



Perceptions of Care-givers on the Phenomenon of Child Poverty in Bauchi State of Nigeria

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Abstract

Child poverty is a global peril which deprived the access to nutritious food, water and sanitation facilities. It also showcases inadequate health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection. The main objective of this study is to identify the causes, consequences and the strategies to mitigate poverty among youngsters in Bauchi state of Nigeria. In achieving this, a qualitative research approach was applied and data was collected from the parents and caregivers of the less privilege families, discourse analysis was applied in interpreting the results. Consequently, findings revealed that structural factors such as household size, income factors, unemployment, social influences, inadequate nutrition, deficiency of access to healthcare, income inequality between the people in rural and urban areas, poor government policies and programmes for the demoralized and disadvantaged, makes life miserable. Furthermore, social, economic, psychological, and environmental factors have repercussions on the youngsters. Similarly, provision of financial assistance to poor folks, increased access to quality education and childcare. Correspondingly, improving kids' healthcare, increasing employment opportunities and wages for parentages to accelerate their income. Additionally, establishment of policies targeting the empowerment of the younger generation. The existing social investment programmes should be reorganized, monitored and financed them, renewal of home-grown school feeding to boost enrolment as well as health package and investment in agriculture to ensure food security were recommended.

Keywords: Bauchi State, Causes, Child Poverty, Effects, Strategies,

1. Introduction

Child poverty is one of the global challenges bedeviling the younger generation for instance UNICEF, (2002) stated over half of the children in the developing countries live in poverty. In the process of identifying the poor, deprivation in the aspect of inadequate food, exclusion especially as a result of unjust processes through which children's dignity, voice and rights are denied, or their existence threatened and vulnerability in the society to cope with existing or apparent threats to children in their respective environment (Minujin, Delamonica, Davidziuk & Gonzalez, 2006). Child poverty is the deprivations of food and nutrition, clothing and shelter, education and schooling, access

to health, perhaps above all, nurturing and care. Basically, for better living children needed economic and social security (Minujin, Delamonica, Davidziuk & Gonzalez, 2006). Categorically, poor children are deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, access to basic health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection and a severe shortage of these packages threatening them. A study in thirty African countries revealed that poverty especially among the youngsters manifested in many countries for instance in Equatorial Guinea and Malawi, health, sanitation, housing and water deprivation were witnessed. Correspondingly, in the federal republic of Nigeria, severe economic situations have



affected the children particularly, scanty availability of infrastructural facilities, armed conflicts and displacement leading to increase in kids' poverty in the country. Similarly, Nigeria is one of the countries with high rate and prevalence of younger generation experiencing the effects of poverty among the communities of nations especially those who living in rural areas undergoing challenges of various magnitude precisely inadequate access to qualitative education, social insecurity and poor health facilities (Alkali, et al, 2020).

Consequently, multidimensional Poverty index reports, 2015 indicated that Bauchi state has, 89.5 percent and the highest prevalence of shortfall across education, health care and living standard. (Musa, 2020). It further attested that about 80 percent of parents in Bauchi, Kebbi, Katsina, Gombe, Jigawa and Sokoto states find it difficult and impossible to enroll as well as maintain their children in schools (Alkire, et al, 2015). The results supposed that out of ten states in Nigeria, Bauchi state is among the states with highest rate of children out of school aged 15- 24 and cannot read nor write. These scenario makes it nearly impossible for this people to escape from poverty trap. Again, the education sector in the state is bedevilled with inadequate qualified teachers, equipment, classrooms, audio-visual aids, textbooks and general inadequate funding (Adamu, 2017). Based on this background, this study is structured into introduction, research questions, objectives, significance, scope, research methodology, literature review, empirical review, results, discussion, recommendations, conclusion and references. Therefore, the study seeks to identify the causes and effects of child poverty and to explore the strategies to reduce child poverty in Bauchi State of Nigeria. The study comprises of practical, methodological and theoretical imperatives. Practically it will aid policy makers especially in Bauchi state to identify the causes, effects and strategies to reduce to

reduce child poverty as well as improve their welfare. Theoretically, literature has exposed previous studies conducted on the phenomenon under study, thus, the current article has advanced and contributed to the body of literature through the exploration of cumulative and cyclical interdependencies theory. Methodologically, the perceptions of the parents and caregivers were explored through interview and thus an in-depth studied was carried via first-hand information and the views of the parents had solidified the findings of this study. Furthermore, the study covered period (2015-2024) the choice of this period was informed as a result of the substantiation from the literature which exposed that Bauchi state has high rate of children out of school among the northern states, the state has high prevalence of multidimensional poverty indicators in the federal republic of Nigeria.

2. Methodology

This study uses qualitative research approach and apply exploratory research design via semi-structured interview. Specifically, thirty-three informants were selected from three senatorial districts in the twenty 20 local governments in Bauchi state, specifically. Bauchi south, Bauchi north and Bauchi central. The population of the study comprises of parents, care-givers, the unit of analysis are people and a non-probability, and purposive sampling was applied in identifying the relevant informants who facilitated the data collection from (parents and care-givers) among others. The study covered some of the poorest children from local government of Bauchi in Bauchi south senatorial zone. Misau local government in Bauchi central zone. Katagum local government areas in Bauchi north senatorial zone respectively. The selection of these local government was due to the higher number of children on the streets moving about in search of means of livelihood. Scholars have attested that qualitative research design is a manifold



method of inquiry that explore naturalistic and interpretation of social phenomenon. It involved a collection of empirical data, true life story, interview, cases, personal experience, observations, interface, historical, and visual texts-that portray daily and difficult moments and connotations (Creswell, 2013). Buttressing on qualitative research approach, literature stated that is a social inquiry that obviously applied methodological traditions that explored in-depth inquiry of human problem, a social phenomenon. The researcher established a complex, analyzes arguments and words. It maintained that qualitative study is characterized by exploratory, descriptive focuses on data is collected in a natural setting (Creswell, 2007). The researcher serves as the instrument, the study is inductive in approach. Basically, qualitative research design is classified into phenomenology, biography, grounded theory, ethnography as well as case study research (Merriam, 2014). However, this study employed phenomenological and explored child poverty in Bauchi state, federal republic of Nigeria. The data collected was analysed through discourse analysis and answered the stated research questions and achieved the objectives of the study as well as proffered solutions to the problem under study area.

3. Literature Review

This section of the study discusses the concept of child poverty, multidimensional poverty, causes of child poverty, effects and consequences of child poverty, globally, Africa and Nigerian child poverty situation empirical review and theory.

Concept of Child Poverty

The concept of child poverty refers to the state in which some children are afflicted or living in the condition of impoverishment or severe poverty. These conditions are common with the youngsters who come from the underprivileged families or orphans undergoing upbringing with absence or meager resources (Temitope, et

al 2019; Butty, 2012). Categorically children who fail to meet up with the minimum acceptable standard of living according to the measurement of a particular country are poor. In most developing countries, the standard are mostly lower especially with the increase in the orphans. Thus, the definition and conceptualization adopted by many countries, considered the children under eighteen years of age. In biological terms, the transition from childhood to adulthood is the attainment of puberty (Carson, 2012). Child poverty is also conceptualized as the under realization of child rights leading to poverty. These rights comprise of required, directly, fundamentally, materially for their continued living (Hunt et al., 2002; OHCHR, 2004). A number of literature had measured child poverty using the multidimensional approaches which quantified the material denial by individual children across the globe. These include education, water, housing, information, health, nutrition, clothing and sanitation. Children who suffered from the deprivation of these dimensions globally, regionally and in some countries are therefore considered poor (Gordon et al., 2003)

Multidimensional Child Poverty

These comprises of three dimensions of education, health care and living standard. The health dimension contains two indicators, namely, family's access to nutrition and child mortality; the accessibility of the household to health insurance. Education, the key domain of human capital is positively linked to productivity (Alkire & Santos, 2010). To capture the education sphere, we have used two variables, these are namely, enrolment of children at school age and the years of schooling of adult member (15 years and above). The living standard dimension is represented by equal weight to electricity, improved sanitation, and source of drinking water, floor, clean cooking and assets indicators. Floor and electricity entail the quality of the housing whereas drinking



water, clean cooking fuel and improved sanitation have health impact (Alkire & Foster, 2007).

Measurement of Child Poverty

Literature has revealed three methods commonly used in measuring child poverty, these are the World Bank's US\$1 per day, the Wealth Index and the newly established Multidimensional Poverty Index methods (Minujin et al, 2006). The World Bank's 'US\$1 a day, Purchasing Power Parity methodology has been generally used (World Bank, 1990, 1996, 2000; Ravallion et al, 1991). It is also incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, it was not only design to measure the phenomenon of child poverty. Conversely, it was designed to examine the deeper theoretical reasons.

The Wealth Index Method or Asset Index is a standard portion of contemporary Demographic and Health Surveys and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey micro data, and children in households with the lowest asset index scores (for instance, the bottom 10 or 20 percent) are occasionally defined as 'poor'; the Wealth Index is been used to quantify disparities amid families with children (Filmer & Pritchett, 1999). Alkire and Foster Technique (Multidimensional Poverty Index) Sabina Alkire and James Foster (2007, 2009) have recently developed a method intended to produce a Foster, Geer and Thorbecke Index (Foster et al, 1984, 2010) using child deprivation measures. Alkire and Santos (2010) have propounded a Multidimensional Poverty Index consisting of 10 indicators grouped into three dimensions and based on household micro data from 104 countries. Additionally, Roche (2009) and Alkire and Roche (2010) suggest a 12-step child poverty measurement methodology that builds on the studies of Gordon et al (2003). These include per capita income, dwelling characteristics, access to social security, space and quality, education and access to health services among others.

Globally Child Poverty

This section of the study discusses global poverty, the first American Human Development Report measures the US poverty and child poverty (Burd-Sharps et al, 2008), it exposed that the number of challenges in the country starts with poor child's access to better wellbeing. These include teenager's pregnancy, school dropout, poor school achievement, Behavioural problems and high rate of crimes among the teenagers as well as incarceration frequently trace to child's early years of life (Allen & Smith, 2008). The country experienced deep and persistent poverty especially among the preschool years, for instance in the years (2006), youngsters aged 16-19 from the poor families were three time expected to be out of school (Kutner et al, 2007). Literature further expatiated that one among the three or two years old children are not immunized in US, again, children born from UK, Germany Canada, Sweden Denmark suffer from the scourge of poverty lower than those born in the US (Blanden et al, 2005). Studies from 120,988 youngsters from the Third National Family Health Survey (2005–2006) in India stated that political regimes, corruption and prevalence of child poverty had demonstrated the conditions most of the youngsters faces. In the political reign the middle class or the higher caste further exposed the poor to multiple deprivations. For instance, over 68 percent (300 million) two-third had been denied of shelter and living in dwelling which more than five persons stay per mud floored room. Similarly, 62 percent (272 million) were ruthlessly denied of sanitation and toilet facilities. Occasionally, seven percent (30 million children were also dispossess to unsafe drinking water sources. Again, 27 percent of the Indian children suffer from food shortage (Daoud & Nandy, 2019).

Child Poverty in Africa

This section of the study discusses child poverty in Africa, for instance South Africa, since the return to democracy, the



government has committed much resources to protecting child's rights and poverty, for example the Constitution of the country has a section for child rights, the governments affirmed the UN Convention on rights of the youngsters. Social support remains the core arm of the government's poverty reduction programme and child assistance was the central mechanism for poverty reduction for the child. However, income poverty and inequality in the country and paucity of possession were witnessed (Wright, 2008a). Thus, inequality and income margin was the order of the day in the state. Additionally, a study in thirty African countries revealed that poverty especially among the children manifested in these countries for instance in Equatorial Guinea and Malawi; health, sanitation, housing and water deprivation were common. Furthermore, while in Congo, Comoros, Gambia, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso and Rwanda among others faces nutrition as well as housing deprivation. Thus, the African children are exposed to multiple challenges relating to poverty in many parts of the continent. These denials further compounded to financial or lack of monetary, unavailability of goods and services; societal beliefs, behavior and customs. Similarly, in the Benin, Malawi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Uganda child deprivations were common (Bradshaw et al, 2008).

Child Poverty in Nigeria

The constitution federal republic of Nigeria has identified various engagements on the welfare of children in providing shelter, water, essential health-care services, nourishment, and other social services and basic needs (Ogwumike & Ozughalu 2018). However, severe economic situations affecting the children such as scanty availability of facilities, armed conflicts and displacement led to the increase in child poverty in the country. Similarly, Nigeria is one of the countries with high rate and prevalence of child poverty among the communities of nations especially those

who lived in rural areas undergoing challenges of various magnitude specifically inadequate access to qualitative education, social insecurity, poor health facilities and inadequate care (Alkali, et al, 2020). Previous studies has indicated high underperformance of children in schools as result of inadequate and sufficient nutrition which led to the establishment of school feeding programmes and integrated *Tsangaya* schools especially in some states of northeastern especially Bauchi, Borno, Yobe and Adamawa state. Thus, child poverty in the country has severe consequences on the general well-being and development of the society hence it leads to health challenges and their poor academic performance (Danaan, 2018).

Empirical Review

This section of the article reviews previous literature, for instance studies in South Africa stated that the framework for tackling child policy were dominated by agenda of the country's liberal citizenship. The policy established a bill of various social grants. A fraternity of connection between the neglected with their parents/caregivers were stipulated. The rationale for this policy was to create a comprehensive social security funding for the working aged adults needed to successful reduce child poverty as well as the poor working adults (Whitworth & Wilkinson, 2013). The author inferred that the article is weaken by methodological constraint, it has failed to expose the situation of child poverty in the country, and therefore, a study is required especially in the Nigeria context.

Alok, (2020) studied the problem of poverty in India using literature source from the reports and other information from secondary data sources. The results indicated that poverty in the country has two main dimensions socio-economic and social. The poor children are under educated and economically deprived in absolute terms, glaring manifestation of poverty are visible. These people cannot



afford to enrol their children in public primary schools. The results also indicated that 25 percent of the population of lived-in abject poverty and faces the inability to access portable drinking water, nutritious food and sanitation. This study was carried in the Asian context and uses secondary data, thus, the need for a study in the Nigeria context is required.

Alkali et al, (2020) studied child poverty in Nigeria; causes and consequences using secondary data and findings from the study revealed that child poverty were propelled by Household size and income, poor management of resources, sociocultural factors, unemployment, corruption, marital status and gender as well as Household head educational status. The study further revealed that the consequences affecting the youngsters comprises of poverty and corruption especially from the government officials which contributed to unemployment. The study recommended for social investment programme to provide funding for education and security. Reorganization of the current poverty alleviation programmes and supervised it to complement other national and international donors. The study is weakened due to the use of secondary data and the phenomenon of child poverty changes over a period of time. Thus, an empirical study shall overcome the gap established.

A study on the economic costs of childhood poverty in the United States was carried out using panel data, it stated that the annual budgeted cost for the support to reduce crimes, poverty and their earnings and quality of health care. Furthermore, all the average cost per child among the total numbers of children growing in the country especially in the aspect of those factors that are associated with childhood poverty. Findings from the study indicated that a total cost around \$500 billion each year or its equivalent approximately four (4) percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The results added that due to these measures childhood poverty

reduces each year by 1.3 percent, expenditure and raises health expenditure by 1.2 percent (Harry et al, 2008). This study has failed to use primary sources of data and was carried out in an advanced country, therefore, due to the weaknesses of this study further research is required in Nigeria context.

Rufai, et al, (2016) study child poverty in rural Nigeria using the (2013) Demographic and Health Survey data of the country via the Alkire Foster counting approach. Under five children were used in the research. Categorically, access to water, food, education, sanitation and shelter. Findings from the study revealed high level of poverty among the poor children across the different classes of household specifically the North-west, North-east were discovered to have highest rate of non-poor children from the extreme and moderate poor households. The study recommended that the policies specifically targeting deprivations should be applied to tackle the phenomenon of child poverty.

Theoretical Framework

This study uses the cumulative and cyclical interdependencies theory profounded and derived from the study carried out by Myrdal (1957) which established that the interdependence of factors such as individuals (earnings, housing, health, education, self-confidence) are reliant and strongly connected to community deficiencies (loss of business and jobs, inadequate schools, inability to provide social services) thereby creating problems and difficulties (Bradshaw, 2007). This theory explains the complicated nature of poverty and multidimensional indicators which affected children. It is originated from the other theories arising from the individual to the community and the increasing set of challenges that makes effective responses difficult for the kid to live a worthy life. The theory equally explains the systemic barriers deterring the poor child from accessing the main social institutions typically the education,



housing, employment, political representation, health care and social safety among others.

Consequently, social deprivations and opportunities on the other hand were propelled by this theory. The bondage of child poverty, issues of individuals challenges particularly, education, income, health, employment and self-actualization are closely interconnected and positively related to the community welfare. Again, difficulties in the aspect of loss of jobs and business, inadequate schooling, and the inability to acquire social services by parents. Therefore, these challenges deter their general wellbeing.

To these end, the theory postulated that child poverty is multidimensional traversing the three dimensions and the ten indicators established and interrelated with the individual and the community at large. In linking the theory with child poverty, the pervasiveness of inadequate access to education focusing on enrollment, attendance; health dimension, nutrition and child mortality. The living standard dimension comprises of asset, water, flood, electricity, fuel and sanitation were the core aspect of the individual and the community wellness. These explains the cumulative and cyclical interdependence theory affecting the overall child's wellbeing.

4. Results of the Study

This section of the study presented results on the causes, effects and strategies to reduce child poverty in Bauchi state of Nigeria.

Causes of Child Poverty

Based on the interview conducted the researcher found that; there are many causes of child poverty in Bauchi state, these include structural factors such as household size and income; unemployment, early marriage, inadequate nutrition, deficiency of access to healthcare, income inequality between the people in rural and urban areas, poor government policies and programmes for the downtrodden and

disadvantaged, food insecurity and insufficiency of other basic needs to make life meaningful. The current economic predicaments, loss of parents, lazy, the underprivileged condition, broken homes. Furthermore, the results disclosed that lack of access to quality education, healthcare, or economic opportunities. Social factors such as discrimination, exclusion, or violence. Environmental factors such as poor living conditions or exposure to toxins causes child poverty.

For instance, the informants **I, III, and VIII maintained that:**

Lack of access to healthcare refers to a situation where children do not have access to basic medical care and preventive services. These include a derisory access to health centres or hospitals, or a lack of financial resources to pay for healthcare. Children who lack access to healthcare are more likely to experience poor health and to die from preventable diseases. Lack of access to healthcare can also lead to a cycle of poverty, as families are forced to spend their limited resources on medical care, rather than other necessities such as food and education. This can result in further deprivation and a lack of opportunity for children.

The current economic predicaments which arise from the removal of fuel subsidy on the petroleum products in the federal republic of Nigeria leading to high cost of living has created untold hardships on parents which consequently push some many families to poverty is one of the major causes of poverty in the contemporary era. Similarly, many parents are underprivileged thus, they find life unbearable to provide other necessities to their children



such as shelter among others (Informant XXVI).

The death of some parents leads to difficulties thereby pushing them to poverty and inadequate care of the children. Additionally, absence of mothers sometimes leads children to move about. Similarly, some children usually leave their houses to roam about searching for food. I realized that inadequate job opportunity especially among the parents also contributed to poverty among the younger generation. Furthermore, starvation and inadequate food makes the children impoverished especially if they move about with friends (Informant, XXVII).

Effects of Child Poverty

The effects or consequences of child poverty in the study area for include social, economic, psychological, and environmental, health effects were discovered to have severe effects on the children. Socially, children from the poor family experienced social isolation, feeling disconnection from their communities, difficulty in making friends or participating in social activities due to a lack of resources or opportunities. They lack self-esteem and self-worth. Again, other social effects such as inner feelings of anxiety, unhappiness and dependence, externalized behaviors, such as disobedience and aggression. Furthermore, social effects of child poverty comprise of pushing them to social vices such as stealing and drug abuse. Culturally, the poor children may have difficulty in connecting with their culture and may feel disconnected from their heritage. The children may also experience discrimination and bias based on their background. This can lead to feelings of isolation and exclusion, and may make it difficult for children to develop a confidence.

For instance, the social effects of child poverty in the study area include experience social isolation and disconnection with other communities. It became difficulty for them to make friends or participating in social activities due to a lack of resources or opportunities. Children who experience poverty may also have a lower sense of self-esteem and self-worth. This can lead to feelings of shame and worthlessness, thus, meagre positive relationships with others. In addition, children who live in poverty may also experience higher levels of stress, which can impact their emotional well-being (Informants I, VI, IV and XI).

Strategies to Reduce Child Poverty

The informants opined that there are many strategies to reduce child poverty, and these include provision of financial assistance to families living in poverty, such as through welfare programs or tax relief. Additionally, increase access to qualitative education and improved access to healthcare for children. Lastly, increasing employment opportunities and welfare package to parents can help reduce child poverty by increasing the income they needed to support their children.

For instance, informant V, VI, VIII, and X maintained that:

Increasing investment in education and health services, to ensure that children have access to basic needs and resources they needed to thrive their lives. Investment in social safety nets, such as cash transfer programs, to help families meet their essential needs. Increased efforts to address child labour and other forms of exploitation. Improved access to clean water and sanitation. Better access to information and communication



technology. Promotion of gender equality and empower women. Good governance and public sector accountability.

I urge the federal government and states to provide job opportunities to the youth, build more public schools, establish business avenues and centres in order to ensure those children grow up and enjoy the life as human beings (Informant XXIX).

Discussion of the Findings

The study adopted the discourse method of data analysis in the interpretation/discussion of the results, the objectives of the study were achieved. A recap of the research questions stated that: **What are the Causes of child poverty in Bauchi State?** In answering this research question, the results revealed that the remote causes of child poverty include political and economic instability, social and cultural norms, and natural disasters or environmental conditions. Especially, lack of job opportunities, inadequate access to quality education, lack of social safety nets was considered as the remote causes of child poverty. Supporting the results of this study, literature stated that children are most vulnerable to poverty especially as results of inadequate access to education, sanitation, health care, shelter, food and water (Rufai, et al. 2016). These factors can lead to a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break without systematic interventions. Therefore, addressing child poverty requires looking at the big picture and addressing the root causes. Upholding the results of this study, previous study indicated that there are multiple causes of poverty among children for example household size, income factors responsible for child poverty especially in the Nigerian context (Alkali, et al, 2020). Furthermore, marital status and gender particularly in the federal republic of Nigeria contributed a lot for instance 77.36 percent of polygamous

families, 69.80 percent of monogamous and 61.89 percent of divorce occurred in severely poverty folks (Anyanwu 2014).

On the immediate causes of child poverty, examples of these factors include lack of income, unemployment, and underemployment, lack of access to good house and quality education. Articulating the menace of child poverty in southern part of the federal republic of Nigeria, literature indicated that several factors such as nutrition, clothing, education and decent shelter were most of the parameters measuring child poverty. Other factors especially, household income, school dropout, economic and social engagements, exposed the children to violence, exploitation as well as abuse (Kenneth, et al, 2021). Thus, answered the first research question and objective achieved.

The Second Research Question Supposed: What are the effects of child poverty in Bauchi State? In answering this research question, the informants opined that the effects of child poverty can be wide-ranging and multifaceted. Firstly, children who are poor often have poorer health conditions as they may not have access to appropriate nutrition, healthcare, or a safe and clean-living environment. This can lead to a higher risk of developing diseases and long-term health problems. Prior studies indicated that children living in a household without parents working are three times risk of maltreatment than a child with working parents. They are prone to malnutrition which posed immediate risk of danger to the child (Pac, et al, 2023). Additionally, children from poor background faces the difficulty of going to school, as they may not have the resources they needed to succeed academically. Lastly, these children often have fewer social and emotional resources.

Upheld these results previous study stated that social, economic, psychological, and environmental, health problems were discovered to have severe effects on the children. Socially, children from the poor



family experienced social isolation, disconnection from their communities, and difficulty in making friends or participating in social activities due to a lack of resources or opportunities. They lack self-esteem and self-worth. Other social effects such as inner feelings of anxiety, unhappiness, and dependence, externalized behaviors, disobedience and aggression. Children from poor families are more likely to indulge in stealing, army robbery, and drug abuse. They might be used as political thugs and social vices. Furthermore, social effects of include pushing them to social vices especially stealing and drug abuse (Akamobi, et al, 2022). Prior studies indicated that poor children face multidimensional effects in the aspect of sanitation facilities as these amenities were severely inadequate at their disposal. (Kenneth, et al, 2021). Similarly, on shelter, these children are affected by derisory housing facilities, particularly, absence of permanent structure, floor, privacy and congested rooms. They have less access to primary or secondary education. On information, they face the effects of weak access to books, newspapers, radio or television. On the overall, the poor children lack basic social services education, health among amenities (Kenneth, et al, 2021). Consequently, other effects include economically, they experienced limited opportunities for employment and financial insecurity. They may also have difficulty in acquiring qualitative education, they are often subjugated and suffer from hunger among others. They lack basic needs foods, clothes and other economic freedom. Economically, they hardly access good feeding, and saving attitudes. Furthermore, Alkire and Roche (2012) noted that three dimension of deprivations nutrition, housing, education and sanitation affected these children the most. There are cash income deficiency from children. Similarly, the effects of they lack legitimate sources of income, legal protection and wealth (Williams, 2003).

The Third Research Question Supposed: What are the strategies to reduce child poverty in Bauchi State?

In answering the third research question, the informants pronounced that there are multi-faceted strategies to reduce child poverty, firstly, provision of financial assistance to less privileged families such as through welfare programs or tax relief. Additionally, increasing access to quality education and child care. Improving access to healthcare, particularly for children. Lastly, increasing employment opportunities and wages for parents can help reduce their difficulties and support these children.

Prior study indicated that globally especially among the six countries in Europe, Belgium and Germany appeared to have been much more successful in reducing the possible risk of children to poverty trap especially through comparatively higher and efficient social transfers. The strategies applied offered interaction between the plan activities, design and the benefits, categorically, the accessibility and affordability of childcare and the labour market involvement of parents were carried out (Maquet-Engsted, 2012).

Furthermore, in Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Estonia and Bulgaria faces the challenges of eliminating high number of unemployed younger generation and the households to cope with the market forces. Other strategies applied in these countries include expanding the working condition of parents and adequately support their sources of incomes.

Similarly, tax rebates for low-income families were applied (Belgium, Estonia, and the Czech Republic). In (the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Belgium). The republic of Ireland has increased child income support and remove employment impediments (Maquet-Engsted, 2012). Studies in South Africa set out specific social rights for children in the constitution



which supported policies targeted the poor and vulnerable children.

Again, the establishment of comprehensive social security grant for the people of working age has alongside reduced child poverty effectively these countries. Similarly, seven policy options were implemented especially basic income grant, extension for Child Support Grant (CSG), to children up to 17 years of age; Universal Child Support Grant (UCSG); fixed low-rate Income Grant; Extended Old Age Grant and Universal Old Age Grant the effective strategies implemented for the reduction of child poverty in these countries (Whitworth & Wilkinson, 2013).

Prior studies in the federal republic of Nigeria revealed that many programmes were implemented to reduce poverty especially the Operation Feed the Nation, (OFN); Green Revolution (GR); National Poverty Alleviation Programmes (NAPEP) and National Directorate of Employment (NDE) were implemented through four main schemes. These comprises of Youth Employment Scheme (YES) which provided technical skills and employment opportunities for youth; rural infrastructure development scheme which provided facilities such as irrigation, energy, transport support for rural economic growth; the social welfare scheme provided social services and micro-credit services. The Natural resources development and conservation scheme harnesses the natural resources for the promotion of overall economic growth among others (Akpan & Isihak, 2020).

5. Recommendations

The study recommended the followingng in order to address the challenges bedeviling the poor child. Firstly, parents, care-givers and community members should collaborate especially in order to mitigate child poverty through community based training/capacity building for the young adults in different skills. Secondly, the federal, state and local government should

initiate policies and programmes to cater for these underprivileged youngsters especially through home-grown school feeding and empowerment schemes. Thirdly, the study suggested for Sepecial Health Package and strenthen of the *Tsangaya* education and provide the required teaching facilities for faster acceleration of knowledge. The Northern Governors Forum should collaborate with other local and International non-governmental agencies to identify the poor child in the three geopolitical zones so as to interven on the lives. Lastly, the government in the country should invest in agriculture in order to mitigate the peril of food insecurity and malnutrition.

6. Conclusion

The study concluded that child poverty especially in the Bauchi state and northern Nigeria is a social phenomenon that requires all hands-on deck in the areas of making policies and vibrant programmes to reduce its manifestation. The article has discovered that causes of child poverty in the study area include structural factors such as household size and income factors, unemployment, early marriage, inadequate nutrition, deficiency of access to healthcare. The effects comprise of social, economic, psychological, and environmental factors. The strategies suggested include one provision of financial assistance to poor families through welfare programs. Additionally, increasing access to quality education and childcare can help reduce poverty by giving children and families the resources they needed to succeed in their lives.

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