

Poverty in Northern Nigeria

Gabriel Terwase Ngbea¹ and Hilary Chukwuka Achunike²

²Department of Religion and Cultural studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Nigeria Nsukka,
Enugu State, Nigeria.
Email: gabbypush {at} yahoo.com

²Department of Religion and Cultural studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Nigeria Nsukka,
Enugu State, Nigeria.
Email: frachunike {at} yahoo.com

ABSTRACT---- *Poverty is a major social problem in Nigeria. Poverty in Nigeria remains significant despite Nigeria's high economic growth. Nigerians rank among the lowest income earners in the world. Despite the fact that associated poverty carried some associated similarities locally and internationally, there is always a differing measure of yardstick. Locally in Nigeria, the northern region is considered to be poorer as compared to other parts of the country. The thrust of this paper is to x-ray poverty in Nigeria with particular focus to the North using the almajiris as a tool. The methodology employed is the use of secondary sources and observation since the authors have fair experience of the area. After taking a look at the causes and effects of poverty in Northern Nigeria, the paper suggested ways of tackling poverty in Northern Nigeria with the conclusion that every part of the country is rich. Poor management of God given resources, bad governance and corruption are responsible for the present state of the country and the North in particular. There is need for the north to take proactive measures to tackle poverty in partnership with the government and non-governmental organisations.*

Keywords---- Poverty, Northern Nigeria, Almajiri

1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty in Nigeria remains significant despite high economic growth, it first started sometime during the British Empire. Nigeria has one of the world's highest economic growth rates (averaging 7.4% over the last decade), a well-developed economy, and plenty of natural resources such as oil. However, it retains a high level of poverty, with 63% of its population living on below \$1 daily, implying a decline in equity (Wikipedia, 2012).

Nigeria has a population of over 150 million – the largest in Africa and a fast growing economy. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, contributing about 45 percent of GDP. Yet it is a food-deficit nation and imports large amount of grains, livestock products and fish. Despite Nigeria's plentiful agricultural resources and oil wealth, poverty is widespread in the country and has increased since the late 1990s. Over 70 percent of Nigerians are now classified as poor, and 35 percent of them live in absolute poverty (Portal, 2012).

In the last few decades, poverty has become pervasive in Nigeria; the country has slipped from a buoyant and up-coming economy to rank, according to the British Department for International Development, among the poorest 20 countries in the world. It is something of a paradox that a country recognized as one of the richest in human and material resources in Africa and indeed the whole world, finds itself in this rather inglorious position. Since the early 1970s Nigeria has ranked as the sixth largest producer of crude petroleum. The country has earned billions of dollars from the export of the product. Nigerians and the rest of the world hoped that with such enormous resources it would be possible for the country to "take off" and achieve rapid economic and industrial transformations. But this was not to be. Through a combination of mismanagement, poor leadership and incredible level of corruption on the part of public officials, Nigeria's fortune is squandered or siphoned (Edoh, 2003).

Despite the fact that associated poverty carried some associated similarities locally and internationally there existed a differing measure of yardstick. Internationally the combinations of major African nations are rated as most

devastated while parts of Asia and North American countries follow. Locally, Nigeria Northern region is characterized as more ravaged compared to other parts of the country (Auwal, 2012).

The English word “poverty” came from the Latin pauper “poor”, via Anglo-Norman poverty. There are several definitions of poverty depending on the context of the situation it is placed in and views of the person giving the definition. Wikipedia (2012) According to the free encyclopaedia:

Poverty is the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. Absolute poverty or destitution refers to the one who lacks basic human needs, which commonly includes clean and fresh water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter. About 1.7 billion people are estimated to live in absolute poverty today. Relative poverty refers to lacking a usual or socially acceptable level of resources or income as compared with others within a society or a country (Wikipedia 2012,1).

The United Nations defines poverty as;

A denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed or cloth a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one’s food or a job to earn one’s living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness, and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation (United Nations, 2011, 2).

The above definition from the United Nations, agrees with Kankwenda’s words as quoted by Alimeka, which looked at poverty as multidimensional phenomenon that is both a state and process. “Poverty is ... a state of deprivation or denial of the basic choices and opportunities needed to enjoy a decent steward of living; to live a long, healthy constructive life and to participate in cultural life of the community”. (Kankwenda, 2002:64)

The above bears a striking resemblance with the characterization of phenomenon of poverty by the World Bank and the Copenhagen Declaration of 1995. According to World Bank;

Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better ones life (World Bank, 2012, 3).

The Copenhagen Declaration of 1995 asserted that:

Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods: hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments, social discriminations and exclusion. It is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision and in civil, social and cultural life (Alimeka, 2001, 3).

Apart from material poverty, we have another form of poverty known as poverty of the mind. Any human defect associated with the mind is a form of poverty of the mind or a deterioration of the mind. To say that all riches depend on the richness of the mind is a truism. Lack or absence of whatever is needed for any reason or purpose is normally considered as poverty. Disease, illness and ill treatment may remove human qualities from human beings and consequently dehumanize them, but the most powerful single dehumanizing factor is the poverty of the mind. It prevents the acquisition of every positive ability, quality, skill and knowledge for development and progress (Tarbo, 2005).

The lesson from the preceding is that, poverty in Nigeria as indeed elsewhere must be defined in both its manifestive and consequential characteristics. It is against the above background that we can now meaningfully examine the incidence of poverty in Nigeria with particular reference to the North.

2. POVERTY IN NIGERIA

Poverty is very real in Nigeria and over the last ten years, the quality of life of the average Nigerian citizen has progressively nose-dived. Available statistics indicate glaringly how precarious life has become for the average Nigerian citizen over the years in the face of suffocating levels of poverty.

The Nigerian situation becomes more pathetic when comparisons are made with other less endowed developing countries in Africa and other parts of the third world. Findings by Obadan and Odusola (2001) show for example, “that Nigeria’s per capita income of \$240 in 1990 was well below the average of over \$500 for sub-Saharan Africa. The figure for Nigeria was well below that of Bostwana (\$3,210), Cote d’Ivoire (\$6,600), Egypt (\$1,080), South Africa (\$3,500), Mauritius (\$3,710)”. (Obadan and Odusola, 2001:8) When juxtaposed against statistics from Latin America and Asian States, dynamics of poverty in Nigeria become even more potently obvious. The country’s \$240 per capita in 1990 poles before the \$4,400 for Brazil and \$10,610 for South Korea.

The severity of poverty in Nigeria is equally glaring when other indicators of services and development are considered. A tabulation of life expectancy of Nigerians, population per doctor, population per hospital bed and the rate of infant mortality demonstrates the pathetic conditions in which citizens find themselves in the country. Studies and reports (from World Bank, 1996 UNDP 1997 Ogwumike 1997, and Vision 2010) have demonstrated how low Nigerians rank in terms of access to electricity, safe drinking water, adequate housing, sufficient calories intake etc. The Vision 2010 Committee Report showed that:

- 50% of Nigerians live below the poverty line.
- Only about 40% have access to safe drinking water.
- About 85% of the urban population live in single rooms with more than 7 occupants of the average.
- Only about 62% of Nigerians have access to Primary Healthcare.
- Most Nigerians take less than one third of the minimum required protein and vitamins. Report 2010 Committee; (Alimeka, 2001:7)

Statistics appear to grossly under-estimate the immensity of poverty that defines Nigeria's paradox of rich country with poor masses. These realities are much more obvious in rural areas and slums. In these places, people die because they cannot afford ₦500 to purchase needed medication or basic public healthcare. Worse still, people around may not be able to help as they too may not be able to collectively raise the needed amount of money. It is a very obvious reality in today's Nigeria! As strange as it may sound, this is going on side by side with ostentatious living by the one percent of the population. Even official statistics admit that over 12 million Nigerians live on less than \$1.00 US dollar a day.

A factual indicator is the result of the harmonized Nigeria living standards survey conducted by the non-partisan National Bureau of Statistics which puts the Nigerian poverty profile at 69 percent. This indicates that poverty and income inequality in the country have increased since 2003/2004. Accordingly, the NBS estimated that this trend may rise further if the potential positive impact of several anti-poverty and employment generation intervention programmes of government falls through. The report reveals that 112.47 million Nigerian live below US \$1.00 per day and as a result could barely afford the minimal standards of food, clothing, healthcare, and shelter (Olufemi, 2012).

3. POVERTY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Each time poverty is mentioned in Nigeria, everybody's mind readily moves to the Northern part of the country where there is high level of illiteracy and child destitution. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released the harmonized Nigeria living standard survey for 2009/10 known as – the Nigerian Poverty Profile 2010. The survey was done with the support from the World Bank, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFIDUK) and UNICEF.

The northern states of Nigeria, in this domestic report, scored badly and accounted for the large population of the citizens living in poverty in Nigeria. On a geo-political assessment, the North West has 77.7% of its population living in relative poverty while the North East came second with 76.3% of its population living in relative poverty. The North Central States has 67.5% of its population living in relative poverty (Dodo, 2012). Recently, former US president Bill Clinton said poverty is fuelling the religious violence in Nigeria. In a speech in Lagos, Clinton reportedly said the Northern part of Nigeria remains one of the poorest in the country and suggested more direct investment and opportunities for those in the North. His comments followed a report by the Nigerian Government which maintains that poverty continues to rise.

The National Bureau of Statistics said 61 percent of Nigerians lived on less than \$1 per day in 2010 compared to 51 percent in 2004. Poverty in Nigeria is the result of corruption and the inequitable distribution of the country's oil wealth. Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil producer, pumping more than two-million barrels of crude oil per day, but corruption has deprived many ordinary Nigerians from sharing in the country's wealth.

In an interview with Voice of America (VOA) (2012) Mato pointed out that other factors have also contributed to the disparity between the North and the South. In Nigeria, there is very sharp dichotomy between the northern and southern parts of the country. The north is more in numbers, but then the level of education of the people of Nigeria of northern extraction is far below the level of education that people of the southern part of the country have. He also blamed colonialism for the economic disparity between northern and southern Nigeria. What the colonial masters did was to create a more economic class in the southern part of the country and creating a political class of people who took over administration in the northern part of Nigeria. This basically was a fault line that was created by colonial administration and it has been expanded upon overtime to the extent that the level of mass poverty in the North is endemic, while it is less in the Southern part of the country (Butty, VOA, 03/02/2012, 7pm).

Most Nigerians agree that the current insecurity is worsened or aided by the high level of poverty in the northern part of the country. Commenting on the terrorist group (*Boko haram*) in relation to poverty, United States Assistant

Secretary of State for African Affairs, Ambassador Johnnie Carson maintained that; we continue to see *Boko haram* as a serious domestic threat to stability in northern Nigeria. With respect to *Boko haram*, we have also said very clearly that we see the solution to this problem as both a security and a socio-economic issue. There has to be a sound security strategy, but there also has to be a sound socio-economic strategy to address the enormous poverty which exists in Northern Nigeria. Both have to go hand in hand (Carson, 2012, 5).

4. ALMAJIRI AND POVERTY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

The term *Almajiri* (singular) is derived from the Arabic word ‘*Al-muhaajirun*’ which is by inference, a learned *ulama* who propagates the peaceful course of Islam. But the *Almajiri* concept has since outlived its purpose in Nigeria and has become a breeding ground for child begging and potential terrorist’s camps in Nigeria. The pupils who are meant to be trained to emerge as *ulamas* have had to struggle to cater for themselves through begging rather than learning under the watch of the semi-literate *Quranic* teacher or *mallams* who themselves lack the requisite support, and use the system as a means of living rather than a way of life. The *Almajiri* system typifies child abuse, social exclusion and chronic poverty in all ramifications (Ra-ah, 2013).

There are over 15 million destitute in Nigeria whose number is greater than the population of Togo, Sierra Leon, the Gambia and Liberia put together. More than half of these number, which constitute mostly children live in Northern Nigeria. The National Council for the Welfare of Destitute (NCWD) puts the current population of the *Almajiris* at about 7 million (Ra-ah, 2013). One can imagine 7 million potential judges, accountants, engineers, lawyers, medical doctors etc being wasted away. It is very obvious that the northerners and the parents of the street children have abdicated their obligations of properly caring for and educating their children. The *almajiris* have now become so ubiquitous in almost all the nook and cranny of the northern states of Nigeria. Abdulqadir(2013).

The *almajiris* are sent off mostly from rural areas by their ignorant parents between the ages of 6 - 12 to the cities without provision to study Holy Quran, under harsh and despicable conditions. Apart from roaming the streets with cups and begging while dressed in rags, scavenging on food remnants, the children are involved in different types of work without any clear pattern, and live under bridges, motor parks, mosques, market stalls, or with families. This makes them vulnerable to different kinds of health, physical and psychological hazards (Bala, 2013).

The *almajiri* system in Northern Nigeria has long outlived the purpose it was earlier set to accomplish. Instead of being a breeding ground for the learned *ulamas* who are the torch bearers of Islam as a religion, it has unfortunately become one of the major causes of poverty in Northern Nigeria and a veritable avenue for the mass production of miscreants, thugs and vagabonds. Inuwa (2013) As a beneficiary and product of the *almajiri* system argues that the solutions proffered so far about the *almajiri* seem to localise the issue to northern Nigeria alone. The international dimension of the problem according to him has never been given serious thought and recognition despite the fact that most of the *almajiris* are coming from neighbouring countries, notably Niger republic, Mali, and far flung countries like Senegal.

5. CAUSES OF POVERTY IN NIGERIA

Most analysts agree that like the phenomenon itself, the causes of poverty in Nigeria are multidimensional. Economists have for example zeroed on both macro and micro factors as the culprits. The latter include declining productivity growth of the nation’s economy, inflation, low utilization of industrial capacities etc. (Edoh, 2003).

However, to concentrate on or emphasize economic variables alone is to miss the dynamics of the problem. The economic variables in the case of Nigeria must be taken together with a host of other social, political and cultural factors. Against this background we identify the following as some of the causes of poverty in Nigeria.

5.1 Income Inequality

Income inequality worsened from 0.43 to 0.49 between 2004 and 2009. This is correlated with differential access to infrastructure and amenities. In particular, there are more rural poor than urban poor. This results from the composition of Nigeria’s economy, especially the energy (oil) and agriculture sectors. Oil exports contribute significantly to government revenues and about 15% of GDP, despite employing only a fraction of the population. Agriculture, however, contributes to about 45% of GDP, and employs close to 90% of the rural population.

5.2 Ethnic and Civil Unrests

Nigeria has historically experienced much ethnic conflicts. With the return to civilian rule in 1999, militants from religious and ethnic groups have become markedly more violent. While this unrest has its roots in poverty and economic competition, its economic and human damages further escalate the problems of poverty.

5.3 Political Instability and Corruption

Nigeria's large population and historic ethnic instability has led to the adoption of a federal system of government. The resultant fiscal decentralization provides Nigeria's states and local government's considerable autonomy including control over 50% of government's revenues as well as responsibility for providing public services. The lack of a stringent regulatory and monitoring system, however, has allowed for rampant corruption. Resources which could pay for public good or directed towards investment (and so create employment and other opportunities for citizens) are being misappropriated. (Wikipedia, 2012).

5.4 Neglect of Rural Infrastructure

Rural infrastructure in Nigeria has long been neglected. Investments in health, education and water supply have been focused largely in the cities. The rural communities lack roads, good drinking water, hospitals, schools etc. as a result, the rural community is completely neglected and very poor.

5.5 Nigerian Population

As the population swells up everyday especially from the North and puts pressure on diminishing resources, escalating environmental problems which further threaten food production. Land degradation as a result of extensive agriculture, deforestation and overgrazing is already severe in many parts of the country. Drought has become common in the North and erosion provoked by heavy rains, floods and oil pollution is a major problem in the South and Southeast. Other factors include; poor leadership, lack of comprehensive National poverty alleviation policy, lack of sound agricultural policy and protracted neglect of the sector, high level of illiteracy in the North, excessive external debt burden, child destitution (*almajiranchi*) in the North etc. (Wikipedia, 2012).

6. EFFECTS OF POVERTY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

It has become a commonplace in newspapers that poverty is what is fuelling terrorism (*Boko haram*) in Northern Nigeria by creating a state of misery and frustration that pushes people to join *Boko haram*. *Boko haram* at the outset appeared to have had its operational bases located in the poorest parts of Northern Nigeria. It is in such places where people have been denied opportunity to go to school as well as have meaningful economic sources of livelihood that recruitment is the easiest. *Boko haram* leaders are aware of it and of course are maximizing the advantages of that obvious truth. The long and short of it is that with entrenched poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, we cannot eliminate the menace of *Boko haram* or similar security threats.

High illiteracy in the north is also both a product and driver of poverty in the North. Thus, the greater the level of poverty, *Boko haram* the higher the illiteracy rate and of course, more poverty. These, dynamically reinforces each other. When a young man is poor, illiterate and unemployed, he becomes a clean slate for any kind of brainwashing. The brainwashing given to them provides a quasi-equivalent of employment and thus feels engaged in acting out what they have been brainwashed about. This is the kind of situation we find with the phenomenon in the North (Olufemi, 2012).

One of the effects of poverty in the North is child destitution (*Almajiri*). This pushes children to develop an antisocial behaviour that acts as a psychological protection against their hostile environment. Begging seems to have become a profession in the North as the streets of Northern cities are filled up with beggars. Crime varies over time and space; it is high in specific areas and low in others, usually with huge differences in wealth. It is unquestionable that crime ranks high in the North because of the effect of poverty, uneducated youths in the North nurture more unemployment and crime. Other problems of poverty in the north include: precarious livelihood, excluded locations, physical limitations, gender relationships, problem in social relationship, lack of security, poor leadership, abuse by those in power, disempowering institutions, limited capabilities etc.

The prevalence of begging in northern Nigeria in whatever form is indisputably prompted by chronic and excruciating poverty which is worsened by population explosion that is in a stiff competition for limited and dwindling economic resources. Northern Nigeria has the highest poverty rate in the country which is almost endemic in rural areas. This predicament pushes both children and adults into the cities in search of ways and means of survival.

7. TACKLING POVERTY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

As a country, over the years, the Nigerian governments have launched various programmes ostensibly targeting poverty reduction. A few of these programmes are hereunder sampled:

- Universal Primary Education (UPE)
- Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)
- Green Revolution (GR)
- National Accelerated Food Production Programme
- Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank

- National Directorate of Employment (NDE)
- Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)
- Better Life for Rural Women
- Family Support Programme (FSP)
- Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)
- Poverty Alleviation Programme
- National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)

However, these programmes have largely failed to overcome the three reasons for this persistent poverty: Income inequality, ethnic conflicts and political instability (Edoh, 2003). These programmes individually or collectively failed to have any meaningful impact on the lives of Nigerian citizens. The relevant question to ask is why have these programmes failed to reduce poverty and better the lives of Nigerians. Alimeka, (2001) argued that: Poverty reduction programmes in the country have only benefited those who designed and implemented them while the poor are left “drier” ...the fact is that the various programmes as “Better Life for Rural Women”, “Family Support Programmes”, primarily benefited, supported and advanced the monetary and property urge and interests of the wives of heads of state, governors and local government chairmen who embezzled and stole vast resources appropriated for poverty reduction in Nigeria during the last two decades (Alimeka, 2001, 4).

With particular reference to the North, the Northern elites who make up the Northern Governors’ Forum and the *Arewa* Consultative Forum have conducted research into the root cause of what is plaguing the entire northern region today and they are fully aware of why they have failed to catch up with the other parts of the country. What they lack is the will power to eradicate poverty in the region. Lamenting about poverty and unemployment in the North will not solve the problems other than making concrete moves to tackle the issues.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to reduce the level of poverty in Northern Nigeria, the following recommendations are important:

- i. The *almajiris* should be sent back to their communities to study Quran to enable them to be more productive especially in the mainstay of the region’s economy, agriculture. The fact is that, the vast majority of them stay back in the city when they come of age. Thus the intensity of joblessness, urban-rural population disparity, political thugs and poverty would have been more trivial.
- ii. The North has to educate its populace about the danger of polygamy and birth control. The pervasive abuse of polygamy that abound in the north where women are married and remarried as often as they are divorced and re-divorced due to lackadaisical attitude towards their religion has warranted many to bear children more than they can cater for is completely wrong.
- iii. The Northern Governors’ Forum and *Arewa* Consultative Forum need to tilt the content of their gathering more towards economic development as a central point of northern unity. The economy of northern Nigeria is largely agricultural based and not oil.
- iv. The Northern Governors’ Forum – a meeting of elected political leaders should lead to the eradication of poverty while the other groupings like Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and *jama’a nasirul islam* (JNI) should through moral methods get the political class committed to actions likely to lower the poverty levels in the north.
- v. The NBS report points clearly to the fact that Nigeria will not likely meet the United Nations’ target on the Millennium Development Goals – to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015. The northern states are the greatest beneficiaries of these goals if achieved. It is in our best interest if the Northern Governors’ Forum takes the NBS’ report as an opportunity to dialogue with the federal government to produce positive steps that would oversee poverty growth in the north.
- vi. Recently, the Osun State Governor, Rauf Aregbesola called for the establishment of a Ministry for Northern Affairs, saying it could be a solution to the security challenges in the North. According to him, the Ministry should be saddled with the responsibility of tackling widespread unemployment and poverty in the area.
- vii. Boosting employment in the North must mean full and equal opportunities for all, irrespective of sex. There is no way a society will make women unproductive and be sane or economically viable. This is what is happening in the North. (Aregbesola, 2012)
- viii. In order to eradicate poverty in the North, the Northerners must have to embrace western education to reduce illiteracy. There is the age-long cultural belief that the Western Education is contradictory to the whole essence of Islamic belief. This is ingrained in the belief that the western education called *Boko* is of Christian-Europe origin and anti-Islamic.
- ix. The monstrous problem of corruption and paucity of political will in Northern Nigeria as in other parts of the country has worsened matters. The political leadership in Northern Nigeria is absorbed in self indulgence to the neglect of the ignorant poor populace which is helping in aggravating poverty in Northern Nigeria.

- x. Nigerian borders need to be secured as a measure to reduce the influx of beggars from foreign countries. With the porosity of our badly policed borders, many of the *almajiris* from other countries find their way into Nigeria under the pretext of Islamic scholarship; their large number is worsening the poverty situation in the North.
- xi. There is need for the Nigerian government to take decisive steps in identifying and repatriating all illegal foreigners who are in the north back to their respective countries.

9. CONCLUSION

That poverty exists in Nigeria is not an exaggeration. It is also a fact that the country harbours most of the poor people in the North. There is abundant data such as Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) and world development Indicators. There is high level of poverty in the North spite of abundant human and natural resources which God has endowed this country. What is found is the poor management of these resources because of bad governance and corruption. State governments particularly in Northern Nigeria should introspect and begin to realign their spending more towards attracting, protecting and retaining investors in the solid mineral and agricultural sectors of the states. They should embark on enhanced social investment in and enforcement of mass education.

There is need to challenge northern governors on good governance, accountability and transparency. It appears that most of them have deleted these words from their dictionaries. They empty the state treasury and the local government shares of the revenue without a single programme or plan for the people. If the North has so many of its children roaming the streets begging, with only 2% of the region's secondary school students qualifying to enter university, it's clear that the future of the region is a bleak one. With the streets of Northern Nigerian cities filled with beggars knocking at the doors of cars begging for alms, this is an indication that there is no better future for the region with this attitude!

10. REFERENCES

1. Alimeka, "Poverty, social exclusion and social dislocation in Nigeria". Paper presented at National Conference on Law and Poverty in Nigeria. Kaduna, pp5-7, 2001.
2. Abdulqadir, I. A., The almajiri system of education in Nigeria today. From <http://www.gamji.com/article5000/news5956.htm>. Retrieved on 17/09/2013.
3. Aregbesola, R., Speech at Symposium on "Islam and peaceful co-existence in contemporary multi-Religious State" in Abuja on 07/06/2012.
4. Auwal, S., Northern Nigeria: surfacing poverty on untapped wealth. From <http://www.gamji.com> article. Retrieved on 07/06/2012.
5. Bala, M., "Almajiri: A memo to the Sultan". Weekly Trust Newspaper, Saturday, June 29, pp3, 2013.
6. Butty, J., Analyst: Corruption partly blamed for poverty in Nigeria. Voice of America on the 13/02/2012, 7:00 pm
7. Carson, J. (2012), "No end to Boko haram without tackling poverty". The Nation. Friday, May 8, pp12, 2012.
8. Dodo, N.S., Northern Governors and the fight against poverty. From <http://www.cenbank.org>. Retrieved on 11/06/2012.
9. Edoh, T., "Poverty and the survival of Democracy in Nigeria". In Nigerian Journal of political and Administrative Studies. (Makurdi Aboki Publishers)" vol 1, No. 1, pp30 – 45, 2003.
10. Inuwa, K., The North and Almajiri Phenomenon. From <http://www.Gamji.com/article8000/news8282.htm>. Retrieved on 17/09/2013.
11. Kankwenda, M., Poverty Eradication: where Africa stands, (Economics publishers), London, 2002
12. Obadan, M. and Odusola, A., "The economy and poverty in Nigeria" paper presentation at National conference on law and poverty. Kaduna: NIALS June 26-28, pp4 – 6, 2001.
13. Ogwumike, F. (1997)., Basic Needs-oriented Approach to the measurement of poverty". Nigeria Journal of Economics and Social Studies. Vol. 33, No 2, pp18, 1997.
14. Olufemi, A., Boko haram and Poverty in Northern Nigeria. From <http://www.punchng.com/opinion/bokoharam-and-poverty-in-northern-Nigeria>. Retrieved on 07/06/2012.
15. Portal, Rural poverty in Nigeria. From <http://en.www.ruralpovertyportal.org/web/guest>. Retrieved on 07/06/2012.
16. Ra-ah International Development, Almajiri Project in Northern Nigeria. From <http://www.almajiriproject.in> Northern Nigeria.mht. Retrieved on 18/08/2013.
17. Tarbo, N.N., Poverty of the mind. Abuja Nigeria: (McDaniel's Media Consult), Nigeria, 2005.
18. United Nations, Indicators of poverty and hunger. Retrieved 2012, 06.
19. Wikipedia, Poverty in Nigeria. From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/poverty_in_Nigeria. Retrieved on 07/06/2012.
20. Wikipedia, Poverty. From <http://wikipedia.org/wiki/poverty>. Retrieved on 07/06/2012.
21. World Bank, poverty and inequality analysis. From worldbank.org. Retrieved on 06/10/2012.