

## Interrogating the Nature and Causes of Unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States, Nigeria.

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**Abstract:** *The incidence of poverty as a result of unemployment has reached a dangerously alarmed and worrisome dimension despite different poverty alleviation initiatives by successive governments. The implication of this has led to anti-social behaviours which are antithetical to the peace and stability of the country. Therefore, the study investigated the nature and causes of poverty and unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States. This study sampled 610 respondents of the NDE Programme through the administration of questionnaire out of which 598 questionnaire was retrieved. In addition, interviews was conducted with the State Coordinators and Heads of departments of the NDE. Data analysis involved percentage distribution. Secondary data were obtained from documentary sources which include books, journals, articles, newspaper publications and internet sources relevant to the study. Findings revealed that Oyo state accounted for a higher intensity of poverty than in Ogun state. A constant factor responsible for unemployment in both states include poor leadership, lack of government support, corruption, poor policy formulation and implementation. The paper recommended that NDE should cover a wider range of the poor and the unemployed through involvement of community based organizations. There should be a political will on the part of the political leadership to eradicate poverty and provide enabling environment for business opportunities to strive. A peer review mechanism should be adopted to evaluate the performance of NDE in different states.*

**Keywords:** *Unemployment, Poverty, Poverty Alleviation, State, Program.*

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### I. Introduction

The Nigerian state is endowed with numerous materials and human resources that ought to be translated into great potentials to facilitate development. Ironically, this is far from reality due to the carelessness and irresponsibility of the political elite. Nepotism and favouritism play a dominant role in the making of appointments to various administrative posts. Therefore, the right pegs are not appointed in the right holes, therefore, the society has to be confronted with one of the most dreadful consequences of unqualified and incompetent leadership which is mass unemployment.

Again, the inability to have what could be regarded as national policy plan by the government to foster enabling environment for job creation and alleviation of poverty has led the idea of fragmentation of policy statement by different successive governments. The moment another government ascend to power, the idea of past government becomes weak and are jettisoned for a new program. The inconsistency of governmental programs have negative implication because majority of the masses are cut off.

More worrisome is the inordinate ambition of political elites and bureaucrats to enrich themselves at the detriment of the masses. For instance, General Abacha alone allegedly embezzled billions of dollars from the central bank of Nigeria between 1993 and 1998 which demonstrates the magnitude of the problem (US Department of Justice, 2014). A UK court found former governor of Delta State, James Ibori, guilty of laundering public fund. He bought houses around the world worth millions of dollars including one in UK valued at US\$2 million, luxury cars, private jet, in addition to holding bank accounts in several other countries (Global Witness, 2012). Another former Governors, Jolly Nyame and Joshua Dariye of Taraba and Plateau States respectively were convicted in 2018 for corrupt cases. They are among fifteen former governors who left office in 2007 to be questioned at the end of their tenure by anti-craft agency-Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. It is estimated that equivalent of four times the Nigerian health budget, that is, approximately US\$6.8 billion was lost due to corruption in the subsidy during 2009 and 2011 (Berne Declaration, 2013).

Considering the opportunity cost of the amount involved and the value if invested in Nigeria, it would have contributed to job creation and reduce unemployment. This would have reduce the rate of unemployment

in the country. For instance, the National Bureau for Statistic said that the total number of people classified as unemployed increased from 17.6 million in fourth quarter of 2017 to 20.9 million in third quarter in 2018 (NBS, 2018). A recently published report by Steve Hanke, an economist from John Hopkins University in Baltimore, United State listed Nigeria as the sixth miserable country in the world. The Misery Index was calculated using economic indices including unemployment, inflation and bank lending rates. However, unemployment rate was the major contributing factor to its miserable state (Vanguard, 2019).

The consequences or manifestations of this plague include the emergence of criminal gangs who are viable tools and instruments for violence, armed robbery, kidnapping, car snatching among others. This development is extremely disturbing, considering the socio political implications as well as the potentials for engendering social upheavals that would result. It is against this backdrop therefore that the unwholesome phenomenon of poverty and unemployment has become an internationally recognized challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and has become a great concern to individuals, families, corporate organizations and governments at all levels.

The study covered the Poverty Alleviation Programmes of the National Directorate of Employment in Oyo and Ogun State. Hence, in order to assess its effectiveness in job creation, the study covered a period between 2011-2018 in Ogun and Oyo States. The objectives of the study include:

- Investigate the level of poverty and unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States.
- Examine the causes of unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States.

## **II. Methodology**

This study sampled 610 respondents of the NDE Programme through the administration of questionnaire out of which 598 questionnaires was retrieved. In addition, interviews was conducted with the State Coordinators and Heads of departments of the NDE. Essentially, two sets of instruments were developed for data collection (questionnaire and guided oral interview). The questionnaire which was administered to beneficiaries and staff of the NDE was validated using Cronbach's alpha test and the value of 0.75 and above was considered adequate and of high level of internal consistencies of the items in the instrument. On the other hand, oral interview was conducted among the coordinators and Heads of Departments. Data analysis involved percentage distribution. Secondary data were obtained from documentary sources which include books, journals, articles, newspaper publications and internet sources relevant to the study.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

Unemployment connotes a situation where people who do not have a job, have actively looked for work and are currently available for work. It includes people are were laid off from work and are seeking for a call back or another job (Bureau of Labour Statistics, 2019). Unemployment therefore is a situation in which people who are qualified for a job, willing to work and willing to accept the going rate cannot find jobs without considerable delays. Unemployment rate in Nigeria increased to 23.10 percent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 from 22.70 percent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2018. Therefore, unemployment rate measures the number of people actively loking for a job as a percentage of the labour force (Trading Economics, 2019). The major implication of unemployment is state of want, which is poverty.

Poverty is when people lack the ability to afford basic needs of life. That means the poor have inadequate level of consumption giving rise to insufficient food, clothing and/or shelter and moreover the lack of certain capacities such as being able to participate with dignity in society. For, the World Bank (2003) they noted that poverty is pain, it feels like a disease. Poverty consumes a person not only on material terms but also morally. It chips away one's sense of dignity and ultimately drives one into hopelessness .Poor people not only undergo painful bouts of hunger arising from having little or nothing to eat and enduring long working hours, they also on a daily basis go through emotional pain that comes from ill-treatments and humiliation occasioned by their dependency and lack of power.

However, the greatest pain suffered by the poor occurs when they are forced to make choices in situations where choices do not really exist. This view was corroborated by (Rouf, 2015) who observed that poverty is a situation of social exclusion and is a product of uneven development across and within the state. Capitalism and globalization of the free market economy make poverty global and the third world more impoverished. In essence, (Owolabi, 2015) posits that beyond an individual's ability to satisfy minimum living standard of food, clothing, fuel and shelter, it is also about having what you need in order to have the opportunities and choices necessary to participate in society. Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities and violation of human dignity.

### **Theoretical Framework-Social Exclusion Theory**

The advocate of the social exclusion theory is Sophie Bessis (1995) and this theory argues that Social exclusion is the specific or deliberate continuous effort in which persons or groups are methodologically

blocked from or denied complete accessibility to various rights, opportunities and resources that are usually available to members of a different group and which are indispensable to social integration within that particular group e.g. shelter, employment, medical care, civic engagement and democratic participation. Alienation or disenfranchisement emanating from social exclusion can be as a result of an individual’s social class, race, skin colour or educational level. Basically, whoever appears to derail in any way from perceived norms of a particular group can become socially excluded. The outcome of social exclusion is a situation where an individual or group in an environment are denied the opportunity to participate in the economic, social and political life of the society in which they reside and therefore cannot enjoy or maximally benefit from the poverty alleviation Programmes because they do not fit into a particular group based on social class, education or race.

Ighodalo and Igbokwe-Ibeto (2012) observed that these categories of people are often placed in a position of inferiority in relation to centres of economic empowerment, resources and prevailing opportunities. Mike Rann, the then Prime Minister of South Australia argued that social exclusion is usually invented by harsh and unfair economic circumstances, worsened by tough social environments and complicated by unfriendly government policies and care free attitude. In the light of this, social exclusion incorporates a broad range of social inequalities. The factors linked to social exclusion range from exclusion from social processes. For instance through racial harassment or exclusion because of poor education, poor health, homelessness, disability, poor social networks, lack of access to informal contacts to availability of jobs, lack of access to credit facilities and loans. However, this theory has been criticized as being too broad in scope that just anyone can be considered socially excluded.

The theory is relevant because it explains the roles individuals play in fuelling or contributing to their own deprivation and consequently poverty. Implying that someone may be poor because he or she has failed to adopt strategies that could have been used to improved his or health wellbeing. The social exclusion theory throws light on the existing poverty and poverty alleviation efforts of both the government and the individuals’ citizens who are unemployed or poor.

### III. Analysis and Discussion of Findings

#### Research Question 1: What is the level of poverty in Ogun and Oyo States?

**Table 1: Level of Poverty in Ogun and Oyo State**

Education	OYO					OGUN				
	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)
Deprived of your right to education if no household member has completed five years of schooling in your state for reasons of poverty	50 (8.3)	28 (4.6)	8 (1.3)	2 (0.3)	10 (1.6)	15 (2.5)	12 (2.0)	5 (0.8)	90 (15.0)	79 (13.2)
Deprived of your right to education if any school age child is not attending school in years 1-8 in your state due to poverty	50 (8.3)	61 (10.2)	21 (0.3)	23 (3.8)	30 (5.1)	20 (3.3)	10 (1.6)	35 (5.8)	180 (30.1)	168 (28.0)
<b>Health Care</b>										
Deprived of your right to health care if any adult or child for whom there is nutritional information is malnourished in your state due to poverty	65 (10.8)	25 (4.1)	10 (1.6)	15 (2.5)	5 (0.8)	20 (3.3)	6 (1.0)	4 (0.6)	50 (8.3)	99 (16.5)
Deprived of your right to health care if any child has died in the family in your state due to poverty	70 (11.7)	53 (8.8)	4 (0.6)	10 (1.6)	7 (1.1)	35 (5.8)	15 (2.5)	13 (2.1)	40 (6.6)	52 (8.6)
<b>Decent Standard of Living</b>										
Lack of access to clean drinking water or clean water is more than 30 minutes walk from home (round trip) due to poverty due to poverty	10 (1.6)	6 (1.0)	7 (1.1)	5 (0.8)	4 (0.6)	8 (1.3)	2 (0.3)	13 (2.1)	29 (4.8)	16 (2.6)
Deprived if the household lacks adequate sanitation or if their toilet is shared due to poverty	25 (4.1)	10 (1.6)	2 (0.3)	9 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.0)	5 (0.8)	4 (0.6)	20 (3.3)	19 (3.1)
Lack of access by the household to electricity supply for reasons of poverty	18 (3.0)	15 (2.5)	3 (0.5)	4 (0.6)	6 (1.0)	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	25 (4.1)	19 (3.1)
Deprived if the household cooks with wood, charcoal or dung due to poverty	26 (4.3)	10 (1.6)	2 (0.3)	6 (1.0)	4 (0.6)	8 (1.3)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	35 (5.8)	7 (1.1)
Deprived if the household does not own more than one radio, TV, telephone ,bicycle ,motorcycle, refrigerator and does not own a car or tractor due to poverty	12 (2.0)	19 (3.1)	4 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	6 (1.0)	10 (1.6)	2 (0.3)	5 (0.8)	20 (3.3)	19 (3.1)
Deprived if household has a dirt, sand and or dung floor due to poverty	18 (3.0)	7 (1.1)	5 (0.8)	4 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	2 (0.3)	6 (1.0)	2 (0.3)	31 (5.1)	20 (3.3)

**Source: Researcher’s Field Survey (2018)**

**Decision rule**

**SA = 5, Agree =4, Undecided=3, D\_2 Disagree, SD= 1 Strongly Disagree**

The responses to items one to three on Table 1 of the questionnaire provided the answer to research question one. A careful consideration of data generated from this section of the questionnaire revealed that Oyo state accounts for a high level of poverty on the basis of deprivation to education, health care and a decent standard of living compared to that of Ogun state.

From the available data, the results comparatively showed that the participants responses to the depth of poverty in Oyo and Ogun State under the period of study.

As depicted on item one of Table 1, 12.9% of the respondents in Oyo state agreed that they had no access to education and 18.5% acknowledged that they could not afford to educate their children. However, in Ogun state, the depth of poverty in relation to education was lower as 4.5% of the respondents in Ogun state agreed that they had no access to education, while 4.9% of respondents indicated that they could not afford to educate their children.

This findings therefore revealed that the deprivation to education caused by poverty was more severe in Oyo state than in Ogun state and this therefore limited the capacity of more individuals in Oyo state than in Ogun state to acquire jobs that would help them afford basic sustenance of life for themselves and consequently their children.

It is against this backdrop that the lack of access to education gave them and their household and offspring no leverage or wherewith all to escape the poverty trap or poverty cycle thus disqualifying or denying them of opportunities to be employed. This finding validated the position of Taiwo and Agwu (2016) who argued that education gives leverage and access to multiple opportunities of escaping the poverty trap however, the in accessibility to education can incapacitate individuals and lead people to unemployment or underemployment and inevitably poverty thus accentuating their poverty cycle and making them incapable of doing anything about it. In addition, Anetekhah (2002) observed that a nation with functionally educated individuals is well prepared for sustainable development and survival while a society with majority of its population being uneducated not only poses threats to the survival of the nation but also has a higher prospect of suffering mass penury.

However, during an interview with the state coordinator of the NDE in Oyo State, he buttressed the points of Taiwo and Agwu (2016) by emphasizing that education empowers men and women and facilitates them in making rational and objective choices for themselves and their wards in such a way that they do not become victims of poverty, however lack of education does the direct opposite. It propels men and women to make illogical and self-destructive decisions that sink them deeper into poverty thereby leaving them with little or no option or alternative to escape the poverty trap. This in essence means that education is one of the indispensable tools in escaping the poverty trap.

On the basis of access to health care in Oyo state, 14.9% of the respondents on Table 1 agreed that they lacked access to health care for their household while 20.5 % agreed that their offspring had died due to inaccessibility to health care because of the high depth of poverty which they experience. However, in Ogun state, the depth of poverty was lower in relation to lack of access to health care due to poverty which was indicated in the responses of the respondents. 4.3% agreed that they were deprived of their right to health care because adults and children for whom there is nutritional information is malnourished in their states due to poverty. Similarly, 8.3% also agreed that that they were deprived of their right to health care because children have died in their state due to poverty. This findings revealed that deprivation to health care services due to poverty was higher and more disturbing in Oyo state than in Ogun state and this makes households particularly in Oyo state where there is higher level of in access to health care services more susceptible to malnutrition, child mortality and higher chances of untimely death than in Ogun state.

This corroborates Yunus (2016) position who noted that poverty is the absence of a certain level or at least a minimal level of affordability to health care and nutrition. The implication of this is that this lack threatens their existence and facilitates nutritional deprivation and powerlessness over their health and that of their family. Essentially, poverty exposes the poor to illnesses and cannot afford basic health care. It erodes them of the ability to have access to the essentials of life and the ability to pay for good health. Hence, making them vulnerable to avoidable deaths (Aliyu, 2015). However, according to an interview conducted, the State Coordinator of the NDE in Ogun state emphasized that poverty forces individuals into positions in which they cannot protect or control any aspect of their lives including their health thus making room for all kinds of inhumane experiences and sicknesses that weakens their body and gives them up to untimely death.

In terms of decent standard of living, 2.6% respondents in Oyo state agreed that they were deprived of a decent standard of living because they were bereft of access to clean drinking water which is more than 30 minutes' walk from home due to poverty.

Nevertheless, 1.8% of respondents in Ogun state noted that they were deprived of a decent standard of living because they lacked access to clean drinking water which is more than 30 minutes' walk from home due

to poverty. This findings suggested that poverty and lack of basic necessities of human survival necessary for a decent standard of living is more prevalent more in Oyo state than in Ogun state. This showed that Poverty opens individuals up to material deprivation and powerlessness to the affordability of basic necessities of life for himself, his household, offspring and generation thus making it difficult to extricate either himself or offspring from poverty since they lack everything that gives accessibility to rise above poverty thus sinking himself and generation into squalor and helplessness. This substantiates Taiwo and Agwu (2016) position when they argued that deprivation makes it difficult for individuals to emancipate themselves easily from the poverty trap and cycle and it further submerges them and their generation into a greater cycle of poverty. However, during an interview with the State Coordinator of the NDE in Oyo state he stated that poverty manifest by revealing lack in every area necessary for human survival that will aid a decent life or standard of living.

In respect of the household being deprived of adequate sanitation, 5.7% of respondents in Oyo state agreed that their household were deprived of adequate sanitation or their toilet was shared due to poverty, while in Ogun state 1.8% of respondents in Ogun state acknowledged that their household were deprived of adequate sanitation or their toilet was shared due to poverty. This finding therefore revealed that the intensity of poverty in relation to poor standard of living in which there was lack of adequate sanitation or toilet was shared was higher in Oyo state than in Ogun state. In essence, the aforementioned perspective by the participants corroborates the position of Doma, Ibrahim and Ahmad (2014) who emphasized that poverty is a manifestation of poor sanitation, unfit shelter, squalid surroundings, high mortality rate, low life expectancy, poor environmental conditions, lack of economic infrastructures amongst others. The resultant consequence of this low quality of life includes exposure to diseases in which their lack makes them powerless over their health and consequently keeps them perpetually in a disadvantaged position and limits their access or chances of evading poverty thus, making them descend more into poverty. However, in an interview with the State Coordinator of NDE in Oyo state, he reiterated that one of the evidences of deprivation as it relates to poor standard of living include inevitably inconvenient and unhygienic environmental conditions which precipitates avoidable diseases. Dying and inhabitable household exposes the household to the risk of contagious diseases which weakens their immune system and shortens their life span and thus lead to untimely deaths.

As regards deprivation of households to electricity supply for reasons of poverty in Oyo state, 5.5% of respondents agreed that they and their household lacked electricity supply due to poverty while in Ogun state 1.1% of respondents believed that their household lacked access to electricity supply for reasons of poverty. This findings therefore implied that the level of poverty in relation to low standard of living where individuals lacked an alternative for adequate electricity supply was higher in Oyo state than in Ogun state. However, according to the HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE in Ogun state during an interview, he emphasized that poverty creates an absence of everything useful for a decent and healthy business and personal life. Electricity constitutes one of the most useful infrastructures for household activities and businesses therefore the absence of it chokes better quality of life and threatens business survival which in turn propels individuals into poverty. 5.5% of respondents in Oyo state believed that they were deprived because their household uses wood, charcoal or dung due to poverty

Equally, 1.1% of respondents in Ogun state accepted that they suffered deprivation because their household uses wood, charcoal or dung for reasons of poverty. This findings fundamentally suggested that the depth of poverty in relation to low standard of living where individuals had no alternative other than using charcoal, wood or dung was higher in Oyo state than in Ogun state. Nevertheless, in an interview conducted, the State Coordinator of the NDE in Ogun state justified this position when he argued that poor individuals with the absence of household facilities often make use of substandard and unhygienic materials harmful to their health and that of their household because they basically do not have any option or choice. This shows how poverty makes individuals totally disempowered to change their living conditions or situations. In the next item, 5.1% of respondent in Oyo state indicated that they were deprived because their household does not own more than one radio, television, telephone, bicycle, motorcycle, and refrigerator and does not own a car or tractor due to poverty. Similarly, 1.9% of respondents in Ogun state agreed that they were deprived because their household does not own more than one radio, television, telephone, bicycle, motorcycle, and refrigerator and does not own a car or tractor due to poverty. This findings suggested that the depth of poverty in relation to low standard of living was higher in Oyo state than in Ogun state because respondents believed they were deprived because their household does not own more than one radio, television, telephone, bicycle, motorcycle, refrigerator and does not own a car or tractor due to poverty which was higher in Oyo state than in Ogun state. This therefore indicates that poverty occurs when human beings lack the ability to satisfy their basic requirements for human survival such as transportation facilities, recreational amenities and information and communication technology. This position was reiterated by Nemezu (2014) who emphasized that poverty is the inability of a person or household to have the resources necessary to meet germane human needs necessary for social and physiological survival. In corroborating this position, the State Coordinator emphasized in an interview that poverty empties individuals into a complete state of helplessness and destitution in which him and his household are completely

disconnected or disassociated from information, knowledge and opportunities because they lack the resources which make for a decent life.

Additionally, 4.1% of respondents in Oyo state signified that they were deprived because their household has a dirt, sand or dung floor due to poverty meanwhile, in Ogun state, 12.1% of respondents agreed that they were deprived because their household has a dirt, sand or dung floor due to poverty. This findings showed that the depth of poverty in relation to low standard of living was higher in Oyo state than in Ogun state where individuals believed that they were deprived because their household has a dirt, sand or dung floor due to poverty. However ,this was corroborated by World Bank, 2013 who stated that poverty is a condition or state in which individuals are unable to meet basic need requirement necessary to facilitate a meaningful life .Nevertheless, In an interview with the state coordinator of the NDE in Oyo state ,he buttressed this point when he argued that poverty is associated with filth and exposure to unhygienic lifestyle and practices that depreciates individuals life and health steadily because they lack the financial capacity to live in a clean and conducive habitation

This implied from the responses above that the level of poverty with regards to education, health care services and decent standard of living revealed that poverty was higher in Oyo state than Ogun state and the major reason for the level of poverty in Oyo state when compared with Ogun state was because of deprivation to education caused by poverty and this was substantiated by the Ministry of Education ,Ogun state where it indicated that there were more schools and invariably access to education in Ogun state than in Oyo state. For instance, Ogun state has 6,675 educational institutions while Oyo state has 2,065 schools and this rounds up Yunus (2016) argument when he emphasized that the poor are individuals or groups who lack or are deprived of food, shelter, education, health facilities and freedom to achieve the inherent potential of their capabilities which determine their present and future existence and potential of their capabilities which determine their present and future existence and survival. He further observed that poverty is the absence of a certain level or at least a minimal level of affordability to health care, nutrition, sanitation, rest, shelter, literacy, intellectual aspirations, positive freedom, enjoyment, dignity and security. The totality of these values determine a good standard of living.

**Research Question 2: Identify the causes of unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States?**

**Table 2: Causes of Unemployment in Ogun and Oyo States**

Survey Items	OYO					OGUN				
	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	SA F(%)	A F(%)	U F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)
Poor leadership	8 (1.3)	3 (0.5)	2 (0.3)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	8 (1.3)	6 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.5)	2 (0.3)
Corruption	6 (1.0)	5 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	8 (1.3)	7 (1.1)	1 (0.16)	3 (0.5)	0 (0.0)
Scarcity of Industries	7 (1.1)	6 (1.0)	1 (0.16)	3 (0.5)	1 (0.16)	6 (1.0)	6 (1.0)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	2 (0.3)
Lack of government support	6 (1.0)	5 (0.8)	3 (0.5)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	8 (1.3)	2 (0.3)	2 (0.2)	3 (0.3)	1 (0.1)
Poor Policy formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation Programs of Government	8 (1.3)	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.0)	4 (0.6)	4 (0.6)	1 (0.1)	3 (0.5)
Inflation	3 (0.5)	6 (1.0)	4 (0.6)	4 (0.6)	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)	5 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	4 (0.6)
Inadequate loans and grants from government	8 (1.3)	3 (0.5)	5 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.6)	5 (0.8)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	4 (0.6)	1 (0.1)
Inadequate public facilities	9 (1.5)	4 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.6)	2 (0.3)	7 (1.1)	3 (0.5)	4 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)
Inadequate infrastructures e.g. laboratories ,electricity etc.	9 (1.5)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	5 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.0)	4 (0.6)	5 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.8)
Employers unwillingness to pay graduate salaries	9 (1.5)	4 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	4 (0.6)	2 (0.3)	7 (1.1)	3 (0.5)	4 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)
Population increase	12 (2.0)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.5)	5 (0.8)	8 (1.3)	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Lack of monitoring and coordination of government programmes	6 (1.0)	7 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.16)	1 (0.16)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (0.5)	12 (2.0)
Poor working environment	10 (1.6)	2 (0.3)	5 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.0)	4 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)
Over reliance on white collar job	6 (1.0)	8 (1.3)	1 (0.16)	4 (0.6)	1 (0.16)	4 (0.6)	7 (1.1)	1 (0.16)	3 (0.5)	1 (0.16)
Diseases/Physical disability	6 (1.0)	4 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)	6 (1.0)	5 (0.8)	6 (1.0)	2 (0.3)	4 (0.6)
Incompetence of some graduates	6 (1.0)	7 (1.1)	1 (0.16)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.8)	5 (0.8)	6 (1.0)	2 (0.3)	3 (0.5)

Gender inequality	9 (1.5)	4 (0.6)	2 (0.3)	1 (0.16)	3 (0.5)	10 (1.6)	4 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.3)
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**Source: Researcher’s Field Survey (2018)**

**Decision rule**

**SA = 5, Agree =4, Undecided=3, D \_2 Disagree, SD= 1 Strongly Disagree**

This section comparatively discussed the findings on the causes of poverty in Oyo and Ogun State.

In Oyo state, findings revealed that 1.8% of respondents stated that poor leadership was the cause of unemployment meanwhile in Ogun state, 2.3% indicated poor leadership was the cause of unemployment. This apparently revealed that respondents in both states saw poor leadership as a factor causing unemployment. However, Asaju, Samuel and Silas (2014) reiterated that Nigeria as a nation has never been lacking in terms of initiating good ideas towards employment generation ,what was lacking was the political will and purposeful leadership to turn the ideas into concrete results. They further emphasized that successive administrations effort to combat the menace of unemployment and its attendant effect over the years have ended up in a deadlock situation and the reason is not far-fetched other than poor quality of leadership Nevertheless, in an interview with the State Coordinator of the NDE in Oyo state argued that when the government does not create an enabling environment in which industries can thrive, grow and multiply, it is clear that the rate of unemployment will keep increasing

Responses to item two for Oyo state revealed that 1.8% of respondents agreed that corruption was the cause of unemployment, similarly, in Ogun state 2.4% also believed that corruption was the cause of unemployment. This indicated from findings that corruption was a common factor causing unemployment in both states. However, from literature, Fajoyonmi (2012) noted that it is no news that the problem of corruption which has triggered political apathy is endemic in the country and has basterdized every opportunity for mass employment generation. Uddin and Osemengbe (2013) on the other hand submitted that corruption is one of the major factors that has triggered unemployment in Nigeria. He argued that corruption has permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria and has robbed those who are ready and willing to work the opportunity of being employed. They further stressed that funds meant for development projects and establishment of industries have been misappropriated, diverted, embezzled and stashed away in foreign banks while some incompetent and corrupt bureaucrats and administrators in the public enterprise and parastatals have liquidated some of the public organizations thereby depriving able bodied men and women of the opportunity to be employed. The point being made here is that the collaboration of the political elites, local and foreign contractors in the inflation of contract fees have robbed Nigeria of the chances of using more than 500 billion dollars estimated revenue from oil sales in the last 50 years to develop a vibrant economy that would have created jobs for youths. Furthermore, in establishing this fact, in an interview with the State Coordinator of the NDE in Ogun state, he argued that corruption has become a constant, recurring and endemic national problem which is one of the reasons that has aggravated unemployment in the country. Asaju, Samuel and Silas (2014) on the other hand corroborated this position by stating that corruption has undoubtedly done more damage to every facet of the country and has contributed greatly to mass unemployment in the country.

On Item three, data suggested that 2.1% of respondents agreed that scarcity of industries was the reason for unemployment in Oyo state. In Ogun state nevertheless, 2.0% of respondents agreed that scarcity of industries was the reason for unemployment in Ogun state. From the findings above, it can therefore be adduced that majority of the respondents particularly in Oyo state affirmed that scarcity of industries is a reason for unemployment compared to Ogun state. However, a review from literature reveals that Chiazor and Ozoya (2017) noted that scarcity of industries has been caused by lack of enabling environment that has characterized the economy over the years and continued to pose serious challenges to employment generation in Nigeria. This coupled with poor and very weak security environment has continued to hamper investment drives and thereby reducing the prospects of sufficient industries and consequently employment generation. However, in an interview with the HOD of the Vocational Skill Development Programme of the NDE he had a slightly different view in opinion when he stated that one of the reasons for unemployment was insufficient industries and one of the reasons why there are insufficient industries in the state is because of lack of skill acquisition by some able bodied men and women. The inability to acquire skills by some undergraduates and graduates is one of the reasons for insufficient industries and businesses in the state. When people rely excessively on white collar jobs without acquiring the necessary skills that can facilitate the establishment and multiplication of businesses, the menace of unemployment worsens.

Responses from items four revealed that 1.8% of respondents in Oyo state agreed that lack of governments support was the cause of unemployment in Oyo state, equally, responses from Ogun state revealed that 1.6% indicated that lack of governments support was a cause of unemployment. This findings therefore showed that one of the causes of unemployment was lack of government’s support which was a constant factor in both states. However, Ajani, Mgbenka and Onah (2015) explained that when there is lack of government

support in agriculture which involves investing in modernized agricultural activities, the situation propels unemployment and worst of all rural urban migration. Nevertheless, during an interview with the HOD for Rural Agriculture and Training Development Programme in Ogun state, he emphasized that when there is lack of support from government towards agriculture, there will be unavoidable disinterest in agriculture and consequently rural urban migration which will lead to further unemployment.

Responses from items five showed that 2.1% of respondents are of the opinion that poor policy formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation programs of government is the cause of unemployment in Oyo state. Similarly, 1.6% of respondents accepted that poor policy formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation programs of government is the cause of unemployment in Ogun state. This finding therefore suggested that majority of the respondents in both states noted poor policy formulation and implementation in poverty alleviation programs is a cause of unemployment and this was corroborated by Dialoke, Ukah and Maduagwuna (2017) who noted that poor policy implementation has been one of the major problems confronting Nigeria and causing unemployment. They emphasized that the implementation problems in Nigeria is the problem of a widening gap between policy intentions and outcomes. Implementation gap manifests in the widening of the distance between stated policy goals and the realization of such planned goals. It is very clear from records that Nigeria over the years has initiated well-articulated economic and social policies intended to curb poverty and unemployment. A list of such programmes include Operation Feed the Nation, 7 point Agenda, Directorate of Foods, Road and Rural Infrastructure as well as many others by various administration. Unfortunately many of them did not yield any result due to poor implementation. Additionally, during an interview, the State Coordinator of the NDE in Ogun state reiterated that policy formulation in the NDE has never been an issue however the successful implementation is determined by the financial resources available. Nevertheless, the NDE has been able to manage and maximize the limited resources available to her to ensure a successful policy formulation and implementation of all its programmes and its sustainability is a testimony to its effective policy formulation and implementation.

Responses from item six showed that 1.5% of respondents in Oyo state opined that inflation is the cause of unemployment in Oyo state, on the other hand 1.1% in Ogun state indicated that inflation is a cause of unemployment. The implication was that respondents in both states felt that inflation was another cause of unemployment. This was substantiated by Jelilov, Obasa and Isik (2016) who argued that the main source of inflation are namely fiscal and monetary policies and balance of payment. Essentially a rise in exchange rate leads to an increase in import prices and thus causing high prices in goods and services which becomes unaffordable for people which then culminates to unemployment. However, the HOD for the Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Ogun state in an interview stated that inflation is a cause of unemployment because when prices of services become exorbitant and more expensive than the peoples income budget, it renders the service providers unemployed. Thus increasing the rate of unemployment. Responses from item 7 revealed that 1.8% of respondents in Oyo state considered inadequate loans and grants from government as one of the causes of unemployment in the state.

In Ogun state however 1.6% of respondents indicated that inadequate loans and grants from government is one of the causes of unemployment. This finding therefore showed that majority of the respondents in both states observed that inadequate loans and grants from government constitute a reason for unemployment. Emezie (2017) stated that a key problem triggering unemployment is inadequate loans and grants by government and the reason for inadequate loans and grants by government is because of corruption. Public funds meant to create an enabling environment for the development and multiplication of industries which will create employment opportunities for a lot of able bodied unemployed Nigerians are siphoned into personal accounts and thus deny the creation or development of legitimate small businesses from even developing in such a way that will create employment for other Nigerians.

In an interview with the HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE in Oyo state, she buttressed this point by stating that corruption causes inadequate funding and inadequate funding undermines and stifles potential small and medium scale businesses from increasing and developing thereby denying the chances of individuals getting employed. So, one of the reasons why there is unemployment is not because the Nigerian youths are indolent or unwilling to work but because there is lack of a support system that will encourage the rise and development of businesses which will even provide opportunity of employment to thousands of other Nigerians ready to work. On item eight 2.1% of respondents attributed inadequate public facilities as one of the causes of unemployment in Oyo state while 1.1% of respondents acknowledged that inadequate public facilities is one of the causes of unemployment. This finding showed that inadequate public facilities was one of the causes of unemployment in both states according to responses from respondents in both states. Somefun (2015) emphasized that inadequate public facilities curtail employment generation particularly in places where electricity is required for production of goods and services. In Essence, the health sector and other agencies where indispensable public facilities are required but are inadequate to function or operate gives rise to unemployment. Asaju, Samuel and Silas (2014) corroborated this position by stating that the toxic



business environment where businesses and employment opportunities are unable to thrive are because of inadequate public facilities particularly poor power and water supply. Many artisans and business owners who cannot afford to have power generator have been forced to shut down thereby creating higher level of unemployment

In an interview with the HOD of the vocational Skill Development Programme in Ogun state, he stated that public facilities are one of the essential necessities that create avenues for employment. When public facilities are inadequate in places like public organizations, the tendency for unemployment rises.

On item nine responses from respondents indicated that 1.8% of respondents attributed inadequate infrastructures like laboratories or electricity as one of the causes of unemployment in Oyo state. In Ogun state meanwhile 1.4% of respondents acknowledged that inadequate public infrastructures is one of the causes of unemployment. The implication of this findings was that more respondents in both states revealed that inadequate public infrastructures like laboratories or electricity was one of the causes of unemployment than respondents in Ogun state. This implied that inadequate infrastructural facilities limited more individuals from generating employment in Oyo state than in Ogun state which therefore showed why poverty was more in Oyo state than in Ogun state. This point was corroborated by Somefun (2015) who noted that inadequate public infrastructures particularly as it pertains to electricity in Nigeria is one of the causes of unemployment. He stressed that with irregular electricity supply international investors and foreign companies are less likely to invest or establish their businesses in Nigeria due to the high cost of power needed to keep their business running daily. Thus, this sad situation inevitably denies millions of able bodied Nigerians the opportunity of being employed. In essence the inconsistent or unavailable power supply has been a major reason why many of the multinationals admitted to why they shut down their operations in Nigeria which further worsened the level of unemployment. Some of the multinational companies include Dunlop Plc which was a dominant manufacturing tyre enterprise, Volkswagen Plc, PZ, Unilever and Michelin. The last surviving textile mill in Kaduna was the United Textile Mills (UNT) Plc which has been shut down for a long time. Similarly, the exit of Michelin from Nigeria cost the economy 1,300 direct jobs. Asaju, Samuel and Silas (2014) further affirmed that The United Nations Industrial Development Organization stated that over 170 textile companies have closed down and 120,000 employees have been rendered jobless on account of poor power supply and high cost of fuel. This therefore reveals why inadequate public infrastructures will continually accelerate unemployment in Nigeria. This was however substantiated by the HOD of the Vocational Skill Development, Oyo state during an interview, when he emphasized that inconsistent or poor electricity supply has been painfully one of the causes of unemployment in Nigeria. Many rising manufacturing firms in Nigeria that could have blossomed and multiplied thereby providing employment opportunity to men and women have been frustrated because their production relies heavily of constant electricity supply. Essentially, it is one thing for the NDE to empower individuals to be self-employed, it is also another thing for public infrastructures to make or mar the business. Many food, fashion, electronic and other manufacturing agencies that rely heavily on electricity to be able to provide goods and services and have the potentials of employing millions of graduates have been stifled by irregular electricity and rendered many Nigerians unemployed on a daily basis because the funds they spend on alternative electricity is always way more expensive than their profit, hence they run at a loss and making many businesses become dead on arrival.

Meanwhile on item ten 2.1% of respondents constitutes respondents who believed that employers unwillingness to pay graduates salaries is one of the reasons for unemployment in Oyo state and 1.6% of respondents agreed that employers unwillingness to pay graduates salaries is one of the reasons for unemployment in Ogun state. The consequence of this finding was that majority of the respondents in both states accepted that employers unwillingness to pay graduates salaries was one of the reasons for unemployment.

According to Ogunbanjo, Olufunmilola, Afolabi, Anikan, Ogunsola and Orobiyi (2017) they opined that economic recession has a negative implication for the country's human resources which has led to employers unwillingness to pay graduate salaries and has consequently led to high level of graduate unemployment. In essence this situation has become very worrisome particularly when parastatals cannot afford to consistently pay graduate salaries thus leading to unemployment. However, in an interview with the HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the NDE, he reiterated that in a situation where graduates are skilled and fit or qualified for a job but the employers are unwilling to pay graduates salaries or pay them wages not commensurate with their services, it creates unemployment for graduates.

On population increase 2.3% of respondents in Oyo state agreed that population increase was a resultant factor for unemployment in Oyo state, Similarly, in Ogun state 13.2% of respondents agreed that population increase was a cause of unemployment.

This finding therefore revealed that population increase was a constant cause for unemployment in both states and this corroborated Adebayo (2013) who noted that Nigeria has continued to experience high rate of population growth. The increasing population growth has produced an overwhelming increase in the youth

population thereby resulting in an attendant increase in the size of the working age population. With the 2006 population census in Nigeria, the nation's population was estimated to be 140,431,790 and projection for the future indicates that the population could be over 180 million by the year 2020 given an annual rate of 3.2 percent by the National Population Commission. This made Nigeria the most populous nation in Africa. The growth in population rate has resulted in rapid growth of the labor force which is far higher than the rate of job supply. Nwogwugu and Irechukwu (2015) also reiterated that the high population growth rate has resulted in the rapid growth of the labour force which is far outstripping the supply of jobs. They argued that accelerated growth of population affects the supply side through a high and rapid increase in the labour force relative to the absorptive capacity of the economy.

However, in an interview with the State Coordinator of the NDE in Oyo state, he argued that population explosion has made the demand for jobs extremely higher than the supply. The labour market has become so saturated with universities churning out graduates annually home and abroad meanwhile the number of people who are ready for work outnumber the jobs available in the country.

Responses from item eleven revealed that 2.3% of respondents thought that lack of monitoring and coordination of government programs was one of the factors responsible for unemployment in Oyo state. In Ogun state 2.1% of respondents believed that lack of monitoring and coordination of government programs was one of the factors responsible for unemployment in the state. This finding therefore implied that respondents in both states observed that lack of monitoring and coordination of government programs was one of the factors responsible for unemployment in both states. This was corroborated by Aminu and Onimisi (2014) who observed that one of the factors that have aggravated unemployment was the failure of previous poverty alleviation programs such as Directorate of foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure, Better Life Programme, People's Bank of Nigeria Community Bank, Family support Program, Family Economic Advancement Programme, Poverty Eradication Program, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, National Poverty Eradication Programme, Seven Point Agenda etc. Perhaps, if it was well monitored and coordinated, chances that it would have drastically reduced unemployment would have been higher. It would also have prevented corruption and diversion of funds as well as unaccountability. This was also buttressed by the State Coordinator of the NDE in Ogun state in an interview when he emphasized that when there is lack of monitoring or coordination in any poverty alleviation program, people tend to do things without commitment and corruption tends to thrive in such situations. At the end of the day, the laudable poverty alleviation objectives that had prospects of reducing unemployment becomes unsustainable because there was lack of monitoring and coordination.

On the issue of poor working environment as the cause of unemployment 2.1% of respondents agreed that poor working environment is the cause of unemployment in Oyo state. In Ogun state, 0.8% of respondents agreed that poor working environment is the cause of unemployment. The implication of this finding was that majority of the respondents especially in Oyo state see poor working environment as one of the factors responsible for unemployment than in Ogun state. Nwankwo (2014) affirms that the uncondusive and unsecure working environment has continued to pose serious threat to employment generation in Nigeria. This is especially related to the poor state of security which has continued to hamper the increase in businesses and industries thus reducing the prospects of employment. Many individuals for example who have embarked on self-employment businesses have been unable to flourish because of the hostile production environment. Others who have attempted to multiply are forced to shut down due to the absence of infrastructures and the overall heat of the investment environment. The HOD of the Entrepreneurship Development Program in Ogun state explained that when there is poor working environment in which employers or workers feel uncomfortable, unsafe or the business feels threatened, it discourages the business owner from duplicating or replicating his businesses in other parts of the country for fear of ethnic or religious attacks which has now become a regular occurrence in this part of the world thus denying individuals who are ready to work the chance of getting employed.

Responses on item thirteen revealed that 2.3% of respondents opined that over reliance on white collar jobs accounted for unemployment in Oyo state, while in Ogun state 1.7% of respondents agreed that over reliance on white collar jobs accounted for unemployment. As such, findings from respondents suggested that majority of the respondent in Oyo state believed that that over reliance on white collar jobs contributed to unemployment compared to Ogun state. Adekunle (2014) wrote that the trampling of graduate job seekers to death during stampedes due to overcrowding, exhaustion and impatience at the Nigeria Immigration Service recruitment exercise across the country on the 15th of March 2014 during the tenure of President Goodluck Jonathan presents a graphic and gory picture of the level of desperation for white collar jobs. Secondly, the wrong impression of vocational studies and the neglect of the agricultural sector has contributed to the over reliance on white collar jobs for employment. During an interview with the HOD of the Vocational Skill Development in Oyo state, he noted that the false perception or belief system of vocational skill acquisition especially by graduates makes them unemployed. What this means is that if per adventure they were unable to

secure a job after school but were vocationally skilled, their chances of being unemployed will have been slim because they have acquired the skill necessary to help them generate an alternative employment for themselves and others. However, it is unfortunate that some graduates perceive skill acquisition as something beneath them or undignifying hence remain unemployed. Unknown to them, skill acquisition is usually an escape route out of the labour market when white collar jobs are unavailable

On item fourteen responses from respondents in Oyo states indicated that 1.6% of individuals with diseases or physical disabilities propel unemployment in the state, In Ogun state, 1.8% of respondents agreed that individuals with diseases or physical disabilities is a cause of unemployment in the state. This findings therefore suggested that respondents in both states shared common belief that individuals with diseases and physical disabilities were more susceptible to unemployment because their health was a hindrance for them being productive or employable. Kware (2015) buttressed this point when he stated that poor health and physical incapacity is a disaster. It limits and forces individuals to become unemployed and unemployable. However during an interview with the State Coordinator in Ogun state, he reiterated this position by stating that diseases or physical disabilities incapacitates and limits the body, mind and mental health from functioning at its full capacity. Secondly, in this part of the world those with special needs or physical challenges are always discriminated against particularly when it comes to employment opportunities where employers have the option of employing a physically and mentally healthy person as opposed to someone with physical challenges or health challenges. Every employer or business owner prefers individuals whose health or physical challenges will not in any way interfere with the production of goods or services. For instance, an employer of labour would rather employ a man or woman without physical disabilities than employ a blind, deaf or handicapped person because an individual who is always unfit to work because of his health challenge or physical challenge will not only have problems with easy communication but hinder his employer from maximizing profit. On the issue of incompetence of some graduates as being one of the causes of unemployment in Oyo state 2.1% of respondents agreed on this factor as being one of the cause of unemployment, In Ogun state, 1.6% of respondents stated that incompetence of some graduates was a cause of unemployment. This findings implied that majority of the respondents in both state accepted that the incompetence of some graduates constitutes a propelling factor responsible for unemployment

However, According to Uddin and Osemengbe (2013) in their opinion, they explained that some scholars and commentators noted that as far as the formal sector is concerned, the average Nigerian graduate is not employable and therefore does not possess the skills needed by the employers of labour for a formal employment. Nevertheless, the HOD of the Entrepreneurial Development Programme in Ogun state in an interview opined that some graduates loose employment opportunities not because they don't have good CV's but because they lack the expertise or required professionalism to execute their jobs efficiently. After being employed for a job, the employer expects a certain degree of productivity and character from an individual whose CV shows he or she is a graduate because the employer believes that he has been trained and equipped for that in school. So when his professional conduct and productivity begins to go contrary of what one should expect from a graduate, he stands a chance of losing his job and becomes unemployable. Lastly, 2.1% of respondent agreed that gender inequality is a cause of unemployment in Oyo state, In Ogun state however 2.2% of respondent noted that gender inequality is a cause of unemployment in the state. This findings therefore means therefore that majority of the respondents in both states considered gender inequality as a constant factor causing unemployment. According to Fapohunda (2013) she observed that gender inequality or gender stereotypes are the driving force behind employment segregation. In Nigeria for example, there are widely shared cultural beliefs that men are more socially valued and more competent than women at most things as well as assumptions that men are better at some certain task while women are not. These gender stereotypes or beliefs tend to affect or influence the assessment of some employers who employ individuals not based on merit or competence but by gender biased assessment of individuals' capacity. Essentially, stereotyping certain work as "male" or "female". Bolarin (2006) on the other hand observed that another cause of gender inequality as a cause of unemployment is that Nigeria as a traditional society has many derogatory cultural practices and ideologies on the status, capability and roles of women in the work place. The Nigerian society believes that the major responsibility of women are to keep the home, raise children and minister to the needs of their husbands rather than seeking for employment. All these traditional beliefs and practices put a lot of barriers in the way of employment opportunities for women.

However, during an interview with the State Coordinator of the NDE in Ogun state, he had a contrary opinion to Fapohunda, 2013 & Bolarin, 2006. He affirmed that in recent times, perception to gender issues have changed. People are more enlightened and know better. They understand that competency in a particular field or work has absolutely nothing to do with your gender. No employer cares if you are a man or woman. What they are interested in is are you fit for the job? Are you up to the task? Can you perform your job optimally? Are you good at your job? Are you Productive, hardworking and efficient? Are you professional and ethical? That's all that matters. As long as the individual be it a man or woman is working to achieve the objectives of the

organization, then that's ok. After all in recent times we have female pilots, chauffeurs, ministers, religious leaders, scientists, pharmacist, police women, politicians, engineers and so on which were formerly male dominated careers and at the same time we have men who are now hair stylists, chefs or cooks, nurses, secretaries, janitors ,fashion designers and so on which was also female dominated. So that is to tell you that gender inequality is not a cause for unemployment at all.

### **Concluding Remark**

Oyo state accounted for a higher intensity of poverty than in Ogun state and one of the major reasons for the level of poverty in Oyo state when compared to Ogun state was because of deprivation to education caused by poverty and this was substantiated by the ministry of Education, Ogun state where it revealed that there were more educational institutions and access to education in Ogun state than in Oyo state. For instance, Ogun state has 6,675 educational institutions while Oyo state has 2,065 schools. Access to education limited the capacity of more individuals in Oyo state than in Ogun state to acquire jobs that would help them afford basic sustenance of life for themselves and consequently their children. It is against this backdrop that the lack of access to education gave them and their households no leverage or wherewithal to escape the poverty trap or poverty cycle thus disqualifying them of opportunities to be employed.

Secondly, another reason for higher level of poverty in Oyo state than in Ogun state is because according to Ogun state Investors Forum (2018) there have been an increase in the number of industries between 2011-2018 as 304 industries have been established in the last seven years whereas according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Oyo state, there has been a total of 176 industries in Oyo state between 2011-2018. Therefore, the implication is that more individuals within Ogun State were employed than Oyo state. This has resulted to a reduction of poverty in Ogun state than in Oyo state. In addition, Ogun state is situated very close to Lagos which is a state wherein it is the melting point of all commercial and industrial activities in Nigeria. Furthermore, most of the industries located in Nigeria have their headquarters in Lagos which harbors the highest number of industries in Nigeria and a good number of people from Ogun state are employed in these companies and they go to work from their homes. More so, Lagos which is a coastal area is so congested and availability of land for more industrialization is minimal in recent times. These has attracted the establishment of industries in Ogun state because of its proximity to Lagos .Many people have been employed in Ogun unlike Oyo that do not derive the advantage of closeness to Lagos. This is why Ogun state is rated the third most industrialized state in Nigeria.

Findings from the study indicated a constant factor responsible for unemployment in both states which include poor leadership, lack of government support, poor policy formulation and implementation, inflation, inadequate loans and grants from government ,lack of support from international organizations and other stakeholders, inadequate public facilities and lastly, corruption.

To effectively achieve the objective of reducing poverty to a considerably low level in Oyo and Ogun state, there is need for the NDE to refocus on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. Poverty cannot just be alleviated with an open door job creation programme. There is need for the NDE to cover a wider range of the poor and the unemployed through involvement of community based organizations in creating awareness or publicity of the presence and role of the NDE so that the NDE will reach out to as many targeted poor as possible.

For the NDE to combat mass unemployment in Ogun and Oyo states there is need for the NDE to engage in regular assessment or appraisal of the poverty alleviation Programme in each state to see how effective their poverty alleviation programmes that checkmate unemployment have been. Basically, the NDE has to make comparative reviews at state level yearly to see how far they have gone in reducing unemployment. That way, they can know whether their programmes are effective at reducing unemployment or not and make room for improvement where they are lapsing.

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