THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

Exploring the Living Standard Dimension of Poverty in Bauchi State, Nigeria

Dr. Umar Farouk Musa
Lecturer, Department of Political Science,
Bauchi State University, Gadau, Bauchi State, Nigeria
Aliyu Mohammed Malami
Graduate Assistant, Department of Political Science,
Bauchi State University, Gadau, Bauchi State, Nigeria

Abstract :
Living standard dimension of poverty is characterized by ten indicators. Accordingly, the shortfall of each of these exposed household to multidimensional poverty. Literature indicated that Bauchi state of Nigeria recorded 89.5 percent underperformance across living standard, education and health care. Consequently, the individual deficiencies and the economic, political and social discriminatory theories have driven this study. In achieving the objectives of this study, a qualitative research design was carried out and collected the data via observations and interviews. The results reveals that most families in the rural and semi-urban areas uses traditional cooking fuel and unhygienic sources of water in addition to poorly floor. The sanitation and suitable waste disposal in the state requires improvement. But those at the urban cities had improved floors and water sources. On the assets monies and properties were common to urban and rural areas. The informants stated the ways to improve the living standard of the underprivileged in study area requires the involvement of the federal and state governments; private companies and individuals. Others include infrastructural development, vocational education, farming, business, war against corruption in addition to empowerment of the people. The study recommended for diversification of the economy and public private partnership among others.

Keywords: Multidimensional poverty, living standard, observation, interview, Bauchi State

1. Introduction

Living standard is one of the cardinal dimensions of poverty and it is made up of water, cooking fuel, nutrition, floor, electricity and assets. Literature indicated that Multidimensional poverty index report (2015) showed that on the basis of prevalence to poverty, resources and intensity of deprivations amid sub-Saharan African and other sub-region in developing countries; Bauchi state of Nigeria recorded 89.5 shortfall across living standard, health care and education as well as complemented by destitution. The parameters applied cut across the ten indicators associated to schooling, enrolment, nutrition, sanitation, mortality, electricity, water, cooking fuel, assets and floor (Alkire, Roche, Seth & Sumner, 2015). Studies further attested the level of decay of infrastructural facilities in Nigeria such as roads, water, health care and electricity at 86.67 percent and these affected 83.33 percent of economic activities in the country (Baba & Abubakar, 2015). Thus, the living standard dimension is concurrently jeopardized.

Previously, the government of Nigeria had executed numerous poverty alleviation programs in order to tackle the different challenges posed by the peril of poverty for example Musa, et al, (2016) acknowledged that more than fifteen poverty alleviation programs such as Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, National Directorate of Employment, National Poverty Alleviation Program and N-power among others were executed as well as ongoing implementation by various regimes in the country.

Similarly, the housing development strategies undertaken in Bauchi state by the former government in (2011), via private public partnership organization were bedeviled with poor political will, misplaced priorities, inadequate supervision, lack of continuity, poor planning, insufficient local/internal finance, corrupt practices and lack of skills on development of PPP in the state affected the housing development policy (Yakubu, Anigbogu & Daniel, 2016). The challenges of access to portal drinking in Nigeria and specifically Bauchi state were discovered to have socio-economic undertones related to poor infrastructure, increased population ineffective policy and threats to pollution among other problems. For instance the 37 water corporation's boards and the twelve river Basin Development Authorities functions in low capacity to provide reasonable portal drinking water in the states. Other difficulties identified in relation to water scarcities include poor equipment and electricity supply (Merem, Twumasi, Wesley, Isokpehi, Shenge, Fageir & Ochai, 2017).The discovery of these challenges inspired the need to address the problems. Accordingly, the study is structured into background to the study, research questions and objectives. The methodology, literature review, theoretical framework, result and findings of the study: the discussion, recommendations, conclusions and references.

1.1. Research Questions

The study aimed at answering two questions: How is the living standard of the underprivileged in Bauchi state? What are the ways to improve the living standard of the underprivileged in the study area?

1.2. Research Objectives

Two objectives were set to be achieve: To identify the living standard of the underprivileged in Bauchi state. To explore ways to improve the living standard of the underprivileged in the study area.

2. Methodology

This study utilized the qualitative research design and exploratory method via interview and observation to explain and offer some solutions to the condition of the underprivileged in Bauchi state. The researcher deliberated with the identified poor in their real life situation. A cross-sectional design within a given period of time was used in order to answer the itemized research questions and achieve the stated objectives (Creswell, 2013; Sekaran & Bougie, 2010). The specific population of the study were the selected underprivileged household across the three senatorial zones and local governments' area of Bauchi state of Nigeria.

Consequently, the sampling frame of the study consist of the selected underprivileged in the area of study. Furthermore, purposive and convenient sampling designs were applied in identifying the informants during the data collection process. Again, the researcher with the aid of research assistants carried out the interview and observation. These techniques were applied to enable the researcher access the relevant information in the respective places (Palinkas, Horwitz, Green, Wisdom, Duan, & Hoagwood, 2013). Accordingly, the instruments used for data collection were interview via the semi-structure discourse and observation. This is due to its appropriateness in exploring the perceptions and judgments of the interviewee about the living standard. A discourse data analysis was carried out and a careful rearrangement and reorganization of the data was carried out (Tong, Sainsbury, & Craig, 2007).

3. Literature Review

This section of the study discusses the previous studies on multidimensional poverty indicators and specifically the living standard dimension of poverty. Traditionally poverty was measured using single element of monetary indicator via the income or the consumption and these provided tremendous and useful information. Consequently, the poor individuals themselves describe their condition of paucity of resources in a broader form to include inadequate health care, education, empowerment, employment housing, and security among others. As results of the inadequacy of one indicator such as income to exclusively capture the multiple aspects which contributed to poverty; the need for other ways to measure it became imperative.

Since 1997, the Human Development Report came up with different measurement of poverty apart from the traditional income-based method. Complementing these, the Human Development Index measured poverty applying the Multidimensional Poverty Index in 2010. Other research institutions the Oxford and Human Development Initiative designed a new MPI across the globe capturing the indices for all countries, urban-rural areas and sub-nationals, disaggregation, changes over time, ethnic decompositions, destitution, child poverty, inequality among the underprivileged, gender analysis and robustness tests (Alkire, Kanagaratnam & Suppa, 2018).

3.1. The Concept of Living Standard

The Living Standard is defined as the amount or quantity and quality of material goods and services available to a particular population. These include some basic materials such as income, life expectancy, gross domestic products and economic opportunities. The living standard is characterized by the indicators of asset, access to electricity, clean drinking water, improved sanitation, flooring (no dirt, sand, or dung floor), and hygienic cooking fuel (Dotter, Caroline, Klasen & Stephan, 2019). In poorer countries, one typically thought is that the living standard dimension by far the strongest contribution to multidimensional poverty.

Alkire & Santos (2014) established that in countries with high poverty incidence and MPI, the living standard dimension is the largest contributor to overall poverty. For instance, out 17 of 104 countries analyzed, the living standard dimension adds even more than 50 percent of the overall poverty. Moreover, households in rural settlements are more dispossessed in these indicators than households in urban cities. Comparing the contributions of indicators across Armenia, Ethiopia and India the results shows that the living standard indicators contributed nearly 50 percent of the overall poverty in rural areas (Dotter, Caroline, Klasen & Stephan, 2019). The living standard of a particular household is measured by six indicators and these include:

Firstly, the Asset Index: The household is dispossessed to this indicator if they do not own more than one of the following of small assets (radio, Television, telephone, bike, motorbike, or refrigerator) and do not own a car or truck. Moreover, the household is deprived in assets if it owns no assets. Consequently, the assets category apprehending household wealth and possibly reflecting several indicators that are correlated with asset possession. Recently, the change made was the ownership of arable land and livestock is currently included as potential assets in this indicator to better included and capture asset possessions in rural areas. Finally, a household is considered severely multidimensional poor, if the weighted of poverty is glaring in these and to sum up to one third of the indicators (Dotter, Caroline, Klasen & Stephan, 2019).

Secondly, the Cooking fuel: The household is deprived if they cook with wood, coal, straw or dung. The indicator of cooking fuel appears to be among the last ones to have been improved upon and the cut-offs are debatable. The household is non-deprived in this indicator if it is usage has low environmental impact and a lower effect on interior air pollution. Then if it causes indoor air pollution, then it can be seen as an important wellbeing indicator, mainly because of its health impact. But health is already captured elsewhere. Independently of the undoubted importance of cooking fuel for respiratory diseases, then it calls for confusion if it is capture this in the living standard dimension.

Thirdly, the Electricity: The household is disadvantaged if they do not have access to electricity. The household's access to the electricity grid will depend on the quality and charge of the service, as access to electricity is hardly a goal. Yet electricity has multifarious advantages. Frequent power outages are common in many developing countries. In some states the cost of electricity is high and access does not actually suggest use; in fact, in a significant number of African countries, households have access but do not use it and in other countries household accessibility is not provided precisely due to the household incomes are too low to pay for it. Poor access and use of electricity exposes household to poverty.

Fourthly, Drinking Water: The household is disadvantaged if its main source of water does not meet Millennium Development Goals standards or they require more than 30 minutes to trek and fetch water. If the water source is unprotected (that is open or unprotected wells or springs, and the surface water typically the damn, river, and pond among others) or the family relies on an unclean water source such as bottled water or a tanker van the household is deprived. However, a protected well or spring and the use of rainfall water) would however meant to a clean water.

Fifthly, the Floor: The household is poor if it has a dirt floor (earth, sand, or dung). Finally, the indicator of cooking fuel appears to be an indicator that is among the last ones to have been improved upon and the indicator cut-offs are disputable. The household is under-deprived in this indicator if the cooking fuel being used has a low environmental impact and a low effect on enclosed air pollution. Therefore, its extent that it causes indoor air pollution can this indicator be seen as an important well-being indicator, mainly due to its health impact. But health is already captured elsewhere.

Sixthly, the Sanitation: The household is underprivileged if its toilet does not meet Millennium Development Goals standards or is shared with another household. The sanitation indicator suffers from the problem of different needs across countries and regions. In more densely populated regions and urban areas, improved sanitation facilities are more important as they prevent the dissemination of infectious diseases. Research differentiating amid urban and rural areas, find larger effects of improved sanitation on health in densely populated urban areas. (Dotter, Caroline, Klasen, & Stephan, 2019).

Following the need to simplify the MPI, one can discuss the adequacy of some of the standard of living indicators. Some indicators are hard to measure, as the household's benefit depends on the quality of the service. Moreover, there are substantive differences in needs for access (between urban and rural areas and across countries) which might show bias results.

3.2. Review of Empirical Studies on Living Standard

This section reviews empirical studies for instance a study on multidimensional poverty in rural areas of Adamawa state using quantitative research design and collected data from 480 head of household from 16 settlements through multi stage sampling technique. Descriptive statistics and Multidimensional Poverty Analytical tool was used. The results revealed that 61.7 percent of the households were poor; multidimensional poverty is negatively influenced household size, age, and marital status. Provision of critical physical infrastructure, diversification of economy, security for life and properties to mitigate shocks and poverty were recommended. Furthermore, the study opined that farmers should be inspire to establish cooperative societies and alleviate the constraints of resources (Michael, Tashikalma, Maurice, Tafida, 2019). The study was constraint with rural areas context but multidimensional poverty indicators do exist both in rural and urban areas. Therefore, the need to study this phenomenon in both contexts is required, especially in Nigeria.

Ab-Rahim and Mohammed (2019) studied the monetary and Multidimensional Poverty Index in Niger State of Nigeria via quantitative research approach and collected data from 432 household and 520 respondents through the cluster sampling. The Alkire and Foster Method of data anlaysis via the education, health care and living standard, and the ten indicators were applied. The results reveals that the health care and living standard trials among the households are glaring specifically, the insufficiency of drinking water, poor sanitation, inadequate electricity, ancient cooking fuel exposed them to poverty. The study suggested that effective policy for the provision of infrastructure will push poverty alleviation. Similarly a study is required in Bauchi state and other states with manifestation of multidimensional poverty index in Nigeria.

Olajide and Adeola, (2016) carried out a research on the status of women in Ondo state via quantitative research technique and multi-stage sampling. The results specified that over 50 percent of the women specifically in rural areas were illiterates and disadvantaged. The results also indicated that people are denied of social amenities and experienced relegation. Consequently, a study needs to be carried in northern Nigeria with both the male and female folk to ascertain the poverty among them.

Literature indicated that during the past decade, the Multidimensional Poverty Indicators were used to complement the monetary measures in many countries especially in Latin America particularly, the Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Dominican Republic El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras and Panama. For instance in Chile MPI comprises of 5 dimensions with 3 indicators each. Therefore, a person is considered as multidimensional poor if he/she is denied of at least 25 percent of the twelve weighted indicators. In Mexico, the MPI is considered with two dimensions; economic welfare and social rights. A person with income below the poverty line and denied of the six indicators is considered as multidimensional poor. The construct of social right dimension. The situation in Panama comprises of 5 dimensions with

equal weight and with a household living below 30 percent of the 17 weight indicators is considered as multidimensional poor.

Similarly, in Honduras 15 indicators were grouped into 4 dimensions; the health, education and labor have 3 indicators and the housing dimension has 6 indicators. Therefore, a person is considered multidimensional poor if she/he lives in a household denied in more than twenty-five percent with fifteen weight indicators. Ecuador uses 4 dimensions and twelve indicators (education; health, water, nutrition, labor, social security, housing and environment). Thus, a person is considered multidimensional poor he/she is denied in at least 33.33 percent and 12 weighted indicators. Again, Costa Rica demarcated 5 dimensions of MPI in the country and a person is considered multidimensional poor if he/she is denied up to twenty percent weighted of the indicators. The case in El Salvador uses 5 dimensions and twenty indicators and a household is considered as multidimensional poor if he/she is denied in more than 7 to twenty percent and thirty-five indicators (Felipe, Malásquez, Olivieri & Pico, 2019). These inconsistencies call for further studies in the African context.

Contrarily, a survey on multidimensional poverty indicators in Oyo state of federal republic of Nigeria shows that farmers in rural areas were undoubtedly denied of improved living standard due to inadequate infrastructure such as drinking water, sanitation, roofing as well as cooking fuel materials. Findings from the study also reveal that the failure of these indicators disposes the people to multidimensional poverty. The study also exposed that consumption rate is 72.46 percent, and education, 77.40 percent and standard of living 75.34 percent dimensions have worrisome percentage. The study suggested for a comprehensive anti-poverty reduction program (Israel & Hakim, 2015). Despite the implementation of diverse programs poverty is one of the socio-economic trouble bedeviling many families in the federal of Nigeria.

The occurrence of coronavirus worldwide has posed challenges on the education systems and other dimensions of poverty; in examining the impact of COVID-19, data was collected through quantitative research approach and structured questionnaires from 200 respondents specifically, teachers, parents and policy makers cross different countries. The STATA/Regression was during the data analysis.

The results revealed that the pandemic triggered severe effects on education in the areas of inadequate access to education, learning disruptions, and facilities. Unemployment and improved debts on students were evidenced. The result further exposed that many educationalists and students used online lessons which is hindered with insufficient access and weak digital skills. The study recommended that institutions of learning, educationalists, the education sector and learners should embrace technological skills in agreement with the evolving international realities and trends (Onyema, Eucheria, Obafemi, Sen, Atonye, Sharma & Alsayed, 2020). Therefore, the need for infrastructural development and dynamism in education will assist countries, especially the developing economies of the world. The study has neglected the living standard dimension of poverty as it is also bedeviled by the pandemic corona virus worldwide.

Adebayo, Saka and Yusuf, (2014) examined the Human Capital Development using data period between (1960-2009) and studied poverty in Nigeria via Econometric method. The results from the survey exposes that Human capital indicators particularly medical services, education, nourishment and nutrition are shocking. Nigeria experienced socioeconomic hitches during the dated 1960-2004; the percentage of the public living in poverty rises year by year. The figures further showed that the numbers of the poor increased from 6.2 percent in 1980 to 29.3 percent in the year (1996). The study recommended for an increased in the expenditure precisely on health, education and other pro-poor programs. From the foregoing review, most of these studies were carried in the Latin American countries and other parts of the developing world as well failed to specifically study the living standard dimension of poverty. Thus, the need to examine this dimension with higher numbers of indicators in Bauchi state became vital and imperative. Previously, Literature indicated that Bauchi state has the highest shortfall in the MPI across living standard, education and health care among the thirty-six states in the federal republic of Nigeria (Alkire & Santos, 2014).

4. Theoretical Framework

Different theories were identified in explaining the phenomenon of poverty and its multidimensional indicators. These include individual deficiencies, economic, political and social discrimination. Others include geographical disparities; cumulative and cyclical independencies theories all describe the dimensions and parameters that the underprivileged undergo. Consequently, this study applied both the individual deficiencies, economic, political and social discrimination theory which considers the incapability of the individual, economic and political system exposed the manifestations related to poor living standard.

4.1. The Individual Deficiencies Theory

The individual deficiencies theory of poverty claimed that ignorance, laziness, low educational background and other individual`s weaknesses exposes people to poverty. The theory believes and blames personalities for their situation of meagre access to food, education and other basic needs to support their living standard. It assumed that with hard-work and better choices the situation of the poverty would have been minimized. The attributes associated to this postulations consist of weak genetic qualities such as intelligence, bad choice, incompetence and inborn disabilities (Musa, Abdullah & Wahid 2016; Bakare, Ibrahim & Edozie, 2015). In linking this theory with living standard, expertise, education and creativity are some of the factors that contributed to the individuals` achievement and meager possession of resources many of the aforementioned attributes might lead to poverty in the long run as well as deplorable living standard.

4.2. The Economic, Political and Social Discrimination Theory

The economic, political and social discrimination theory criticize the individual theory of poverty been promulgated by the conservative scholars, the cultural liberal theorists and the supposition of progressive socialist theories. This theory maintained that the economic, political and social structure led to the insufficiency of access to opportunities and the possessions of resources to attend meaningful well-being and living standard. Poverty is driven by systematic barriers that avert the poor from accessing and accomplishing the core social institutions typically the education, housing, health care, jobs, safety and political representation.

Rank, Yoon and Hirsal (2003), proclaimed that poverty is glaring on those who loss the economic potentials. Theorists, condemned the individual theory by elucidating how social and economic systems exposed individuals to poverty. For example, Karl Marx, specified how capitalist economic system created joblessness. Durkheim, discussed that even suicide is mostly mediated by the social systems. Previous study also advocated that poverty is determined by the economic system which marginalized and undermined the underprivileged people. These marginalization is manifested in the minimum wage remunerations via the disparity and subjugation of the poor families into hardships. Similarly, fringe benefits particularly, the medical care and promotions among others were observed to be deficient to the low-income earners.

The link between wealth and power explains how the poor is uninvolved in policy making, political deliberations and exclusion in many aspects of political realm. So many obstacles do exist that neglect the poor in the political system. They undergo marginalization, discrimination in the political arrangements and the economic opportunities alongside injustice. Bradshaw, (2007) opined that the condition of poor in the aspect of political, economic and social discrimination related to social stigmatization, race, gender, disability, groups and religion led them to have confine opportunities irrespective of personal abilities. In connecting the postulations of this theory with the study of living standard it is clear that the political, economic and social discrimination therein the federal republic of Nigeria created the scenario of life-threatening living standard especially among the underprivileged. The political-economy is capitalist driven by commercialization and social settings favored the rich in housing, education, health care and the living standard.

5. Results

This section of the study discusses the findings from the observations and the views of the informants to facilitate in answering the research questions and achievement of the established objectives. Literature indicated that the living standard is the dimension of poverty with high poverty incidence among MPI and the largest contributor to overall poverty. For instance, in 17 of the 104 countries analyzed, the living standard dimension adds even more than 50 percent of the total poverty (Alkire & Santos, 2014).

1.8.1 Living Standard of the Informants in Bauchi State

The living standard dimension of poverty comprises of six indicators the cooking fuel, water, sanitation, floor, assets and electricity (Alkire & Santos, 2013). In it contained the three standard Millennium Development Goals indicators which are equally related to the health care dimension and these consist of portable drinking water, hygienic cooking fuel and improved sanitation. Likewise, two non-MDGs indicators; the electricity and flooring materials were contained in it, altogether supported the basic indicator of the housing quality. The assets indicator capture the ownership of some useable goods such as telephone, radio, television, refrigerator, motorbike, bicycle, car and truck.

In analyzing the results, observation in the study area showed that possessions of these social amenities differs from rural, semi-urban and urban areas. For example most of the households in rural and semi-urban rely on charcoal, fire wood and few on electricity as cooking fuel. However, most urban cities particularly, Bauchi, Azare, Misau among others practices the use of cooking gas, electricity, kerosene and charcoal as sources of cooking fuel. On sources of portable drinking water, most rural dwellers accessed local well, streams/rivers/dams and motor-powered bore-hole as sources of water for drinking. However, cities and urban areas in the state specifically the local government headquarters accessed portable drinking water from the state water board and sewage corporation the (tap water); solar energy bore-hole and commercial operators.

Consequently, on electricity supply, many rural and semi urban areas were connected to National Grid; the urban cities were as well linked to the electricity supplied by the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDCO); generators and sourced from solar by some families and companies in the state were equally used. The sanitation, observation also indicated that the public health condition related families' hygiene, portable drinking water, suitable treatment and appropriate disposal of human defecate and sewage in the state needs improvement.

The Bauchi state widespread monthly environmental sanitation and Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency (BASEPA) in addition to the existence of private cleaning companies contributed in evacuating waste disposal process in the study area. On the floor, the study discovered that cemented, gravel and ceramics and tiles floor were the common types of floor found in the urban cities while mud floor and mud floor houses were found in many rural areas in the state. On the assets disposal to the people; our findings reveals that it comprises of possessions, monies and properties owned by individuals and the informants in the state. Accordingly, radio, television, telephone, motorbike, bicycle, refrigerator, agricultural tools, car and truck were most of the assets owned by some of the informants in the study area. Literature shows that assets are characterized into capital assets which are further divided into social, natural, human, physical and financial assets. The social capital builds opportunities to propel other forms of capital via the collective resources to remove social barriers. Human capital provides the knowledge and informative environments in which decisions can be made to gain access and instructions learns and circulated. Physical capital reliant on household`s assets such as road, transport, market and health care services. Natural capital dependent on land, water and temperature for the

overall benefit of the humanity (Yang, Liu, Lun, Min, Zhang, & Li; 2018 & Nicol, 2000). The informants discourse on the condition of their living standard and strategies for the improvement of these amenities for a better living as follow:

5.1. Condition of the Living Standard of the Underprivileged in the Study Area

Observation indicated that on cooking fuel the informants living in the urban areas had weak electricity supply or it's expensive to use it as source of cooking, consequently, they resolve to the use charcoal among others. Similarly, few families especially the wealthy once in the urban metropolises in Bauchi, Azare and Misau among others use gas for cooking whereas the poor families could not afford to the electricity and gas. Therefore, charcoal and fire wood became their sources of cooking fuel. On portable drinking water, the informants in rural and urban areas suffered from the insufficiency of portal drinking water and this necessitated the Bauchi state government to collaborate with the World Bank in upgrading the water supply in Bauchi city. Most rural areas in the study area suffered from the inadequate shortage of portable drinking water mostly sourced from wells and motorized bore-hole particularly during the dry season. Consequently, the people residing in urban areas among the informants find it difficult to disposed waste and garbage due to shortage of disposable centers. Again, the results indicated that some of the residents of rural areas lived in mud floor due to weak sources of income to build cemented and tile floors.

The results shows that some of the informants did not owned basic assets that will enable them to live a decent life especially cars and tractors to ease farming in their respective domains. Previous study classified capital assets used by household into social, physical, human, financial and natural assets. Therefore, social capital creates opportunities to push capital via communal resources to eliminate social barriers. Physical capital is dependent on families' access to assets such as transport, road, market, and health care. While Human capital provides the knowledge and informative environments in which decisions can be made to gain access and lessons acquires and disseminated. Natural capital reliant on land, water and temperature (Yang, Liu, Lun, Min, Zhang, & Li, 2018 &Nicol, 2000). Thus, absences of the assets exposed household into shortage of resources to accomplished and enthusiastic living standard.

5.3. Ways for the Improvement of Living Standard

The informants suggested the strategies for improved living standard to include the roles expected of the government in Bauchi state and the federal republic of Nigeria as whole while liaising with the individuals so as to provide constant electricity supply and take over from private companies. They also viewed for the establishment of vocational education, intensification of water supply and construction of roads as well as making cooking fuel at an affordable rate to the less privileged. Additionally, the strengthened war against corruption to enable wealth circulate and develop the people`s living standard. The informants also suggested that individuals should embrace farming and businesses to complement their sources of income for self-reliance as well as for better living.

For instance informant one narrated that: Government should establish ways to reduce the poverty among the underprivileged via the loans facilities to enable them engage in businesses and become self-reliance to improve their living standard. The researcher deduced that loans and business activities will lead to increase in the income of the people. Similarly, the government should influence the electricity supplying companies to improve their services and the water and sewage corporation to improve on the water supply as well. Observation also expounds the need for improvement of services in the aspect of electricity and water supply. Informant three supposed that: "government should establish additional vocational schools in order to promote individual`s efficacy and self-reliance among the people in the state. Likewise, informant ten supposed that: "Government should expand the socio-economic development of rural and urban areas through agriculture and infrastructural facilities". Observation also suggested that empowerment will enable the people to be economically viable to afford to the basic means of livelihood.

Concurrently, informant twelve suggested for:

The diversification of the economy in the state will enable the people access different employment opportunities such as civil service, agriculture, solid minerals and sporting engagements. I advised for engagement in crops production, rearing of animals and irrigation farming these would augment the income of the people to improve their standard of living. I also suggested that the state government should provide palliative measures to support the less privilege. I think establishment of more industries will also create more jobs opportunities in the state.

Informants sixteen proposed for these:

I think that expansion of businesses to increase individuals' revenue sources will enable us to improve the supply of water, electricity, sanitation and acquire assets to develop our living standard. Youth should engage themselves in other crafts such as welding, carpentry and plumbing to earn some money for an improved living.

Informant twenty advocated that:

Government should increase the availability of infrastructural such as roads, electricity and water in order to offer improved standard of living to the people. I also suggested for encouragement of small scale businesses and development of housing scheme to alleviate the people from living in substandard accommodation in the state.

Furthermore, informant twenty seven viewed that:

Government should turn around the state into business oriented state. It should also stabilize the salary scale of the state civil servants. In my own opinion, basic amenities such as water, healthcare and electricity needs complete improvement. I am of the view that private operators should be allowed to supply electricity and water alone side with the government.

Paradoxically, informant thirty viewed that:

Corruption should be eradicated in the country via the anti-corruption strict measures and laws to punish the perpetrators and recovered resources stolen by the guilty public officials and these will enable the government to provide the required infrastructure to advance the lives of citizens in the state.

Informant forty opined that:

The state government should take over the supply and distribution of electricity from the private companies. This is evidenced in Yobe state in which the state government took over, thus, increases its supply. Government should intensify efforts in water supply in the state and other basic infrastructure in order to improve the living standard of the people.

Corroborating the views of the forty-five informants' observation specified that governments` intervention, businesses, vocational education and other means to increase income as well as empowerment strategies were observed to augment the living standard of the people in the study area.

6. Discussion

This segment of the study discusses the observations and the views of the informants. Similarly two research questions were established to achieve our objectives, a recapitulation of the questions indicated that: How is the living standard of the underprivileged in Bauchi state? What are the ways to improve the living standard of the underprivileged in the study area? Previous study shows that Bauchi state recorded 89.5 percent figures of multidimensional poverty and the highest prevalence of shortfall across living standard, education and health care in Nigeria (Alkire, & Santos, 2014). Observation indicated that most household in the rural and semi-urban areas uses charcoal, firewood as cooking fuel. They access drinking water from well, streams, rivers/dams and motor-powered bore-hole. While urban cities sourced from tape and commercial operators.

Evidence shows that they accessed electricity from the National Grid via the JEDCO, generators and solar powered energy. On sanitation, hygiene and suitable waste disposal in the state requires improvement. It is also discovered that cemented, ceramics, gravel and tiles floors are in urban areas whereas mud and pathetic floor houses are common in rural areas. The assets possessions of the informants indicated that monies and properties were common to urban and rural areas. Agricultural implements, bicycle, radio and motorbike assets were common to rural localities and refrigerator, cars and trucks were so common to urban cities. Upholding the observation, literature indicated that rural communities are most affected by deprivation to basic needs and multidimensional poverty with 85 percent globally. For instance in Africa, Somalia recorded 60 percent in urban and 95 percent rural areas; Niger 56 and 96 percent; Ethiopia 54 and 96 percent and Burkina Faso 43 and 94 percent rural as well as urban settlements respectively (Ogwumikea & Ozughalub, 2018, NBS, 2012 & NBS, 2005). The views of the informants further supported the observation for instance most of them suffer from insufficiency of drinking water, floor, assets, sanitation, cooking fuel and sourced of electricity as well as waste/ garbage disposal centers. Past study in India indicated that on the overall 60 percent of the population in India uses solid sources, firewood and cow dung for cooking which has health hazard (Faizan & Thakur, 2019). These findings answered the first research question.

In answering the second research question, the informants narrated that in order to improve the living standard of the underprivileged in Bauchi state the roles of federal, state governments, private companies and individuals to improvement electricity, water, sanitation, cooking fuel, floor and assets via infrastructural development, vocational education, farming, business, war against corruption in addition to empowerment to enhanced their living standard. For instance informant ten suggested that: "Government should expand the socio-economic development of rural and urban areas through agriculture and infrastructural facilities". Literature supported that developed infrastructure and human capital is an investment on skills, abilities, health, ideals, locations which resulted on the overall expenditure on programs that propelled living standard, education and health care. (Enilolobo & Sodeinde, 2019). Thus, tangible facilities such as transportation, telecommunication, water, power, sewage are characterized as wheels for economic development and translated into improved living standard.

The provision of infrastructure in cities/towns, schools and other places of human engagement empowered the people as well as reduces poverty. Provision of infrastructure has been viewed as ways to improve the living standard of the people (Friday, 2019). Previous study supported the results of this research for instance, Musa, Abdullah and Wahid (2016) established that agricultural policies and agribusiness initiatives will contributed immensely to the revenue based of the state and the individuals considering the fertile land potentials in Bauchi state-Nigeria. Similarly, agro-allied industries will be revitalized to improve the living standard and empower the people. Musa, Abdullah and Wahid (2018) indicated that in order to ensure steady supply of water, electricity and cooking fuel public and private partnership will turn these indicators vigorous as well as robust in the long run influences the living standard of the people. Strong and sustainable institutions to fight corruption should be put in place and the reformation of the judiciary to prosecute looters of public funds in the country (Sunday & Abdullahi, 2018). Therefore, based on the observations and the views of the informants; findings implied that these ways might influence the living standard of the underprivileged in the study area and other developing economic with similar features in Nigeria and Bauchi state.

7. Recommendations

Based on the results of this study and corroborations from the previous studies; the following recommendations were established to improve the living standard of the underprivileged and the good people of Bauchi state and the federal republic of Nigeria at large. Firstly, diversification of the economy to open more opportunities in agriculture, mining of solid minerals, businesses, information and communication technology and all other human endeavour to push the living

standard of the people. Secondly, Public and private partnerships in the provision of electricity, water, assets, modern cooking fuel, housing, education and health facilities so as to boost the livelihood of the people.

Thirdly, the expansion of educational institutions to enlighten the people as citizens with all-encompassing knowledge is bound to accept changes and innovation in concrete terms. Accessible education will lead to awareness on the multidimensional poverty (living standard, education and health care) and its consequences on the society. Fourthly, a program that will encapsulate three main focal agenda to reduce poverty via comprehensive program to break the cycle of poverty with the application of different services to accommodate community and individual needs for instance housing and cooking fuel needs were subsidized in Malaysia among other countries. Collaboration by different organizations to provide complementary services which the results might be greater than what an individual will offer. Network from the formal and informal organizations, the community participate in empowerment strategies.   Again, this study recommended that future studies should applied quantitative research approach.

8. Acknowledgement

9. Conclusion

This study concludes that living standard of the informants in the study area differs in concrete terms for instance observation indicated that most of the households in rural and semi-urban rely on olden methods and had restricted indicators (charcoal, fire wood for cooking and accessed local well, streams/rivers/dams and motor-powered bore-hole as sources of water). However, most urban cities accessed the improved indicators (cooking gas, electricity for cooking and tap water among others). The informants identified that it is difficult to dispose waste and garbage especially in the cities and some of them in rural areas had mud floor. Again, the results shows that some of the informants did not owned assets that will enable them to live a decent life especially cars and tractors to ease farming in their respective domains. They also asserted that the ways to improve living standard is by governments` provision of infrastructure, diversification of the economy, business opportunities and vocational education and combating corruption.

10. References

i. Ab-Rahim, R., & Mohammed, M. (2019). Multidimensional Poverty Index of Niger State,   Nigeria. International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences, 9(7),   451–   460.

ii. Alkire, S., & Santos, M. E. (2014). Measuring acute poverty in the developing world: Robustness   and scope of the Multidimensional Poverty Index. World Development, 59, 251-274.

iii. Alkire, S., & Santos, M. E. (2014). Measuring acute poverty in the developing world: Robustness and scope of the Multidimensional Poverty Index. World Development, 59, 251-274.

iv. Alkire, S., Roche, J. M., Seth, S., & Sumner, A. (2015). Identifying the poorest people and groups: Strategies using the global multidimensional poverty index. Journal of International Development, 27(3), 362-387.

v. Baba, I., & Abubakar, M. (2015). Decaying Nature of Facilities and the Need for Infrastructural Development in North-east Nigeria. Universal Journal of Industrial and Business Management, 3(2), 37-45.

vi. Bradshaw, T. K. (2007). Theories of poverty and anti-poverty programs in community development. Community Development, 38(1), 7-25.

vii. Enilolobo, O.S., &   Sodeinde, O. (2019). Human Capital Development, Infrastructural   Development and Industrial Sector Productivity in Nigeria. Archives of Business   Research, 7(1), 122-136. Doi:10.14738/abr.71.5917.

viii. Faizan, M. A., & Thakur, R. (2019). Association of between solid cooking fuels and respiratory   diseases across socio-demographic groups in India. Journal of Health and Pollution, 9(23),   190911.

ix. Friday, O. A. (2019). Practice and policies of infrastructure protection in Nigeria: Prospects and   challenges. International Journal of Social Science & Humanities Research, 2(9), 1-17.

x. (10) Merem, E. C., Twumasi, Y., Wesley, J., Isokpehi, P., Shenge, M., Fageir, S. … & Ochai, S. (2017). Analyzing Water Management Issues Using GIS: The Case of   Nigeria. Geosciences, 7(1),   20-46.

xi. Musa, U. F., Abdullah, M. A. I. L. B., & Wahid, R. (2018).Exploring the causes of Multidimensional Poverty Indicators in Bauchi state and its mitigation strategies. International Journal of Advanced Studies in Social Science & Innovation,2, (1), 126-143. Doi.org/10.30690/ijassi.21.10.

xii. Musa, U. F., Abdullah, M. A. I. L. B., & Wahid, R. (2016). Politics of Poverty Alleviation Programs in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects. Journal of Education and Social Sciences, 4,   2289-   9855.

xiii. Michael, A., Tashikalma, A. K., Maurice, D. C., Tafida, A. A. (2019). Analysis of multidimensional poverty in rural Adamawa State, Nigeria. Journal of Agribusiness Rural Development,3(53),233–241. doi.org/10.17306.

xiv. Ogwumike, F.O & Ozughalu, U.M. (2018). Empirical evidence of child poverty and deprivation   in   Nigeria. Child Abuse & Neglect, 77, 13–22.

xv. Palinkas, L. A., Horwitz, S. M., Green, C. A., Wisdom, J. P., Duan, N., & Hoagwood, K. (2013). Purposeful sampling for qualitative data collection and analysis in mixed method   implementation research. Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health   Services Research, 1-12.

xvi. Rank, M. R., Yoon, H.-S., & Hirschl, T. A. (2003). American Poverty as a Structural Failing: Evidence and Arguments. Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, 30(4), 5.

xvii.   Sunday, M.A. A & Abdullahi, U. (2018). Corruption and Underdevelopment in Nigeria: Challengesand Solutions, Scientific Research Journal, 6(7)1-10.

xviii.   Tong, A., Sainsbury, P., & Craig, J. (2007). Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. International Journal for Qualityin Health Care, 19(6), 349-357.

xix.   Yakubu, S. N., Anigbogu, N. A., & Daniel, M. M. (2016). An Assessment of Public Private   Partnerships   for Housing Projects in Bauchi State, North Eastern Nigeria. International   Journal   of   Regional   Development, 4(1), 35.

xx.   Yang, L., Liu, M., Lun, F., Min, Q., Zhang, C., & Li, H. (2018). Livelihood assets and strategies   among rural households: Comparative analysis of rice and dry land terrace systems in China. Sustainability, 10 (7), 2525.

xxi.   Alkire, S., & Santos, M. E. (2011). Acute multidimensional poverty: A new index for developing countries. Proceedings of the German Development Economics   Conference, Berlin. 3.

xxii.   Alkire, S., Kanagaratnam, U & Suppa, N. (2018). The Global Multidimensional Poverty   Index   (MPI): 2018 Revision. OPHI MPI Methodological notes 46.

xxiii.   Dotter, Caroline; Klasen, Stephan (2019). An absolute multidimensional poverty measure in the functioning space (and relative measure in the resource space): An illustration   using Indian   data, Discussion Papers, No. 260, Georg-August-Universität   Göttingen, Courant Research   Centre- Poverty, Equity and Growth (CRC-PEG),   Göttingen.

xxiv.   Felipe Balcázar, C., Malásquez, E. A., Olivieri, S., & Pico, J. (2019). Spatial Heterogeneity   and Household Life Cycle in the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

xxv.   Nicol, A. (2000). Adopting a sustainable livelihoods approach to water projects: Implications   for   policy and practice. Overseas Development Institute. Working Paper 133.

xxvi.   National Bureau of Statistics (2012). Nigeria poverty profile 2010. Abuja: NBS

xxvii.   National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2005). Poverty profile for Nigeria. Abuja: NBS.

xxviii.   World Bank (2016). World development indicators. Washington, DC: The World Bank.