POVERTY, SECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA: AN EXAMINATION OF CITIZENS’ PERCEPTION

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ABSTRACT

Democracy today is globally accepted as a system and tool for political and socio-economic development that engenders peace and stability of nations. However, since the emergence of democratic government in Nigeria, the country has experienced an increase in the level of poverty and insecurity due to lack of good governance. The paper examines the effect of good governance on the reduction of poverty and insecurity in Plateau State from 2008 – 2019. The study adopted primary and secondary methods for data collection and the state failure theory as a framework for analysis. Data collected in this study were subjected to descriptive and multiple regression analytical methods. Results obtained when compared to similar works showed that lack of good governance manifested in lack of institutional and regulatory frameworks led to a sharp rise in the poverty profile and a concomitant increase in the level of insecurity in the study area arising from a rather poor and ineffective institutional security framework run by all agencies saddled with security operation. The paper recommended, among other measures, that people who perpetrate violence should be arrested, prosecuted and convicted to serve as a deterrent to the promoters of violence. In addition, government should strengthen citizens’ perception so that citizens will not see governance as a national cake where politicians each come and cut a piece for themselves alone.

KEYWORDS: Poverty, Security, Good governance, Citizens

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is today, afflicted with human misery of immense magnitude. A vast majority of its citizens are living below the poverty line and denied the dignity of life. There are enormous disparities in opportunities and, wealth and unemployment, lack of access to basic health facilities and poor education stare citizens in the face. These problems cut across the different regions and states of the country. Many communities in Nigeria have been exposed to insecurity in form of banditry, farmers/herders conflict, Boko Haram attacks and
kidnappings in varying magnitudes resulting to loss of lives and properties. Lamenting the appalling disparities between the poor and the rich, the 2004 National Conference report had this to say:

Nigeria has enormous potentials to become one of the richest countries in the world if all her potentials are harnessed and developed to full capacity. Her GDP is the largest in Africa and 26th in the world, yet majority of Nigerians are among the poorest in the world because the economy has not created decent jobs through manufacturing.

A report of Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (2017) indicates that Nigeria has recorded an estimated 3,000 conflict related deaths per year between 2006 and 2011 and that Nigeria is reported to be the most violent country in Africa. Reports on the poverty index of Nigeria from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Countries (2016), Ajakaiye (2015), Central Bank of Nigeria (2015), National Bureau of Statistics (2015) all show that Nigeria’s long years of oil exploration and exploitation and high revenue earnings have not significantly improved the lot of its citizens. The masses continue to groan under high unemployment, rising poverty, hunger and inequality with corresponding consequences of low income, lack of full and productive employment and decent work for youths as well as devastating hunger. Another report by the United Nations (2010) reveals that 60.9 per cent of the inhabitants of Nigerians live below the poverty line. This is a rise of 6.2 percent since 2004 when 54.7 per cent lived below the poverty line (NBS, 2012). These reveal a perplexing reality of the nation’s economic statistics on rapid economic growth. Similarly reports on unemployment in Nigeria are distressing despite the fact that successive administrations have always had employment as one of their cardinal objectives. The third quarter report from National Bureau of Statistics (2018) indicates a rise in unemployment rate from 18.8 percent to 23.1 per cent. The report also indicates that the total number of people classified as unemployed increased from 17.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 to 209 million in the third quarter of 2018. The 2018 Brookings report also shows that every minute 6 people step into extreme poverty with 87 million people in extreme poverty (Brookings report, 2018).

To a large extent, the level to which good governance can be deployed to overcome the challenges confronting the country is to create prosperity, reduce poverty and insecurity, increase the quality of governance with regard to justice administration and delivery, strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks. Societies experience rapid growth and development through quality and responsive governance. Tragically, different reports have attributed the failure to curb poverty and tackle insecurity in Nigeria to lack of good governance. The statistics presented here are a reflection of government’s inability to achieve
meaningful progress in eradicating poverty and hunger. Despite the deployment of huge resources, a vast proportion of Nigerians are still in staggering poverty in the midst of material abundance due to lack of good governance. It is against this backdrop and the not too impressive performance of the social intervention programmes in reducing poverty in Nigeria, that the researchers set out on this study.

The link between national strategies for ending poverty, insecurity and good governance and public management is essential to achieving stability and enhancing government’s initiatives to achieve the lofty goal of driving initiatives to accelerate development, lift 100 million people out of poverty in four years and the attainment of sustainable development goal of ending poverty. The impact of poor standard of governance in fact usually falls most heavily on the poor. However, the poor are generally excluded from institutions that put in place plans, policies and rules that determine rights and obligations; that make decisions that affect citizens’ lives; which allocate and administer public resources to programmes affecting the populace. Whether it is through inefficient service delivery, or unfavourable policy settings or through inappropriate allocation of resources to socially beneficial goods such as education, or through the failure of the government to enforce rules, the poor are often the victims of poor governance. The implementation of a range of strategies to reduce poverty and curb the escalation of violence including improvements in the quality of governance is critical to achieving governments desire to curb poverty and insecurity (https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com retrieved 2019/11/18).

The most effective manner in which the government can play its role in facilitating greater socio-economic development, bring prosperity and end the circle of violence is through good governance. Good governance not only promotes a development management system but is the critical foundation for long term sustainable socio-economic development of nations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this paper is to examine the role of good governance in promoting peace and reducing poverty in Plateau State. Specifically, the paper seeks to:

1. determine the effect of justice administration and delivery in reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State
2. establish the effect of strengthening institutions and institutional frameworks on poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State
3. find out the effect of transparency and accountability on poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State
RESEARCH QUESTIONS
The following research questions guided the study:

1. To what extent has justice administration and delivery reduced poverty and insecurity in Plateau State?
2. To what extent has strengthening institutional and regulatory framework reduced poverty and insecurity in Plateau State?
3. To what extent has transparency and accountability reduced poverty and insecurity in Plateau State?

HYPOTHESES
The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

$H_{01}$: Justice administration and delivery do not have significant effects on reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.

$H_{02}$: Strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks do not have significant effects on reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.

$H_{03}$: Transparency and accountability do not have significant effects on reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
Poverty is a word that is loosely used to describe different forms of human deprivation and predicament. Poverty in its most general sense is the lack of basic necessities. Basic food, shelter, medical care, and safety are generally thought necessary based on shared values of human dignity. Over the years, poverty has been defined in monetary terms, using levels of income or consumption to measure poverty (Grusky & Kanbur, in ODI Working Paper, 2009). Poverty is further defined by a headcount of those who fall below a given income/consumption level (Lipton & Ravillion, in ODI Working Paper, 2009). Adu and Achegbulo in Meyer (2011), reported that historically, poverty was viewed largely as a problem of the poor earning too little to attain a socially acceptable standard of living and possessing too few assets to protect themselves against unforeseen challenges. Adam Smith, the father of contemporary economics remarked that poverty is a condition where a person does not have the ability to purchase necessities required by nature and custom (Smith in Davies & Sandez-Martinez, 2014). Rowntree in Townsend (1992) established the distinction between primary and secondary poverty captured as he noted that primary poverty is “earning insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency”.

JRF defines poverty as a condition where “a person’s resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet minimum needs (including social participation”). Income
is a critical and important means to satisfy a wide range of material needs including food security, and increasingly also, to satisfy other needs such as health services, education and safe drinking water. In this direction, income is a necessary tool for addressing deprivation as it empowers people to acquire goods and services. In this perspective, an improvement of income is essential to poverty alleviation (JRF, 2013). Balogun in Englama et al (1997) summarized poverty as “a state where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his /her basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, … unable to meet social and economic obligations, lacks gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem; and has limited access to social and economic infrastructure such as education, health, potable water and sanitation (Bradshaw, 2006). Needs may be relative to what is possible and are based on social definition and past experiences (Sen, 1999). The concept of absolute poverty is grounded in the idea of subsistence – the basic conditions that must be met in order to sustain a physically healthy existence. People who lack these fundamental requirements for human existence – such as sufficient food, shelter, and clothing – are said to live in poverty (Giddens, 2009). According to Mohammed (2014), poverty occurs when people are “unable to attain quality standard of life”. Mohammed’s definition emphasizes the fact that poverty is a condition where the quality of life of people is progressively diminishing. In a different perspective, poverty is “deprivation”. According to World Bank Report (2002), poverty is the inability to attain a minimum standard of living. The parameters constructed by the Report based on a minimum level of consumption, include lack of access to basic resources, lack of education and skills, poor health, malnutrition, lack of political freedom and voice, lack of shelter, lack of access to clean water and sanitation. European Commission (EC) (2004) has offered a more lucid definition to poverty. Accordingly, to them, people are said to be living in poverty if their income and resources are inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living considered acceptable in the society in which they live. Therefore, poverty is a predicament in which people do not have access to financial resources to obtain basic necessities required for survival (Victor, Nenna & Eyitayo in Asikia, 2010). Nyasulu (2010) defined poverty as a condition that limits one’s ability to provide for himself and his loved ones. Sachs (2013), went further to classify poverty into three: extreme (absolute), moderate, and relative poverty. According to Sachs (2013), extreme poverty means that households cannot meet basic needs for survival. They are chronically hungry, unable to access health care, lack the amenities of safe drinking water and sanitation, cannot afford education for some or all of the children, and perhaps lack rudimentary shelter – a roof to keep the rain out of the hut.
Poverty as the root cause of insecurity: There are empirical evidences such as that of Awojobi (2014) that poverty breeds insecurity and is responsible for the prevalence and continuing escalation of violent crimes and the destruction of lives and property. Poverty is the source from which common criminality, insurgency, border crimes, human trafficking and their terrible consequences draw their inspiration (Buhari, 2019). The poor and deprived segment of society, no doubt, constitutes a ready pool from which young criminals are recruited continuously. This is true because poverty breeds insecurity. The security challenges experienced in Nigeria is partly attributed to the high rate of poverty. Insecurity could escalate the level of poverty as witnessed in the violent eruption of crisis witnessed in Plateau State and other communities leading to the dislocation of social and economic livelihood of the victims. A risk assessment of the crisis in Plateau State by Peace Building Agency in 2017 reveals that the crisis led to massive destruction of farmlands and cow rustling with huge economic losses on the victims.

Poverty as a threat to social solidarity and political stability: Relevant features of the poverty situation in this case include inequality and social stratification, emergence of a deviant culture of poverty, and the tendency of the poor to congregate. Thus, through various means, poverty tends to reduce social solidarity, increase social conflict, especially along the poor/non-poor demarcation, generate social crisis and threaten social order.

The disruptive potential of poverty is also enhanced by the exposure of the poor to callous manipulation by professional politicians. Though one cannot make any definitive assertion regarding the revolutionary potential of the Nigerian poor, the lessons of history suggest that widespread poverty tends to provide a fertile ground for social revolution. One may not be certain how the poor and the oppressed in Nigeria will ultimately respond to their prolonged political abuse and the continuing invidious violation of their political, economic and social right(s). However, it is certain that improvement in the social welfare of the people and a reduction of poverty would minimize threat to stability.

The Concept of Security

Although there is no universally accepted definition of security, Francis (2005) posits that security is a state of being safe and the absence of fear, anxiety, danger, poverty and oppression. It is the preservation of core values and the absence of threats to these values (Choji in Alli, 2010). Speaking further, Choji, in Inobighe (1990) posited that security is the freedom from threats of a nation’s capability to defend and develop itself, promote its values and lawful interest. Zabadi (2005) remarked that security is a state in which people or things are not exposed to danger of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or decline. This view is
associated with the survival of the state and the preservation of its citizens. In other words, the state has a responsibility to secure and ensure the safety of its citizens. The definitions above underscore the very essence of security by government to ensure safety of its citizens and seek to ensure that people are protected from being subjected to any form of danger or aggression.

**The Concept of Good Governance**

According to Ezonbi and Jonah (2013), governance has a lot to do with the authoritative allocation of values. Governance refers to the act or manner of governing; it is the activity of the political organ responsible for the day to day running of society. To Essien (2012), governance can be viewed from the background through which institutions in a given society exercise authority for the common good. The importance of good governance as a critical condition for human development therefore cannot be underestimated (Sebudubudu, 2010). Governance is said to be ‘good’ when it allocates and manages resources in a manner that responds to collective problems (Essien, 2010). Leftwich in Sebudubudu (2010) defined good governance as a clear and predictable legal framework, accountability, transparency and information on the management of national affairs. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), good governance is a “…democratic governance”, meaning respect for human rights, participation, accountability, poverty reduction, responsiveness, equal treatment, inclusiveness, fairness, impartiality, absence of discriminatory practices as well as taking into consideration the needs of the future generation. The report of poverty task force on localizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs in Vietnam defined good governance as the process of translating societal demands into choices, resulting in policy formulation and implementation. The report identifies four good governance principles/indicators that are key to poverty reduction as accountability, transparency, participation and predictability.

**Theoretical Perspective**

The paper employed the state failure theory by Robert Irwin Rotberg, (1993-2010) in outlining the theoretical framework for the paper. The central thesis of the theory considered a state as a failed one when the state is consumed by internal violence and ceases to deliver positive political dividends to the electorates. For Rotberg, the primary public good is the provision of security within terror. Failure to provide security to lives and property signifies that such a state has lost control over its territory. This, in turn, ushers in criminal violence and the rise of terrorist organizations.

Rotberg in Vahyala (2018) makes the following categorization of nation states - strong, weak, failed, collapsed. He further explained the categorization thus:
Strong states unquestionably control their territories and deliver a full range and high quality of political goods to their citizens. They perform well according to indicators such as GDP per-capita, the UNDP Human Development Index, Transparency International’s corruption perceptions index, and Freedom House’s freedom of the World Report. Weak states include an array of nation-states that may be inherently weak because of geographical, physical or fundamental economic constraints; or are situationally weak because of internal antagonisms, greed, or despotism. Weak states typically harbour ethnic, religious, linguistic, or other tensions that may at some point be transformed into all out conflict between contending antagonisms. Their ability to provide adequate amounts of political goods is diminished or diminishing, physical infrastructural networks are deteriorated. Schools and hospitals show signs of neglect. The rule of law is honoured in the breach…Failed states provide only very limited quantities of essential political goods. A failed state is a hollow polity that is no longer willing or able to perform the fundamental tasks of a nation-state in the modern world. Its institutions are flawed. If legislatives exist at all, they ratify the decisions of a string executive. Democratic debate is absent. The judiciary a derivative of the executive rather than being independent. Citizens know that they cannot rely on the court system for redress or remedy, especially against the state…failed state is insecure. They cannot project power much beyond the capital city or control their national peripheries; crime rates rise and more often unable to establish an atmosphere of security throughout the nation. (Pp 62-63)

A failed state, therefore, connotes a demonstration of incompetence and weakness to promote a good life arising from non-provision of basic needs, and the fundamental task of a nation-state, in a modern community. The aftermath is state susceptibility to a high degree of dysfunction and vulnerability to competing and centripetal forces. In this situation, the state gradually degenerates and clings to primordial parochialism of ethnicity and other section interest for survival (Christian in Vahyala, 2018).

The Role of Plateau State Government in Curbing the Challenges of Poverty and Insecurity

Located in the North Central Geo-Political Zone, Plateau State was created in 1976. The state boasts of the most conspicuous gee-features in the country. Its undulating highlands rise from the steep encampments of the riverine plains of River Benue and descend towards Bauchi state. Endowed with a scenic beauty which makes it a film makers delight, the climate of the Plateau belies its situation in a tropical zone. Considering its temperate climate, it is a piece of Europe was transplanted on the highland mean temperatures of 18.7°Fahrenheit and 51. T maximum in history.

Plateau State has experienced eruptions of violence since 1994 culminating to the destruction of lives and properties. As part of measures to address the crisis, successive administrations have established commissions of enquiry or equivalent bodies to look into the outbreaks of violence and their causes. Some of the commissions include: Justice Aribiton

Similarly, as part of efforts to strengthen and reinforce peace as well as create wealth and reduce poverty on the Plateau, the state government under Governor Jonah Jang established the Operation Rainbow to compliment other security agencies in curbing the escalation of crisis. In the same vein, Governor Simon Lalong established the Plateau State Peace Building Agency. One of the significant successes recorded by the Plateau State Peace Building Agency was the launching of the Roadmap to peace, a strategic document that has been responsible for the relative peace experienced in the state.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the descriptive survey research design to investigate citizens’ perception of the effects of governance on poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State from 2008 to 2019. A population of 180 respondents comprising community leaders, stakeholders, NGOs, farmers, herders and youth groups in three local governments recently affected by ethno-religious crisis made up the study. These are Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Bassa Local Government Areas. The study used purposive sampling technique to determine the sample size of the population. Questionnaires were used to generate data. Two methods were used to analyze the data collected. These are: descriptive statistics consisting of simple percentages and proportion which is used to examine the data collected. Secondly, simple regression analysis to analyze the role of government in promoting peace and reducing poverty in Plateau State. The functional relationships can be represented as follows:
POVRP=f(JAD)…………………….1
POVRP=f(IF)…………………….2
POVRP=f(TA)……………………..3

These functional relationships can be expressed in model form below
POVRP= β₀ +β₁JAD+εₜ…………………………….
POVRP= β₀ +β₁IF+εₜ…………………………….
POVRP= β₀ +β₁TA+εₜ…………………………….

Where:
POVRP= Poverty Reduction and Peace
JAD=Justice Administration and Delivery
IF=Institutional Framework
TA=Transparency and Accountability
β₀=Slope
β₁=intercept
εₜ=error term

DISCUSSION
Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>60.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Qualifications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSCE</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND/NCE</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HND/B.SC</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.Sc/Ph.D</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHERS</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Bracket</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-27years</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-37years</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38-47years</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48years and above</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barkin Ladi</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassa</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riyom</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 revealed that 60.6% of the respondents were male while 39.3% were female. This implies that majority of the respondents were male who play dominant roles in politics, leadership and peace building. The findings on age of respondents revealed that 11.7 % were
between 18 – 27 years, 26.1% were 28-37 years, 37.2% were 38-47 years and 25.0% were 48 years and above. This means majority of the respondents were between 38-47 years. On marital status, 26.7% of the respondents are single, 47.8% married, 10.6% divorced and 15.0% widowed. This means majority of the respondents were married. The findings on educational qualification further revealed that 23.3% of the respondents possessed SSCE, 33.3% of ND/NCE, 22.8% had HND/B.Sc, 11.1% had M.Sc/Ph.D and 9.4% had others qualifications like trade test, adult education and Islamic education. This implies that most of the respondents had attained tertiary level of education. On LGA distributions of questionnaires, 60 questionnaires that is 33.3% were distributed equally to the 3 LGAs (Barkin Ladi, Bassa, and Riyom) respectively.

**Test of hypotheses**

Regression and correlation analysis were used to determine the role of good governance in promoting peace and reducing poverty in Plateau State, Nigeria.

**Hypothesis One:** Justice administration and delivery do not have significant effects on reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.

**Table 2: Regression Analysis Results On Effects of Justice Administration and Delivery On Reducing Poverty and Insecurity in Plateau State**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Std. Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 (Constant)</td>
<td>2.470</td>
<td>.055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice administration and delivery in reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State</td>
<td>.362</td>
<td>.018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The regression model in equation 4 explains that justice administration and delivery has a positive relationship with poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State. An increase in justice administration and delivery by one unit would lead to a proportionate increase of 0.362 unit in the level of reduction of poverty and insecurity in Plateau State. The correlation coefficient of 83.0 percent indicates a strong positive relationship between justice administration and delivery in equation 6 and the level of poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State. The P value was 0.000 which was less than 0.05. This means that the P-value is statistically significant at 5% level. Since t-cal (19.821) is outside the accepted region (+/- 1.96), therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis upheld. That is, justice administration and delivery has significant effects on reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.
**Hypotheses Two:** Institutional framework does not have significant effect on reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.

**Table 3: Regression Analysis Results on Effects of Institutional Framework on Reducing Poverty and Insecurity in Plateau State**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institutional framework in reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State</td>
<td>2.579</td>
<td>.070</td>
<td>36.742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.397</td>
<td>.024</td>
<td>.782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The regression model in equation 5 explains that strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks has a positive relationship with poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State. An increase in institutional framework by one unit would lead to a proportionate increase of 0.397 unit in the level of poverty and insecurity reduction. The correlation coefficient of 78.2 percent indicates a strong positive relationship between institutional framework in equation 5 and the level of poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State. The P value was 0.000 which was less than 0.05. This means that the P- value is statistically significant at 5% level. Since t-cal (16.720) is outside the acceptance region (+/- 1.96), we therefore reject the null hypothesis and uphold the alternative hypothesis. That is, institutional framework has significant effects on the reduction of poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.

**Hypotheses Three:** Transparency and accountability do not have significant effects on poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State.

**Table 4: Regression Analysis Results on Effects of Transparency and Accountability on Reducing Poverty and Insecurity in Plateau State**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transparency and Accountability in reducing Poverty and Insecurity in Plateau State</td>
<td>2.502</td>
<td>.048</td>
<td>51.757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.359</td>
<td>.016</td>
<td>.866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The regression model in equation 6 explains that transparency and accountability have a positive relationship with poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State. An increase in transparency and accountability by one unit would lead to a proportionate increase of 0.359 unit in the level of poverty and insecurity reduction in Plateau State and vice versa.
The correlation coefficient of 86.6 percent indicates a strong positive relationship between transparency and accountability in equation 6 and the level poverty and insecurity reduction. The P value was 0.000 which was less than 0.05. This means that the P-value is statistically significant at 5% level. Since t-cal (23.101) is outside the acceptance region (+/- 1.96), we therefore reject the null hypothesis and uphold the alternative hypothesis. That is, transparency and accountability have significant effects on reducing poverty and insecurity in Plateau State.

CONCLUSION

The study examined poverty, security and good governance: Citizens’ perception. Based on the findings of the study carried out, the study concludes that:

Justice administration and delivery have a significant effect on poverty reduction and curbing of insecurity in Plateau State. The government has done a lot in not only enforcing law and order but perpetrators of violence have been arrested and prosecuted.

Institutional framework has a significant relationship on poverty reduction and curbing insecurity in Plateau State. The government established Operation Rainbow, a security outfit to complement other security agencies. The state government also established the Plateau State small and medium enterprises development agency to coordinate and support small and medium enterprises. Similarly, the state government established the Plateau State Peace Building Agency to engage the citizens in constant dialogue on peaceful co-existence.

The study concluded that transparency and accountability play a positive role in poverty reduction and curbing of insecurity in Plateau State.

These findings are line with the findings of Abdullahi (2010), Awojobi (2014) and Sebudubudu (2010) who found out that good governance as manifested in justice administration and delivery, transparency and strengthening of institutional frameworks and mechanisms, enhance the reduction of poverty and insecurity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From theoretical and empirical evidence, it has been established that good governance as manifested in justice administration and delivery, establishment of institutional frameworks and transparency and accountability play significant roles in the reduction of poverty and insecurity in Plateau State. The study found out that good governance is a panacea to insecurity and poverty. Consequently, the study recommends that:

1. policy makers should strengthen existing institutional and regulatory frameworks to consolidate the on-going peace the state has been experiencing.

2. people who perpetrate violence should be arrested and prosecuted. This will serve as a deterrent to others.
3. transparency and accountability in the conduct of government business. This would go a long way to reducing corruption, and enhance the operation of poverty reduction agencies in Plateau State.

REFERENCES


