

Non-governmental Organizations’ programmes and Poverty Alleviation in Enugu State Nigeria

Prof. Ezeodili Walter
Department of Public Administration
Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu Nigeria
walter.ezeodili@esut.edu.ng

Dr. Felicia Okwueze
Department of Public Administration and Local Government Studies
University of Nigeria Nsukka
osondu.okwueze@unn.edu.ng

Onah Vitalis Emeka
Department of Public Administration
Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu Nigeria
vitico4justice@yahoo.com

Abstract	<i>NG-Journal of Social Development</i>
<p><i>There has been tremendous involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in helping governments alleviate poverty in Nigeria. This study therefore investigated the programmes of Non-governmental Organizations towards alleviating poverty using Enugu State as a case study. Specifically, it sought to examine the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by the NGOs; to ascertain how these programmes impacted on poverty alleviation; and to determine the various challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu State. Descriptive survey design was employed for the investigation. Three (3) notable NGOs were engaged in the study. Population of the study was 527 persons comprising of staff of the three NGOs involved in the study and the beneficiaries of their programmes. Questionnaire instrument was used to elicit data for the study. T-test analysis technique was used to test the hypotheses formulated. Findings of the study revealed that there are various programmes initiated by NGOs in Enugu State and these programmes positively impacted on the citizens. However, these organizations were found to face</i></p>	<p><i>Vol. 13 Issue 1 (2024)</i> <i>ISSN(p) 0189-5958</i> <i>ISSN (e) 2814-1105</i> <i>Home page</i> <i>https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ngjsd</i></p> <p>ARTICLE INFO:</p> <p>Keyword: <i>Poverty, Non-governmental organization, development</i></p> <p>Article History <i>Received 20th January 2024</i> <i>Accepted: 17th February 2024</i> DOI: <i>https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ngjsd.v13i1.2</i></p>

various challenges which include limited funding, infrastructural deficiency, etc. The study recommended among other recommendations that NGOs should collaborate with government and private sector organizations to address funding and infrastructure deficiencies.

1. Introduction

The development of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Nigeria dates back to the post-independence era when civil society entities emerged to address social, economic, and developmental gaps left by the government. Early organizations like the Red Cross Society of Nigeria (established in 1960) marked the beginning of NGO activities. The 1980s witnessed a surge in NGOs responding to economic challenges, with notable entities like the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) and the Women in Nigeria (WIN) network. This period laid the groundwork for the multifaceted roles NGOs play today, emphasizing community development, human rights, and poverty alleviation (Olowu, 1999). Hence, the emergence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in poverty alleviation in Nigeria has been a transformative force, addressing socio-economic challenges and contributing to sustainable development. The increasing role of NGOs reflects a paradigm shift towards collaborative efforts between civil society and the government in tackling poverty (Okuneye, 2016). NGOs in Nigeria, such as ActionAid, Oxfam, and Women Aid Collective (WACOL), play pivotal roles in implementing poverty alleviation programs (Muazu & Abdullahi, 2019). Their interventions span diverse sectors, including education, healthcare, and economic empowerment, reflecting a holistic approach to poverty reduction (Ajayi *et al.*, 2017). The activities of NGOs allow them to adapt to local contexts, reaching marginalized communities often overlooked by government initiatives (Abdulai, Bukari & Faseini, 2021). The emergence of NGOs is rooted in the recognition of the limitations of conventional government-driven strategies and the need for multifaceted approaches (Ajayi *et al.*, 2017). By leveraging international partnerships, local expertise, and community engagement, NGOs bring a dynamic dimension to poverty alleviation efforts in Nigeria, fostering inclusivity and grassroots impact.

Nigeria has consistently been ranked over the years as one of the poorest nations of the world in spite of her abundant natural and human resources (Aduma, Onah and Asadu, 2023). Nigeria's poverty is particularly alarming. According to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 4 out of every 10 Nigerians- over 82.9 million individuals – live in acute poverty (NBS, 2023). To alleviate this situation, government alone cannot do it. Non-governmental organizations are involved in the eradication of poverty as one of its pivotal roles. Poverty reduction, and its eventual elimination, is a central objective of development. This is because it is quite difficult to completely eradicate poverty globally and nationally. Therefore, in most cases, certain segments of the society are targeted with the hope of making an overall impact. As such, all formal activities geared towards lowering the rate and prevalence of poverty in the country are considered as poverty reduction. One of these stakeholders is the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), a private and non-profit organizations that collaborates with the developing countries in order to alleviate their

suffering, fight for the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services and seek community development (Gisaor, 2020). In pursuit of solutions to developmental problems besetting the African continent, the public is increasingly regarding Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as an important agency for empowering people thereby leading more effective and sustainable local development services than those promoted by the government. This stems from the fact that the state has failed to cater for the welfare of its people (Ibrahim & Hulme, 2010).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an important role in addressing the formidable challenge of poverty in Nigeria, a nation marked by economic disparities and social inequities. As the most populous country in Africa, Nigeria grapples with multifaceted issues contributing to widespread poverty, including inadequate access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. In response to these challenges, NGOs have emerged as crucial agents of change, tirelessly working towards poverty alleviation and sustainable development. NGOs in Nigeria deploy a diverse range of strategies to combat poverty, including community empowerment programs, education initiatives, healthcare interventions, and economic empowerment projects (Nwankwola, 2016). These organizations often operate independently of government structures, allowing them the flexibility to address specific local needs and navigate bureaucratic hurdles efficiently. By fostering collaboration between communities, government entities, and other stakeholders, NGOs strive to create holistic and lasting solutions that uplift individuals and communities from the grips of poverty.

Enugu State, nestled in the heart of Nigeria's South East region, presents a microcosm of the complex challenges faced by residents in the realm of poverty. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Enugu State have become pivotal actors in the concerted effort to alleviate poverty and foster sustainable development in this dynamic and culturally diverse region. The state grapples with a range of issues contributing to poverty, including

limited access to quality education, healthcare disparities, and economic disparities. NGOs such as Women Aid Collective (WACOL), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Enugu Field Office and ActionAid Nigeria in Enugu State have emerged as vital agents of change, employing targeted strategies to address the unique needs of local communities. These organizations play a multifaceted role, implementing programs that encompass education, healthcare, and economic empowerment. By adopting community-centric approaches, NGOs forge partnerships with local stakeholders, striving to create lasting solutions that uplift individuals and communities from the clutches of poverty (Ojo, Okoronkwo & Adewumi, 2016). In the light of the above background, this study explores NGOs programmes in Enugu State in a bid to understanding the impact they have made towards poverty alleviation in the state.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) programmes play a crucial and irreplaceable role in the pursuit of poverty alleviation, particularly in regions like Enugu State, Nigeria. Their relevance stems from their ability to act swiftly, adapt to local contexts, and implement targeted intervention that addresses multifaceted aspects of poverty. These programmes include Empowerment of vulnerable children, Sustainable livelihood health education, Poverty reduction and capacity building, Rural technology, cooperatives, vocational and women projects in crafts, local training in grinding mills, sewing, etc that enhance the status of women (Abanyam and Mnorom, 2021) NGOs often operate independently of bureaucratic constraints, enabling them to respond dynamically to the evolving needs of impoverished communities. Moreover, NGOs bring a community-centric approach,

fostering inclusivity and grassroots participation. By engaging directly with local populations, these organizations can tailor their programs to specific challenges, ensuring that interventions resonate with the cultural, social, and economic nuances of the region.

Unfortunately, absence of NGO participation however means a lack of diverse, community-centered strategies that can address the multifaceted aspects of poverty. Communities miss out on potential economic empowerment, social development, and improved access to essential services. Without NGOs, there's a risk of overlooking marginalized groups and failing to implement tailored interventions. Additionally, the burden on governmental agencies increases, potentially straining limited resources. The non-involvement of NGOs may hinder innovation, local participation, and the creation of sustainable solutions, thereby impeding the holistic progress required for meaningful poverty reduction.

The effective alleviation of poverty through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Enugu State confronts several critical challenges that demand focused attention. First, there is a lack of comprehensive research assessing the sustained impact of NGO-led interventions on poverty in the region, hindering the development of evidence-based strategies for long-term success. Additionally, there is a gap in understanding the collaborative dynamics between NGOs and local government structures, potentially impeding the synergistic efforts required for impactful poverty alleviation. The absence of in-depth studies on the role of technology in enhancing the reach and effectiveness of NGO initiatives further limits the optimization of resources and innovation in poverty reduction strategies. These gaps in knowledge impede the ability of NGOs, policymakers, and stakeholders to implement targeted and sustainable interventions, hindering the overarching goal of significantly reducing poverty rates in Enugu State

1.2 Objectives of the Study

- i. Examine the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state.
- ii. Ascertain how these programmes impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state.
- iii. Determine the various challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu state.

1.3 Hypotheses

- i. Quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development are the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria.
- ii. NGOs programmes have not impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state.
- iii. Limited funding, infrastructure deficiency, etc are the various challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu state.

2. Review of Related Literature

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Non-governmental Organization

A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) is defined as a private, non-profit organization that operates independently of government control and is typically formed to address social, environmental, or humanitarian issues. NGOs play a crucial role in civil society, working towards positive societal change through various programs, advocacy, and community engagement (Access, 2017). These organizations operate on a voluntary basis and often rely on a combination of private donations, grants, and fundraising activities to sustain their activities.

According to Brass *et al* (2018), NGOs are private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services,

or undertake community development. They serve as intermediaries between citizens and governments, advocating for marginalized populations and addressing gaps in public services (Dahie, 2019). NGOs operate across diverse sectors, including healthcare, education, human rights, and environmental conservation, contributing to global development goals. Their diverse nature is captured by Lewis (2001), who defines NGOs as associations of citizens or voluntary associations with a social purpose, existing independently of government, usually constituted by citizens of the country, and often but not always funded by citizens.

2.1.2 Access to Quality Healthcare

Access to quality healthcare refers to the ability of individuals to obtain timely, affordable, and appropriate medical services that meet their health needs. Quality healthcare access encompasses not only physical availability but also factors such as geographical proximity, affordability, cultural relevance, and the provision of effective and safe medical interventions (World Health Organization, 2018). It implies the absence of barriers that might prevent individuals from seeking, receiving, and benefiting from healthcare services. A comprehensive understanding of access to quality healthcare includes considerations of equity, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of socio-economic status or demographic factors, have the opportunity to attain the highest possible standard of health and well-being through effective and responsive healthcare systems (Sustainable Development Goals, 2020).

2.1.3 Economic empowerment

Economic empowerment refers to the process of equipping individuals and communities with the tools, resources, and opportunities to enhance their economic well-being, self-sufficiency, and overall financial independence (Sen, 1999). It involves providing people with the skills, knowledge, and access to financial and productive resources that enable them to generate income, make informed financial decisions, and actively participate in economic activities. Economic empowerment aims to reduce poverty, foster entrepreneurship, and promote sustainable development by giving individuals the means to improve their economic status and contribute to the growth of their communities. This empowerment often involves initiatives such as vocational training, access to credit, entrepreneurship development, and efforts to create an enabling environment for economic participation (United Nations, 2018).

2.1.4 Community Development

Community development refers to a collaborative and participatory process aimed at improving the overall well-being, social cohesion, and sustainable growth of a specific community or geographic area (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993). It involves the active engagement of community members, organizations, and stakeholders in identifying, planning, and implementing initiatives that address local needs and aspirations. The goal is to enhance the quality of life within the community by fostering economic development, social equity, environmental sustainability, and cultural enrichment. Community development encompasses a range of activities, including infrastructure improvement, education programs, healthcare access, economic empowerment, and the promotion of civic participation. Ultimately, community development seeks to empower residents, build resilience, and create a more vibrant and inclusive local environment (United Nations, 2018).

2.1.5 Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation is a multifaceted process focused on reducing and ultimately eradicating poverty, encompassing both monetary deprivation and broader dimensions of well-being. It

involves targeted interventions to improve the economic, social, and cultural conditions of individuals and communities experiencing poverty (Sen, 1999). Poverty alleviation strategies aim to enhance access to basic necessities, such as education, healthcare, and employment, fostering sustainable development and addressing the root causes of poverty (World Bank, 2001). The ultimate goal is to elevate individuals and communities to a level where they can lead dignified lives, participate fully in society, and break the cycle of generational poverty (Narayan *et al.*, 2000).

2.1.6 Role of NGOs in Alleviating Poverty

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a pivotal role in alleviating poverty globally, serving as catalysts for positive change and addressing the multifaceted dimensions of deprivation. NGOs contribute to poverty reduction through diverse initiatives that span education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and community development (United Nations, 2018).

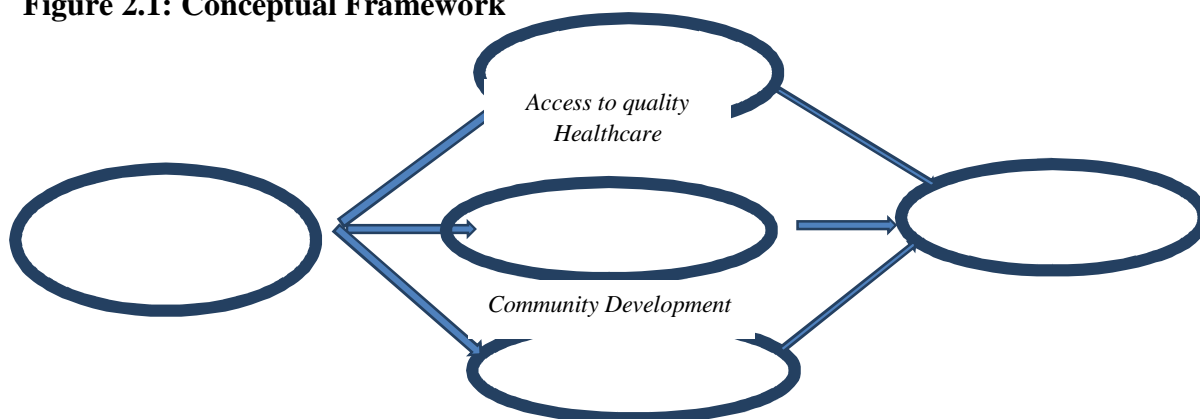
In the realm of education, NGOs often bridge gaps in access, providing scholarships, building schools, and implementing literacy programs. By empowering individuals with knowledge and skills, NGOs enhance human capital, a critical component in breaking the cycle of poverty.

NGOs are instrumental in improving healthcare access, particularly in regions with limited resources. They establish clinics, conduct health awareness campaigns, and offer preventive measures, ensuring that communities can lead healthier lives and mitigate the impact of illness on economic stability. Economic empowerment is a cornerstone of NGO initiatives. Through vocational training, microfinance, and entrepreneurship programs, NGOs equip individuals with the means to generate income and foster economic resilience. By creating avenues for sustainable livelihoods, NGOs empower communities to uplift themselves economically. Community development lies at the heart of poverty alleviation, and NGOs actively engage in projects that enhance infrastructure, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability. These initiatives strengthen social capital, fostering collective action and community-driven solutions.

NGOs also serve as advocates, amplifying the voices of the marginalized and influencing policy changes that address systemic issues contributing to poverty. Their role in policy advocacy ensures that the root causes of poverty are addressed at broader, structural levels.

In essence, the role of NGOs in poverty alleviation is multifaceted. By addressing education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and community development, NGOs contribute to sustainable development goals and empower individuals and communities to break free from the shackles of poverty. Their nimbleness, community-centered approach, and ability to fill gaps in governmental efforts make NGOs indispensable partners in the global fight against poverty.

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework



Source: Author’s Conceptualization 2023.

The framework explains how NGOs programmes: provision of access to quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development relates with poverty alleviation.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) serves as a robust theoretical lens for understanding the intricate dynamics between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and poverty reduction in Nigeria. Rooted in the belief that poverty is a multidimensional challenge requiring a comprehensive approach, the SLF encompasses five key capitals: human, social, economic, natural, and physical. In the context of Nigeria, where poverty is often entrenched and multifaceted, the SLF provides a theoretical foundation for analyzing how NGOs can effectively contribute to sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation. The market model provides a framework for analyzing the role of NGOs in the context of market economies (Thrandardottir,2015). According to Thrandardottir (2015), NGOs are private players that can provide alternative means to implement governmental services and policies, whether domestic or international. However, the state still has the prime responsibility of meeting the needs of people and this has its basis in social justice and the rights-based approach (Barca *etal.* 2015; Devereuxa and McGregor 2014). The market model is distinguished by supply and demand analyses, accountability measures, and legitimacy, defined as credibility in the context of market economies (Thrandardottir2015). The role of NGOs is considered auxiliary to and under the supervision of states. Particularly, in Nigeria, the activities of NGOs towards the development of the populace complement those of the state (Forkuor and Agyemang,2018; Porter,2003; Simon and Aasoglenang,2014). The primary purpose is to examine how NGOs operate in the setting of market economies, with an emphasis on their utility and shared goals (Thrandardottir, 2015).

The SLF is a tool that helps in understanding the issues that underpin people’s livelihoods in general and those living in poverty in particular so that appropriate strategies could be developed to alleviate the situation through enhancing the opportunities, while reducing the constraints the people encounter (Krantz,2001; Massoud *etal.*,2016).It is critical to point out that the SLF draws

on the people's assets (Su *et al.*,2021)to design and implement poverty alleviation solutions that fit into their vulnerability context, transforming structures and or processes, devising strategies to achieve the desirable livelihood outcomes (Scoones,1998).

Applying the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) to the study of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Enugu State provides a comprehensive lens to assess their impact on poverty reduction. Emphasizing access to quality healthcare, economic empowerment, and community building, the SLF reveals how NGOs enhance human, economic, and social capital. By improving healthcare access, fostering economic opportunities, and building community resilience, NGOs contribute to sustainable livelihoods. This, in turn, directly correlates with poverty alleviation, as communities become better equipped to break the cycles of deprivation, fostering a holistic approach that addresses the multifaceted dimensions of poverty in Enugu State.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The study used a descriptive survey research approach. The descriptive study design is appropriate for gathering information on the attitudes, perceptions, views, behaviors, and values of members of a population with various settings and similar characteristics.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of the study was 527. The population distribution is presented below:

Table 3.1: Population Distribution Table

Respondents	No of staff/Beneficiaries	Percentage
Women Aid Collective (WACOL)	21	4
United Nations Children's Fund (<i>UNICEF</i>) Enugu Field Office	32	6
ActionAid Nigeria Beneficiaries	27 447	5 84
Total	527	100

Source: Field Survey 2023

3.3 Determination of Sample Size

The Taro Yamane formula (1973) was used to estimate the sample size for this investigation, as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = sample size

N = population size, I = constant, n = Margin of error. Using 5% as error estimate

$$N = 527, \quad e = 0.05$$

Therefore

The sample size is computed thus:

$$n = \frac{527}{1+527(0.05)^2} = \frac{527}{1+527 \times 0.0025} = \frac{527}{1+1.3175} = \frac{527}{2.3175} = 227.4$$

n = 227

3.4 Sampling Technique

To study Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) programmes and poverty alleviation in Enugu State, a stratified random sampling technique was employed. NGOs were categorized based on their focus areas such as health, education, skill etc, and a random selection was made from each stratum. This ensures representation across various sectors. Additionally, purposive sampling was used to include NGOs with significant impacts. Survey was then conducted with beneficiaries and NGO staff to gather diverse perspectives on the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs in Enugu State.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire was the study tool that the researcher utilized to get meaningful information on this topic. Closed-ended questionnaires were used in this study, with a 5-point Likert scale structured form (Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Undecided = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1).The questionnaire items were derived from the study's objectives, research questions, and assumptions.

3.6 Method of Data Analyses

The mean score was employed for descriptive analysis since it is a quantitative study while the t-test was performed to establish the level and significance link between the study variables. The usage of SPSS software made this possible.

The formula for determining the t-value and degrees of freedom for a paired t-test is:

$$T = \frac{\text{Mean 1} - \text{Mean 2}}{\frac{S(\text{diff})}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

Where:

Mean1 and Mean2 are equal to the average values for each sample set, and (diff) is equal to the standard deviation of the differences between the matched data values. The sample size is n. (the number of paired differences) The degrees of freedom are n1.

4. Data Analysis

Research question One: What are the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria?

Table 4.1: Poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria

s/n	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	U (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	FREQ	Mean	Decision
1	NGOs often provide vocational training and skill development programs to empower individuals with practical skills for employment or entrepreneurship and community development.	70	87	9	28	27	221	4.3	Accepted
2	NGOs offer financial assistance, microcredit, or entrepreneurial training to support the establishment and growth of small businesses.	89	71	13	25	23	221	4.2	Accepted

3	NGOs focuses on education by providing scholarships, school supplies, and literacy programs to enhance human capital and break the cycle of poverty	101	67	3	37	13	221	3.9	Accepted
4	Health-focused NGOs provide medical services, health education, and support to improve the overall well-being of communities.	79	89	10	25	18	221	4.0	Accepted
5	NGOs often run programs targeted at women, including training, health services, and initiatives that enhance women's economic independence	69	72	11	36	33	221	4.2	Accepted
	Grand Mean							4.1	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.1 displays the responses to the question on poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria. The respondents strongly agreed with all of the issues from 1 to 5, with mean scores of 4.3, 4.2, 3.9, 4.0, and 4.2, respectively. The grand mean score of 4.1 indicates that the respondents felt that there are various poverty alleviation programmes of NGOs in Enugu State which include health, educational and social programmes.

Research question two: To what extent has these programmes impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state?

Table 4.2: Impact of NGOs programmes on poverty alleviation in Enugu state

s/n	Items	SA (5)	A (4)	U (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	FREQ	Mean	Decision
1	Income levels, employment rates, and economic opportunities within the communities targeted by the NGOs have improved	80	88	7	16	30	221	3.9	Accepted
2	There have been improvements in literacy rates, educational attainment, and the acquisition of new skills leading to enhanced employability.	77	91	8	35	10	221	3.9	Accepted
3	NGOs investment in infrastructure, community projects, and capacity-building initiatives, enhanced overall community well-being	91	73	3	30	24	221	3.5	Accepted
4	NGOs healthcare projects improved health outcomes, reducing the burden of disease on impoverished communities.	81	93	7	21	17	221	3.6	Accepted
5	Programs focusing on women's rights, education, and economic empowerment have led to positive changes in gender dynamics and poverty levels.	67	74	11	43	26	221	3.9	Accepted
	Grand Mean							3.8	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.2 shows that all of the respondents on the extent to which NGO programmes impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state were positive in their comments. All of the items 1–5 were accepted by the respondents, with mean scores of 3.9, 3.9, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.9. The grand mean score of 3.8 indicates that the respondents agreed that NGOs programmes have impacted positively on residents of Enugu state.

Research question three: What are the various challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu state?

Table 4.3: The various challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu state.

s/n	Item	SA (5)	A (4)	U (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	FREQ	Mean	Decision
1	NGOs often face financial constraints, limiting the scale and scope of their interventions	111	57	9	31	13	221	3.8	Accepted
2	Inadequate infrastructure hinders program implementation and delivery of services, especially in remote areas.	99	76	4	19	23	221	3.7	Accepted
3	Complex bureaucratic processes and unclear regulations impede the efficient operation of NGOs and their initiatives.	87	77	6	24	27	221	3.7	Accepted
4	Cultural norms, beliefs, and social structures pose challenges in program acceptance and community engagement	99	67	8	32	15	221	3.6	Accepted
5	Limited coordination among NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders lead to duplication of efforts and inefficiencies	77	89	7	31	17	221	3.8	Accepted
	Grand Mean							3.7	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4.3 shows how respondents think on the various challenges affecting the success of NGOs' programmes in Enugu state. Based on the responses, it can be seen that the respondents affirmed all of the questions from 1 to 5, with mean scores of 3.8, 3.7, 3.7, 3.6, and 3.8, respectively. The grand mean of 3.7 indicates that the respondents overwhelmingly agreed with the questions posed.

4.2 Test of Hypotheses

The research hypotheses were put to the test to see if they were true or not. However, each hypothesis was evaluated independently to determine its significance in light of the data acquired and analyzed in this study. The t-test was used to test the hypotheses.

4.2.1 Test of Hypothesis One

i. Quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development are the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria

Table 4.4: Quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development are the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria

Null hypothesis (Ho)	Tcal	Ttab	Df	Decision
NGOs offer quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development as part of its policies.	7.39	2.776	4	Reject Ho and Accept Hi

Source: Field Survey 2023

Decision Rule: The decision rule in this case is to reject Ho if T-calculated exceeds T-table ($t_{cal} > t_{tab}$). As a result, the t-calculated is 7.39, while the t-table is 2.776 in the previous table. This reveals that quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development are the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria. As a result, the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected, whereas the alternative hypothesis (H1) is accepted.

4.2.2 Hypothesis Two

NGOs programmes has not impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state

Table 4.5: NGOs programmes impact on poverty alleviation in Enugu state

Null hypothesis (Ho)	Tcal	Ttab	Df	Decision
There have been improvements in literacy rates, educational attainment, and the acquisition of new skills leading to enhanced employability.	6.93	2.776	4	Reject Ho and Accept Hi

Source: Field Survey 2023

Decision Rule: The decision rule is that if T-calculated is more than T-table ($t\text{-cal} > t\text{-tab}$), Ho is rejected. As a result, the t-calculated is 6.93, while the t-table is 2.776 in the preceding table. This provides that NGOs programmes have impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state. As a result, the null hypothesis (Ho) is discarded, whereas the alternative hypothesis (H1) is accepted.

4.2.3 Hypothesis Three

Limited Funding, Infrastructure Deficiency etc are the various challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu state.

Table 4.5: Challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu state.

Null hypothesis (Ho)	Tcal	Ttab	Df	Decision
Inadequate infrastructure hinders program implementation and delivery of services, especially in remote areas.	11.20	2.776	4	Reject Ho and Accept Hi

Source: Field Survey 2023

Decision Rule: The decision rule is that if T-calculated is more than T-table ($t\text{-cal} > t\text{-tab}$) Ho is rejected. As a result, the t-calculated is 11.20, while the t-table is 2.776 in the preceding table. This proves that limited funding, infrastructure deficiency etc are the various challenges affecting the success of NGOs programmes in Enugu state. As a result, the null hypothesis (Ho) is not accepted, whereas the alternative hypothesis (H1) is accepted.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

4.3.1 Quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development and Poverty alleviation

The findings of hypothesis one confirmed that quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development are the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria. This is because the t-calculated value of 7.39 is higher than the t-table value of 2.776. The findings reveal that NGOs in Enugu State are actively engaged in poverty alleviation through provision of quality healthcare and economic empowerment as well as community development initiatives. The success of these programmes lies in their potential to address the root causes of poverty, providing sustainable solutions that equip individuals with the empowerment needed for economic independence.

4.3.2 NGOs programmes impact and Poverty Alleviation

Hypothesis two showed that NGOs programmes have impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state. This is because the t-calculated value of 6.93 is higher than the t-table value of 2.776. The

findings indicate a positive impact of NGOs' programmes on poverty alleviation in Enugu State. Skill acquisition and education support initiatives have played a pivotal role in empowering individuals and communities. Skill acquisition programs have contributed to enhanced employability and entrepreneurship, fostering economic independence. Education support, through scholarships and literacy programs, has broken down barriers, improving educational access and laying the foundation for socio-economic advancement. While these programmes have shown promise, challenges like limited funding and infrastructure deficiencies persist, necessitating concerted efforts from NGOs, government bodies, and stakeholders for sustained poverty alleviation. The positive findings underscore the potential of targeted interventions in skill development and education to bring about transformative change and improve the overall well-being of the population in Enugu State.

4.3.3 Challenges affecting the success of NGOs programmes

The t-test result shows that the t-calculated value is 11.20, whereas the t-table value is 2.776. The identified challenges affecting the success of poverty alleviation programs in Enugu State, Nigeria, highlight complex barriers that NGOs must navigate. Limited funding poses a significant obstacle, restricting the scale and effectiveness of initiatives. Infrastructure deficiencies hinder program delivery, especially in remote areas. Bureaucratic hurdles, cultural dynamics, and political instability add layers of complexity. Improved coordination among NGOs and stakeholders, streamlined regulatory processes, and increased investment in infrastructure are vital for overcoming these challenges.

5. Summary of Findings, Conclusion and recommendations

5.1 Findings

The following were the findings from the study:

- i. The first finding indicated that quality healthcare, economic empowerment and community development are the poverty alleviation programmes embarked upon by NGOs in Enugu state, South-East Nigeria.
- ii. NGOs programmes have impacted on poverty alleviation in Enugu state. This implies that Skill acquisition programs created by NGOs have contributed to enhanced employability and entrepreneurship, fostering economic independence
- iii. Limited Funding, Infrastructure Deficiency etc are the various challenges affecting the success of these programmes in Enugu state.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Enugu State play a crucial role in poverty alleviation through economic empowerment, community development, provision of quality healthcare, skill acquisition, education support, and various interventions. While these initiatives exhibit positive impacts, challenges such as limited funding and infrastructure deficiencies persist. Collaborative efforts involving NGOs, government bodies, and stakeholders are imperative to address these obstacles and maximize the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs. The commitment to sustained support, strategic planning, and adaptability will determine the long-term success of these initiatives in fostering positive socio-economic changes in Enugu State.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations were made:

- i. NGOs should conduct regular, comprehensive evaluations of their healthcare provisions, economic empowerment and community development programs. These assessments should include impact evaluations, beneficiary feedback, and performance metrics. Based on these findings, NGOs can adapt their strategies, fine-tune program designs, and optimize resource allocation.
- ii. NGOs should actively collaborate with government bodies and private sector partners to address infrastructure deficiencies. Establishing partnerships for the construction of training centers, educational facilities, and community infrastructure that will enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs
- iii. To bolster the impact of NGOs in Enugu State, there is a pressing need for diversified and increased funding sources. NGOs should explore partnerships with international organizations, private sector entities, and philanthropic foundations. Advocacy for increased government support and the establishment of sustainable funding models can mitigate the challenges posed by limited financial resources.

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