

Civil Society Role in Poverty Reduction in South Africa and Nigeria

Iyanu OLUPINLA
LCU/PG/002771

Being a M Sc Viva Presentation Submitted to the Department of Politics & International Relations, Faculty of Management & Social Science, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Award of Master of Science Degree (MSc) in International Relations

2023

Certification

This thesis “Civil Society Role in Poverty Reduction in South Africa and Nigeria” was carried out by Iyanu, OLUPINLA with Matric No. LCU/PG/002771 in the Department of Politics and international Relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria under my supervision.

Dr. EmmaJimo

Supervisor

Date

Akeem Amodu, PhD

Head, Politics and International Relations

Date

Dedication

To God only.

Do Not Copy, Lead City University, Nigeria

Acknowledgement

I thank God Almighty to whom all honour is due, for his faithfulness in seeing me through the duration of this project. I equally want to thank the management of Lead City University for giving me the rare opportunity to study here. I acknowledge the Dean of postgraduate school and the Head of Department, Prof Akeem Amodu and course coordinator Dr. Mrs Albert and Dr Mrs Akande for their support and advice that they have impacted on me during this academic period, God bless you. I also want to acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the assistance of my supervisor, Dr Emma Jimo, during the supervision of this project, his willingness to render assistance made significant impact on the success of this project. I also want to acknowledge other lecturers in the Department Dr Mrs Alade, Dr Sarumi Dr Badru Mr Ebuka and Mrs Oluyemi for positive impact on me one way or the other. Special gratitude also goes to Reverend and Deaconess Olupinla, Mr and Mrs David Olupinla, Mr. Julius Adedayo, and my siblings. My sincere appreciation and gratitude also goes to my family for their support and all every person who have made the dream of being a graduate come through. God bless you all. I appreciate you.

“Even though the above-mentioned institutions and persons have assisted in the process of this research work, I alone stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in the work”.

Abstract

Many civil societies in Africa are disregarded when it comes to policy-making decisions. Some governments in Africa now see civil society as a threat to their existence because of the pressure they exert on them for transparency and accountability. Countries such as Nigeria and South Africa have experienced economic growth in recent years but are still ridden with poverty and inequalities. There are variations in the roles of civil society in relation to poverty reduction. These variations depend on different factors including the poverty profile of the country, state or society in question. Civil society in Africa finds it difficult to operate independently, because they depend heavily on the government for financial sponsorship and because of that the government sees that as an advantage to impose certain limitations on their activities. South Africa's case might be a bit different because of their apartheid history which affected main social structures in the country. Adopting the qualitative research as well as content analysis during for the research study, the study seeks to examine the significance of civil society in poverty reduction in Nigeria and South Africa. The study conclude that civil society participation in Nigeria and South Africa has to be enhanced because that is the only way the interest of the people at the grass root level can be represented or promoted and the issue of corruption also needs to be tackled in both countries because it undermines the allocation of resources to non-state actors which in turn disturbs developmental projects and breeds poverty.

Keywords: Civil Society, Poverty, Nigeria, South Africa, Organisation

Word Count: 253

Table of Contents

Content	Page
Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vii
Chapter One: Introduction	
1.1. Background of Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	4
1.3. Aim and Objectives of the Study	4
1.4 Research Questions	5
1.5 Significance of the Study	5
1.6. Scope of the Study	6
1.7 Limitation of the Study	6
1.8 Operational Definition of Terms	6
Endnotes	9
Chapter Two: Literature Review	
2.1 Conceptual Review	10

2.1.1	Concept of Poverty	10
2.1.2	Poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa	15

2.1.3	Reasons for Poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa	16
2.1.4	Structural and Cultural Reasons to Poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa	18
2.1.5	Absolute Approach to Poverty	19
2.1.6	Relative Approach to Poverty	20
2.1.7	Budget Standard Approach to Poverty	20
2.1.8	Indigenous PerceptionsonPovertyReduction	21
2.1.9	Concept of Civil Society	22
2.1.9.1	CivilSocietyinAfrica	23
2.1.10	Comparative Analysis of Civil Society in South Africa and Nigeria	26
2.1.10.1	CivilSocietyinNigeria	26
2.1.10.2	PromotingCredibleElections	28
2.1.10.3	PreventingDemocraticThreats	29
2.1.10.4	Influencing Public Policies	29
2.1.10.5	Empowerment of Citizen	31
2.1.10.6	CivilSocietyinSouthAfrica	32
2.1.10.7	FeaturesofPost-ApartheidCivilSocietyinSouthAfrica	37
2.1.10.8	GeneralRolesPlayedbyCivilSocietyinSouthAfrica	37
2.1.10.9	InstitutionsandStatePoliciesinaDemocraticSouthAfrica	44
2.1.10.10	BarrierstowardsCivilSocietyEffortsinAfrica	47
2.1.10.11	FutureProspectsofCivilSocietyEffortsinAfrica	51

2.1.10.12	Changing Roles of Civil Society	52
2.1.10.13	Civil Society and the State	53
vii		
2.1.11	Poverty Reduction in Africa	56
2.1.11.1	New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	56
2.1.11.2	Socio-Economic of Poverty Factors	59
2.1.11.3	Political Economy of Poverty Factors in Africa	62
2.2	Theoretical Framework	65
2.2.1	Liberalism	65
2.2.1.1	Instruments of Liberal Theories	66
2.2.1.2	The Moral Conception of Poverty in Liberal Theories	67
2.2.1.3	The Justice Conception of Poverty in Liberal Theories	68
2.2.1.4	The Utility Conception of Poverty in Liberal Theories	69
2.2.1.5	Liberalism and Civil Society	70
2.2.1.6	John Locke's Classical Liberal Idea of Civil Society	71
2.2.2	Neo-liberalism	72
2.2.2.1	Neo-liberalists Strategies of Poverty Reduction	75
2.2.2.2	International Organisations	78
2.2.2.2	World Trade Organisation (WTO)	82
2.3	Review of Empirical Studies	82
2.4	Conceptual Framework	102
2.5	Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed	102
	Endnotes	104

Chapter Three: Methodology

3.1	Research Design	110
3.2	Population of the Study	110
3.3	Sampling and Sampling Technique	110
3.4	Description of Research Instrument	111
3.5	Validity of Research Instrument	111
3.6	Reliability of the Research Instrument	111
3.7	Method of Data Collection	111
3.8	Method of Data Analysis	112
3.9	Ethical Approval	112
	Endnotes	113

Chapter Four: Results and Discussion of Findings

4.1	RQ1: Exploring the Roles of Civil Society in Poverty Reduction in South Africa and Nigeria	114
4.1.1	Advocacy and Lobby for Policy Change as a Means of Poverty Reduction in South Africa	114
4.1.2	Civil Societies in South Africa and Provision of Social Services and Support to Vulnerable Communities	116
4.1.3	Civil Societies in South Africa and Facilitation of Community Development Projects	118
4.1.4	Civil Societies in South Africa and Promotion of Education and	

Skills Training	120
-----------------	-----

4.1.5	Civil Societies in South Africa and Empowering of Women and Promoting Gender Equality	122
4.1.6	Civil Societies in South Africa and Fostering of Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development	124
4.1.6.1	Civil Societies in Nigeria and Advocating of Pro-Poor Policies and Programs	126
4.1.7	Civil Societies in Nigeria and Promotion of Education and Skills Development	128
4.1.8	Civil Societies in Nigeria and Facilitation of Community Projects	129
4.1.9	Civil Societies in Nigeria and Monitoring and Evaluating Poverty Reduction Efforts	132
4.2	Elucidating the Barriers or Challenges Confronting Civil Societies in South Africa and Nigeria	134
4.2.1	Challenges Confronting Civil Societies in Nigeria	134
4.2.2	Political/Institutional Instability	134
4.2.3	The Economic Situation of the Nigerian State	135
4.2.4	Challenges of Freedom of Press	137
4.2.5	Religious Intolerance	137
4.2.6	Problem of Funding	138
4.2.7	Challenges of Civil Societies in South Africa	139

4.2.7.1	Insufficient Consultation and Communication both within and among Civil Society Organisations (CSO's)	139
---------	---	-----

x

4.2.7.2	Organisational and Institutional Challenges	140
4.2.7.3	Lack of Complementarity and Collaboration among South African CSO	140
4.2.7.4	The Dearth of Civic Participation and Voluntarism and within the Membership of Civil Society Organisations in South Africa	141
4.2.7.5	Challenge of Ownership	142
4.3 RQ 3:	What are the Roles of Civil Societies in Nigeria and South African Democracy?	143
4.3.1	Protection of Citizens' Right	143
4.3.2	Promotion of a Free and Fair Election	145
	Endnotes	147

Chapter Five: Conclusion

5.1	Summary of Findings	149
5.2	Conclusion	150
5.3	Recommendations	150
5.4	Contribution to Knowledge	151
5.5	Area of Further Studies	151
	Bibliography	152
	Bio-data	158
	The University Compliance Certification	160

Do Not Copy, Lead City University, Nigeria