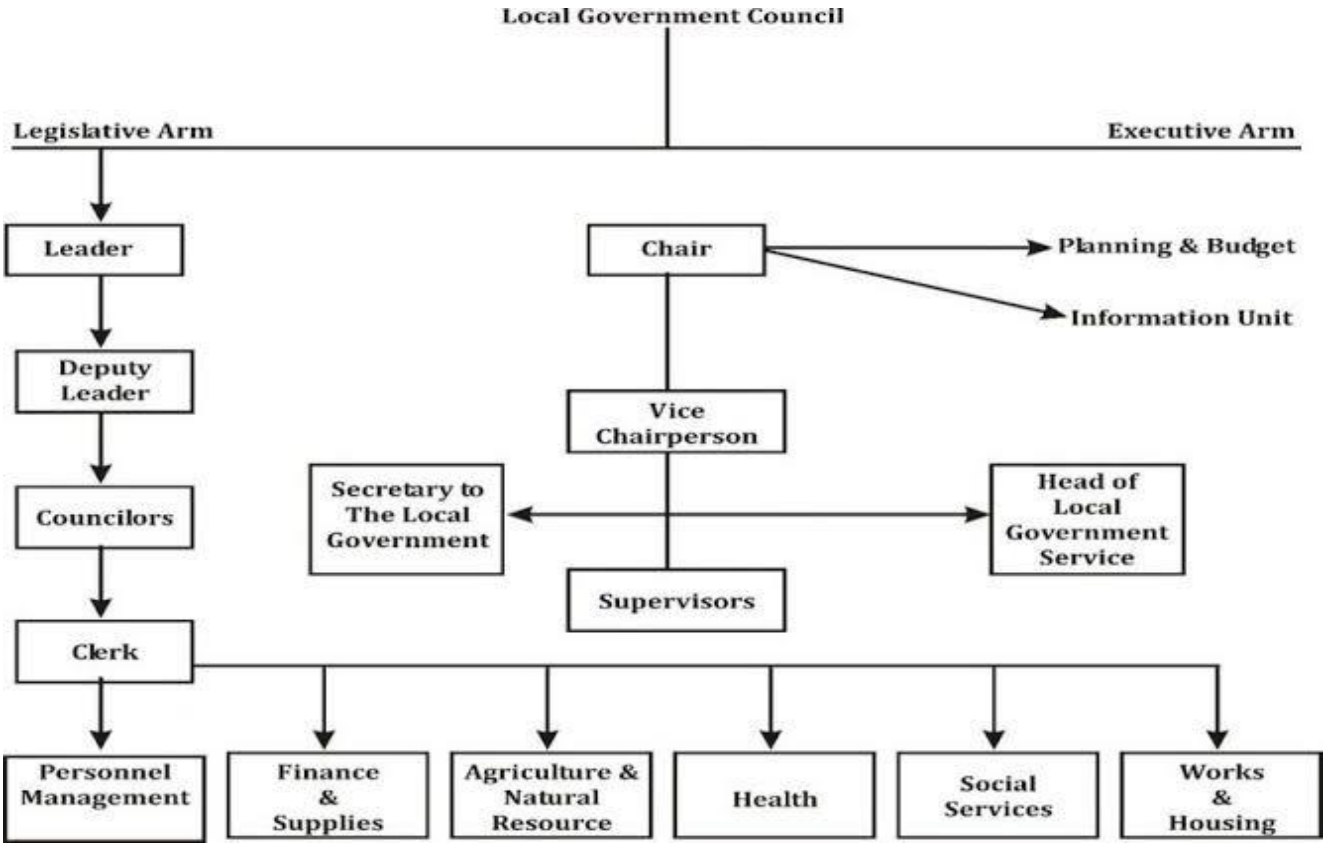
2.5 Organizational Context of the Study

Oredo Local Government Area (LGA) is one of the 18 LGAs in Edo State, Nigeria. It is located in the southern part of the state and it has an area of 249 km^2 and a population of over 500,000 people, at the 2006 census making it one of the most populous LGAs in Edo State. The administrative headquarters of the LGA is in the city of Benin, which is also the state capital (EDO affairs (2019). The people of Oredo LGA are primarily of the Bini ethnic group, and the Bini language is widely spoken in the area.

Oredo Municipal Council has a rich cultural heritage dating back to the 11th Century. The culture is as rich and diverse as its landscape. The LGA is home to several historical sites, including the Benin National Museum, Igun Street (famous for bronze casting), and the Royal Palace of the Oba of Benin, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Edo State Government House, The Edo State House of Assembly, the Benin Airport, Central Bank of Nigeria, Petroleum Development Company, Oredo gas plant, Golf Course and the Ogba National Zoo and Park.

The economy of Oredo LGA is driven by trade, commerce, and services. The city of Benin is a major commercial and economic center, with several markets, shops, and businesses operating in the area. The LGA is also home to several government institutions, including the Edo State Government House, the Edo State House of Assembly, and several ministries and agencies.

Organogram of Oredo local government



Source: Human Resource Department (2024)

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted the descriptive survey research. This was considered appropriate because gender equality and governance participation was observed and described the way they are. The design is also considered appropriate for this study because it described the nature and the relationship between poverty and social exclusion in Oredo local government area of Edo State.

3.2 Population of the Study

The study was conducted in Oredo local government area of Edo State. The study population will consist of employees of the local government secretariat and residents from the Oredo local government area of Edo State which is given at 477,532 people. (Source: National Population Census, 2016).

3.3 Sample Size

The sample size was derived using Taro Yamane simple determination formula (1967).

$$\frac{N}{1+ N (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{477532}{1 + 477532 (0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{477532}{1 + 477532 (0.0025)}$$

$$= \frac{477532}{1,194.83}$$

$$= 399.66522$$

Therefore, a sample size of 400 respondents was used for the study.

3.4 Sampling Technique

A sample size of 400 respondents was collected for the study. The simple random sampling technique was utilized to select the respondents from Oredo local government council employees and the residents living in Oredo local government area. Memberships of the sample size was however randomly selected, thereby giving each respondent an equal opportunity of being selected.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

The researcher obtained responses via a primary source of data collection. The questionnaires were administered and collected immediately after they have been filled. The data that was analyzed for this research work was gathered via a primary source of data collection with the aid of a well-structured questionnaire.

3.6 Research Instruments

The study adopted both primary data collection method to solicit data for the study. Data was collected through a structured questionnaire titled "Poverty and Social Exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The questionnaire was structured based on the research questions. The questionnaire was divided into two major parts. The first part consists the demographic information of the respondents under study, while the second segment consists of sub-questionnaires which will addresses the objectives of the study. The items on the research instrument will be on a modified Four-Point Likert Scale format of SA – Strongly Agreed, A – Agreed, DA – Disagreed, SD – Strongly Disagreed.

3.7 Validity of the Research Instrument

In order to enhance validity of the instrument of the study, copies of the questionnaires were given to the project supervisor in order to scrutinize it. After making modification and ascertaining the suitability of the items to the respondents, their suggestions was incorporated in the final version of the instrument to enhance the content validity of the instrument. Second, a wide range survey of respondents at all levels within the area of study was carried out, as information from various levels obviously should increase the validity.

3.8 Reliability of the Research Instrument

To establish the reliability of the instrument, test-retest was utilized. Copies of the instruments was administered to a randomly drawn sample of 20 residents within the study area. After two weeks interval, the same instruments was re-administered to the same people. The data was collected and analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha technique.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics such as mean, percentages and frequencies were adopted in the study to measure demographic characteristics of respondents and to answer research questions relating to poverty and social exclusion. Hypothesis 1 and 2 were tested and analyzed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics at 0.05 alpha level of significance to determine the relationship between poverty and social exclusion.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Data Presentation

This chapter presents the interpretation of the data collected and the testing of hypotheses formulated. A total of four hundred (400) respondents were administered with the research questionnaires. Three hundred (300) copies were duly filled and returned, representing 75 % response rate. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics at 0.05 alpha level of significance was utilized to determine the relationship between poverty and social exclusion in Oredo Local Government of Edo state.

4.1 Frequency Table

Table 4.1: Gender Distribution

	Frequency	Percent
Male	185	61.7
Female	115	38.3
Total	**300**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.1 shows the demographic data of respondents that were sampled for the study. A total of 185 (61.7%) males and 115 (38.3%) females were sampled. This indicates that more males participated in the study.

Table 4.2: Age Distribution

Age of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent
Age of Respondents	15-19	20	6.7
	20-24	98	32.7
	25-29	86	28.7
	30-34	38	12.6
	35-40	36	12.0
	41 and above	22	7.3
Total		**300**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Respondents of age between 15-19 years are 20 (6.7%), 20-24 are 98 (32.7%), 25-29 are 86 (28.7%), 30-34 are 38 (12.6%), 35-40 are 36 (12%) and those 41 years and above are 22 (7.3%). This shows that respondents between ages 20 and 24 participated more in the study.

Table 4.3: Religion

Religious Affiliation

	Frequency	Percent
Religion		
Christianity	128	42.7
Islam	122	40.7
Traditional Religion	35	11.7
Others	15	4.90
Total	**300**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Respondents' religious status shows that respondents who are Christian were 128 (42.7%), those who belong to the Islam religion were 122 (40.7%), those of the African Traditional Religion were 35 (11.7%), others 15 (4.9%). This analysis indicates that Christians participated more in the study.

Table 4.4: Socioeconomic Status

Socioeconomic Status

	Frequency	Percent
Socioeconomic Status		
Student	45	15.0
Academic Staff	58	19.3
Civil Servant	98	32.7
Artisan	35	11.7
Traders	45	15.0
Others	19	6.3
Total	**300**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Respondents' socio-economic status shows that respondents who are students were 45 (15%), those who are academic staff were 58 (19.3%), artisans 35 (11.7%), traders 45 (15%), while others total 19 (6.3%). This indicates that academic staff members in the local government area participated more in the study.

Table 4.5: Level of Education

Educational Status

	Frequency	Percent
Educational Status		
FSLC	59	19.7
NCE	96	32.0
B.Sc	75	25.0
B.A.	28	9.3
HND	24	8.0
M.Sc	12	4.0
PhD	**6**	**2.0**
Total	**300**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

For the level of education of the respondents, the analysis reveals that a total number of 59 (19.7%) respondents possessed first school leaving certificates (FSLC), 96 (32%) of the sampled population possessed NCE, 75 (25%) of the sampled population possessed a B.Sc. degree, 28

(9.3%) possessed B. A, 24 (8%) possessed HND, 12 (4%) possessed a M.Sc. Certificate and 6 (2%) possessed a PhD degree. This analysis also indicates that holders of the National Certificates of Education participated more in the study.

SECTION B

In this section, the various responses received from the survey questionnaire was analyzed descriptively and with bar chart representation in relation with the research questions and objectives.

Table 4.6: There is high rate of poverty in the local government area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	210	70.0	70.0
	Agree	75	25.5	25.0
	Undecided	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

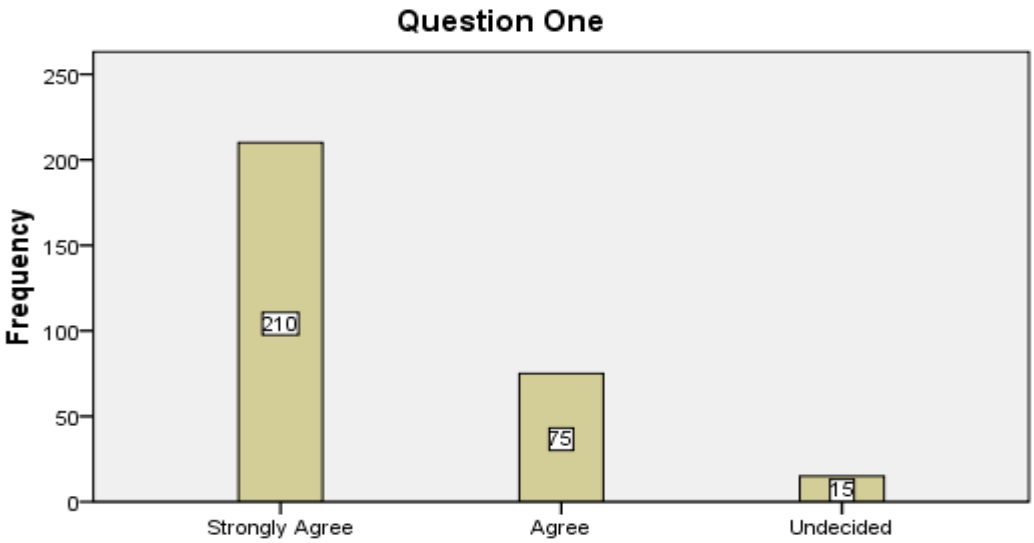


Table 4.6 indicates that 70% of the sampled respondents strongly agree that there is high rate of poverty in the local government area, 25.5 % of the sampled respondents agreed to the assertion. The analysis therefore reveals that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that there is high rate of poverty in the local government area.

Table 4.7: There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor in the local government area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	255	85.0	85.0
	Agree	30	10.0	10.0
	Undecided	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

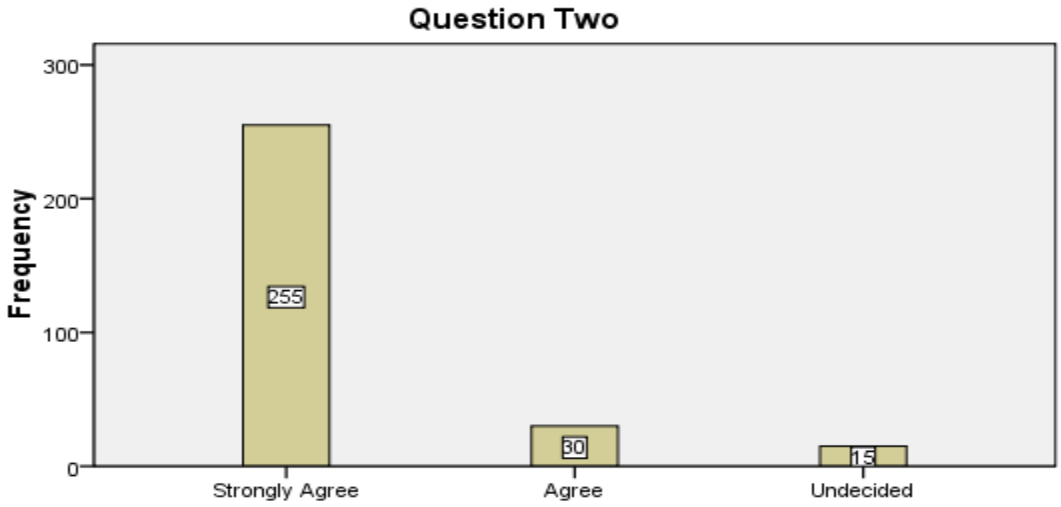


Table 4.7 analysis shows that 85% of the sampled respondents strongly agree that there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor in the local government area, 10 % of the sampled respondents agreed to the assertion. The analysis therefore reveals that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor in the local government area of the state.

Table 4.8: Lack of access to basic needs make poverty to be prevalent in the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	285	95.0	95.0
	Agree	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

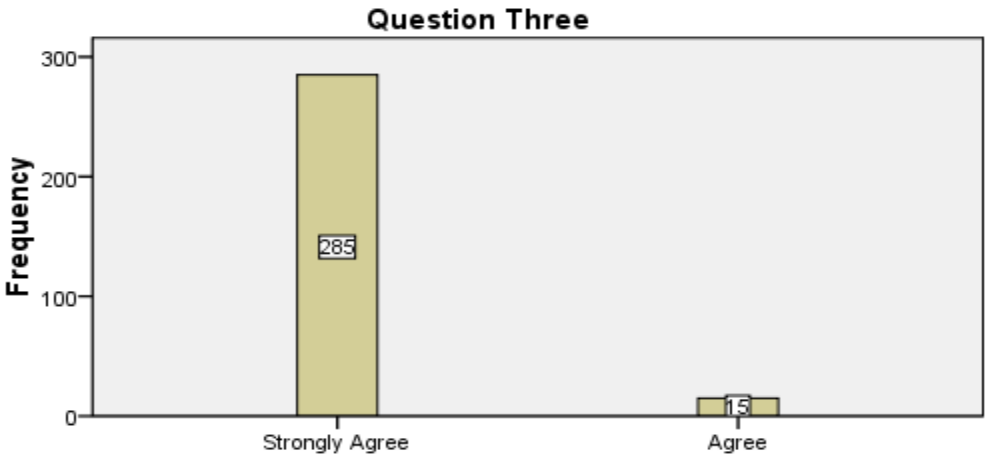


Table 4.8 analysis shows that 95% of the sampled respondents strongly agree that lack of access to basic needs make poverty to be prevalent in the area, 5 % of the sampled respondents agreed to the assertion. The analysis therefore reveals that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that the lack of access to basic needs make poverty to be prevalent in the area.

Table 4.9: The lack of income and productive resources has brought about deprivation in the local government

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	270	90.0	90.0
	Agree	30	10.0	10.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

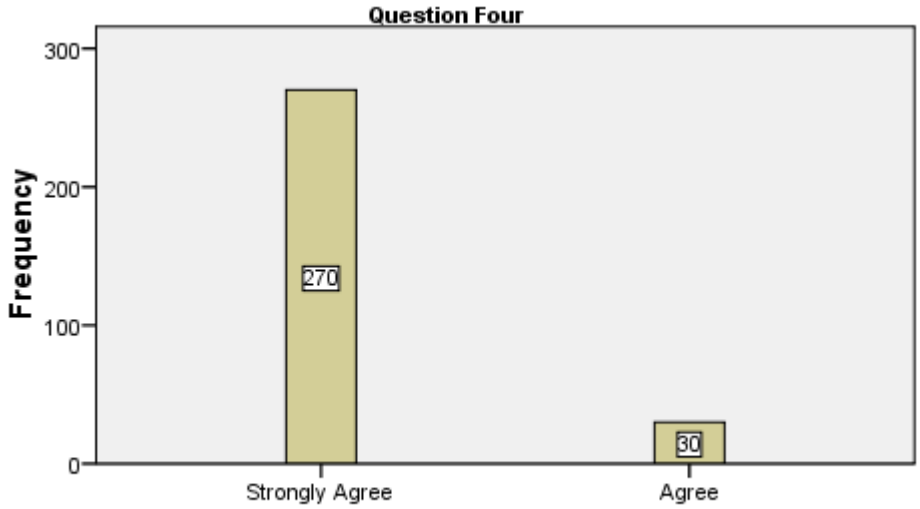


Table 4.9 reveals that 90.0 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that the lack of income and productive resources has brought about deprivation in the local government while 10% agreed to the assertion. It therefore shows that from the above analysis, all the respondents agreed that the lack of income and productive resources has brought about deprivation in the local government.

Table 4.10: There is high level of hunger and malnutrition amongst majority of the populace in the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Stronger Agree	225	75.0	75.0
	Agree	75	25.0	25.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

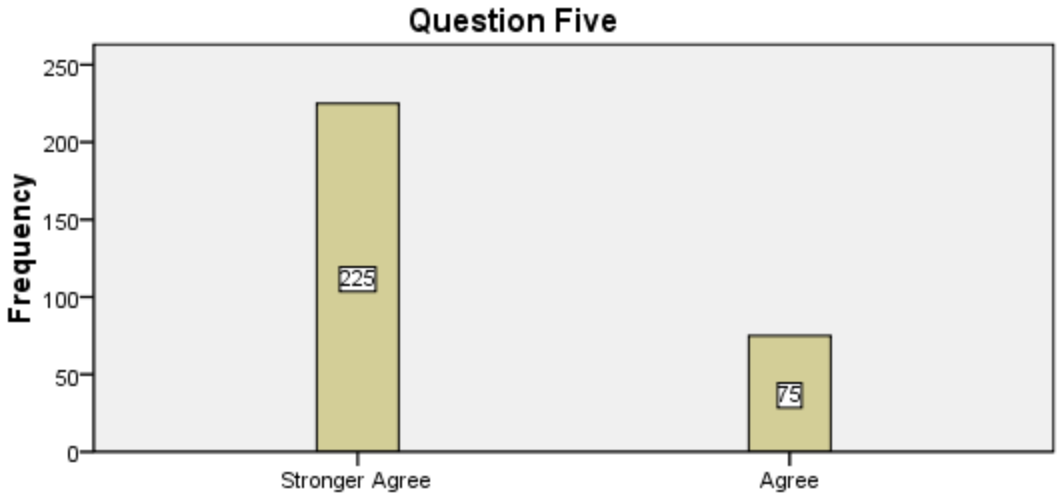


Table 4.10 shows that 75.0 % of the respondents strongly agreed that there is high level of hunger and malnutrition amongst majority of the populace in the area, while 25% agreed to the assertion. It therefore shows that from the above analysis, all the respondents agreed that there is high level of hunger and malnutrition amongst majority of the populace in the area.

Table 4.11: Poverty brings about social discrimination and exclusion in the area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	240	80.0	80.0
	Agree	45	15.0	15.0
	Undecided	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

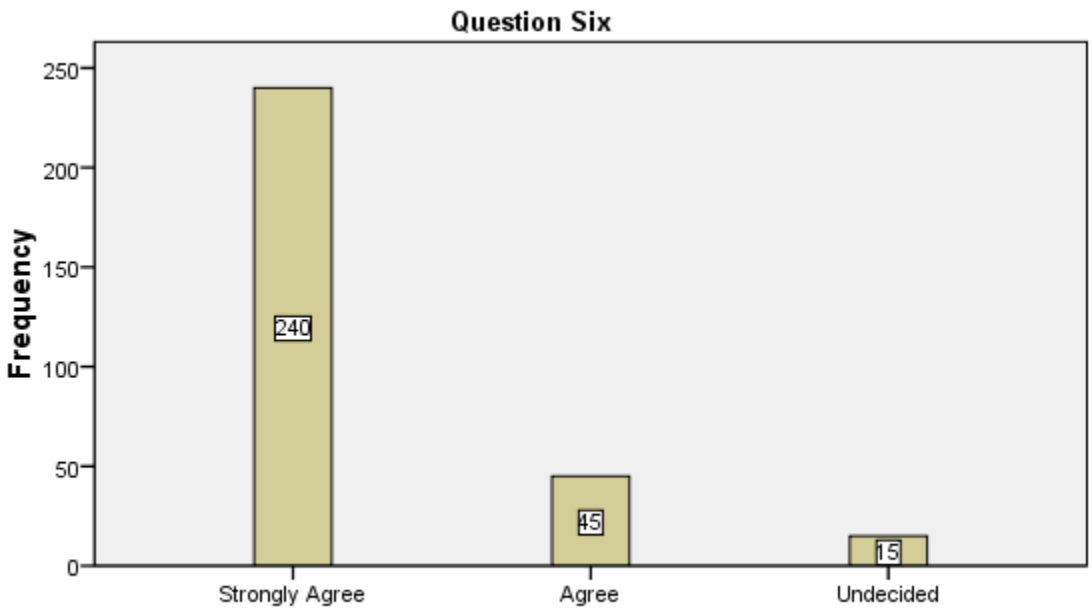


Table 4.11 shows that 80 % of the respondents strongly agreed that poverty brings about social discrimination and exclusion in the area, while 15% agreed to the assertion. It therefore shows that from the above analysis, majority of the respondents agreed that poverty brings about social discrimination and exclusion in the area

Table 4.12: Poverty can exclude individuals from accessing basic necessities and opportunities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	255	85.0	85.0
	Agree	45	15.1	15.0
	Total	**300**	**94.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

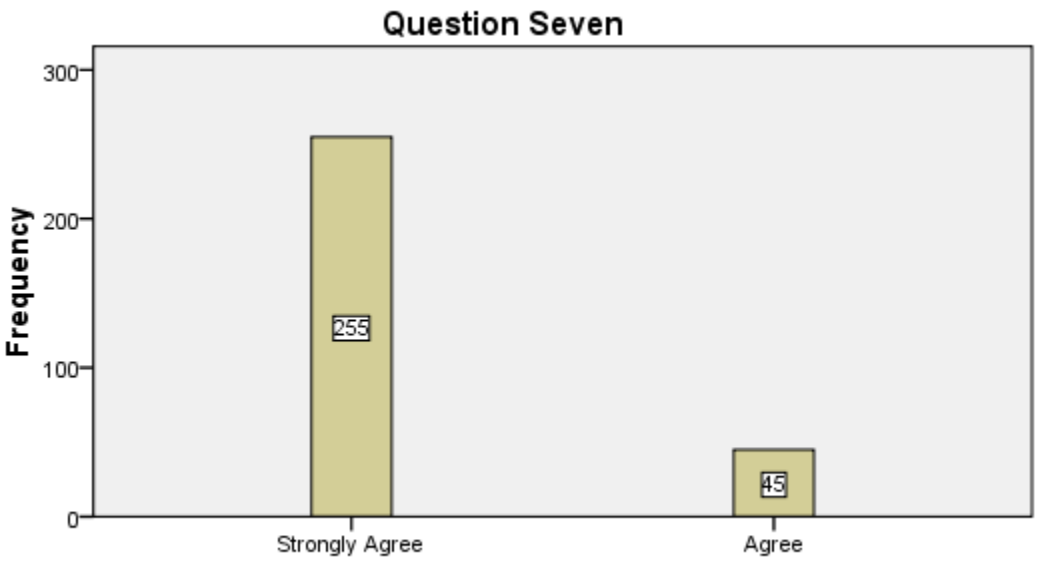


Table 4.12 shows that 80 % of the sampled respondents strongly agreed that poverty can exclude individuals from accessing basic necessities and opportunities, while 15% agreed to the assertion. It therefore shows that from the above analysis, majority of the respondents agreed that poverty can exclude individuals from accessing basic necessities and opportunities.

Table 4.13: The lack of access to education, employment and skills development can promote Poverty

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	240	75.2	80.0
	Agree	45	15.0	15.0
	Disagree	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

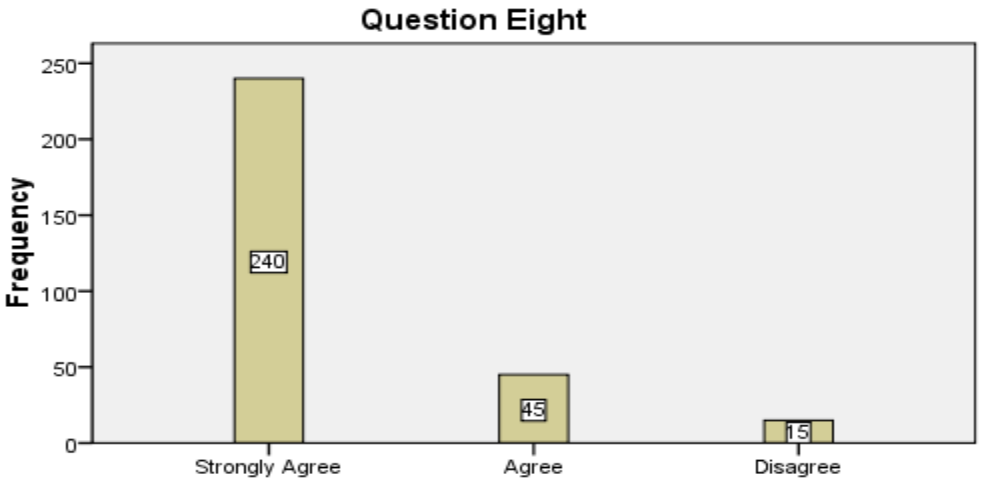


Table 4.13 shows that 72.2 % of the sampled respondents strongly agreed that the lack of access to education, employment and skills development can promote poverty, 15% agreed to the assertion, while 5% of the sampled respondents disagreed with the assertion It therefore shows that from the above analysis, majority of the respondents agreed that the lack of access to education, employment and skills development can promote poverty.

Table 4.14: The scourge of poverty excludes individuals from participating in decision making process affecting their lives

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	180	60.0	60.0
	Agree	105	35.0	35.0
	Undecided	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

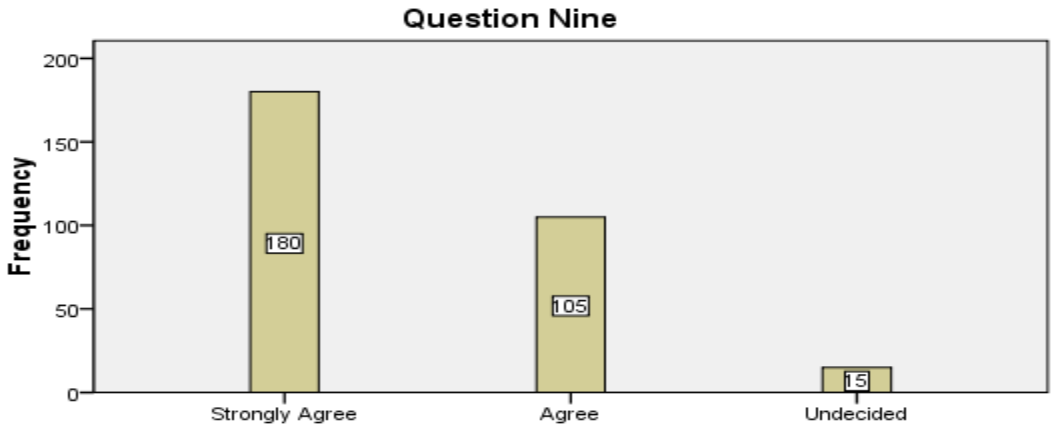


Table 4.14 shows that 60% of the sampled respondents strongly agreed that the scourge of poverty excludes individuals from participating in decision making process affecting their lives, 35% agreed to the assertion, while 5% of the sampled respondents were undecided. It therefore shows that from the above analysis, majority of the respondents agreed that the scourge of poverty excludes individuals from participating in decision making process affecting their lives.

Table 4.15: There are forms of social protection programmes in the local government area

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	45	15.0	15.0
	Disagree	225	75.5	75.0
	Strongly Disagree	15	5.0	5.0
	Undecided	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

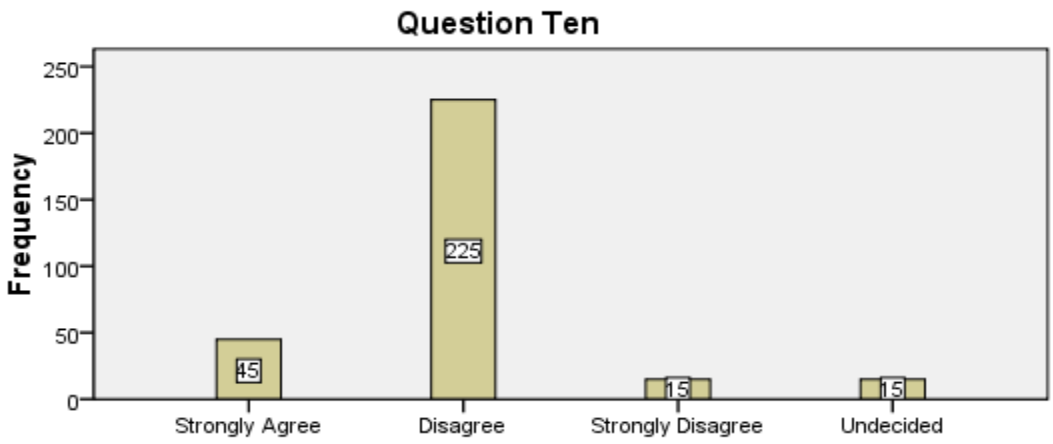


Table 4.15 shows that 75% and 15% of the sampled respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that there are forms of social protection programmes in the area, while 5% of the sampled respondents were undecided. It therefore shows that from the above analysis, majority of the respondents did not agree that that there are forms of social protection programmes in the area.

Table 4.16: Conditional cash transfers to the vulnerable have the capacity to alleviate poverty

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	166	53.3	53.3
	Agree	60	20.0	20.0
	Disagree	14	4.7	4.7
	Strongly Disagree	30	10.0	10.0
	Undecided	30	10.0	10.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

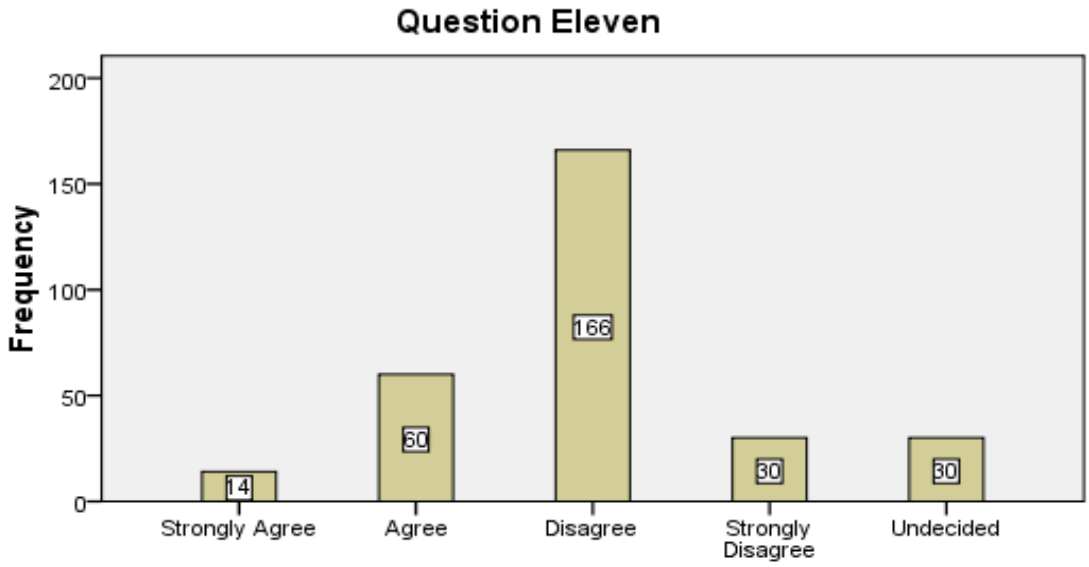


Table 4.16 shows that 53% and 20% of the sampled respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that conditional cash transfers to the vulnerable have the capacity to alleviate poverty while 10% of the sampled respondents disagreed. It therefore shows that from the above analysis, majority of the respondents agreed that conditional cash transfers to the vulnerable have the capacity to alleviate poverty.

Table 4.17: Skills empowerment schemes for the unemployed are measures to uplift the living standard of the poor

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	151	50.3	50.3
	Agree	104	34.7	34.7
	Disagree	30	10.0	10.0
	Undecided	15	5.0	5.0
	Total	**300**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

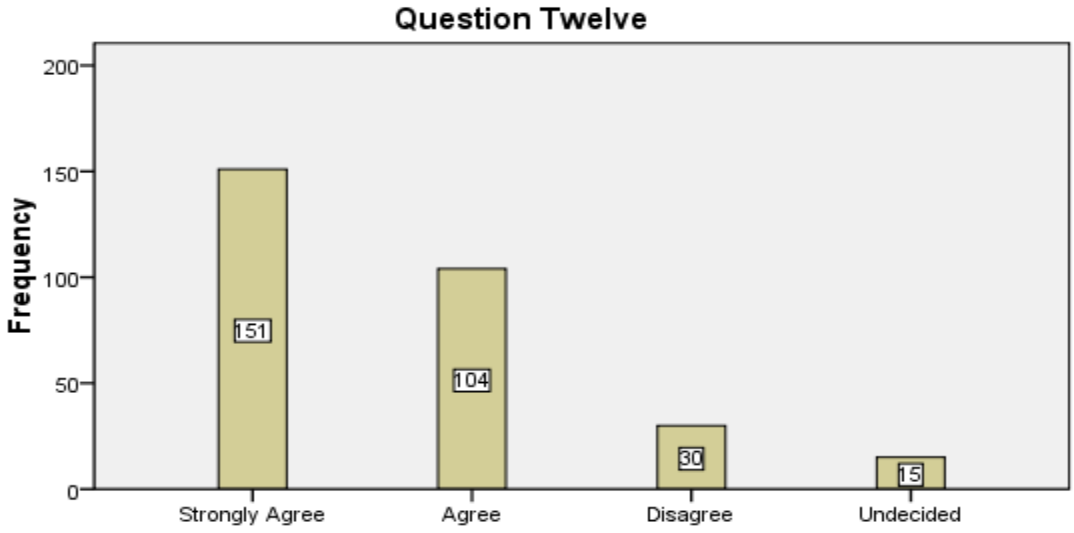


Table 4.17 shows that 50% and 34% of the sampled respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that skills empowerment schemes for the unemployed are measures to uplift the living standard of the poor, while 10% of the sampled respondents disagreed. It therefore shows that from

the above analysis, majority of the respondents agreed that skills empowerment schemes for the unemployed are measures to uplift the living standard of the poor.

4.2 Hypothesis Testing

In determining the relationship between the variables under investigation in this study, the Pearson's Correlation analytical tool was utilized in testing the diverse hypothetical statement as highlighted in chapter one.

Hypothesis One

1. H_0: There is no relationship between the prevalence of poverty and exclusion in the local government

   H_1: There is a relationship between the prevalence of poverty and exclusion in the local government

Table 4.18: *Pearson Correlation Analysis of the prevalence of poverty and social exclusion*

Variable	**N**	**r**	**p**	**Remarks**
Prevalence of poverty	300	.062	.010	Significant
Exclusion				

p ≥ .05

Data in Table 6 shows Pearson *R* value of .062 with a p-value of .010 at an alpha level of 0.05. The p-value (.010) is lesser than the alpha value of .005. The results therefore show a strong positive association between the prevalence of poverty and social exclusion in the local government. The study thus rejects the null hypothesis (there is no relationship between the prevalence of poverty and exclusion in the local government) and accepts the research hypothesis

(There is a relationship between the prevalence of poverty and exclusion in the local government)

Hypothesis Two

2. H_0: There is no relationship between poverty and social exclusion in the local government

   H_1: There is a relationship between poverty and social exclusion in the local government

Table 4.19: *Pearson Correlation Analysis of the relationship between poverty and social exclusion*

Variable	**N**	**r**	**p**	**Remarks**
Incidence of Poverty Social Exclusion	300	.0499	.000	Significant

p ≥ .05

Table 4.15 shows Pearson r value of 0.499 with a p-value of 0.000 at an alpha level of 0.05. The p-value (.000) is lesser than the alpha value (0.05). Therefore, the result shows a positive association between the incidence of poverty and social exclusion in the local government. The study thus rejects the null hypothesis (there is no relationship between the incidence of poverty and social exclusion in the local government) and accepts the research hypothesis (There is a relationship between the prevalence of poverty and exclusion in the local government).

Hypothesis Three

2. H_0: There is no relationship between social protection programmes, poverty alleviation and poverty eradication in the local government

   H_1: There is a relationship between social protection programmes and poverty

alleviation and poverty eradication in the local government

Table 4.20: *Pearson Correlation Analysis of the relationship between social protection programmes, poverty alleviation and social exclusion*

Variable	N	*r*	p	Remarks
Incidence of Poverty Social Exclusion	300	.865	.000	Significant

p ≥ .05

Data from table 4.16 reveals a significant relationship between social protection programmes, and poverty alleviation with a Pearson r correlation coefficient value of 0.865, the above shows a strong positive association between the social protection programmes, and social exclusion. The study therefore rejects the null hypothesis (there is no relationship between the social protection programmes, poverty alleviation and poverty eradication in the local government) due to the p-value (sig = 0.000) indicating that the p-value is less than (<)0.005, and accepts the research hypothesis (there is a relationship between the social protection programmes, poverty alleviation and poverty eradication in the local government).

4.3 Discussion of Major Findings

This section discusses relevant literature on the issue of poverty and social exclusion by way of explaining casual connection and relationships:

Correlation between the prevalence of poverty and social exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State (Hypothesis One)

Data computation from table 4.14 indicates that there exists a significant relationship between the prevalence of poverty and social exclusion in the local government, which

demonstrates a high causal link. This is with a correlation coefficient R value of 0.62 which demonstrates a high linkage between the two variables. The findings have further justified that indeed poverty and social exclusion is prevalent in the local government area. The findings align with Emmanuel, Olumuyiwa, Olumide, Nick, Emmanuel & Oluwatimilehin (2024) who believed that despite Nigeria being the most populous Black Country in the globe and blessed with abundant resources, its citizens are still living in abject poverty.

To further strengthen the position of the aforementioned, Paye & Boaheng (2024) noted that the inability of successive administration in Nigeria to actualize their core purpose of ensuring the adequate provision of security and ensuring the socio-economic development and welfare of the citizens has brought about the manifestations of multi-layered socio issues which is inclusive of extreme poverty, insecurity, poor health care and education service delivery. Sen (2005) while examining the consequences of government inaction in addressing the issue of poverty reveals that the capacity of Nigerians to realize their potential would be truncated due to social exclusion. Therefore, Sen (2005) added that the effect of social exclusion in Nigeria and in the local government area is evidenced in the prevalence of exclusion from opportunities and extreme poverty. This assertion is in tandem with the social exclusion theory adopted as framework of analysis for the study. The theory describes social exclusion individuals as being systematically disadvantaged and marginalized by the political class, culminating in their exclusion from full participation in economic, social and political life. This exclusion stems from the acute prevalence of factors such as poverty, discrimination, lack of success to resources and opportunities and the unequal power dynamics.

Correlation between poverty and social exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State (Hypothesis Two)

The data analysis from Table 4.15 reveals a positive association between poverty and social exclusion with a correlation coefficient *R* value 0.5449 which indicates a positive casual links between poverty and social exclusion. Flowing from the assumptions of the social exclusion theory which attributes poverty to social exclusion postulates that social exclusion of individuals in the society can be perceived as multidimensional, operationalized as merger of impoverishment, the inadequate access to human rights. It further maintained that the deficiency or disallowance of resources, rights, good and services and the inadaptability to engage in any form of common relationship and activities and income inadequacy could result to social exclusion which intensifies poverty.

In establishing the link between poverty and social exclusion, Townsend (1979) noted that people tend to be poor due to their inability to access resources to be able to determine the type of diet they want, their levels of participation and the kind of living condition and amenities that they seek to have. Sen (2000) further contend that the influence made by several literature on social exclusion can be illuminated by perceiving it from a wider context of poverty. Estivill (2003) noted that the concepts of social exclusion and poverty are closely related. To align with the aforementioned, Sen (2001) assert that the reduction of social exclusion in any clime cannot be implemented effectively without addressing the issues of poverty. SEU (2001) explains why the former prime minister of Britain, Tony Blair, while embarking on a launch of the broad spectrum of measures to tackle social exclusion, emphasize that social exclusion is inclusive of poverty and low income as well as other multi-dimensional effects of poverty.

Correlation between social protection programmes and poverty eradication (Hypothesis Three)

Analysis from hypothesis three (Table 4.16) reveals a positive relationship between social protection programmes and poverty eradication in the local government area, due to the high rate of R coefficient value of 0.865, hence, signifying a strong relationship between the two variables. In alignment with the above findings, Dugarowa (2015) describes social protection as those policies and programmes that offers the disadvantaged in the society access to critical services such as education, health in the provision of an adequate level of security under multi-layered contingencies of life connected to unemployment, disability of age and sickness. To further, establish the link between social protection programmes and poverty eradication, Dugarova (2015) assert that social protection mechanism are a pivotal instruments in the reduction of poverty and can be an effective tool in fostering social inclusion as they not only assist in the prevention of individuals and families from dwindling or persisting in poverty, but also foster in helping them in the achievement of their rights and making sure that they are fully active in societal processes.

However, from an empirical perspective, studies carried out by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (2014) has reveal evidences of social protection arrangements. For instance, India launched its National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2005. This social protection programmes have been regarded as an effective mechanism for promoting inclusive growth in the rural areas in India. This is achieved through it's influence on social protection and democratic governance, therefore, fostering the reduction of vulnerabilities and embarking on resource building for the empowerment of people most especially women. In Mozambique, UNRISD (2014) reported that social protection mechanism has been viewed as a

key strategy for promoting social inclusion and social justice with considerable progress manifesting in equality and accessibility to health and education. It noted that its Basic Social Security Regulated programmes implemented in 2009, enforced the social protection rights of vulnerable groups and the promotion of social and economic inclusion of people living in poverty through labour intensive public works.

To buttress these country wide experiences, the ILO (2014), accentuate that the all-encompassing social protection programmes does not only promotes productivity and enhance human capital through the offering of income and social services, they also bring about the reduction of poverty and inequality in its various strata and play contributory role in the achievement of social inclusion.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The study examined poverty and social exclusion in Oredo local government area of Edo State. It considered the dimension poverty, such as resources, opportunities, power and voice and human security. To guide this study, three research questions and three hypotheses were raised which are as follows:

1. What is the prevalence and depth of poverty in Oredo local government area of Edo State?
2. What is the relationship between poverty and social exclusion in the local government?
3. What role do social protection programmes play in alleviating poverty in the local government?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 alpha level.

1. H_0: There is no relationship between the prevalence of poverty and exclusion in the local government

   H_1: There is a relationship between the prevalence of poverty and exclusion in the local government

2. H_0: There is no relationship between poverty and social exclusion in the local government

H_1: There is a relationship between poverty and social exclusion in the local government

2. H_0: There is no relationship between social protection programmes, poverty alleviation and poverty eradication in the local government

H_1: There is a relationship between social protection programmes and poverty alleviation and poverty eradication in the local government

The study was designed to examine poverty and social exclusion in Oredo local government area. The population of the study comprised employees of Oredo local government secretariat, young and older adults from Oredo local government area of Edo State which is given at 477,532. A sample of 400 was taken from the population using the Taro Yamane formular. The simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents from Oredo local government council employees and the residents living in Oredo local government area. Out of the 400 questionnaires administered on the sampled respondents, only 300 (75 %) questionnaires were successfully retrieved and used for the study. One instrument titled "An Assessment of Poverty and Social exclusion" was used to collect data for the study. The questionnaire was structured based on the research questions. The analysis was done using frequencies, percentages, mean for the research questions and Pearson Product Moment Correlation to test the hypotheses.

The findings of this study based on the questions and hypotheses tested revealed the following:

1. The findings of this study revealed that poverty and social exclusion are indeed prevalent in the local government area.

2. The result shows that there is a significant relationship between poverty and social exclusion
3. The result shows that social protection programmes have the efficacy in alleviating poverty in any clime
4. The study revealed that many residents of Oredo Local Government Area have limited access to education and employment opportunities, which exacerbates poverty and social exclusion.
5. The study found that social exclusion is a significant problem in Oredo Local Government Area, with many residents experiencing discrimination, stigma, and marginalization.

5.2 Conclusion

This study assessed poverty and social exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, with a focus on understanding the prevalence, causes, and consequences of poverty and social exclusion in the area. The findings of the study reveal that poverty and social exclusion are pervasive in Oredo Local Government Area, with a significant proportion of the population living below the poverty line and experiencing social exclusion.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

1. That the government and other stakeholders should implement poverty reduction programs that provide support to vulnerable households and individuals.
2. That the government and other stakeholders invest in education and employment opportunities to improve the livelihoods of residents in Oredo Local Government Area.

3. That the government and other stakeholders should implement social protection programs that provide support to vulnerable individuals and households.
4. There is a need for a long-term policy commitment to social inclusion. Social inclusion should be as high on policy agendas as economic growth or poverty reduction. As a first step, governments need to adopt well-defined strategies for combating social exclusion, with clear responsibilities and a designated lead agency.
5. Political commitments in implementing policies to address issues of poverty need to be harmonized by well-defined objectives and transparent monitoring hinging on applicable indicators. Without the accountability emanating from using such targets and growth indicators in a vigorous and autonomous monitoring and evaluation system, social inclusion will remain a mantra.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

Poverty and social exclusion are complex and multifaceted problems that require a comprehensive and sustainable approach to address. This study provides valuable insights into the prevalence, causes, and consequences of poverty and social exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area. The recommendations provided in this study can inform policy and program interventions aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion in the area.

References

Aderounmu, B., Azuh, D., Onanuga, O., Oluwatomisin, O., Ebenezer, B., & Azuh, A. (2021). Poverty drivers and Nigeria's development: Implications for policy intervention. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 8, 1927495. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2021.1927495

Adebayo, C. O., Yusuf, O. & Imonikhe, G. A. (2010). Analysis of savings mobilization determinants among rural households in Kogi State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agriculture, Forestry and the Social Sciences* (JOAFSS), 8(2), 139-148.

Akpabio, I. (2005). *Human Agriculture: Social Themes in Agricultural Development*. Abaam Publishing Co, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, pp. 2-5.

Anand, S. and C. Harris, C (1994), 'Choosing a Welfare Indicator', *AER Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 84, No. 2.

Boltvinik, J. (1994), 'Poverty Measurement and Indicators of Development', in R. van der Hoeven and R. Anker (Eds.), Poverty Monitoring: An International Concern, UNICEF.

Balogun, O. S. (2023). Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the challenges of poverty reduction in Nigeria, *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies AJPAS*, 16(2):682-693.

Carlisle, S (2001) *Inequalities in Health: Contested Explanations, Shifting Discourses and Ambiguous Policies*, The Community Development Reader, The Policy Press

Chambers, R. (1995). 'Poverty and Livelihoods: Whose Reality Counts?', IDS Discussion Paper No. 347, January.

Dean, H. (2016) *Poverty and social exclusion.* In: Platt, Lucinda and Dean, Hartley, (eds.) Social Advantage and Disadvantage. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, pp. 3-24.

Dani, A. & Arjan de Haan. (2008). "Social policy in a development context: Structural inequalities and inclusive institutions." In Inclusive States: Social Policy and Structural Inequalities, edited by Arjan de Haan and Anis Dani. Washington, DC: World Bank

Dugarova, E. (2015). Social inclusion, poverty eradication and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, UNRISD Working Paper, No. 2015-15, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva

Dugarova, E. & Peter U. (2013). Social Drivers of Sustainable Development. Background paper prepared as an input to the Note by the UN Secretariat, "Emerging Issues: The Social Drivers of Sustainable Development" (E/CN.5/2014/8, 52nd session of the Commission for Social Development). Geneva: UNRISD

Dugarova, E. & Tom L. (2014). Social Inclusion and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. Paper prepared for the UNITAR's Briefing for UN Delegates on Post-2015 Development Agenda: Social Inclusion. Geneva: UNRISD

Dia, Y. Z., Oaya, D. S., & Joshua, J. (2023). Determinants of poverty among rural farming households in Maiha Local Government Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria. *Agricultura Tropica Et Subtropica*, 56(5), 1–11

Edet, G. E., Akpan, S. B., & Akpan, O. D. (2024). Analysis of Poverty Profile of Rural Farm Households in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *European Journal of Ecology, Biology and Agriculture,* 1(3), 115-129.

Emmanuel E. O., Olumuyiwa A., Olumide S. A., Nick P. E., Emmanuel E. & Oluwatimilehin G. D. (2024) Poverty alleviation programs in Nigeria: a study on World Mission Agency (WMA) using principal component analysis, *Cogent Social Sciences*, 10:1

Estivill, J. (2003) *Concepts and Strategies for Combating Social Exclusion*: An Overview, International Labour Office, Geneva

Fischer, A. (2011). Reconceiving Social Exclusion. BWPI Working Paper 146. Manchester: Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester.

Figueiredo, J.B., and Arjan de Haan, eds. (1998). *Social Exclusion: An ILO Perspective*. Geneva: International Labour Organisation.

Goulden, C and D'Arcy, C, (2004), *A definition of Poverty*, JRF Programme Paper, JRF, York

ILO (International Labour Organization) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2011. *Sharing Innovative Experiences: Successful Social Protection Floor Experiences*. Geneva: ILO.

ILO (International Labour Organization). (2014). Minimum Income Support and other Non-Conditional Social Assistance Schemes. Retrieved October 12, 2024 from. http://www.socialprotection.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.action?id=9

IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). 2011. Republic of Rwanda, Country Programme Evaluation, Report No. 2434-RW. Rome: IFAD

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (2006). Rural Poverty in Nigeria, 1(5), 1-7.

Jodha, N. S. (1988). 'Poverty Debate in India: A Minority View', Economic and Political Weekly, Special Number, November.

Kabeer, N. (2000). "Social Exclusion, Poverty and Discrimination: Towards an Analytical Framework". *IDS Bulletin* 31(4): 83-97.

Kakwani, N. & Subbarao, K. (2005) *Ageing and Poverty in Africa and the Role of Social Pensions*. United Nations Development Programme, Working Paper number 8, International Poverty Centre, Washington DC.

Lipton, M. (1996). 'Defining and Measuring Poverty: Conceptual Issues', Background Paper for HDR97, UNDP, New York.

Lenoir, René. (1974). Les Exclus: Un Francais sur Dix. Paris: Editions du Seuil.

Levitas R, Pantazis C, Fahmy E, Gordon D, Lloyd E and Patsios D (2007), The Multi-dimensional Analysis of Social Exclusion, Townsend Centre for the International Study of Poverty and University of Bristol

Lister, R, 2004, Poverty, Polity Press, Cambridge University.

McCarthy, J. (2010). "Processes of inclusion and adverse incorporation: oil palm and agrarian change in Sumatra, Indonesia." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 37(4): 821- 850.

Mansi, E., Hysa, E., Panait, M., & Voica, M.C. (2020). Poverty—A Challenge for Economic Development? Evidences from Western Balkan Countries and the European Union. *Sustainability*, 12, 7754.

Nwachukwu, I.N. and C.I. Ezeh (2007) Impact of Selected Rural Development Programmes on Poverty Alleviation in Ikwuano LGA, Abia State, Nigeria. African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development 7(5): 1 – 17

Nwachukwu, I.N., N.M. Agwu, C.I. Ezeh, J.A. Mbanasor and C.E. Kamalu (2008). Evaluation of Second National Fadama Development Project in Nigeria: A Rapid Policy Appraisal. MPRA Paper 2008/12914, Munich University, Germany.

Ngwuta, A. J., Nwosu, C. P. & Osward, I. E. (2023). Poverty, Inequality and Social Exclusion in Nigeria: A Dependency Theory-based Insight. *Socialscientia Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities* 8(3).95-103

Odili, P. K & Obiora, K. (2023). Implications of fuel subsidy removal on the Nigerian economy. Published version available at: https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-8903 1.ch007. Published in Book: Public Policy's Role in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. IGI Global13.

Okonmah, I. E. & Arimie C.J. (2023). Federalism and Citizen's Inclusivity in Nigeria's Governance System. *University of Benin Journal of Administration and Development,* 7(1), 53-66.

Okon, D. E. (2012). Global Partnership/Co-operation and Pragmatic Community Development: An Assessment of an EU-Micro Projects Programme (EUMPP) in Selected Communities in Akwa Ibom State, South-South Nigeria. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education,* 5(3): 171-181

Omonona, B. (2010). *Quantitative Analysis of Rural Poverty in Nigeria*. Brief No. 17. Nigeria Strategy Support Programme, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.

OECD (2024), Development Co-operation Report 2024: Tackling Poverty and Inequalities through the Green Transition, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/357b63f7-en

Obasi, I. O., Nwosu, J. O. & Okoro, N. O. (2020). Income and consumption expenditure of rural farming households in Isuikwuato local government area (L.G.A) Abia State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Economics, Extension & Science,* 6(2), 192 – 203.

Oxfam. (2019). Public good or private wealth, briefing paper, January. Retrieved September, 12, 2024 from: https:// oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620599/ bp-public-good-or-private-wealth-210119-summ-en.pdf

Paye, A., & Boaheng, I. (2024). Faith-based organizations and poverty reduction strategy in Liberia (2008-2011 *International Journal of Social Science Research and Review*, 7(1), 444–462.

Pearse, Andrew and Matthias Stiefel (1979). *Inquiry into Participation*: A Research Approach. Geneva: UNRISD.

Ravallion, M. (1992), '*Poverty Comparisons: A Guide to Concepts and Methods*,' World Bank LSMS Working Paper No. 88.

Spicker, P. (2020), *The poverty of nations: a relational perspective*. Policy Press. Cambridge.

Sen A. (2000). *Social exclusion: concept, application, and scrutiny*. Social Development Papers No. 1, Office of Environment and Social Development, Asian Development Bank, January.

Shaffer, Paul (1998). "*Poverty Reduction Strategies*: A Review," UNDSPD/UNDESA Discussion Paper, January.

Silver, H. (1995). Reconceptualizing Social Disadvantage: Three Paradigms of Social Exclusion. In Social Exclusion: Rhetoric, Reality, Responses, edited by Gerry Rodgers, Charles Gore, and Jose Figueiredo. Geneva: International Institute for Labour Studies

Sida (2021). Dimension of Poverty. Retrieved October 11, 2024 from: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2021/07/Sida-multidimensional-poverty.pdf

Social Exclusion Unit (SEU)(2001), Preventing Social Exclusion: Report by Social Exclusion Unit, Cabinet Office, London

Solow, R. M. (1995). *Mass Unemployment as a Social Problem. In Choice, Welfare and Development*, edited by K. Basu, P. Pattanaik, and K. Suzumura. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Townsend, P, (1979), Poverty in the United Kingdom; A Survey of Household Resources and Standards of Living, University of Carlifornia Press, Berkeley and Los Angles.

Touray, M. (2016). Definitions and measure of poverty. Development Initiative. Retrieved from: https//www.devinit.org.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). (2014). Social Drivers of Sustainable Development. Beyond 2015 Brief 4. Geneva: UNRISD.

UNDP. (2018). Human development indices and indicators: 2018 statistical update

UN DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs). (2010). Analysing and Measuring Social Inclusion in a Global Context. (Study prepared by Anthony B. Atkison and E. Marlier.) (ST/ESA/325). New York: UN DESA.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) (2014). Social Drivers of Sustainable Development. Beyond 2015 Brief 4. Geneva: UNRISD

Umeji, G. & Eleanya, E. E. (2021). Assessing the impact of fuel subsidy removal on the poor in the COVID-19 era. SERBD-*International Journal of Multidisciplinary Sciences*. 02 (04). 1-4

Welshman, J (2006), *Underclass*: A History of the Excluded, 1880-2000, Bloomsbury, London

World Bank (2024), World Bank Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP) version 20240324, https://pip.worldbank.org.

World Bank (2020), Global Growth: Modest Pickup to 2.5% in 2020 amid Mounting Debt and Slowing Productivity Growth, World Bank Press Release, Washington, DC.

World Bank (2020). Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

World Bank. (2013). Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity. Washington, DC: World Bank

Wresinski, J. (1987). Grande pauvreté et précarité économique et sociale, Report presented on behalf of the Conseil économique et social, Paris, February 10th and 11th sessions

Wright, B. & Weiss, J. (1995). Social Problem. Boston, Little Brown and Co, 45- 57

APPENDIX A

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Political Science and Public Administration,

Faculty of Social & Management Sciences,

Benson Idahosa University,

Benin City.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an undergraduate student of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Benson Idahosa University. I am conducting an academic research work titled **"Poverty and Social Exclusion in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State".**

I assure you that any information given will be kept confidential.

Thanks, in anticipation of your cooperation.

Please, assist in answering these questions by ticking [√] the appropriate boxes.

Be rest assured that all information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Yours faithfully,

Abbey Omoregie

APPENDIX B

SECTION A

Demographic Information

Instruction: Please tick (√) the most appropriate answer that is applicable to you.

1. **Gender:** Male ( ) Female ( )

2. **Age:** 15-19 ( ) 20-24 ( ) 25 - 29 ( ) 30 - 34( ) 35 – 40 ( ) 41and above ( )

3. **Religion:** Christianity ( ) Islam ( ) African Traditional Religion ( ) Others ( )

4. **Socioeconomic Status:** Student ( ) Academic Staff ( ) Civil Servant ( ) Artisan ( )

Trader ( ) Others ( )

5. **Level of Education:** First School Leaving Certificate ( ) SSCE ( ) B.Sc ( ) M.Sc ( ) BA ( )

MA ( ) PhD ( ) Others ( )

6. **Ethnic Group:** (Specify) …….

SECTION B

Instructions: Please tick (√) the appropriate column, one that best represent your opinion in each of the following statements. **SA**-Strongly Agree, **A**-Agree, **D**-Disagree, **SD**-Strongly Disagree

POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION QUESTIONNAIRE

S/N	Prevalence of Poverty	SA	A	D	SD
1	There is high rate of poverty in the local government area.				
2	There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor				
3	Lack of access to basic needs make poverty to be prevalent in the local government ares				
4	The lack of income and productive resources has brought about deprivation in the local government				
5	There is a high level of hunger and malnutrition amongst majority of the populace in the local government				
	Relationship between Poverty and Social Exclusion				
6	Poverty brings about social discrimination and exclusion				
7	Poverty can exclude individuals for accessing basic necessities and opportunities				
8	The lack of access to education, employment and skill development can promote poverty				

9	The scourge of poverty excludes individuals from participating in decision making process affecting their lives				
	Social Protection Programmes and Poverty Alleviation				
10	There are forms of social protection programmes in Oredo Local government area				
11	Conditional cash transfers to the vulnerable have the capability to alleviate poverty				
12	Skills empowerment schemes for the unemployed are measures to uplift the living standard of the poor				
13	The current poverty level in the local government has been largely determined by the lack of social protection programmes.				