

Is the Use of Keke Napep (A Tricycle) for Poverty Eradication in Nigeria: A Reality or Mirage?

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Abstract: This study was to ascertain whether the use of KEKE NAPEP (a tricycle) in Nigeria to bring about poverty alleviation or eradication using Akwa Ibom State as a case study a reality or a mirage; and also, to examine the relationship between KEKE driving business and employment generation with its attended contribution to income generation. Hypotheses were formulated and tested using relevant data collected using primary and secondary data. We use a questionnaire as an instrument for our Survey research design. A sample size of 1,200, drawn from the study area constituted the population of the study. Chi-square statistical method was used as a statistical tool to test the hypothesis. Our findings from the study revealed that KEKE NAPEP programme in Akwa Ibom State actually bring to bear on the level of poverty existing among the unemployed people but do not really eradicate, rather than reducing the level to some manageable platform. The use of KEKE driving business as a means of poverty reduction among the unemployed populace in Akwa Ibom State still lingers. We postulate based on our findings by recommending that the Akwa Ibom State government should support the Federal Government KEKE NAPEP programme with the view of creating an enabling environment for Akwa Ibom indigenes to benefit from the Federal Government programme. Government by purchasing tricycles in large quantities at subsidised rate and distribute or disburse to KEKE riders and recover the purchase price from them in instalment payments than allowing them to purchase them as hire purchase and pay for them at exorbitant prices like loans from bank leading to penury in some cases as they could not meet up payments which interests were compounded and instead of alleviating their sufferings they were compounded.

Keywords: Poverty Alleviation, Poverty Reduction, Poverty Eradication, Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), KEKE NAPEP Business, Employment Generation, Income Generation, Unemployment, Unemployed Populace, and Government.

1.0 Introduction

Poverty seems to be a word that is synonymous to Third world countries and it is a major problem that has robbed many citizens their fortunes. It is economic delinquency and is endemic to citizens of Third World countries of which Nigeria is one. The previous government in Nigeria have attempted to reduce poverty to the barest minimum, but to what extent is a dilemma. Poverty is a living condition in which an entity is faced with economic social, cultural, political and environmental deprivation according to Marsh (2001). He went on to explained that poverty is a state in which a person, household, community or a nation can be subjected to involuntary deprivation of basic life amenities in adequate proportion. Poverty alleviation is a major concern for various governments of Nigeria and has made governments initiate various programmes such as National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) which was first introduced in 2001 by the former President of Nigeria in the person of General (Chief) Olusegun Obasanjo. This initiative was one of the numerous poverty alleviation

instituted to fight the menace of poverty, especially at the grassroots level. This initiative was considered timely and truly commendable but how adequate it was is a source of concern and worry to Nigerians.

National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) is partnered in such a way that other institutions and organizations have to develop plans and strategies to achieve either poverty alleviation or reduction to a large extent. The primary goal was to train youths in vocational trades, support microcredit, create employment in the automobile industry, thereby reducing poverty to the barest minimum. One of its key ideas was to provide tricycle popularly known as KEKE which has the national general name of "KEKE NAPEP".

Various studies have shown that unemployment has been connected to poverty and they are two basic problems plaguing many States of Nigeria (ILO, 2007). Nigeria was really plagued with these endemic monsters as a very high rate of unemployment among the youths in all States of Nigeria is as prevalent as the rate of increase in population which is also a major factor responsible for the low standard of living among the populace. Poverty is therefore both in the rural and urban areas of the South-South States of Nigeria especially in Akwa Ibom state and other states as opined by Amaghionyeodiwe, (2009). He went on to state that Akwa Ibom State was known to have been ranked as one of the middle-income, oil- producing state in the late 1970s, but her ranking plummeted to that of one of the lowest-income State in the early 1990s. Thus, Ukwu (2002), states that in early 2000, Akwa Ibom state was one of the poorest of the poor among the States of the country. To him, the state is not just confronted with poverty, disadvantaged or marginalized areas, but also with a situation in which most of the population exists at a standard of living below what is required for full development and enjoyment of individual and societal well-being. Efforts are at top gear to creating jobs for the unemployed to bring about economic growth. The government of Akwa Ibom State has put in place a number of economic reform programmes which have had very minimal impact on employment creation, poverty reduction and growth of the state (Abiola and Oladeji, 1998, Akinbobola and Saibu, 2004, and Amaghionyeodiwe, 2009). However, in face of non-availability of white collar jobs, a good number of the unemployed have resorted to providing for themselves casual employment in the informal sector of the economy; providing majority employment especially in developing a transitional economy (Khotkina, 2007). These so provided in the informal sector of the economy are diverse and multiple which stretches from casual and unstable employment like garbage picking, street trading, domestic help, master-craftsman in diverse trades. This was supported by another researcher on employment generation in the informal sector in Akwa Ibom State (Folawewo, 2006). Be what it may, not much study has been carried out on the income and employment generation in the area of poverty reduction with the use of commercial tricycle (popularly called 'KEKE') operations and success. This study, therefore, seeks to examine how informal KEKE transport mode has contributed to income, employment generation and poverty reduction in Akwa Ibom state.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In order to truly ascertain the true level of poverty in any nation, it is imperative to look for a city that does not have a gold mine and such a city should be one that is a civil servant town with some form of commercial activities being a civil service city; hence the choice of Akwa Ibom State where KEKE NAPEP (tricycle) business is predominant. Akwa Ibom state is a civil servant state which citizenry depends on the informal sector as the liberator and alleviator of their poverty and an enhancer of a better source of revenue for livelihood.

Akwa Ibomites are people whose major source of livelihood is that of farming, fishing and Okada (motorcycle) riders who take their business too serious and have of recent keyed into KEKE NAPEP business profoundly. The KEKE NAPEP business is steadily growing daily, and the estimated registered number is said to be about 7,500 as of 2016 (Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Transport Statistical figure).

The KEKE NAPEP business is one that has come to stay employing a good number of unemployed people as drivers, spare part dealers/importers, ticket sellers, task force men and women, tricycle mechanics and liaison officers. It is pertinent at this point to state that, most of the KEKE drivers are not the direct owners of the tricycle, but hire purchasers of the tricycle; thereby are forced by circumstance to save money for the repayment of the hire-purchase price and the method of saving was the informal type as they hardly want a second to slip off them so resort to the use of local mode of savings by those commonly known as contribution or Rotational Savings and Credit Schemes (RSCS). With the increase in the number of KEKE NAPEP business, so also vices have increased overnight. Hence, the intended poverty eradication scheme has its good intention thwarted by the following;

- i. Hirer purchase scheme which makes the drivers overdriving with work in order to meet up the payment schedules as the prices tripled since they did not buy the tricycles directly from the government but from agents who stood up as middlemen thereby making the price of the tricycle tripled.
- ii. High fuel price as a result of buying at the roadside from middlemen.

- iii. The scarcity of fuel with the attended high cost in price from the black market.
- iv. Poor government regulation.
- v. Insufficient capital base.
- vi. Extortion of the drivers by the government officials.
- vii. Embezzlement of the fund that are directed to the program by government functionaries.
- viii. Illiteracy of drivers in understanding traffic rules leading to incessant arrest and detention by law enforcement agents.

In the above factors are inimical to poverty eradication, it becomes difficult to clearly ascertain whether KEKE NAPEP actually alleviates or eradicate poverty since its establishment tended to eradicate or alleviate poverty; more so, as the business does not fully benefit the targeted population rather the middlemen who are not in most cases, the true beneficiaries. It is, therefore, against this backdrop that we tended to assess and ascertain the contribution or the solution solving nature of KEKE NAPEP has made on poverty alleviation in Akwa Ibom State.

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study attempts to ascertain or examine the contributions made by KEKE NAPEP business to poverty alleviation in Akwa Ibom State, and whether it is a reality or mirage. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. Examine and ascertain the relationship between KEKE NAPEP and poverty alleviation in Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. Examine the relationship between KEKE NAPEP driving and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.
- iii. Examine how KEKE business has contributed to income generation and poverty reduction in Akwa Ibom State.

1.4 Research Hypotheses

- i. H_0 : There is no significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP and poverty alleviation in Akwa Ibom State.
 H_1 : There is a significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP and poverty alleviation in Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. H_0 : There is no significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP driving business and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.
 H_1 : There is a significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP driving business and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.
- iv. H_0 : KEKE NAPEP business does not bring about income generation in Akwa Ibom State.
 H_1 : KEKE NAPEP business brings about income generation in Akwa Ibom State.

1.5 Definition of Terms

Poverty: This is a living condition in which an entity (KEKE operator) is faced with economic social, cultural, political and environmental deprivation.

Alleviation: This is the act of reducing or mitigation the sufferings or pains or anything unpleasant suffered by a person considered to be poor.

NAPEP: National Poverty Eradication Programme responsible for alleviating or removing poverty in the country.

Poverty Alleviation Measures: This is the effort of the government in general towards the alleviation of poverty from the economy by creating ways to provide jobs and to raise the standard of living of the people by providing tricycle and mass transit vehicles.

Unemployment: This is a situation whereby people who are capable and willing to work at the prevailing wage rate do not have jobs to do.

KEKE: A tricycle that was introduced through NAPEP.

2.0 Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

The literature on poverty alleviation has been published; but not on KEKE NAPEP with regards to Akwa Ibom State. We are concentrating our study on how well or successful was poverty alleviation programme of government in the area of providing KEKE NAPEP to people or indigenes of Akwa State to run in business ventures and transform the poverty level to middle class or above, using government efforts to reduce poverty

level through articulated policies, decisions and programmes. The review of existing literature on the programmes, achievements and failures of poverty alleviation is important.

2.1 Conceptual Framework

National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) has come to stay in Nigeria through the use of KEKE NAPEP to reduce absolute poverty in the country. Various plans and guidelines to achieve poverty reduction have been put in place but how successful is food for thought. The goals of KEKE NAPEP as earlier stated was to train youths in vocational trades, microcredit, create employment in the automobile industry, etc. especially in the provision of tricycle popularly known as KEKE NAPEP.

2.1.1 Brief history of NAPEP

NAPEP came into existence after the much-advertised Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) failed to deliver on its mandate of alleviating poverty amongst the Nigerian populace. The government developed NAPEP to harmonize and improve on the existing poverty alleviation scheme with the aim of reforming it to actualize and improve on the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP).

Three presidential panels were set up to deliberate on the issue, which findings and recommendations led to the formation of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in January 2001. This programme was implemented by the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC) whose duty is to coordinate the poverty-reduction-related activities of all the ministries, parastatals and agencies that are involved in the fight against poverty (Obadan, 2001). The NAPEC also has the mandate to ensure that activities are centrally planned, coordinated which complement one another so as to ensure continuity and sustainability, being the apex policy-making body for all poverty eradication activities in Nigeria. The Panel and Committee reports, identified 14 core poverty alleviation ministries that includes: Agricultural and Rural Development, Education, Water Resources, Industry, Power and Steel, Employment, Labour and Productivity, Women Affairs and Youth Development, Health, Works and Housing, Environment, Solid Minerals Development, Science and Technology, Finance and National Planning Commission. The NAPEP strategy has been structured to include four (4) sectorised schemes which are:

Youth Employment Scheme (YES): The scheme is concerned with providing opportunities in skills acquisition to unemployed youths; create employment and wealth generation, productivity improvement and credit delivery. In order to achieve its objectives, the scheme was further sub-divided into Capacity Acquisition Programme, Mandatory Attachment Programme and Credit Delivery Programme.

Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS): The Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme was introduced primarily with the objective of ensuring that adequate provision is made in the development of infrastructural needs in the following areas: transport, energy, water and communications mostly in the rural areas. Therefore, four units were created i.e. the Rural Transport Programme, Rural Energy Programme, Rural Water Programme and the Rural Communication Programme.

Social Welfare Service Scheme (SOWESS): Social Welfare Service Scheme has the mandate of ensuring that basic social services, which includes: quality primary and special education, strengthening the economic power of farmers, primary health care delivery and a host of others be provided. Therefore, four broad units comprising the Qualitative Education Programme, Primary Health Care Programme, Farmers Empowerment Programme and Social Services Programmes were created.

Natural Resources Development Conservation Scheme (NRDCS): This scheme is to provide participatory and sustainable development of agriculture, mineral and water resources with the following units: Agricultural Resources Programme, Water Resources Programme, Solid Minerals Resources Programme and Environment Protection Programme.

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) was therefore established to replace the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) which failed to attain its goal of poverty reduction.

2.1.2 Concept of Poverty

Aboyade (1975) stated that it is relatively difficult to demarcate poverty by giving it a specific definition, which is due to the imprecision of the concept and the difficulty of its measurement as a socio-economic phenomenon.

Obandan (1997) explained that the poor are those whose standard of living when measured in terms of income or consumption, their capability or capacity falls below the poverty line.

Ekong (1991) says that poverty is one's general inability to attain or enjoy pre-defined social, cultural or economic benefits.

The Chambers Dictionary (1995) defines poverty as the lack of physical necessities, assets and income. It is a general condition of deprivation, which comprises of, social inferiority isolation, physical weakness, vulnerability, powerlessness and humiliation.

Fields (1994:69) stated that poverty "is the inability of an individual or family to command sufficient resources to satisfy their basic needs.

World Bank (1996) definition of poverty has it that, the poor earn below the international measurement of one US Dollar per day, which affects their purchasing power to acquire their basic needs.

World Bank (2000) defines poverty as a 'pronounced deprivation in well-being'.

Ekot (2000) stated that poverty is a concept with multi-dimensional meaning. Scholars have a divergent view of poverty as numerous perspectives based on their state of perception, such as political, economic, social, cultural, technological, religious, gender and educational perspectives.

Marsh (2001) defined poverty as a living condition in which an entity is faced with economic, social, cultural, political and environmental deprivation. He further explained that poverty is a state in which a person, household, community or a nation can be subjected to involuntary deprivation of basic life amenities in adequate proportion.

Egpe (2000) stated that the central theme of poverty is the state of the inadequacy of essential needs of life. In a similar view, Sen (1987:12) stated that poverty is "the lack of certain capabilities", which in turn affects the ability to participate with dignity in some aspect of the society.

Engelama and Bamidele (1997), explained poverty as a state of an individual not being able to cater adequately for his/her basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, and/or meeting social and economic obligations, necessitated by lack of gainful employment, education, skills, assets, self-esteem, etc. which reduces the opportunity of advancing his/her well-being to the limit of his/her capability. This definition of poverty explicitly shows that poverty is not only the inability of the individual to afford the basic needs of life, but reduces the strength and prestige of such individual to participate in any given activity in the society.

In a strictly economic sense, Ekpo (2000:49) states that "poverty is a situation whereby income and consumption are low".

Achor (2001) posited that the poor lack of cash income that is sufficient to cover their minimum requirements for living appropriately.

Tamuno and Alapila (1995) opined that despite the complex nature of poverty, social scientists have been able to identify, describe and analyse poverty, as well as proffer solutions to alleviate poverty.

Houghton and Khandker (2009) maintained that poverty describes a state of 'lack of key capabilities which may be income or education, or poor health, or insecurity or low self-confidence or a sense of powerlessness, or the absence of rights such as freedom of speech.'

The significant issues in the views so mentioned are succinctly positing that the inability to have basic needs of individuals or groups, which indicates clearly, the incapability state of the poor, refers to poverty.

In summary literature review shows that poverty is not only a situation of a poor standard of living but also a state of severe deprivation and inadequate purchasing power of individuals or group in the society.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

National Bureau of Statistics (2016) stated that 67.1 % of Nigerians are living below the international poverty line of \$1.9 per day. This can be contrasted with Ghana that has one important contributory factor to poverty which is the lack of formal employment to absorb the rural-urban migrants as well as graduates from the educational system that are unemployed and seeking wage work in the urban informal sector (Eglama and Bamidele, 1997). In the developing nations of the world, the rate of unemployment has been on the rise while various policy measures aimed at restructuring the economy has destroyed more jobs than it created.

Poverty eradication or reduction strategies are developed based on propounded theories that are based on the causes of poverty, building up foundation upon which solutions to problems are built upon. In developed nations poverty is often seen as either a personal or a structural defect, but in developing nations like Nigeria, the issue of poverty is more profound due to insufficient governmental funds to solve them. Poverty in Nigeria is a result of so many factors ranging from failure of the job market to provide jobs for the teeming population, labour market being flooded with low-paying jobs, etc. Drawing inference from Nigeria's 1999 official poverty benchmark of N5,500.00 for a family of four, it was found that 9.4% of persons working full-time and 14.9% of persons in the part-time job did not earn enough annually to keep them above the poverty line. Some theories on poverty in the developing world also focus on cultural characteristics as a retardant of further development.

Development plays a central role in poverty reduction in third world countries. Some authors feel that the national mindset itself plays a role in the ability of a country to develop and reduce poverty. Grondona (2000) outlines some cultural factors which, depending on the culture's view of each individual in the country, can serve as an indicator as to whether the cultural environment is favourable or resistant to development. These factors include such things as the dominant religion, the role of the individual in society, the value placed on work, concepts of wealth, competition, justice and time and the role of education. Similarly, Harrison (2000) also identified some values which differ between progressive cultures and static cultures by adding to Grondona's list frugality and community as important factors which serve as an indicator of the nation's developmental environment. Lindsay (2000) also stated that the differences between development-prone and development-resistant nations are attributed to mental models which, like values, influence the decisions humans make, being in itself a cultural conception.

Grondona, Harrison and Lindsay (2000) all feel that without development orientated values and mindsets, nations will find it difficult if not impossible to develop efficiently, and that some sort of cultural change is needed in these nations to reduce poverty. Therefore, the mindset and environment of the citizens have a vital role to play in the development of a nation.

For Appadurai (2004), the key to the environment of poverty, whereby the poor enters into the poverty cycle, is the poor's lack of capacities. Capacity, relating it to that of Albert Hirschman's ideas of voice and exit being ways in which people can decline aspects of their environment and to voice displeasure and aim for change or to leave that environment is important. However, a person in poverty lacks adequate voice and exit capacities with which they can change their position. He went on to argue that the capacity to aspire and its role in the continuation of poverty in its environment are important; because aspirations are formed through social life and by interactions. So, one's aspirations are influenced by one's environment. Appadurai therefore, claimed that the better off one is, the more chances one has to not only reach aspirations but to also see the pathways which lead to the fulfilment of aspirations. Our elites in society are said to be in constant practice in the use of their capacity aspiration and are, therefore, able to expand their aspiration horizon and solidifies their ability to reach desired aspirations by learning and using the easiest and most efficient paths. Paradoxically, the poor's horizon of aspiration is much closer and less steady than that of the elite.

Appadurai (2004) claims that expanding the poor's aspiration horizon will help the poor to find voice and exit. Ways of finding a voice to exit calls for the changing of terms of recognition and/or creating programs which provide the poor an arena in which to practice capacities. By practising, the poor get involved in doing things by himself and soon becomes acquainted and be able to get out of his poor environment and be able to not only showing his abilities but to also gain practice dealing with governmental agencies and society at large. Through collaborative projects, the poor are able to expand their aspiration level above and beyond tomorrow's meal to the cultivation of skills and the entrance into the larger market.

An eminent Scholar Chakravarti (2006), argued that when a capacity being the decision-making process is not refined through practice it falters and often fails. The unstable life of poverty often limits the poor's aspiration level to those of necessity (such as having food to feed ones family) and in turn reinforces the lowered aspiration levels (someone who is busy studying, instead of looking for ways to get enough food, will not survive long in the poverty-environment), since the capacity to aspire is lacking, he reinforces and perpetuates the cycle of poverty,

2.2.1 Theories of Poverty

(a) Classical and Neoclassical Theory of Poverty

The Classicalist view individuals as largely responsible for their own destiny, choosing in effect to become poor.

The Neoclassicals concept of 'sub-cultures of poverty' implies that deficiencies may continue over time, owing for example to lack of appropriate role models and that state aid should be limited to changing individual capabilities and attitudes (i.e. the laissez-faire tradition).

Neoclassical theories are more wide-ranging and recognise reasons for poverty beyond individuals' control. These include lack of social as well as private assets; market failures that exclude the poor from credit markets and cause certain adverse choices to be rational, being barriers to education, immigrant status, poor health, advanced age, and barriers to employment for lone-parent families. Looking at the classical and neoclassical approaches together, their main advantages reside in the use of (quantifiable) monetary units to measure poverty and the readiness with which policy prescriptions can be put into practice. They also highlight the influence of incentives on individual behaviour as well as the relationship between productivity and income. Criticism of these approaches highlights their overemphasis on the individual (without, taking into account links with the community) and the focus on purely material means to eradicate poverty.

(b) Keynesian/Neoliberal theory of poverty

Even though the neoliberal school led by the New-Keynesians also adopts a money-centred, individual stance towards poverty, wanting the functions of the government to allow for a greater focus on public goods and inequality, so that, a more equal income distribution can facilitate the participation of disadvantaged groups of society in the type of activities that are deemed essential under broader notions of poverty. The New-Keynesians are in line with the Neoclassical Economists in their belief, saying that, the overall growth in income is ultimately the most effective element in poverty removal. They want the government to provide capital (including education) has an important role for her to play, thereby making physical and human capital development to be the foundation for economic prosperity. Unemployment is viewed as a major cause of poverty and is largely seen as involuntary and in need of government intervention. Other factors considered as causes of poverty include but not limited to excessive inflation, high sovereign debt and asset fizzing and other macroeconomic factors, weak aggregate demand, etc.

(c) Marxian/Radical Theory of Poverty

By suggesting radical changes in the socio-economic system, Marxian economists and other radical theorists highlighted the possibility that economic growth alone may be insufficient to lift poor people out of relative or abject poverty, because those who belong to certain classes may not reap any of the benefits of overall income growth. Similarly, by emphasising the concept of class, it provides a shift in perspective, focusing on group (rather than individual) characteristics, with individuals' status considered dependent on the socio-economic environment in which they live.

(d) Social Exclusion and Social Capital Theory of Poverty

In this literature, the interrelation between social exclusion, social capital and the occurrence of poverty is seen in interplay, which recognises the importance of the structural characteristics of society and the situation of certain groups. Social exclusion and social capital theories are, among all the reviewed approaches, arguably the ones that focus most on understanding the essential processes that allow deprivation to arise and persist. Nevertheless, the wide definition of poverty considered under these theories comes at the cost of being less precisely defined and more challenging to quantify and address by policy.

This review identifies the key and contrasting emphases of each paradigm, most of the literature so reviewed focuses on the individual in poverty and in two main aspects of being the in the participation versus exclusion from social life on one hand and on the other, their accountability versus responsibility for being poor. The theories clash on whether social exclusion and community should be the focus of analysis (as emphasised by the social exclusion and social capital theories and to some degree Marxian economics) as opposed to the individual (stressed by mainstream economic theories). There is also the question of whether individuals should be considered actively responsible for their well-being (as in the Classical and Neo-classical schools) or as passive victims of flaws in the socio-economic system (as in the Keynesian and Marxian traditions). Finally, there are differing views on the role of government, redistribution and the implementation of public policies such as providing public goods and establishing minimum wages and anti-discriminatory laws.

2.2.2 Types of Poverty in Nigeria

Various authors have categorized poverty into several groups based on the cause or nature of poverty they have so assessed. Notable among them is that of Robert Chambers'. Robert Chambers (2006), in a UNDP document titled "Poverty in Focus", listed five constellations of poverty using the definition of poverty to list them. These classifications included; Income poverty, Basic needs poverty, capability deprivation poverty, Well-being approach poverty and Inequality approach poverty. Jensen (2010) specified six different types of poverties being situational, generational, absolute, relative, urban, and rural. Yet another broad but commonly recognized classifications of the types of poverty are the two basic groups classified as Absolute poverty and Relative poverty.

- i. **Absolute Poverty:** This is a kind of poverty in which the poor are severely deprived of basic needs of life. Haralambos and Heald (2001) view it as the situation where the poor live below the poverty line. It is a state of not having enough resources for basic needs of life, such as good health, clothes, shelter, good water and food etc. This type of poverty is pronounced in Nigeria where the poor are unable to meet the expenses of the required resources to acquire the elements necessary to sustain their life and health. Their daily income is less than one dollar a day. The World Bank Report (1996) states that greater per cent of Nigerians is living below the universal poverty line of US one Dollar per day, which makes life meaningless to the poor. Majority of Nigerians are unable to provide the required resources to acquire elements necessary to sustain their life. They find it extremely difficult to afford one balanced meal out of the required three per day. Today, many Nigerians struggle for shelters that are

not even worthy of accommodating domestic animals. They have turned under the bridges and waterfronts as better alternative shelters in absence of any. Good health care is a strange thing to the majority of Nigerians, due to their inability to afford the resources for it. The high unemployment rate has worsened the matter to the extent that, even those working cannot afford due to the higher inflationary trend prevalent in the country.

- ii. **Relative Poverty:** Poverty in this sense is measured based on a conventional standard of living in society. Townsend (1974) quoting Haralambos and Heald (2001:124) stated that, individuals, families and groups in the populations can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the type of diets, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved in the society to which they belong. Their resources are below those commanded by the average individual or family that they are, in effect, excluded from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities". It is a kind of poverty experienced by different people at different stages. The standard of living of individuals differs and they experience poverty whenever there is a fall below the standard. In Nigeria, the socio-economic inequality has induced relative poverty, resulting in the creation of different classes of people (the rich, middle class and the poor) in the country. The standard of living of various classes varies, as what may be seen as convenient and accommodating by one class, might not be by the other class. Therefore, the deficiency or inconvenience in the standard of living of any class makes that class poor in such a given period. For example, the acceptable standard of living of successful Nigerian politicians may be different from that of civil servants. What could be seen as a luxury by one class could be seen as a necessity by others.

2.2.3 Causes of Poverty in Nigeria

Different factors have been attributed to be responsible for the national poverty rate. These factors or causes are being examined as follows:-

- i. **High Population Growth Rate:** Available statistics shows that in 1980, Nigeria's population was 65 million; which rose to 88 million in 1991 and further increased to 102.3 million in 1996. The Nigerian Population was estimated at 183 million (Nigerian population commission, 2016), and it is expected to hit 200 million in 2019. The high population growth is overstressing the basic social and infrastructural facilities as well as public goods in the face of dwindling national resources. As is the present situation where the population growth averages 2.83 against GDP growth rate of 2.7% sends a wrong signal that resources meant for investment are being consumed with little or nothing left over for development thereby reinforcing the vicious cycle of poverty.
- ii. **Bad Governance:** Bad governance over the years had derided Nigerians of the ideals and dividends of democracy. It is objective of the government of Nigeria to tap through a democratic process, the energy and creative talents of the people and harness the nation's resources to enhance the welfare of the citizenry; in order to create a dynamic economy and establish a free, democratic and just society through the pursuit of people-oriented Programmes. The process of governance is expected to facilitate and consistently cultivate a style of governance that places a premium on openness, transparency and accountability, probity and effective leadership. The nation is looking forward to having a kind of governance with aggressive instinct towards poverty eradication had just reduction. The assessment of different regimes in Nigeria, right from the era of colonialism and post-colonial period of military and civilian administrations, revealed that there are no pragmatic policy commitments to tackle poverty from its root causes, basically, the absence of basic needs of the people. Ake (1987) and Nnoli (1986) noted that in the colonial administration, efforts were only made to build and construct facilities that would aid the exploitation and exportation of natural resources for the British development. No infrastructural development was initiated for the economic survival of Nigeria which undoubtedly left Nigeria on economic dependency and widened the gap of poverty.
- iii. **Corruption:** Corruption comes in different forms and differs from country to country. Lipset and Lenz (2000:112) defined it as "effort to secure wealth or power through illegal means, and it is usually for private gains at public expenses; or a misuse of public power for private benefit". In Nigeria, illegal takeover or overthrow of a legitimate government, through military coup, embezzlement, nepotism, tribalism, looting, bribery, vote buying, illegal bulk voting, abuse of office powers, etc. are very common leading to corruption of the highest order. The manifestation of corruption in Nigeria progressed among individuals, and thereafter assumed an institutional and national facade. In Nigeria, corruption has contributed immensely to poverty and misery to a large segment of the population (Onah, 2006). He went on to observe that corruption exacerbates poverty and has disproportionately affected those of lower income class as resources from the

- national treasures were looted and which money is placed in accounts of a few individuals, who are politically powerful. This act of looting the public treasury has a devastating effect on developing an economy that needs the money for poverty alleviation and development.
- iv. **Macro-Economic Distortions:** Poor macro-economic and monetary policies resulting in low economic growth rate and continuous slide in the value of the Naira which depreciated from N1.0 to a dollar in June 1986 to N138.0 to a dollar in January 2002, in the parallel markets as stated by Nwatu (2006) and about N400 to a dollar in 2017 (world bank) and as 2018 and 2019, the exchange rate rose to N463 to one dollar. In this respect, for any poverty eradication/reduction to succeed, the government must ensure low inflation rate, low-interest rate, a stable national currency, and high Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth rate coupled with balanced income distribution has to be achieved and maintained.
- v. **Debt Burden:** Debt burden has been a clog in the wheel of Nigeria's developmental efforts. The debt portfolio which was slightly above 14.28 billion US dollars in 1980 and rose to about 30 billion US dollars in the year 2000 (Nwatu, 2006). Business Times (1993:14) observed that the servicing of Nigeria's debt has encroached on the nation's resources needed for socio-economic development and that 40 per cent of Nigeria's national income is used annually for debt servicing. The high debt service ratio translates into resources that inhibits public infrastructure and utility improvement especially in the provision of quality hospitals, schools, roads (urban and rural); and supply of potable water.
- vi. **Low Productivity:** Low productivity is found in the productive sectors of the nation's economy especially in agriculture, industry, manufacturing etc. as a result of low capacity utilization, underemployment and low purchasing power thereby throwing the majority of Nigerians into abject poverty.
- vii. **Unemployment:** Unemployment in Nigeria was so pronounced that it assumed crisis level in the late 80s and early 90s especially among school leavers and graduates in tertiary institutions. A survey carried out by the Centre for Investment Sustainable Development, Management and Environment in 1998 gave the features as follows:
- (a).Over 70% of the unemployed are relatively unskilled labour with Primary and Secondary School Certificates and are between the ages of 13 and 25 years;
 - (b).Unemployment graduates who hitherto were negligible suddenly emerged in the 1980s. The statistics are as follows:-
 - (i) Nigeria had a total enrolment of about 600,000 students in 149 tertiary institutions in the 1996/97 academic year,
 - (ii) There were 123,000 graduates in the 1995/96 session and about 130,000 graduates in 1996/97 academic session;
 - (iii) Commutatively, Nigeria produced a total of 1,110,000 graduates from tertiary institutions looking for white collar jobs; and
 - (iv) About 10 per cent i.e. 100,000 graduates only got formal employment as against one million who are openly unemployed or under-employed (Abdullahi, 2002.)
- The unemployment situation was worsened by the Primary, Secondary Schools and College dropouts and retrenched workers from industries flooding the labour market. The exact number of unemployed labour could not be statistically obtained due to poor record keeping, but the number of the unemployed labour was estimated to be over 5.0 million (Soludo 2004) cited in Nwatu (2006). Unemployment really worsened the high level of poverty in Nigeria as recorded by the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) in 1999.
- viii. **Education:** Education is about literacy and is very crucial to the development of human capital, in order to have attainment of higher living standard, good social integration and increased labour productivity through the adoption and adaptation of modern technology. However, with the sheer increase in population, the three tiers of government are finding it difficult to raising the level of literacy through high funding and in the process to cope with the various age brackets have created an imbalance in education and literacy in Nigeria. A more worrisome development is the astronomical increase in the number of school dropouts at both the Primary and Secondary levels. This is of great concern in view of the attendant cost in terms of increasing unemployment, the rate of crimes, drug addiction and prostitution among youths, as well as the turnout of Polytechnic and Universities Graduates that face listless and lethargic growth in employment opportunities. The Nigeria government should handle education sector with improved pragmatic approaches to the issue of provision of quality education in the country, or else, the country shall be in shambles and

find it extremely difficult to succeed with any poverty reduction, alleviation or eradication programme.

2.2.4 Poverty Gradient in the Different States of Nigeria

The United Nations Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index has three dimensions and 10 indicators in estimating overall poverty. Each dimension is equally weighted; each indicator within a dimension is also equally weighted and added. It uses 10 indicators to measure poverty in three dimensions: education, health and living standards as per reports published in June 2015, and is based on data collected on years between 2004 and 2014.

According to the MPI Report, as at 2010, 46% of Nigerians lived below the national poverty line (only 28% in urban areas, and near 70% in the rural areas); whereas a Report by the World Bank, released in 2014, showed that only 33% of Nigerians could be considered poor.

i. States by Incidence of Poverty as per 2014 Report

STATES	POVERTY RATE
Lagos	8.5%
Osun	10.9%
Anambra	11.2%
Ekiti	12.9%
Edo	19.2%
Imo	19.8%
Abia	21.0%
Rivers	21.1%
FCT (Abuja)	23.5%
Kwara	23.7%
Akwa Ibom	23.8%
Delta	25.1%
Ogun	26.1%
Kogi	26.4%
Ondo	27.9%
Enugu	28.8%
Bayelsa	29.0%
Oyo	29.4%
Cross River	33.1%
National Average	46.0%
Plateau	51.6%
Nassarawa	52.4%
Ebonyi	56.0%
Kaduna	56.5%
Adamawa	59.0%
Benue	59.2%
Niger	61.2%
Borno	70.1%
Kano	76.4%
Gombe	76.9%
Taraba	77.7%
Katsina	82.2%
Sokoto	85.3%
Kebbi	86.0%
Bauchi	86.6%
Jigawa	88.4%
Yobe	90.2%
Zamfara	91.9%

Regional Averages

South West	- 19.3% Poverty
South South	- 25.2% Poverty
South East	- 27.36% Poverty
National Average	46.0% Poverty
North Central	- 45.7% Poverty
North East	- 76.8% Poverty
North West	- 80.9% Poverty

Sources: The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index by the United Nation

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) stated that 112.519 million Nigerians live in relative poverty conditions and this is alarming. This figure represents 69 per cent of the country's total population which was estimated to be 163 million in 2010. Similarly, a report released by "The Nigeria Poverty Profile 2010," in Abuja, by the then Statistician-General of the NBS, Dr. Yemi Kale, stated that this figure might increase to 71.5 per cent when the 2011 figure is computed, especially if the potential impacts of several anti-poverty and employment generation intervention programmes are not factored in. The 2010 figure was derived from on a survey of randomly selected 20 million households with an average of between four to six family members using the relative poverty measurement. According to statisticians, this measurement compares the living standards of people living in a given society within a specified period of time. Some other poverty measurement standards used in measuring poverty by the NBS includes absolute measure, the dollar per day measure and the subjective poverty measure, all showing that the poverty level is on the increase. The absolute measurement puts the country's poverty rate at 99.284 million or 60.9 per cent; while the dollar per day measurement puts the rate at 61.2 per cent; and the subjective poverty measurement puts it at 93.9 per cent. The report, which provided details of poverty and income distribution across the country, put the 2004 poverty measurement rate at 54.4 per cent. It also shows that income inequality had risen from 0.429 in 2004 to 0.447 in 2010. The highlight of the report also stated that the North-West and the North-East had the highest poverty rates in the country in 2010 with 77.7 per cent and 76.3 per cent respectively. However, the South-West geopolitical zone recorded the lowest at 59.1 per cent and of all the 36 states of the federation; Sokoto had the highest poverty rate at 86.4 per cent in the North-west geo-political zone while Niger had the lowest at 43.6 per cent. The 2004 poverty rate showed that Jigawa State had the highest rate of 95 per cent while Anambra, with a poverty rate of 22 per cent, was the least poverty-stricken state.

2.2.5 Reasons for the failure of Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation programme earlier initiated does not achieve the desired results; hence, a number of factors were identified to have responsibility for the failure and efforts. Some of them are:

- i. The poverty programmes meant for the poor are not enjoyed solely by the poor but, they were rather hijacked by government functionaries and the middle class.
- ii. Political and policy instability leading to various and contradicting policies that are stringent in nature, running foul.
- iii. Stiffen budgetary allocation which starved these programme and eventually strangulate them.
- iv. Inadequate and non-strict monitoring of these programmes has resulted in either uncompleted, broken down and abandoned.
- v. Management and governance problems have also contributed to the down-turning of these programmes.
- vi. The overextended scope of activities of most institutions resulting in resources being spread too thinly on too many activities.
- vii. The overlapping of functions with other existing programmes such as Directorate for Food and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI) and Back to Land Program (BLP) or Scholl to Land, virtually covered most sectors have made these programmes to be neglected while thinking that the other programme covers such overlapping functions.
- viii. Lack of accountability and transparency have a devastating effect such as serving as conduit pipes for draining national resources from these programmes.
- ix. Inadequate coordination of the various programmes has also resulted in each institution carrying out its own activities with resultant duplication of efforts and inefficient use of limited resources.
- x. Most of these programmes lacked vision for their sustainability.
- xi. Lack of cooperation among the three tiers of government in the planning and implementation of these programmes at various stages of execution.

- xii. Inappropriate programme design reflecting a lack of involvement of beneficiaries in the formulation and implementation of programmes; as most beneficiaries were not motivated to identify themselves sufficiently with the successful implementation of the programmes.

2.2.6 Effect of Poverty

The effects of poverty can be felt at every level of the society; from the individual living in poverty to the political leader attempting to provide solutions. Some effects of poverty include:

- i. **Malnutrition:** Due to poverty, we often see malnutrition in families especially in children. People living in poverty rarely have access to good and nutritious foods and unlikely able to purchase them. The healthiest foods are usually the most expensive; therefore, a family on a very small budget is much more likely to purchase food that is less nutritious, simply because that is all they can afford. Sometimes people in poverty are malnourished simply because they do not eat enough of anything. For some people around the world, quality food is a luxury. Malnutrition can also lead to many other health issues. This translates into child abuse and neglect, mobility, homelessness and exposure to drugs and alcohol. People who live in poverty are also at a greater risk of experiencing an emotional and behavioural problem.
- ii. **Health:** Poverty affects the health of people which effects are always devastating and includes the inability to have resources for the cure of contacted diseases i.e. life expectancy to medicine. Diseases are conjoint in people living in poverty due to the fact that they lack the resources to procure and maintain a healthy living environment. They are therefore susceptible to lacking nutritious foods in their bodies to combat diseases. Sanitation conditions in these families that are poor are usually very low resulting in increasing chances of contracting diseases which might be minor, or life-threatening. In broad-spectrum, people living in poverty cannot afford appropriate vaccines for their treatment when sick.
- iii. **Poverty negatively affects life expectancy and child mortality.** Available statistics revealed that life expectancy in poor nations is about 30 years short of those in advanced and wealthy nations such as the United States of America, and that child mortality rate higher in poor countries in that 13.5 per cent of children of poor nations die before the age of 5 is an average rate. Some poor African states have child mortality rate at 20 per cent.
- iv. **Education:** As a result of poverty, many people living in poverty-stricken African countries are unable to attend schools and are unable to send their children to School from a tender age. Some families that are poor could not afford their children the necessary clothing or school materials, culminating into illiteracy. The literacy rate in countries with prevailing poverty clearly indicated the correlation between poverty and lack of formal education. Low literacy level affects the society in various ways including the labour market and politics. Obtaining a basic education could bring a lot of people out of poverty. A bad cycle is created, when poverty prevents people from gaining a good and formal education, and on the other hand, non-acquisition of formal education prevents people from escaping poverty.
- v. **Economy:** The economy is affected when a good number of people living in poverty had no formal education for employment. Without formal education, people are unlikely to find a paying job creating unemployment which hinders a country from developing its economic system. It is of prime importance to note that a high unemployment rate is likely possible to impede a country from progressing in all aspects of its economy in terms of economic development.
- vi. **Society:** Poverty creates social problems as many people living in poverty have no good homes, and in most cases turned into the streets and becomes hoodlums; increasing crime rates in our cities. When people are unemployed and homeless, societal unrest becomes prevalent leading to increases in the crime rate. When people have nothing doing and have no money to buy necessities, they are usually forced into thievery in order to survive. Homelessness and high crime rates become the order of the day with attendant societal problems.

2.3 Empirical Literature

Empirically, poverty has been measured in terms of consumption or level of income. A person is therefore considered poor if he/she lives below a certain level of consumption or income.

In a Cultural Typology of Economic Development, Grondona (2006) insists that development is a matter of decisions and these decisions, whether they are favourable to economic development or not, are made within the context of culture; and all cultural values considered together creates the value system. These systems, in turn, influence the way decisions are taken as well as affecting the reactions and outcomes of these decisions.

Similarly, Lindsay (2000) said that the decisions individuals make are as a result of mental models, which influence all aspects of human action. These mental models dictate a nation's stand toward development and hence its ability to deal with poverty.

Grondona, Harrison, and Lindsay (2000) stated that at least some aspects of development-resistant cultures need to change in order to allow under-developed nations (and cultural minorities within developed nations) to develop effectively. They argued that poverty is fuelled by cultural characteristics within under-developed nations, and in order for poverty to be brought under control, nations must move down the development path.

There are other theories that focus on social and political aspects which causes poverty. The perceptions of the poor as opined by different theories have a significant impact on the design and execution of programs to alleviate poverty. Green (2006) explains that modern development literature tends to view poverty as agency filled, i.e. poverty that happens to people. Poverty absorbs people into its cycle, and the people become part of poverty devoid of their human characteristics.

Poverty, according to Green, is viewed as an object in which all social relations (and persons involved) are obscured. Issues such as structural failings, institutionalized inequalities, or corruption may lie at the heart of a region's poverty, but these are obscured by broad statements about poverty. The specific ways in which the poor and poverty are recognized structure them in a negative light. In development literature, poverty becomes something to be eradicated or attacked; as it is always portrayed as a singular problem to be fixed. When a negative view of poverty (as an animate object) is fostered, it can often lead to an extension of negativity to those who are experiencing it. This, in turn, can lead to the justification of inequalities through the idea of the deserving poor.

Appadurai (2004), more concerned over little change in the policies of redistribution of wealth. The environment of poverty is one marked with unstable conditions and a lack of capital (both social and economic) which together create the vulnerability characteristic of poverty. Because a person's daily life is lived within the person's environment, a person's environment determines daily decisions and actions based on what is present and what is not. When a poor person enters into transactions and interactions with the social norm, that person's understanding of it is limited, and thus decisions revert to decisions most effective in the poverty-environment. Through this, a sort of cycle is born in which the dimensions of poverty are not merely additive, but are interacting and reinforcing in nature.

Iwang, (2017) carried out a study on Keke Napep and poverty alleviate with a sample size of one thousand and discovered that KEKE NAPEP has been able to meet the needs of the unemployed people, and made significant impact on the unemployed people of Akwa Ibom State; has served as employment opportunity for the unemployed persons, and has improved the living standard of people in Akwa Ibom State.

2.4 Summary of Literature Reviewed

This study has reviewed some salient literature that has some degree of relevance to the subject matter under study. Our literature review concentrated specifically on dominant issues on poverty and government efforts to reduce poverty level through poverty alleviation programmes. The review of literature gave details on the past and present poverty alleviation programmes, achievements and failures and also why they have failed because a thorough knowledge of the success and the challenges encountered by these programmes is needed to redefine the programme in meeting up with the primary objectives. This study, therefore, intends to cover this gap by examining in detail what poverty in Nigeria entails, effects of poverty on the society and the citizens, the purpose of poverty alleviation programmes, its achievements and failures in poverty reduction in Nigeria.

3.0 Method of Study

National Population Commission's Census of 2010 put the population of Uyo Local Government Area at 362,315 which will give us a sample size of 400 if we use Taro Yamane sample size formula.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where:

- n = Sample size to be determined
- N = Finite population
- 1 = Constant
- e = Level of significance taken to be 0.05.

The sample size can be derived thus:

$$n = \frac{362315}{1 + 362315 \times .05^2} = \frac{362315}{905.79} \cong 400$$

By using Yaro's formula the sample population will be too small and the procedures and techniques that were used in the collection, processing and analysis of data were discussed below:

3.1 Research Design

Here, we design the plan and structure for investigating the relationship among the variables of a study as stated by Ndiyo (2005). The research design in this research work was the survey design as it is explanatory in nature and useful in describing the characteristics of a large population.

3.2 Study Population

According to Odo (1992), the entire number of people, objects, events, and things that all have one or more characteristic of interest to a study is the study population. The population of this study comprises of the officials and beneficiaries of KEKE NAPEP in Uyo local government of Akwa Ibom State. The population of the study is 7,500 which is the estimated number of registered KEKE NAPEP riders with the Ministry of Transport in Akwa Ibom State. The number keeps increasing.

3.3 Sample Size

The sampling procedure or technique we adopted for this study is the random sampling technique. The technique is used for the selection of respondents who were administered a questionnaire giving an equal opportunity of being sampled (Odo, 1992). The sampling points were the different KEKE loading points in Uyo. The Researcher adopted the random sampling technique to select 1,200 respondents who are beneficiaries of the implemented project (KEKE NAPEP business) as against a similar study which used a sample size of 1000. We decided to increase the sample size from 1,000 to 1,200 so as to see whether or not we shall have the same results with the same kind of study carried out by Iwang in 2017.

3.4 Data Instrument

The researcher, in this study, made use of questionnaire interview which had two parts; the first consisted of demographic issues regarding the number of children, marital status, age and level of education, while the second part consisted of the research question to assess the contribution of the KEKE NAPEP business to poverty reduction. We use the 4-point scale in our assessment of the questionnaire. The items are graded from 1-4 ranging from 1 - strongly agree, 2 - agree, 3 -strongly disagree and 4 - disagree. Two of the researchers were engaged in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires and had personal interviews with the KEKE riders on a one on one basis. Those that are literate filled the forms by themselves while those that are not literate enough, were spoken to either in their local language or Pidgin English using the questionnaire and help them record their responses accordingly. Only two days were spent in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires. Every KEKE NAPEP rider was asked if he has been interviewed before and if his answer was in the affirmative, he is skipped to avoid double filling and eliminates biases.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

The method of data analysis shows the techniques used in analysing the data collected which was earlier processed for completeness and consistency. The data were coded to enable the responses to be grouped into various categories and also to make analysis easy, by being guided by the objectives of the study. The research questions that were formulated for the study and the questionnaire were used in conjecture with the answers while analysing the data. Also, as part of the analysis, the study adopted the use of a frequency table and chi-square statistical method to test the variables in our research hypothesis.

The formula is as follows;

$$x^2 = \frac{\sum (f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

Where; x^2 =chi-square

f_o = Expected Frequency

f_e = Observed Frequency

The degree of freedom (df) = (n-1)

Where;

n = number of column

Decision rule:

If the chi-square (x^2) calculated is greater than the chi-square (x^2) tabulated then the null hypothesis is rejected and if the chi-square (x^2) calculated is less than the chi-square (x^2) tabulated then the null hypothesis is accepted.

4.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

We hereby present the analysis of data for each of the hypothesis formulated for the study. Our analysis is to validate the research hypothesis formulated earlier. The findings observed from the analytical technique used in analysing the data collected from the survey field is as stated in the tables below.

4.1 Presentation and Analysis of Data

4.1.1 Analysis of Respondents Demography

Demographic attributes of respondents	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Marital status		
Married	508	40.8
Single	692	59.2
Total	1200	100
Age		
Below 18	72	2.2
19-30	439	38.9
31-40	437	38.7
41 and above	252	20.2
Total	1200	100
Educational attainment		
FSLC	238	19.8
SSCE	328	28.8
ND	144	10.4
HND/BSc	348	30.8
MSC	142	10.2
Total	1200	100

According to the result 408 where married while 692 where single with respect to age, respondents below 18 years were 72 (2.2%), respondents between 19 – 30 years were 489 (38.9%), respondents between 31-40 years where 437(38.7%) and respondents between the age of 41 and above were 252 (20.2%). This shows that we have more of the working class age range participating in this business.

In terms of educational qualification 238 of the respondents had First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC), 328 (28.8%) of the respondents had a Senior School Certificate (SSCE), 144 (10.4%) of the respondents had a National Diploma (ND), 348 (30.8%) of the respondents had a Higher National Diploma (HND) or Bachelor of Science (B. Sc.) and 142 (10.2%) of the respondents had Master of Science (M. Sc.) therefore a large number of the correspondent could read and where able to participate meaningfully in the response of this questionnaire.

Table 4.1.2 Questionnaire question one

KEKE NAPEP policy targeted at poverty alleviation does not address the actual needs of the unemployed people in Akwa Ibom State.

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	152	10.2
Agreed	298	24.8
Strongly disagreed	552	50.2
Disagreed	198	14.8
Total	1200	100

From this analysis it is observed that to a great extent, KEKE NAPEP has been able to meet the needs of the unemployed people.

Table 4.1.3 Questionnaire Question Two

KEKE NAPEP policy has not made any significant impact on the unemployed people of Akwa Ibom State

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	238	18.8
Agreed	153	10.3
Strongly disagreed	354	30.4
Disagreed	451	40.1
Total	1200	100

The table above shows that more than half of the respondent (70.5%) either strongly agreed or agreed to the fact that KEKE NAPEP has made a good or significant impact on the people of Akwa Ibom State. It showed that If not for this business a lot of people would have been unemployed and the poverty level will be high in this state. The remaining 29.5% of those who do not see the significant impact of KEKE NAPEP on the unemployed are mainly the unmarried and are not above the age of 30 years and have less or no family responsibility.

Table 4.1.4 Questionnaire Question Two

KEKE NAPEP business in Akwa Ibom State has served as an employment opportunity for the unemployed persons.

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	549	49.9
Agreed	372	32.2
Strongly disagreed	149	9.9
Disagreed	130	8.0
Total	1200	100

The table above depicts that very few of the respondents strongly disagreed that KEKE NAPEP business has created job opportunities for a lot of people in the state indicating that job opportunity has been created for a lot of unemployed youths in Akwa Ibom State. Those who agreed that KEKE NAPEP offered employment opportunity numbered 921 persons (82.1%).

Table 4.1.5 Question Two

Introduction of KEKE NAPEP in Akwa Ibom State has improved the standard of living.

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)	Improvement of Standard of Living (%)
Strongly agreed	308	25.8	50.2
Agreed	294	24.4	
Strongly disagreed	268	21.8	49.8
Disagreed	330	28.0	
Total	1200	100	100

The table above illustrates that on the average KEKE NAPEP has improved the living standard of people in Akwa Ibom State as 602 (50.2%) affirmed improved standard of living in their lives as a result of the introduction of KEKE NAPEP. The margin in percentage of those who supported the notion that there has been an improvement in their standard of living has a very weak margin over those who say that their standard of living has not really improved,

4.2 Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1:

- Ho: There is no significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP and poverty level in Akwa Ibom State.
- H₁: There is a significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP and poverty level in Akwa Ibom State.

Recalling Table 4.1.2

Options	Observed frequency	Expected Frequency
Strongly agreed	152	87.62
Agreed	298	0.016
Strongly disagreed	552	254.02
Disagreed	198	41.62
Total	1200	383.27

$$x^2 = \frac{\sum(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$\text{Expected frequency} = \frac{1200}{4}$$

$$= \frac{(152-300)^2 + (298 - 300)^2 + (552 - 300)^2 + (198-300)^2}{300}$$

$$= \frac{21,904 + 4 + 63,504 + 10,404}{300}$$

$$= \frac{95,816}{300}$$

$$x^2 = 319.387$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of Freedom} &= (n - 1) \\ &= 4 - 1 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Calculated } x^2 = 319.39$$

$$\text{Tabulated } x^2 = 7.815$$

From the analysis, calculate x^2 (319.39) is greater than the tabulated value of x^2 (7.815) for 3 degrees of freedom at 5% confident level. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis (H1) is accepted and the null hypothesis (HO) is rejected. This shows that there is a significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP program introduced by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2001 and the level of poverty in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis 2:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between KEKE driving business and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between KEKE driving business and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.

Recalling Table 4.1.4

Options	Observed frequency	Expected frequency
Strongly agreed	549	206.67
Agreed	372	17.29
Strongly disagreed	149	76.00
Disagreed	130	96.33
Total	1200	396.29

$$x^2 = \frac{\sum(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$\text{Expected frequency} = \frac{1200}{4}$$

$$= (549 - 300)^2 + (372 - 300)^2 + (149 - 300)^2 + (130 - 300)^2$$

300

$$= \frac{62,001 + 5,184 + 22,801 + 28,900}{300}$$

$$= \frac{118,886}{300}$$

$$x^2 = 396.29$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of Freedom} &= (n - 1) \\ &= 4 - 1 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Calculated } x^2 = 396.29$$

$$\text{Tabulated } x^2 = 7.815$$

From the analysis, calculated x^2 (396.29) is greater than the tabulated value of x^2 (7.815) for 3 degrees of freedom at 5% confident level. Therefore alternative hypothesis (H1) is accepted and the null hypothesis (H0) is rejected. This implies that the KEKE driving business has created employment in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis 3:

H₀: KEKE NAPEP business does not bring about income generation in Akwa Ibom State.

H₁: KEKE NAPEP business bring about income generation in Akwa Ibom State.

Recalling Table 4.1.5

Options	Observed frequency	Expected frequency
Strongly agreed	308	0.21
Agreed	294	0.12
Strongly disagreed	268	3.41
Disagreed	330	3.0
Total	1200	6.74

$$x^2 = \frac{\sum (f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$\text{Expected frequency} = \frac{1200}{4}$$

$$= \frac{(308 - 300)^2 + (294 - 300)^2 + (268 - 300)^2 + (330 - 300)^2}{300}$$

$$= \frac{64 + 36 + 1,024 + 900}{300}$$

$$= \frac{2,024}{300}$$

$$x^2 = 6.74$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of Freedom} &= (n - 1) \\ &= 4 - 1 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Calculated } x^2 = 6.74$$

$$\text{Tabulated } x^2 = 7.815$$

From the analysis, calculate x^2 (6.74) is less than the tabulated value of x^2 (7.815) for 3 degrees of freedom at 5% confident level. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H0) is accepted while the alternate hypothesis (H1) is rejected. This implies that the KEKE driving business has not really generated income for people in Akwa Ibom State.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

From the analysis of data collected for this study, the following findings were made;

- i. KEKE NAPEP as a poverty alleviation program introduced by the Federal Government has not significantly impacted on the level of poverty reduction among unemployed people in Akwa Ibom State. This implies that the KEKE NAPEP program in Akwa Ibom State has affected the level of poverty existing among the unemployed people in the State. This is because the unemployed youths have tapped from the program to better their lives in terms of increasing their level of income but found themselves on the opposite.
- ii. According to the result, KEKE driving business has actually created job opportunities for a good number of people who without this KEKE business, would have been idle and without a tangible source of income for their families. This would have greatly increased the level of poverty in the state.
- iii. There is no significant impact of KEKE driving business and income generation in Akwa Ibom State. This indicated that KEKE driving business has not been really profitable to the poor youths who have taken to this business in terms of income generation to ameliorate their suffering, with a view to eradicating poverty. The question one is poised to ask was why is there no income generation in this business?
- iv. The KEKE riders have gained little or nothing to save after paying the hire purchase price of the KEKE NAPEP and as such could not generate enough income to take care of their personal needs and have spill over to save.
- v. The standard of living of those considered poor has not been really improved as the margin between improvement (50.2%) in the standard of living and none improvement (49.8%) is very slim as per the result of Table 4.1.5 above. The youths engaged in the KEKE NAPEP business hardly feed their families with good food, send their children to school, and take care of their medical bills.

5.0 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Summary of the Study

This study sought to appraise the contribution of the KEKE NAPEP in poverty alleviation in Akwa Ibom State using the tricycle transport sub-sector in the Uyo metropolis. This study formulated three research hypotheses in their null form that:

- i. Ho: there is no significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP and poverty reduction in Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. Ho: there is no significant relationship between KEKE driving business and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.
- iii. Ho: KEKE NAPEP business does not bring about income generation in Akwa Ibom State.

The relevant literature review was done based on the major variables of the study. The research design used for this study was the survey research design. Chi-square statistical method was used as the technique to evaluate the inherent connectivity between KEKE NAPEP and poverty reduction or alleviation among unemployed people in Uyo the capital of Akwa Ibom State using, KEKE NAPEP driving business for the study. Our findings revealed that:

- i. there is a significant relationship between KEKE driving business and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. KEKE NAPEP business does not bring about income generation in Akwa Ibom State, although the business was able to bring about employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.
- iii. Poverty eradication programme did not yield much dividend as it has not really achieved the desired result.

5.2. Conclusion

The results of this analysis reveal that;

- i. There is a weak significant relationship between KEKE NAPEP and poverty reduction in Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. There is a significant relationship between KEKE driving business and employment generation in Akwa Ibom State.
- iii. There is no significant relationship between KEKE driving business and income generation in Akwa Ibom State.

5.3 Recommendations

Given the outcome of our analysed result, the following recommendations were made;

- i. All State governments of the Federation should support the Federal Government KEKE NAPEP program and ensure that they create an enabling environment for its citizens achieved the desired result in poverty eradication or alleviation by creating more awareness and sensitization of the public for proper knowledge on the NAPEP program and how to key into the program.
- ii. Again government should create enabling environment that will help the KEKE driving business in all the states of the Federation by removing the excessive tax on the KEKE riders and providing incentives that will help alleviate their challenges in the cause of doing KEKE business.
- iii. Soft loan should be given to the KEKE riders to enable them purchase a tricycle by themselves rather than going through middlemen and purchasing tricycles on Hire Purchase which gulps the income to be generated by the riders which will help reduce the problem caused by hire purchase as the price of a tricycle given at hire is very high compared to the actual price of the tricycle. This will further reduce the level of poverty among the tricycle operators in Nigeria or Akwa Ibom State.
- iv. The poverty level in Nigeria is still in vogue in spite of the fact that the country is rich in oil. There are some privileged Nigerians that are living in wealth and affluence while a majority are wallowing in abject poverty. The Federal Government has not done enough in redistributing the national wealth to benefit the majority of Nigerians. This present situation is not palatable to Nigerians and the state of affairs needed to be handled holistically; else social discontentment will breed. The government should embark on job creation with a view to giving the majority of her citizens' employment. It is our belief that the high rate of poverty in the country is as a result of massive unemployment and lack of income generation.
- v. Graduate unemployment in Nigeria has reached an alarming rate and something has to be done urgently to curb the excesses. To be independent and be of self-employed, we recommend that vocational and technical education that can make graduates be self-employed instead of searching for white collar, jobs be sustained by Government policy. The agricultural sector which offers brighter hope for massive job creation and employment be sustained also through mechanized farming.
- vi. Akwa Ibom is one of the oil-rich states of the South-South region of Nigeria having revenues from oil & gas exploration, and is not listed among the poorest states in the country, should be awake to improve the standard of living of her citizenry by supporting the poverty alleviation programmes in empowering its citizens by buying KEKE NAPEP in bulk and distribute to the youths at factor cost and not at Hirer Purchase price. This will in no small measure help to reduce poverty in the state in particular and the nation at large as states will naturally follow suit.

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Appendix 1

SECTION A

INSTRUCTION- PLEASE TICK BESIDE THE OPTION (✓)

AGE:

BELOW 18 YEARS 19-30 31-40 41 and Above

MARITAL STATUS:

SINGLE MARRIED

NUMBER CHILDREN:

1 2 3 4 5 AND ABOVE

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

FSLC SSCE ND HND/BSc MSc

SECTION B

Please tick (✓) as you deem appropriate in the column below

SA = Strongly Agree

A = Agree

SD = Strongly Disagree

D = Disagree

S/N	QUESTION	SA	A	SD	D
KEKE NAPEP POLICY TARGETED AT POVERTY ALLEVIATION					
	KEKE NAPEP policy targeted at poverty alleviation does not address the actual needs of the unemployed people in Akwa Ibom State.				
	KEKE NAPEP policy has not made any significant impact on the unemployed people in Akwa Ibom State.				
	Are you an unemployed person engaged in KEKE NAPEP since its introduction?				
	I am a direct beneficiary of KEKE NAPEP programme.				
	As a KEKE NAPEP operator I know up to 5 or 10 other KEKE operators that have benefited from the KEKE NAPEP scheme.				
	I got my KEKE NAPEP (tricycle) through hirer purchase from Government Agent				
	A lot of KEKE NAPEP drivers got their KEKE (tricycle) through hirer purchase from owners				
	I got my KEKE NAPEP through bank loan				
	I got my KEKE NAPEP through Government scheme without cash payment				
	I got my KEKE NAPEP through personal savings				
	Owners of KEKE NAPEP are also the operators in Akwa Ibom State.				
KEKE DRIVING AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN AKWA IBOM					

	KEKE NAPEP business in Akwa Ibom State has served as employment opportunity for the unemployed persons.				
	As a KEKE NAPEP driver in Akwa Ibom State I can afford a house of my own.				
	As a KEKE operator I can afford at least two square meals for my family.				
	Introduction of KEKE NAPEP in Akwa Ibom state has improved the standard of living in Akwa Ibom State				
	With KEKE NAPEP business I am able to pay my child(ren) school fees without loan or advances from bank or Akawo or Osusu.				

APPENDIX II

DF	<i>P=0.10</i>	<i>P=0.05</i>	<i>P=0.025</i>	<i>P=0.01</i>	DF	<i>P=0.10</i>	<i>P=0.05</i>	<i>P=0.02</i>	<i>P=0.01</i>
1	2.706	3.841	5.024	6.635	21	29.615	32.671	35.479	38.932
2	4.605	5.991	7.378	9.210	22	30.813	33.924	36.781	40.289
3	6.251	7.815	9.348	11.345	23	32.007	35.172	38.076	41.638
4	7.779	9.488	11.143	13.277	24	33.196	36.415	39.364	42.980
5	9.236	11.070	12.833	15.086	25	34.382	37.652	40.646	44.314
6	10.645	12.592	14.449	16.812	26	35.563	38.885	41.923	45.642
7	12.017	14.067	16.013	18.475	27	36.741	40.113	43.195	46.963
8	13.362	15.507	17.535	20.090	28	37.916	41.337	44.461	48.278
9	14.684	16.919	19.023	21.666	29	39.088	42.557	45.772	49.588
10	15.987	18.307	20.483	23.209	30	40.256	43.773	46.979	50.892
11	17.275	19.675	21.920	24.725	31	41.422	44.985	48.232	52.191
12	18.549	21.026	23.337	26.217	32	42.585	46.194	49.480	53.486
13	19.812	22.362	24.736	27.688	33	43.745	47.400	50.725	54.776
14	21.064	23.685	26.119	29.141	34	44.903	48.602	51.966	56.061
15	22.307	24.996	27.488	30.578	35	46.059	49.802	53.203	57.302
16	23.542	26.296	28.845	32.000	36	47.212	50.998	54.437	58.619
17	24.769	27.587	30.191	33.409	37	48.363	52.192	55.668	59.893
18	25.989	28.869	31.526	34.805	38	49.513	53.384	56.896	61.162
19	27.204	30.144	32.852	36.191	39	50.660	54.572	58.120	62.428
20	28.412	31.410	34.170	37.566	40	51.805	55.758	59.342	63.691