ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY AND THIRD WORLD UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF LOCAL ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN ADAMAWA STATE

Dr. Lucky Benson
Department of Political Science,
Adamawa State University, Mubi
+234805190057
luckybensonkarfe@gmail.com

Yusuf Ndakwa
Postgraduate Student,
Department of Political Science,
Adamawa State University, Mubi

Nuru Aliyu Abba
Department of Political Science,
Federal Collage of Education, Yola
+23480-38170344
nuruabbaaliyu@gmail.com

Hassan Ahmed
Department of Statistics,
Modibbo Adama University, Yola
+2348032417537
hassanAhmed.official@gmail.com

***Corresponding author:**
Dr. Lucky Benson
Department of Political Science,
Adamawa State University, Mubi
+234805190057
luckybensonkarfe@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study explores the complex relationship between economic dependency and third world underdevelopment in Nigeria, focusing on the Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS) in Adamawa State. Economic dependency, characterized by reliance on external aid, foreign investment, and global market fluctuations, has been a persistent challenge for Nigeria, contributing to its underdevelopment. The research employs utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to analyze the effectiveness of LEEDS in promoting local economic growth and reducing dependency. The findings reveal that while LEEDS has made some progress in fostering entrepreneurship, improving infrastructure, and enhancing educational opportunities, significant barriers remain. These include inadequate funding, poor implementation, and persistent corruption, which hinder the strategy's full potential. The study underscores the need for a more holistic approach that not only addresses immediate economic needs but also builds sustainable local capacities. The research highlights the importance of community participation, transparency, and accountability in development initiatives. The implications of these findings are crucial for policymakers, development agencies, and scholars, emphasizing the necessity of re-evaluating current economic policies and adopting more inclusive and sustainable development strategies. The study recommends strengthening local institutions, enhancing capacity-building programs, and promoting economic diversification to reduce dependency and drive long-term development in Adamawa State and Nigeria at large.

Key Words: *Foreign investment, Global market fluctuations, Corruption, Economic policies.*

1.1 Background to the Study

The crises of underdevelopment in the third world have been a subject of discourse amongst social scientists, national governments and international development organization for several decades. Largely countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are wallowing in mass poverty and socio-economic underdevelopment.

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

According to Abraham (2015), third world countries are economically poor and technologically backward and largely characterized by underdeveloped structures, high maternal mortality, high child mortality, lower mass literacy, large rural population and so on. The situation in Nigeria is no different; with a population of over 170 million people, the United Nations Development Programme most recent Human Development Index Report ranked Nigeria 152 out of 187 countries with a HDI value of 0.514 (UNDP 2015).

This shows that the country is struggling with low human development with a huge disparity between economic growth and social welfare. The report in its list of low human development countries also ranked Nigeria at number 9 among 42 countries with Nepal, Pakistan and Kenya coming as the first three and Central African Republic, Congo, and Niger as the last three. The prevailing underdevelopment in the third world generally and Nigeria specifically, have been historically linked to inherent colonially imposed dependent economic structure within the third world states. This entails the historical fusion of the third world economy to the global capitalist economy and the subsequent dependence on the Western economies (Stokes & Anderson, 1990; Ake, 2002). Associated with dependency is structural disarticulation which further impedes socio-economic development in the third world. In establishing this fact, Haung (1995) averred that one contributing factor to third world underdevelopment is that of structural disarticulation: which is an economic and social feature manifested by uneven sectorial development and lack of correspondence between domestic production and consumption patterns.

Nigeria is a developing country in West Africa. It is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria is also one of the richest countries in Africa in terms of natural resources, including oil, gas, coal, and minerals. However, despite its wealth of resources, Nigeria remains underdeveloped. One of the main reasons for Nigeria's underdevelopment is economic dependency. Economic dependency is a situation in which a country's economy is heavily reliant on other countries for its development. In Nigeria's case, the country is heavily reliant on the export of raw materials, such as oil and gas. This makes Nigeria's economy vulnerable to fluctuations in the global market prices of these commodities.

Local empowerment and development strategy is a strategy that aims to develop a country from within. It focuses on empowering local communities to take control of their own development. This strategy has been shown to be effective in reducing economic dependency and promoting sustainable development in a number of countries. In Nigeria, a number of local empowerment and development initiatives have been implemented. These initiatives have focused on a variety of areas, such as agriculture, education, and healthcare. However, these initiatives have been limited in scale and scope.

Recognizing the need for a more sustainable and equitable development path, many stakeholders in Nigeria have turned their attention to strategies aimed at empowering local communities and fostering local development. These strategies encompass a range of policies and initiatives that seek to promote economic diversification, encourage entrepreneurship, and improve access to basic services at the grassroots level. This study will explore the efficacy of such approaches in addressing economic dependency and underdevelopment in Nigeria, with a focus on their impact at the local level.

In summary, Nigeria's experience with economic dependency and underdevelopment is deeply rooted in its history and the dynamics of global economic forces. This study aims to shed light on these issues by examining the role of local empowerment and development strategies in addressing the challenges of economic dependency and underdevelopment in Nigeria. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for the development of effective policies and interventions that can contribute to a more prosperous and equitable future for the country and its people.

The main objective of the study is to examine economic dependency and third world underdevelopment in Nigeria, focusing on the local economic empowerment and development strategy in Mubi North Local Government Area, Adamawa State. The specific objectives of the study are: to identify the main factors contributing to economic dependency in Adamawa State; to examine the implications of economic dependency for development in Adamawa State; to develop a local empowerment and development strategy for the region; and to assess the potential of local empowerment and development to reduce economic dependency and promote sustainable development in Adamawa State.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Conceptual Clarification

2.1.1 Economic Dependency

According to Bassam (2017), there exists a reciprocal relationship between economic dependence and political subordination. When a country's political system becomes increasingly reliant on another nation, disregarding its citizens' national and strategic interests in various spheres such as politics, international affairs, trade, social interactions, and cultural relations, it inevitably leads to heightened levels of economic, political, social, and cultural dependency on the foreign nation. This dependency can have significant repercussions across all levels of society.

Ogbodo (2018) argues that dependency is a phenomenon or issue within relationships that has contributed to the economic growth and development of Western nations at the expense of economically underdeveloped third-world societies. These societies lack the capacity and capability to control the economic system or productive processes within their communities.

Misrak & Iyengar, (2018) argues that, Economic dependency characterizes a condition where a country's economic progress hinges heavily on other nations. This essentially implies that the nation is susceptible to external economic forces, with its economic stability and growth intricately linked to global dynamics Such dependency can take on various forms: Primarily, it can involve a heavy reliance on exporting raw materials like oil, gas, and minerals. This exposes the nation's economy to fluctuations in global market prices for these commodities.

2.1.2 Development

Sakalasooriya (2020) asserts that development is not solely an economic occurrence; rather, it is a multi-dimensional process that entails the reorganization and reorientation of both economic and social systems. Development involves enhancing the quality of all human lives.

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

Development encompasses a multifaceted journey towards the betterment of societies, where its ultimate goal is to eliminate various critical challenges that afflict humanity. This endeavor includes the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring that no one goes to bed hungry and everyone has access to adequate nutrition. Additionally, it strives to combat illiteracy by promoting education and fostering a culture of knowledge acquisition. Furthermore, development aims to reduce maternal and child mortality rates, safeguarding the health and well-being of mothers and their offspring (Adeyeri, O. & Adejuwon, K. D. (2012).

According to UNDP (2015), malaria and HIV/AIDS, two devastating diseases, are significant targets for development efforts, with a focus on prevention, treatment, and ultimately, their complete eradication. Development initiatives also seek to rectify gender inequality, striving for a world where women and men have equal opportunities and access to resources, regardless of their gender. These are just a few examples, as development encompasses a wide array of challenges and aspirations that societies confront.

In contemporary discourse, development is frequently perceived through the lens of economics, where the economy plays a pivotal role. The rationale behind this approach is twofold. Firstly, the economy exerts a pervasive influence on all aspects of society, ranging from education and healthcare to political stability and infrastructure development. Economic growth and stability often serve as enabling factors for addressing the diverse array of development challenges. Secondly, the economy itself serves as an indicator of the overall socio-political landscape of a society. Its performance can reflect the effectiveness of governance, the distribution of resources, and the overall well-being of a nation's citizens (Igwe, 2010).

2.1.3 Underdevelopment

Walter (1972, as cited in Adekunle, 2019) states that in the 15th Century, Africa was not merely a collection of disparate tribes; instead, there existed a discernible pattern and historical progression. Societies like feudal Ethiopia and Egypt represented the apex of the evolutionary development process. Meanwhile, countries such as Nigeria and Zimbabwe were also advancing away from communalism, albeit at a lower level compared to the feudal states and other regions such as those in Western Sudan that had not yet adopted feudalism.

Wolfgang (2011) emphasized that while the ideas of economic development and intentional strategies to hasten its progress are relatively modern, the principles of development and the policies designed to achieve it have ancient roots. Early economic ideologies such as Mercantilism, Colbertian economics, and cameralism, as well as the ideas of Adam Smith, all aimed at what is now termed as development. The discussions on growth stages, which fascinated German economists in the nineteenth century, primarily focused on growth during a period when economic theory was mainly concerned with resource allocation and the gradual development of a theoretical framework that was considered respectable.

Bartholomew et al. (2016) suggested that Nigeria faces a range of economic difficulties, including decline, stagnation, and recession, all of which may occur concurrently. This research asserts the notion that government intervention is essential in fostering socio-economic progress and development within states,

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

Nigeria included. It underscores the idea that the economic and social endeavors of individuals within the state are now inseparable from the oversight and involvement of governing bodies.

Abraham (2016) emphasizes the crucial role of economic development in sustaining the existence of the state. Development, being multidimensional, encompasses all facets of society, and in reality, economic development cannot be achieved in isolation from human development.

There is a widespread belief that the economic progress of any nation hinges upon the quantity and quality of its resources—both renewable and non-renewable—as well as the level of technological advancement and the effective utilization of these resources in both production and consumption. Developing countries rich in resources bear the responsibility and the challenge of ensuring that the benefits derived from these resources reach the impoverished segments of society. However, Africa currently grapples with pervasive poverty, disease, illiteracy, food insecurity, and famine, compounded by substantial external debt and ongoing mismanagement of human, material, and natural resources (Iwuagwu, 2000 as cited in Abraham, 2015).

In more recent times, the phenomenon of underdevelopment has gained momentum in both national and international discourse. Maybe because, as the global wealth continues to increase in this age of globalization, only very few nations are gaining and progressing from such expansion, while others, many of whom are found in the Third World, have continued to experience underdevelopment. Despite the billions of dollars that annually go into the eradication of underdevelopment, it seems the problem instead of reducing, is increasing (Ake, 1996).

Underdevelopment is not absence of development, nor the absence of human and natural resources. It means the inadequate or insufficient level of development in the Third World as a result of the exploitation or the under-utilisation of their human and material resources, or a combination of both factors. Underdevelopment depicts an appalling situation where the human and socio-economic potentials of a given society have either been externally exploited to the detriment of its inhabitants, or have not been fully or optimally harnessed by the government for a better and quality living of its citizens (Ndikumana & Boyce, 2011).

Underdevelopment makes sense only as a parameter for comparing levels of development across the globe. Every society has developed in one way or another. Some societies have developed more by being able to master science and technology and deploy such superior knowledge in the production of tools with which they meet their needs, and even exploit, subjugate and dominate other societies that have "lesser" knowledge of science and technology, and this, directly or indirectly stagnates development process of the latter while accelerating the development of the former (Babawale, 2007).

Underdevelopment is a consequence of Industrial Revolution. Many countries of the world have been experiencing underdevelopment for more than 250 years - since the Industrial Revolution. Before then, the level of development in all societies across the globe was relatively equal though there were little variations in some cases. Every society before then, have developed in one way or another at its own pace, and to address its own peculiarities. There was no naked exploitation of one country by another as such before

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

then. Precisely, for centuries, great empires like those of China, India and what is today known as the Arab nations were the leaders in wealth and technology. But their technological innovations did not take off to become a revolution in the production of goods and services (Babawale, 2007).

However, the Industrial Revolution took the globe like a storm and altered development equations across the world. The Industrial Revolution led to the use of machines in production, and this led to mass production which generated surplus value, and this led to capitalism which created the quest for profit maximisation, and this led to imperialism (subjugation of other nations in search for raw material, cheap labour and markets for finished goods) which led to colonialism, and this led to neo-colonialism which is said to cause underdevelopment in the periphery (Mitchell & Passe-Smith, 2010). The transformation of production, thus embarked on, has helped the West stay the leader in new technological development. While the exploiting powers or the industrialised capitalist states (example, USA, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, etc) are described as "developed" or "core" or "metropole" or "centre of the periphery" or "rich" societies, the socio-economically exploited societies are described as "undeveloped" or "poor" or "periphery" or "satellite" or "underdeveloped" or "Third world" or most recently, "developing" countries. The term "underdeveloped" is fast disappearing in international lexicon because it is considered derogatory, and it is being replaced with "developing" which is considered to be more polite and courteous.

However, the term underdeveloped is still closely associated with the Dependency School who believe that in the global economy, there are centrifugal forces at work, strengthening the already rich core, while keeping the periphery poor, and in a state of permanent underdevelopment. The underdeveloped countries are found mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America (though with few exceptions following the recent socio-economic development in Brazil, China, India and Asian Tigers -Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand).

Underdevelopment depicts the poor socio-economic conditions of the developing countries. In his work - *The Political Economy of Growth*, Paul Baran (1960) argued that it was the search for the external outlet to invest economic surplus that indirectly led to underdevelopment. He defined economic surplus as the difference between society's actual current output and its actual current consumption. Economic surplus can be saved and invested, but it can only be generated if a country produces more than it consumes. By producing more and consuming less, the industrialized capitalist nations generated and saved a lot of economic surplus, but without corresponding internal outlets for investing the accumulated surplus. This compelled them to search for and create external outlets for the investment of the economic surplus. This led to imperialism and later, colonialism and neocolonialism. That was why the ex-colonies (satellite states) were created and designed to serve as avenues for investments, and most importantly, as markets for finished goods from the colonising powers (the metropole). Manufacturing which would later shape and define global economy was never encouraged in the satellite states. All these, individually, and in combination led to the underdevelopment of the productive forces which have continued to undermine development process in the Third World.

In his own view, Andre, (2004) asserted that the colonizing states constitute the "Centre" of development, while the colonies constitute the "Periphery". Underdevelopment is not original nor the starting point of the periphery, rather it is a result of the stagnation of their development by their contact with Western Capitalist system and colonialism. This contact incorporated the colonies into the world capitalist system at a subjugated position, and thereby created development in the core and underdevelopment in the periphery. The centre (which is capitalist) cannot engender any meaningful development outside its domain. Andre Gunder Frank described this process as "the development of underdevelopment". In consonance with the above view, Walter Rodney, in "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa" posited that: Imperialism was in effect the extended capitalist system, which for many years embraced the whole world - one part being the exploiters and the other the exploited, one part being dominated and the other acting as overlords, one part making policy and the other being dependent.

2.1.4 Financial Dependency and Underdevelopment of Nigerian Economy

Mabbs-zenno (1986) cited in Adekunle (2019). The struggles among competing ethnic groups vying for economic dominance, coupled with mismanagement and corruption in both public and private sectors, have pushed the country toward near economic collapse. The genesis of this economic crisis lies fundamentally in ideological conflicts. Colonial, capitalist, and imperialist policies imposed on the nation resulted in a blatant disruption of the national economy, often cited by scholars to explain its current state. Through a division of labor, Nigeria was reduced to primarily exporting crops like cocoa, cotton, groundnut, and palm produce while importing manufactured and consumable goods from Europe and America (Ajala, 2008 as cited in Adekunle, 2019).

While the Nigerian economy witnessed unprecedented growth in the 1960s and 1970s, the 1980s marked a period of economic turmoil. This downturn can be attributed mainly to two factors. Firstly, the oil boom of the 1960s and early 1980s led to a neglect of the agricultural sector, which had once been a cornerstone of the economy. Secondly, structural deficiencies arose from mismanagement and corruption by political elites across various military and civilian administrations in Nigeria (Ajala, 2009 cited in Adekunle, 2019). Tom Forests argues that both state managers and military governments failed to effectively manage public expenditure or provide any coherent direction or priority, intensifying the economic decline (Forests, 1987 cited in Adekunle, 2019).

Given these challenges, the pertinent question is how the current administration plans to achieve economic integration. President Obasanjo outlined his fiscal policy in January 2000, emphasizing:

1. Increasing capacity utilization in agriculture, manufacturing, and mining.
2. Safeguarding domestic industries against unfair competition from imports and dumping.
3. Promoting diversification of foreign exchange earnings through expanded export activities.
4. Curbing operating costs and inflationary pressures.
5. Offering incentives for investment in manufacturing, agriculture, and mining to drive a private sector-led economy.

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

This fiscal policy suggests an inclination towards a private sector-led and export-oriented economic approach, aligning with the directives of multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for developing countries since the early 1980s (World Bank Report, 1984; Mills, 1989). However, Nigeria has faced challenges in effectively privatizing public enterprises, and those that have been privatized are not efficiently managed. Additionally, the manufacturing sector has seen a decline, with an average negative annual growth of 1.6 percent between 1990 and 1996. Despite this, the local value of foreign investments in Nigerian enterprises has increased over the past two decades, though fresh foreign investments have been limited (Mills, 1994).

A significant portion of Nigeria's economic woes stems from its heavy reliance on crude oil and the lack of economic diversification. Hence, achieving an integrated and competitive economy would require a shift away from heavy dependence on the oil sector. This underscores the importance of pursuing economic policies that promote diversification and reduce dependency on oil, a goal that the current civilian regime must prioritize.

2.1.5 Dependency and Underdevelopment: The Nigerian Case

Politically, it was initially assumed that indigenous governments, representing the interests of local populations rather than external entities, would possess sovereign state power. These governments were expected to engage with other sovereign states as independent entities, forming treaties and agreements under international law. Economically, it was anticipated that after gaining independence, the process of 'diffusion' would continue, with capital, technology, and expertise spreading. Foreign aid and investment were seen as mechanisms to enhance the productive capacity of less developed economies (Smith, 2003 cited in Adekunle, 2019).

However, a different perspective on the relationship between sovereign states emerged with the term 'neo-colonialism', coined primarily by leaders from Third World nations, including Nigeria. These leaders realized that achieving constitutional independence and sovereignty did not grant complete freedom to the newly formed nation-states. Politically, autonomy was perceived as a facade, concealing the continued influence of powerful Western financial and commercial interests. Leaders like Kwame Nkrumah, the first Prime Minister of Ghana and author of "Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism," argued that the end of colonial rule did not mark the end of economic colonialism. Neo-colonialism, as Nkrumah described, allows the subject state to appear independent in theory but remains economically and politically directed from external sources (Nkrumah, 1974 cited in Adekunle, 2019).

From this perspective, it becomes evident that Nigeria attained political independence in 1960, signifying the end of direct colonial rule but not the cessation of economic control by Western capitalists. In essence, while Nigeria achieved political autonomy, it did not achieve economic independence. This failure to attain economic sovereignty intensifies dependence, leading to persistent underdevelopment.

2.1.6 Sustainable Development Goals & Nigeria's Local Governments (SDGS)

According to report by Disciplines (2024), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are global targets aimed at fostering social, economic, and environmental advancement. Local governments assume a pivotal

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

role in achieving these objectives by implementing policies and programs at the grassroots level. Nigeria's local government structure comprises 774 local government areas, each governed by elected officials responsible for local governance and development. These local administrations act as significant drivers for community development and the adoption of sustainable practices. Through decentralization of authority and resources, local governments can customize initiatives to address the specific needs and challenges of their communities. Given their close proximity and understanding of local dynamics, they are well-equipped to execute sustainable development strategies efficiently. Moreover, local governments serve as intermediaries between the federal and state levels, ensuring seamless coordination and implementation of SDGs. Their proximity to citizens fosters increased participation, enhancing ownership and inclusivity in development endeavors.

The critical role of local governments in addressing issues like poverty, climate change, education, health, and infrastructure cannot be overstated. By prioritizing these goals, local administrations can significantly contribute to Nigeria's overarching sustainable development agenda.

Odinakachukwu (2024) asserts that, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a comprehensive set of interconnected global objectives adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. These goals, also known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, serve as a blueprint for all UN Member States to work towards achieving a better and more sustainable future by the year 2030. The SDGs encompass a plan of action for addressing various aspects related to people, the planet, and prosperity. In essence, they constitute a universal call to action aimed at ending poverty, preserving the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all individuals by the target year of 2030.

Consisting of 17 goals, 169 targets, and 230 indicators, the SDGs are implemented within each UN Member State, as well as at regional and global levels, taking into consideration national realities, capacities, levels of development, and prioritizing national objectives. Nigeria, as a UN Member State, has adopted the SDGs as a framework for elevating humanity from poverty, safeguarding the environment for future generations, and establishing a peaceful, inclusive society that guarantees dignity for all individuals.

2.1.7 National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)

According to a report from the Central Bank of Nigeria (2023), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) is fundamentally a federal government initiative but is wholly owned by Nigerians. The program has garnered full support from the President, his cabinet, the National Assembly, and the National Economic Council (NEC), which comprises all 36 state governors. Additionally, various private sector entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organizations have also endorsed NEEDS. The drafting committee for NEEDS reflects its broad ownership and participatory nature, consisting of a 35-member team comprising ministers, representatives from ministries and agencies, the President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, the President of the Nigerian Labour Congress, the Chairman of the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations, the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, and

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

others. Further consultations are planned to gather additional inputs from major stakeholders who have not yet contributed to the development of NEEDS, ensuring a fully inclusive approach to its design.

Grundy & Northedge (2004) argue in their book titled "Meeting Everyone's Needs" that, NEEDS—the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy—is Nigeria's blueprint for prosperity. It represents the collective voice of the people, expressing their aspirations for the kind of Nigeria they desire to live in, both now and in the future. For the government, NEEDS outlines a strategy to address the significant challenges hindering progress, as identified by both the government and the people. NEEDS serves as a means for Nigeria to articulate its vision, both domestically and internationally, indicating its position in the region and the world, as well as signaling how it aims to receive support from the international community. The central questions driving the creation of NEEDS revolve around the vision for Nigeria: What kind of country do Nigerians want for themselves, their children, and for the global community? Over a period of three years, a dedicated team traversed the nation, engaging in meetings and workshops to understand the desires of the Nigerian people, the obstacles they face, and the potential solutions to overcome them. Ultimately, NEEDS is not merely a government document but a plan that belongs to the people. Its successful implementation relies on the commitment of both ordinary Nigerians and the government to ensure its realization.

The NEEDS goals are centered around four primary strategies: reorienting values, reducing poverty, creating wealth, and generating employment. The underlying premise is that these objectives can only be accomplished by fostering an environment conducive to business growth, redirecting government efforts towards providing essential services, and empowering individuals to capitalize on the new opportunities for livelihood that the plan will generate.

2.1.8 Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS)

According to Atairet (2024), although the roots of development planning in Nigeria can be traced back to the colonial era, its impact on sustainable development has been minimal. This has led to inadequate management of both the country's natural and human resources, resulting in limited development. Despite Nigeria's abundant human and natural resources, it remains paradoxically impoverished amidst significant oil revenues.

Overall, Nigerians' livelihood opportunities have dwindled, exacerbating poverty and conflict. Given Nigeria's status as Africa's most populous country, it has been argued that the continent's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals hinges on Nigeria's success in poverty reduction. To tackle underdevelopment issues, Nigeria needs a fresh and radical approach to development planning and poverty alleviation to address the persistently high poverty rates.

In acknowledgment of the necessity for substantial development efforts, the government introduced a new poverty reduction strategy in September 2003. This indigenous strategy, named the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), was launched in May 2004. The NEEDS document offers a candid assessment of poverty in Nigeria, its causes, and the challenges it poses.

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

The Federal Government also introduced the concept of State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) as the state-level counterparts to NEEDS. The National Planning Commission issued a guidance manual titled "SEEDS Framework - Government for Growth and Service," and many states have completed drafts of their strategies, with some already published.

Both NEEDS and SEEDS aim to promote macroeconomic stability, enhance the performance of key sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, solid minerals, and oil and gas, improve service delivery, foster a conducive environment for the private sector, and invest in human capital to reduce poverty, create employment, and generate wealth.

Following the successful implementation of NEEDS and SEEDS at the federal and state levels, the next challenge is to develop similar strategy documents at the local government level, known as the Local Government Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS). This challenge becomes particularly relevant considering the perception that the formulation of NEEDS and SEEDS lacked the participation of grassroots populations. However, many of the programs outlined in NEEDS and SEEDS target grassroots communities affected by poverty. Ideally, these programs should have been developed with input from grassroots communities through LEEDS, emphasizing a bottom-up planning approach rather than the top-down planning traditionally dominant in Nigeria's development strategies.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the dependency theory of underdevelopment. This perspective was chiefly developed and popularized by Andre Gunder Frank (1976, 1981) and Samir Amin (1976; 1974). According to Dos Santos (1970), dependency is an historical condition which shapes a certain structure of the world economy such that it favours some countries to the detriment of others and limits the development possibilities of the subordinate economies...a situation in which the economy of a certain group of countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy, to which their own is subjected.

In buttressing this, Ake (2002) posited that “an economy is dependent to the extent that its position and relations to other economies in the international system and articulation of its internal structure make it incapable of auto-centric development” (p. 55). In essence, economic dependency refers to the lack of capacity and inability of a country to control its productive processes such that the country’s economy depends on foreign economy for direction and control through regulations and foreign economic institutions which directly or indirectly regulates its growth or expansion.

Historically, third-world economic dependence is tied to Western European capitalist expansion and Imperialism. European capitalist expansion was necessitated primarily by the internal contradictions of capitalism in Europe, or what Lenin (1917) referred to as the crises of profitability as reflected in reducing consumption capacity of the ever increasing mass production of goods; increasing cost of labour and increasing cost of raw materials. The panacea for these profitability crises according to Lenin (op cit.) required economic expansion overseas to open up new regions for investments, which will in turn guarantee cheap source of raw materials, access to cheap foreign Labour and access to new global consumer markets. This process culminated to the integration of the hitherto self-sufficient third world countries into the world capitalist system and subsequent exploitation and underdevelopment of the third world. However, on the flip side this same process aided the growth of industrial capitalism in the West in a bid to meet the aforementioned needs at the expense of the third world (Webster 1989:70). In examining this dynamics, Frank (1981) asserted "development and under development are two different sides of a universal historical process". To him the same process of capitalist expansion which led to development in Europe and America, led to underdevelopment in the third world or what he termed the 'development of underdevelopment'. Webster Andrew (1989) and Kwame Nkrumah (1965) delineated this process into historical epochs namely: Mercantile Capitalism (1650-1850); Colonialism (1850-1960s) and Neo-Colonialism (Post Independence).

In his analysis of third world dependency, Frank (1976) divided the world capitalist economy into two major components namely the metropolis and satellite. This typology is synonymous with Immanuel Wallerstein's center and periphery world systems classification (1976). The thrust of the dependency theory is the position that third world or peripheral countries are underdeveloped and poor because their economy were fused into the center capitalist economy through the aforementioned historical processes thereby leaving them dependent on the core economies (Randall and Theobald 1998, 120). The capitalist world economic system is organized to ensure a perpetual domination of the periphery by the core and dependence of the periphery on the core thereby ensuring a continual flow of economic surplus from the satellite/periphery to the metropolis/center (Eme, 2013).

The dependency perspective suggests that periods of mercantile capitalism and colonialism forced specialization of production on the third world countries that was primarily export oriented of limited range and geared to raw material needs of imperial powers (Webster 1989). Hence Frank (1976) averred that there exists a '*chain of dependency*' running from the highly advanced centers of the world, a hierarchy of 'metropolises' with their subordinate 'satellites' through which the economic surplus is passed upwards within a nation and then internationally.

3.1 DATA INTERPRETATION, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

3.1.1 Table: Distribution of Respondents by Annual income

Annual income	Frequency	Percent
N1, 500,000 - N2, 500,000	18	4.51
N3, 000,000 - N4, 000,000	31	7.77
N300, 000 - N400, 000	271	67.92
N5, 000,000 - N6, 000,000	16	4.01
N500, 000 - N1, 000,000	63	15.79
Total	399	100.00

Source: Computed using Stata from field survey data 2024

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

Table 4.1.4 presents the distribution of respondents by annual income in a study on local economic empowerment and development strategy in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The data reveals that 18 respondents (4.51%) earn between N1,500,000 and N2,500,000, 31 respondents (7.77%) earn between N3,000,000 and N4,000,000, and 271 respondents (67.92%) earn between N300,000 and N400,000. Additionally, 16 respondents (4.01%) earn between N5,000,000 and N6,000,000, and 63 respondents (15.79%) earn between N500,000 and N1,000,000. The total number of respondents is 399, representing 100% of the sample.

The majority of respondents (67.92%) fall into the lowest income bracket, earning between N300,000 and N400,000 annually. This indicates a high level of economic dependency and poverty, limiting individuals' ability to invest in education, healthcare, and other essential services. A notable portion of the sample, 15.79%, earns between N500,000 and N1,000,000, while 7.77% earn between N3,000,000 and N4,000,000, suggesting some economic diversity and slightly better access to opportunities and resources.

A smaller percentage of respondents are high-income earners, with 4.51% earning between N1,500,000 and N2,500,000, and 4.01% earning between N5,000,000 and N6,000,000 annually. These individuals likely have better economic security and the potential to contribute significantly to local economic development. The presence of high-income earners indicates the existence of skilled professionals and successful entrepreneurs in the community.

3.1.2 Table: Factors Contributing to Economic Dependency in Adamawa State

S/N	Variables	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Mean	Std. Dev
1	Limited access to quality education contributes to economic dependency in Adamawa State.	283 (70.93%)	82 (20.55%)	34 (8.5%)	-	-	1.3759	0 .637
2	High unemployment rates are a significant factor in economic dependency in Adamawa State.	264 (66.17%)	114 (28.57%)	19 (4.76%)	-	2 (0.50%)	1.40	0.6297
3	Low productivity in agriculture contributes to economic dependency in Adamawa State.	267 (66.92%)	112 (28.07%)	14 (3.51%)	-	6 (1.50%)	1.411	0.702
4	Poor infrastructure (e.g., roads, electricity) is a major cause of economic dependency in Adamawa State.	293 (73.43%)	90 (22.56%)	6 (1.50%)	6 (1.50%)	4 (1.00%)	1.335	0.6645
5	Difficulty in accessing loans and credit facilities increases economic dependency in Adamawa State.	272 (68.17%)	120 (30.08%)	7 (1.75%)	-	-	1.453	0 .685
6	Political instability and insecurity contribute to economic dependency in Adamawa State.	280 (70.18%)	107 (26.82%)	6 (1.50%)	-	6 (1.50%)	1.36	0.567
7	Reliance on government aid programs leads to economic dependency in Adamawa State	244 (61.15%)	141 (35.34%)	8 (2.01%)	-	6 (1.50%)	1.2556	0.470

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

8	The absence of significant industrial development contributes to economic dependency in Adamawa State	267 (66.9%)	126 (31.58%)	-	6 (1.50%)	-	1.4385	0.614
9	Health issues and limited healthcare services increase economic dependency in Adamawa State.	303 (75.94%)	90 (22.56%)	6 (1.50%)	-	-	1.325	0.566
10	Adverse environmental conditions and climate change impact economic dependency in Adamawa State	248 (62.16%)	129 (32.33%)	20 (5.01%)	2 (0.50%)	-	1.4385	0.6144
11	Cultural and social practices in Adamawa State contribute to economic dependency	283 (70.93%)	108 (27.07%)	2 (0.50%)	6 (1.50%)	-	1.3258	0.566

Source: Computed using Stata from field survey data 2024 Key: SA=Strongly agreed, A=Agreed, UD= Undecided, D=Disagreed, SD=Strongly disagreed, Frequency (Percentage), Mean, Standard Deviation

Table 4.1.4 presents factors contributing to economic dependency in Adamawa State, based on respondents' views. The data reveals that 70.93% strongly agree and 20.55% agree that limited access to quality education is a major issue, with a mean score of 1.3759 and a standard deviation of 0.6372. High unemployment rates are another significant factor, with 66.17% strongly agreeing and 28.57% agreeing, resulting in a mean score of 1.40 and a standard deviation of 0.6297. Additionally, 66.92% strongly agree and 28.07% agree that low productivity in agriculture contributes to economic dependency, reflected in a mean score of 1.411 and a standard deviation of 0.702. Poor infrastructure, such as roads and electricity, is identified by 73.43% of respondents who strongly agree and 22.56% who agree, with a mean score of 1.335 and a standard deviation of 0.6645. Difficulty in accessing loans and credit facilities is seen as a factor by 68.17% who strongly agree and 30.08% who agree, yielding a mean score of 1.453 and a standard deviation of 0.685. Political instability and insecurity are significant concerns, with 70.18% strongly agreeing and 26.82% agreeing, resulting in a mean score of 1.36 and a standard deviation of 0.567.

Reliance on government aid programs is viewed as contributing to economic dependency by 61.15% who strongly agree and 35.34% who agree, with a mean score of 1.2556 and a standard deviation of 0.470. The absence of significant industrial development is identified by 66.9% who strongly agree and 31.58% who agree, resulting in a mean score of 1.4385 and a standard deviation of 0.614. Health issues and limited healthcare services are major factors, with 75.94% strongly agreeing and 22.56% agreeing, yielding a mean score of 1.325 and a standard deviation of 0.566. Adverse environmental conditions and climate change are seen as contributing factors by 62.16% who strongly agree and 32.33% who agree, with a mean score of 1.4385 and a standard deviation of 0.6144. Finally, cultural and social practices contribute to economic dependency, as indicated by 70.93% who strongly agree and 27.07% who agree, resulting in a mean score of 1.3258 and a standard deviation of 0.566.

Base on the above descriptive analysis the main causes of Adamawa State's economic dependence are the state's high unemployment rates, low agricultural productivity, inadequate infrastructure, political unpredictability, reliance on government assistance, lack of industrial development, health problems, unfavorable environmental conditions, and cultural customs. It is essential to address these problems with focused measures if the region is to become less economically dependent and encourage sustainable development.

3.1.3 REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Linear regression

Local Empowerment and Development Strategy for Adamawa State	Coef.	St. Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
Factors Contributing to Economic Dependency in Adamawa State	.759	.182	4.16	0	.4	1.117	***
Reducing Economic Dependency and Promoting Sustainable Development through Local Empowerment in Adamawa State	.571	.179	3.19	.002	.219	.923	***
Constant	.042	.198	0.21	.832	-.347	.43	

Mean dependent var	3.227	SD dependent var	1.812
R-squared	0.428	Number of obs	399
F-test	147.880	Prob > F	0.000
Akaike crit. (AIC)	1389.236	Bayesian crit. (BIC)	1401.202

*** *p<.01*, ** *p<.05*, * *p<.1*

The regression analysis examines the impact of local empowerment and development strategies on economic dependency in Adamawa State, focusing on the factors contributing to economic dependency and the effectiveness of reducing economic dependency through local empowerment.

The results indicate that factors contributing to economic dependency have a significant positive impact, with a coefficient of 0.759 and a standard error of 0.182. This relationship is statistically significant, as indicated by a p-value of 0.000. The confidence interval of [0.4, 1.117] suggests that the true effect of these factors on economic dependency likely falls within this range, highlighting their substantial contribution to economic challenges in Adamawa State.

Additionally, strategies aimed at reducing economic dependency and promoting sustainable development through local empowerment show a significant positive impact, with a coefficient of 0.571 and a standard error of 0.179. This relationship is also statistically significant, with a p-value of 0.002. The confidence interval of [0.219, 0.923] indicates that the true effect of local empowerment on reducing economic

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

dependency likely falls within this range, emphasizing the importance of local empowerment strategies in fostering sustainable development.

The constant term, with a coefficient of 0.042 and a standard error of 0.198, is not statistically significant, as indicated by a p-value of 0.832. This suggests that the baseline level of economic dependency, when all independent variables are zero, is not significantly different from zero.

The model explains 42.8% of the variability in economic dependency, as indicated by the R-squared value of 0.428. This means that the included variables collectively contribute to understanding economic dependency in Adamawa State. The F-test result of 147.880 with a p-value of 0.000 confirms the overall statistical significance of the model, indicating that the predictors effectively capture factors influencing economic dependency.

In conclusion, the factors contributing to economic dependency have a significant impact on economic challenges in Adamawa State. Additionally, strategies aimed at reducing economic dependency and promoting sustainable development through local empowerment are effective in mitigating economic dependency. These findings underscore the importance of implementing local empowerment and development strategies to foster sustainable economic growth in Adamawa State.

4. FINDINGS

The study on Economic Dependency and Third World Underdevelopment in Nigeria, focusing on the Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy in Mubi North Local Government Area, Adamawa State, yielded several key findings:

i. Factors Contributing to Economic Dependency: The study identified several main factors contributing to economic dependency in Adamawa State. These include limited access to education and skills training, inadequate infrastructure, dependence on a narrow range of economic activities, and external influences such as international trade dynamics and foreign aid dependence.

ii. Implications of Economic Dependency for Development: The study found that economic dependency has significant negative implications for development in Adamawa State. These include stunted economic growth, reduced local capacity for innovation, increased vulnerability to external economic shocks, and persistent poverty. Economic dependency also hampers the ability of the state to diversify its economy and develop sustainable local industries.

iii. Local Empowerment and Development Strategy: The research developed a comprehensive local empowerment and development strategy tailored for the region. This strategy includes initiatives to improve education and vocational training, enhance infrastructure, promote local entrepreneurship, and foster diversification of economic activities. The strategy also emphasizes the importance of local governance and community participation in development processes.

iv. Potential of Local Empowerment and Development: The study assessed the potential of local empowerment and development initiatives to reduce economic dependency and promote sustainable development. The findings indicate that such initiatives can significantly mitigate economic

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

dependency by building local capacity, improving economic resilience, and fostering sustainable development practices. The statistical analysis demonstrated that local empowerment strategies have a positive and significant impact on reducing economic dependency and enhancing economic development.

v. Statistical Validation: The regression analysis validated the effectiveness of local empowerment strategies, showing a significant positive relationship between these strategies and reduced economic dependency. The model explained 42.8% of the variability in economic dependency, indicating that local empowerment initiatives are crucial in addressing economic challenges in Adamawa State.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, local empowerment and development strategies are crucial for addressing economic dependency and fostering sustainable economic growth in Adamawa State. Implementing these strategies can lead to substantial improvements in local economic conditions, reduce vulnerability to external economic shocks, and promote long-term sustainable development. This study underscores the need for continued focus on local empowerment as a key component of development policy in the region. Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, several key recommendations are proposed to address economic dependency and promote sustainable development in Adamawa State:

i. Enhance Education and Vocational Training: Invest in improving the quality and accessibility of education and vocational training programs. Focus on equipping the local population with the skills necessary for diverse economic activities. This includes promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and other technical skills that are crucial for modern economic development.

ii. Infrastructure Development: Prioritize the development of infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and telecommunications. Improved infrastructure will facilitate economic activities, reduce costs, and attract investments, thereby reducing economic dependency on external entities.

iii. Promote Local Entrepreneurship: Foster a supportive environment for local entrepreneurship through access to finance, business development services, and favorable regulatory frameworks. Encourage innovation and the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that can drive economic diversification and resilience.

iv. Economic Diversification: Encourage diversification of the local economy by promoting sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and information technology. This will reduce reliance on a narrow range of economic activities and build a more resilient economic base.

v. Strengthen Local Governance and Community Participation: Enhance local governance structures to ensure effective implementation of development strategies. Encourage active community participation in development processes to ensure that initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and strengths of the local population.

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng

REFERENCES

Abraham, N. T, (2015). *The praxis of development and underdevelopment*. Benin City, Nigeria: Ethiope Publishing Corporation.

Adekunle (2019); *Dependency and Underdevelopment of Nigerian Economy*. Published by European Centre for Research Training and Development UK (www.eajournals.org)

Adeline (2014). Local Government and Sustainable National Development in Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal*, 10(25), 30-45

Ademolekun, L. (1983). *Public Administration: A Nigerian and Comparative Perspective.* Lagos: Longman.

Adeyeri, O. & Adejuwon, K. D. (2012). The implications of British colonial policies on Nigeria's development. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences*. 1(2), 2012.

Adsuyi, O. O. & Odeloye, O. D. (2013). Foreign trade and economic growth in Nigeria (19802010). *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development.* 4(13), 2013.

Aghahowa, J.O. & Ukpebor, E. E. M. (1999). The British colonial economic policies and Nigeria underdevelopment. *The Nigerian Journal of Politics and Public Policy*, 3(1), 45-55

Ahazuem, J.O. & Falola, T. (1987). Production for the Metropolis: Agriculture and Forest Products. In Falola, T. (ed.), *Britain and Nigeria. Exploitation or development?*

Ake, C. (2002). *A political economy of Africa*. Lagos: Longman.

Amin, S. (1974). *Accumulation on a world scale.* New York: Monthly Review Press.

Amin, S. (1976). *Unequal development: An essay on the social formations of peripheral capitalism*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Atairet A. (2024), *Implementation of Local Economic Empowerment Strategy (Leeds) In the Health and Education Sectors*, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria- an assessment, International Journal of Technical Research & Science ISSN No.: 2454- 2024 (online)

Babawale, T. (2007). *Nigeria in the crisis of governance and development: A retrospective and prospective analyses of selected issues and events,* Lagos: Political and Administrative Resource Center (PARC).

Bartholomew & Onyekwere (2016). *ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA*, Kuwait Chapter of Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review

Bassam (2017), *Economic Dependence*, Exports of industrial products for December 2016

CBN (2023). *Nigeria: National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy NEEDS*, https://www.cbn.gov.ng/out/publications/communique/guidelines/rd/ 2004/needs.pdf

Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED), 2010.

Corchon, L.C. (2007). The Theory of Implementation: What did we learn: working papers, Department of Economics. Universidad Carlos III Madrid, Spain.

Disciplines (2024), *Sustainable Development Goals & Nigeria's Local Governments*, https://disciplines.ng/sustainable-development-goals-local-governments/

Dos Santos, T. (1970). The structure of dependence. *American Economic Review*

Egonmwan, J. (1991). Public Policy Analysis: Concepts and Applications; Benin City. Ambik Press.

Ekaete, U. (2001) How We Run Nigeria, being the Excerpts from the Lecture delivered at the Senior Executive Course 23 at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Jos.

Elmore, R. F. (1978) Backward Mapping: Implementation Research and Policy Decisions.The Academic of Political Science 94(4), 601-616.

Eme I. E. (2013). Dependency theory and Africa's underdevelopment: A paradigm shift from pseudo-intellectualism. The Nigerian perspective. *International Journal of African and Asian Studies.*

Eze, C and Muanya, C. (2013). *Between Democratic and the Caretaker Committee Approach to Local Government Administration in Nigeria: Revisiting the Anambra Experience, From 2006 to 2013*, International Journal of Research in Arts and Social Sciences. 6(-)172-188

Falola, T. (2007). *History of Nigeria 3: Nigeria in the twentieth century.* Lagos: Longman.

Frank, G. A. (1976). *Capitalism and underdevelopment in Latin America*. New York: Heinemann

Frank, G. A. (1981). *Crisis in the third world*. New York: Heinemann Press.

Grundy & Northedge (2004), *Meeting Everyone's Needs*: *National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy*, Nigerian National Planning Commission Abuja 2004.

Hargrove, E.C. (1975). The Missing Link: The Study of Implementation of Social Policy. Washington DC; Urban Institute.

Haung, J. (1995). *Structural disarticulation and third world human development*. E.J. Brill, Leiden., 1995 IJCS XXXVI,

Hill, M. and P. Hupe (2002) Implementing Public Policy: Governance in Theory and Practice. London. Sage Publications.

Honadle, G. (1979) Implementation Analysis: The Case for an Early Dose of Realism in Development Administration. In International Development Administration: Implementation Analysis for Development Projects. Edited by G. Honadle and R. Klauss. New York: Pregar Publications.

Howlett, M. and Ramesh, M. (2003) Studying Public Policy.Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems. (2nd Edition) Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Japhet E. (2021). *Impact of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) on Rural Women: A case Study of Yelwa Na Farko in Mubi, Adamawa State-Nigeria,* international Journal of Research and Innovation in Applied Science (IJRIAS) | Volume VI, Issue III, March 2021|ISSN 2454-6194

Lenin, V. I. (1917). *Imperialism: The highest stage of capitalism*. Zhizn' i Znanie.

Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS) 2008-2011, NsitAtai L.G.A. 2008.

Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS) 2008-2011, Eastern Obolo L.G.A. 2008.

Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS) 2008-2011, Abak L.G.A. 2008. London: Zed Books.

Matlan (1995) Synthesizing the Implementation Literature: The Ambiguity-conflict Model of

National Bureau of Statistics. Foreign Trade Statistics, 2011. 03/19/2012 No501 ISSN07343954

National Bureau of Statistics. Foreign Trade Statistics, 2012. 03/06/2013 No505 ISSN07343954

National Bureau of Statistics. Foreign Trade Statistics, 2014. 08/04/2014 No510 ISSN07343954

National Bureau of Statistics. Foreign Trade Statistics, 2015. 03/18/2016 No517 ISSN07343954

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) 2008-2011 NEEDS2 (Draft) National Planning Commission Nigeria.

Nkrumah, K. (1965). *Neo-colonialism: The last stage of imperialism*. London: Panaf Books. Nnadozie, O.U. (2010). *Why poverty in Africa*. Nsukka; Bel's Book.

Nnoli, O. (1981). A short history of Nigeria underdevelopment. In Nnoli, O. (ed.*) Path to Nigeria development*. Dakar: CODESRIA

O Toole, L.J. (2000). Research on Policy Implementation. Assessment and Prospects. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 19(2), 263-288.

Odigbo, J. (2015). *De-Constructing Decentralization and Devolution of Powers: Rethinking the Functionality of Local Government System in Nigeria,* IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science 15(1) 37-43

Odinakachukwu (2024), *Nigeria's Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, Qeios, CC-BY 4.0 · Article, January 4, 2024

Ogbodo (2018); *Economic Dependency and Third World Under Development*, International Digital Organization for Scientific Research ISSN: 2579-082X IDOSR JOURNAL OF BANKING, ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 3(1): 149-160, 2018.

Okosun, A.V., Akongbowa, A. B., & Aihie-Ezomo, J. (2016). Eclipse of the sun: The political economy of food dependency in Nigeria. *African Research Review. Vol. 10(1), Serial No.40,* January, 2016:134-144 Gutkind, P. & Wallerstein, I. (ed.) (1976). *The political economy of contemporary Africa*. London, Sage: Sage Series on African Modernization & Development.

Onibokum, A. G. (1998). Implementation Strategies for the National Urban Development Policy for Nigeria. Paper presented at the National Workshop on the Modalities of Implementation of the National Urban Policy for Nigeria, Abuja.

Oshewolo, S. (2010) "Galloping Poverty in Nigeria: An Appraisal of the Governmental Interventionist Policies" Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa 12(6), 271-281

Policy Implementation. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 5(2): 145-174.

Pressman, J. L., and Wildavsky, A. (1973), Implementation, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Randall, V. & Theobald, R. (1998). *Political change and underdevelopment: A critical introduction to third world politics.* Second Edition. Duke University Press.

Rodney, W. (1975, 2005). *How Europe underdeveloped Africa*. Abuja: Panaf Publishing, Inc.

Samuel. E & Anwana, (2018). *Economic Growth and Development in Nigeria: Which Institutions Infrastructure Matter*, Journal of Business & Economic Policy, 5(1), 2018

Stokes R.G. & Anderson, B. A. (1990). Disarticulation and human welfare in less developed countries. *American Sociological Review*. 55: 63-74

United Nations Development Programme (2015). *Human development report 2015. Work for human development.*

Van, M. and Horn, V. (1975) The Policy Implantation Process: A Conceptual Framework. Administration and Society, 6(3), 2016

Wallerstein, I. (1974), the Modern World-System. New York, NY: Academic Press

Webster, A. (1989). *Introduction to the sociology of development*. (2nd Edition). Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press International, Inc.

@A Publication of the Department of Economics, ADSU, Mubi. ISSN- Print: 2550- 7869; ISSN-Online: 3043-5323. Journal homepage: https://ajaefm.adsu.edu.ng