

Socio-Economic Challenges Of Sustainable Development In Nigeria And The Need For Human Development, Social Inclusion And Government Policies/Programs In Actualizing Sustainable Development Goals By The Year 2030.

Michael Ajeni Obute

(Department Of Surveying & Geo-Informatics, Baze University, Abuja)

Abstract:

This paper examines the underlining factors responsible for the socio-economic challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria and how these inherent challenges act as drivers to beget other socio-economic challenges that have limited Nigeria locally as a Nation in its quest to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) by the year 2030 and a critical analysis of these challenges as they border on Human development and Social inclusion by assessing an array of indicators as basis for the evaluation using descriptive and analytical approaches with the aid of statistical report sourced(secondary data) and taking into perspective the role of government policies/programs in curbing the humanitarian crisis that is a catalyst for social vices, crime, and political unrest that have a retrogressive impact on the economic growth and development of the nation.

Identifying corruption as the pivot of these socio-economic challenges that brings impunity to the fore, and laying emphasis on respect for the Rule of Law as recipe needed for socio-economic development by creating a sense of self-inclusiveness, equity, fairness and justice amongst the citizenry and also building strong institutions of the State which is achievable by ensuring transparency and accountability in government institutions, sanity in the Judicial system, making substantial policies and empowering the teaming population to become self-reliant through development of human capacity tilted towards proffering solutions to contemporary challenges by means of innovation and creativity through the development of domestic resources using modern technology and imbibing digital economy that would bring about a high value chain for optimal productivity for the global market as a pathway to combating the socio-economic challenges that have plagued the nation over time.

Key Words: Sustainable, development, Socio-economic, challenges, social inclusion, policy, Rule of Law, Self-reliant, Value chain, optimal productivity.

Date of Submission: 28-10-2021

Date of Acceptance: 11-11-2021

I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development has become a global trend and making wave in various disciplines as the need for sustainability cannot be undermined. This has craved the need to use natural resources rationally in order to preserve the integrity of the environment not just for the present but for generations yet unborn.

The rationale for sustainable development is to meet the needs of the teaming population as well as maintain an eco-friendly environment both for the present and the future.

Since man is the custodian of the environment, his actions and inactions determines the state of the environment. The human development is dependent upon the resources of the environment which is termed as nature's capital.

Tempering with the natural environment in the course of development is inevitable but this must be done in a sustainable manner to strike the balance between harnessing economic gains from environmental resources and maintaining environmental integrity.

The ever increasing population exerts pressure on the natural resources and creates tendency for scarcity if development is not embarked upon to increase productivity but this must be done sustainably to meet the needs of the present as well as future generations without jeopardizing the environment.

The emergence of the term sustainable development laid emphasis on environment and development but it is clear that the environment does not exist in isolation from humans and its activities.

Many other scholars have looked at sustainable development from a social, economic, cultural and political dimension.

It is imperative to define what is meant by sustainable development before proceeding with the socio-economic perspective and challenges that confronts Nigeria.

Sustainable development was defined in the World Commission on Environment and Development's 1987 Brundtland report "Our Common Future" as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. (WCED, 1987:43).

The Socio-economic challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria are more alarming compared to the environmental challenges. There is the need to highlight what these challenges are and proffer solutions to them.

II. METHODOLOGY

The use of analytical and descriptive approaches via displaying indices of SDGs indicators with projected targets by the year 2030 using 2015 as a baseline for the evaluation since it marked the end of MDGs and assessing the extent to which the home grown integrated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embedded in the National Economic Recovery Growth (NERG) Policy/programmes have recorded success in its quest to actualize the SDGs by the year 2030 and also evaluation based on global index of some SDGs indicators.

III. RESULTS

Fundamental factors responsible for the socio-economic challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria lies in population explosion, scarcity of resources, and greed

These three underlying factors have a linear relationship which has begotten other socio-economic challenges that are becoming overwhelming contemporarily in Nigeria.

The ability to curb these underlying factors earnestly is partly the way forward to achieving socio-economic sustainable development in Nigeria.

Population Explosion: Population has continually been on the increase despite the advocacy program for family planning by civil society organizations. The culture and beliefs of the people have promoted increase in child birth. Poor birth control is a major challenge to socio-economic sustainable development in Nigeria. This results to a situation whereby an increase in the population of Nigeria does not translate to increase in productivity or GDP hence, implies no economic benefit but rather increases the level of dependence, illiteracy, poverty and mischiefs.

This phenomenon has posed threat on the country in diverse ways and has escalated the level of crime that has ravaged the nation. A Nation that increases in the number of uneducated people is an increment that is tantamount to destruction.

The increase in birth rate in Nigeria is centered on the belief system and ignorance/negligence of family planning measures. It is perceived as a thing of pride to have many wives and bear many children in the medieval era in Nigeria in order to own a large workforce that could be used to work on their vast farm lands to enable them increase agricultural productivity. Some of their descendants still hold firm to this tradition that is not rational in the present day as technology (mechanized farming) has made farming more efficient.

Children are also perceived as gifts from God without taking into cognizance if there are available resources to cater for them hence, making the future bleak for them. This is indeed a hopeless situation that can facilitate their indulgence in crime.

The campaign by civil society organizations for Nigerian citizens to imbibe family planning measures have not recorded highly significant success as a result of the belief system that exists. The use of contraceptive have been strongly kicked against and perceived as being immoral.

"Men who viewed contraceptives as an enabler for promiscuity had female partners less likely to use contraceptives. A large proportion of the population growth is occurring in the least developed parts of the world, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. To address the population growth and strain that it places on societal resources, there is an increased focus on strategies to reduce fertility rates, which has been incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals to improve maternal and child health. In many Sub-Saharan African countries, the goal of increasing contraceptive uptake remains tenuous. Many programs throughout the area have received funding in an attempt to address the high levels of unmet needs in family planning. However, despite these programs, uptake of contraceptives in Africa has remained relatively slow". (Demographic and Health Survey, 2013).

As the population keeps increasing without commensurate resources, accompanied by high level of illiteracy, unemployment, poverty and lack of effective and efficient empowerment for the teaming redundant workforce, it increases the tendency for crime.

“If the current population growth rate of 3.2 percent is sustained, Nigeria will double its population size in about 21 years; by 2050, it will become the third most populous country in the world” (United Nations, 2017).

The socio-economic challenges posed by this exponential population growth are enormous since there would be more pressure on existing infrastructure as well as environmental resources.

The population explosion begets a lot of socio-economic problems that if not properly managed could lead to a state of Anarchy.

It is imperative to control birth rate in Nigeria in a bid to curb this challenge that is like a time bomb.

“Unchecked population growth would increase the youth population to unsustainable levels; already, more than half of the population is under the age of 19 (United Nations, 2017) — a demographic situation that puts the country at risk of wide-scale youth unemployment, civil instability, and slow development progress” (Hussain et al., 2016).

Scarcity of Resources: The scarcity of resources in Nigeria is partly the function of a generational social structure engulfed in corruption to favour a few. This is a situation whereby the elite and leaders in power amass wealth for themselves, family and acquaintances via money laundering, privatization of public facilities to be procured by people in power, allocation of oil wells to a few elites and passing the wealth to their next generation. These have eventually led to income inequality amongst the populace and have created a huge financial gap between the elites and the masses. At very extreme point of scarcity it becomes the case of survival of the fittest, at this point the poor are very vulnerable while the rich can afford to sustain themselves for that period of economic hardship. The poor would barely sit back and watch the rich prosper while they live in misery and in some cases loss their lives as a result of starvation and inability to afford quality health care services. This can induce crime by highly significant level either by extortion or coercion. Limited resources come with a tendency for crime in a bid to survive.

The scarcity of resources in Nigeria can be ascribed to corruption, low human capacity building, underutilization of natural resources and insufficient social investment programme.

The nature of resource scarcity in Nigeria justifies one of Mahatma Gandhi’s best quotes which says; “The world has enough for everyone’s needs, but not for everyone’s greed”

Greed/Corruption: The misappropriation or ill-use of public funds is alarming. This has limited the level of socio-economic development in Nigeria. This phenomenon has been ascribed to governance in Nigeria over the years. This explains while infrastructural development has suffered a great set back due to the high level of corruption involved in the award and execution of contracts.

The level of greed is so enormous and has caused inefficiency in the public and private sector as standard is compromised for kickbacks. The level of bribery is very alarming and this is the function of greed.

The major socio-economic problem that has bedeviled Nigeria is corruption at the helm of affairs which has a trickle-down effect on the ordinary citizens. Embezzlement or misappropriation of public treasury has unfortunately become a norm in Nigeria, since this act is traceable to previous and present leadership of the country. Various administrations have devised strategies to milk the Nation of its wealth and also have been accused of money laundry, collecting of bribe, election fraud etc.

The aggregate of this laundered money since after Nigeria’s Independence runs into billions of dollars which has created an unimaginable financial gap between the ruling class and the ordinary citizens. This financial inequality created by a social structure that is historic has deepened the level of impoverishment overtime and have also facilitated grounded public facilities so as to deregulate and privatize them by the same ruling class in a bid to enrich themselves and their acquaintances.

The corruption in the Nigeria Oil and gas sector in terms of foreign policies, price control, awards of exclusive rights (such as allocation of oil blocks to companies and individuals), government policy, oil subsidy to petroleum marketers, have greatly reduced the rate of revenue that would have been generated from the sector, hence enriching the ruling class and further increasing the level of financial inequality amongst the populace.

The corruption that has plagued the nation over the years and the failure to extensively build human capacity promptly to tackle the forecasted socio-economic menace has degenerated into a state of poverty. The place of Nigeria in poverty ranking is at the extreme as it recently overtook India with the largest number of people living in extreme poverty.

It is indeed an Irony of Nigeria to be referred to as the giant of Africa with its robust economy and still has the highest number of IDPs (Internally displaced persons) of about 1.6 million in West Africa in a data published in 2020 by UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and also ranks number one poorest country in the world with about 40% of the total population, or almost 83 million people, live below the country’s poverty line of 137,430 naira (\$381.75) per year according to “2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria” report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Nigeria is a very rich Country but with huge amount of poor people which connotes that there is an enormous level of corruption in the political system.

RESEARCH PROBLEMS

The essence of this research paper is to look at the socio-economic challenges that have limited Nigeria as a Nation in its quest to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) by the year 2030 and assessing the need for human development, social inclusion and good government policies/programs as recipes needed in the actualization of these goals.

To realistically analyze the socio-economic challenges of sustainable development from a local context as it affects Nigeria.

IV. CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK

Before proceeding to the conceptualization of the term 'socio-economic sustainable development' it is imperative to note that the Concept of Sustainable Development constitutes three major pillars which are Environmental, Social and Economic perspective.

However, I would be focusing on the socio-economic perspective of the challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria.

Social sustainability: Social sustainability encompasses notions of equity, empowerment, accessibility, participation, cultural identity and institutional stability (Daly, 1992). The concept implies that people matter since development is about people (Benaim & Raftis, 2008).

Social sustainability also entails human right, labour right, and corporate governance. In the same vein with environmental sustainability, social sustainability is the idea that future generations should have the same or greater access to social resources as the current generation ("inter-generational equity"). While there should also be equal access to social resources within the current generation ("intra-generational equity"). Social resources include ideas as broad as peoples' culture and basic human rights. There is the need to emphasize on sustainable human development in accessing social sustainability; Sustainable Human Development can be seen as development that promotes the capabilities of the present people without compromising capabilities of future generations (Sen, 2000).

The main social indicators of development include education, health, employment and unemployment rates and gender equality. These are specific indicators which institutions such as the World Bank and United Nations use to measure how 'developed' a country is, and the main indices which are used to compare the levels of development of different countries.

Although there are other social indicators such as birth rate and fertility rate, peacefulness, civil rights, democracy, perceived security, corruption, crime/social unrest, wellbeing, confidence, trust etc.

Economic sustainability: It means that development should take place without damaging the environment, and development in the present should not compromise with the needs of the future generations.

This concept stresses the role of the environment as capital that, if exhausted, cannot be replaced. It requires preservation of human capital, physical capital and natural capital. This says the environment must be safe for future generations and must not harm.

Economic sustainability implies a system of production that satisfies present consumption levels without compromising future needs (Lobo, Pietriga, & Appert, 2015).

Socio-economic sustainability constitutes two sustainability pillars - social and economic; hence, it is imperative to understand them. Social sustainability refers to the improvement of living conditions for both current and future generations. Economic sustainability could be defined as the ability of the economy to support and maintain economic growth, but at the same time, it requires that natural resources be used efficiently. Hence, socio-economic sustainability could be defined as the ability to ensure economic growth without jeopardizing human's wellbeing and ensuring that perpetual needs are met while making sure the integrity of the environment is maintained.

Human development is defined as the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. Central to human development approach is the concept of capabilities. Their development is dependent upon their capabilities implies that what people can do and what they can become are fundamental to pursue a life of value.

Social Inclusion is the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society-improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the bases of their identity. (World Bank, 2013, PP. 3-4).

"Social inclusion is a process which ensures that those at risk of poverty and social exclusion gain the opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in economic, social, political and cultural life and to enjoy a standard of living that is considered normal in the society in which they live. It ensures that they have

greater participation in decision making which affects their lives and access to their fundamental rights” (Commission of the European Communities, 2003, p.9)

Public Policy is an institutionalized proposal to solve relevant and real-world problems, guided by a conception and implemented by programs as a course of action created and/or enacted, typically by a government, in response to social issues.(Wikipedia)

Antonio Lassance has defined public policy as “an institutionalized proposal to solve a central problem, guided by a conception” (Lassance, 2020:7).

Programme: A set of related measures or activities with a particular long-term aim (Oxford Dictionary)

Programme : A series of actions which are designed to achieve something important (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English)

The Concept of sustainable development has general principles and universal goals reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by the United Nations which is expected to be attained by the year 2030 but it is clear that there is peculiarity in the pressing challenges confronting different Nations.

V. DISCUSSION

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Peace and Justice; Strong Institutions – SDG 16

Peace and justice are imperative qualities in building a sustainable democratic society that produces socio-economic development. There is barely little or no Justice in Nigeria. Our judicial system is highly corrupt and is out to serve the government of the day. Justice has been abated on several occasions by perverted judgments. Some persons don’t get justice in the Court of Law after its ruling. This has made so many Nigerians resort to jungle justice. Once people don’t get justice from the expected quarters they resort to becoming outlaws in a way. They take laws into their hands and execute what they feel is right.

Amnesty International (16th February 2015, 18:41 UTC) made an assessment of how bad human rights situation in Nigeria is; “Pretty shocking. Boko Haram’s bloody onslaught in north-east Nigeria and the military’s heavy –handed response has killed thousands of civilians and forced hundreds of thousands to flee. Women, men and children live in constant fear of murder and abduction by Boko Haram and of arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention, torture and even execution at the hands of the military”

The report of the assessment went further to state that 68% of the 55,000 people held in Nigeria’s overcrowded prisons have been convicted but have been waiting, many for years, for their cases to conclude. Those who have been convicted often faced grossly unfair trials – with many having suffered torture and lacking access to lawyer. More than a thousand people are currently languishing on death row, awaiting the day when the State decides to kill them. Ironically, those who commit human rights violations rarely face prosecution.

There is a high rise in the assault and molestation of women and vulnerable children. Most perpetrators of this ill treatment have gone scot free leaving the victims in pain and agony. These victims are humans that have been dehumanized. This has tempered with their mental and physical wellbeing and they deserve justice. The operations of kidnappers, bandits, “Boko haram”, militants and Fulani herdsmen have resulted in the killings of so many innocent people for over a long time now despite the huge amount that goes for security votes on a yearly basis barely little have been achieved in the war against terrorism and other crimes only to resort to negotiations with criminal elements as a way of curbing these challenges and there is barely no justice served to the victims of these crimes instead there have been the release of apprehended “Boko haram” in exchange for abducted citizens.

The collapse of the institutions of the state especially the police and the judiciary have created protection for those who break law and order.

The End SARS protest that took place 20th October, 2020 at the Lekki Toll-gate Lagos Nigeria as citizens came out massively to protest against police brutality and injustice. In the process there was open fire of live ammunitions on innocent citizens that led to a lot of casualties which was allegedly executed by the Nigeria Army. The victims of this social violence are left to their fate and barely get justice for the pains inflicted on them as well as the losses incurred. Trading this path radicalizes the citizens against security agents and brings about a lack of confidence in the leadership of the nation. Nigeria cannot be said to be operating true democracy since there is a limitation to the expression of freedom of speech as was evident in the incident that played out at the Lekki Toll Gate Lagos Nigeria. It was obvious that the protest was eventually hijacked by hoodlums but was apparently triggered by alleged extra judicial killings. Although that does not justify their actions but the security agents would have deployed a more intelligent strategy of figuring out criminal elements.

Where there is no justice you cannot expect peace and where people do not feel a sense of equity then conflict is inevitable. Conflicts hampers economic growth as there would be instability, insecurity and also discourages Foreign Direct Investments.

Promoting the rule of law is imperative to achieving peace and justice in Nigeria.

Insecurity in Nigeria: The security challenges in Nigeria have emanated from different factors ranging from ethno-religious conflicts, political based violence, Terrorism, kidnaping, banditry and killing of farmers by Fulani herdsmen. The activities of a terrorist group called 'Boko Haram' camping and operating majorly in the North Eastern region of Nigeria particularly; Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa have caused humanitarian crises in the region and occasionally wreaking havoc on some other states across the country.

These insurgents have terrorized Nigerians for over a decade now and have killed a large number of people. They had earlier made their stance known to the Federal Government of Nigeria concerning their struggles to Islamize Nigeria and they have temporarily conquered territories in the North Eastern part of Nigeria which were later recovered by the Nigerian Joint Task Force.

The damage these terrorists have caused to lives and livelihood over time has led to the spring up of camps for IDPs (Internally displaced Persons) in order to provide them with humanitarian aid. The numbers of IDPs in Nigeria is quite appalling of a country that is not at war. According to IOM round 33 report of Displacement Tracking Matrix presented the number of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) as 2,118,550. The report covers the period 27 July to 15 August 2020 and reflects inventory from the six most affected North-eastern states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe.

The 2021 Global Peace Index (GPI) has ranked Nigeria 146 among 163 independent nations and territories, according to its level of peacefulness. Nigeria moved one step from 147 in 2020, though it still ranked eighth among the least peaceful countries in Africa after South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Central African Republic, Sudan and Mali.

The kidnapping of people for ransom in virtually every state in Nigeria and the killing of farmers by Fulani herdsmen that have degenerated into issues that contemporarily threatens the unity of the Nation. This security challenges have truncated the peace of the nation which has limited its socio-economic development.

The Security agencies saddled with the responsibility of protecting lives and property in Nigeria have been working hard towards ensuring peace and stability but lack modern arms and ammunition to withstand the non-state actors.

The proliferation of drugs and arms in the country has facilitated the increase in insecurity. This social menace has triggered crime and violence of various magnitudes, thereby creating an insecure environment. A lot has to be done in the reorientation of the upcoming generation on the effect of drugs and the need to flee from it. Efforts have been made by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to break the supply chain of illicit drugs and apprehend the victims for the purpose of rehabilitation.

This social menace which has a great number of youth indulged in it is quite alarming since it implies an increase in the insecurity situation if the government does not take drastic measures in curbing the challenge.

"The chairman of the senate committee on Army in the person of Ali Ndume has alleged that the current administration is rationing ammunition by equipping soldiers fighting Boko Haram and Iswap insurgents as well as bandits with old weapons and that the only place he saw well kitted military men armed with new AK47 rifles in the country was in Abuja (FCT). He also lamented over the poor funding of the army and wondered why the Nigeria Army received only N30 billion out of the nation's 2021 budget of N13 trillion, describing it as unreasonable. Ali Ndume, had earlier said the money budgeted for the army's capital expenditure in 2021 shows that Nigeria is not serious about tackling insecurity". (Platinumpost.ng/2021/05/05).

Gender Equality – SDG 5

Women have been highly relegated to the background and have not been given equal opportunities as their male counterparts to explore their potentials for a higher productivity in Nigeria. This is a common phenomenon in Africa and especially in Nigeria where many are of the ideology that women are not supposed to aspire for great heights but should be content with little, as they would eventually be subjected to the will of their husbands and this explains why so many Nigerian women in the early Era did not attend school. Alita (2011) emphasize that parents prefer to send their sons to school instead of their daughters whom they feel will after, get married and thus get incorporated into another family.

This ideology has been promoted by religion, that a woman should not be a public figure but should be in charge of managing her home and raising the children by inculcating good morals in them. Women are seen as baby factories by some people where a woman can't determine how many children she wishes to have. Women sometimes don't have a voice and they live in depression and oppression and are made to understand that they must endure in their marriages. This has led to great deal of molestation and domestic violence and in some extreme cases their death by irresponsible Men.

Women in today's world are doing exploits and contributing tremendously to their Nation's GDP. Hence, women in Nigeria should not be relegated to the kitchen and procreation.

There is also the issue of gender inequality in employment or job placement. There are situations whereby the male gender would be preferred to oversee the affairs of an organization regardless of the potentials in the contending female counterpart.

Although, Nigerian women have occupied positions of power due to their wealth of knowledge and expertise. There are lots of un-utilized potentials in Nigerian women and they should be given the opportunity to explore them.

Table 1.1 Goal 5 Indicators and Targets

SDG Indicators	Baseline 2015	Derived (2020)Benchmark	2030 Target
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group.	33.5	20.4	0
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group.	34.9	23.2	0
Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 15. Child marriage is condemned world over as a result of several issues associate with it.	17.7	11.8	0
Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 18.	39.9	26.6	0
Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting by age group.	24.8	16.6	0
Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.	24.8	49.9	100
Percentage of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (Male).	78.1	85.4	100
Percentage of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (Female)	71.1	80.8	100
Proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone (Urban)	74	82.7	100
Proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone (Rural)	48.3	65.6	100

Source: NDHs 2013; MICS 2011; NARHS 2007 and Panel Survey (adopted: NVR 2017)

No Poverty and Zero Hunger – SDG 1&2

The poverty profile of Nigeria is 40% or 83 million people living below poverty line of \$1.90 per day according to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS 2020). Nigeria is the poorest country in the world and the government of Nigeria is pursuing strategies in alleviating poverty across the three tiers of government. The government has implemented a national Social Investment Programme which focuses on providing Social Safety Nets for the poor, welfare for the unemployed and job creation and skill enhancement programme.

“Lack of inclusive economic growth and jobs, insecure jobs and low wages, and limited livelihoods and opportunities, result in poverty and the inability to escape poverty”. (Haughton & Khandker, 2009; Handley et al., 2009; Shepherd, 2011; von Braun et al., 2009).

Access to improved water source is quite poor in Nigeria and therefore makes some fraction of the population vulnerable to water borne diseases. Medical bills, further impoverishes the poor as they pay out of their pockets for healthcare services.

Agricultural mechanization is partly the path towards having a better wellbeing and achieving zero hunger and reduced poverty in Nigeria considering the available land mass that supports agricultural productivity and the massive fraction of redundant work force available at a cheap cost for the production process. Bearing in mind that agriculture constitutes a large value chain that would eventually get a lot of

workforce on board is key to sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria. Mechanized Agriculture will curb the challenges of food security and poverty which has ravaged the country over time.

Nigeria already embarked on a review as far back as 2006 aimed at achieving “zero hunger” target and provide nutritious food to its teeming population. Undernourishment prevalence reflects the fact some 25.5% of the population was lacking adequate and improved nutrition. Food insecurity experience scale stood at 26.4% based on data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

Huge resources have been invested by the government to set up irrigation sites for farmers in order to provide the platform for cultivation of agricultural products all year round.

Reduced Inequality – SDG 10

Inequality occurs virtually everywhere in the globe and is not just peculiar to Nigeria. Is a global phenomenon which is systemic in nature but has local drivers. There are several factors that have contributed to the level of inequality in Nigeria ranging from gender, generational or historic factors, religion, income level, physical challenges, health status etc.

Inequality is a problem in itself but also a challenge to the eradication of extreme poverty (and fulfillment to the SDGs, and prior to this, the MDGs) (UNICEF et al., 2014; Kabere, 2010). Inequality is important to poverty because the relative position of individuals or households in society is considered an important aspect of their welfare (Coudouel et al., 2002). There are heated debates about whether efforts to reduce poverty can be successful without addressing inequality (UNICEF & UN Women, 2013) or whether these merely address the symptoms but not the cause.

There is a consensus in literature that inequality tends to reduce the pace and durability of growth (Ostry et al., 2014).

“Unequal power is found to lead to the formation of institutions that perpetuate inequalities in power, status and wealth, which typically are also bad for the investment, innovation, and risk-taking that underpin long-term growth” (World Bank, 2006).

Inequalities have also been to undermine social cohesion (UNDP, 2013). Research indicates that the presence of large horizontal inequalities, which are economic, social, political and cultural status inequalities among salient identity groups, are especially likely to increase the risk of violent conflict (Stewart, 2010). Thus inequalities can prevent the reduction of poverty and can increase political and social tensions (Poverty Analysis Discussion Group, 2012).

The level of nepotism and favoritism exhibited in both public and private sectors have not given room for merit but preference based on identity which is a form of inequality is very alarming in Nigeria and limits access to opportunities and rewards which is based on the premise of “where you come from” and “who you now,” has made for inefficiency in the system, created hatred, violent conflict, unequal distribution of resources, exclusion, quest for secession etc.

Regional marginalization is a form of inequality that poses threat to Nigeria’s unity as it sets out to favour and patronize certain regions across the country and have become obvious in the uneven development across board.

Where there is high level of inequality there is also a high tendency for political instability, high level of crime, high level of injustice and lack of confidence in the leadership.

The taxation system in Nigeria which is a retrogressive tax favours the affluent over the poor. A situation whereby the poor are taxed heavily and the rich are taxed lightly. Small and Medium Enterprises in the informal sector are sometimes faced with multiple taxation and in some cases accompanied by human rights violation.

According to Oxfam’s calculations, the amount of money that the richest Nigerian man can earn annually from his wealth is sufficient to lift 2 million people out of poverty for one year. Lifting all Nigerian people living below the extreme poverty line of \$1.90 out of poverty for one year will cost about \$24 billion. This amount of money is just lower than the total wealth owned overall by the five richest Nigerians in 2016, which was equal to \$29.9 billion.

Quality Education – SDG 4

Education is a vital sustainable development goal and Nigeria is lagging behind as access to quality education is mostly expensive and hence can only be accessed by a few that can afford the cost. The estimated figure of out of school children is 10,193,918 which is alarming. Nigeria has the highest number of out of school children in the Sub-Sahara Africa according to the Minister of State, Education Mr Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba during the inauguration of “Better Education Service Delivery For All (BESDA)” in Katsina. (By Agency Report June 29, 2021).

The challenges of socio-economic sustainable development in Nigeria come with not just having access to education but access to quality education. The access to education is expected to be inclusive irrespective of

gender and physical challenges. The education system should incorporate vocational skills that are capable of creating wealth and reducing poverty.

There has been the challenge of underfunding of educational sector by the government of Nigeria which is weigh below the UNESCO recommendation of 15% - 26% of the National Budget. In 2018 it was 7%, in 2020 it was reduced to 6.7% while in the year 2021 it dropped to 6.3%. This shows the level of priority that is given to education in a country where its population growth is exponential and the level of illiteracy is alarming.

The universal basic education has tried to provide the basic primary and junior secondary school education to Nigerians for free and has also established a National education policy to promote the Right of the “Girl Child” education in Nigeria.

The learning environment is not conducive in most cases as the infrastructures are inadequate and dilapidated in some cases while in some extreme cases students learn out doors at the peril of sun and rain.

An uneducated set of people are highly vulnerable socially as they can easily be manipulated to execute mischievous acts or social crime. This has led to the insecurity in Nigeria as some of them indulge in social vices and sharp practices like snatching of ballot boxes at election polls, vote buying, political killings and other social problems that have badly reformed the country’s polity.

Lack of access to quality education increases the level of impoverishment to some extent. Some public schools are in shambles and this act is perceived to be deliberate while private schools thrive, thereby deepening the gap in the quality of education between the “have” and the “have not”. In recent time the tuition fee of public tertiary institutions in Nigeria has been on the increase thereby depriving access due to inability to pay the cost. This trend cannot bring about sustainable development in Nigeria but rather a time bomb to the socio-economic system.

The standard of education in Nigeria has been affected by “sorting” (.ie sharp practices of giving something in exchange for academic points), examination malpractice, and inadequate teaching aids. These anomalies have affected the educational standard and impeded the supposed development that comes with education.

Table 1.2: Select Goal 4 Indicators and Targets

SDG Indicators	Baseline 2015	Derived (2020)Benchmark	2030 Target
Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in Health	Male 93.5 Female 93.1	Male 95.6 Female 95.4	100 100
Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in learning	Male 77.4 Female 79.2	Male 84.9 Female 86	100 100
Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on psychosocial well-being	Male 63.8 Female 66.1	Male 75.9 Female 77.4	100 100
Participation rate of youth and adults in formal education and training in the last 12 months	Male 51.6 Female 48.5	Male 66.4 Female 65.7	100 100
Participation rate of youth and adults in non-formal education and training in the last 12 months	Male 49 Female 51	Male 66 Female 74	100 100

Source: NBS – MICS 2011 and Youth Survey 2012 (adopted: NVR 2017)

Good Health and Well-being – SDG 3: The barriers to quality healthcare can be viewed from four perspectives namely; financial barrier (affordability or cost), physical barrier (distance or topography), cultural barrier (purdah system i.e wife seclusion in the Northern part of Nigeria), communication (relationship). Barriers to accessing quality healthcare can result to high infant mortality, child and maternal mortality, and high death rate.

In Nigeria about 90% of its population does not have Health insurance cover and hence, find it difficult to afford secondary and tertiary health care services given the poverty index rating of the Nation. This speaks volume and gives explanation to the social vices that has degenerated from financial hardship when people take out of their pockets to pay for costly health care services. This makes people vulnerable to crime in a bid to meet up with health care bills and also impoverishes them as well when the bills are exorbitant.

Social and financial risk protection for the poor and vulnerable population is a major challenge in the access to quality health care in Nigeria. There are several definitions of social protection. A definition from the health point of view, social protection is defined as programmes and measures aimed at eliminating financial

barriers preventing access to health care services and protecting poor and vulnerable populations from the impoverishing effects of medical expenditures. Financial risk protection is a key component of universal health coverage (UHC) and the health system goal of ensuring access to quality health care services without suffering financial hardship.

Social and financial risk protection can be provided through programmes and measures that are embedded in legislation. Lack of social and financial risk protection lead to high level of impoverishment, and inequality in healthcare.

Due to this enormous challenge in accessing quality health care by the poor and vulnerable population, Nigeria has made several attempts at implementing legislation on health insurance since 1960 until the establishment of NHIS in 1999 but was eventually launched in 2005.

The scope of the NHIS does not capture the poorest of the poor. Hence the scheme is insubstantial in handling the challenges of social and financial risk as well as public health challenges especially of the vulnerable.

It has become obvious that we are lagging behind in terms of using more technologically sophisticated medical facilities for diagnoses and healthcare which has prompted the affluent to travel abroad in a bid to receive optimal medical attention. This is quite worrisome because if the government provides sufficient funds for the procurement of these sophisticated medical facilities there would be no need to embark on medical tours outside the shores of Nigeria.

Nigeria has very robust human resource in the Medical field. These health personnel tend to migrate to other nations where they would get more value for their expertise leading to brain drain in their home country. The presence of these medical experts in Nigeria would have translated to a better access to quality healthcare in terms of doctor to patient ratio as well as presence of more experts in the country.

Table 1.3: Goal 3 Indicators and Targets

SDG Indicators	Baseline 2015	Derived (2020)Benchmark	2030 Target
Proportion of births attended by skilled health Personnel	59	72	100
Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	89	68	25
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	37	29	12
New HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population	264	176	0
Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 persons per year (Male)	12	8	0
Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 persons per year (Female)	8	5	0
Malaria incidence per 1,000 population per year (Male)	99	66	0
Malaria incidence per 1,000 population per year (Female)	99	66	0
Number of new hepatitis B infections per 100,000 population in a given year	0.01	0.05	0
The prevalence of hepatitis B infections in the female population per 100,000 in Nigeria in 2015	0.09	0.062	0
Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (Male)	15,000,034	10,004,806	0
Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (Female)	15,007,209	10,004,806	0
Mortality of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (Male).	159	141	106
Mortality of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (Female).	129	115	88
Suicide mortality rate (Male)	246	219	164
Suicide mortality rate (Female)	128	113	85.34
Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders (Male)	443	295	0
Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders (Female)	591	394	0
Number of road traffic fatal injury deaths within 30 days, per	4,245	3,538	2,122.50

100,000 population (age standardized) Male.			
Number of road traffic fatal injury deaths within 30 days, per 100,000 population (age standardized) Female.	1,195	996	597.55
Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods.	78%	85%	100%
Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene by sex and year (Male)	335	223	0
Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene by sex and year (Female)	382	255	0

Source: NBS SDGs 2016 and MDGs 2015 (adopted: NVR 2017)

Decent work and Economic growth – SDG 8

This is the Sustainable development goal 8. The essence of this goal is to promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. This would encourage entrepreneurship and job creation which are effective measures that would likely eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking.

Apparently the goal of achieving full and productive employment, and decent work, for all men and women in Nigeria by the year 2030 is not feasible. People that are employed still live below the poverty line with very poor working conditions. Some organizations do not take the social welfare of their employees into cognizance with working hours that are not commensurate with their pay.

Some people engage in indecent work like human trafficking which is a form of modern day slavery. Nigeria remains a source, transit and destination country when it comes to human trafficking. See, 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report. Per the latest Global Slavery Index (2018) Report, Nigeria ranks 32/167 of the countries with the highest number of slaves-1,386,000

Although, the economic growth of Nigeria has been unstable over time but has been the leading African economy and ranked 27th in the world in terms of nominal GDP. The level of poverty amongst the working class despite the buoyancy of the economy is an indication that the labour force is underpaid. It goes further to buttress the level of unemployment in the country and also exhibits an economy that is non-inclusive.

The high rate of unemployment has facilitated the indulgence of people in indecent work and has affected economic growth and development. One of the prevalent indecent jobs currently in Nigeria is kidnapping which has contributed to the already existing security challenges so far.

Nigeria's informal economy is one of the largest on the continent - estimated at 53% of the labour force and accounting for 65% of GDP.

The level of youth unemployment and underemployment combined is estimated at 55.4%. This is the youth bulge that is required to build the skills necessary to drift to a secure and less precarious form of employment. This can be achievable if youth are given the required education and training to transit to a digital economy to make for a productive employment that can help reduce poverty and also diversify economic growth beyond dependence on oil and gas.

Unemployment / Low Human Capacity Building (Low Skills Acquisition and Empowerment): Nigeria acknowledges that the high unemployment rate amongst Youth is a deterrent to the overall economic growth. The Youth unemployment rate constitute of about 42.5% which is alarming. Despite the efforts made by the current administration in defining key policies on “Job creation and Youth Empowerment” within the Nigeria’s Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (NERGP). The policy aim to reduce unemployment from 13.9% (Q3 2016) to 11.23% by 2020 by creating over 15 million direct jobs between 2017 and 2020 or an average of 3.75 million jobs per year. This was a good policy that was not achieved as the current unemployment rate is at 33.3%. Much has been done in the area of skills acquisition by the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari. In 2016 same Government announced plans to train 370,000 artisans for work in the industry through the Construction Skills Training and Empowerment Programme which is run by construction consultancy J Hausen Nigeria. Much needs to be done in the area of implementing human capacity building to lift a lot of people out of poverty beyond mere policies and programs. Low human capacity building is majorly the cause of increased unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. More attention is given to the formal education than building human capacity that involves engaging in vocational training. Part of what is needed for Nigeria to have a sustainable economy is skills acquisition.

It is the inherent nature of man to be willing to pay for services that would satisfy his demands. For cash to flow from one hand to another there is a need to be able to meet demand. Meeting demand as regards innovations, manufacturing, and services comes with a great deal of skills. A person that is skillful would barely be redundant. Being skillful comes with a high level of self-reliance. In a Nation like Nigeria where poverty rate

and dependency ratio is very high, skill acquisition would put that challenge in check and make for a prosperous living. It would also go a long way to abate crime and societal vices. Giving people a focus in life through skill acquisition would help curb a lot of menace in the society. There is a need for this to be effectively incorporated into the educational curriculum as well. Both the literates and the illiterates need to acquire skills. Nigeria is a Nation that does more of consumption than production which can be attributed to lack of skills or technical know-how.

Most of our natural resources and agricultural produce are exported in their crude form to other countries that are more advanced in their line of thought and technology where these produce/natural resources are refined or processed into finished products and are eventually imported back into Nigeria at a higher cost simply because such countries have the skills to add value to products. This strategy has been adopted by developed nations of the world as a great means of economic exploitation of developing nations like Nigeria over the years.

Considering the level of Modernization, Civilization and Technological advancement, more skillful workforce is demanded globally and Nigeria is not an exception. Hence, the skillful tend to have greater job opportunities. This translates to the fact that a fraction of the population of Nigeria is unemployable. Some Nigerians in the work force category have lost certain job opportunities as they are tagged “unemployable” due to lack of the requirements or technical skills. It is quite okay to give concession to skilled workers over the unskilled but also imperative to make the unskilled to be skillful. Skill acquisition and empowerment enhances self-reliance which is very important in today’s Nigeria. It does not make any sense to demand for years of experience in recruitment processes when no opportunity has ever been granted to such an individual to work for any organization since after graduation hence, keeping up with this norm makes the system very unsustainable.

The challenge with vocational training in Nigeria is not just funding source, as the government source its funding from Industrial Training Fund (ITF). Even if increased funding can be secured and industry participation in training incentivized, important cultural and administrative changes remain.

“On the government side, there is no blueprint for skills training and no research to determine what the market needs now and in the future to allow intelligent investment of government funds, Chukwuemeka told Oxford Business Group (OBG). Until that happens, the status quo is likely to remain”.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN PROMOTING SDGs IN NIGERIA

There have been several Policies and programs by the government of Nigeria to alleviate poverty, reduce hunger and create employment. Social inclusion and human development are enshrined in the Nigeria government policies and programs. The government of Nigeria in recent time has exerted much effort to align national planning to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its bid to domesticate the SDGs in Nigeria. This has commenced with an ongoing realignment of the National Statistical System (NSS) with the requirements and indicators of the SDGs. The Nigeria government has also deemed it fit to develop its home-grown “Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (ISDG Model) which is an analytical frame work for assessing how policy making can better address the indivisible nature of the SDGs. The Nigeria’s 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals focuses on the key issues of poverty (SDG-1) and an inclusive economy (SDG-8), health and wellbeing (SDG-3), Education (SDG-4), Gender equality (SDG-5) and the enabling environment of peace and security (SDG-16), and partnerships (SDG-17). This focus is based on the development objectives of the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

Nigeria’s 2017 VNR enlisted the institutional dimensions for creating an enabling policy environment for the implementation of the SDGs through its Economic and Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017 – 2020). The ERGP’s has its focus on economic, social and environmental dimensions of development which makes it conform to the aspirations of the SDGs.

The Social Investment Program (SIP) is a key empowerment scheme of the President Muhammadu Buhari led administration introduced in 2016 aimed at the poor, unemployed, and disenfranchised Nigerians. According to the minister of Finance N400 billion will go directly to the programme while N365 billion will go into “upscaling the programme”. The Social Investment Programme in the form of conditional cash transfer of 5,000 naira to selected households deemed to be poor and vulnerable on a monthly basis has been very helpful and has provided succor to the beneficiaries but not a suitable mechanism to alleviate poverty both in the short and long run; The programme also include N-Power for unemployed graduates; Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) for small and micro businesses which was launched to offer interest and collateral free credit to the millions of Micro SMEs (MSMEs) operating at the bottom of the Nigerian economic pyramid. The program has leveraged on three loan products, so far, to support small to medium scale businesses. The current loan products for the programme are: MarketMoni, TraderMoni and FarmerMoni and lastly, National Home Grown School Feeding Programme for public primary school pupils.

The anchor borrower's program is a Central Bank of Nigeria Initiative designed to lift thousands of small scale farmers from poverty and generate millions of jobs for Nigerians that are unemployed. The essence is to compliment the Growth Enhancement Support (GES) Scheme of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture by graduating GES farmers from subsistence farming to commercial production.

VI. CONCLUSION

Having, investigated the socio-economic challenges of Sustainable Development in Nigeria and the need for human development, social inclusion and public policies in actualizing the Sustainable Development Goals, by the year 2030. Research shows that the underlying factors responsible for the socio-economic challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria are population explosion, scarcity of resources induced by corruption, and greed which have a linear relationship that begets other social and economic challenges that have been ravaging Nigeria. The Humanitarian crisis is so devastating for a country not in war. The over 40% of Nigerians living below poverty line gives explanation for the high rate of crime and other social vices. There are several limitations in government implementation of policies/programs that promote development planning as this has been suppressed by unscrupulous officials who are involved in the process. Transparency and accountability are serious challenges when it comes to implementation of development plan in Nigeria.

There is a need for sincerity of purpose on the part of the leadership which is the basis upon which confidence is built by the citizens in the incorporation of human development and social inclusion in policy making which enhances the standard of living of people as development is about people.

In my opinion there is limited sensitization and advocacy for the SDG. If the sensitization were to be enough the issue of police brutality, corruption and injustice would have been put in check and other irregularities in public sector significantly reduced or eradicated absolutely but that is not the case apparently.

Sensitization and advocacy is highly imperative beyond providing a Social safety net. Orientation and reorientation is required. Until we learn to sanction government officials that violate human right and are optimistic about creating strong institutions we might just be revolving around same spot of making policies that cannot change the status quo.

Bearing in mind that a long-term plan is required to actualize the SDGs, some of the past leaders of Nigeria have failed to put the Country on the path of sustainability. Sustainability is actually common sense. Patriotism is what they preach but do not do. There is no cohesion amongst Nigerians as "a people".

Nigeria is more of a consuming Nation than a producing Nation which is due to certain factors that do not motivate productivity and production like multiple tax, erratic power supply, and interest on borrowed money by commercial banks which is at double digit, hence reducing business expansion.

There have been several development planning in the past such as the Colonial Development Plan (1958-1968), Structural Adjustment Programme; the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS); the strategy for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 7-point and Transformation Agendas were not effectively implemented. The weak or poor implementation of these strategic development initiatives explains why Nigeria keeps moving back and forth on the matter of development Plan which has impeded growth and development. In addition, the limited political will also contributed to under-achievements.

Faced with this inconsistent development planning, Nigeria has adopted a long-term approach to development planning and has set for itself a target of being among the 20 top economies of the world by the year 2020, hence, the development of the Vision 20:2020. Despite the fact that giant strides have been made to ensuring the vision come true, the vision was eventually not achieved.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

1. The rule of law is imperative for achieving sustainable democratic society and hence the rule of law should be upheld, and ensuring that citizens get justice, equity and fairness and the need for occasional review of the constitution in a manner that is appealing and benefiting to the citizenry. This gives people a sense of inclusiveness and reasons to be law abiding and peaceful.
2. The major factor impeding sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria is corruption and bad governance. This phenomenon has bedevilled the country for a long time and this is quite worrisome. There should be stiff penalty for public treasury looters and the need for a public private partnership in the development of National projects as this will boycott unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks that could delay development of projects for public benefit.
3. There should be a review of the monetary policy that would allow borrowing by entrepreneurs from commercial banks be reduced to single digit. This would expand businesses and also increase GDP as well as provide more jobs that would increase per capita income.
4. The government plays a major role in promoting the ease of doing business which is embedded in policy making. This will determine the level of Foreign Direct Investment in a country. The issue of

infrastructure especially power supply challenge should have a lasting solution and insecurity challenge should be tackled to the barest minimum for investors to be attracted or motivated to invest in the country so as to increase economic growth and development.

5. There is a need to promote vocational education by creating functional vocational centres across the entire states in the country for skill acquisition in several fields in order to promote self-reliance and wealth creation that would translate to both increase in GDP and Per capita income.

6. It is imperative to fully imbibe digital economy for a country with large population of young people that are creative as it gives room for larger market network to link and partner with investors on a global level with little or no barrier to business transactions.

7. Endeavours should be made towards reducing inequality of any kind and a situation whereby job placement and other benefits are based on merit. This raises the level of confidence by citizens for their leaders and exhibits sincerity of purpose.

8. It is imperative to add value to our agricultural produce and natural resources especially oil instead of exporting them to other countries for processing or refining and later importing them back in their refined form into Nigeria for consumption. This phenomenon has affected the supposed level of Nigeria's GDP, and promoted high level of corruption amongst independent oil marketers. Establishing home based refinery would increase job opportunities and save the government a huge cost.

9. Education is the bedrock for development, hence government should make education cheap at tertiary level in order not to tactically deprive the poor and vulnerable of access.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European parliament, The European Economic and Social committee and the committee of the regions. ("The role of e-government for Europe's future" 2003)
- [2]. <https://www.informationng.com/2021/04/ndume-nigeria-not-serious-about-fighting-insecurity-with-n29bn-capital-budget-for-army.html>
- [3]. <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/analysis/extra-credit-vocational-training-be-key-meeting-labour-market-needs>.
- [4]. <https://platinumpost.ng/2021/05/05/buhari-govt-supplying-old-weapons-to-fight-boko-haram-gives-new-ak47-rifles-to-soldiers-in-fct-apc-senator/>
- [5]. Investing in Family Planning to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria (S. Pappa et al., 2017)
- [6]. Implementation of the SDGs ("A National Voluntary Review" 2017)
- [7]. Inequality in Nigeria "Exploring the drivers" (Oxam International, 2017)
- [8]. Influence of Political stability on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (Z. Momoh, 2015)
- [9]. Nigeria's path to Sustainable Development through green economy. (Country Report to the Rio+ Summit. June 2012.)
- [10]. Poverty and Inequality (B. Rohwerder 2016)
- [11]. Redistribution, Inequality, and Growth (Ostry et al., 2014)
- [12]. Sustainable development (1987-2005): an oxymoron comes of age (M. Redclift, 2005)
- [13]. Social Dimension of Sustainable Development: Guidance and Application (Benaim & Raftis 2008)
- [14]. Social Exclusion: Concept, Application, and Scrutiny (Sen, 2000)
- [15]. Tackling poverty in multiple dimensions: A proving ground in Nigeria? (J. Lain & T. Vishwanath)
- [16]. The Issue of Gender Inequality in Nigeria (L. Anyalebechi, 2016)

Michael Ajeni Obute. "Socio-Economic Challenges Of Sustainable Development In Nigeria And The Need For Human Development, Social Inclusion And Government Policies/Programs In Actualizing Sustainable Development Goals By The Year 2030.." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 26(11), 2021, pp. 26-39.