

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

The term "Civil Society" refers to a wide variety of various associational structures that each has relatively unique consequences on governance, some of which are desirable while others are not¹. The significance of civil society has undergone a significant transformation in certain regions of the world, most notably in the countries of Western Europe and the United States of America, as a direct result of the activities of democratic movements. Therefore, civil society organisations (CSOs) in these regions are conceived of in a manner that is suggestive of the laissez-faire resistance that challenged authoritarian nations throughout the administrations². In addition, democracy is dependent on a number of associational contributions in complex, pluralistic, and contemporary societies all over the world³. These contributions include those that develop the capabilities of citizens, enable public judgments, and underwrite democratic institutions such as representation. As a result, civil society organisations are regarded as playing crucial roles in the processes of democracy and its consolidations like poverty reduction.

The concept of civil society as it is used in modern Political Science and International Relations may be traced back to the writings of French aristocrat philosophers, who views civil society as an arena of contestation, in which organized social actors oppose the power of the state as well as other social forces. Many people hold the view that civil society and the state are two separate but related institutions⁴. That is, despite the fact that the two are not the same, the second entity is answerable to the first entity, and as such, it ought to be identified with the first entity. To put it another way, the state cannot exist in any way that is significant without

civil society, and similarly, civil society organisations (CSOs) will never be relevant if they do not have the state⁵.

The over-centralisation of decision-making in several developing states, combined with a lack of involvement from stakeholders, makes it possible for influential special interests to receive favoritism and contributes to high levels of corruption⁶. This is one of the most significant problems facing these states. Researchers are in agreement that a lack of buy-in from stakeholders slows down the policy process, diminishes efficiency, and, as a result, has negative impact on economic growth. This is where the role of civil society may play a significant role by helping to contribute to improved transparency, accountability, as well as helping to play its role in poverty reduction in the state. While there may not be a precise conceptualization of civil society most people agree that it is comprised of institutions such as labour unions, community groups, religious organisations, charity organisations, the media, as well as non-profit organisations. The function of civil society is to act as a mediator between the individual and the state⁷. These institutions serve as a complement to more formal processes inside more developed and robust democratic regimes. For example, voting is one example of how individuals can work together with their government to influence the nation's economy, culture, and politics. The capacity of citizens to confront political, social and economic, developmental difficulties is typically strengthened and increased through organisations affiliated with civil society.

However, civil societies in Africa are often disregarded when it comes to policymaking 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. Civil societies in Africa usually participate in poverty reduction in Africa by engaging in formulation, monitoring, evaluation, or

implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS). Some CSOs are ideally involved in all the three stages mentioned above while some others engage in one or two of the stages. However, the inclusion of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in any or all of the stages mentioned above depends on the particular country in question because every African government has different perceptions about CSOs. Even though countries such as Nigeria and South Africa have experienced economic growth in recent years, they are still ridden with poverty, irregularities, and inequalities because the activities of the CSOs in these two countries are either confronted with extensive government interference and lack of funding. These irregularities have been the major concern of civil societies in African countries because they believe that such irregularities stem from ineffective government policies. Some of them even depend on aid from International Financial Institutions (IFIs) such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank for their financial support. These IFIs evaluate CSOs by assessing the working relationship between the CSOs and the government of their specific countries. Therefore, it is about time the role of civil society is recognized and promoted in these two countries.

The role of Civil Society Organisation in Nigeria and South Africa becomes pertinent for intellectual discourse and problem solving. Nigeria and South Africa are the two biggest economies in Africa. The two countries also share lots of similarities as they were once occupied by the British. Nigeria gained political independence in 1960 while South Africa had to endure years of apartheid rule before gaining sovereignty in 1994. Amidst the large economy spectra the two countries enjoy in Africa, they have as well had their own fair share of poverty. Nigeria in recent years has been adjudged poverty capital of the world after overtaking India and Pakistan respectively⁸. South Africa as well isn't doing well too like her Nigeria counterpart in respect to alleviation of poverty as vast majority of her populace still live below poverty

benchmark⁸. Even if apartheid was dismantled in 1994, there is still a wide disparity between white South Africans and the blacks as the economic survival of the state rest mainly on the white Africans. Like the West who seems to be a role model for developing states of the world, the role of civil societies in poverty reduction in these states is therefore pertinent and necessary. The study would first describe the nature of civil society in the two countries and also examine the reasons why civil society has been limited in their operations. In comparison, the roles of civil society Nigeria would be assessed with the role of civil society in South Africa to see why the contributions each country has made towards the reduction of poverty internally and regionally.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Civil Society Organisations serve a significant role as the voice of the people on matters affecting the populace as well as the society in general, particularly in the case of ideas and policies which may endanger the peaceful coexistence of the populace and impede the socio-political growth of the society as well as various societal functions. However, despite the efforts of civil society organisations, poverty remains a persistent issue in many African countries particularly in Nigeria and South Africa. The dependency of most Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on the government in the aforementioned countries affects its efforts in poverty reduction thereby affecting its pace towards state development.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this research study is to examine the significant role of civil society in poverty reduction Sub-Sahara Africa with special reference to South Africa and Nigeria. However, specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. explore the roles of Civil Society in poverty reduction in South Africa and Nigeria;
- ii. elucidate the barriers or challenges confronting Civil Societies in South Africa and Nigeria; and
- iii. assess the roles played by Civil Societies in Nigeria and South Africa's democracy.

1.4 Research Questions

The research will attempt to answer the following research questions.

- i. What are the roles of Civil Society in poverty reduction in South Africa and Nigeria?
- ii. What are the challenges or barriers confronting Civil Societies in South Africa and Nigeria?
- iii. What are the roles played by Civil Societies in Nigeria and South Africa's Democracy?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The focus of this research work is to explore the roles of Civil Societies in poverty reduction in Africa with reference to South Africa and Nigeria. Most of the time, civil society's discussions are limited towards the difficulties they face in performing their roles. Such discussions have been maintained for a long time as far as the literature of civil society is concerned but there are few scholars who discuss or research on the roles of civil society in poverty reduction. Even when poverty reduction gained a wider attention recently, civil society was still not discussed that much in relation to that aspect. This study would also contribute to policymaking decisions in Nigeria and South Africa because it contains certain suggestions or recommendations that might be very useful. Similarly, Sub-Sahara Africa stands to benefit from the product of the

research, and it nevertheless will be of value to the international community. Consequently, the research will be of benefit to the African continent and the body of knowledge at large.

1.6 Scope of the Study

Although, several research have been conducted in the area of state and civil societies, this research will thus focus on Civil Societies roles in poverty reduction in Africa citing the study of South Africa and Nigeria respectively. Similarly, minor references would be made from other countries facing similar poverty issues. The time frame of the research work is 2005 to 2020.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

The limitations of the study involve the difficulty in accessing relevant literature as well as official documents and publications on subject matter. Also, financing the research work is also another limitation battled by the researcher. Thus, this has not hindered the quality of this study.

1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

Civil Society

The term "civil society" refers to the collective of non-governmental organisations and institutions that involve a wide variety of religious, cultural, and special interest groups. These institutions and organisations are responsible for representing the interests and will of populace, as well as enforcing social norms. In addition, civil society is the arena in which social movements are created to represent a wide range of frequently incompatible social interests. In this approach, it functions as a competition ground where various interests can compete with one another, establish common ground, and discover answers before legislation or arbitration is required.

Poverty

A community or person is said to be in a condition or situation of poverty when they do not have the means to support themselves. When someone is poor, their employment-based income is insufficient to even satisfy their most basic needs. People and families who are poor may not have access to healthy food, clean water, suitable housing, or medical care. Therefore, poverty in this research study means an individual or community lack of subsistence means of survival.

Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction also known as poverty alleviation refers to the process that aims to limit non-economic and economic poverty levels in communities, groups of people, or states. Its strategies are not limited to health, education, technology, entrepreneurship, income redistribution and other types of economic development.

State

In the course of this research work, a politically organized group of people, typically residing in a certain region, is referred to as a state, especially one that is sovereign. It also indicates how a group of individuals are organized politically. Additionally, it alludes to a particular quality of a political system or administration. Its major characters are geographical location, land, functional government and sovereignty.

Development

The process of bringing about social change that enables people to fulfill their full potential simply means development. Development's byproducts include expansion, positive change, improvement, and the addition of economic, physical, social, environmental, as well

as demographic elements. Raising the peoples standard of living is the aim of development, along with safeguarding the resources of the environment and boosting local and regional employment opportunities. In this research study, Development denotes both changing something's quality and creating the conditions necessary for that change to persist in the future.

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Endnotes

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Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Concept of Poverty

The oldest and as well as the most resilient virus that causes a fatal malady in the developing world or third-world states is poverty¹. Its mortality rate is unmatched by any sickness dating back to the dawn of humanity. It is even more deadly than Covid-19, EBOLA and also dangerous than HIV/AIDS and malaria, which are considered to be the two most lethal infections¹. Although, poverty reduction has been reaffirmed for the past two decades and beyond as the primary goal of international development agendas and programs, progress in this direction has been dismal. This is especially clear in how far behind schedule the world is in terms of achieving the majority of the Millennium Development Goals, both internationally and in the majority of sub-regions, states, and countries.

Critical questions concerning the techniques and policies that have been implemented to reduce poverty as well as significant international challenges like trade, debt and aid are raised by this insufficient progress. Despite having the greatest natural reserve wealth, Africa remains the poorest continent with the slowest rate in term of development. In other words, Africa is considered the world most poorest continent while having access to a multitude of natural reserves, both materially and humanly. This thus lead to the "poverty question".

The phrase "poverty" have its origin in the Latin phrase “pauper”, which means "giving birth to nothing" and refers to cattle and lands that are not fruitful or productive². The notion that some people are imprisoned in poverty whereas other experience periods of hardship was a key

component to the study historically. For instance, in eighteenth-century France, social commentators as well as officials made a distinction between the poor and the destitute. When harvests failed or there was little demand for informal agricultural labor, the former group endured seasonal destitution. The second group was chronically impoverished as a result of physical and mental illness, accidents, alcoholism or old age². The main objective of policies was to encourage the poor lifestyles that would prevent them from being hungry. The multidimensionality as well as the depth/severity of poverty have received greater attention in assessment and conceptual development in recent years than the durational element of poverty.

It's been particularly true in countries in which significant study on length didn't start until the end of 1980s. Many studies made the underlying premise that poverty severity was strongly connected with how long people and households remained in poverty². Based on accessible panel sets of data, such research started to multiply in the beginning of the 1990s, and the first collections of articles on this subject was released in 2000². Depending on how it's observed, poverty can be defined in a variety of ways. Poverty is the state of not having enough resources, money or income². In its most severe form, poverty is the absence of essentials for sustaining life, including sufficient clothing, nourishing food, a place to live, access to medical care and clean water etc². Inadequate resources and a lack of options that would allow people to live in good conditions are two general characteristics that define poverty². It is also defines seen as the deprivation of human rights linked to the satisfaction of basic needs of humans. Hunger is poverty². Absence of shelter is also regarded as poverty. Being sick and unable to visit a physician or doctor for medical attention is poverty. Loss of a child to a sickness brought on by contaminated water is poverty. Poverty is a lack of freedom, representation, and power. Thus,

poverty is now acknowledged as being multi-dimensional with intricate causal and interaction relationships across the components.

Poor people frequently do not have access to financing or chances for income generation, claims³. Poverty has been a prominent topic of concern on both international as well as a national level, especially among emerging countries. Poverty is a situation that exists when a society barely manages to keep a minimum level of subsistence, paired with restricted access to fundamental necessities like food, clothing, and suitable shelter, in order to maintain a minimal standard of living³. Poverty is ascertained if people live on a per capita income below US \$370, as extremely poor by making below US\$1 per day, and as moderately poor by making around US\$2 in a day⁴. Similarly, around 2.8 billion persons lived on less than US\$2 a day in 2010, while 1.1 billion individuals had spends below US\$1 a day⁴. Poverty is a situation that affects everyone, not just those in developing countries. It may be seen in a number of societal issues like homelessness and the existence of clustering housing known as ghetto⁴.

In an effort to condense the definition of poverty, poverty, both absolute and relative, denotes to a situation where an individual is unable to adequately meet his or her needs or basic human necessities, like decent housing, clothing and food, the gratification of economic and social obligations, inability to access to decent jobs, ineptitude, resources, and assertiveness; and these include having access to roads, education, clean water, potable water, and education⁵. These prevent the individual from improving their wellbeing, which is constrained by the restricted supply of social and economic infrastructure. This situation can be described as being impacted by a "lack of capacities" Being poor means being deprived of both pleasures and necessities that other person consider to be common². A state of poverty is to be devoid of the services and goods, and pleasures that those around us consider common. Poverty is

similarly characterized as a structure of exclusion from group and from society that lack acceptance in a setting conducive to productivity. Being poor prevents one from having the means and the right to actively participate in society. This idea can be better understood by comparing the prevalence of HIV and AIDS among the impoverished in society to that of the privileged. The poor have limited access to healthy food and are unable to sustainably raise their own food, which puts their security in jeopardy. Poverty has a negative impact on people's ability to transition from subsistence to commercial productivity, which also has an impact on company growth⁵. Another definition of poverty emphasizes access to resources. Although this idea is the hardest to quantify scientifically, it frequently takes center stage in discussions of theory and public policy.

The poor could be defined as people whose access to resources is significantly restricted due to their parents' wealth, religion, race, as well as other characteristics³. Additionally, poverty denotes welfare or more explicitly income level underneath a socially appropriate minimum. The concept is also expanded to encompass precarity, vulnerability, and uncertainty, particularly with regard to work, as well as social isolation. In summarizing these concepts, it may be said that one aspect that unites them is people's inability or ability to have reasonable ingress to basic necessities as well as comforts.

Haven said that there is no specific definition of the concept of poverty, however many scholars still agree with certain key components which are used to define the concept. For an individual or a group to be in the state of poverty, it means the individual or group has not been able to attain the lowest level of living standard for a reasonable period of time¹. The inability to attain the lowest level of living standard could be caused by a lot of factors which prevent the individual or group from gaining adequate access towards basic needs such as food, shelter,

clothing, healthcare, education, employment and many others². Situations that prevent individuals from having inadequate or no access to basic needs could be in the form of economic, social, political and psychological incapacitation³.

It is difficult to provide a definition of poverty that is both widely recognized and succinct since the condition affects so many aspects of people's lives, including their physical health, their mental wellbeing, and their ethical decisions. As a result, there are many different metrics that might be used to the definition of poverty. The conventional view of poverty, in which people have inadequate incomes to purchase essential goods and services, is utilized in the majority of the studies that have been conducted. A number of additional authorities agree that the factors of health, education, life expectancy, and child mortality, among others, all have a role in determining what constitutes poverty⁵. Others, on the other hand, have a much broader conception of what it poverty means. For them, it means not being able to meet the essential requirements for a life of quality, including "physical" requirements such as " shelter, food, health care, education," as well as "non-physical" requirements such as "identity and participation"⁵. Changes in the distribution of income or shifts in the level of average income can both contribute to the development of poverty. If median incomes are way above poverty threshold, then the number of people living in poverty will be lower; however, other considerations, such as income distribution, must also be taken into account⁵.

Poverty is conceptualized and assessed in a great variety of ways due to its complex nature. The greatest way to introduce the subject of poverty is furthermore through the unpredictable character of the situation, the multifaceted conception of the phenomenon, and the connected varied notions. However, despite the fact that investigations into poverty use a wide range of poverty explanations, all of them may be put into one of the categories provided below.

- i. Having below an objectively determined as well as absolute minimum is poverty.
- ii. Having below others in relative term and in the society is poverty, and
- iii. Poverty also denotes the feeling of insufficient to get along⁶.

The first strand of conceptualization can be referred to as absolute while the second strand can be considered relative. However, the merging of both relative and absolute poverty is what initiated the third strand. The number of poor people in the population may be evaluated differently depending on the numerous justifications used to describe the many categories of poverty mentioned above.

2.1.2 Poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa

The percentage of the population living in earnings per individual under the poverty level has decreased globally since 1990⁴. Evidence can be seen in economist indicators around the world. Despite the fact that poverty is gradually on the decline, poverty remains prevalence in the continent of Africa and significantly higher than Central Asia, Europe, as well as other regions⁴. Even within Africa, there are huge differences between the Sub-Saharan part and the Sahel regions due to the lack of key resources or availability of resources to enhance effective development.

While the proportion of persons in Sub-Saharan African States who live on less than \$1 a day (45 percent) is decreasing slightly, the scenario is still hazardous when compared towards other parts of the world⁶. Over 50% of the population in states like Mali, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, Madagascar, Niger, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Burundi, lived on less than \$1 a day, illustrating the wide range of poverty levels across the world⁴.

The sub-region also has a higher rate of poverty in the rural density than the urban density, with 37% of rural residents in 2019 making less than two-thirds of the nation average per income level. has 86% of its rural inhabitant living in abject poverty, closely followed by the tiny Central African Republic, which has 77% of its rural inhabitant who are living in abject poverty⁵. The level of poverty in the region is also shown by the use of socio-metric indicators such as life expectancy at birth (years), per capita income, access to health services, access to good education, access to sanitation facilities and access to clean water.

2.1.3 Reasons for Poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa

The reasons of poverty are numerous and intricate. These complex reasons occur as a result of lack of awareness about the market rates for the products they trade in, as well as from problems with health, their rights as well as access to public amenities⁷. There exist a political disadvantaged minority that is marginalized and voiceless in relation to the structures that affect their daily life. It is often claimed that low-income individuals are not privy to essential training, personal development opportunities, and education that could enhance their standard of living⁷.

The following factors may contribute to or aggravate to poverty;

- i. The poor's inability to affect society's dynamics, resource distribution, and public policy decisions⁸.
- ii. Low capabilities brought on by inadequate training, lack of entrepreneurialism, a low standard to life, and bad health
- iii. The underprivileged and disadvantaged status of women in the state.

- iv Risk exposure brought on by an insufficient level of material, physical, or social security.
- v Small amounts of consumption brought on as a result of inaccessibility of funds, resources for the common good, land, as well as business opportunities.
- vi Being exposed to surges as a result of technology's scarce ability to combat the impacts of environmental deterioration⁸.
- vii Poor environmental safety strategies.
- viii The absence of macroeconomic stability, which causes the poor's resources to be depleted by a rising inflation and other factors.
- ix The national economy's failure to maximize gains within the international order.
- x Customs and practices that encourage antisocial behavior and are based on myths and superstition⁸.
- xi Additional risk factors for exclusion and vulnerability⁸.

Bad governance and corruption, poor tenure systems, protracted political conflict and civil wars, substandard infrastructure, inadequate healthcare facilities, diseases, unfriendly policies of international institutions like IMF and World Bank are only a few of the factors that contribute to poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa⁹. Poverty has many different manifestations, including a lack of productive income and resources necessary to ensure a sustainable way of life, malnutrition and hunger, illness, restricted or absent access to basic services like education, a rise in morbidity as well as mortality from disease, an insufficient, homelessness, unsafe, and social exclusion, and degraded environment. Lack of involvement in social, political, cultural decision-making is another trait of it⁹. Similarly, social isolation as a whole can contribute to poverty in their

examinations of the causes of poverty. Exclusion represents discrimination, which is a practice that prevents people from fully participating in interactions or exchanges of goods⁹. The idea is related to being shut out of the labor market, experiencing prolonged unemployment, and destroying the integration and social ties that come with work in most cases. The main causes of poverty in the region are: insufficient physical assets like land, insufficient access to job opportunities, capital, and little or no access by the poor to credit facilities on a small scale; insufficient access to means of promoting rural development in impoverished regions; insufficient access to markets where the less privilege can sell their services and goods; low endowment of human capital, destitute; and low endowment of physical assets¹⁰. Specifically, the inability to include the poor in the planning of development programs¹⁰.

2.1.4 Structural and Cultural Reasons to Poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa

Poverty reasons can also be categorized as structural or cultural. Thus, there are two types of reasons for poverty casualty¹¹. Firstly, structural reasons, which are more long-lasting and are influenced by a variety of external variables, such as poor skills, inadequate resources, geographic disadvantage, and other variables that are intrinsic in the political and social system¹¹ and secondly is the transitional reasons, which are primarily brought on by structural reforms and changes in local economic policies and may lead to unemployment, price changes and other effects¹¹. Transitional poverty is also brought on by both natural disasters like famine and man-made disasters like conflict, environmental damage, and so forth¹¹.

As a result of the obvious link between race and culture, culture is frequently the explanatory variable that policymakers and scholars turn to when trying to conceptualise societal breakdown¹². This may be the reason why the debate shifted away from cultural reasons and why some theorists and politicians began to associate poverty with behavior¹¹. Some academics

contend that social and behavioral flaws in people, which presumably make them less economically viable within traditional society, are a major cause of poverty¹¹. However, the culture of poverty thesis, which contends that people develop, maintain, and pass on to future generations a culture that perpetuates the many social and behavioral deficits, is supported by the behavioral perspective because poverty persists in some locations¹⁰. A logical extension of this viewpoint contends that government policy not only exacerbates societal evils like increased divorce rates but also sustains poverty¹⁰.

The "culture of poverty" concept or reasons, which is based on anthropological ideas, has since been incorrectly linked to blaming either the poor themselves or an administration which renders them dependant¹⁰. The vastly higher percentage of poverty among women can be attributed to a sexist tradition which persists to defy their participation in a sector of society that has traditionally been subjugated by men¹¹. As a result, welfare programs have been created in a way that stigmatizes general populace support for women as against marital support, both of which seem to validate patriarchy¹¹. The growth in female poverty is a crucial structural stage variable to take into account in this aspect as women constitute a larger percent in human population in the work.

2.1.5 Absolute Approach to Poverty

Also known as the "Minimum Subsistence idea", is defined as certain bundles of services and goods that are recognized as fundamental to the physical need of a family or an individual, serves as the starting point for this method of defining poverty¹². According to this approach, people who lack sufficient financial resources and are unable to purchase minimum products as well as services are stigmatized as being poor¹². This method of investigation was utilized at the beginning of the 21st century, however, researchers rarely use the absolutist

approach these days because it involves theoretical and methodological complications, such as the quantitative of the demand for necessities and the determination of necessities.

2.1.6 Relative Approach to Poverty

For the relativist approach to poverty, the median or mean value of national income denotes the economic indicator which corresponds to the mainstream life style¹³. A person or family is considered to be on poverty line if their income is below that amount and they do not have the resources to maintain that standard of living¹³. A person or household could be considered poor if its after-tax income is below 50% of the national average. There are several issues with the relative poverty. First, it perpetuates poverty in the quantifiable sense that a certain fixed proportion of a population is consistently perceived as being poor, resulting in persistent poverty. Second, a relative poverty technique might provide an estimate of the size of the poor, but no information is provided regarding the poor's standard of living.

2.1.7 Budget Standard Approach to Poverty

The validity of a set of prerequisites is necessary for this approach. People who are unable to purchase all the items on the list may be considered impoverished or poor. Although it has an absolutist idea and methodology at its core, a number of financial plans are combined using various socially determined essential requirements¹⁴. Overall, this concept is predicated on the notion of a collection of services and that includes both "subsistence" necessities and "basic minimums" for social activities¹⁴. There are objections to this approach. First, it is challenging to come up with generally accepted criteria for selecting the essentials to be included on the list. Second, societal evolution has an impact on how necessities are described. In order to strengthen the constituents, subjective value judgments must be made within the ambit of each community's

financial situation. Also, creating a financial plan for the expenditure component parts and keeping each list current in light of shifting social situations need enormous efforts.

2.1.8 Indigenous Perceptions on Poverty Reduction

The perception of poor people around the world has been analysed by financial institutions like the World Bank over the past decade. These analyses have confirmed that each perception reflected the realities existing in that particular surrounding or country. Poor people outside Africa complained of discrimination, humiliation and social exclusion which was made possible because the rules and regulations favored the rich people¹⁵. However in Africa, poor people rather complain about witchcraft, inherited traditions, family limitations, lack of access to health and education.

The research paper “*The Persistence of Subsistence Agriculture: Life Beneath the Level of the Marketplace*”, explains another reality which is related with the mentality of most African families. Most African families have peasant mentality which is to cultivate enough crops, feed their families and sell the part to make money¹⁵. This peasant mentality of most African countries does not follow any specified bureaucratic or formal principles. That is to say, these families prefer to live within the confines of fending for themselves and their families and nothing more. Most African families do not really care about civic public integration on which Western development strategies are built¹⁵. Some rural or poor families prefer to establish networks with urban families mainly for certain gains in times of need but seldom wish to be in urban or richer positions.

2.1.9 Concept of Civil Society

Civil Society is any public domain that encompasses different independent activities under the legal auspices of the State¹⁶. Civil society refers to gathering of organisations which represent neither the state nor the masses. These organisations emerge as a result of the voluntary activities of members of the society who seek to protect and promote their personal values and interests¹⁷. Civil Society similarly denotes planned activities which are executed by individuals or groups with the aim of changing the direction and effect of certain policies and programmes established by the government¹⁷. Civil Societies is not interested in changing the policies of the government but are rather concerned about tuning such policies towards the beneficial directions of the society¹⁸. Another description of Civil Society revolved around its independence from both the state and the market but he also acknowledged the fact that a successful and effective civil society must have goals and interests which connect all its members together¹⁹. On the other hand, Civil Society is an establishment which is based on the principles of participation and self-governance. Furthermore, such establishments have the long term objectives of redefining public affairs and public policies²⁰. Civil Society serves as a tool through which the citizens can hold the state and its officials to accountability of their actions during struggles and challenges²⁰.

Civil Society also serves as the aggregate of organisation and networks which operate outside the confines of state apparatus²¹. These organisations include social groups, professional groups and NGOs. They are also used to describe to different institutions based on their function. The similarity among these conceptualization is that they all include element such as the political background, independency from the state, level of efforts, level of power, vision, purpose and experience of a particular group. Irrespective of the fact that many authors, writers and scholars have tried to develop their own definitions of civil society, there are certain elements in the

definition which cannot be tempered with because those are the key elements around which the definitions must revolve.

2.1.9.1 Civil Society in Africa

Historically, the concept of civil society was believed to have been conceived in the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe²². The concept actually revolved around the idea of Social Contracts which existed in Europe in that period. Social Contracts during this period were not only based on religion and traditions but also politics, where the state determined the fate of its citizens in terms of development. This situation served as the fundamentals of Political Modernity which was to take over Europe in latter periods²². The political dimension of civil society became more institutionally oriented in the 19th centuries where it is often regarded as the aggregate of super structures²². With this term, it meant that the effectiveness of civil society depended more on institutions such as trade unions, associations, political parties, media and churches. The nature of civil society in this contemporary era has not changed much since the description of which originated in the 19th century. The only significant change is that more aims have been developed in connection with improving the welfare of society and keeping a check on the State and its activities²².

The crucial role of civil society in nation building cannot be underestimated but the problem is that the strategies used by every country varies. In Africa, civil society was surrounded by a lot of controversies especially in connection with the struggle for African renaissance²³. This was because, civil society constituted the only structural basis through which regional integration and development in Africa could be attained at all levels²³. In this modern era, the vision of regional integration looks blurry because of the emergence of private interests which surpass the interest

of family and state. That is to say, the civil society might be a key factor in development but other factors such as regional dynamics and state barriers must also be considered. The collective nature of civil society allows all kinds of organisations irrespective of their nature. In other words, organisations which are similar, different, official, unofficial, politically active, non-political, international, regional, global and so on can participate in civil society activities²³. The most important thing is the independence of the organisation or institution because the more independent the organisation is, the less interference from the government. However, being independent does not mean the institution should disregard the legality of the state. The organisation or institution in question should recognize that it had different functions from the state and so the recognition of such functions of the state would promote cooperation or support from the state. With reference to the conceptualization of civil society earlier on, the concept of civil society in Africa also considers ethnic groups and client networks despite the fact that they do not comply with democratic standards according to the Western specifications. Ultimately, they are independent from the state and also provide a platform for state accountability²⁴. An example of a client network which functions as civil society is the Sufi community in Senegal²⁴. They work hand in hand with the Senegalese state by soliciting for rural support from the state and in return, they make various claims to the state. The Sufi communities operate through religious rites which helps them to maintain their loyalty and cohesion²⁴. There are many of such ethnic examples of civil groups in different regions of Africa such as Kenya and Somalia but many of them operate without any religious roots while others also have deep religious roots. Civil society development in a North African country such as Egypt went through a lot of stages, spanning from its first inception to its current second inception spanning over almost two hundred years²⁵. The first inception took place around the 19th century when Egypt was going

through a modernization process in which major reforms were made in Civil society development in a North African country such as Egypt went through a lot of stages, spanning from its first inception to its current second inception spanning over almost two hundred years²⁵. The second stage of the Egyptian civil society development process was known as the colonial phase²⁵. During this phase, the civil society created earlier on entered into a period of confrontation with the colonial powers to agitate in support for the interests of the Egyptian citizens. The third stage, known as the Liberal phase, which occurred in 1922 was characterized by the adoption of the Constitution in 1923²⁵. This was also the stage where the Civil Society enjoyed the highest level of flourishing with new rights, privileges and basic freedoms. One outstanding freedom was the freedom of communication which allowed the publishing of civil society activities in different languages including Arabic and European Languages. The introduction of the Constitution was geared towards objectives such as accountability, transparency and free elections²⁵.

The fourth stage was the Nasserist Phase which began in 1952. This was the stage where most of the authority was concentrated in the hands of the State through amendments of the Constitution²⁵. The name Nasserist comes from the fact that power was concentrated in the hands of a small group known as the Nasser so there was no balance of power in Egypt at that time because Executive took control of the Judiciary and the Parliamentary. The state imposed its full authority on the civil society and tried to limit it from certain activities by using the Law enacted in 1964 to prohibit the formation or registration of any civil group. Even student and women groups were not excluded in the restriction. The last stage of civil society development in Egypt was the second inception which took place from 1974 till recent time²⁵. During this stage, there were many different open policies to encourage the advent of a market economy and a

multi-party system. By 1998, registered CSOs in Egypt were approximately 27,000 comprising of Private Voluntary Organisations, Clubs, Cooperatives, Syndicates, Social Movements, Non-Government Press and Political Parties²⁵.

2.1.10 Civil Society in South Africa and Nigeria: A Comparative Analysis

Civil society cannot be specifically defined but different descriptions could be made based on their level of power or the level of efforts they exhibit when it comes to issues affecting the citizens or minorities of a particular country. Proponents also describe civil society by the political involvement or experience connected with them. The activities of civil society vary from country to country but the overall aim is to prioritize the welfare and needs of the citizens.

2.1.10.1 Civil Society in Nigeria

Civil society activities in Nigeria have been recorded all through the crucial points of political struggle of the country especially in connection with the stabilization of a democratic government. Most of the attempts of civil society to sustain a democratic government in Nigeria failed until 1980 when their quest for democratic governance was revitalised²⁶. However, the efforts of civil society in Nigeria was confronted with various administrations which exhibited unaccountability, despotism, authoritarianism and lack of support. The state, which was supposed to show more concern for civil society activities, was rather controlled by the ruling class and that made it very difficult for helpful decisions to be taken in line with civil societies²⁶. These problems did not slow down the civil society but rather changed the direction of their actions and agitations. They became more concerned about issues such as human rights, freedom and civic values because these values were slowly being eroded from the system by the bourgeoisie (ruling class)²⁶. This kind of concern shown by the civil society in Nigeria helped the country to recognize the importance or need for democracy, participation and justice. Different

civic groups emerged during the 1980s to fight for the maintenance of civic values in Nigeria. Some notable ones included the Campaign for Democracy (CD), Civil Liberties Organisations (CLO), Committee for Defense of Human Rights (CDHR) and the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)²⁶. One strategy that was mostly by these civic groups in their fight for freedom and other values were mobilization of students and workers for demonstrations, strikes and protests. In recent times, the trend of strategies has shifted from protests and strikes to the execution of major programs such as voter education, observation of elections, monitoring of campaign financing and budget tracking. That is to say, the focus has moved from physical confrontations towards financial supervisions, poverty reduction programs, democracy researches, conferences, lobbying and many more²⁷. To an extent, the impact of such programs has been recorded in certain parts of Nigeria at certain periods especially from the 1990s till now. International Organisations have also resorted to using such programs and activities as a yardstick for measuring the effectiveness of democracy in Nigeria and other African countries. However, corruption, ethnic and religious conflicts have recently engulfed the country and so the international organisations are accessing the democratic nature of Nigeria by monitoring the ways in which the Nigerian government would respond to these conflicts²⁷.

One of the long term effects of democracy is poverty reduction. This is because when citizens are allowed the freedom to associate, own, speak and do other basic things, most of them would produce for themselves rather than depending on the government and so unemployment would reduce and subsequently poverty would reduce as well²⁷. Democracy must ultimately be directed towards economic development if poverty reduction could be achieved because every economic development would definitely improve the standard of living of the people²⁸. Thus, it is safe to say that the consequence of a democracy without economic development is extinction. The

whole idea of democratic consolidation in Nigeria could be assessed by reviewing the particular areas in which civil society contributed immensely or fairly. Some of the major areas include:

i Promoting credible elections

ii Preventing democratic threats

iii Influencing public policies

iv Empowering citizens²⁸

2.1.10.2 Promoting Credible Elections

Part of the success of the 2015 and 2019 elections in Nigeria could be attributed to the immense voters' education programs conducted by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)²⁸. Mobilisation of citizens has always been a strategic tool used by many civic groups in Nigeria therefore it was not a surprise when then same strategy was used by CSOs to encourage citizens to vote for their favourite candidate. CSOs also helped to prevent violence due to the massive campaign towards voters' education²⁸. CSOs in Nigeria also educated citizens on how to keep their mandate in preparation for the 2019 elections. In other words, CSOs helped citizens to keep their mandate consistent by avoiding manipulation from political figures or entities²⁹. Despite the efforts of CSOs in the build up to the 2015 elections, many political scholars have described the 2015 elections as unfair. These electoral critics argued based on the unrests that occurred in the North which resulted in loss of lives and many valuable properties²⁹. However, other parts of the country had less complaints of protests in connection with the 2015 elections.

If there should be any recommendations to CSOs concerning future elections, it would be the fact that the CSOs need to step up their voters' education programs and extensively include

Northern Nigeria as well. In as much as this would be a difficult task due to the population of illiterates in Northern Nigeria, it would also afford CSOs the chance to extend their supporters among the elites because most elites in governance are Northerners²⁹.

2.1.10.3 Preventing Democratic Threats

CSOs in Nigeria are also noted for their role in guarding against actions that threaten democracy. During the tenure of General Olusegun Obasanjo, there was an attempt to insert an elongation of tenure clause into the constitution but this was prevented by opposition together with some of his supporters but most of the efforts were credited to the civic groups for exerting enough pressure on opposition members²⁹.

2.1.10.4 Influencing Public Policies

Another area in which the efforts of civil society are recognized in Nigeria is their ability to influence public policies. For the purpose of this study, the focus would be on four policies which are normally ignored or violated in Nigeria and Africa at large. The first policy is that relating to human rights. In this context, the violation of human rights encompasses right to life, child labour and human trafficking. These two crimes are at an alarming rate because they deprive the child of many social and educational benefits which, in turn, hinder the development of the child³⁰. So far, CSOs have partnered with the government of Nigeria to curb down and if possible erode this crime. As a result of the partnership, the Child Rights Law was enacted by the government in support of the efforts of the CSOs³⁰. The assessment of human trafficking is not only done from the angle of the deprivations but also from the angle of the heinous exploitation activities which those children are exposed to. Some of them include prostitution, armed robbery, alms begging, forced marriages and so on. The efforts of CSOs to stop child labour or child

abuse did not end with the passing of the Child Rights Law but further went ahead with the establishment of the National Agency for the Prohibition in Trafficking of Persons (NAPTP)³⁰. That was considered a reasonable pedigree of success so far as CSOs in Nigeria were concerned. The future of these children now depends on the extent to which CSOs would strengthen their partnership with the Nigerian government with respect to child abuse. Another human right which CSOs fight to redeem or maintain is the right to life. For Socio Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) in conjunctions with various CSOs, the federal government has to be blamed for the continuous bomb blasts that have been occurring in the Northern part of Nigeria courtesy of Boko Haram³¹. SERAP believed that it was the ultimate responsibility of every government to protect its citizens from any attacks that would result in the loss of lives. If any government shirks this responsibility, it is tantamount to a breach of international obligations. Public policies have financial aspects which CSOs are also concerned about, especially in oil rich countries such as Nigeria. CSOs review and evaluate the financial activities of the country by monitoring both the process of drafting the national budget as well as the budget statement itself³¹. CSOs in Nigeria have established the Budget Law which enables and allows them to monitor the fiscal process of the budget easily. Despite the direct involvement of CSOs in the monitoring process, it is still very early to comment on the effectiveness of CSOs in the national budgeting process because they only became actively involved in the beginning of the millennium³¹. That is to say, recognition of their efforts is enough for now because it would be proper to evaluate them after a decade or so more.

Another effort of CSOs in terms of influencing policies in Nigeria is their contribution towards the reforms that took place in the National Assembly³². If it was not for a campaign by CSOs led by the Media Rights Agenda, the Freedom of Information Act would not have been effective at

all. In as much as CSOs have been capable of preventing threats against democracy in Nigeria, they have also been capable of guarding against unpopular policies. Unpopular policies here refer to:

- i Policies which have been inactive or redundant for a reasonable period of time
- ii Policies which could not achieve the expected results or yield any positive outcome³².

The removal of subsidy on fuel was greatly accompanied by increases in fuel prices and a nationwide hardship in 2012. CSOs were able to mobilise students and workers from all parts of Nigeria for a massive protest against the exorbitant prices of fuel³². When the government finally had enough of these protests, the subsidy policy was reversed to N97 per litre to ease the pressure on the masses who could not afford fuel prior to the reversal of the policy. It must be noted that the protests orchestrated by the CSOs was not only against the subsidy policy but also against the soaring corruption activities in the oil sector from 2009 to 2012 but unfortunately, the government has not done enough about the latter problem as compared to the former one.

2.1.10.5 Empowerment of Citizen

The empowerment of citizens is the last but not the least contribution towards development in Nigeria by the CSOs. There have been rural outreaches to reduce illiteracy and poverty rates. In terms of poverty reduction efforts, CSOs in Nigeria organized micro-credit programs for women, encouraged women to participate in ministerial or governance activities and encouraged the establishment of powerful women coalitions³³. Health issues have not been left out by CSOs in Nigeria because many forums, conferences and educative programs have been organized since 2001 to provide financial, educative and affectionate support for people with HIV/AIDS. In 2010, some CSOs enlarged their visions by including widows' rights as part of their agendas. Since

then CSOs in Nigeria have been fighting for the removal of all rights relating to widows especially in the Southern part of the country.

2.1.10.6 Civil Society in South Africa

The discussion on civil society in South Africa could be reviewed by examining four different component including race, class, anti-apartheid struggle and colonialism.

Race

The historical development of civil society in South Africa has been characterized by a series of racial discrimination and segregation³⁴. Such events have shaped the activities of civil society organisations in South Africa over the years. Racial discrimination caused societies to separate and also caused destabilization in the economic, social and political powers of these societies. The white community in South Africa benefited immensely from this segregations while the black South African community was left unfortunate and poor³⁴. The worse problem was that the black community had a better chance to voice their grievances therefore the political space of civil society organisations were reduced.

Class

As mentioned earlier on, the black community was separated from the white supremacy in South Africa. This situation created different classes in the country and obviously every class was fighting for their own rights so there was a period of serious class struggle. The gaps between classes kept widening amidst the discrimination that was going on. Also, certain classes were given access to government privileges while others were not. The rich elites possessed a lot of power while lower classes were not even given the chance to contribute towards any policy ideas³⁴.

Colonialism

The white dominance in South Africa affected the operations of non-profit organisations. Many of the civil society organisations at that time were controlled by the policies of white supremacy. These non-profit organisations even included churches. The churches in Africa were all mandated to operate based on the conceptions of European churches. Spiritual leaders in Africa were provided with platforms to operate but most of the churches were directly under the hierarchical structures of the white leaders³⁴. Over the last 25 years, interest groups have risen over time to challenge the efforts of various governments in sub Saharan Africa. The civil society situation of South Africa has become a yardstick with which other countries try to measure the effectiveness of their own. This is because South Africa's quest for democracy is filled with the enormous contribution of CSOs due to the effective combination of corporatism and pluralism ideas. Different groups have set records based on contributions and performances in South Africa and these groups include traditional authorities, women's group and education groups. Some of their arguments included provision of poor health services, racial discrimination and sexual discrimination.

The 1996 Constitution of South Africa was adopted because of its content and its tendency to encourage the participation of different actors including the civil society³⁵. The Constitution has a long term objective of making sure that civil society is included in governance for a long time. The history of South Africa has greatly been characterized by a deep racist trend which led to the careful drafting on the constitution to prevent the inequality from taking place again. The Constitution contains social rights and equality concepts which encourage multiculturalism and participatory governance³⁵. The socio-economic rights described here include the right to healthcare, housing, food and many other basic provisions. The successful nature of the

Constitution could be credited to a very successful negotiation process which involved the civil society. The Constitution also describes certain basic values and principles of public administration in South Africa. The two most important of these principles are transparency and right to participation in policy making. The Constitution also propelled the establishment of different state institutions charged with respective responsibilities in connection to the terms of the constitution. Among these institutions are Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality and the Public Protector³⁵.

The South African government is evaluated based on its relationship with the civil society of the country. That is to say, any achievements or development could only take place when there is joint effort. Civil society in South Africa also serves as a facilitator for the state institutions and their assignments. For example, the Human Rights Commission is charged with the responsibility to give annual reports about the progress of all departments in relation to the attainment of socio economic rights. Therefore the civil society has partnered with the Commission to help monitor the activities of these departments and also provide consultation when needed³⁶. Another example of such partnership between state and civil society is the relationship between trade unions and the African National Congress (ANC). Civil society can only perform its task diligently when it operates independently from the government because any other scenario would limit the activities of the civil society and if that happens, their reports or criticisms would not reflect the actual problem. When the civil society is vibrant, it represents a very positive step towards democracy. The relationship between the state and civil society is supposed to be a healthy and consultative one but unfortunately, the civil society in South Africa could not cooperate with the state during the apartheid because of the discriminative actions of state officials³⁶. Therefore the only option the civil society had was to oppose the state

and its activities. With this preamble, scholars might have really thought that the post-apartheid period will come along with a more improved relationship but that was not the case. The new government in this post-apartheid South Africa has become so close with the civil society to the extent that the civil society finds it very difficult to operate independently. In South Africa, many civil society members are also members of government therefore when they have the chance to criticize certain policies of the government, they might be partial about it. In the nutshell, the civil society in South Africa has the responsibility to make sure that the objectives stipulated in the South African constitution are monitored and supported, constantly.

The evaluation of the effectiveness of civil society would ultimately depend on their effort to bring change in the socio economic status of the citizens. In performing their activities, various strategies such as collaboration, monitoring, assistance and policing of the state are recommended for civil society to use. The level of bureaucracy in South Africa is so high that it becomes very difficult for a non-state actor to penetrate even when they have policy suggestions³⁶. Even though there was a great deal of democratic concepts in the Constitution, the operations and decisions of the ANC government were mostly based on centralism so the distance between the government and the citizens was very far and it was very difficult for the citizens to gain access to the government. Since 1994, the gap between the poor and the rich in South Africa keeps widening and currently, South Africa is second behind Brazil in terms of the gap between the rich and poor³⁶. The constitutional supremacy and the judicial review pattern of South Africa also adds an extra protection for the civil society. The Courts in South Africa allows class action litigation which means litigation could be undertaken on behalf of a whole group of people as long as they are affected by the case in question. The constitution also permits interest groups to intervene in the litigation process and submit its pleas or arguments to the court. Due to

this provision, many groups have seen successful favours from the court. An example of such successful groups is the National Coalition of Gay and Lesbian Equality which represented a case of sexual discrimination³⁷. This group is only one of 69 organisations which have also presented similar cases to the court and won. Below are some of the civil society groups that have presented their cases to the Court and have won based on the stipulations of the South African Constitution:

i Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty

ii Women's Legal Centre

iii Christian Education South Africa

iv AIDS Law Project

v Community Law Centre³⁷

According to the statistics from Minister of Home Affairs, 75 percent of the cases presented to the court between 2010 and 2016 were presented by interest groups because individuals seldom bring litigations to the Court³⁷. In summary, civil society also has the responsibility to make sure that judicial privileges are made available to all civil groups in South Africa. Recently, there has been a saga involving an NGO which presented its case to the Court made waves in South African newspapers. The name of the NGO was Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) in Pretoria. Their argument was that the state was responsible for providing anti-retroviral drugs for all HIV positive pregnant women of which the Ministry of Health has failed to do. The Constitutional Court favoured the NGO and accepted their plea. Below is an outline of the case between the Ministry of Health and the Treatment Action Campaign³⁷.

2.1.10.7 Features of Post-Apartheid Civil Society in South Africa

Civil society has transformed to obtain a certain status which confers certain characteristics on them³⁸. The Co-operative for Research and Education (CORE) listed some of the features of civil society which include the following;

- i Non-profit making
- ii No personal benefit
- iii Voluntary
- iv Value and ethics driven
- v Independent
- vi Diversification
- vii Have unique structures and chain of command³⁸

2.1.10.8 General Roles Played by Civil Society in South Africa

Relief Role

CSOs in South Africa perform humanitarian assignments by providing aids for people who have been affected by famine, tsunamis or any other natural disaster which has deprived them of their basic needs such as food, shelter or clothing³⁸. Such CSOs only surface in South Africa when these disasters have occurred. Other than that, there are no other functions which they subscribe to. Such CSOs are normally religious oriented such as a Christian community or a traditional organisation. When performing their duties, these CSOs often select the particular countries they

wish to provide aid for and also, they mostly cooperate with international organisations such as Red Cross or Green Crescent.

Welfare Role

The second general role performed by CSOs in South Africa is the welfare role. This role does not necessarily require the occurrence of a natural disaster before it is performed. Basically, such organisations seek to provide basic needs for people because they are disadvantaged in the society but they only perform this function on only the national and regional roles³⁸. Some of them also operate in a particular sectional need such as provision of drugs for patients with HIV or tuberculosis including children and women. Others concentrate on providing educational needs such as books, scholarships, and travelling opportunities. Such CSOs operate mostly in partnership with the national governments or regional organisations such as the African Union (AU) and they also receive funding from corporations and individual donations.

Service Role

Some CSOs are also established to provide training and technical assistance for other CSOs or community based organisations³⁹. Their only responsibility is to ensure that all civil society organisations are equipped with the required funding and support to seek the welfare of the citizens. That is the whole idea of democracy³⁹. Some of the functions performed by service CSOs include supplying staff, providing advice on management system, financial assistance and fundraising. Many of them operate by the accredited standards of the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA).

Technical Role

There are also many CSOs in South Africa who establish and pursue their own projects to find new solutions to existing problems. Exclusiveness is the principle that such CSOs operate by. The projects are invented and developed by only their members³⁹. The subject or problem areas include technological inventions, new methods of management, new training methods, environmental protection and many more³⁹. Others operate in selected geographical areas such as rural, suburb, urban or sub-urban. An example of such CSOs is Collect-A-Can which is associated with keeping the environment clean for the past twenty years.

The ironic part of the story is that Collect-A-Can is a self-funding organisation which gets its sponsorship and employs people by selling disposed cans. Some other CSOs in South Africa have also established food gardens in some urban areas where people come to receive food for free on weekends especially old, disabled and handicapped. Civil Society organisations in South Africa operate based on different orientations such as community services, cooperatives, religious or faith based services, economic associations and economic interest associations.

Cooperative CSOs

Many cooperative organisations in South Africa have the aim of producing income mainly for survival and other reasons but not for profit. Such organisations are established at the local level because most of their funds are mobilized from the grassroot individuals. These funds are channeled into economic ventures which would yield more income that would be shared among members at the end of the day. The only difference between cooperatives and Stokvels is that Stokvels do not invest the funds in business ventures because the funds are mobilized purposely for members when they are in need. In South Africa, cooperatives used to operate only in sectors

such as agriculture and mining because legislation only allowed these two³⁹. However, contemporary cooperative organisations have expanded their operations into diverse public sectors including production, housing, manufacturing, transport, entertainment and many more. That is to say, the legislation related to cooperatives in South Africa have been reviewed with the passage of time. Stakeholders of cooperatives also have the responsibility of making sure that the status of cooperatives are respected both nationally and regionally. Another reason why cooperative legislation was reviewed is that there was only one department that was supervising many cooperatives in South Africa and that was the Department of Trade and Industry³⁹.

Religious or faith based CSOs

In South Africa, CSOs which are established based on religion or faith often operate with two purposes. First, they have the objective of taking care of the welfare of citizens and secondly, they preach their faith to the citizen hoping that he or she would join them in worship or probably accept their message⁴⁰. Their services range from basic clothing to education services. Recently, these CSOs have established their integrity on the South African political scene by providing welfare services for refugees in South Africa many other African countries.

Community Oriented CSOs

Some CSOs in South Africa are designed to take care of social or community arrangements. The variety of tasks they perform include burial services, savings groups, marriage institutions and many more. Burial organisations have been operating in South Africa for over a century. There are also financial communities that mobile contributions to help their members at the end of every month. In South Africa, they are usually referred to as Stokvels⁴⁰. As of 2011, the number of burial and Stokvel services in South Africa were approximately 800 000.

Economic Interest CSOs

CSOs of this nature only operate based on the particular economic interest of the populace that they seek to serve. That is to say, their goal must be to seek the economic interest of an association of people who have the same common agenda. The agenda could be defined by profession or some other form of commonality⁴⁰. In South Africa there are five general categories of CSOs which operate based on economic interest and they are ratepayers association, professional associations, labour unions, human rights promotion and protection, civic or democracy education and community development⁴⁰. Ratepayers have surfaced since the establishment of a new system of government in South Africa. Their major objective is to improve their communications with local authorities concerning interests that are normally not within the jurisdiction of those authorities⁴⁰. Most of these issues are meagre ones which are only confounded to the community or townships in which the ratepayers are located. Some of the issues include road closures, land struggles, building regulations, park cleaning, electricity charges, street lighting and many more. The development of the South African Constitution meant that most professions had to change their systems of operations to be in line with the constitution requirements. New professional associations have emerged with their own set of rules which are normally propounded from the stipulations of the constitution⁴⁰. The constitution requirements affect their fees, aims, objectives and vision. Labour Unions have also been in existence in South Africa for almost 150 years. Changes were made in 1979 to allow African workers to be part of labour unions⁴⁰. Before 1979 no African worker was allowed to be part of any labour union in South Africa. Regionally, South African labour unions are known to be very

efficient financially⁴⁰. Their structures of control are also seen effective than any other African country. Internationally, labour unions in South Africa are renowned for their participation many different kinds of functions aimed at organizing efforts, specific campaigns and human rights promotion and protection. Labour Unions participate in human rights protection and promotion when they are assigned to do such specific tasks in a specific period of time. However, there are CSOs in South Africa that are specifically established to promote or protect human rights⁴⁰. They also perform extensive functions such as monitoring any abuses, lobbying to other organisations for support against abuses and protecting or assisting abuse victims with counselling and medical aids. Individuals do not really sponsor human rights promotion programmes so most of the CSOs now rely on government initiatives to obtain funds for the agendas⁴⁰. Civic democracy or education based CSOs only work to improve on public education in South Africa. This involves sharing information with the public and trying to equip them with the right ideas about their rights and responsibilities towards other national stakeholders. Once again, civic democracy or education based CSOs in South Africa face financing problems therefore they have not been effective for quite a while now⁴⁰. Community Development CSOs also have economic interests judging from their activities or operations but these operations normally become effective when the CSOs connect with bigger associations by way of service or savings. Community development CSOs have recorded huge success in South African history and they are the kind of CSOs the South African government prefer to give grants. Apart from the types of CSOs discussed above, any other CSO in South Africa is either network oriented or advocacy oriented. Advocacy CSOs do not have field projects of their own but they often have the financial background that enables them to partner with other CSOs to discuss national issues relating to policymaking. Advocacy campaigns are one of the major ways through which these

CSOs get attention from the South African government officials. Some of the successful advocacy CSOs campaigns include Basic Income Grant, the Children's Act and the Anti-Retroviral Campaign.

Network CSOs do not partner to receive information from other CSOs but rather, they partner to distribute information to other CSOs³⁷. Their information comes monthly in the form of newsletters, magazines, reminders, notifications and many more. They only operate around education and social issues. As mentioned earlier on, CSOs in South Africa used to operate in specified sectors before 1994³⁵. Most of those CSOs operated in networks and forums because of the high level of racism and discrimination in the country at that time. The black community used their network strategies to agitate on issues such as education, health, water, local government, land, sanitation, environment, urban development and so on. Some of these networks have survived since that time and have really grown towards regional and international status while many of them faded out during the struggle. The ones that survived had negotiations with the new government concerning funding and other forms of support³⁴. The most popular network that survived was the National Welfare Forum and an example one that could not survive after 1994 was the National Land Committee. Most of the networks that could not survive were due to the kind of issue they were handling. For example, the white government at that time was very particular about land and loan issues therefore it was not a surprise that the National Land Committee and the South African Grantmakers Association (SAGA) could not survive respectively. However, further research might be needed to explore other reasons why these networks actually failed.

2.1.10.9 Institutions and State Policies in a Democratic South Africa

The concept of development has a wide range of descriptions and these descriptions usually vary from person to person based on their level of understanding or exposure towards the concept. However, one basic thing about the concept of development irrespective of its description is that it must lead to an improved standard of living after a reasonable period of time. There are many indicators to measure development but the indicator depends on the particular economy or country in question³⁴. Economically, some of the indicators include Gross National Product, Gross Domestic Product, Per Capita Income and Consumer Price Indexes. Socially, the most popular indicator is the Human Development Index. For a state to be considered developmental, the government of that state must possess certain attributes that gives it the power to achieve long term national and international developments for its country⁴⁰.

Democracy as an element, can also be associated with developed states because it is also one of the components of development at the highest level⁴¹. Any developmental state which attains democracy is known as a democratic developmental state. The qualities of a developmental state include the capability to plan ahead, the capacity to analyse, and the capacity to organize. These three features would certainly lead to development, all other factors held constant. The activities of a developmental state must reflect the values of legitimacy, credibility and authority because other states would be learning certain practices for the state in question. Since development is an integrated effort, it is the responsibility of the government of a developmental state to mobilise all social institutions in the country and assign different tasks to them⁴¹. After tasks are assigned, the government must also monitor the activities of the institutions and control them to make sure that they are in line with the achievement of the overall long term developmental objective⁴¹. No state can attain development by its own efforts therefore that state must engage other non-state

actors in its operations. This is where civil society, trade unions and so on come into the picture. Basically, the engagement of non-state actors would encourage the sharing of ideas among all actors including the state. The preamble given above means that categorically, South Africa could be considered as a developmental state. Even though there are very high levels of inequality among South Africans, South Africa is recognized as one of the most developed states on the continent. However, there are many domestic problems which still exist even after the quest of democracy has been pushed this far.

The last two decades has seen the promotion and practical evidence of democracy in South Africa but the social inequalities still undermine all these efforts of the past years. The country is also recognized as having one of the most prominent economies in the world after experiencing growth for a reasonable period of time. South Africa is mostly compared with the economies of Brazil, India and even China. That means the pedal stone of South Africa is quite remarkable internationally but this economic growth was still tagged with poverty growth in many areas. There is virtually no middle class in South Africa because the poor are not given the chance to acquire capital resources for investment. Former President, Thabo Mbeki already confirmed in one of his national speeches that there is an invisible economic divide in the country⁴¹. All these hitches on the social front of South Africa are undermining the country's public services therefore it would be very difficult for South Africa to transform from a developmental state into a democratic developmental state. The status of a developmental state is even become questionable by the day because, the actual problems that were dealt with by the South African government some years ago, are still creeping back into the system again and this time, it might be very difficult for the government to control them. Some of these problems are as follows:

- i Income inequalities
- ii Lack of access to government resources and provisions
- iii Lack of access to government services
- iv Lack of housing
- v Lack of basic utilities such as water and electricity
- vi High rate of diseases and pandemics
- vii High crime rate
- viii Poor education system⁴²

How did these problems resurface after all the efforts of the South African government? Bond answered this question by explaining that South Africa has always harboured the vision of constructing a democratic developmental state where resources would be shared evenly among all classes of citizens⁴². In this context, it means that even if it would be very difficult to eradicate poverty, resources would not be concentrated in the hands of rich elites only. However, harbouring the vision is quite different from translating the vision into practical actions. First of all, the status of developmental state must be made concrete before proceeding to a developmental one⁴². This means that the above stated problems must be dealt with thoroughly and measures must also be put in place to prevent them from resurfacing. When such actions are undertaken, then the country could open ways for a democratic developmental state. Solidifying the status of a developmental state would require South Africa to do the following:

- i Putting the right and effective institutions in place
- ii Creating a competent bureaucracy

iii Creating central economic agencies

iv Attracting intelligent and competent South Africans into the public service⁴¹

2.1.10.10 Barriers towards Civil Society Efforts in Africa

Most of the problems of civil society in Africa also constitute the problems of state development as well. Despite the major roles played by civil society in Africa, these problems limit their operational efficiency. Such problems and challenges include:

i Lack of connection with rural areas

ii Less or no unity

iii Lack of funding

iv Government interference

v Lack of internal democracy

vi Lack of skills for CSO personnel

vii Corruption

viii Personalisation of the regime

ix Militarization of politics

x Bureaucratic constraints

xi Movements of political Islam⁴³

The problem of minimal connection with the rural areas affects almost every African country irrespective of the level of development. Most CSOs only operate at the federal government level

with less decentralized activities. That is to say some parts of the country would benefit from CSO efforts while in other parts, CSO is not even known. Most of the organisations are located in the capital city of the country with few branches in other major cities. The problem with this situation is that most of the local populace are located in the rural areas and they are denied of the doctrines of CSOs and subsequently denied of the political consciousness and confidence to hold politicians accountable⁴³. Unity is another fact that cuts across all CSOs. When the virtue of unity is not maintained, it becomes very difficult for quality policies to operate effectively because there would always be different opinions on a particular decision due to lack of understanding. To worsen the situation, divisions among CSOs in Africa occur through ethnic regional lines therefore it becomes very difficult to solve such problems. Lack of unity also prevents the state from attending to the pleas of the CSOs because there would be no concrete decisions to present to the state for answers, so the CSO would become susceptible to penetrations from unauthorized private agencies or agents.

The problem of funding is quite obvious because, even organisations which are not CSOs also complain of the same issue. Lack of funding is caused by the limited sources of funds that the CSOs have. Most CSOs in Africa depend on donations from individuals and government support. Therefore, in situations where the objectives of the CSO are against the activities of the government, support may not be provided. In a worst case scenario, the CSO might have no government support and few donors so its operations might be limited to an extent. Another drawback in terms of funding is that foreign donors now prefer to support democratic institutions such as the legislature, judiciary and the executive rather than to support pro democratic institutions such as the CSOs. The support or interference of the government could be very crucial for the success of any CSO and its activities. The government is the only institution that

has the choice to either support or restrict the actions of any CSO in its country. Government support could either be financial or direct patronage of the ideas and actions of the CSO. Many CSOs also lack internal democracy⁴². Some are very reluctant to learn the values of democracy let alone to impact the mass citizens with them. Certain CSOs in Africa sometimes also lack the expertise and knowledge to engage the state even when the state's activities are unfavourable⁴³.

Corruption is one problem that cannot be left out so far as the subject of civil society is concerned. In Africa, corruption exist in many public and private organisations. The situation in the public sector is worse than the private sector because of how hard it is to control or deal with the problem. Countries such as Nigeria and Zimbabwe are known to have the highest rate of corruption in their public sectors⁴³. This kind of situation also affects the civil societies of the countries. Corruption practices in the civil society come in the form of lack of transparency in the use of funds, outright embezzlement, favouritism, the use of donations for personal activities and many more. Morally, the CSO would not have the capacity to engage the state because of these corrupt practices. When foreign donors become aware of the corrupt practices of CSOs they tend to be reluctant to help them or even associate with them due to the loss of integrity and value⁴³. Most African countries, especially in North Africa have the tradition of personalization a particular regime. That is to say, the importance of the regime is attached to a particular individual because of his or her religious, social or political contributions to the country. Therefore much authority is monopolized by such figures especially when the person is the Head of State. These kinds of situations are as a result of the Pharoanic political tradition that has been observed in Northern countries especially Egypt for so long⁴³. Militarisation of politics have also been a major problem on the African continent and its long term effects have been evident with the absence or struggling of civil societies in countries such as Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Uganda,

Burkina Faso and Mali⁴³. These and more countries have seen struggles in the past which also limited the operations of CSOs in such territories⁴³. During the regime of most military Heads of State in Africa, the military power they possessed were used to suppress any threat whatsoever that emerged during their time. When the military is given more power than social forces, it becomes difficult for the social forces to advance in terms of democracy⁴³. An obvious case was the move by the Presidency's annulment of the 2019 elections in Gambia. In many ways, the problem could have been solved in a more democratic way rather than employing military tactics which is a real threat to the future of civil society⁴³. Limiting military interventions would create a satisfactory balance between the State and Society.

CSOs are expanding in Africa and beyond but there are still a few hitches that need to be dealt with if the full potentials of these CSOs are to be realized. One of such hitches is bureaucratic constraints. This cannot really be considered as a huge problem because a larger picture of this could be linked with corruption. But in a lesser sense, bureaucracy only delays a lot of activities from taking place. The issue of bureaucracy is mostly noticed in North Africa or the Maghreb region. Examples of bureaucracy at work in North Africa are the failure of the Egyptian Government to recognize the Arab Organisation for Human Rights and also the forceful control of the National Monitor for Human Rights by the Algerian Government⁴³. The last but not the least challenge faced by civil society in Africa is the movement of political Islam. This problem is evident in mostly Islamic countries. Political Islamic movements are considered part of civil society but sometimes they undermine the development of civil society because of the enormous religious orientation involved⁴⁴. An example is the case of Sudan, where Islamic domains are created from every profession available. The Association of Islamic Lawyers was created from the Association of Lawyers while The Association of Islamic Doctors was created out of the

Association of Doctors⁴³. Such a case could simply be described as an Islamic ideological challenge of the State's legitimacy because most of their ideologies were geared towards the establishment of 'Islamic regimes'.

2.1.10.11 Future Prospects of Civil Society Efforts in Africa

The future prospects of civil society can be evaluated by examining the probable contextual environment which would be available in the next decade or so. This environment must be able to facilitate the operations of civil society in the near future. The second major issue which needs to be considered in the discussion of future prospects of civil society in Africa is the extent to which civil society would evolve in future environments⁴³. NGOs, religious leaders, labor leaders must act as forefront leaders in the preparations for the future. The roles of these three aforementioned CSOs are very important for the development of society. Due to changes in environment over the previous decades, the roles of these CSOs have also changed and that represents a huge responsibility for the civil societies in terms of adjusting to these new environments. The level of adjustment to new environments would determine the level of prospect of the CSO in the future. One of the newest environment in contemporary developmental context is the quest for a resilient global system and since the government, international organisations and businesses have reviewed their contributions in relation to this emerged environment, other civil society institutions must also endeavour to do same because when it comes to world economic issues, the government and business cannot function without civil society organisations⁴³.

In as much as civil societies are keen to review their roles to increase their contributions towards development in Africa, they must not hesitate to take notice of certain changes such as the increasing impact of external forces, restrictions towards opportunities and the importance of

strengthening relationships with businesses, international organisations and government. The easiest and most reliable way through which civil society can adapt to the changing environment is to find new and unusual sources of inspiration and relevance.

2.1.10.12 Changing Roles of Civil Society

Generally, the roles of most, if not all actors of development have changed. Some have shifted while others have expanded. In line with this, the roles of civil society have also shifted from the traditional watchdog role (holding institutions to account by promoting accountability and transparency) to other roles including advocacy, service provision, expert services, representation, citizenship championing, provision of solidarity support and defining standards⁴³. The advocacy role of civil society means that they focus on raising awareness for societal matters especially challenges that have been ignored by other actors especially the government.

Civil society does not only raise the awareness but also advocates for some level of societal changes where possible. Service provision is also another role which has been developed by civil society as a result of the emergence of new environments. With the role, civil society in Africa provides fringe services such as education and health but they only do this during reasonable periods or occasions such as disaster, disease outbreak or some other emergency periods. Expert services, on the other hand, are consultation and advisory contributions from civil society towards policy formulation, strategy development and solution building. The representation function of civil society allows them to provide a voice or platform for marginalized groups in the society such as disabled, orphans and so on. Such groups are underrepresented when it comes to meetings concerning social welfare⁴⁴. Civil society has also come to realize the importance of encouraging citizens not only to partake in group meetings but also engage in ventures that project or support their rights as citizens.

Just as explained before, civil society promote accountability and reliability. This responsibility also allows them to create rules and regulations by which operations in the market could be undertaken. Another of civil society efforts is that they could influence leaders to review their funding policies towards civil society efforts. Civil society must push for increments in funds allocation. One of the ways through which funding could be increased for civil society is by the establishment of a common Civil Society Fund which would solely sponsor CSO activities towards accountability and transparency. Funds would also be used to obtain technological improvements to facilitate communication activities of CSOs⁴⁴.

2.1.10.13 Civil Society and the State

The interaction between the state and civil society is better described in the publication titled *Civil Society: History and Possibilities*⁴⁵. The book described how autonomous institutions can be developed in a post-communist era without any jurisdiction from the state⁴⁵. This kind of explanation confirmed that civil society could be seen as an alternative to the state in terms of public service provision. The difficulties in Africa have resulted in the weakening of the modern state and subsequently the limitation of the scope of the state's control of affairs⁴⁵. In such a situation, the civil society becomes externally funded by the international community. Many modern states have failed in Africa and this has also provided opportunity for civil societies to perform national duties such as taking care of the needs of the population and alleviating poverty in the long run.

Instead of seeing civil societies as alternatives, they could also rather be perceived as a component to state development. In that sense, the power of civil societies would be equal to that of the state and other components. As indicated earlier on in this chapter, a strong civil society is a positive indicator of a strong democracy as well. Democracy in turn, facilitates development

and reduces poverty in the country. So long as virtues such as democratization, human rights and privatization are upheld in a society, the role of the civil society would not be underestimated⁴⁵. The role of the civil society as a component is not to oppose the state's actions but rather to uphold and improve on the welfare of each the citizens by working together with the state. In other words, the civil society serves as a defendant of nationalism⁴⁶. When a civil society is not perceived to be an alternative or component, then definitely it would exist as a counterbalance to the state and that is where it develops the right to criticize or scrutinize the activities of the state. In such case, civil society plays the role of a national watchdog and holds the state accountable for its actions. It also ensures that the state exhibits maximum transparency in all its decisions and actions especially on matters on national interest such as security and economy. This third perspective of civil societies has some connotations from the previous one but this time, the motivation is simply to oppose the government on unfavourable actions. With this preamble, it means that this third perspective confers two major responsibilities on civil societies which are; to criticize unfavourable government actions and also to uphold the welfare of the citizenry. Often times so many scholars make the mistake of perceiving civil society and society as identical but they are not. The basic distinction between the two is that 'society' as a whole contains the civil society or in other words, civil society is a subgroup found in the society. However, the civil society might be made of a greater or smaller part of the society depending on different factors within the country. That is to say, civil societies differ in size with respect to the country in question. An example of a country with larger part of its society in its civil society is Norway because most Norwegians are part of one voluntary group or the other. India's civil society is also made up of a large portions of society but not as large as Norway⁴⁶.

An outstanding feature of India's civil society is its vibrant nature but most Indians have failed to joined voluntary groups due to poverty and illiteracy⁴⁶. The case of Zambia is quite opposite to that of Norway and India. Zambia has a relatively smaller, non-vibrant civil society which has been dealing with government hostility for the past two decades or so. The reason why the size and nature of a civil society are important is that, they determine the level of potentials or limitations which the civil society might exhibit or face respectively⁴⁶. The potentials of civil societies are overestimated in some cases and underestimated in others. Civil societies have played major roles in countries such as South Africa, Philippines and India in the sense that it had contributed immensely to their political transformations during their anticolonial struggles in the past. The question still remains that '*should civil societies still be considered relevant in these modern times?*' Scholars like David Korten really believes that civil societies are still relevant in contemporary times therefore the revival of civil societies (he referred to them as human societies) would be one of the keys to reduce injustice in less developed nations⁴⁶.

Critics of Korten's views, on the other hand, believe that the level of expectations and confidence Korten expresses in civil societies, could place them at risk. This is because when those expectations lead to disappointment, people hanging on the hope of civil societies would eventually give up totally. The surest way to avoid any disappointment is to limit the expectations on civil societies and rather concentrate on managing social diversities and grievances of the ordinary citizens⁴⁶. This means that there is a greater responsibility for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) especially the experienced ones in Africa. CSOs in Africa often find it difficult to deal with poverty as compared to other problems because of limited resources, internal divisions, lack of resources and lack of understanding of the problem⁴⁶.

The limitations of CSOs with respect to poverty reduction are very severe and need to be addressed in recent debates. The first limitation is that most of these CSOs are really not interested in issues concerning poverty reduction because, already, the CSOs are also poor. Therefore any concentration on poverty reduction would be internal rather than external. Again, this fact depends on the particular country in reference. For example, the CSO in South Africa is better off than the CSO in Malawi or Zambia.

2.1.11 Poverty Reduction in Africa

It was obvious that the major aim of NEPAD was economic development through different objectives which include poverty reduction. Poverty reduction policies which have been adopted in Sub Saharan Africa over the last two decades include the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These policies are geared towards promoting trade, investment, industrial development and infrastructure.

2.1.11.1 New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a very excellent project which could be used to evaluate the contributions of civil society towards development in Africa⁴⁷. NEPAD was conceived in 2001 when the Heads of States of African countries met in 2001 in Lusaka in Zambia. The major aim of this development was to provide a concrete and strategic vision which would increase development in Africa through economic cooperation of African countries. Prior to NEPAD, there were two different plans which were laid down by Thabo Mbeki and Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo and these plans were the Millenium partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MARF) and the OMEGA Plan which was developed by President

Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal⁴⁷. These two plans were later fused together to create the NEPAD. The aim of NEPAD was to be achieved by setting certain objectives which included the eradication or reduction of poverty, promotion of sustainable growth, integration of African economies and the empowerment of women⁴⁸. These objectives were to be achieved by applying the principles of conflict resolution, good governance, democracy and the protection of human rights.

Two sectors that contributed towards the successful implementation of the NEPAD at that time were the private sector and the civil society⁴⁹. The importance of the civil society and private sector were even stated in the NEPAD Framework Document. To evaluate the significance of the civil society in the implementation of NEPAD, the evaluation must be done at different levels including national, sub regional and continental levels. NEPAD has prioritized its activities into eight areas including political, agricultural, education, infrastructure, health, science and technology, tourism, environment and economic.

As of 2010, NEPAD had made considerable progress in areas such as poverty eradication, women empowerment and education. This was facilitated by the ability of the African Union to intensify the inclusion of NEPAD into its structures and processes⁴⁹. This move created a huge confidence for the NEPAD framework and also established a productive relationship between the AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat which consequently facilitated the development of the AU/NEPAD Action Plan (AAP). NEPAD had received a lot of support from the United Nations and many regional institutions. In 2008, global institutions such as the World Bank, the European Union, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Group of Eight Industrialized Nations (G8) have also shown recognition and support for the NEPAD program⁵⁰. The motivation for the NEPAD program was the fact that African economies were weak due to

their dependence on primary production. There were other areas such as export that needed to be explored by these African economies but one country could not do that single handedly therefore an integration was highly necessary. There are two issues associated which are supposed to be taken seriously so far as these policies are concerned. The first issue is the provision of support for these policies and the second issue is the implementation of these policies. Providing support for these policies is very important and this support must come from all the countries in the Africa. When policies are drafted, African countries must debate them extensively and also participate in the formulating them as well. The implementation of the policies is as equally important as their formulation and this is where Aid agencies take center stage.

It is not easy to define poverty as a concept at all. The different definitions that have emerged have all considered the financial orientation using concepts such as income, consumption, spending and so on to measure the level of poverty in a particular society⁵¹. This kind of definition had existed since the end of the Second World War but in contemporary times, the definition has been refined by the inclusion of different concepts related to basic needs, capabilities and human development. These concepts are closely linked with indicators such as life expectancy, educational attainment and standard of living which are all yardsticks for the measurement of the level of human development⁵¹. For Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD), poverty could be defined as ‘interlinked forms of deprivation in the economic, human, political, socio-cultural and protective spheres⁵¹. Poverty causes an individual to loose his or her voice and power (Narayan et al., 2000). Sub-Sahara Africa has not improved on its poverty problem since 1990 so that made it the poorest region in the world as of the 2002. Poverty related to income have reduced in all other continents except Africa because approximately 300 million of the population in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) live on less than \$1 a day⁵¹.

There are also situations where poverty is perceived as a dynamic problem in some countries. Therefore citizens keep going in and out of poverty as a result of issues such as dependency, age, ownership and so on. For example, when a teenager depends on his family for support, he or she is considered poor due to his or her age and dependency on family. However, when he or she becomes an adult and gets employed or stops depending on his or her parents, he is not considered poor at that stage. In other countries, poverty is perceived as a chronic. That is to say people who are referred to as poor must have been poor for most part of their life and even possibly passed on towards future generations. There are many factors that contribute to the persistence of poverty in the Africa and these factors are either socio-economic or political-economy driven. The common ones include corruption, weak civil society, human rights, resource curse, weak nations, low capabilities, inequality, exclusion, risk and vulnerability and more.

2.1.11.2 Socio-Economic of Poverty Factors

Risk and Vulnerability

In our everyday life, there is bound to be different risks and vulnerabilities especially when it comes to issues concerning survival but people in the rural areas face the highest risks because they depend mostly on agriculture⁵⁰. In Africa, large portions of the populace depend on agriculture therefore it means that most citizens in the SSA region face higher risks as well. These risks and vulnerability are contributory factors that facilitate poverty in the Africa region and they include harvest failure, conflict, health shocks and market failure. Harvest failure is the prime risk factor face by people living in the rural households in the Africa⁵². There geographical nature of lands in Africa makes it prone to problems such as environmental degradation, poor roads, landslides and poor access to inputs which in turn increase the vulnerability of the rural

inhabitants of the Africa region and also reduce the national budget of the country in question. The long term effect of the harvest failure risk include national budget instability, selling of assets by rural inhabitants and unfavourable national trade. An example of harvest failure was the case of Southern Africa between 2011 and 2019 which was caused by heavy rainfall which in turn causes a general decrease in the level of maize harvest in the region. In the long run, there was huge inflation in the whole of Southern Africa with Malawi experiencing the highest of 400 percent increase in prices of maize⁵².

Conflict is another form of risk and vulnerability factor which breeds poverty in Africa⁵³. A very high and positive correlation exists between conflict and poverty. In Africa, there have been different phases of conflicts ranging from civil wars, ethnic wars, military curfews and so on. Between 2017 and 2017, more than 35% of states in the Africa were negatively affected by conflicts which had occurred about a decade of two ago⁵³. Conflicts always have a direct and negative effect on the survival of the household. The poor masses are the ones who bear most of the consequences of a conflict while the elites always benefit one way or the other. The effect of conflicts include severe injuries, deaths, destruction of properties, displacement of households and many more others. These consequences go a long way to increase the dependency ratios in the affected countries. When properties such as company buildings, warehouses and offices are destroyed it mostly results in the jeopardizing of the livelihood of most citizens by causing unemployment and low savings which eventually lead to poverty. Conflicts also cause cultural friction and dislocation⁵³. Market failure is another form of risk and vulnerability factor as far as poverty in Africa is concerned. Market failure does not cause poverty in SSA but rather increases it. This is due to the fact that poor people in Africa do not possess the materials and properties that could help them recover in terms of any market shocks. When there is market fragmentation

(lack of infrastructural linkages) the effect is not felt by only the markets but also by the producers themselves because they are deprived on information when there are changes in prices⁵⁴.

There is also the need to discuss risks such as health shocks which is also a very strong risk that makes producers vulnerable and eventually poor. When citizens have health issues, production activities tend to slow down or reduce and this results in the general loss in assets and properties. Ill health and poverty could work in two dimensions. That is to say ill health can cause poverty and poverty can cause ill health as well. The level health problems in Africa is at an alarming rate with mortality rate in 2015 was 166/200 and there has not been much improvement since then⁵⁴. On the other hand, life expectancy has reduced since three decades ago. Low life expectancy is caused by many factors including untreated or untreatable diseases. One of such diseases is HIV/AIDS. Therefore in actual sense, it could be concluded that untreated diseases could cause poverty in the long run. As of 2016, deaths resulting in HIV/AIDS cases in SSA were approximately 2 million⁵⁵. When a household is affected by HIV/AIDS, that household normally faces other vices such as less income, reduced food security and drought⁵⁵.

Inequality and exclusion

Inequality can simply be described as discrepancies in the sharing of resources between the poor and the rich. In many modern societies, the rich are always favoured when it comes to sharing social resources while the poor are always discriminated against⁵⁶. Such acts can prolong the poverty that already exists or even magnify it. There are many domains where inequalities exist especially in African societies and they include income, asset ownership, employment, health, education and so on. Many African societies are structured in such ways that they rich would have various options to protect or increase their wealth and also make it difficult for the poor to

accumulate much wealth⁵⁶. Any society that has a high level of inequality is also bound to breed low school enrolments, high fertility rates, corruption and low life expectancy. Low income also restricts individuals from acquiring properties that could help them to produce more wealth, therefore it has long term effects on national income as well. In a country such as Tanzania, the inequality is gender oriented while countries such as Burundi and Senegal have religious oriented inequalities⁵⁶.

Exclusion on the other hand, reduces the capabilities of the individual⁵⁷. The difference between exclusion and inequality in this context is that, exclusion totally deprives the individual outright share of social resources even when they need them. In worse cases of exclusion, the individual is deprived of very basic resources such as food, shelter, clothing and also basic rights such as rights of association and rights to ownership which are very crucial for the acquisition of wealth. With inequality, the individual still gets to partake in the social resources including institutions but his or her share depends on factors such as age, gender, race, ethnicity and so on⁵⁷. These factors are also considered when it comes to exclusion as well. These factors were the basis on which the Rwandan genocide and the San face in Botswana occurred.

2.1.11.3 Political Economy of Poverty Factors in Africa

Africa's economic problems are magnified by the fact that most of its countries have not done enough in reduce poverty on the continent⁵⁸. This is due to the wrong decisions taken by African leaders from time to time. The factors discussed above are defects which can be solved by the affected individual or at most by the society he or she lives in. There are also factors which cause or facilitate poverty but are not within the control of the individual. Such factors are caused by the activities of the state, its political system or its political leadership.

Some of these problems or factors include corruption, non-developmental politics, weak states, weak civil society, resource curse and human rights.

Corruption

The act of corruption sweeps across the entire globe but the cases in Africa are mostly extreme especially in countries such as Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and Ghana. Long lists of public officials have been accused and charged with corrupt activities ranging from outright stealing, ghost payments, bribery and kickbacks⁵⁹. Corruption prevails in countries with weaker institutions because accountability is low or absent totally. A corrupt individual might not really affect the nation extensively except he or she was Head of State but a corrupt set of elites would undermine poverty reduction activities.

State Weakness

A weak state would obviously have weak institutions as well as a weak security or defense system. In many African countries, land and properties are owned and controlled by individuals and that makes it very hard for the government to oversee many activities that transpire in terms of properties. The only way these governments can control such activities is through policies⁶⁰. In the case of a weak state, there would also be weak policies and citizens would absolutely take the law into their own hands. In countries such as Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Djibouti where many properties are controlled by the government, the rate of poverty would be so low. On the other hand, countries in which many other authorities compete with the state would experience an abysmal use of properties by many citizens and that might result in poverty.

Weak Civil Society

Africans prefer simple ways of living and would always try to avoid the complexities by maintaining very minimal contacts outside their religion, tribe, clan, family or region. This does not mean Africans are not patriotic but rather means that most of them are conversant with their own small societies as compared to a shared national identity. In other words, Africans have a closed society which limits their contact with other citizens in other societies. This means that many Africans have weak societies⁶¹. Donors would only support organisations which are based in the capital city rather than those in the rural areas therefore many of the closed societies in the rural areas are often ignored the access to certain benefits or advantages⁶². This kind of situation still exist in many African societies till today and it has numerous impacts on poverty. Due to the lack of government support for these closed societies, it becomes very difficult for these societies to organize and finance their own campaigns especially the campaigns with political agendas. The role of the media cannot be underestimated when it comes to societal development but in many African countries, media outlets are owned and controlled by political figures who prefer to direct the media to work with institutions in the urban cities than the rural ones.

Human Right

Human rights is also considered as a variable of development because it can shape poverty in many ways. The explanation of human right and poverty could indirectly be linked to the principles of inequality and exclusion. When a citizen is deprived of any right in any form, such deprivation can undermine local attempts to change systems that contribute to, and perpetuate, poverty⁶³. In the formulation of poverty reduction policies, policy makers would always need to consider the virtues of empowerment, participation and accountability. In Africa, many poverty reduction strategies or policies are formulated to match the norms and required international

standards. The international evaluation of human rights depends on the standard of living of the citizens of that particular country. That is to say, food, health, housing, education and social security should all be at excellent levels, if not some of them⁶³.

Mismanagement of Resources

Perhaps the most obvious cause of poverty in Africa is resource curse. This is because African countries solely depend on primary production, which means that the success of any African country would depend on its endowments of raw materials such as oil, gold, gas, diamonds, bauxite, manganese, timber and many more. The successes of countries such as Ghana and South Africa are heavily associated with the availability of gold and cocoa while the success Nigeria is associated with the availability of crude oil⁶⁴. The availability of these resources have also caused problems in some countries such as Sierra Leone which is heavily endowed with diamond fields but has failed to develop and most of its citizens live on less than a dollar per day. The advent of corruption and misappropriation of funds has led to the impoverishment of most of the citizens after the civil war. The rent and royalties gained from extracting resources in Africa goes directly into the pockets of leaders while the masses suffer from inequalities, deprivation of rights and low standard of living.

2.2 Theoretical Review

2.2.1 Theory of Liberalism

Before the mid centuries, the ideologies of liberalism were tuned towards a democratic direction in which a market society and democratic political institutions prevailed⁶⁵. All these ideology developments revolved around the commitment towards human rights. The problem of poverty became so severe during the nineteenth century to the extent that solutions to the problem

needed some amendments in the commercial and capitalist atmosphere of the society. The components of liberalism have always been connected with seeking the maximum welfare of the society. However, in as much as the will to attain a maximum welfare increases each and every day, the problem of poverty also increases each and every day in different societies. The developing of liberal thoughts was done based on the concept of poverty after the Cold War era⁶⁵. During this development, three basic liberal conceptions of poverty were established namely poverty in a *moral* sense, poverty as a sense of *justice* and poverty as a matter of *utility*⁴⁷. It was on the basis of these three concepts that three major instruments were established to aid the transition of the concepts of poverty from the Cold War era to the mid-nineteenth century. These three instruments were the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Millenium Development Goals and the South African Constitution.

2.2.1.1 Instruments of Liberal Theories

The first instrument, the International Covenant, had two different components namely the Economic Covenant and the Civil Covenant⁶⁶. The Civil Covenant was ratified in 1992 by the Bush Administration but the United States failed to ratify the Economic Covenant. As of 2008, all the Western states, China and Japan had all passed their ratifications and waiting for the United States. The second instrument, the South African Constitution was drafted in 1994 after the apartheid was over⁶⁶. It was one of the documents which fully supported economic rights. It required every state to provide a very high standard of living for its citizens and also respect the rights of the citizens to enjoy quality education, health, food and shelter⁶⁷. No state in the world could boast of a clear constitutional level of commitment to economic rights aside this South African Constitution⁶⁸. The third instrument that helped developed liberal thoughts of poverty was the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) developed by the United Nations⁶⁸. The MDGs

were designed to achieve two major objectives; stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and reducing global poverty rate by half. These three instruments helped convey the three major concepts of liberalism from period to period.

2.2.1.2 The Moral Conception of Poverty in Liberal Theories

The first concept of poverty according to liberalism was moral responsibility⁶⁹. Liberalists believed that the poor are not meant to suffer therefore the rich people are automatically conferred with a compassionate responsibility to help the poor⁶⁹. This moral conception is mostly facilitated by certain religious connotations. However, the explanation of poverty by Immanuel Kant was rather based on reasoning than religion. He explained that the reason why the poor should be helped by others in the society is that others in the society would also wish to be helped if there were to be in that situation too⁶⁹. The moral conception does not consider what caused the poverty but rather the best solutions that would consider the poor population. With the moral conception, liberals also concluded that poverty is inevitable so there should be a standby solution for the poor and the solution must be orchestrated or developed by the very society in which the poor people dwell. The moral conception has limitations because the responsibility of helping the poor lies with the individuals in the community. That is to say, the help must come from one individual to the other. Another limitation is that there is no legal scrutiny involved should the donor refuse to offer a helping hand to the poor⁶⁹.

The advantage of the moral conception is that it comes in the form of an appeal to the donor without any forceful obligations therefore there is a greater possibility for the donor to consider helping the poor when he is allowed to do so by his or her will. If the donor or the benefactor fails to listen to the pleas of the poor, he or she is described as having no moral consciousness. The poor person is described as 'unfortunate' while the rich is described as 'lucky'. The

objective of the MDGs are mostly backed by the moral conception described above therefore it is better to evaluate MDGs by their moral achievements rather than their legal achievements⁴⁹. Preferably, it would also be effective if they are evaluated by both but problems would arise when the some legal objectives contradict the moral ones. The South African Constitution also has deep connections with the moral conception of poverty. The whole era of apartheid, from its emergence to its end was one of the moral claims ever to have occurred.

2.2.1.3 The Justice Conception of Poverty in Liberal Theories

The second conception of poverty according to the liberal theory was based on justice⁷⁰. In this context, liberals had the perception that poverty was created because the state failed to exhibit justice on behalf of some groups in society. That is to say, poverty is the result of the state's injustice political activities towards vulnerable members of a particular society. When such unfairness occurs, it usually involves depriving individuals of their rights. The individuals would always make claims to the state concerning their rights but some states fail to fulfill their part of the obligations either because of the unavailability of resources, some form of greediness or other reasons best known to the state⁷⁰. Liberalist explained this by referring to the legal system of property. Liberal opined that the indigenous land owners get deprived twice and that is injustice to the brim. First, the ownership of their lands are transferred to the rich elites and then second, they are not given any compensation for their loss⁵⁰. French people appreciate economic rights because of their long history under monarchy rule where economic rights were only determined by the monarch leadership. On the other hand, Americans have always encouraged capitalism where economic rights were decentralized and choices were made available for the citizens, therefore their level of appreciation of economic rights cannot be compared with that of the French⁷⁰. The confirmation of the French people's appreciation for

economic rights could be seen in their inclusion of the rights of the poor into the French Constitution of 1791.

The justice concept of poverty sees the poor as 'rights bearers' as compared to the moral conception which sees them as 'unfortunate'. The South African Constitution was developed based on the claims of rights by citizens especially the poor⁷⁰. In 1913, the South African government enacted the Natives Land Act which gave them the opportunity to deprive Black South Africans of all the lands. As if that was not enough, most Black Africans were also deprived of their South African Citizenship in 1948, a right that they were entitled to by birth. When Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress came into power in 1994, they were determined to fight for justice on behalf of the black indigenes. The Economic Covenant mentioned earlier on was also rooted in the principle of justice. The Economic Covenant derived its justice claims from many different instruments such as the Constitutions of Latin American countries and materials published by Frank Roosevelt based on the idea of 'freedom of want'⁷¹.

2.2.1.4 The Utility Conception of Poverty in Liberal Theories

The third conception of poverty developed under the liberal theory was that poverty results from the illogical arrangements of economic and legal institutions⁷². That means poverty becomes a question of utility and this can be linked directly with the nature of human beings. Human beings naturally want to attain the highest level of utility possible but they want to do so with the lowest level of pain⁷². The relationship between this principle and poverty is that the state must consider poverty as its pain even though the actual pain is felt by the poor people. In other words, the pain of poor people is also the pain of the state, therefore naturally, the state must endeavour to reduce the pain by devising a system where poverty would be reduced⁵². On the other hand, when the poor are transformed into productive members of the society, it would go a long way to enhance

the aggregate happiness of that particular society and that is the necessary action every state should endeavour to undertake. The conception of utility is only directed to the state and not the indigenes because if the state fails to eradicate or reduce poverty, other social vices or crimes such as stealing, killing, violent acts and so on would emerge to increase the insecurity in the society⁷³. The long term effect of insecurity in a society or state is destabilization. For a state to reduce poverty effectively using the utility concept as a guideline, some of the actions that the state could undertake include:

- i. Collection of data and taxes
- ii. Establishment of civil institutions
- iii. Establishment of the necessary bureaucracies⁷³

Utilitarianism was one of the underlying principles on which neoliberalism was established. Utilitarianism actually reflects the whole idea of the Bretton Wood System and the long term motives⁷³. The Millenium Development Goals is the only instrument that is rooted in both the conceptions of utility and justice. The main purpose of the MDG was to reduce poverty by 50 percent in 2030. This is purely based on the state's recognition of the utilitarianism conception. However, the question that remains on the minds of many scholars is 'What happens to the other 50 percent?' That is where the conception of justice comes in, only that in this context it is rather injustice that is exhibited.

2.2.1.5 Liberalism and Civil Society

Liberal views of civil society is concerned with how states have been transformed from an era of dictatorship to an era of democracy⁷⁴. During this period, many countries experienced democratization in different forms and that would not have been possible without civil societies.

Churches, social movements and voluntary organisations have all played their part in making democratization a success. The ideas of liberalism concerning civil society rest on the notion that an entity can only be free when it is given the will to choose which actions to perform. This is the only way that entity could experience liberty. Theories of liberalism also assert that the only way different changes can emerge to facilitate the development of a society is when groups or individuals operate independently from the state because as long as the state is involved, the groups will be limited by law in many aspects⁷⁴. Liberals also believe in the power of pluralism. In this sense, they mean that civil society is better off when it provides the platform for individuals to choose different projects upon which their lives would be built. One major obligation which liberals confer on the state is that, the state is responsible for ensuring that the rights of citizens are guaranteed. Specifically, the most important rights that need to be guaranteed include the right to free association and free speech⁷⁴. These rights allow individuals to relate with other individuals based on a common identification or objective. These rights also allow civil society to hold governments and international organisations responsible for their actions. The Table below shows a summary of the various concepts of liberal theories, their meanings and their proponents.

2.2.1.6 John Locke's Classical Liberal Idea of Civil Society

It is worth discussing John Locke's perspective on civil society because his explanation was connected to the flaws in nature, which was a natural phenomenon or concept. For Lockean perspective, nature has provided inequalities which make individuals to act based on the provisions nature made for them⁷⁴. However, he sees solutions to these inequalities and such solutions can only be provided by civil society. Lockean idea is that civil society is capable of providing an equal political opportunity for independent people and also judge them based on

how they used their opportunity rather than what they possess naturally⁷⁵. The explanation of Locke was highly motivated by Christianity. In this context, the Christian notion that ‘all human beings were created equal and deserve to be treated with equality’ holds. However, at a point in history, Christianity was seen not be enough to propound solutions to the problems in the society. Therefore a different scholar known as Adam Smith offered a new approach. Adam Smith argued that people relationships that exist among members of civil society must be based on trade and other economic benefits. This is where international organisations come into the picture.

2.2.2 Neo-liberalism

Poverty has been on the agenda of the World Bank since its rejeunation. The focus of the World Bank on poverty in 1972 represented the beginning of global neoliberalist ideas concerning poverty which later manifested as the Washington Consensus in global politics⁷⁴. Even though the poverty agenda became a serious issue in 1972, the actual antipoverty campaign by World Bank practically began in 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall⁷⁴. During this time, the economic and social situation of the world was not properly presented in numerical values or terms until the first Human Development Report was published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)⁷⁴. The years 1995 and 1997 represented a more improved approach towards the campaign of poverty reduction because the UN actually dedicated two of its sessions to discuss this issue in 1995 and finally, a campaign was set by the UN for poverty reduction dubbed UN Decade for the Elimination of Poverty.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also contributed immensely towards the poverty reduction campaign by transforming its Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) into Poverty Reduction and Growth Facilities (PRGF) which propelled every state to develop its own Poverty

Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). Progress was made because over 40 countries had already adhered to this assignment⁷⁵. In 2010, the UN issued the Millennium Declaration which had the aim of reducing global poverty and hunger by 50 percent by 2030. The anti-poverty campaign of the World Bank began with poverty alleviation but with time and efforts the responsibility was reduced to poverty reduction and some of the campaigns span over 25 years while others span over 15 years. As of 2005, the Millennium Declaration was nowhere near the achievement of its missions and objectives. According to the World Bank, 2021 recorded over two million people living under \$2 a day around the globe. This figure excludes the Chinese and the Indian population who constitute almost half population of the world⁵⁵. Some scholars believe that these figures recorded by the World Bank do not represent the accurate situation of poverty. They believe that the figure is so optimistic and serves as a drawback to the anti-poverty campaign. Scholars who criticized these World Bank figures argued that there have been other instances where higher figures have been recorded. One of those periods included the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). Whatever the case might be the World Bank figures which are seen as the lowest figures still confirm that the situation of poverty is far from improved. If the figures of the World Bank are prolonged over a twenty year period beginning from 2001 it would mean that the world would have over 300 million poor people in 2020, if all other factors are held constant. One factor that has compounded the world poverty situation is the slow economic growth of the South countries since the mid-80s. All these descriptions above question the context in which poverty could be defined or described. Practically, poverty is difficult to measure but the fact still remains that it has both quantitative and qualitative aspects of it. Qualitatively, there are factors which facilitate the growth of poverty in many societies. Such factors include such as low life

expectancy, difficult access to education and absence of hygiene. The question is ‘How do these factors occur?’ Most of the assessments of poverty in the past blamed the poor people themselves for their woes but contemporary researches have proven that other actors such as the government should also share in the blame for bad governance and corruption. Due to the problems of determining the causing factors of poverty, there was a problem with the campaign of poverty reduction as well⁷³. Poverty reduction process vary from society to society or country to country. For example, the poverty reduction campaign in Vietnam has been very successful because of the proper integration of agriculture into the market economy. Even though most of the Vietnamese population have been living below \$2 per day, their poverty situation came with dignity because of a successful poverty reduction campaign⁷⁴. At least most of their basic needs were met. On the other hand, poverty reduction campaigns in Latin American countries have been very unsuccessful as compared to some Asian countries⁵⁵. The irony of this situation is that Latin American countries have a good market system which has been in place for a reasonable period of time so it is quite unfortunate that countries which do not have good market systems have seen progress in poverty reduction than them.

With these preambles, poverty must rather be described in a contextual form rather than a general form. In a non-market economy, poverty must be defined as the absence of means of provision for one’s existence but in a market economy poverty could be described as the lack of financial resources or means⁷⁵. That is to say, the description of poverty in a contextual way would go a long way to help with the approaches that would be used to reduce that poverty. Both liberalism and neoliberalism consider the market as a very strong factor in dealing with poverty. However, neoliberalism extensively considers the category of people who are not capable of producing much as ‘useless beings’. Liberalism on the other hand does not support the exclusion

of the less productive individuals but rather integrates them into the market in two different ways. First, a liberal economy provides an avenue for non-productive individuals to be able to sell their labour power, but prices are determined by the buyers. Secondly, liberal economies also encourage such individuals to set up small entrepreneurship companies which they could use to sustain themselves at least. Entrepreneurs thus regarded as barefoot capitalists. Liberalism also supports the provision of micro-credit to facilitate the progress of these kinds of entrepreneurs⁷⁶. Contemporary capitalist economies are built on the inequalities created from being unfair to poor people. In some societies, there are even religious connotations attached to poverty such as ‘poor people are children of sinners’ and ‘rich people are blessed by God’ but the liberalists disapprove of all these references.

2.2.2.1 Neo-liberalists Strategies of Poverty Reduction

International organisations such as the World Bank, IMF, and the World Trade Organisation sound sure of their solutions to poverty reduction but developing countries find it very difficult to cope with the requirements put in place by these institutions⁷⁷. The first major criteria they emphasize on is the economic growth of the society. Growth in this context does not refer to a short term improvement but a steady or long term growth over time. From the neoliberal and liberal views, growth is only facilitated by a free and fully functioning market with no barriers at all⁷⁷. They also believe that the removal of barriers and the opening of doorways to other societies is the only way the poor people might benefit positively from the economy. One wonders which benefit they were referring to. Scholars referred to this kind of benefit as the trickle down benefit which could also be described in some other instances as ‘picking up the crumbs’⁷⁸. The poverty reduction campaign can be very ineffective if the campaign if certain measures are not instituted at the macro-economic level because, that is the level where the IMF

gets to monitor the activities of different states or societies. If IMF would approve the growth level of any state then that state is required to undertake the following measures:

- i. Reduce its government expenditure
- ii. Privatize its public services
- iii. Excel in its education and health services
- iv. Repay its current debts⁷⁸

These are the four basic requirements that would enable the IMF to stretch its credit provision towards that particular state. The dynamics that take place in the market could be very consequential especially for the poor. Therefore the aim of poverty reduction is to get rid of these dynamics or at least reduce their effects on the less privileged. Examples of the devastating effects of market dynamics could be seen in Bangladesh. In the textile industry of Bangladesh, there have been serious complaints of poor conditions of work and meagre salaries⁷⁸. The poor working conditions have even resulted in over 250 deaths by fire. The average monthly income ranges from 15 to 35 Euros for which 12 hours of work daily is demanded from the workers. Bangladesh is not the only South Asian country that is facing such problems because similar cases have also been recorded in Sri Lanka as well⁷⁸. However, the World Bank was quick to react in the case of Sri Lanka in 2015. First of all, the World Bank moved to stop the production of rice in Sri Lanka because it was less costly to produce in other areas such as Vietnam and Thailand. However, there were still some poor stubborn farmers who still went ahead to produce on smaller scales and sell on the black market. The World Bank did not stop those few farmers from producing but rather forced the Sri Lanka government to propound tax levies for the irrigation system used by those farmers⁷⁸. The pressure exerted on the Sri Lanka government by

the World Bank propelled the government to issue a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper dubbed 'Regaining Sri Lanka'. World Bank knew that when many farmers are given this kind of opportunity, they would come running and most of them would reduce the value of their labor. When the value of labour reduces, foreign investment is attracted⁷⁸. The initial stages of the Strategy recorded huge success but as the years went by, the Strategy became less effective especially after it had been in existence for almost four decades. With time, the Sri Lankan farmers agitated for better wages and at a point, labour became so expensive to the extent that foreigners now preferred to invest their capital in countries such as Vietnam and China where labour costs relatively less. When the Sri Lanka government noticed that labour had become too expensive and because of these foreign investments were diverting, the government needed to formulate policies, which would make the labour more competitive⁷⁸. Even though the World Bank supported the government, it also urged the government to consider three vital factors when formulating the policies which included traditional cultures, social organisation and civil society participation.

As stated earlier on in this chapter, the most dangerous move in poverty reduction is to resort to individualization. Individualization is a neo-liberal idea which encourages each poor person to fend for themselves instead of depending on social protection. The liberal idea encourages social protection but at the end of the day, privatization becomes stronger and the poor are denied access to certain basic needs. A study by Dante Salazar revealed that those in the most extreme poverty end do not get to benefit from poverty reduction policies but rather those who are relatively poor. That means the only choices for the poor is to remain stagnant or get poorer because of the complexity of social relations⁷⁸. The wealth created by the world so far is capable of alleviating poverty if only funds would be allocated to the poor in the right way⁷⁹. The UNDP

also reiterated that advanced countries only needed 133 and 195 billion dollars to alleviate poverty in 2006 and 2015 respectively⁷⁹. Sometimes some countries do not even need to receive funds from advanced countries to alleviate or reduce poverty in their societies, even though they would need the policy support of these advanced countries. There are many societies such as China and Cuba which have succeeded in eradicating most of the factors that facilitate poverty including illiteracy, destitution and endemic diseases. If certain countries could do this mostly on their own then there is no need to follow the framework of the World Bank because that framework of poverty reduction has been designed to make the campaign difficult to win. This is the core mentality of the neo-liberalists' idea.

2.2.2.2 International Organisations

Civil societies believe that it is about time international organisations become more liberal or decentralized in their decision making process. International Organisations have come under serious criticisms lately for developing policies which limit the thorough involvement of civil societies in their activities⁸⁰. Even the so called democracy in the Western world has been jeopardized by certain international organisation such as the World Bank and the IMF. International Organisations have begun to see civil societies as threats because the aims of these civil societies include finding remedies to reduce the extent to which power is exercised by international bureaucrats and multinational corporations⁸⁰. These civil societies also aim to increase their own participation in the decision making process of national, international and global issues but obviously that aim goes against the wishes of international organisations especially financial ones. The appeal or struggle for a more liberal decision making process has triggered a lot of reforms by international organisations. Even though many of these reforms have not been implemented yet, their drafting represents a positive initiative towards fairness in

terms of international and global issues. What are civil societies actually fighting for? Is it just to be given a greater voice in global decision making? As mentioned earlier on, Civil Societies want to be given a greater recognition when it comes to global decisions but there is more to that. These civil societies are actually seeking for transparency in the activities of their governments. They believe that the government should represent the state and its citizens fully rather than conniving or better still, 'submitting' to the demands of multinational corporations⁸¹. In Africa, the concern of civil societies is more of holding their government is accountable because citizens are becoming aware that international organisations are doing more harm than good. To achieve this objective, international organisations need to include civil societies in their system. This means that the whole system must be amended to create a space for civil society to operate. However, it must be noted that the type of reforms needed varies from organisation to organisation because each of them has a different system they operate by.

The World Bank is not just any international organisation but a financial one, which means it would have an upper hand in economic affairs than other international organisations⁸². So far, it is the institution which has accommodated the civil society over the years than any other international organisation and this was as a result of some successful reforms undertaken in the past. One area which has seen different reforms to include civil society is decision making process of loan issuing. For example, before the World Bank would issue a loan to any non-state organisation for infrastructural projects, it requires the organisation to consult local authorities to make sure that relocation plans and environmental safety precautions are put in place⁸³. The participation of civil society might not be directly related to the decision making process but it might as well be significant and vital because it gives the ability to influence the decisions of the government. Another type of loan decisions in which the World Bank welcomes the

contributions of civil society is on adjustment loans. In 2018, the World Bank conducted an exercise to evaluate the effect of adjustment loans on different economies⁸⁴. The African countries that benefited from this exercise included Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Uganda. The exercise was in the form of a consultation between World Bank representatives, government representatives and civil societies of the beneficiary countries. The duration of the exercise was five years and the exercise was dubbed Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative (SAPRI) in 2018⁸⁴. During the evaluation, the indicators that were used as yardsticks for measurements included poverty rates, productive capacity and basic rights. The World Bank commended civil society for their immense contribution during the exercise and also promised that the future would see more involvement of civil society in economic policy decisions at the World Bank⁸⁴. Even though the World Bank had positive remarks concerning the contributions of civil society during the initiative, civil society on the hand did not approve of the decisions of the World Bank. Therefore in 2019, the civil society report on SAPRI was not encouraging at all. There were bitter complaints especially concerning the overall effects of the adjustment loans. According to the report, the effect were underestimated both in value and in practical terms. The civil society also complained that the World Bank only gave them a platform but never really factored their contributions into their economic decisions⁸⁵. Another initiative where the World Bank had allowed civil society to participate more in their decision making process was the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). In actual fact, the civil society did not participate in the writing of the drafts of the PRSPs but was rather invited by the World Bank to criticize the drafts after they were written. The fact that the World Bank welcome criticisms from civil society after the drafts were submitted means that those governments who wrote the PRSPs did not engage in thorough consultation activities with NGOs, consulted them late or allowed

incompetent NGOs to write the draft. Whatever the case was, the PRSPs still reflected the long term decisions of the World Bank to amend their decision making process to make it more liberal where non state actors could also participate. In other words, the drafts represented a shift in the World Bank's loan negotiations from bilateral towards a multilateral trend. The recognition of the importance of civil society participation took a positive turn when the World Bank established the Civil Society Engagement Team which was aimed at encouraging civil society groups to be fully active in every programme sponsored by the World Bank⁸⁶. The Civil Society Engagement Team has been the responsibility of the various Civil Society Staff (CST) in different countries where the offices of the World Bank are located. Activities related to this program are initially coordinated at the top level by the Civil Society Team (CST) which comprises staff from the External Affairs and Social Development Departments of the World Bank⁸⁶.

After all these reforms, critics still believe that the World Bank still has a long way to go as far as civil society participation is concerned. Some activists have even suggested deeper reforms which they believe would expand the democratic nature of the Bank. Some of the recommendations given by these critics include:

- i. An increase in representation for developing countries
- ii. More access to information for civil society actors
- iii. Respect for the national legislature of developing countries
- iv. Increase in transparency through the publication of Bank's minutes after every board meeting
- v. Policies must be debated in the parliament of all member countries⁸⁶.

2.2.2.2 World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The WTO has also seen the need for few reforms to be made concerning the participation of civil societies but so far, most of the reforms that have taken place do not favour interest and identity groups⁸⁷. After signing the Marrakesh Agreement in 1994, the General Council made a lot of promises concerning transparency on behalf of the WTO⁸⁷. Most of these promises were meant to increase transparency by making WTO documents readily accessible to the public. Most of the promises were fulfilled so therefore today, documents detailing the activities of WTO are always available for the public to review. There were also changes made to accommodate NGOs in the activities of the WTO but the only problem was that those changes were limited as compared to the participatory changes made by the World Bank for civil societies. For example, NGOs are allowed to send their representatives to Ministerial Conferences of the WTO where they are given extra briefing sessions after the conference. Before those representatives are allowed to attend the conference, they are required to receive accreditation from the WTO Secretariat⁸⁷.

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

The empirical review of this research work emphasizes more on different scholarly contributions of scholars on relative concepts which have been reviewed in the conceptual review of the study. The first reviewed discourse in this section is titled “Has civil society helped the poor: a review of the roles and contributions of civil society to poverty reduction⁸⁸” The research seeks to examine civic society's contributions to the fight against poverty. Three areas received the majority of the attention: service delivery, and policy change. Three case studies demonstrate the various approaches and levels that can be used to combat poverty. Firstly, civil society institutions that advocate for national or state policies reform that benefit the less privilege and

also partake in the developmental process of PRSPs, the example of Rural Advancement Committee, which offers services to the most vulnerable people at the local level and lastly, an institution that works internationally to promote the rights of the urban vulnerable.

The study arrives at the conclusion that a variety of factors affect how effectively civil society promotes poverty alleviation and reduction. First, the effectiveness of the interaction between the less privilege and civil society institutions is essential for determining where to focus their efforts and resources in order to alleviate the plight of the underprivileged. It is clear that, the degree of effectiveness also depends on the amount to which such organisations have resources or decision-making capabilities that can help urban poor groups, as well as on the space offered by such organisations to urban poor groups in identifying goals and devising answers — or, more importantly, in actually conceptualizing participation.

Second, because poverty is multifaceted, any NGO plan to combat it must likewise be multifaceted. NGOs are still essential in addressing the numerous facets of poverty. For instance, to address the issue of insufficient income, civil society organisations can assist the underprivileged by giving them the training and skills necessary to access better-paying jobs, increasing their opportunities for self-production, extending a safety net through public works programs, and advocating for changes to government land use regulations in addition to offering them better and more affordable services. Through emergency and asset-building credit programs, the development of social capital for shared access to resources, as well as a focus on enhancing the poor's access to housing, safety nets, and education, it is possible to alleviate the inadequate and unstable asset base of the poor. In addition to urging the government to legalize "shacks," civil society organisations can assist the poor in gaining access to new land sites and lower building prices to address the issue of insufficient housing.

“The role of civil society organisations” is another scholarly study worthy of being reviewed for this research study⁸⁹. The CSO's role in Nigeria's democratization sphere was briefly examined in the research. In the process of the scholarly work, three research issues were developed and raised: what could be the CSO's role in the Nigerian democratization phase, what are the cogent CSOs' contributions to the maintenance of democracy in the Nigeria State, and what are the difficulties CSOs in Nigeria are confronted with. The theoretical framework of analysis the research work adopted is the theory of Resource Mobilization. Similarly, historical perspectives were used to analyze pertinent democracy literatures, the CSO's development in Nigeria the Nigerian State, as well as their activities before, during, and post Military rule. The study found that CSOs are crucial as well as have made significant contributions to the maintenance of democracy in the Nigeria State by opposing tenure extensions, getting involved in electoral reforms, championing the course of Freedom of Information (FOI) and its subsequent passage into law, encouraging voter mobilization and registration, and overseeing elections between 1999 and 2019.

The study concludes that CSOs in Nigeria have contributed significantly to the country's democracy and development. Thus, so as to give CSOs' elbows a little extra grease, the following suggestions were recommended. CSO's Finance: Access to finance is often a big issue for CSOs, as are limitations on agendas and initiatives that are pushed by donors. Recognizing the crucial role of CSO in the country's democracy would be necessary for the donors and government overcomes this obstacle. For instance, to support and fund CSOs locally, the state can create a CSOs National Trustee Fund. A centralised data bank for the CSOs will be incredibly helpful in preventing proliferation once the trustee fund is established. It will enhance institutional information and knowledge on CSOs, allowing for the proper distribution of funding

in the future. Another recommendation the study suggested was diversification of funding sources through innovative revenue-generating activities: While the concept of a centralised trustee fund for CSOs is welcomed, it is also wise for CSOs to opt for other revenue-generating options that will increase their independence from state control, such as that of the foreign donors as well as the state government.

Popular Policy: State actors seldom ever acknowledge CSOs as stakeholders in tackling governance as well as growth concerns, despite the enormous indication of public trust in the CSOs. CSOs must develop more effective initiatives and establish strategic alliances with government as well as state actors organisations. Consequently, the government must acknowledge CSOs as local stakeholders rather than adversaries.

Capacity Building: For the majority of Nigerian state CSOs, empowering common people and disadvantaged groups is a top focus. Building the ability of local level CSOs and creating connections and links between community-based organisations (CBOs) as well as grassroots groups is one of the greatest methods to achieve this so that they can start cooperating closely with the corporate sector as well as government and. Holding training sessions and seminars locally would increase capacity-building by improving the ability to participate in the policy making process at many levels, which includes budget tracking.

In conclusion, the study discussed and examined the roles and functions of CSOs in Nigeria's democratic transition. Through the analysis of the articles, it became clear that NGOs had a significant impact on Nigeria's democratic growth. According to the study, Nigeria has a number of civil society organisations which tend to hold the government and its policies accountable. They aid in reaching a few goals that would have looked hard for the government to accomplish on its own. Though they differ in terms of vision, mission composition, and basic beliefs, CSOs

share the philosophy of advancing justice, egalitarianism and equity in the political system and fostering the growth of Nigeria's budding democracy. The importance of highlighting these groups' accomplishments cannot be overstated given the significant contribution they make to government operations and their ability to significantly impact government initiatives and programs in a way that benefits individuals.

Role of Civil Society Organisations in promoting democracy and good governance in Nigeria is another scholarly review study for this research work⁸⁹. According to the researcher, significant issues in emerging nations include the over-centralization of decision-making and the under-involvement of stakeholders, which has resulted in the support of strong special interests and a high amount of corruption in state institutions. This has made it necessary for a variety of CSOs to contribute to the advancement of these nations, especially in the support of good government and democracy and, most importantly, in fostering more openness as well as accountability. In the research study, the function of Nigeria's CSO's in advancing democracy as well as sound government is examined. The research work subsequently the theory of Dahl's group equilibrium, also, the research made use of secondary data to show that, in Nigeria, there are few, if any, restrictions on the civil society's potential to organize itself using the creation of coalitions groups or non-governmental groups. These roles and functions can be regarded from angles like: enhancing the standard of governance, building governments' capability to implement the ideas of transparency, openness, accountability, as well as trying to win the support of all government employees, elected officials, and non-governmental organisations.

The study concludes that, it is evident that civil society organisations play critical roles and functions in the social, political, and economic growth of the nation. These roles and functions can be depicted from the following angles: enhancing the standard of governance,

strengthening states' ability to implement the concepts of transparency, openness, accountability, as well as working to win over all public employees, nongovernmental organisations, elected officials, (NGOs) to good governance. Therefore, CSOs work as the internal control system to monitor and balance governmental operations in order to prevent wasteful expenditure, misappropriation, and theft of funds, as well as to help identify or order the demands of the populace. As a result, each country's ability to thrive requires a strong civil society.

The study recommended that since it is obvious that CSOs have contributed to the advancement of good governance as well as democracy in the Nigerian State, it is crucial for the country nationals to found and actively engage in meaningful CSOs in order to facilitate dividend governance and ensure national progress. Government from federal, state and local level should urge people, especially young people, to actively participate in CSO activities and include CSOs in the development, monitoring, implementation, and oversight of policies as well as other crucial decision-making activities. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) ought to create appropriate CSOs and assist them in determining and meeting community needs. Every member of the community must be included in CSOs, and they should solely serve the needs of the state and act in its best interests.

“Civil Society, public sector reforms and management control systems in a developing country: a case study of a large state enterprise in Nigeria” is another scholarly study worthy of review⁹⁰. In recent years, there has been a notable surge in the attention given to Public sector reforms and the New Public Management (NPM) concept by academics, practitioners, and policymakers, as indicated by the researcher. The implementation of these changes is commonly orchestrated and enforced in developing countries by the international financial community, which includes institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The

implementation of new management control systems (MCS) is considered a key component of New Public Management (NPM), since it is believed that such changes can lead to improved accountability and transparency. The adoption of private sector accounting techniques in the public sectors has been driven by the objective of enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency, while also promoting a shift in the viewpoints of public sector managers towards managerialism. The objective of this thesis is to examine and get a comprehensive understanding of the reforms implemented in the Nigerian public sector, and their influence on the management control systems (MCS) within organisations. This study will focus on a fictional state enterprise in Nigeria, referred to as the Nigeria State Company (NSC), as a case study. This thesis explores the many management control systems (MCS) that have been introduced, the methods employed for their deployment, and the impact of these systems on the organisation's day-to-day decision-making processes. The data collection process was conducted using a triangulation approach.

The main sources of evidence consisted of interviews conducted with a range of National Security Council (NSC) personnel at different positions within the organisational hierarchy. In addition, interviews were conducted with key stakeholders including decision-makers, consultants, personnel of the Nigerian privatization agency, and regulators within the oil industry. The utilization of informal discussions and document analysis served to corroborate the evidence obtained through interviews. The study involved the examination of newspaper stories, publications from the National Security Council (NSC), and a range of documents pertaining to NSC reforms. Furthermore, a multitude of observations were conducted and documented during the course of the case study. The utilization of Actor Network Theory served as the underlying theoretical framework for the examination and understanding of the empirical evidence in this study. The analysis conducted in this study led to the conclusion that the public sector reforms in

Nigeria, particularly those implemented at NSC, may be attributed to the collaborative endeavors of various stakeholders, both domestic and international, as well as both human and non-human entities. These people played a significant role in shaping and modifying the reforms and the MCS.

Moreover, the research revealed that despite the implementation of various monitoring and control systems (MCS) as a component of the reforms, they often succumbed to political manipulation. Hence, the predominance of political factors over economic ones in organisational decision-making prompts the question of the necessity of implementing these systems in the first stages. One noteworthy consequence of the theory is the lack of local ownership of the reforms and the MCS, which were perceived as Western imports and predominantly executed by international consulting corporations. Minimal efforts were made to adapt them to the specific circumstances of the locality. Consequently, these systems were effectively disentangled from the process of ordinary decision-making. The thesis's overall findings have significant implications for the design of public sector reforms and associated accounting systems in emerging countries. The findings of the thesis present several concerns that can assist professionals and policymakers in making better knowledgeable decisions regarding reforms. The examination of many theoretical considerations will contribute to the advancement of actor-network theory in subsequent developments. The research study provided significant contributions to the existing body of knowledge in the areas of literature, policy, methodology, and theory.

“Civil Society Organisation and manager styles in managing discipline and grievance” elucidate the nexus between Civil Society and Management styles in managing grievance⁹¹. This research comprised a sample of 91 supervisors and managers who were enrolled in a weekend training

course focused on human resource themes. In relation to the methodology employed, the researchers presented three vignettes depicting grievance situations to the respondents, with the aim of investigating the various methods utilized in the management of grievances. The vignettes presented in this study were intentionally diverse in order to examine the various solution styles employed by participants across different scenarios. The research revealed that many approaches, namely "tell," "tell and sell," "tell and listen," "ask and tell," "problem solving," and "ask and listen," were employed in the management of employee discipline and grievance. In relation to this matter, the study revealed that the "telling" approach was characterized by the supervisors holding complete authority⁸¹. The "ask and tell" technique refers to a communication strategy in which subordinates are encouraged to actively participate in the conversation by taking on a more prominent speaking role. The "ask and tell" technique fostered a high level of openness and granted employees a greater degree of agency in the engagement. In the context of problem solving, power and involvement were mutually shared by both sides. The "tell and sell" strategy involves the supervisor communicating a decision to the employee and afterwards attempting to convince the employee of the validity of that decision.

The study's findings indicate a general preference among respondents for more collaborative techniques when addressing grievances. Nevertheless, the research also revealed that in instances where supervisors and managers recognized a circumstance that posed a direct challenge to their authority, they resorted to employing a more autocratic approach. This involved initially informing their subordinates of their decision and afterwards attempting to convince them of its validity. This study is associated with the aforementioned study as it examines the various approaches employed by supervisors and managers in effectively handling disciplinary matters

and grievances among their employees, while also considering the potential impact of these approaches on the long-term viability of the business.

Another study relating to civil society organisation in contemporary politics is “the behavior civil society on grievance resolution outcomes⁹². The study employed an exploratory research approach to gather data for the investigation. This study is based on the theoretical framework of conflict resolution developed by Deutsch. It operates under the assumption that individuals who perceive their objectives as positively interrelated, meaning that both parties can achieve success, are more adept at efficiently managing conflicts compared to those with competitive goals⁸⁰. The research revealed that managers employed both competitive and cooperative approaches in addressing their employees' problems. The research posits that the competitive method to managing employees' grievances entails the adoption of conflicting and inflexible ambitions, with the intention of advancing a political agenda. Conversely, the adoption of a cooperative approach in addressing concerns fostered an environment conducive to flexible and inclusive dialogue between managers and employees.

The primary factors contributing to the establishment of cooperative goals encompassed a mutual comprehension of the issue at hand and its subsequent resolution, as well as the acknowledgement and acceptance of goals by both labor unions and management. The study's findings indicated that in the cooperative approach to managing employees' grievances, participants expressed a high level of confidence in their ability to engage in productive and constructive interactions when discussing grievance-related matters. Furthermore, there was a significant correlation observed between the utilization of a cooperative style and the attainment of positive outcomes, including effective problem resolution and the generation of innovative, high-caliber solutions. On the other hand, the competitive style of communication resulted in

reduced anticipations regarding the effectiveness and receptiveness of the engagement. The study revealed a negative correlation between competitive style and individuals' emotions, productivity, and the standard of their work. The study suggests that managers ought to take a cooperative strategy when addressing concerns, as this methodology has been found to elicit pleasant emotions, enhance satisfaction levels for both employees and management, and lead to improved procedural outcomes. This study is also associated with another study as it examines the two approaches employed in addressing employees' grievances, ultimately recommending the most suitable method for effectively handling employee grievances.

“Civil society operations in the United Kingdom” emphasized the important roles played by civil societies in delivering of services in the United Kingdom⁹³. The study's target demographic comprised individual individuals situated in the British Isles who were employed inside small office environments. This study recruited a sample of 31 male and 57 female employees across various levels of management and non-management positions. The study employed an exploratory research approach to gather data for the investigation. The study identified three commonly employed ways of dispute management utilized by managers and their employees in the implementation of one-to-one dispute resolution. The employed strategies encompassed the utilization of fight, flight, and intervention techniques. Based on the findings of the study, the combat style under investigation primarily emphasized the identification of a victor and a vanquished party. Frequently, this manifested as an employee resorting to an organisation's established grievance procedure, wherein a conflict was scrutinized, incurring substantial expenses for all parties involved⁹³.

The utilization of flight as a means of resolving disputes was a prevalent practice. This phenomenon was manifested through the act of circumventing a matter or shifting focus from a

particular challenge. Intervention is commonly employed as the third approach to dispute management. In this approach, employees expressed their desire for direct intervention by their line manager to effectively address and resolve their problem. Nevertheless, the inclusion of a third party in the administration of the conflict may exacerbate the issue. The research posits that the involvement of a third party in the resolution of grievances prolongs the time frame, which subsequently impacts the frustration experienced by workers (78). The coding of the third party was typically characterized by a lack of familiarity and awareness regarding the issue highlighted by the unhappy employee⁷⁸. The study suggests that it is advisable to avoid involving a third party who lacks a comprehensive understanding of the primary cause of the issue expressed by the disgruntled employee in conflicts between an employee and their supervisor. This study is connected to the current investigation as it reveals the disparities among the different types or tactics employed in the management of employee grievances.

“Civil societies and public management” emphasizes the working relationship between the two divide.

The study employed a descriptive research approach to gather data for the investigation. The research findings revealed that the use of the varimax-rotated seven-factor solution led to the identification of four distinct managerial behaviours associated with dispute management. The initial role was designated as the inquisitorial position. Managers who assumed an inquisitorial role maintained control over both the process and outcome. In this particular capacity, managers exercised their autonomy by imposing their own perspectives, rendering ultimate decisions, and proffering their own proposals. For the study study, the second role pertained to the mediational role. The mediational position facilitated managers in engaging in dialogue with their employees, wherein they posed inquiries regarding conflicts, solicited alternatives from employees, and

endeavoured to integrate their employees' thoughts into the proposed solutions. The third role depicted in the representation was that of the procedural marshal. The managers assumed the responsibility of delineating the dispute-handling procedures to be adhered to, and afterwards ensured the rigorous enforcement of those regulations. The fourth role might be identified as the motivational role. In this particular capacity, managers consistently depend on motivational control mechanisms, employing both coercive measures and rewards. In the event that the matter under dispute remains unresolved during the meeting, managers will engage in the task of forecasting potential outcomes and applying pressure in order to facilitate a prompt resolution. Although the study did not propose an optimal method for handling employees' grievances, it is relevant to this study as it extensively examines various ways employed in managing employee grievances across many situations.

A relative study on “management of civil societies in Sub-Sahara Africa” sheds more light on this research study⁹⁵.

This research study investigates the difficulties encountered by civil societies in Africa, including those affiliated with the African Union (AU), in demonstrating agency and effectively coordinating regional collective security efforts. The present study undertakes a theoretical analysis of the notions of hegemony and counter-hegemony, and subsequently applies them to the specific setting of West Africa through an empirical assessment. The primary hypothesis being investigated in this thesis is the potential interaction between Nigeria and France, specifically in relation to public businesses in Africa, with a focus on hegemonic and counter-hegemonic dynamics.

The study also utilized qualitative data for the research endeavour. Both primary and secondary sources of data were utilized in this study. To conduct the analysis, this thesis employs

established theoretical frameworks of hegemony/counter-hegemony and actorness, which are subsequently refined and applied within the specific setting of West Africa. The study specifically examines the framework of hegemony/counter-hegemony in relation to Nigeria and France, which are the primary state actors in West African security governance. Additionally, the actorness framework is assessed in the context of the African Union (AU). The thesis employs a grounded theory and case study methodology, utilizing data obtained through semi-structured in-depth interviews, documentary analysis, and secondary literature review. The primary contention posits that Africa has exhibited an increasing sense of agency and control over its public businesses. However, this progress is impeded by the interplay between Nigeria's sub-regional dominance and France's counter-hegemonic influence from outside the continent. The thesis asserts that Nigeria's sub-regional hegemonic power is primarily derived from its institutional penetration within the African Union, with a specific emphasis on the hegemonic/counter-hegemonic criterion.

However, France's counter-hegemonic impact on African government primarily stems from its involvement in the United Nations, which restricts its acknowledgment within the sub-region. Consequently, it is categorized as an extra-regional counter-hegemon. The research indicates that Nigeria's dominant influence contributes to the development of Africa's agency and control over sub-regional public companies. In contrast, France's opposing dominant influence primarily focuses on the state and consequently weakens Africa's collective agency and control over such firms. The research findings indicate that the major hypothesis has been substantiated, since France's state-centric strategy has been found to be incongruent with Africa's collective enterprise goal, which aims to foster international collaboration under the leadership of the African Union (AU).

Another relative study to broaden this research study is “the Hiccup to civil societies in the Global South”⁹⁶. Report emphasised that, civil organisation in these regions are established as a entity with the primary aim of fostering a unified regional political, economic, and social environment in Africa through the principles of integration and collective self-sufficiency. The establishment of the organisation primarily aimed to accomplish political objectives centered around the harmonization and coordination of national programs. Nevertheless, the organisation has encountered numerous political, economic, and security obstacles that have impeded its progress since its inception. The factors encompassed in this context are the prevalence of poverty at a significant level within the region, the impact of civil conflict, the presence of fragile states, the occurrence of transnational insurgencies, the existence of economic challenges, environmental deterioration, the proliferation of drug trafficking, the smuggling and trafficking of armaments, and the manifestation of political instability, among others. The aforementioned issues hindered the ability of the African Union (AU) to fulfill its primary responsibilities, resulting in the need for the AU to increase the scope of its missions in order to address the security and political challenges encountered in the sub-Saharan region. The objective of this paper is to provide an explanation of the African Union (AU) and the issues associated with regional economic integration in the West Africa region. The research employed qualitative data. In a similar manner, the study endeavor utilized secondary sources for data collection.

The study highlights the primary difficulty faced by civil societies in Sub-Saharan Africa as being the presence of armed conflicts. The causes of these battles exhibited similar characteristics and resulted in comparable outcomes for the nations involved. These wars arise within nations that have been officially designated by the United Nations as Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These countries are characterized by pervasive poverty, malnutrition,

significant health challenges, limited educational opportunities, and underdeveloped industrial sectors. Armed conflicts can be both caused by and triggered by economic downturns and societal instability. The continent is distinguished by a historical backdrop of warfare and brutality. Among the 54 African countries, over half have encountered significant episodes of armed conflict since achieving independence. Armed conflicts can be both caused by and triggered by economic downturns and societal instability.

Political instability is identified as another significant aspect of the obstacles faced in the integration of civil societies in the Global South, as stated by the research study. Naturally, it is imperative to consider how states plagued by persistent military conflicts might attain and maintain political stability. African colonies were the initial entities within colonial Africa to attain political independence, preceding other sub-regions in this regard. However, it is noteworthy that these colonies have not historically had sustained political stability. Among the 54 countries in the western half, Cape Verde and Senegal were the only ones that possessed the capacity and chance to circumvent military involvement. African nations have frequently encountered a series of military-led coups, unsuccessful coup attempts, coup plots, as well as seven civil wars and several other political confrontations since gaining independence.

On the other hand, a notable discovery from the study pertains to the difficulties encountered in the process of integrating African Union (AU) member states, specifically due to insufficient resources. The study posited that the organisation's ability to achieve its objectives appears to be unattainable given the limited availability of resources within the organisation. It is evident that despite the challenging conditions faced by African countries, the African Union's fundamental aims have been hindered from achieving success due to the organisation's significant focus on peacekeeping missions. American University (AU) finds itself in a state of apparent paradox,

simultaneously engaged in several activities yet without substantial impact in the region. The organisation lacks specificity in its missions and faces budgetary constraints in addressing all the prevailing conditions in the region. Therefore, it can be inferred that the African Union (AU) is confronted with numerous obstacles similar to those encountered by West African nations, which are exacerbated by the region's environment. In response, the AU has undertaken the ambitious task of broadening its mission to address these difficulties comprehensively.

The report proposed that organisational reform be considered. The proposed approach involves redirecting attention and reinforcing dedication towards the process of identifying and attaining a set of objectives. This is to be accomplished through the implementation of a clearly delineated strategy, founded upon easily comprehensible and inclusive principles. The aim is to enable the participation and subsequent advantages of a broad spectrum of individuals, including those with average levels of understanding and engagement.

In addition, the Millennium goals have the objective of eliminating extreme poverty and hunger, attaining universal primary education, fostering gender equality and the empowerment of women, decreasing child mortality, enhancing maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and establishing a global partnership for development (UN Millennium Goals, 2005). The Millennium Goals do not provide explicit guidance on how Africa can independently produce the necessary financial resources, expertise, and knowledge to address these challenges without significant support from external entities. The Millennium Goals have faced criticism due to their potential to exacerbate Africa's debt burden, potentially widening the gap between wealthy and impoverished nations. This could result in continued dependence on aid from the United Nations, United States, and European Union, thereby subjecting future generations of Africans to a state of servitude to external

influences, technologies, food security, medical care, and cultural aspects. The connection of these aims with the existing resources and talents in Africa is deemed to be non-existent, so suggesting that the utilization of these goals as guiding principles by the African Union (AU) will likely exacerbate the region's challenges. In accordance with the United Nations' definition of sustainable development, it can be understood as a form of development that effectively addresses the current demands of society while ensuring that the capacity of future generations to fulfill their own needs is not compromised (UN Division for Sustainable Development, 2005). The study further suggests that the organisation should assume a prominent leadership position in tackling its diverse challenges. Additionally, it is advised to implement targeted short-term initiatives that directly benefit the broader population. These initiatives should be feasible within a specified timeframe and contribute to the development of a robust middle class comprising individuals who can afford to contribute to the tax system. The formation of robust local economies that engage in active and dynamic exchange of goods and services is the sole viable approach to achieving effective regional economic integration within the sub-region.

The survey also suggested that AU should increase its awareness of corruption within the organisation. Efforts should be made to address instances of corruption within the sub-region. The organisation should prioritize independent decision-making and local fundraising methods to effectively address the issue of reliance. The plan ought to be revised in a manner that allows local communities of member states to sustain a system that benefits the majority, through a suitable combination of central and regional policy support.

Finally, it is imperative for the governments of the member nations to engage in deliberations over the desired levels of economic integration. In order to achieve optimal efficacy and efficiency, it is imperative to establish a unified currency system akin to that implemented within

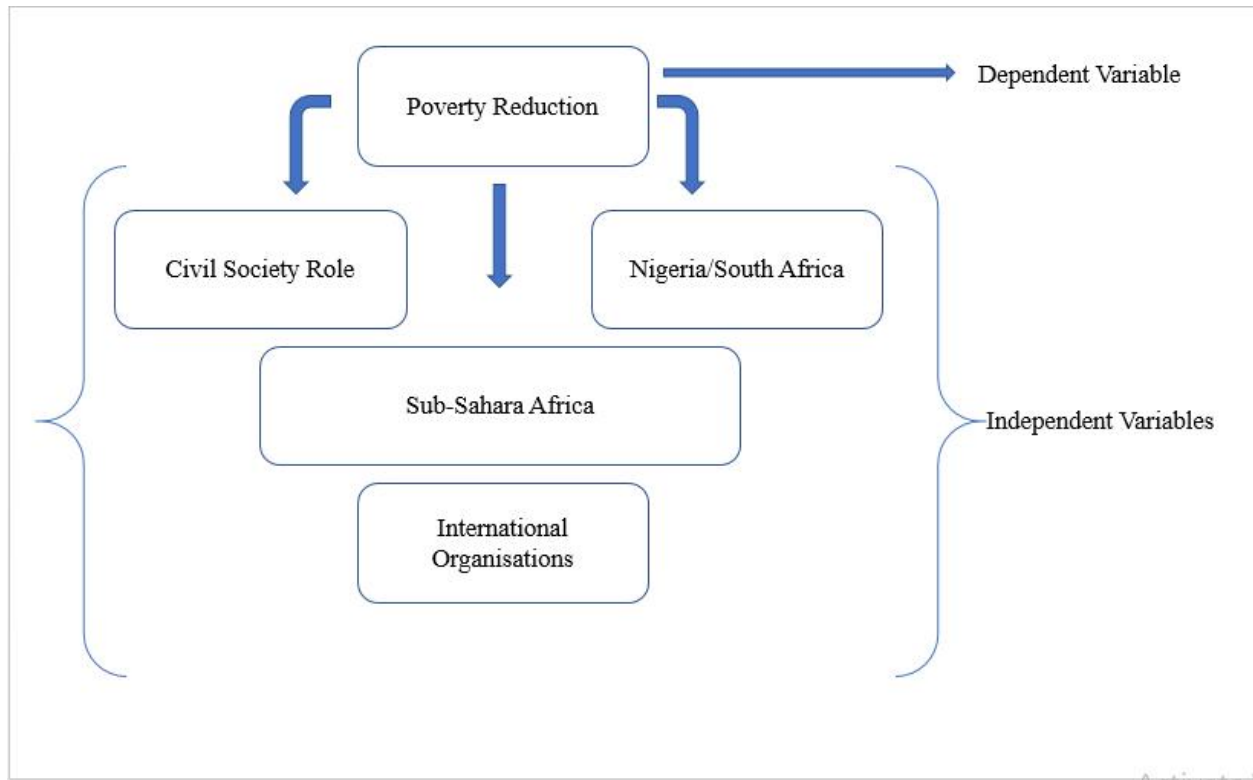
the European Union (EU). Such a system would effectively reduce the expenses associated with exchange rates, hence minimizing fractional costs. Enhancing economic stability can yield favorable outcomes for the business climate, leading to a reduction in uncertainty and fostering increased investment by enterprises within the member states' region. This phenomenon leads to a rise in the employment rate and facilitates the creation of high-quality job opportunities for the inhabitants of the member states.

Lastly, scholarly investigation that pertains to the significance of this research endeavor is "Legitimation of the civil societies in Africa: A Normative and Institutional Inquiry⁹⁷". The objective of this study is to ascertain the normative validity of the civil societies. At its essence, this analysis critically examines the existing mission of the organisation, which has incorporated economic integration goals alongside the safeguarding of human rights, the promotion of democracy, and the upholding of the rule of law. This study examines the various components of legitimacy within the fields of international law, international relations, and political science. The concept of legitimacy can be divided into two distinct dimensions: normative and descriptive/sociological aspects. This study examines the normative foundations of integration in Africa, specifically focusing on the shared values that underlie this process. The findings of this study suggest that integration in Africa has emerged based on new principles, including but not limited to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. As anticipated, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) serve as fundamental components of the envisioned African Economic Community (AEC) within the framework of the African Union (AU). Their primary responsibility is to actively contribute to the advancement of the continent based on these principles. The investigation is expanded to encompass the institutions of AU in order to assess their capability in properly executing the new mandate of the organisation and functioning at a

supranational level. The analysis focuses on identifying significant legal and institutional deficiencies, with specific emphasis on flaws within domestic institutions. There is a contention that the normative legitimacy of the civil societies is bolstered by the safeguarding of human rights, but this pursuit should not be undertaken in isolation. The concepts of economic integration and the preservation of citizens' rights are inherently interconnected and mutually beneficial. Therefore, in order to achieve effectiveness, community institutions must accurately mirror this connection. The study indicates that although the civil societies has demonstrated several levels of legitimacy and has taken steps to legitimize itself, it cannot be deemed a legitimate organisation as long as Member States fail to comply with community objectives and crucial legal issues remain unattended⁸³. The argument posits that civil societies in Africa is currently in the process of gaining legitimacy, and whether it can ultimately be regarded as a legitimate organisation hinges on effectively addressing the issues that have been recognized.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework for Civil Society role in poverty reduction in South Africa and Nigeria



2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed

Amidst the scholarly conceptual, theoretical and review of empirical studies, it is obvious that several studies have been carried out in respect to roles and functions of Civil Society Organisations, as well as poverty reduction strategies in Africa. However, little research has been done or executed in respect civil society organisation looking from a comparative perspective of Nigeria and South Africa, therefore, this research tends to fill this gap. Nigeria and South Africa are the biggest economy in Africa. The biggest economy has always been manned by either of the two for the past two decades. Looking at the roles of civil societies and poverty reduction in

Africa in these two reputable countries will help set a formidable standard for not just policy makers but to other countries in Sub-Sahara Africa. This is because this two countries posses a lot of positive influence on several Africa countries ranging from political, economical or cultural influence.

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Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This research made use of comparative research design. The comparative research design permits the researcher to emphasize the relationship that exists among variables in the study. The research work is design in a way that addresses the research objectives and research questions which have been itemized by launching an investigation with the aim of providing answers to the questions.

3.2 Population of the Study

Population of the study refers to the aggregate of persons from whom data of the study were collected. It also denotes the set of respondents that the researcher intends to study¹. The research work is a qualitative research with the aid of secondary source of data collection, and content analysis, the population of the research is arbitrary not chosen. However, the data and information on the activities of Civil Societies in both countries is gathered through secondary source of data gathering.

3.3 Sampling and Sampling Technique

This research study employs the non-probability techniques to enhance the richness of this study's information. The purposive sampling technique is similarly employed because it align with research design of the study. Most of the research materials especially books, academic journals, government periodicals and online materials are recent, not later than five years (2018-2023), except stated otherwise.

3.4 Description of Research Instrument

The research relied on secondary sources of data. Thus, the research instrument employed in this research study is document analysis. Data collected is harnessing by the wide range of updated information that have been made available online and offline on subject matter.

3.5 Validity of Research Instrument

Validity of instrument is the ability to make finding that are in agreement with theoretical as well as conceptual values. In order words, validity of the research to measure that is suppressed to be the level of consistency of the measuring instrument. In order to ensure the validity of this research work, the booked reviewed for this research aligns with the research objectives and research questions thereby, maintaining validity.

Similarly, the sources of data collected are presented to the researcher's supervisor. Also, it was subjected to the department's corrections and approval for proper validation.

3.6 Reliability of the Research Instrument

Reliability in this context refers to the dependability of a measurement. However, in the cause of this research work, the researcher work is executed empirically and not subjectively so as to arrive at a logical and more empirical conclusion.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

This research relies mainly on secondary sources. The secondary sources will include published (and un-published) materials, such as: books, journals, government recordings, and newspapers. The reason for employing this data is the suitability of the means to the research topic. Also, the source is an indication that there are extant works already done in the chosen line.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

Data collected will be analysed with the use of content method of analysis. The study recommended that for organisational restructuring. That is, refocus and a renewed commitment toward selecting and achieving list of goals with a clearly well-defined plan based on simple comprehensive principles that can be understandable by at least an average citizen in order for them to take part and benefit in it.

3.9 Ethical Approval

I, Iyanu Olupinla, consciously assure that this thesis: “Civil Society Role in Poverty Reduction in South Africa and Nigeria” the following is fulfilled:

The paper reflects the author’s own research and analysis in a truthful manner.

The result are appropriately placed in the context of prior and existing research.

The paper is not currently considered for publication anywhere.

Endnote

1. H. Lune, *Qualitative Research Methods for Social Sciences*, Pearson Education, 2017

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Chapter Four

Results and Discussion of Findings

4.1 Research Question 1: Exploring the Roles of Civil Society in Poverty Reduction in South Africa and Nigeria?

4.1.1 Advocacy and Lobby for Policy Change as a Means of Poverty Reduction in South Africa

Civil Societies in South Africa work towards raising awareness about poverty-related issues among the general public and policymakers. They organise campaigns, workshops, and seminars to educate people about the causes and consequences of poverty in South Africa. By providing accurate information, they aim to create a sense of urgency and empathy among the public, encouraging them to support policy changes that address poverty¹. Similarly, Civil Societies in South Africa engage in direct advocacy with policymakers at various levels, including local, provincial, and national governments. They use their research findings, expertise, and networks to influence policy discussions and decisions related to poverty reduction. Civil society organisations often form coalitions to amplify their voices and increase their impact on policy debates¹. Through regular meetings, consultations, and engagements, they advocate for the implementation of policies that address the structural causes of poverty. In South Africa, Civil Societies also promote participatory democracy by facilitating citizen involvement in policy-making processes. They encourage marginalized communities, especially those living in poverty, to actively participate in decision-making through public consultations, community meetings, and other participatory mechanisms. By ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard, civil societies help shape policies that are responsive to the needs of those experiencing poverty.

Civil Societies in South Africa also collaborate with government agencies and international institutions to influence policy change². They work as partners with policymakers, sharing their expertise and providing input into poverty reduction strategies. They engage with international

bodies such as the United Nations and World Bank to advocate for policies that align with globally accepted standards for poverty alleviation. Civil Societies in South Africa also mobilise public support to exert pressure on policymakers to prioritize poverty reduction. They organize rallies, protests, and other forms of public demonstrations to raise awareness about specific policy issues related to poverty. By mobilizing a critical mass of individuals and communities, civil societies demonstrate public demand for change and create a sense of urgency among policymakers².

Civil Societies in South Africa play a crucial role in monitoring the implementation of poverty reduction policies and holding policymakers accountable for their commitments. They track policy outcomes, assess progress, and highlight any gaps or shortcomings in implementation. By providing regular feedback and recommendations based on their monitoring efforts, civil societies ensure that policies are effectively addressing poverty and making a positive impact on affected communities². Civil Societies in South Africa also conduct in-depth research to gather evidence and data on poverty-related issues. This research helps them identify the root causes of poverty in different communities and develop policy recommendations based on empirical evidence. By presenting well-researched data, civil societies strengthen their arguments for policy change and provide policymakers with valuable insights into the specific needs of impoverished communities².

4.1.2 Civil Societies in South Africa and Provision of Social Services and Support to Vulnerable Communities

Civil societies in South Africa play a crucial role in providing social services and support to vulnerable communities. These Civil Organisations are composed of individuals who are dedicated to addressing social issues and improving the lives of marginalised groups.

Healthcare services: Civil Societies in South Africa often establish healthcare clinics and programs to provide medical services to vulnerable communities. They may offer basic health check-ups, vaccinations, and treatment for common illnesses³. These organisations also work towards raising awareness about health issues and promoting preventive measures.

Education initiatives: Many Civil Societies in South Africa focus on improving educational opportunities for vulnerable communities. They may establish schools, learning centers, or scholarship programs to ensure that children from marginalized backgrounds have access to quality education³. These initiatives aim to empower individuals with knowledge and skills to break the cycle of poverty.

Social welfare programs: Civil Societies in South Africa often run social welfare programs that provide assistance to vulnerable individuals and families. This may include distributing food parcels, providing shelter for the homeless, or offering financial aid to those in need. These programs help alleviate immediate hardships and provide a safety net for vulnerable communities³.

Advocacy and human rights: Civil societies in South Africa are at the forefront of advocating for the rights of vulnerable communities. They work to challenge discriminatory practices, influence policy changes, and raise awareness about social injustices³. These organisations often

collaborate with government bodies, legal institutions, and other stakeholders to ensure that the rights of vulnerable groups are protected.

Empowerment and skill development: Civil societies emphasize empowering vulnerable communities by providing them with skills and resources necessary for self-sustainability. They offer vocational training programs, entrepreneurship initiatives, and mentorship opportunities. By equipping individuals with relevant skills, these organisations help them gain employment or start their own businesses, leading to economic independence⁴.

Gender equality and women empowerment: Civil Societies in South Africa actively work towards promoting gender equality and empowering women in South Africa. They provide support for victims of domestic violence, offer counseling services, and create safe spaces for women to share their experiences³. These organisations also advocate for women's rights and strive to eliminate gender-based discrimination.

Community development projects: Civil societies engage in community development projects that aim to uplift vulnerable communities. This may include infrastructure development, sanitation initiatives, or access to clean water. By improving the physical and social infrastructure of these communities, civil societies help create a conducive environment for growth and development⁴.

Social inclusion initiatives: Civil societies in South Africa promote social inclusion by fostering diversity and acceptance within society. They organize events, workshops, and awareness campaigns that celebrate cultural diversity and challenge prejudices. These initiatives create platforms for dialogue and understanding among different communities⁴. Treatment Action

Campaign (TAC), Equal Education, Corruption Watch, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), Section27, Sonke Gender Justice, Right2Know Campaign, Centre for Environmental Rights (CER), Social Justice Coalition (SJC), South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) are some of the Civil Societies in South Africa providing social services and support to vulnerable communities.

4.1.3 Civil Societies in South Africa and Facilitation of Community Development Projects

Civil societies in South Africa play a crucial role in facilitating community development projects. These organisations, which are independent from the government, aim to promote democracy, social justice, and human rights. They work towards empowering communities and fostering sustainable development. Capacity Building is one of the significant ways civil societies in South Africa engage in Community Development Projects. Civil Societies in this country provide training and capacity building programs to community members and grassroots organisations⁵. These programs aim to enhance skills, knowledge, and resources within communities, enabling them to take charge of their own development initiatives. Networking and Collaboration is also one of the ways Civil Societies in South Africa facilitate community development project. Civil Societies in South Africa act as intermediaries, bringing together various stakeholders such as government agencies, private sector organisations, and community members. They facilitate networking and collaboration among these actors to jointly address community development challenges³.

The role of CSO's in Resource Mobilization in South Africa cannot be downplayed. Civil societies play a crucial role in mobilizing resources for community development projects. They seek funding from different sources, including international donors, philanthropic organisations,

and corporate social responsibility initiatives⁵. These resources are then channeled towards supporting community-driven initiatives. They similarly do the task of Monitoring and Evaluation. Civil Societies in South Africa monitor the implementation of community development projects to ensure transparency and accountability. They assess the impact of these projects on communities and provide feedback to stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluation help identify areas for improvement and ensure the sustainability of development initiatives. Civil societies in South Africa recognise the importance of environmental conservation for sustainable community development. They engage in initiatives such as promoting sustainable agriculture practices, advocating for renewable energy sources, and raising awareness about climate change. By protecting the environment, civil societies contribute to the well-being and resilience of communities⁴.

Regarding Community Empowerment, Civil Societies in South Africa focus on empowering communities to actively participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. They promote community ownership of development projects by involving local residents in planning, implementation, and evaluation stages⁵. This participatory approach ensures that community needs and aspirations are taken into account. The South African Institute of Race Relations, Habitat for Humanity South Africa, Community Chest South Africa, Nelson Mandela Foundation, South African National Council for the Blind, South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), Ikamva Labantu, Sonke Gender Justice, Lawyers for Human Rights, Treatment Action Campaign, Khulisa Social Solutions, Afrika Tikkun, Project Isizwe, Thembalitsha Foundation, and Community Development Resource Association (CDRA) are some of the prominent CSO's in South Africa that engage in community development project for the purpose of alleviating poverty within the populace.

4.1.4 Civil Societies in South Africa and Promotion of Education and Skills Training

Pertaining promotion of education and skills training in South Africa, CSO's within the country do the job of advocacy and awareness. Civil Societies in South Africa raise awareness about the importance of education and skills training through advocacy campaigns. They work towards creating a society that values education and understands its long-term benefits for individuals and the nation as a whole⁴. They similarly Access to education. Many Civil Societies in South Africa focus on improving access to education, especially for marginalized communities. They work to remove barriers such as poverty, gender inequality, and geographical limitations that hinder access to quality education. These organisations provide scholarships, bursaries, and support programs to ensure that deserving students can pursue their educational aspirations. Also, they ensure teacher training and support. Civil Societies in the country recognise the critical role of teachers in shaping the quality of education. They provide training programs, workshops, and resources to enhance teaching skills and pedagogical methods. By improving teacher effectiveness, civil societies contribute to better learning outcomes for students⁵. Civil Societies in South Africa understand the significance of early childhood development in laying a strong foundation for future education. They establish early childhood centers, provide educational materials, and offer training programs for caregivers and educators working with young children. By investing in early childhood development, civil societies aim to improve overall educational outcomes⁴. Civil Societies in South Africa actively promote skills development and vocational training programs to address unemployment and equip individuals with practical skills. They collaborate with government agencies, private sector organisations, and educational institutions to offer relevant training opportunities in various sectors. These initiatives help individuals acquire employable skills and increase their chances of finding sustainable employment⁵.

Civil Societies in South Africa also engage with local communities to understand their specific educational needs and challenges. They involve community members in decision-making processes and encourage their active participation in educational initiatives. Through community engagement, civil societies foster a sense of ownership and empower local communities to take charge of their educational development. They collaborate with government bodies, non-profit organisations, corporates, and educational institutions to maximize their impact. These partnerships enable sharing of resources, expertise, and best practices, resulting in more effective and sustainable education and skills training programs². Civil Societies in South Africa do the work of Monitoring and evaluation. They play a crucial role in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of education policies and programs. They analyze data, conduct research, and provide insights to policymakers, advocating for evidence-based decision-making. By monitoring progress and highlighting areas for improvement, civil societies contribute to the continuous enhancement of the education system⁵.

Teach South Africa, Ikamva Youth, Equal Education, South African Education and Environment Project (SAEP), Shine Literacy, READ Educational Trust, Centre for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education (CASME), The Unlimited Child, Nal'ibali, Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation are some of profound Civil Societies Organisation in South Africa that provides education and skills training in the country.

4.1.5 Civil Societies in South Africa and Empowering of Women and Promoting Gender Equality

Civil societies in South Africa play a crucial role in empowering women and promoting gender equality. Through various initiatives and programs, these organisations strive to address the challenges faced by women and work towards creating a more inclusive and equal society. Firstly, civil societies in South Africa actively engage in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about women's rights and gender equality. They work towards influencing policies and legislation that promote gender equality and protect women's rights. By organizing workshops, seminars, and campaigns, civil societies educate both women and men about gender issues, encouraging them to challenge discriminatory practices and stereotypes⁶. They similarly provide women with economic opportunities and support their entrepreneurship endeavors. They offer training programs, mentorship, and access to resources to help women start and grow their businesses. By promoting financial literacy and providing microfinance options, civil societies in South Africa enable women to become financially independent and contribute to the economy.

Education and Skills Development of women in South Africa cannot be over emphasised. Civil societies in the country focus on improving access to education for girls and women in South Africa. They work towards eliminating barriers such as poverty, early marriage, and cultural norms that hinder girls' education. Through scholarships, after-school programs, and vocational training, civil societies empower women with knowledge and skills necessary for personal growth and economic independence⁶. Health and Well-being of women in the country is also important as Civil Societies in the country address women's health issues by providing reproductive health services, including access to contraception, maternal healthcare, and prevention of gender-based violence. They also promote mental health awareness among women and provide support networks for survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

In the area of leadership and political participation within the country, Civil Societies encourage women's active participation in decision-making processes by promoting leadership skills and creating platforms for their voices to be heard⁶. Through training programs, mentorship, and networking opportunities, civil societies help women develop the confidence and skills needed to take up leadership roles in politics, business, and community organisations⁶. Civil Societies create safe spaces for women in the country to share experiences, seek support, and build networks. These networks help create a sense of belonging and empowerment among women. Support groups, counseling services, and helplines provided by civil societies play a critical role in assisting women who face discrimination, violence, or other challenges. Lastly, in South Africa, Civil Societies engage Men as Allies. Civil Societies in the country recognise the importance of engaging men in the fight for gender equality. They promote programs that challenge harmful masculinity norms and encourage men to become allies in the struggle for women's rights. By involving men in discussions on gender equality, civil societies aim to create a more inclusive society where both men and women can thrive. Gender Links, Women's Legal Centre, Sonke Gender Justice, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE), Rural Women's Movement, Women's Net, Women's Circle, South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Centre for Women's Studies, National Shelter Movement of South Africa, Women's Hope Education and Training (WHET), People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)

4.1.6 Civil Societies in South Africa and Fostering of Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

Civil societies play a crucial role in fostering social entrepreneurship and economic development in South Africa. They contribute to the growth of sustainable businesses and create an environment conducive to economic progress. The followings are some of the ways they are achieved in South Africa.

Creating Awareness and Advocacy: Civil societies raise awareness about social issues and economic challenges in South Africa. They advocate for policies that support social entrepreneurship and economic development. By highlighting the importance of these issues, civil societies mobilize resources and encourage the public and private sectors to invest in initiatives that promote economic growth⁷.

Providing Support and Resources: Civil societies offer support networks, mentorship programs, and training opportunities for aspiring social entrepreneurs. They provide the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the business landscape. By offering financial assistance through grants or loans, civil societies help entrepreneurs overcome initial barriers to entry and sustain their businesses⁷.

Fostering Collaboration: Civil Societies in South Africa facilitate collaboration among different stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organisations. By bringing together these diverse groups, civil societies encourage partnerships that leverage resources, expertise, and networks to drive economic development.

Promoting Sustainable Practices: Civil Societies emphasize sustainable practices and ethical business models. They encourage social entrepreneurs to incorporate environmental, social, and

governance (ESG) principles into their operations. By promoting sustainable practices, civil societies ensure that economic development is environmentally friendly and socially responsible.

Advocating for Policy Reforms: Civil societies engage with policymakers to advocate for policy reforms that support social entrepreneurship and economic development. They work towards creating an enabling environment by addressing regulatory barriers, improving access to finance, and promoting inclusive growth⁷.

Fostering Innovation: Civil societies foster an environment of innovation by supporting research and development initiatives. They encourage entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions to social challenges, which can lead to economic opportunities.

Enhancing Social Impact: Civil societies focus on the social impact of businesses, ensuring that economic development benefits marginalized communities. By prioritizing inclusivity and equitable distribution of resources, civil societies contribute to reducing poverty and inequality in South Africa⁷. The South African Institute of Entrepreneurship, The Awethu Project, The Social Entrepreneurship Academy of South Africa, The Social Enterprise Academy South Africa, The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, The South African Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Social Economy, The South African Network for Social Entrepreneurship, The Southern Africa Social Entrepreneurship Network, The African Social Entrepreneurs Network, The South African Social Investment Exchange, The Ikamva Labantwana Bethu Initiative, The GreaterGood South Africa, The South African Women in ICT Forum, The South African Women Entrepreneurs Network, The South African Impact Investing Network are prominent examples of Civil Societies in South Africa that fosters social entrepreneurship and economic development within the country.

4.1.6.1 Civil Societies in Nigeria and Advocating of Pro-Poor Policies and Programs

In order to help reduce the level of poverty within the Nigerian populace, Civil Societies in Nigeria advocate for pro-poor policies and programs through various means. Among them are;

Collaboration with international partners: Civil societies in Nigeria collaborate with international organisations, donor agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to access technical expertise, funding, and resources. These partnerships strengthen their advocacy efforts and enable them to implement more impactful pro-poor interventions⁸.

Research and analysis: Civil societies within Nigeria conduct research and analysis to gather evidence on the needs and challenges faced by the poor in Nigeria. They collect data and provide policymakers with valuable insights to design effective pro-poor policies and programs.

Awareness campaigns: Civil Societies raise awareness among the public about the plight of the poor and the importance of pro-poor policies. Through media campaigns, public events, and social media platforms, they mobilize support and create a sense of urgency around poverty-related issues.

Policy advocacy: Civil societies engage with policymakers at various levels to advocate for pro-poor policies. They use their research findings to provide evidence-based recommendations and lobby for policy changes that benefit the poor⁸. This could involve participating in policy dialogues, making submissions to government bodies, or organizing advocacy campaigns.

Capacity building: Civil societies focus on building the capacity of local communities and grassroots organisations to participate effectively in decision-making processes. By providing

training and resources, they empower these groups to advocate for their own interests and contribute to the development of pro-poor policies and programs.

Coalition building: Civil societies collaborate with other like-minded organisations, forming coalitions to amplify their voices and influence policymaking⁸. By working together, they can pool their resources, expertise, and networks to push for comprehensive pro-poor agendas that address multiple dimensions of poverty.

Monitoring and evaluation: Civil societies play a crucial role in monitoring the implementation of pro-poor policies and programs. They track progress, assess the impact on the target beneficiaries, and hold government agencies accountable for their commitments. This monitoring ensures that resources are effectively utilized and that policies are delivering tangible benefits to the poor.

Grassroots mobilisation: Civil societies work closely with local communities to mobilize support for pro-poor policies and programs. They facilitate community engagement, encourage active participation, and empower marginalized groups to voice their concerns and demand their rights. By mobilizing grassroots support, civil societies exert pressure on policymakers to prioritize pro-poor agendas. Examples of Civil Society Organisation in Nigeria that advocate for pro-poor policies and programmes for the purpose of poverty reduction are Network of NGOs (NNNGO), Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Social Action, Women Advocates, Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC), Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Human Development Initiatives (HDI), African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development (Centre LSD), Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP).

4.1.7 Civil Societies in Nigeria and Promotion of Education and Skills Development

Civil societies in Nigeria work towards improving access to education by providing scholarships, grants, and financial aid to underprivileged students. They aim to bridge the gap between the rich and poor by ensuring that deserving students have equal opportunities to receive quality education. They also establish and support community-based schools and learning centers, especially in remote and marginalized areas, where formal education infrastructure is lacking⁹. Also, they organise skill development programs and vocational training initiatives to empower individuals with relevant skills for the job market. These programs focus on areas such as entrepreneurship, technical skills, computer literacy, and vocational trades. By equipping individuals with these skills, civil societies contribute to reducing unemployment rates and enhancing economic growth in Nigeria.

Civil societies in Nigeria especially since the Fourth Republic actively engage with local communities to raise awareness about the importance of education and skills development. They organize workshops, seminars, and campaigns to promote the value of education among parents, students, and community leaders⁹. Through community engagement, civil societies encourage parents to prioritize education for their children and emphasize the long-term benefits it brings to individuals and society as a whole. Civil societies in the Nigerian state focus on capacity building initiatives for teachers and educators. They provide training programs, workshops, and resources to enhance teaching methodologies, classroom management, and curriculum development. By improving the skills and knowledge of teachers, civil societies contribute to the overall quality of education provided in schools and educational institutions.

Another key attributes of CSO's in Nigeria is that they conduct research studies and collect data on various aspects of education and skills development. This helps in identifying gaps,

challenges, and areas that require improvement⁹. Through evidence-based research, civil societies provide valuable insights to policymakers, educators, and stakeholders, which can inform decision-making processes and lead to effective interventions. They similarly collaborate with other organisations, both locally and internationally, to share best practices, resources, and experiences in promoting education and skills development. By creating networks and partnerships, civil societies amplify their impact and reach a wider audience, leading to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions. Contemporary CSO's that promotes education and skills development in Nigeria include Teach for Nigeria, Afterschool Centre for Career Development, Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative, LEAP Africa, Nigerian Women Trust Fund, Education as a Vaccine, Junior Achievement Nigeria, Connected Development (CODE), Youngstars Foundation, Rise Networks

4.1.8 Civil Societies in Nigeria and Facilitation of Community Projects

Civil Societies Organisation in Nigeria play a vital role in facilitating community development projects. These organisations are non-governmental and non-profit, aiming to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities across the country. In Nigeria, CSO's facilitate community development project through the following medium;

Advocacy and Awareness: Civil societies raise awareness about community development projects and advocate for their implementation. They engage with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to promote the importance of these projects and mobilize support.

Capacity Building: Civil societies provide training and capacity-building programs to community members, empowering them with the necessary skills and knowledge to plan,

implement, and sustain development projects¹⁰. These programs focus on leadership, project management, financial literacy, and other relevant areas.

Community Mobilization: Civil societies facilitate community mobilization by fostering a sense of collective responsibility and ownership among community members. They organise community meetings, workshops, and dialogues to encourage active participation and engagement in community development initiatives.

Resource Mobilization: Civil societies play a crucial role in mobilizing resources for community development projects. They seek funding from various sources, including government grants, corporate sponsorships, international donors, and individual contributions¹⁰. These resources enable the implementation of projects such as infrastructure development, education programs, healthcare initiatives, and environmental conservation.

Project Implementation: Civil societies in Nigeria often take the lead in implementing community development projects. They collaborate with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure smooth execution. This involves project planning, monitoring, evaluation, and coordination of various activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Civil societies play a critical role in monitoring and evaluating the impact of community development projects. They assess the effectiveness of interventions, identify challenges, and recommend improvements to ensure sustainable outcomes. This feedback loop helps in refining future projects and maximizing their impact.

Networking and Collaboration: In Nigeria, civil societies foster partnerships and collaborations between different stakeholders involved in community development. They facilitate dialogue and

knowledge sharing among government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community leaders, academia, and the private sector¹⁰. This collaborative approach enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of community development efforts.

Policy Advocacy: Civil societies engage in policy advocacy to influence decision-making processes at the local, state, and national levels. They work towards creating an enabling environment for community development by advocating for policies that prioritize social justice, equality, and sustainable development.

Social Entrepreneurship: Some civil societies in Nigeria engage in social entrepreneurship to generate income for community development projects. They establish income-generating activities such as microenterprises, cooperatives, or social enterprises that provide employment opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

Knowledge Sharing: Civil societies promote knowledge sharing by documenting best practices, success stories, and lessons learned from community development projects. They disseminate this knowledge through publications, workshops, conferences, and online platforms to inspire and guide other organisations and communities. Contemporary examples of Civil Society Organisation that facilitate community development projects in Nigeria in recent times include Center for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN), Community Life Project (CLP), Development Africa (DA), Global Rights Nigeria, International Society for Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law (Intersociety), Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), Nigerian Women's Trust Fund (NWTF), Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACFaH), Project Alert on Violence Against Women, Social Development Integrated Centre (Social Action), The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs), Women's Rights Advancement

and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Women's Rights and Health Project (WRAHP), Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI) and Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth, and Advancement (YIAGA).

4.1.9 Civil Societies in Nigeria and Monitoring and Evaluating Poverty Reduction Efforts

Civil societies in Nigeria play a crucial role in monitoring and evaluating poverty reduction efforts in the country. They act as independent watchdogs, ensuring accountability and transparency in the implementation of poverty reduction programs. CSO's in Nigeria monitor and evaluate poverty reduction efforts via the following medium;

Public Awareness and Education: CSO's raise public awareness about poverty-related issues through campaigns, workshops, and media engagement. They educate citizens about their rights, entitlements, and how they can actively participate in poverty reduction efforts. By empowering citizens with knowledge, civil societies foster a sense of ownership and encourage active engagement in monitoring and evaluating poverty reduction initiatives¹¹. They similarly conduct research and collect data on poverty-related issues to assess the effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts. They gather information on poverty levels, access to basic services, and the impact of government policies on poverty reduction. This data helps them evaluate the progress made and identify gaps or areas that need improvement. Furthermore, Civil Societies in Nigeria analyse government policies and programs aimed at poverty reduction. They advocate for evidence-based policies that address the root causes of poverty and promote sustainable development. By critically examining policies, civil societies ensure that poverty reduction efforts are comprehensive and targeted towards the most vulnerable populations.

Monitoring Implementation: Civil Societies in Nigeria monitor the implementation of poverty reduction programs to ensure they are carried out effectively and efficiently. They track the disbursement of funds, assess whether projects are being implemented as planned, and identify any irregularities or corruption¹¹. This monitoring function helps to safeguard against mismanagement of resources and ensures that poverty reduction efforts reach those who need them most.

Capacity Building: Civil societies in Nigeria work to strengthen the capacity of local communities and organisations to monitor and evaluate poverty reduction efforts. They provide training and support to community-based organisations, enabling them to effectively assess the impact of poverty reduction programs. This capacity-building approach empowers communities to actively participate in the evaluation process and hold government accountable.

Social Audits: Civil Societies in Nigeria conduct social audits to assess the impact of poverty reduction programs at the grassroots level. They engage with local communities, collect feedback, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions on the ground. Social audits help to identify success stories, challenges, and areas for improvement, ensuring that poverty reduction efforts are relevant and responsive to community needs.

Collaboration and Networking: Civil Societies in the State collaborate with other stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, and international organisations. They participate in forums, workshops, and conferences to share experiences and best practices in poverty reduction monitoring and evaluation¹¹. This collaboration strengthens their collective voice and enhances the quality of monitoring efforts. Centre for Social Justice, Social Action, Nigerian Economic Summit Group, ActionAid Nigeria, Centre for Democracy and Development,

Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre, Human Rights Monitor, BudgIT Nigeria, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre, Nigeria Network of NGOs, Social Welfare Network Initiative, Women in Nigeria, African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development, and Centre for Citizens with Disabilities are all examples of Civil Society organisation that monitor and evaluate poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria.

4.2 Research Question 2: What are the Challenges Confronting Civil Societies in South Africa and Nigeria?

4.2.1 Challenges Confronting Civil Societies in Nigeria

The efficacy of civil society organisations in Nigeria's democratization endeavor has been impeded by the subsequent factors:

4.2.2 Political/Institutional Instability

One of the key challenges hindering the efficacy of civil society organisations in fulfilling their function within Nigerian state is the prevailing volatility of the government. Nigeria has a long-standing history characterized by a recurring pattern of governmental transitions. Instability can arise in transitions from military to civilian government, as well as in transitions between different civilian administrations¹². Each successive administration formulates distinct policies in order to achieve performance objectives and garner commendation. This implies that initiatives undertaken by prior administrations are either discontinued or substituted with a new nomenclature and completely altered structure. An example of this is the Better Life for Rural Women program, which was initiated by Mrs. Marian Babangida during the military dictatorship led by Babangida. Despite the substantial investment made in the program, it was promptly succeeded by Mrs. Marian Abacha upon Sani Abacha assuming governmental control. The economic component of

the Family Support Program (FSP) initiated by Mariam Abacha commenced with a starting capital of N4.3 billion, alongside the implementation of the Family Economic Advancement Program (FEAP)¹².

The discontinuation of the Mariam Abacha family support program coincided with the departure of Sani Abacha, resulting in the squandering of significant state funds that had been allocated to these initiatives. The many women's organisations, such as the National Council of Woman Societies, the Better Life Program, and Family Support, were established with the aim of enhancing the status of women¹³. Their primary objectives included economic empowerment and facilitating women's participation in democratic processes. Nevertheless, the frequent turnover of political leadership and the absence of consistent policy implementation have resulted in the failure to achieve the intended goals of these initiatives. These initiatives have become obsolete to the extent that since 1999, there has been no mention or attempt to resurrect them for the purpose of democratic engineering.

4.2.3 The Economic Situation of the Nigerian State

Civil society organisations in Nigeria face the additional challenge of navigating the economic circumstances of Nigerian society. The adverse circumstances experienced by the populace inevitably impact their level of discontent¹². This phenomenon frequently results in instances of corruption and treachery, as executives of civil society organisations take incentives from the government in order to quell the ongoing conflict. Leaders find themselves constrained by various factors such as contract awards, appointments, financial gifts and incentives from those in power. Consequently, they are unable to establish any ethical basis for criticizing the government or advocating strongly for the interests of their constituents as stakeholders in a democratic system. Furthermore, individuals who are already burdened by poverty are coerced into aligning

themselves with the government due to the prospect of meager rewards. The topic of minimum wage has been the subject of ongoing discussion for a duration exceeding six months, yet there has been no discernible progress towards its actualisation¹². Despite this lack of action, members of labor unions continue to perform their regular duties without taking any additional measures to exert pressure on the government to fulfill its commitment, such as initiating a strike or engaging in substantial protests. When faced with the prospect of losing their job or being subjected to a "no work, no pay" policy by the government, many individuals are likely to promptly return to work due to the fear of losing their little means of sustenance. Some individuals may adhere to the belief that receiving half of what they need is preferable than receiving nothing at all. Nigerians exhibit exceptional aptitude in effectively managing economic adversity. There have been instances in which workers engage in industrial action, resulting in a one-month period of absence from work. Many of these workers eagerly anticipate returning to work, as they perceive it to be more favorable to be owed by the government than to have no prospects whatsoever. The aforementioned issues arise as a consequence of economic adversity, wherein individuals exhibit behavior akin to that of individuals lacking awareness of their entitlements¹³.

4.2.4 Challenges of Freedom of Press

The media plays a significant role in democracy. It is through the media that citizens express their opinions and views on government policies, especially those that are harmful to the masses. One of the core principles of democracy is freedom of speech, which allows citizens to both praise and criticize the government through any media platform¹⁴. The government, in return, is expected to take into account citizens' criticisms when forming and implementing policies. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, the situation has been different since the time of military rule up until

the present civilian administration. Civil Society institutions operate in fear and carefully select programs and opinions to avoid being shut down. During the military era, various regions used repressive tactics to control the media to different extents. General Muhammadu Bahari, as a military head of state, enacted “degree 4” to protect public officers from false accusations. This decree was notorious for suppressing media houses and journalists who expressed opposing views to the government. It also authorised the arrest of those who criticized the administration¹⁴. Babangida employed a strategic approach by building relationships with key journalists who were major critics of the previous administration. Similarly, since the return to civil rule in 1999, civil society continue to face to the challenges of freedom of press. Evidence of the foregoing can be seen in the Nigerian political sphere especially when CSO voice their displeasure against the government of the day regarding certain policies.

4.2.5 Religious Intolerance

Religion functions as a unifying and polarizing influence simultaneously. Individuals who possess a range of religious beliefs often exhibit a tendency to associate themselves with particular belief systems, which they adhere to unwaveringly¹⁵. Nigeria has a substantial historical record of religious intolerance, primarily observed between the two dominant religious factions, Christianity and Islam. A multitude of domestic civil society organizations face difficulties that arise from religious differences. Rather than coalescing for a common objective, individuals tend to divide themselves according to their religious connections, thereby diminishing the overall cohesion and potency of the group. The present circumstance can be clarified by invoking the adage, 'a dwelling that is internally divided is incapable of enduring'¹⁴. As a result, the aforementioned challenges significantly affect the functioning of civil society groups, limiting their scope and diminishing their impact as crucial democratic entities. In regions characterized by a balanced representation of

Christian and Muslim populations, persistent incidents of attacks and retaliatory measures between these two religious groups, as seen in the case of Kaduna state, impede the possibility of engaging in constructive dialogue over shared advantages.

4.2.6 Problem of Funding

The issue of funding poses a significant obstacle for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria as they strive to fulfill their function as democratic organisations. In Nigeria, civil society organisations (CSOs) receive funding from government donors who contribute on a voluntary basis. Certain donors, such as the Dutch government, have recently decided to decrease their financial support for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), thereby reversing a trend of steadily increasing financing that had persisted for two decades¹⁵. The departure of major donor organizations has created a significant financial disparity between the operations of civil society organizations (CSOs) and their current financial standing.

4.2.7 Challenges of Civil Societies in South Africa

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

Civil society organisations (CSOs) continue to express their concerns with the lack of transparent consultation practices within several umbrella organisations, such as the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the Federal Office for Social Cohesion (FOSC). These umbrella

organisations have conducted advocacy campaigns and contributed to national policy, however their effectiveness in engaging and enlightening their grassroots constituencies has been limited. The aforementioned deficiencies might be ascribed to their deficiency in terms of organisational and financial capabilities¹⁵. It is worth mentioning that several umbrella institutions, such as the CNSC, the Coordination of Women's Associations as well as Non-governmental Organisations in South Africa, and the National Youth Council of South Africa, were established either by or under the influence of the state.

A detrimental consequence of this phenomenon has been their deficient comprehension of their intermediary function. A significant portion of their research and efforts are dedicated to exerting influence on policy-making processes and advocating for specific causes, with a particular emphasis on the state level¹⁵. The individuals in question lack the necessary level of connection with their particular constituency bases, hence hindering their ability to foster inclusivity, encourage participation, and demonstrate accountability.

4.2.7.2 Organisational and Institutional Challenges

Numerous Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in South Africa exhibit institutional and organisational deficiencies, manifesting in inadequate communication and consultation among members, as well as the absence of administrative protocols such as activity plans, budgets, and annual reports. This deficiency extends to mandatory reporting to the government department responsible for overseeing the non-governmental sector. The importance of enhancing

organisational and institutional capacities was deemed to be of utmost significance as it is evident in the everyday life and operation of CSO's in South Africa.

4.2.7.3 Lack of Complementarity and Collaboration among South African CSO

In South Africa, umbrella organisations partake in initiatives that have resemblance to those undertaken by their constituent organisations. This phenomenon leads to a situation of competition in cases where there should ideally be complementarity and enhanced advantage and leverage. This is a significant difficulty that is acknowledged by both civil society organisations (CSOs) and their supporting and partnering entities¹³. The magnitude of this difficulty is evidenced by the ongoing expansion in the quantity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that intersect with pre-existing ones, as well as the absence of connections across distinct levels of administrative classification.

The presence of a wide range of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) has the potential to be advantageous in addressing the requirements of individuals and facilitating societal advancement. However, the efficiency of these organisations is hindered by a dearth of collaboration and complementarity. South African civil society organisations (CSOs) acknowledge the necessity of discovering novel approaches to their operations and express a hopeful anticipation that external collaborators could assist them in effecting the necessary transformation to enhance complementarity within the industry¹³.

One significant challenge faced by civil society organisations (CSOs) in South Africa is the tendency of civil society networks to prioritise short-term concerns over the more complex and enduring issues that exist at the grassroots level. These long-term challenges include the imperative to establish income-generating initiatives and ensure the provision of essential services. This

phenomenon can also be associated with a reliance on external financing, which is frequently granted for activities that are specifically defined in advance by the partners funding the initiatives¹⁴.

4.2.7.4 The Dearth of Civic Participation and Voluntarism and within the Membership of Civil Society Organisations in South Africa

The initial cohort of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that arose during the period of democracy in the 1990s consisted primarily of individuals from the student and labor sectors who possessed a fundamental means of financial assistance such as a regular wage or student financial aid, enabling them to meet their essential living requirements. The new class of CSOs that has formed subsequent to the year 2000 is primarily constituted by individuals who lack a stable source of income due to the prevailing high rates of unemployment. It is evident that the unemployment rate in South Africa has exhibited a relatively stable trend at approximately 8 percent since 2010¹⁵. Concurrently, the population of the country has had an average annual growth rate of 3 percent. Furthermore, this phenomenon is accompanied by a rise in the quantity of youthful individuals joining the workforce. The formal labour sector, encompassing governmental entities and large corporations, is projected to contribute a maximum of 10 percent towards the demand for new job opportunities¹⁴. Participating in civil society operations might thus be perceived as a viable option to formal employment; nevertheless, it is important to note that this activity is not inherently driven by a commitment to serve the common good. Furthermore, it is imperative for individuals to allocate a significant portion of their time towards securing a livelihood, so resulting in a reduced availability for engaging in voluntary work within civil society initiatives. This phenomenon could potentially account for the prevailing emphasis on immediate concerns and the relative neglect of broader societal matters necessitating sustained involvement.

4.2.7.5 Challenge of Ownership

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in South Africa demonstrate a willingness to engage in collaboration and acknowledge the importance of external assistance in respect to resources, skills, and knowledge. However, several criticisms have been raised regarding the manner in which this support is delivered. The primary critique commonly expressed is that external foreign partners possess predetermined areas and sorts of activity that they are willing to endorse, which may not align with the requirements of indigenous players and benefactors. An illustrative instance mentioned is the European Union's assistance initiative aimed at Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in South Africa, known as the Programme of Assistance to Organisations of the Southern Cone (PAOSC II)¹⁶. This program is specifically designed to enhance the capabilities of CSOs in order to facilitate their active involvement in the formulation and implementation of development strategies and policies. Although this target aligns with the strategies of the South African government as well as its partners from the outside, it does not directly address the immediate required capacity of people and civil society organisations (CSOs) in addressing the pressing priorities of the broader public. The aforementioned scenario engenders discord between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the local populace, as the latter's requirements remain unaddressed despite the presence of financial resources.

The June 2015 evaluation of PAOSC II found that the program's effectiveness could have been improved by taking into account the local context in which civil society organisations (CSOs) operate, especially at the regional level¹⁶. This includes considering the needs and preferences of target groups and activities. CSOs emphasize that potential partners should develop initiatives based on the specific requirements of the local community, rather than imposing solutions without consulting those affected. Despite some degree of local involvement, particularly in

implementing activities, challenges persist in decision-making and prioritizing activities within the civil society sector. These challenges arise from reliance on external funding, limited thematic expertise, and organisational capacity.

4.3 Research Question 3: What are the Roles of Civil Societies in Nigeria and South African Democracy?

4.3.1 Protection of Citizens' Right

Protection of the rights of citizens refers to ensuring that individuals are safeguarded and empowered to exercise their fundamental rights and freedoms without any infringement or discrimination. It involves establishing and upholding legal frameworks, institutions, and mechanisms that guarantee the rights and liberties of citizens, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or any other characteristic¹⁷. The protection of citizens' rights encompasses civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. It includes the right to life, liberty, and security of the person, freedom of expression, assembly, and association, as well as the right to work, education, healthcare, and a decent standard of living¹⁶. The concept entails promoting equality, justice, and fairness in society by preventing and addressing human rights violations, such as discrimination, torture, arbitrary detention, and other forms of abuse. Effective protection of citizens' rights necessitates an independent judiciary, a robust legal system, and transparent governance to ensure accountability and redress for violations. It also involves fostering a culture of respect for human rights through education, awareness-raising, and the promotion of a tolerant and inclusive society. International human rights standards, treaties, and conventions play a crucial role in guiding states in their obligations to protect the rights of their citizens¹⁶. Ultimately, the goal of protecting the rights of citizens is to create an environment where

individuals can fully enjoy their inherent dignity and participate actively in shaping their communities and societies.

Civil society plays a crucial role in the protection of the rights of citizens in Nigeria and South Africa's democracy through the following medium:

Advocacy and Awareness: Civil society organizations raise awareness about citizens' rights in the two countries and advocate for their protection¹⁷. They work to educate citizens about their rights and empower them to assert these rights when necessary.

Monitoring and Reporting: Civil society groups monitor the actions of governments, public officials, and institutions to ensure they are upholding citizens' rights¹⁷. They collect and analyze data, document violations, and report findings to relevant authorities and the public.

Legal Support: Civil society organizations provide legal support to citizens who face violations of their rights. This can include offering legal advice, representation, and assistance in filing complaints or lawsuits against perpetrators.

Policy Influence: Civil society groups engage in policy advocacy to influence laws and regulations that protect citizens' rights¹⁷. They work towards the development and implementation of policies that ensure equal rights, access to justice, and protection from discrimination.

Social Services: Civil society organizations often provide social services that directly benefit citizens and promote their rights¹⁷. This can include services such as education, healthcare, housing, and employment support, particularly for marginalized groups.

Bridge between Citizens and Government: Civil society acts as a bridge between citizens of this countries and government by facilitating communication, fostering transparency, and holding authorities accountable for protecting citizens' rights¹⁷. They ensure that citizens' voices are heard and their grievances addressed.

International Advocacy: Civil society organizations also play a crucial role in advocating for the protection of citizens' rights at the international level. They collaborate with global networks, participate in international forums, and contribute to shaping international human rights standards¹⁷. Civil society's active involvement in protecting citizens' rights in Nigeria and South Africa helps create a more inclusive, just, and democratic society where individuals can exercise their rights freely and without fear of discrimination or abuse.

4.3.2 Promotion of a Free and Fair Election

Primarily, civil society organizations exert considerable effort in guaranteeing the conduct of elections that are both free and fair. In the context of a liberal democracy, the electoral process serves as a crucial platform for assessing the level of citizen engagement within the democratic framework¹⁶. In order for the election process to effectively reflect the power of the populace, it is imperative that it be handled in a manner that is both impartial and equitable. It is widely acknowledged that the responsibility for such a process should not rest only with the government and its institutions¹⁷. Hence, it is crucial for civil society organizations to actively and attentively monitor the process to prevent the government from employing incumbent strategies to control the process contrary to the desires of the general population.

The aforementioned considerations underscore the significance of civil society organizations within a democratic framework of Nigeria and South Africa. Regrettably, Nigeria democratic system is not as efficient like South Africa's or yet to effectively tap into the reservoir of values offered by civil society organisations, similar to the manner in which North American States, Western European countries have done so. Quite a number of them still do the job of promoting a free and fair election in the state. Prominent among these groups are the Labour Congress, Arewa People's Congress, Oduduwa People's Congress, PANDEF (Pan Niger Delta Forum), and Ohaneze Ndigbo in Nigeria and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), South African Council of Churches (SACC), Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), Human Rights Watch South Africa, Foundation for Human Rights (FHR), Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC), Corruption Watch, My Vote Counts, Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) and Legal Resources Centre (LRC) in South Africa whose role in electioneering period cannot be over emphasized.

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Chapter Five

Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Findings

The fact has been established that civil society is a very important and integral force in development especially in developing countries such as Nigeria and South Africa. Some of the

roles they play have been thoroughly described in various chapters of the study, particularly their efficient roles in poverty reduction in the two countries mentioned above. For an individual or a group to be in the state of poverty, it means the individual or group has not been able to attain the lowest level of living standard for a reasonable period of time. Civil society has been defined by different authors in their own perspectives but whatever the case might have been, most of the definition revolved around the same elements including the political background, independency from the state, level of efforts, level of power, vision, purpose and experience of a particular group.

Many of these development strategies are motivated by the search for economic growth by many countries or state institutions and for this reason, many different means have emerged to achieve this particular objective. Development has evolved to create new and more effective ways of reducing poverty. Many of the poverty reduction strategies that are designed for Africa fail to take into account the socio economic and political conditions in Africa because the international policy agencies and institutions responsible for implementing such developmental strategies still have a lot to learn. The study similarly finds that improved governance will help reduce poverty but they also recognize that the economic institutions in Africa are very weak.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the study assert that, from the poverty profile of the two countries, they both need to enhance civil society participation; because that is the only way the interest of the people at the grass root level can be represented or promoted. 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. As Nigeria seeks to be an example of liberal democracy in West Africa and South Africa also seeking to develop into a democratic developmental state like countries in the Global North, they both still have a lot of problems that need to be taken care of. The racial discrimination in the country's past had truly dented future prospects of many public organisations but there are still ways through which these organisations can make things work.

5.3 Recommendations

For Civil Society's role in poverty reduction in Nigeria and South Africa, the study recommends the following;

1. Review of CSO's funding policies in the two States because as long as most of them depend on the government for aids, it would be very difficult to be completely independent from the government even when its policies are not favourable.
2. Strengthen collaboration between civil society organisations, governments, and international stakeholders to effectively address poverty reduction in South Africa and Nigeria.
3. Promote community-based initiatives that empower individuals and marginalized groups to actively participate in poverty reduction efforts.
4. Advocate for policies that prioritize poverty reduction, social welfare, and equitable distribution of resources in both countries.
5. Enhance access to quality education, vocational training, and skills development programs to equip individuals with the necessary tools to escape poverty.

6. Encourage the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly in sectors with high potential for job creation, such as agriculture, entrepreneurship, and renewable energy.
7. Raise awareness about the root causes and consequences of poverty through public campaigns and media engagement to promote a culture of empathy and social responsibility.
8. Monitor and evaluate the impact of poverty reduction programs to ensure their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on feedback and evidence.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

This research work contributes to the body of knowledge as it will help to shed more light on challenges of possible way forward for Civil Society Organisation in the two biggest economy in Africa.

5.5 Area for Further Studies

Significant areas for further studies are; Role of grassroots movements and community-based organisations in poverty reduction efforts, Effectiveness of government-CSO partnerships in addressing poverty in both countries, Comparative analysis of strategies used by CSOs in South Africa and Nigeria to alleviate poverty, and Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of civil society initiatives on vulnerable populations in South Africa and Nigeria.

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