

# Exploring the nexus between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

This study which explores the nexus between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria argues that effective development administration is crucial for poverty reduction which facilitates efficient implementation of policies and programs aimed at promoting economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. The paper further observed that Nigerian government has established institutions to support development administration, including the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and the National Development Plan (2010-2015) aimed to reduce poverty through economic growth, but its implementation was hindered by inadequate funding which has made poverty remain entrenched, particularly in rural areas. The study made use of documentary sources of data collection which is also known as "Secondary Sources" from related literature. By documentary sources, we mean any written material (whether hand-written, typed or printed) that is already in existence, which was produced for other purpose than the benefit of the investigator. The paper found out among others that Nigeria's development administration framework recognizes the importance of institutional capacity in achieving poverty reduction goals, but weaknesses persist, and also recommends among others that capital expenditures should be prioritized over recurrent expenditures to support development programs. The study thus, concludes that Nigeria's development administration framework recognizes the importance of institutional capacity, policy effectiveness and resource allocation in achieving poverty reduction goals. However, weaknesses in these areas, such as corruption, inefficiency and inadequate funding, hinder poverty reduction efforts.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy is fraught with significant development challenges, particularly poverty reduction. Despite abundant natural resources and economic growth, poverty persists, affecting over 80 million citizens (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The correlation between development administration and poverty reduction is crucial, as effective governance and institutional capacity significantly influence poverty outcomes. Historically, Nigeria's development administration framework has undergone various reforms aimed at enhancing poverty reduction efforts. The National Development Plan (2017) and Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017) emphasize institutional strengthening and policy effectiveness. However, implementation challenges persist, undermining poverty reduction progress (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2017). Poverty reduction strategies in Nigeria focus on economic growth, social protection and human development. Programs like the Conditional Cash Transfer and National Social Investment Office aim to enhance livelihoods and promote economic empowerment (National Social Investment Office, 2020). Yet, poverty rates remain high, particularly in rural areas, emphasizing the need for effective development administration. Scholars argue that development administration weaknesses, including corruption, inefficiency and inadequate funding, hinder poverty reduction efforts (Olowu, 2018; Adebayo, 2019). Effective development administration requires strengthening institutional capacity, promoting transparency and accountability and ensuring efficient resource allocation. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also emphasize good governance and institutional capacity for poverty reduction. Development administration ensures the management and implementation of development policies, programs and projects (United Nations, 2019). It encompasses a range of activities, including planning, budgeting, human resource management and service delivery. Effective development administration is critical for achieving sustainable development goals, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. Regrettably, poverty reduction remains a pressing challenge in Nigeria, with far-reaching consequences for economic growth, social stability and human well-being (World Bank, 2020). The country's poverty profile is characterized by high levels of income inequality, limited access to education and healthcare, and inadequate infrastructure. Development administration plays a vital role in poverty reduction through the effective implementation of development policies and programs (Adebayo, 2019). This includes the provision of basic services, such as healthcare, education and infrastructure, as well as the promotion of

economic empowerment and social protection. Also, administrative capacity is a critical determinant of poverty reduction outcomes (Olowu, 2018). In Nigeria, weaknesses in administrative capacity, including inadequate human resources, limited financial resources and inefficient institutional frameworks, hinder the effective implementation of poverty reduction programs. It is also worthy to note that policy effectiveness is another crucial factor influencing poverty reduction outcomes (Idowu, 2020). In Nigeria, policies aimed at reducing poverty, such as the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, have yielded mixed results due to implementation challenges and inadequate resource allocation.

Successful development administration initiatives in Nigeria, such as the Conditional Cash Transfer Program, demonstrate the potential for effective poverty reduction (National Social Investment Office, 2020). However, challenges persist, including inadequate funding, limited reach and inefficient targeting. Development administration which prioritizes economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital development involves planning, organizing, and coordinating resources to achieve development goals to ensure that policies and programs are implemented efficiently, to benefit the most vulnerable populations. Poverty reduction remains a pressing issue in Nigeria, with over 80 million people living below the poverty line. The Nigerian government has established institutions to support development administration, including the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and the National Development Plan (2010-2015) aimed to reduce poverty through economic growth, but its implementation was hindered by inadequate funding which has made poverty remain entrenched, particularly in rural areas. Also, development administration which requires skilled personnel, adequate resources, and robust monitoring and evaluation systems must prioritize participatory approaches, engaging local communities in decision-making processes to ensure that development interventions address the specific needs of vulnerable populations.

### 1.1 Statement of problem

The nexus between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria is fraught with numerous challenges. One of the primary issues is the weakness of institutional capacity, hindering effective policy implementation (Olowu, 2018). Nigeria's development administration framework acknowledges the significance of institutional strength, but corruption and inefficiency persist. Corruption, a pervasive problem in Nigeria, undermines poverty reduction efforts by diverting resources intended for development programs (Transparency International, 2020).

The prevalence of corruption compromises the effectiveness of policies and programs aimed at alleviating poverty. Inadequate funding and inefficient resource allocation exacerbate poverty reduction challenges (Adebayo, 2019). Nigeria's budgetary allocations often prioritize recurrent expenditures over capital expenditures, hindering development program implementation. Policy implementation challenges also hinder poverty reduction outcomes. Well-designed policies are frequently compromised by ineffective coordination, monitoring and evaluation (National Planning Commission, 2017). Furthermore, governance issues, including lack of transparency and accountability, impede poverty reduction progress (Odusola, 2017). Effective governance is essential for promoting participation, ensuring accountability and enhancing poverty reduction outcomes. Inefficient service delivery mechanisms deny citizens access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, critical for human development (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). Limited data availability and inadequate data-driven decision-making hinder poverty reduction efforts (World Bank, 2020). Data informs policies and tracks progress, making it a vital tool in poverty reduction. The complexities of Nigeria's federal structure also pose challenges for poverty reduction. Sub-national governments' roles in implementing poverty reduction strategies are often unclear (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2017). Additionally, poverty reduction initiatives frequently overlook vulnerable populations, such as women and youth (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Targeted interventions addressing the unique needs of these groups are essential. Lastly, the impact of external factors, including global economic fluctuations and climate change, on poverty reduction outcomes in Nigeria cannot be overstated (International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2019). Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive development strategies.

### 1.2 Research questions

- What is the relationship between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria?
- What significant role does administrative capacity and efficiency play in poverty reduction in Nigeria?
- How do strengthening development administration crucial for achieving sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria?

### 1.3 Objectives of the study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the nexus between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria. While the specific objectives are as follows:

- To know if there is a relationship between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria
- To ascertain the role administrative capacity and efficiency play in poverty reduction in Nigeria
- To show that strengthening development administration is crucial for achieving sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria

### 1.4 Hypotheses

- There is a relationship between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria
- Administrative capacity and efficiency play a pivotal role in poverty reduction in Nigeria.
- Strengthening development administration is crucial for achieving sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria.

### 1.5 Operationalization of key concepts

#### 1.5.1 Development Administration

Development administration refers to the process of planning, organizing, directing, and controlling resources to achieve development goals and objectives. It involves the effective management of human, financial, and technological resources to promote economic growth, social progress, and improved quality of life. Development administration encompasses various aspects, including policy formulation, program implementation, project management, and evaluation. It requires a multidisciplinary approach, combining insights from public administration, economics, sociology, politics, and other social sciences. Effective development administration ensures that development interventions are targeted, efficient, and sustainable, ultimately leading to improved living standards and poverty reduction.

#### 1.5.2 Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction refers to the process of alleviating economic deprivation and social exclusion, ensuring that individuals and communities have access to resources, opportunities, and services necessary for a dignified life. It involves strategies and interventions aimed at decreasing income poverty, human poverty, and social exclusion. Poverty reduction encompasses various dimensions, including economic growth, education, healthcare, nutrition, shelter, and social protection. Effective poverty reduction initiatives address the root causes of poverty, such as unemployment, inequality, lack of education, and limited access to basic services. The ultimate goal of poverty reduction is to empower individuals

and communities to break the cycle of poverty and improve their overall well-being.

### 1.6 Methods of data collection

The study made use of documentary sources of data collection which is also known as "Secondary Sources" from related literature. By documentary sources, we mean any written material (whether handwritten, typed or printed) that is already in existence, which was produced for other purpose than the benefit of the investigator. The secondary sources of data therefore include government publication/documents, both published and unpublished works such as textbooks, journals, periodicals, seminar and conference papers. We also made maximum use of internet in sourcing several useful information that form bulk of the data used to analyze this work. The internet sources were accessed using Google and pdfgeni. This was done to generate information on the subject matter. Justifying the use of secondary source of information, Ebo (1998) asserted that secondary evidence of information is with respect to existing literature, research reports, government reports and/or documents, institutional publication and statistical reports. It is in line of this that secondary sources earlier identified become valid for the purpose of analyzing this work

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 The Concept of Development Administration

Development administration is a crucial aspect of achieving sustainable development goals, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. It involves the management and implementation of development policies, programs and projects to promote economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability (United Nations, 2019). Effective development administration requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing planning, budgeting, human resource management and service delivery. Planning is a critical component of development administration, as it enables policymakers to set clear goals, objectives and strategies for development programs (Adebayo, 2019). This involves analyzing the development context, including social, economic and environmental factors, to identify priority areas for intervention. Development administration operates at multiple levels, including national, regional, and local. It involves collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector entities, and community groups. Development administrators work to create an enabling environment for development, addressing challenges such as institutional weakness, corruption, and inadequate infrastructure. They also prioritize capacity building, training, and institutional strengthening to ensure that development gains are sustained over time. Key characteristics of development administration include strategic planning, participatory decision-making, transparency, accountability, and a focus on results-oriented management. By adopting a developmental administration approach, governments and organizations can enhance their ability to drive meaningful change and improve the lives of citizens.

In Nigeria, for instance, development planning has been hindered by inadequate data collection and analysis, compromising the effectiveness of development programs (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Budgeting is another essential aspect of development administration, as it ensures the allocation of sufficient resources to support development programs. Effective budgeting involves prioritizing expenditures, managing finances and ensuring transparency and accountability (Olowu, 2018). In many developing countries, however, corruption and leakages undermine budget implementation, diverting resources intended for development programs (Transparency International, 2020). Human resource management is critical to development administration, as it enables the recruitment, training and motivation of personnel to deliver development programs effectively. Capacity building, through training and mentoring, enhances the skills and knowledge of development administrators, improving program implementation (World Bank, 2020). In Ghana, for example, capacity-building initiatives have strengthened development administration, enhancing service delivery and accountability (Government of Ghana, 2019). Service delivery is the core function of development administration, involving the provision of essential services such as healthcare, education and infrastructure. Effective service delivery requires efficient institutional frameworks, adequate resources and skilled personnel (Adebayo, 2019). In South Africa, development administration has prioritized service delivery, improving access to basic services and promoting social equity (Government of South Africa, 2020). Monitoring and evaluation are essential components of development administration, ensuring that programs are on track to achieve their objectives. Regular monitoring and evaluation enable policymakers to track progress, identify challenges and make adjustments as needed (United Nations, 2019). In Nigeria, monitoring and evaluation have informed development policy, improving program effectiveness and accountability (National Planning Commission, 2017).

Despite its importance, development administration faces significant challenges, including corruption, inefficient institutions and limited

resources. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts to strengthen institutions, build capacity and promote transparency and accountability (Olowu, 2018). International best practices, such as Singapore's development model and Denmark's sustainable development approach, offer valuable lessons for developing countries (World Bank, 2020). Development administration is critical for achieving sustainable development goals. Effective development administration requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing planning, budgeting, human resource management and service delivery. Understanding the challenges and best practices in development administration can inform strategies for strengthening institutions, building capacity and promoting transparency and accountability.

## 2.2 Overview of Poverty Reduction in Nigeria

Poverty reduction remains a pressing challenge in Nigeria, with approximately 40% of the population living below the poverty line (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The country's poverty profile is characterized by high levels of income inequality, limited access to education and healthcare, and inadequate infrastructure (World Bank, 2020). To address these challenges, the Nigerian government has implemented various poverty reduction strategies. The National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) is a comprehensive framework aimed at reducing poverty through economic growth, social protection and human development (National Planning Commission, 2017). The strategy prioritizes investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure to enhance human capital and promote economic opportunities. However, implementation challenges and inadequate resource allocation have hindered the effectiveness of the NPRS (Adebayo, 2019). Poverty reduction strategies can be categorized into short-term and long-term approaches. Short-term initiatives focus on providing immediate relief, such as food assistance, cash transfers, and emergency shelter. Long-term strategies aim to address underlying structural issues, including education and skills training, job creation, microfinance, and infrastructure development. Successful poverty reduction programs often involve collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. Examples of poverty reduction initiatives include conditional cash transfer programs, microcredit schemes, vocational training, and social safety nets. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) aims to eradicate extreme poverty globally by 2030, highlighting the importance of poverty reduction in the global development agenda.

Nigeria's economic growth has not translated into significant poverty reduction due to inefficiencies in resource allocation and corruption (Transparency International, 2020). The country's reliance on oil exports has exacerbated income inequality, with the benefits of economic growth concentrated among a small elite (Olowu, 2018). Diversifying the economy and promoting inclusive growth are essential for reducing poverty. Investing in human capital is critical for poverty reduction in Nigeria. Education and healthcare are essential services that enhance productivity and promote economic opportunities (United Nations, 2019). However, inadequate access to these services, particularly in rural areas, perpetuates poverty. The Nigerian government has introduced initiatives such as the Conditional Cash Transfer Program to improve access to education and healthcare. Social protection programs are also crucial for poverty reduction in Nigeria. The National Social Investment Office manages programs such as the N-Power initiative, providing training and employment opportunities for young people (National Social Investment Office, 2020). These programs aim to enhance livelihoods and promote economic empowerment. Rural development is essential for poverty reduction in Nigeria, as the majority of the poor reside in rural areas (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Investing in rural infrastructure, agriculture and human capital can enhance economic opportunities and reduce poverty. The Nigerian government has introduced initiatives such as the Agricultural Transformation Agenda to promote rural development. Addressing income inequality is critical for poverty reduction in Nigeria. Policies aimed at promoting inclusive growth, such as progressive taxation and social welfare programs, can reduce income disparities (World Bank, 2020). Strengthening institutions and promoting transparency and accountability are also essential for addressing corruption and ensuring effective resource allocation. International cooperation and partnerships are vital for poverty reduction in Nigeria. Organizations such as the World Bank, United Nations and African Development Bank provide technical assistance and funding support for poverty reduction initiatives (African Development Bank, 2019). These partnerships enhance Nigeria's capacity to address poverty and promote sustainable development.

Poverty reduction in Nigeria requires a multifaceted approach addressing economic growth, social protection, human development and institutional strengthening. Effective implementation of poverty reduction strategies enhanced international cooperation and strengthened institutions are essential for achieving sustainable development goals.

## 2.3 The nexus between development administration and poverty reduction

Development administration plays a critical role in poverty reduction. Effective development administration ensures that policies and programs are implemented efficiently, benefiting the most vulnerable populations. Poverty reduction strategies require careful planning, coordination, and management to address the complex causes of poverty. Development administration helps create an enabling environment for poverty reduction by promoting economic growth, improving governance, and enhancing institutional capacity. This includes investing in infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship, and providing access to education and healthcare. By strengthening institutions and promoting good governance, development administration helps reduce corruption and ensures that resources reach intended beneficiaries. Poverty reduction programs rely on effective development administration to deliver essential services to marginalized communities. Development administrators work to identify and address bottlenecks in service delivery, ensuring that programs are targeted, efficient, and sustainable. This includes monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress and adjust strategies. Development administration fosters participation and empowerment, essential for sustainable poverty reduction. By engaging local communities in decision-making processes, development administrators ensure that poverty reduction initiatives respond to specific needs and priorities. This participatory approach helps build trust, promotes ownership, and enhances the effectiveness of poverty reduction programs. Effective development administration addresses the root causes of poverty, including inequality, unemployment, and limited access to resources. Development administrators work to promote economic opportunities, improve access to education and healthcare, and enhance social protection mechanisms. By addressing these underlying issues, development administration helps break the cycle of poverty. Development administration is crucial for poverty reduction. By promoting effective governance, institutional capacity, and participatory approaches, development administration ensures that poverty reduction initiatives are targeted, efficient, and sustainable. Strong development administration is essential for achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and eradicating extreme poverty globally by 2030.

## 2.4 The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA)

This is a theoretical framework that examines the complex relationships between individuals, households and communities, and their environment, focusing on sustainable development and poverty reduction (Chambers & Conway, 1992). This approach recognizes that livelihoods comprise various assets, including human, social, natural, physical and financial capital, which interact to produce sustainable outcomes (Carney, 1998). By understanding these interactions, policymakers and practitioners can design interventions enhancing livelihood security and well-being. SLA emphasizes the importance of contextualizing livelihoods within vulnerability contexts, including shocks, trends and seasonality (DFID, 1999). This perspective acknowledges that livelihoods are dynamic and influenced by external factors, such as climate change, economic fluctuations and institutional policies. In Nigeria, for instance, rural livelihoods are vulnerable to climate-related shocks, emphasizing the need for climate-resilient agricultural practices (Nwajuba, 2017). The SLA framework comprises five key components: livelihood assets, livelihood strategies, vulnerability context, institutional and policy environment and sustainable livelihood outcomes (Chambers & Conway, 1992). Livelihood assets encompass human capital (education, skills), social capital (networks, relationships), natural capital (land, water), physical capital (infrastructure, technology) and financial capital (income, savings). Livelihood strategies involve diversification, intensification and stabilization, enabling individuals and households to adapt to changing contexts.

Institutional and policy environments significantly influence livelihood outcomes (Adebayo, 2019). Effective governance, inclusive policies and supportive institutions enhance livelihood security, while weak institutions and exclusionary policies exacerbate vulnerability. Nigeria's National Poverty Reduction Strategy acknowledges the importance of institutional strengthening and policy coherence for sustainable development (National Planning Commission, 2017). SLA's emphasis on community participation and empowerment resonates with Nigeria's decentralization and community-driven development initiatives (Government of Nigeria, 2017). By engaging local communities in livelihood development, SLA promotes context-specific solutions, builds capacity and fosters sustainable livelihoods. This approach aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, prioritizing inclusive growth, social justice and environmental sustainability. The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach offers a comprehensive framework for understanding the complex relationships between development administration, poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in Nigeria. By recognizing the interconnectedness of livelihood assets, strategies and contextual factors, policymakers and practitioners can design effective interventions enhancing livelihood security, well-being and sustainable development.

## 2.5 Gap in literature

Despite the plethora of research on development administration and poverty reduction, significant gaps exist in the literature concerning Nigeria's specific context. A notable gap lies in the inadequate examination of the interplay between institutional capacity, policy effectiveness and poverty reduction outcomes. While studies acknowledge the importance of institutional capacity (Olowu, 2018) and policy effectiveness (Adebayo, 2019), the complex relationships between these factors and poverty reduction remain understudied. Another gap in the literature pertains to the limited analysis of sub-national development administration dynamics. Existing research focuses primarily on federal-level initiatives, neglecting the crucial role of state and local governments in poverty reduction (National Planning Commission, 2017). Understanding sub-national development administration is vital, as poverty reduction strategies are often implemented at the local level. Furthermore, the impact of traditional institutions and community-based organizations on development administration and poverty reduction warrants further exploration. The literature also lacks empirical investigations into the inter-sectionality of poverty reduction outcomes, particularly concerning gender, age and geographic location. Research tends to focus on aggregate poverty rates, overlooking the disparate experiences of vulnerable populations (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). To address these gaps, future studies should employ mixed-methods approaches, incorporating quantitative and qualitative data to provide nuanced insights into the nexus between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

## 3. DISCUSSION

The relationship between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. Effective development administration is crucial for reducing poverty, as it enables the efficient implementation of policies and programs aimed at promoting economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability (United Nations, 2019). Nigeria's development administration framework recognizes the importance of poverty reduction, with the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) aiming to reduce poverty through economic growth, social protection and human development (National Planning Commission, 2017). Development administration influences poverty reduction through institutional capacity, policy effectiveness and resource allocation (Olowu, 2018). Strong institutions ensure effective policy implementation, while weak institutions hinder development efforts. In Nigeria, institutional weaknesses, such as corruption and inefficiency, undermine poverty reduction initiatives (Transparency International, 2020). Policy effectiveness is critical for poverty reduction. Well-designed policies, such as the Conditional Cash Transfer Program, enhance livelihoods and promote economic empowerment (National Social Investment Office, 2020). However, policy implementation challenges, including inadequate resource allocation and corruption, compromise effectiveness (Adebayo, 2019). Resource allocation significantly impacts poverty reduction outcomes. Adequate funding ensures the effective implementation of development programs, while insufficient funding compromises outcomes (World Bank, 2020). Nigeria's budgetary allocations often prioritize recurrent expenditures over capital expenditures, hindering development program implementation. The role of governance in development administration cannot be overstated. Effective governance promotes transparency, accountability and participation, enhancing poverty reduction outcomes (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). Nigeria's governance challenges, including corruption and institutional weaknesses, undermine poverty reduction efforts. Development administration's focus on human development enhances poverty reduction outcomes. Investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure promote human capital development, empowering individuals to escape poverty (Chambers & Conway, 1992). Nigeria's human development indices, however, indicate significant challenges, including low education and healthcare outcomes. The relationship between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria is intricate. Strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing policy effectiveness, allocating resources efficiently and promoting good governance are essential for reducing poverty. Understanding this relationship informs effective development strategies, ultimately promoting sustainable development and human well-being. This analysis supports the first hypothesis which states that there is a relationship between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Effective administration enables the successful implementation of policies and programs aimed at alleviating poverty (United Nations, 2019). Nigeria's National Poverty Reduction Strategy recognizes the importance of administrative capacity in achieving poverty reduction goals (National Planning Commission, 2017). Strong administrative capacity ensures efficient resource allocation, enhancing poverty reduction outcomes. Adequate funding, coupled with effective budgeting and financial management, guarantees the successful implementation of development programs (Olowu, 2018). Conversely, administrative weaknesses, such as

corruption and inefficiency, undermine poverty reduction initiatives (Transparency International, 2020). Efficient administration promotes transparency and accountability, essential for poverty reduction. When administrative processes are transparent, citizens can hold governments accountable for poverty reduction efforts (Adebayo, 2019). Nigeria's Scorecard Report highlights the significance of transparency in promoting effective governance and poverty reduction (BudgIT, 2020). Administrative capacity influences poverty reduction through policy effectiveness. Well-designed policies, implemented efficiently, enhance livelihoods and promote economic empowerment (National Social Investment Office, 2020). The Conditional Cash Transfer Program, for instance, demonstrates the impact of effective policy implementation on poverty reduction. Institutional capacity building enhances administrative efficiency. Training, mentoring and capacity development initiatives strengthen administrative capabilities, improving poverty reduction outcomes (World Bank, 2020). Nigeria's capacity-building efforts, such as the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, aim to enhance administrative capacity. Effective administrative coordination ensures seamless implementation of poverty reduction programs. Interagency collaboration and stakeholder engagement facilitate the achievement of poverty reduction goals (Chambers & Conway, 1992). Nigeria's National Poverty Reduction Strategy emphasizes interagency coordination in achieving poverty reduction objectives. Administrative efficiency also influences poverty reduction through service delivery. Efficient service delivery ensures access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, critical for human development (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). Nigeria's Primary Healthcare Development Agency exemplifies efforts to enhance service delivery. Administrative capacity and efficiency significantly impact poverty reduction in Nigeria by strengthening institutional capacity, promoting transparency and accountability, enhancing policy effectiveness and ensuring efficient service delivery which are crucial for achieving poverty reduction goals. Addressing administrative weaknesses informs effective poverty reduction strategies. From the above discussion, we accept the second hypothesis which states that administrative capacity and efficiency play a pivotal role in poverty reduction in Nigeria.

This hypothesis is grounded in the understanding that effective development administration enables the successful implementation of policies and programs aimed at alleviating poverty (United Nations, 2019). Nigeria's National Poverty Reduction Strategy recognizes the importance of development administration in achieving poverty reduction goals (National Planning Commission, 2017). Development administration encompasses institutional capacity, policy effectiveness and resource allocation (Olowu, 2018). Strengthening these components ensures efficient implementation of poverty reduction programs. Institutional capacity building, for instance, enhances administrative capabilities, improving poverty reduction outcomes (World Bank, 2020). Effective development administration promotes transparency and accountability, essential for poverty reduction. Transparent administrative processes enable citizens to hold governments accountable for poverty reduction efforts (Adebayo, 2019). Nigeria's Scorecard Report highlights the significance of transparency in promoting effective governance and poverty reduction (BudgIT, 2020). Policy effectiveness is critical for poverty reduction. Well-designed policies, implemented efficiently, enhance livelihoods and promote economic empowerment (National Social Investment Office, 2020). The Conditional Cash Transfer Program demonstrates the impact of effective policy implementation on poverty reduction. Strengthening development administration also ensures efficient resource allocation. Adequate funding, coupled with effective budgeting and financial management, guarantees successful implementation of development programs (Olowu, 2018). Nigeria's budgetary allocations, however, often prioritize recurrent expenditures over capital expenditures, hindering development program implementation. Furthermore, development administration influences poverty reduction through service delivery. Efficient service delivery ensures access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, critical for human development (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). Nigeria's Primary Healthcare Development Agency exemplifies efforts to enhance service delivery. The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) supports this hypothesis, recognizing the interconnectedness of livelihood assets, strategies and contextual factors influencing poverty outcomes (Chambers & Conway, 1992). Applying SLA principles can enhance Nigeria's poverty reduction strategies. Empirical evidence supports the hypothesis. Studies in Nigeria's development context demonstrate a positive correlation between development administration strength and poverty reduction outcomes (Adebayo, 2019; Olowu, 2018). Effective development administration contributes significantly to sustainable poverty reduction. Strengthening development administration is vital for achieving sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria. Enhancing institutional capacity, promoting transparency and accountability, ensuring efficient resource allocation and effective service delivery are essential. Addressing development administration weaknesses informs effective poverty reduction strategies,

ultimately promoting human well-being and sustainable development. The above discussion supports our third hypothesis which states that strengthening development administration is crucial for achieving sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria.

### 3.1 Findings

From the discussion above, the study found out that:

- Nigeria's development administration framework recognizes the importance of institutional capacity in achieving poverty reduction goals, but weaknesses persist.
- Well-designed policies, implemented efficiently, enhance livelihoods and promote economic empowerment, but implementation challenges hinder effectiveness
- Adequate funding, coupled with effective budgeting and financial management, guarantees successful implementation of development programs
- Effective governance promotes transparency, accountability and participation which enhance poverty reduction
- Investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure promote human capital development which empowers individuals to escape poverty

### 3.2 Recommendations

- Administrative capabilities should be enhanced in Nigeria through training, mentoring and capacity development initiatives.
- Implementation challenges should be addressed by Nigeria's government in every sector of the economy through effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
- Capital expenditures should be prioritized in Nigeria over recurrent expenditures to support development programs.
- Transparency and Accountability should be promoted in all sectors of Nigerian economy as ways of fostering open governance to encourage citizen's participation and oversight.
- Government should prioritize development by allocating resources to education, healthcare and infrastructure.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The nexus between development administration and poverty reduction in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. Effective development administration is crucial for reducing poverty, because it enables the efficient implementation of policies and programs aimed at promoting economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. Nigeria's development administration framework recognizes the importance of institutional capacity, policy effectiveness and resource allocation in achieving poverty reduction goals. However, weaknesses in these areas, such as corruption, inefficiency and inadequate funding, hinder poverty reduction efforts. Development administration influences poverty reduction through various channels such as policy implementation, service delivery and governance. Well-designed policies, implemented efficiently, enhance livelihoods and promote economic empowerment. For instance, Nigeria's Conditional Cash Transfer Program demonstrates the impact of effective policy implementation on poverty reduction. Efficient service delivery ensures access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, critical for human development. Effective governance promotes transparency, accountability and participation which further enhance poverty reduction outcomes. Strengthening development administration is vital for achieving sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria. Hence, enhancing institutional capacity, promoting transparency and accountability, ensuring efficient resource allocation and effective service delivery are essential. Addressing development administration weaknesses informs effective poverty reduction strategies, ultimately promoting human well-being and sustainable development. Empirical evidence supports this nexus, demonstrating a positive correlation between development administration strength and poverty reduction in Nigeria. By recognizing this nexus, policymakers and practitioners can design interventions that strengthen development administration and reduce poverty.

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