

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF POVERTY
ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA

UDOH, Nathaniel

Department of Public Administration,
Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Uyo, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The excruciating effect of poverty in Nigeria is pervasive. This paper presents an overview of the nature and prevalence of poverty in Nigeria generally, and in Akwa Ibom State specifically. It examines some of the poverty Alleviation Programmes instituted and implemented by the Akwa Ibom State Life enhancement agency between 2001 and 2015. The paper also evaluates the actions and/or inactions of the state political leadership during the implementation and administration of these programmes which have tended to impede or contribute to the sluggish attainment of the envisaged objective of the programmes. Descriptive and qualitative methodology is adopted in this work. Also, the work is situated within the “Marxist Political Economy Theoretical Framework”. Data used was gathered from books, Journals, Government Publications and Library Materials. The paper suggests that there is a strong relationship between the poverty prevalence in Akwa Ibom State in particular and Nigeria in general and lack of commitment by the political leadership responsible for the implementation and administration of these poverty alleviation programmes in the country. It recommends that tougher legislation and effective monitoring machinery must be put in place to check the political leadership in order to forestall nepotism, favouritism, ethnocentrism, misappropriation, corruption and undue capturing of the benefits of the programmes, which would have accrued to the “real poor” and the “benefiting communities”, to satisfy their private selfish interest.

Keywords: Political Leadership, Administration, Poverty Alleviation Programme, Nigeria.