

**THE ROLE OF BAD GOVERNANCE IN PERPETUATING  
POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

**By**

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### **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research work was carried out by Umar Fatimoh and Balogun Oluwatomisin with Matric Number: KWCOED/IL/22/0796 and KWCOED/IL/22/0728 of the Kwara State College of Education Ilorin, Nigeria

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## **DEDICATION**

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God and my lovely family.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

My First gratitude goes to the Almighty Allah for his faithfulness, Grace mercy, protection Good health and inspiration for Complete Journey Successful it is neither by my power but power of Allah.

I will like to express my sincere gratitude for the successful completion of the project this achievement which I give thanks to my Superior Supervisor in the name of Mr. Hammed .T.F I thank you for all your Support, Care and guidance you gave to me throughout my project may Almighty Allah guide you more and blessed all your families with good health and wealth.

Dear MOM & DAD [MR&MRS UMAR]. I would like to express my gratitude and deepest appreciation for everything you have done for me From the very beginning you have been my guiding lights, my biggest supporters and your unwavering support and Sacrifices I am Incredibly grateful for the sacrifices you have made, the lesson you have taught and the values you Instilled in me, your hand work, dedication and endless love have shaped me into the person I am today. Thank you for always believing in me even when I don't believe in myself.

DEAR BROTHER I would love to express my sincere, gratitude because I cannot tell you how much I appreciate you, you have always been such a grateful for everything a great rything you do.

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you as my brother.

## **ABSTRACT**

*This study was intended to examine The Role Of Bad Governance In Perpetuating Poverty In Nigeria This study was guided by the following objectives; The main objective of this study is to determine the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria. Specific objectives include: To evaluate the impact of corruption on poverty levels in Nigeria. To determine the relationship between governance quality and access to social services. To find out how policy failures contribute to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria. The study employed the descriptive and explanatory design; questionnaires in addition to library research were applied in order to collect data. Primary and secondary data sources were used and data was analyzed using the chi square statistical tool at 5% level of significance which was presented in frequency tables and percentage. The study findings revealed that There is no significant impact of corruption on poverty levels in Nigeria. There is a significant impact of corruption on poverty levels in Nigeria.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Approval Page-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Declaration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dedication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acknowledgement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Abstract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Table of Contents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.2	Statement of the Problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.3	Objectives of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.4	Research Questions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.5	Research Hypotheses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.6	Significance of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.7	Scope/Limitations of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.8	Definition of Terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### CHAPTER TWO – REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.2	Conceptual Framework	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.3	Theoretical Framework	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.4	Empirical Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
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### **CHAPTER THREE – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.2	Research Design	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.3	Population of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.4	Sample and Sampling Technique	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.5	Research Instrument and Instrumentation	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.6	Validity of Instrument-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.7	Reliability of Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.8	Method of Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.9	Method of Data Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	-

### **CHAPTER FOUR – DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

4.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.2	Analysis of Demographic Data of Respondents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.3	Analysis of Psychographic Data	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.4	Test of Hypotheses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### **CHAPTER FIVE – SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

5.1	Summary of Findings	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.2	Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.3	Recommendations	-	-	-	-	-	-
	References	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Appendix	-	-	-	-	-	-



## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background of the Study**

The interplay between governance and poverty has been a significant area of discourse among scholars and policymakers, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. Bad governance, characterized by corruption, lack of accountability, and poor public service delivery, has been a substantial contributor to the perpetuation of poverty within the nation. According to the World Bank (2022), over 40% of Nigerians live below the poverty line, a stark indicator of the dire economic situation exacerbated by ineffective governance structures. The mismanagement of resources and the absence of effective leadership have led to a situation where poverty becomes a chronic condition for many Nigerians. This phenomenon is not merely an economic issue but a multifaceted problem that includes social, political, and environmental dimensions.

Historically, Nigeria has been beset by governance challenges that have impeded its development trajectory. The country's wealth, particularly from oil, has not translated into widespread prosperity due to systemic corruption and inefficiency (Ogunleye & Ogunleye, 2020). Corruption in governance has led to the siphoning of public funds that could have been utilized for social services such as education, health care, and infrastructure development. As a result, many citizens remain trapped in a cycle of poverty with limited access to essential services (Adeleke, 2021). The prevalence of corrupt practices has undermined public trust in government institutions, leading to a lack of civic engagement

and participation in governance processes. The disconnection between the government and the governed fosters an environment where the needs and aspirations of the populace are consistently overlooked.

Moreover, the quality of governance is crucial in shaping the socio-economic landscape of Nigeria. Poor governance manifests in various forms, including political instability, inadequate policy implementation, and lack of transparency. These factors have contributed to an environment that is not conducive to economic growth and development. For instance, the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (2022) reported that unemployment rates have surged, further exacerbating poverty levels. This situation is often compounded by inadequate educational systems, which fail to equip individuals with the necessary skills to compete in a global economy, thereby limiting their opportunities for upward mobility (Ogunyemi, 2019). The impact of bad governance on poverty is evident in rural and urban areas alike. In rural Nigeria, inadequate investment in agricultural infrastructure and support services has stunted growth in a sector that employs a significant portion of the population. Farmers are often left to fend for themselves in an environment riddled with challenges such as poor access to markets and inadequate financing (Olukotun, 2020). Similarly, in urban areas, the lack of effective urban planning and infrastructure development has resulted in overcrowded slums where residents face daily struggles for basic necessities such as clean water and sanitation (Onyebueke et al., 2021). These circumstances illustrate the direct link between governance quality and poverty levels, underscoring the need for comprehensive reforms. Additionally, the role of policy

frameworks in mitigating the effects of bad governance cannot be overlooked. Policies aimed at poverty alleviation and economic empowerment must be formulated and implemented with integrity and accountability. Unfortunately, the lack of political will and commitment to such reforms has been a persistent issue in Nigeria. Many anti-poverty programs have been poorly designed or executed, resulting in minimal impact on the lives of those they are intended to assist (Uzochukwu& Nwogu, 2021).

Furthermore, the absence of a participatory approach in policy formulation has alienated communities, making it difficult to address the specific needs of the population effectively. The consequences of poverty perpetuated by bad governance extend beyond economic metrics. Socially, high poverty levels are often correlated with increased crime rates, social unrest, and public health crises. For example, the Nigerian government's failure to adequately address health care needs during the COVID-19 pandemic exemplified how poor governance can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities (Adebowale et al., 2022). The resultant public health implications not only affect individuals but also strain the already burdened healthcare system, further entrenching poverty. In light of these challenges, understanding the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria is crucial. It necessitates a multi-dimensional approach that considers historical, socio-political, and economic factors influencing the governance landscape. This study aims to delve into these issues, providing insights into how governance reforms can be leveraged to combat poverty effectively in Nigeria. By highlighting the nexus between governance quality and poverty, this research seeks to contribute to ongoing discussions about sustainable development and social justice in Nigeria.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The persistent high levels of poverty in Nigeria can largely be attributed to the ineffectiveness of governance structures in the country. Despite its vast natural and human resources, Nigeria continues to grapple with deep-rooted poverty, with millions of citizens unable to meet their basic needs. The problem of bad governance manifests through corruption, lack of accountability, and poor policy implementation, which collectively undermine efforts to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for the populace. This research aims to investigate the extent to which bad governance has perpetuated poverty in Nigeria and to identify potential pathways for reform that can alleviate this pressing issue.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to determine the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria. Specific objectives include:

- i. To evaluate the impact of corruption on poverty levels in Nigeria.
- ii. To determine the relationship between governance quality and access to social services.
- iii. To find out how policy failures contribute to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

- i. What is the impact of corruption on poverty levels in Nigeria?
- ii. What is the relationship between governance quality and access to social services?
- iii. How does policy failure contribute to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria?

## **1.5 Research Hypotheses**

### **Hypothesis I**

H0: There is no significant impact of corruption on poverty levels in Nigeria.

H1: There is a significant impact of corruption on poverty levels in Nigeria.

### **Hypothesis II**

H0: There is no significant relationship between governance quality and access to social services.

H2: There is a significant relationship between governance quality and access to social services.

### **Hypothesis III**

H0: There is no significant contribution of policy failure to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria.

H3: There is a significant contribution of policy failure to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria.

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study holds significant importance in understanding the dynamics between governance and poverty in Nigeria. The findings will provide insights for policymakers, civil society organizations, and scholars to develop strategies aimed at improving governance structures and ultimately alleviating poverty. By highlighting the systemic issues that perpetuate poverty, the research will contribute to ongoing discussions on sustainable development and governance reform in Nigeria.

### **1.7 Scope of the Study**

The study will focus on the relationship between bad governance and poverty in Nigeria, examining various aspects such as corruption, governance quality, and policy implementation. It will utilize qualitative and quantitative research methods to gather data from relevant stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, and affected communities. The geographical scope will cover various regions in Nigeria to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

### **1.8 Limitations of the Study**

Several limitations may affect the outcome of this study. Firstly, the sensitivity of the topic may pose challenges in obtaining candid responses from participants, particularly government officials. Additionally, the study may be constrained by time and resource limitations, affecting the breadth of data collection. Finally, the reliance on secondary data sources may introduce bias if the data is not accurately representative of the current situation.

### **1.9 Definition of Terms**

**Bad Governance:** A situation characterized by corruption, lack of accountability, poor public service delivery, and ineffective leadership that undermines the socio-economic development of a country.

**Poverty:** A state in which individuals or communities lack sufficient financial resources to meet basic living standards, including access to food, shelter, education, and healthcare.

**Corruption:** The abuse of entrusted power for private gain, which can manifest in various forms, including bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism.

**Governance Quality:** The effectiveness of institutions in managing public resources and providing services, characterized by transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

**Policy Failure:** The inability of government policies to achieve their intended outcomes, often resulting from poor design, inadequate implementation, or lack of resources.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **Conceptual review**

##### **2.1 Concept of Bad Governance**

Bad governance refers to the failure of governmental institutions to provide effective leadership, transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the needs of citizens. It is characterized by a lack of democratic principles, inadequate public participation, and poor management of resources, which can lead to widespread corruption and inefficiency (Agbaje et al., 2019). The World Bank (2020) defines governance as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources. In contexts where governance is poor, there is often a failure to implement policies that can enhance social welfare and economic development, leading to increased poverty levels (Aiyedun et al., 2022).

One of the primary manifestations of bad governance is the presence of systemic corruption, which undermines the rule of law and erodes public trust in institutions (Okafor & Okwori, 2021). This erosion of trust results in reduced civic engagement and an unwillingness to participate in governance processes, creating a vicious cycle that further perpetuates bad governance (Olaoye, 2023). Moreover, the absence of transparency in governmental processes fosters an environment where malfeasance can thrive, ultimately stifling economic growth and exacerbating societal inequalities (Ewubare & Abokor, 2018). In Nigeria, bad governance has been a persistent issue since independence, characterized by a series of military coups, political instability, and a lack of continuity in policies



(Olaoye, 2023). The effects of such governance are far-reaching, influencing not just economic outcomes but also social cohesion and public health (Okafor & Okwori, 2021). As a result, bad governance remains a central focus for researchers seeking to understand its role in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria.

## **2.2 Concept of Poverty**

Poverty is a multifaceted concept that encompasses economic, social, and psychological dimensions. It is commonly defined as the state in which individuals or communities lack sufficient financial resources to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing (World Bank, 2022). However, the United Nations Development Programme (2020) expands this definition by asserting that poverty also includes lack of access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and clean water, as well as social exclusion and vulnerability.

In Nigeria, poverty is a pervasive issue, with over 40% of the population living below the national poverty line (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). This high level of poverty is exacerbated by economic mismanagement, conflict, and environmental degradation (Ojo et al., 2019). Furthermore, poverty in Nigeria is often intergenerational, with families trapped in a cycle of deprivation due to limited opportunities for education and employment (Ewubare & Abokor, 2018).

The multidimensional nature of poverty necessitates a comprehensive approach to poverty alleviation that goes beyond mere economic growth. For instance, improving governance is critical in creating an enabling environment for poverty reduction initiatives (Aiyedun et al., 2022). Without good governance, efforts to combat poverty may be undermined by

corruption, lack of accountability, and inefficient public service delivery (Agbaje et al., 2019).

### **2.3 Concept of Corruption**

Corruption is often defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain (Transparency International, 2022). It manifests in various forms, including bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and fraud, and can occur in both public and private sectors. Corruption poses a significant barrier to development, leading to inefficient resource allocation and undermining public trust in institutions (Aiyedun et al., 2022).

In Nigeria, corruption is deeply entrenched in both political and economic systems, affecting nearly every aspect of governance (Okafor & Okwori, 2021). The Nigerian National Corruption Survey (2021) reported that about 47% of households experienced some form of corruption in their interactions with public officials. This high prevalence of corruption has serious implications for poverty alleviation efforts, as funds meant for social services often vanish due to mismanagement and fraudulent practices (Ojo et al., 2019).

Furthermore, corruption exacerbates inequality by disproportionately affecting the poorest segments of society, who lack the resources to navigate corrupt systems effectively (Ewubare & Abokor, 2018). The diversion of public funds into private hands leads to inadequate public services, thereby perpetuating the cycle of poverty and disenfranchisement. Therefore, addressing corruption is vital for improving governance and fostering socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

### **2.4 Concept of Governance Quality**

Governance quality refers to the effectiveness and efficiency of government institutions in

serving their populations. It encompasses various dimensions, including rule of law, accountability, political stability, and regulatory quality (World Bank, 2020). High-quality governance is essential for creating an environment conducive to economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

In Nigeria, governance quality has often been compromised by issues such as political instability, corruption, and lack of accountability (Agbaje et al., 2019). According to the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (2022), Nigeria scores low on measures of governance quality compared to its African peers, indicating a need for substantial reforms. Poor governance quality not only limits economic opportunities but also hampers efforts to improve health, education, and infrastructure (Aiyedun et al., 2022).

Research has shown that countries with high governance quality tend to have lower poverty rates and better socioeconomic indicators (Olaoye, 2023). In contrast, Nigeria's persistent governance challenges have resulted in a deterioration of public services and an increase in poverty levels, highlighting the critical need for governance reforms aimed at enhancing service delivery and accountability (Ewubare&Abokor, 2018).

## **2.5 Historical Context of Governance in Nigeria**

The historical context of governance in Nigeria is marked by a complex interplay of colonial legacies, military rule, and democratic governance. Following independence in 1960, Nigeria struggled to establish stable democratic institutions, leading to a series of military coups that disrupted governance and development (Ojo et al., 2019). The military regimes often prioritized personal enrichment over public welfare, resulting in widespread corruption and ineffective governance.

The return to civilian rule in 1999 offered a glimmer of hope for improved governance; however, systemic issues such as corruption and lack of accountability persisted (Aiyedun et al., 2022). The Nigerian government has since made attempts to address these challenges through various reforms, yet progress remains slow (Okafor & Okwori, 2021). The World Bank (2020) emphasizes that without substantial governance reforms, Nigeria will continue to struggle with the dual challenges of poverty and poor governance.

Moreover, the historical marginalization of certain regions and ethnic groups has contributed to political instability and social unrest (Olaoye, 2023). The inability of the Nigerian state to address these grievances has fueled discontent and violence, further complicating the governance landscape. Therefore, understanding the historical context of governance in Nigeria is essential for analyzing its current challenges and their implications for poverty.

## **2.6 The Nature of Bad Governance in Nigeria**

Bad governance in Nigeria is characterized by various forms of mismanagement, including corruption, lack of accountability, and poor public service delivery. Corruption is perhaps the most pervasive issue, with significant funds allocated for public services often disappearing due to fraudulent practices (Agbaje et al., 2019). This misallocation of resources undermines the government's ability to provide essential services, leading to increased poverty and social unrest (Ojo et al., 2019).

Moreover, the lack of accountability in governance structures allows public officials to act with impunity, further exacerbating the situation (Ewubare & Abokor, 2018). The absence of checks and balances in the political system has resulted in a culture of impunity where

corrupt practices go unpunished, leading to disillusionment among citizens and eroding trust in government institutions (Aiyedun et al., 2022).

Another dimension of bad governance is the inefficiency of public service delivery. Essential services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure are often inadequately funded and poorly managed, resulting in substandard outcomes for citizens (Okafor & Okwori, 2021). For instance, the Nigerian healthcare system faces numerous challenges, including inadequate facilities, a shortage of medical personnel, and corruption in the procurement of medical supplies (World Bank, 2022). These governance failures not only exacerbate poverty but also hinder efforts to promote social equity and economic development.

## **2.7 The Link Between Bad Governance and Poverty**

The relationship between bad governance and poverty is complex and multidimensional. Research indicates that bad governance contributes significantly to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria by undermining economic growth and social development (Agbaje et al., 2019). Poor governance practices, such as corruption and inefficiency, result in the misallocation of resources, limiting opportunities for economic advancement and exacerbating inequality (Aiyedun et al., 2022).

Inadequate public services, stemming from governance failures, directly impact the quality of life for the poor. For instance, in regions with high levels of corruption, funds intended for education and healthcare are often misappropriated, leading to poor educational outcomes and health crises (Olaoye, 2023). This lack of access to essential services perpetuates a cycle of poverty, as individuals are unable to acquire the skills and health

needed to improve their economic situation (Ewubare&Abokor, 2018).

Moreover, the lack of political stability often associated with bad governance creates an unfavorable environment for investment and economic growth (Ojo et al., 2019). Investors are less likely to invest in regions characterized by high corruption and political instability, resulting in limited job opportunities and further entrenching poverty. Consequently, addressing the governance challenges is vital for effective poverty alleviation strategies in Nigeria.

## **2.8 Sectoral Impacts of Bad Governance on Poverty**

Bad governance has far-reaching sectoral impacts that contribute to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria. Each sector—education, healthcare, agriculture, and infrastructure—faces unique challenges related to governance failures, which ultimately affect poverty levels.

In the education sector, inadequate funding and poor management lead to substandard educational outcomes. According to the Universal Basic Education Commission (2022), over 10 million children are out of school in Nigeria, primarily due to a lack of access to quality education. Poor governance has resulted in the misallocation of funds, leading to dilapidated schools and a shortage of qualified teachers (Okafor &Okwori, 2021). This lack of educational opportunities perpetuates poverty, as individuals without proper education are less likely to secure gainful employment.

Similarly, the healthcare sector suffers from governance failures, leading to inadequate healthcare services. Corruption in the procurement of medical supplies and lack of investment in healthcare infrastructure have resulted in a healthcare system that is unable

to meet the needs of the population (World Bank, 2022). This inadequacy is particularly detrimental to the poor, who often rely on public healthcare services for their medical needs. The resulting poor health outcomes contribute to a cycle of poverty, as individuals unable to work due to illness are further marginalized.

In the agricultural sector, bad governance affects food security and income generation for rural communities. Corruption and inefficiency in the distribution of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and seeds, hinder productivity (Aiyedun et al., 2022). Without proper governance structures to ensure the fair distribution of resources, farmers struggle to improve their yields, leading to food insecurity and increased poverty in rural areas.

Infrastructure development is also adversely affected by bad governance, as funds earmarked for public works are often misappropriated (Ewubare&Abokor, 2018). Inadequate infrastructure—such as roads, electricity, and water supply—hinders economic activities and limits access to markets, exacerbating poverty. Consequently, the sectoral impacts of bad governance highlight the interconnectedness of governance issues and their implications for poverty alleviation.

## **2.9 Policy Responses and Governance Reforms**

Addressing the challenges of bad governance in Nigeria requires comprehensive policy responses and governance reforms. Recent initiatives aimed at improving governance quality include the implementation of anti-corruption measures, public service reforms, and efforts to enhance accountability (Aiyedun et al., 2022).

Anti-corruption initiatives have gained traction in Nigeria, with agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) working to combat corruption at

various levels of government (Okafor & Okwori, 2021). However, the effectiveness of these initiatives is often hampered by a lack of political will and public support. Strengthening legal frameworks and promoting transparency in governmental processes are critical components of successful anti-corruption strategies (World Bank, 2020).

Public service reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery are also essential. These reforms may include capacity building for public servants, improved monitoring and evaluation systems, and the introduction of technology to streamline service delivery (Ewubare & Abokor, 2018). Furthermore, increasing public participation in governance processes can foster accountability and ensure that the needs of citizens are prioritized.

Additionally, enhancing the rule of law and promoting democratic governance are fundamental to improving governance quality in Nigeria. Strengthening institutions responsible for upholding the law can create an enabling environment for sustainable development and poverty alleviation (Aiyedun et al., 2022).

In conclusion, addressing bad governance in Nigeria is paramount for effective poverty alleviation. By implementing comprehensive reforms and promoting good governance practices, Nigeria can work towards improving the quality of life for its citizens and breaking the cycle of poverty.

### **Theoretical Framework:**

#### **The Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory**

The Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory stems from the intersection of governance studies and poverty alleviation strategies. The origins of this theory can be traced back to the mid-



20th century when scholars began to explore the relationship between state governance and economic development. The World Bank's 1992 report, "Governance and Development," marked a significant milestone in acknowledging that governance quality profoundly influences developmental outcomes (World Bank, 1992). This foundational work highlighted that poor governance leads to misallocation of resources, corruption, and inefficiency, which are critical factors in perpetuating poverty in developing countries, including Nigeria.

The theory further evolved in the early 2000s as the international community began to emphasize good governance as a prerequisite for effective poverty alleviation. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also underscored this connection in its 2002 Human Development Report, asserting that governance plays a pivotal role in reducing poverty by enhancing service delivery, promoting economic growth, and ensuring social equity (UNDP, 2002). As such, the Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory integrates various dimensions of governance, including political stability, rule of law, and accountability, as they relate to poverty dynamics.

The Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory has been widely employed in various empirical studies aimed at understanding the correlation between governance quality and poverty levels. Researchers utilize this theoretical framework to analyze how specific governance indicators—such as corruption, bureaucratic efficiency, and transparency—impact poverty alleviation efforts (Khan, 2019). For instance, studies have shown that countries with higher levels of corruption tend to have lower investments in social services, which exacerbates poverty (Olson, 2000).

In the context of Nigeria, the theory has been instrumental in analyzing the implications of bad governance on poverty levels. Researchers have employed the theory to examine how poor governance, characterized by corruption, mismanagement of resources, and lack of accountability, significantly hinders economic growth and perpetuates poverty in the country (Aiyedun& Babalola, 2022). Empirical analyses using this framework demonstrate that governance failures directly correlate with increased poverty rates, as resources intended for poverty alleviation are often diverted or misused due to lack of transparency and accountability (Agbaje et al., 2019).

The Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory is particularly relevant to the study of the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria. The theory provides a comprehensive lens through which to examine the structural challenges that inhibit poverty alleviation efforts in the country. As Nigeria grapples with high levels of poverty, which affected over 40% of its population as of 2023 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023), understanding the underlying governance issues becomes critical.

1. **Corruption and Mismanagement of Resources:** Corruption is one of the key components of the Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory. In Nigeria, corrupt practices at various levels of government have led to the misappropriation of funds allocated for social services and poverty alleviation programs. According to Transparency International (2022), Nigeria consistently ranks among the most corrupt countries in the world. This pervasive corruption has resulted in inadequate funding for essential services like education and healthcare, which are crucial for poverty alleviation. Studies have shown that regions with higher corruption levels

experience greater poverty rates, supporting the notion that bad governance directly contributes to the perpetuation of poverty (Olaoye, 2023).

2. **Inefficiency in Public Services:** The Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory also emphasizes the importance of effective governance in ensuring that public services are delivered efficiently. In Nigeria, poor governance manifests in the form of bureaucratic inefficiencies that impede the delivery of essential services (Ewubare&Abokor, 2018). For instance, the healthcare system in Nigeria is plagued by inadequate infrastructure and a shortage of medical personnel, which limits access to healthcare for the impoverished population. Research indicates that improved governance, characterized by effective public service delivery, is essential for reducing poverty and improving living standards (World Bank, 2020).
3. **Political Instability and its Impact on Poverty:** Political stability is another critical aspect of governance that influences poverty dynamics. The Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory posits that unstable political environments can exacerbate poverty by creating uncertainty that discourages investment and economic growth (Khan, 2019). Nigeria has experienced significant political instability, including coups and civil unrest, which have contributed to an unstable economic environment. This instability deters foreign investment and disrupts economic activities, further entrenching poverty in the country (Aiyedun& Babalola, 2022). Empirical evidence suggests that improving governance and political stability can lead to enhanced economic performance and a reduction in poverty levels (Okafor &Okwori, 2021).

4. **Social Exclusion and Inequality:** The Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory highlights that governance failures can lead to social exclusion and increasing inequality, both of which perpetuate poverty. In Nigeria, marginalized groups, including women and rural populations, often face barriers to accessing essential services due to poor governance (Ojo et al., 2019). Studies have shown that equitable access to resources and opportunities is crucial for poverty alleviation. By addressing governance failures and promoting inclusive policies, Nigeria can foster a more equitable society that supports poverty reduction efforts (UNDP, 2002).
5. **Recommendations for Governance Reforms:** Given the insights provided by the Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory, addressing the challenges of bad governance in Nigeria is paramount for effective poverty alleviation. Reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and public participation in governance processes are essential for improving service delivery and reducing poverty levels (Ewubare&Abokor, 2018). Additionally, anti-corruption measures and the strengthening of institutions responsible for enforcing laws and regulations can create an enabling environment for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

In conclusion, the Governance-Poverty Nexus Theory provides a robust framework for understanding the intricate relationship between governance and poverty in Nigeria. By highlighting the critical role of governance in perpetuating poverty, this theory underscores the need for comprehensive reforms aimed at improving governance quality as a means to effectively address poverty challenges. Empirical evidence supports the assertion that bad

governance significantly contributes to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria, and addressing these governance issues is vital for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

### **Empirical review**

Aiyedun& Babalola (2022)

Title: "Governance, Corruption, and Poverty: An Analysis of Nigeria's Socio-Economic Landscape"

This study employed a qualitative research design, focusing on the population of civil servants and stakeholders in Nigeria. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 30 participants, and data were collected through semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the data. The findings revealed that pervasive corruption and ineffective governance significantly contribute to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria. The authors concluded that governance reforms are essential for poverty alleviation and recommended enhancing transparency and accountability in public institutions.

Agbaje et al. (2019)

Title: "Bad Governance and Its Implications for Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria"

This research utilized a cross-sectional survey design, targeting low-income households in Lagos State. The sample consisted of 200 respondents selected through stratified random sampling. Data collection was conducted using structured questionnaires, and descriptive statistics were used for analysis. The study found a strong correlation between poor governance and poverty levels, highlighting that governance failures hinder effective

poverty alleviation programs. The authors recommended comprehensive governance reforms to enhance service delivery and reduce poverty.

Oluoch& Odhiambo (2021)

Title: "The Impact of Governance on Poverty in Nigeria: An Empirical Analysis"

The researchers adopted a quantitative research design, focusing on a population of households in rural Nigeria. A sample of 150 households was selected using simple random sampling. Data were collected through surveys, and multiple regression analysis was used to analyze the data. The results indicated that governance quality is inversely related to poverty levels, with poor governance exacerbating poverty. The study concluded that improving governance is crucial for poverty reduction and suggested implementing good governance practices.

Okafor &Okwori (2021) Title: "The Impact of Corruption on Governance and Development in Nigeria"

This study utilized a mixed-methods research design, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The population consisted of civil servants and citizens, with a sample of 250 respondents selected through purposive and random sampling techniques. Data were collected using questionnaires and interviews, and data analysis involved descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed that corruption significantly undermines governance, leading to increased poverty levels. The authors recommended strengthening anti-corruption measures and enhancing governance structures.

Kaufmann et al. (2010)

Title: "Governance Matters VIII: Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators 1996-2010" This research employed a quantitative research design, analyzing governance indicators across multiple countries, including Nigeria. The population included governance indices from various nations, and the sampling was based on available data sets. Data were collected from World Bank databases, and factor analysis was used to evaluate the relationship between governance and poverty. The study found that poor governance is a significant determinant of poverty rates in Nigeria. The authors recommended policy reforms aimed at improving governance to foster economic growth.

Igbokwe & Ayo (2022) Title: "Governance Challenges and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria: A Study of Selected States" This study utilized a descriptive research design, focusing on the population of impoverished communities in Nigeria. A sample of 120 respondents was selected through convenience sampling. Data were collected through questionnaires, and thematic analysis was employed to analyze qualitative data. Findings revealed that governance challenges, such as corruption and inefficiency, perpetuate poverty in targeted states. The authors concluded that addressing governance issues is essential for effective poverty reduction strategies.

Nwankwo & Nwankwo (2020) Title: "Poverty and Governance in Nigeria: An Empirical Review" The researchers employed a systematic literature review methodology, analyzing existing studies on poverty and governance in Nigeria. They included a wide range of publications, focusing on empirical research findings. The analysis indicated that bad

governance is a primary factor contributing to the persistence of poverty in Nigeria. The authors recommended further empirical studies to explore specific governance reforms that could mitigate poverty.

Obi & Okwudili (2021)

Title: "Governance and Socioeconomic Inequalities: Implications for Poverty in Nigeria"

This research utilized a correlational research design, focusing on urban and rural populations in Nigeria. A sample of 200 individuals was selected through stratified random sampling. Data were collected via surveys, and correlation analysis was used to determine relationships. The results showed a significant relationship between governance quality and socioeconomic inequalities, with implications for poverty levels. The authors concluded that improving governance is vital for addressing inequalities and poverty.

Osagie & Idowu (2022)

Title: "Corruption, Governance, and Poverty in Nigeria: A Comparative Study"

This study employed a comparative research design, analyzing data from two states in Nigeria with differing governance quality. A sample of 300 respondents was selected using stratified sampling. Data collection involved surveys and interviews, with data analyzed using comparative statistics. Findings indicated that poor governance in the less effective state led to higher poverty levels compared to the better-governed state. The authors recommended implementing best governance practices in underperforming areas.



Eze & Ijeoma (2019)

Title: "The Role of Governance in Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects"

This research utilized a case study approach, focusing on selected local government areas in Nigeria. A sample of 150 respondents was selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected via interviews and focus group discussions, and thematic analysis was used. The findings highlighted the critical role of governance in facilitating poverty alleviation efforts. The authors concluded that strengthening local governance structures is essential for effective poverty reduction.

Ogunleye & Adebayo (2021)

Title: "Governance and Poverty Dynamics in Nigeria: An Analytical Review"

This study employed a meta-analysis methodology, reviewing existing empirical studies on governance and poverty in Nigeria. The researchers focused on various quantitative studies to extract relevant data. The findings indicated a consistent pattern showing that poor governance contributes to increasing poverty rates across different regions. The authors recommended targeted governance reforms to address the poverty crisis effectively.

Kehinde & Ojo (2020) Title: "Impact of Governance on Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nigeria: A Review of Selected Policies"

This research utilized a descriptive survey design, focusing on policymakers and stakeholders in Nigeria. A sample of 100 respondents was selected through snowball

sampling. Data were collected using structured interviews, and qualitative analysis was performed. Findings showed that governance issues hinder the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies. The authors concluded that addressing governance shortcomings is essential for the success of poverty alleviation policies.

Opara&Agbo (2021)

Title: "Corruption and Governance in Nigeria: A Threat to Poverty Alleviation"

This study utilized a correlational research design, targeting civil servants and citizens in Enugu State. A sample of 250 respondents was selected using simple random sampling. Data were collected through questionnaires, and regression analysis was employed. The study found a significant correlation between corruption and poverty levels, suggesting that corruption undermines poverty alleviation efforts. The authors recommended strengthening anti-corruption measures to enhance governance.

Obasi & Okafor (2022)

Title: "Good Governance as a Panacea for Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria"

This research employed a qualitative research design, focusing on local communities in Nigeria. A purposive sample of 40 participants was selected, and data were collected through focus group discussions. Content analysis was used for data interpretation. Findings indicated that good governance practices could significantly improve poverty alleviation outcomes. The authors concluded that promoting good governance is vital for sustainable development.

Chukwu &Nnadi (2019)

Title: "Poverty, Governance, and Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria"

This study utilized a descriptive research design, focusing on government officials and citizens in urban areas. A sample of 200 respondents was selected through stratified random sampling. Data were collected using surveys and interviews, and data analysis involved descriptive statistics. The findings revealed that governance failures hinder progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty reduction. The authors recommended implementing governance reforms to meet these goals.

Nwachukwu &Okwor (2021)

Title: "The Role of Governance in Poverty Alleviation: Evidence from Nigeria"

This research utilized a longitudinal study design, examining poverty trends and governance indices over ten years. The population included all states in Nigeria, with a sample drawn from available secondary data. Data were analyzed using time series analysis. The results indicated a significant relationship between governance quality and poverty trends, concluding that enhancing governance is crucial for poverty alleviation.

Ajayi & Adeyemi (2022)

Title: "Assessing the Impact of Governance on Poverty Reduction Efforts in Nigeria"

This study employed a survey research design, targeting beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programs in Abuja. A sample of 150 respondents was selected through random sampling. Data were collected via questionnaires, and data analysis included descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed that ineffective governance significantly

undermines poverty reduction efforts. The authors recommended implementing good governance practices to improve outcomes.

Udeh&Arogundade (2021)

Title: "Governance and Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria: The Role of Institutions"

This research utilized a case study approach, focusing on selected institutions involved in poverty alleviation in Nigeria. A sample of 50 institutional representatives was selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected via interviews, and thematic analysis was used. The findings highlighted that weak institutional governance contributes to ineffective poverty alleviation programs. The authors concluded that strengthening institutions is critical for poverty reduction.

Ismail & Obinna (2019)

Title: "Corruption, Governance, and Poverty: A Study of Nigeria"

This study employed a correlational research design, focusing on the population of citizens in Nigeria. A sample of 300 respondents was selected through simple random sampling. Data were collected using questionnaires, and correlation analysis was performed. The results indicated a strong correlation between corruption and poverty levels, leading to the conclusion that addressing corruption is essential for poverty alleviation.

Akintola & Fadeyi (2020)

Title: "The Effect of Governance on Poverty Alleviation: Evidence from Nigeria"

This research utilized a descriptive cross-sectional design, focusing on rural and urban

populations in Nigeria. A sample of 200 respondents was selected through stratified random sampling. Data were collected through structured questionnaires, and descriptive statistics were used for analysis. Findings indicated that poor governance significantly impedes poverty alleviation efforts. The authors recommended strengthening governance frameworks to improve poverty outcomes.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter covers the description and discussion on the various techniques and procedures used in the study to collect and analyze the data as it is deemed appropriate.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

For this study, the survey research design was adopted. The choice of the design was informed by the objectives of the study as outlined in chapter one. This research design provides a quickly efficient and accurate means of assessing information about a population of interest. It intends to study the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria. The study will be conducted in Abuja metropolis.

#### **3.3 Population of the Study**

The population for this study were residents in Kuje metropolis, FCT, Nigeria. A total of 134 respondents were selected from the population figure out of which the sample size was determined. The reason for choosing Kuje metropolis is because of its proximity to the researcher.

#### **3.4 Sample and Sampling Techniques**

To investigate the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria, researchers can employ various sampling techniques. Some of these include Stratified Random Sampling: This involves dividing the population into distinct subgroups or strata based on characteristics such as income level, geographic location, or occupation. Random samples are then taken from each stratum to ensure representation.

### **3.5 Research Instrument and Instrumentation**

Data for this study was collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source of data collected was mainly the use of a structured questionnaire which was designed to elicit information on the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria. The secondary source of data collections were textbooks, journals and scholarly materials.

### **3.6 Validity of Instrument**

The instrument of this study was subjected to face validation. Face validation tests the appropriateness of the questionnaire items. This is because face validation is often used to indicate whether an instrument on the face of it appears to measure what it contains. Face validations therefore aims at determining the extent to which the questionnaire is relevant to the objectives of the study. In subjecting the instrument for face validation, copies of the initial draft of the questionnaire will be validated by supervisor. The supervisor is expected to critically examine the items of the instrument with specific objectives of the study and make useful suggestions to improve the quality of the instrument. Based on his recommendations the instrument will be adjusted and re-adjusted before being administered for the study.

### **3.7 Reliability of Instrument**

The coefficient of 0.81 was considered a reliability coefficient because according to Etuk (1990), a test-retest coefficient of 0.5 will be enough to justify the use of a research instrument.

### **3.8 Method of Data Collection**

This study is based on the two possible sources of data which are the primary and

secondary source.

- a. Primary Source of Data:** The primary data for this study consist of raw data generated from responses to questionnaires and interview by the respondents.
- b. Secondary Source of Data:** The secondary data includes information obtained through the review of literature that is journals, monographs, textbooks and other periodicals.

### 3.9 Method of Data Analysis

Data collected will be analyzed using frequency table, percentage and mean score analysis while the nonparametric statistical test (Chi- square) was used to test the formulated hypothesis using SPSS (statistical package for social sciences). Haven gathered the data through the administration of questionnaire, the collected data will be coded, tabulated and analyzed using SPSS statistical software according to the research question and hypothesis. In order to effectively analyze the data collected for easy management and accuracy, the chi square method will be used for test of independence. Chi square is given as

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum (o-e)^2}{e}$$

Where  $X^2$  = chi square

o = observed frequency

e = expected frequency

Level of confidence / degree of freedom

When employing the chi – square test, a certain level of confidence or margin of error has to be assumed. More also, the degree of freedom in the table has to be determined in



simple variable, row and column distribution, degree of freedom is:  $df = (r-1) (c-1)$

Where;  $df$  = degree of freedom

$r$  = number of rows

$c$  = number of columns.

In determining the critical chi \_ square value, the value of confidence is assumed to be at 95% or 0.95. a margin of 5% or 0.05 is allowed for judgment error.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of the result obtained from questionnaires. The data gathered were presented according to the order in which they were arranged in the research questions and simple percentage were used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents while the chi square test was adopted to test the research hypothesis.

#### 4.2 Analysis of Demographic Data of Respondents

**Table 1: Gender of Respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	65	65.0	65.0
	Female	35	35.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table1 above shows the gender distribution of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 100 respondents, 65respondents which represent 65.0percent of the population are male. 35 which represent 35.0 percent of the population are female.

**Table 2: Age range of Respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20-30years	15	15.0	15.0
	31-40years	10	10.0	25.0
	41-50years	25	25.0	50.0
	51-60years	20	20.0	70.0
	above 60years	30	30.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 2 above shows the age grade of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 100 respondents, 15 respondents which represent 15.0percent of the population are between 20-30years. 10respondents which represent 10.0percent of the population are between 31-40years. 25respondents which represent 25.0percent of the population are between 41-50years. 20respondents which represent 20.0percent of the population are between 51-60years. 30respondents which represent 30.0percent of the population are above 60years.

**Table 3: Educational Background of Respondents**

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid FSLC	20	20.0	20.0
WASSCE/GCE/NECO	25	25.0	45.0
OND/HND/BSC	35	35.0	80.0
MSC/PGD/PHD	15	15.0	95.0
OTHERS	5	5.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 3 above shows the educational background of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 100 respondents, 20 respondents which represent 20.0percent of the population are FSLC holders. 25 which represent 25.0percent of the population are SSCE/GCE/WASSCE holders. 35 which represent 35.0percent of the population are OND/HND/BSC holders. 15 which represent 15.0percent of the population are MSC/PGD/PHD holders. 5 which represent 5.0percent of the population had other type of educational qualifications.

**Table 4: Marital Status**

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
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Valid	Single	30	30.0	30.0
	Married	55	15.0	45.0
	Divorced	5	20.0	65.0
	Widowed	10	15.0	80.0
	Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 4 above shows the marital status of the respondents used for this study. 30 which represent 30.0percent of the population are single. 55 which represent 55.0percent of the population are married. 5 which represent 5.0percent of the population are divorced. 10 which represent 10.0percent of the population are widowed.

#### 4.3 Analysis of Psychographic Data

**Table 5: The government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices**

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	30	30.0	30.0
	Agree	42	42.0	72.0
	Undecided	10	10.0	82.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	92.0

Strongly disagree	8	8.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 5 shows the responses of respondents if the government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices. 30 respondents representing 30.0percent strongly agreed that the government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices. 42 respondents representing 42.0percent agreed that the government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent were undecided. 10 respondents representing 10.0percent disagreed that the government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices. 8 respondents representing 8.0percent strongly disagreed that the government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices.

**Table 6: Public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems**

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	30	30.0	30.0
	Agree	42	42.0	72.0
	Undecided	10	10.0	82.0
	Disagree	10	10.0	92.0
	Strongly disagree	8	8.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 6 shows the responses of respondents if public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems. 30 respondents representing 30.0percent strongly agreed that public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems. 42 respondents representing 42.0percent agreed that public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent were undecided. 10 respondents representing 10.0percent disagreed that public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems. 8 respondents representing 8.0percent strongly disagreed

that public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems.

**Table 7: There is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness**

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	10	10.0	10.0
Agree	15	15.0	25.0
Undecided	5	5.0	30.0
Disagree	40	40.0	70.0
Strongly disagree	30	30.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 7 show the responses of respondents if there is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness. 10 of the respondents representing 10.0percent strongly agree that there is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness. 15 of the respondents representing 15.0percent agree that there is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness. 5 of them representing 5.0percent were undecided. 40 of the respondents representing 40.0percent disagree that there is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness. 30 of the respondents representing 30.0percent strongly



disagree that there is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness.

**Table 8: Encouraging active citizen engagement in governance processes can enhance accountability and ensure that government policies are reflective of the needs of the populace**

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	60	60.0	60.0
Agree	25	25.0	85.0
Undecided	10	10.0	95.0
Disagree	5	5.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 8 show the responses of respondents if encouraging active citizen engagement in governance processes can enhance accountability and ensure that government policies are reflective of the needs of the populace. 60 of the respondents representing 60.0percent strongly agree that encouraging active citizen engagement in governance processes can enhance accountability and ensure that government policies are reflective of the needs of the populace. 25 of the respondents representing 25.0percent agree that encouraging active citizen engagement in governance processes can enhance accountability and ensure that government policies are reflective of the needs of the populace. 10 of them representing

10.0percent were undecided. 5 of the respondents representing 5.0percent disagree that encouraging active citizen engagement in governance processes can enhance accountability and ensure that government policies are reflective of the needs of the populace.

**Table 9: The government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively**

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	25	25.0	25.0
Agree	32	32.0	57.0
Undecided	13	13.0	70.0
Disagree	15	15.0	85.0
Strongly disagree	15	15.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 9 shows the responses of respondents if the government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively. 25 of the respondents representing 25.0percent strongly agree that the government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively. 32 of the

respondents representing 32.0percent agree that the government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively. 13 of the respondents representing 13.0percent were undecided. 15 of the respondents representing 15.0percent disagree that the government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively. 15 of the respondents representing 15.0percent strongly disagree that the government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively.

**Table 10: Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations**

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	65	65.0	65.0
Agree	30	30.0	95.0
Disagree	3	3.0	98.0
Strongly disagree	2	2.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.2025

Table 10 show the responses of respondents if Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations. 65 of the respondents representing 65.0percent strongly agree that Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations. 30 of the respondents representing 30.0percent agree that Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations. 3 respondents representing 3.0percent were undecided. 3 of the respondents representing 3.0percent disagree that Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations. 2 of the respondents representing 2.0percent strongly disagree that Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 Summary**

This study explored the multifaceted relationship between bad governance and poverty in Nigeria, emphasizing the significant role that governance quality plays in shaping socio-economic conditions. It was established that poor governance, characterized by corruption, lack of transparency, inefficiency, and weak institutions, has perpetuated a cycle of poverty affecting millions of Nigerians. The analysis highlighted how governance failures lead to inadequate public service delivery, misallocation of resources, and erosion of public trust in government institutions. Furthermore, the empirical evidence reviewed illustrated that regions with poor governance indicators consistently report higher poverty rates, demonstrating a direct correlation between governance quality and poverty levels. The findings underscored the importance of governance reforms aimed at enhancing accountability, transparency, and citizen participation as critical pathways to poverty alleviation. The study concluded that for Nigeria to effectively combat poverty, comprehensive governance reforms are essential, focusing on improving institutional capacity and promoting good governance practices across all levels of government.

#### **5.2 Conclusion**

In conclusion, bad governance remains a fundamental barrier to poverty alleviation in Nigeria. The interplay between governance failures and socio-economic challenges creates a vicious cycle that undermines efforts to improve living standards and foster sustainable development. Corruption, inefficiency, and lack of accountability within governance

structures have not only perpetuated poverty but have also hindered the implementation of effective poverty reduction strategies. This study reveals that addressing the root causes of bad governance is paramount to breaking the cycle of poverty. Enhancing governance quality can lead to improved resource management, better public service delivery, and greater public trust, ultimately fostering a more equitable society. Therefore, it is imperative for policymakers, civil society, and citizens to collaborate in promoting good governance as a crucial strategy for poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

To address the role of bad governance in perpetuating poverty in Nigeria, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures:** The government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices. This includes establishing independent anti-corruption bodies with adequate powers to investigate and prosecute corruption cases.
2. **Enhancing Transparency and Accountability:** Public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems. This will help in building public trust and ensuring that resources are utilized effectively for poverty alleviation programs.
3. **Improving Public Service Delivery:** There is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness. This can be achieved through

capacity-building initiatives for public officials and the adoption of technology to streamline service delivery processes.

4. **Promoting Citizen Participation:** Encouraging active citizen engagement in governance processes can enhance accountability and ensure that government policies are reflective of the needs of the populace. Mechanisms such as public consultations and participatory budgeting should be encouraged.
5. **Fostering Institutional Reforms:** The government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively. This includes investing in the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and public administration systems to ensure they can function optimally.
6. **Implementing Targeted Poverty Alleviation Programs:** Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations. Programs should be data-driven and monitored regularly for effectiveness.

By implementing these recommendations, Nigeria can pave the way for better governance, ultimately leading to significant reductions in poverty levels and enhanced socio-economic development.

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**APPENDIX I**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**INSTRUCTION:** Please endeavor to complete the questionnaire by ticking the correct answer (s) from the options or supply the information where necessary.

1. Gender

- a. Male ☐
- b. Female ☐

2. Age range

- a. 20-30 ☐
- b. 31-40 ☐
- c. 41-50 ☐
- d. 51-60 ☐
- e. Above 60 ☐

3. Educational qualification

- a. FSLC ☐
- b. WASSCE/GCE/NECO ☐
- c. OND/HND/BSC ☐
- d. MSC/PGD/MBA/PHD ☐

**SECTION B**

**QUESTIONS ON THE ROLE OF BAD GOVERNANCE IN PERPETUATING  
POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
<b>1</b>	The government should implement stringent anti-corruption frameworks and ensure the enforcement of laws that hold public officials accountable for corrupt practices.				
<b>2</b>	Public institutions must adopt transparent processes and practices, including open budgeting and public expenditure tracking systems.				
<b>3</b>	There is a need to reform public service systems to enhance efficiency and responsiveness.				
<b>4</b>	Encouraging active citizen engagement in governance processes can enhance accountability and ensure that government policies are reflective of the needs of the populace.				
<b>5</b>	The government should prioritize strengthening institutions responsible for governance, ensuring that they operate independently and effectively				
<b>6</b>	Specific poverty reduction strategies should be designed to address the unique needs of various socio-economic groups, particularly the most vulnerable populations.				

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