

2022

# Impact of Governance Policy on Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria

Oyebola Bejide Akande  
*Walden University*

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# Walden University

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Oyebola Bejide Akande

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Walden University  
2022

Abstract

Impact of Governance Policy on Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria

by

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MPhil, Walden University, 2021

DBA, Walden University, 2016

MBA, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, 2007

BA, The Federal Polytechnic, 2000

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Public Policy and Administration

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## Abstract

Nigeria has many human and natural resources, but its citizens live in poverty because of a lack of sufficient policies in addition to mismanagement and misappropriation of resources. The purpose of this generic qualitative study was to explore the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria to provide strategic policy direction. The institutional analysis development framework served as the theoretical foundation. The research question focused on how diverse government governance policies have impacted socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The perspectives of 12 policy and development experts were sought through semistructured interviews. Data were triangulated with field notes, journals, and archival policy documents. Member checking was used to improve the credibility and trustworthiness of the data. Fourteen themes and policy strategies and directions emerged from the thematic analysis, some examples include: (a) bad governance strategy; (b) budget proposal, development plan and annual budget; (c) political interference and personal preferences strategy; (d) external influences strategy; (e) centralization of power and local governance failure; (f) deficient budgeting process, decision making and ideology on policy; (g) lack of inter-agency coordination and collaboration; (h) poor leadership in Nigeria . The study outcomes may be used for positive social change by encouraging appropriate strategic policy direction and its implementation to reduce poverty, impact livelihood, and improve the standard of living in Nigeria.

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## Dedication

I dedicate this doctoral dissertation to the Almighty God, my creator, for HIS grace, mercy, strength, provisions, wisdom, understanding, and the enablement to achieve this second doctoral degree. Achieving this milestone is by the Special Grace of God. O Lord, I bless your name in my life for all you have made me achieve and would achieve in life. Only God alone is worthy of my praise for his faithfulness upon me and the opportunity to thrive. I also want to dedicate this degree to my son Mr. Olajuwon Olatunji, for his prayers, support, understanding, encouragement, and sacrifices through this academic sojourn to pursue a second doctoral degree. Olaoluwajuwonlo, indeed, in our lives, no one could ever have imagined I would earn two doctorate degrees; it is unimaginable to then, considering how you and I started, but with Almighty God on our side, today we have a testimony. I sincerely appreciate my family's role in my life during my struggles. With God's grace and your prayers, I made this uncommon dream in the academic pursuit a reality. I want to use this opportunity to remember those who have the knowledge but are oppressed by society and lack the economic power and support to pursue their academic desire. Almighty God will arise in his mercy and strengthen you to pursue your dream.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Deficient government policies and mismanagement in Nigeria poses challenges to efficiently govern the country's economy and implement socioeconomic policies that impact livelihood (Anyaechie & Areji, 2015). Despite the government Vision 20: 2020 policy initiated to address the best economy for improved livelihood in 2020 (Alumona, 2016), an average Nigeria survives on less than \$1.90 per day, with 40.1% living in abject poverty (Iyoha al., 2015; Mammanda & Hassan, 2019; World Bank, 2020), and unemployment and underemployment rates are at 55.7% (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Though Nigeria has vast resources, there has been no indicative decline in poverty or improvements to livelihood or income equality (U.S. Agency for International Development, 2020). Bad governance policies in Nigeria have led to socioeconomic issues such as extreme poverty while creating massive wealth for affluence for others (Famulusi & Oshomoh, 2018). Scholars have indicated that poor development in Nigeria emanated from the inability to resolve governance and policy implementation (Yagboyaju, 2019).

In this study, I focused on the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. I sought the perspectives of policymakers and development experts on the topic to contribute to the strategic policy direction and reduce poverty in Nigeria. This study may be used to inform policymakers and the government and urge them to implement policy that impacts livelihood. The government and policymakers may also rely on this evidenced-based research to consider the policy beneficiaries in the policy process by understanding their specific needs. Chapter 1 consists of the

background of the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, research questions, theoretical framework, nature of the study, operational definitions, assumptions, limitations, scope and delimitations, significance of the study, and a summary.

### **Background**

Nigeria has much poverty despite its abundant resources and being rated the sixth largest crude oil exporter (Dauda, 2017; Kura et al., 2019). Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa (Olayungbo, 2019) and a resource-wealthy developing country (Mesagan et al., 2019). The Nigerian government depends on oil revenue, which accounts for above 95% of export earnings, 25% of gross domestic product (GDP), and about 90% of its revenue to service its economy (International Monetary Fund, 2012; U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2020). However, an average Nigerian citizen lives on 1.9 dollars per day (Dauda, 2017; World Bank, 2020). Further, unemployment and underemployment rates combined in Nigeria are at 55.7% (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020), and as of 2019, 40.1% of the citizens lived in abject poverty (Iyoha al., 2015; Mammanda & Hassan, 2019; World Bank, 2020). Though Nigeria has an abundance of oil exploration and gas reserves, it lacks governance structure to convert resource wealth to economic development, and the government has no accountability (Mesagan et al., 2019; Waziri, 2020). Resource-wealthy countries are often confronted with deficient policies and misappropriation of resource revenue (Bulte et al., 2005; Eregha & Mesagan, 2016; Gylfason & Zoega, 2006; Mesagan et al., 2019; Perry & Olivera, 2009; Rufai et al., 2019).

Bad governance policies have impacted socioeconomic development in Nigeria



and led to issues such as unemployment (Awofeso & Irabor, 2020; Bolarinwa, 2018; Ekundayo, 2017; Familusi & Oshomoh, 2018; Kura et al., 2019). The high unemployment rate in Nigeria emanated due to poor infrastructure, deficient human capacity development, unproductive educational system, agricultural neglect, the impact of globalization, and several other factors (Dauda, 2018). Government officials have mishandled the funds apportioned for development in Nigeria since 1999 when the country assumed democracy (Adamu & Rasheed, 2019). Further, Nigeria's value for 2018 on the Human Development Index (i.e., longevity, health, education, and standard of living) was 0.534, which put the country in the low human development category to rank 158 of 189 countries and territories in the world (United Nations, 2019). Human development involves improving welfare or standard of living (Ita, 2020), but Nigeria has invested little of their annual budget on social development, crucial to human development (Kubalu et al., 2017). Even though Nigeria's government spending aggregated USD 28 billion and per capita above USD 5900, and its debt as of December 2020 was N 33.9 trillion (Debt Management Office of Nigeria, 2020), there is no significant improvement in the country's socioeconomic development (Elumoye, 2020; Kura et al., 2019).

These socioeconomic issues have also expanded inequalities among the wealthy and the poor (Awofeso & Irabor, 2020; Bolarinwa, 2018). For example, politically influential individuals are often exempted from crimes despite fund concealment of money, stealing government funds, and several illicit crimes (Waziri, 2020). Self-interest, embezzlement, and the politicians' dispassionate behavior toward development have

resulted in poverty in Nigeria (Okeke & Eme, 2016). The affluent consider governance a tactic for personal gains instead of national development (Igiebor, 2019).

Though the Nigerian constitution states that the government's foremost objective should be Nigerians' security and well-being and to ensure an adequate and dignified quality of life (Ekundayo, 2017). The Nigerian government has failed in its constitutional responsibility to provide security, safeguard lives, provide an adequate standard of living, and enable an environment for business and economic activity to thrive (Adebayo & Adepoju, 2018). Policymaking influences in Nigeria are governing impediments to development policies, resulting in development failures (Ozohu-Suleima, 2016). The goal of governance is to align people and society (Arslan & Roudarki, 2017). However, in Nigeria, governance policy deficiency has made it challenging to exterminate poverty, provide infrastructural facilities, and curb insecurity (Yagboyaju & Akinola, 2019). The literature on governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria has not provided strategic direction toward policy formulation that can improve living standards and alleviate poverty (Yagboyaju, 2019). In this study, I examined the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria through the perspectives of policy and development experts.

### **Problem Statement**

The research problem addressed in this study is the impact of governance policy on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Governance in Nigeria has resulted in self-interest that has impacted government responsibility to the public (Yagboyaju, 2019), making growth and socioeconomic development unattainable to lift half of the population

out of poverty (Omodero, 2019). Consequently, an average Nigerian cannot meet daily needs beyond 1.9 dollars per day (World Bank, 2020). Nigeria lacks effective execution of various government policies, as reflected in the Vision 20: 2020 policy (Awofeso & Irabor, 2020; Okoye et al., 2018). This has impacted the socioeconomic development of the nation (Akinde, 2020; Gberevbie, 2017), leading to poverty, unemployment, high inflation, poor infrastructure, excessive spending, inequality, poor education, misappropriation, and deficient economic policies (Omoniyi, 2018).

Most literature lacks explicit policy strategy and direction to resolve governance and socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria (Akinde, 2020; Gyau, 2018). Research on the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria may reveal evidence that could urge policymakers to focus on strategic policy direction to impact the citizens' livelihood and standard of living. Although researchers have investigated related issues, the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria has not been explored by other researchers qualitatively (Akinde, 2020; Ijeh et al., 2019; Yagboyaju, 2019). I addressed the gap in the literature by exploring the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this generic qualitative study was to explore the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The participants included policy and development experts with 10 years' competency and in-depth knowledge of governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Multiple

methods of data collection were used to collect data in this study. Policy documents and archival records were used to triangulate the experts' perspectives on this topic. Good qualitative research involves different relevant stakeholders and does not depict one opinion (Filatotchev & Wright, 2017). Using interviews based on the experts' experiences and perspectives in this study was appropriate using semistructured interviews to elicit information from the study participants.

### **Research Questions**

The central research question to guide this study is “How have diverse government governance policies impacted socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria?” The following subquestions were used to answer the overarching research questions:

- Subquestion 1: What governance policy strategy has been adopted by Nigeria government to resolve socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria?
- Subquestion 2: What challenges are or can be described as inherent in executing policies for socioeconomic development in Nigeria?
- Subquestion 3: How have governance policies affected the nature and pace of development in Nigeria?

### **Theoretical Foundation**

The theory that grounded this study was Weible and Sabatier's (2018) institutional analysis and development (IAD) framework. The framework is used to analyze impacts on policy decisions, policy on poverty, and socioeconomic development outcomes (Agrawal, 2003; Cox et al., 2016; Poteete et al., 2010; Weible & Sabatier,

2018). It focuses on the way policymakers decide within institutional settings that shape their attitude, precisely when involved in shared acts (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The framework core presents mechanisms to explore how various policymakers and institutions initiate and generate divergent results, always assessed concerning compromise between management, equality, accountability, and other directions like well-being and prosperousness (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The IAD framework also involves problem-solving pathways to allow scholars to explore and describe how people use institutional arrangements to resolve collective issues (Ostrom, 1987; Weible & Sabatier, 2018), such as understanding how and why institutional structure can lead to improving institutional performance (Cole, 2013; Weible & Sabatier, 2018).

The problem-solving pathways of the IAD framework aligned with exploring the impact of governance policy on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The institutional circumstance of governance in Nigeria is rooted in the physical and material state of affairs that influenced how people operated, served, and set rules (Ostrom & Ostrom, 1971, as cited in Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The IAD framework relates to the Nigerian context because socioeconomic development in Nigeria has been attributable to poor governance (Akinde, 2020). This research identified governance decisions on the livelihood of the people they represent. The logical connections between the framework presented and the nature of this study included the extensive use of this framework to analyze the impacts of diverse government governance policies as reflected in the Vision 20: 2020 policy decisions and outcomes.

### **Nature of the Study**

I used a generic qualitative approach as the design to address the research questions in this study (see Merriam & Tisdell, 2015). The generic qualitative approach is used to seek peoples' perspectives on the actual situations, occurrences, and experiences describing different aspects of the research problem (Percy et al., 2015). A generic qualitative approach has been referred to as an interpretative and qualitative description (Kahlke, 2018; Sandelowski, 2000; Thorne & Kirkham, 1997). The generic descriptive qualitative approach uses data collection methods to elicit individuals' perspectives on external and real-world issues outside themselves (Percy et al., 2015).

I used the generic qualitative approach with individual in-depth interviews to engage policy and development experts and policy documents and archival records. I recruited policy and development experts for individual interviews and triangulated their perspectives with policy documents and archival records. Interview protocols were developed to address the problem and purpose statement. I used thematic analysis to analyze the impact of governance policy on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Thematic analysis is an approach for recognizing, analyzing, arranging, depicting, detailing, and illustrating the themes extracted from the research data (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Nowell et al., 2017). Thematic analysis was appropriate for describing important details of a large amount of data because it compels the researcher to use a systematic or thoughtful approach to data management or analysis, assisting to generate a concise and well-expressed interpretation and results (Nowell et al., 2017).

## Definitions

*Accountability:* Accountability is the responsibility to respond to decisions taken, and actions when the power to act in place of someone (the principal), is entrusted to another (the agent), which requires honesty, transparency, and the presentation of information, and accepting responsibility for actions taken (Eivani et al., 2012).

*Development experts:* An individual who possess development degrees and formulate and implement development policies in different situations and competencies. Development experts plays a critical role in divergent development policies and practices between governments, beneficiaries, and donors (Kumi & Kamruzzaman, 2021). Considering their domestic background knowledge of government, they impact the development undertakings of government by participating in the formulation and implementation of development policies (Kumi & Kamruzzaman, 2021).

*Good governance:* The rule of conduct for the government and the citizens' rights that depicts probity, accountability, transparency, effectiveness, social, economic, and dignifying human rights (Addink, 2019). Jack (2019) defined good governance as a critical section of a government's obligations from policymaking aspects to enhance its citizens' standard livelihood.

*Governance:* A complicated situation, with critical social, economic, and policymaking impacts, that depicts the approach of making and executing critical decisions in society and the processes of collaborations and interactions impacting stakeholders (Lazăr & Lazăr, 2017).

*Policies:* Policies are regarded as the manners of describing, establishing, and

authorizing government decisions and constitutionally representing the fundamental connection between the Government and its citizens' well-being (Hill, 1996; Ward et al., 2016).

*Policy:* An undertaking concerning the choice of objectives, the description of principles, goods, services, and the distribution and administration of a country's resources (Ward et al., 2016). Policy is the application of government authority and interchange or discussion adopted to approve undertaking (Olssen et al., 2004; Ward et al., 2016). It is intertwined with the concept of society and social problems, its solutions, and government responsibility in resolving the problems (Ward et al., 2016).

*Policy experts:* Individuals who are critical to public policy due to their objective perspectives on a problem (Ebrahimi & Ossewardee, 2019). Policy experts are considered critical in presenting objective opinions on a situation with scientific knowledge and integrity to the policymaking process to resolve issues (Ebrahimi & Ossewardee, 2019; Hayes, 2018).

*Policymaking:* Knill and Tosun (2020) defined policymaking entails different policy procedures such as agenda-setting, policy formulation, policy adoption, implementation, and evaluation that result in decisions and actions in the policy cycle.

*Public policy:* A persistent decision taken by the government to resolve society's interests or introduce blueprints or policies or provide a solution to society's problems or challenges (Abas, 2019).

*Socioeconomic development:* A process of transformation or improvement in social and economic situations as they concern an individual or an entity in a specific



society of a nation as in its entirety (Rotzocki et al., 2019). Socioeconomic development is circumstantial evidence that could impact citizens of a nation includes, quality education, adequate infrastructure, employment, an efficient health system, and a better standard of living that eliminates poverty from the society (Mok & Lau, 2002)

*Vision 20: 2020 Policy:* Nigeria Vision 20:2020 is a long-term government policy aimed at growing and developing Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and bringing the country to the league of the world's 20 leading economies by year 2020. The Vision 20:2020 emphasizes maximum use of government available resources and suggests ways of overcoming the challenges of implementation. The achievement of the vision intended to enable the country to achieve a high standard of living for its citizens. placing the country on a sustainable development path and transformation into a modern society. (Vision, 2009; Dialoke et al., 2017).

### **Assumptions**

Assumptions are inherent, unconscious reflections and actions (Delin et al., 1994). One assumption was that research participants would provide adequate responses and accurate information to answer the research questions based on their experience. Another assumption was that the secondary and archival documents would give precise historical information on Nigeria's diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development. Finally, there was the assumption that the documents from the government institutions would represent actual data regarding the issues relating to employment, poverty, debt profile, and other related issues to diverse governance policies and socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria.

### **Scope and Delimitations**

Delimitations are involved with the study's theoretical background, objectives, research questions, issues under study, and research sample, all under the researcher's control (Theofanidis & Fountounkin, 2018). The scope of the study focused on Nigeria as a geographical sovereign concerning the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The scope of the study focused on diverse governance policies in Nigeria from 1960 to 2020; however, the specific focus was on the governance policy of Vision 20: 2020. In this study, policy and development experts with 10 years' competency and in-depth knowledge of governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria provide necessary information for this study.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Limitations are issues out of the researcher's control, possibly affecting the research outcome (Theofanidis & Fountounkin, 2018). The limitations in this study included my role as the primary instrument, participants, the use of a generic qualitative approach, and the criteria set for the quality of the study. As the primary instrument, there was a tendency to be biased on the responses expected from participants. To mitigate this, I asked the same questions of all the participants and was objective throughout the research process to receive their perspectives of the questions. I also requested participants to review their responses for member checking after transcribing the data, and I triangulated the participants' perspectives with archival and policy documents.

Another limitation was that the participants might not have been forthcoming with what this research intends to understand, and they may not be honest with their responses

to the research questions. To elicit in-depth information, I assured participants that their involvement in the research would pose no harm to their privacy and that information to be elicited would be kept anonymous and confidential (Dejonckheere & Vaugh, 2019). The participants' assurance to participate was reflected in the recruitment letter informed consent, before, during, and after the interview. The findings represent the participants' perspectives for the transferability and dependability of the study.

Another potential barrier to primary data collection (interview) included the recruitment of participants. Purposive sampling was used to recruit participants with adequate knowledge of 10 years of experience on the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. A potential barrier was that archival and policy documents may not be accessible but were mitigated by searching through necessary libraries and government establishments for copies.

### **Significance**

Few studies have been conducted on governance, but no study was found that used qualitative research to explore the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria (Akinde 2020; Dauda, 2017; Ijeh et al. 2019; Iyoha 2015; Kura, 2019; Yagboyaju, 2019). This study will add to the body of knowledge about the impact of governance policy on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. This study may be used to inform policymakers and the government to urge them to appropriate strategic policy direction for implementation to impact humanity and livelihood and contribute to the body of knowledge. Deficiency in governance in utilizing enormous revenue resources stimulates poverty, mismanagement, and misdirection (Olowu, 2019). Inadvertent

governance, policymaking, and unconcern for the citizens have emanated to issues affecting peoples' livelihood and access to socioeconomic development. The outcome of this study might also increase policymakers understanding of strategic policy direction to collaborate and engage with the citizens for good governance and proper policy formulations and its implementations. This study may be used to attract investment to enhance the economy and restore a positive global perception of Nigeria with impactful governance policies.

The study's social change implication includes reducing poverty and improving living standards. Policy instruments have an objective to influence change or to circumvent change in specific ways (Borrás & Edquist, 2013). The aim of this study was to inform policymakers to consider lack of execution of various policies in Nigeria to address the policy failures for effective execution of national policy for the benefit of the society to improve the citizens' standard of living. This study will inform impactful policymaking and socioeconomic development for government to ensure effective, resourceful, and adequate governance. This study can contribute to the strategic policy direction to reduce poverty in Nigeria.

### **Summary and Transition**

I addressed the impact of governance policy on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The lack of execution of governance policies in Nigeria has impeded development. In this chapter, I discussed the background and the introduction of the study. I made a case for the problem and provided evidence to support the problem. I also described the scope and limitations of this study. Chapter 2 includes the literature search

strategy, literature review on diverse governance policies of the government, and an extensive discussion of the IAD framework.

## Chapter 2: Literature Review

Since the advent of democracy, governance policies in Nigeria have had no significant impact on socioeconomic development in Nigeria (Sallah, 2017). The lack of diverse governance policies in Nigeria, including the recent lack of execution of Vision 20: 2020, has created socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria despite the policies' objectives to improve people's standard of living (see World Bank, 1989; Zittoun, 2015). But limited research has discussed governance and socioeconomic development, indicating extreme poverty, human development, education, inequality, mortality, and sanitation provision (Shah et al., 2019). Thus, there is limited research to influence government consciousness to its policy formulation and implementation on the country's socioeconomic status (Itumo & Nwefuru, 2016). The purpose of this study was to explore the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria, providing findings that can be used to improve the strategic policy direction and improve the livelihood of Nigerian citizens. Constant policy deficiency could be improved by exploring governance quality within and outside policy management; specifically, the setting of governance and its impact on policy performance and extent of inconsistency in consciousness on policy implementation, which has remained epidemic to policymaking and policymakers (Howlet et al., 2015), especially in Nigeria.

### **Literature Search Strategy**

Walden University was the primary access point for research databases. Information was also obtained from the World Bank, National Bureau of Statistics, and Debt Management Office of Nigeria websites. The primary databases searched included

EBSCO database, Sage Premier, Political Science Complete, Academia Database System, Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), DOAJ, Emerald, EJBMR, IJHSS, IGI GLOBAL, SAGE Research, Taylor and Francis, ProQuest, Semantic, Science Direct, Springer, Social Science Research Network and JSTOR. Other search engines included Google Scholar, which was also searched to find relevant articles and books cited in literature retrieved from databases listed above or from Google search prompts. Books on policy failure, governance performance, and effectiveness were also adopted to construct relevant aspects of the literature review. The archives of government databases on Nigeria policies yielded effective outcomes, specifically regarding the historical perspectives of governance policy relating to socioeconomic development improve the livelihood of Nigeria Citizens. There was an extensive exploration of literature review on the articles on policy failures.

The key search terms for the study were *government, governance, good governance, socioeconomic development, governance policies, policy formulation, policy implementations, policy deficiency, policies, poverty, unemployment, efficiency, transparency, and accountability*. The literature search was conducted in governance, public policy, policy implementation, policy failures, poverty, and unemployment to ensure that the review included a detailed assemblage of historical and current literature suitable to depict this study. The search terms were concentrated to explore the last 5 years of policy in Nigeria, considering the current trends in governance, policy, and socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

All articles were grouped into different components envisages for this study to

conduct the literature review. Of importance is articulating the theoretical foundation adopted for this study to understand its meaning to the study. Several articles affirmed that IAD required thorough understanding before its application to the study of interest. After several searches and reading, I gained an in-depth understanding and the applicability of IAD to my study.

### **Theoretical Foundation**

This study addressed the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria towards strategic policy direction to improve citizens' livelihood. Consequently, the IAD framework served as the study's theoretical foundation. The framework was developed to be the foundation extensively for analysis of socioeconomic issues and the policy approaches and conscious actions to address the lack of policy execution situation or outcomes (Grossman, 2019). IAD was used in this study to depict action situations where the government is obligated by situations, governance policies, other actors, and the natural setting that can incorporate almost any socioeconomic problem and the policies that emanate from the situation (Ostrom & Cox, 2010). The IAD framework has been explored over the last 3 decades as a fundamental principle for a deep analysis of how institutions (government) impact human well-being, policy, and implications (Ostrom & Cox, 2010).

### **Origin of Institutional Analysis and Development Framework**

Initial discussion of the IAD framework was attributed to Ostrom and Ostrom and their students at the Indiana University Workshop on Political Theory and Policy Analysis in 1980 (Baldwin et al., 2019; Heikkila & Andersson, 2018). The root of IAD



emanated mainly from Ostrom's analyses of metropolitan governance organization in the 1950s and 1960s (Heikkila et al., 2018). Subsequently, in the 1970s, Ostrom proceeded with political philosophy research on public administration and empirical study by the Political theory entails attempts to know the governing principles of governance and public policy, mainly on connecting philosophical prepositions and rule-making values to the real-life issues of executing these prepositions and practicality in the implied democratic governments (Araral & Amri, 2016). The ratification and acceptance of IAD in academic literature commenced in the 1980s (Kiser & Ostrom, 1982; Ostrom, 1983, 1986), and empirical, theoretical evolution of research questions embodied in the framework was initiated between 1980 and 1990 (Heikkila et al., 2018).

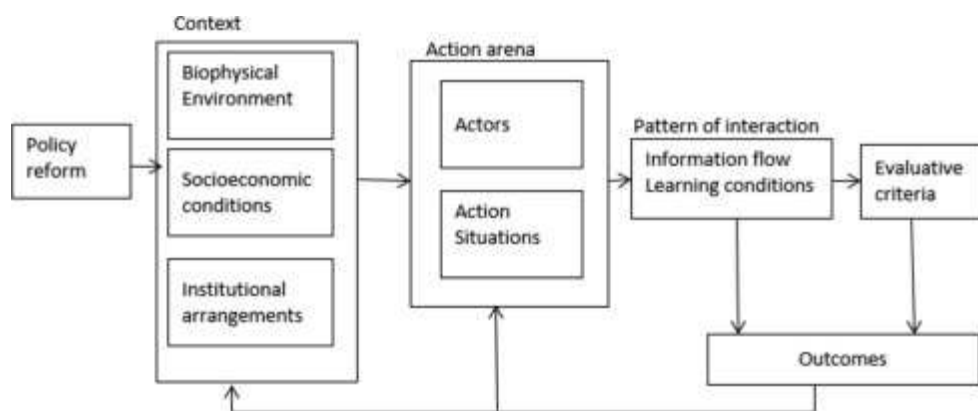
The framework's original design was as an adaptable approach and strategy to studying governance that encompasses policy context and levels of governance pool resources structures (Baldwin et al., 2019). Though the research of Ostrom's is mainly connected to new institutional economics, IAD is thoroughly inspired by historic institutionalist such as Commons's (1924, 1963) research on transactions and Aberlson and Schank's (1977) scripts. It also extended the research of Popper (1961) on the logic of situations, Allport (1960) on collective structures, Goffman (1974) on frames, and Koestler (1977) and Simon (1981,1995) on the proposition that human conduct and consequences and results are stemmed from fewer complex influences (Baldwin et al., 2019; Ostrom, 2010).

Fundamentally, the background of IAD provides compatibility with multiple theories and models but is not limited to new institutional economics (Baldwin et al.,

2019). IAD aimed to comprise facets that institutional scholars desire to investigate to explore diverse institutional (governance) situations encompassing human dynamics or behavior within public or administration, private sector, families, community foundations, policymaking, government, and government institutions. IAD accommodates a metatheoretical expression to allow researchers to explore any specific proposition or to contrast theories (Ostrom, 2010). Researchers explore a particular theory to ascertain the aspects of the IAD framework imminently applicable to expound the diverse impact of governance and their interaction on society (Ostrom, 2010; see Figure 1).

**Figure 1**

*Institutional Analysis and Development Framework*



*Note.* Source: Ostrom et al. (1994).

**Theoretical Proposition of Institutional Analysis and Development Framework**

IAD framework has been explored in the last three decades on issues that concern common-pool goods (Blomquist & DeLeon); the framework is widely embraced in the policy research literature (Araral & Amri, 2016; Sabatier, 1999). The framework has

been thoroughly used to research political theory, collaboration, polycentricity and coproduction, governance of environment, natural resources, and common-pool resources, as noted earlier to state a few (Araral et al., 2016). IAD is broadly explored by social scientists and considered the best-known and prove framework for policy analysis (Carlson 2000; Grossman, 2019). However, the IAD framework was design primarily as a responsive approach to research governance that extends policy situations and focuses on governance (Baldwin et al., 2019).

The IAD framework has multiple propositions for analyzing policy design (Carter et al., 2016). The IAD framework provides scholars paths when studying a problem concerning people's resources and standard of living (Blomquist & deLeon, 2011), enabling academics to resolve public issues and know the rationale of government strategy or policies (Ostrom 1987; Weible & Sabatier, 2018). IAD establishes a lens to discern how common decisions are made by observing the decision as outcomes of human behaviors affected by different related issues, which can be used to understand how policies are communicated and formulated (Arara & Amri, 2016). The IAD application commences with the recognition of the public issues that require action (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The propositions of IAD acknowledge the transaction costs connected with implementing policies and the biological, physical, and socioeconomic elements that can influence institutional design and performance (Imperial, 1999). The IAD framework can be used to determine the effectiveness and deficiencies in the government plans likely to deploy policies (Imperial, 1999), such as effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and accountability involved in strategies and policy decisions (Stone

2012; Weible & Sabatier, 2018; Weimer & Vining 2016).

The IAD framework can be specifically used to examine how policymakers decide on based on the information at their disposal (Nigussie et al., 2018; Ostrom, 2010; Ostrom et al., 1994; Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The IAD framework identifies that government decisions could emanate at diverse stages, including constitutional, collective choice, and operational level (Heikkila & Anderson, 2018). Policymakers make decisions on natural resource management to the collective-choice and constitutional levels, where policymakers govern the rules (policies) for policymaking (Clement, 2010). Rules and principles for institutional governance require considering the interests of the policymakers' involvement in policymaking design and how policymaking design impacts governance benefits, government provisions, and or well-being (Clement, 2010; Weible & Sabatier, 2018). From a policy context lens, these stages are related to policy decisions concerning the people involved in policy decisions, when and the process (constitutional), decisions on the policies or approaches expected to determine or influence a specific problem (collective choice), and decisions on the implementation process on the collective decision (operational; Heikkila & Anderson, 2018). Thus, the IAD framework enables researchers to research how policymaking processes at diverse levels of governance impact policies and decisions (Heikkila & Anderson, 2018; Ostroms, 2011).

Using IAD in this study engaged in strategic socioeconomic improvement in Nigeria, which is the action situation, by looking at the impact of governance policies on the situation (Araral & Amri, 2016). The principles of IAD framework provided the

structure to study the impact of governance policies or government decisions as immediate structure impacting socioeconomic development issues or action situation in Nigeria. In this case, the issue of interest was to bring to the consciousness of the policymakers inclusive of government (human behavior and outcomes) to make policies that would impact the livelihood of Nigeria citizens positively (expected improvement; Ostrom, 2011).

### **Previous Application of Institutional Analysis and Development Framework**

Government policy analysis is often complex (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). Most policy situation in Nigeria concerns socioeconomic development issue impacting peoples' livelihood which overlaps with other policy situation this was the activities of a policy situation that impacts activities of another (Ostrom, 1999). Consequently, socioeconomic development issues were the center focus of this study for improvement (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). Comprehending the governance situation, which was the policy arena in this study, is critical to infused multiple theories, multiple positions of actions, and multiple policy situations as it concerns Nigeria. Governments restrict the efficacy of social change (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). Such action occurred because government has the specific constitutional directions to make policies and commit to taking action or not taking action in a specific situation, therefore, foisting impediments on the extent of likely behavior and possible improvements (Ostrom et al., 2012).

Benin (2017) conducted a quantitative study in Ghana, West Africa, on the effects of policy gaps in governance utilizing using IAD. According to Benin, IAD assisted in analyzing the deficiency between policy objectives and their impacts and ascertaining the

implications of these deficiencies emanated as direct consequences of governance. Benin used IAD to elucidate government responsibility in governance and the activities of the citizens in initiating policy deficiency and its implementation. The use of IAD in Benin's research was consistent with the discussion on lack of policy execution in Nigeria. Arara and Amri (2016) studied institutions and the policy process an implication on IAD in a qualitative study and noted that analysis of governance and their impact on the policy process often gravitate towards implied and Western culture.

Grossman (2018) examined institutional dynamics in policymaking in a qualitative study using IAD and found that policy improvement could be based on evaluating the previous strategies employed in policymaking, either positive or negative, without analyzing the performance. Grossman indicated that IAD should be explored to discuss issues on failure in policymaking and its execution considering its impacts on the socioeconomic development. Grossman revealed that IAD theory is not merely descriptive but broadly suitable for analysis of socioeconomic problems and policy processes it intended to address. The assertion of Grossman was relevant to the study of impact of governance policy on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

Kamal et al. (2021) analyzed governance policies of top-down regulatory evidence from Iran local governance in a qualitative case study using IAD framework. Kamal et al. found that government governance policies executed within local governance policy, even if implemented with the objective of improving socioeconomic problems, have the possibility of resulting to greater disparity in the society because of the indisposition of government to governance policies than improved growth and social

problems with the involvement of citizens. Kamal emphasized that disparity in the society can degenerate the socioeconomic problems where government failed in the implementation of governance policies. The analysis of governance policies Kamal's study was consistent with the study of impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development.

Various Nigerian government entities have structured diverse, complex policies to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria, such as Vision 20: 2020 and National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The policy document's objective hinges on stimulating Nigeria's economic growth and launching the country onto a path of sustained and rapid economic development from 2009 to 2020 using the countries resources and growth efficiently to serve and improve the lives of its citizens (Vision, 2009). According to Alumona (2016) noted that Vision 2020 policy statement resonates with another complex policy NEEDS along with the seven-point agenda of the then democratic government from 2007- 2011.

Alumona (2016) claimed that the policy involved all stakeholders across the country using a bottom-up approach to construct the policy document of Vision 20:20, however, the policy was not realized. According to Polski and Ostrom (2012), IAD framework is apt because the actors' behavior may have used the information at their disposal to restrict development and social actions, which is the case Nigeria. This study's assertion was relevant to the IAD framework because the level of socioeconomic development in Nigeria presently is worse than it was in 2009 according to World Bank (2020) when the Nigeria Vision 20: 2020 was launched an average Nigeria live on less

than \$1.90 per day.

The two policy document objectives were never realized and evidenced in the state of unemployment, lack of infrastructure, leading to poverty, corruption, and then insecurity in Nigeria, which were a bane on the livelihood of an average Nigerian citizen. Policy failure is at the art of poor governance in Nigeria. Eneh (2011) asserted that the possibility of abandoning and subverting Vision 20: 2020 is not unlikely and very high in consideration of previous policies on socioeconomic development such as NEED). Eneh made this statement in 2011, and that was the exact situation with the policy document as of 2020.

In the last 4 decades, all instituted development policies from 1962 to 1985 have failed; since then, no specific socioeconomic development improvement in Nigeria despite being the center focus of NEEDS and Vision 2020 policies which have just ended (Eneh, 2011). Poverty, unemployment, insecurity dilapidated infrastructure has remained unresolved due to the impact of governance policies in Nigeria (Eneh, 2011). Vision 20: 2020, according to the framer, was expected to channel the capacity and strength of Nigerian citizens and appropriately or accountably harnesses natural resources to assure "a standard of living and quality of livelihood to the citizen (Vision, 2009).

The framer statement encompasses the fact that socioeconomic development in Nigeria was supposed to improve by 2020. This did not occur. In Nigeria, as of 2021, extreme poverty hampers the improved livelihood of the citizens because of the impact of the government's abrupt termination of governance policies. The IAD framework features create the applicability of analyzing governance policies that concern



implementing policies on socioeconomic development. IAD considers the transaction costs connected with implementing policies; accentuates inadvertent situations such as biophysical, environment, socioeconomic development, and institutional arrangement that can impact government blueprint and governance (Imperial, 1999; Ostrom, 2010). Institutional analysis is an endeavor to explore an issue confronting people or a system and how the policy is chosen to resolve and improve the problems (Imperial, 1999). The institutional analysis necessitates deducing the characteristics of the problem, the behavior of the people (culture), and the governing environment that the people dwell in (Imperial, 1999; Ostrom, 1990).

According to Polski and Ostrom (2012), in analyzing a governance system extensively on the characteristic that impacts socioeconomic development, the IAD framework helps researchers establish and describe government governance policy behavior. Human activities in policymaking are diverse; the actors possess different information, attributes, reasoning abilities, choices, problem-solving, policymaking, and governing; consequently, the potential of these features to generate social attitude with a complicit character as self-interested persons confronts people with explicit social objectives (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). For this reason, transaction cost and agent-based modeling were utilized in the analysis of this study. Agent-based modeling acknowledges the fundamental issues that people are often confronted in a different environment involving the provision and governing of public goods and natural resources. Also, it considers asymmetric information problems, adverse selection issues, moral hazards issues, aggregation of preference issues, team collaboration issues, principal-agent issues,

and the issue of establishing or shaping complex governance policy that concerns deficient direction (Ostrom, 2012). IAD framework is well-conceived in applying all actors' intricacies in an institutional setting such as government and people or policymakers' factors that could impede and impact governance policies on a specific situation such as socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The government attributes impact policy which in turn affect citizens' individual daily decisions to survive.

Worth knowing is that IAD framework has been applied in various policymaking studies of natural resources governance by Brisbois et al. (2019), Benson et al. (2013), Clement and Amenzaga (2013), and Rudd (2004). Different studies of common pool resources policy governance applied and posits a connection between deficient government behaviors and resource management inadequacy (Agrawal 2001; Agrawal & Ostrom, 2001; Bibson, 2005; Carlsson & Berkes, 2005; Imperial 1999; Rahman et al., 2017). IAD framework has been explored and suggested it applicable approach to comprehend political, economic, technology, competitiveness, human centeredness governments contribute to materialistic behaviors in public and misappropriation leading to greed (Kilbourne et al., 2018). IAD was considered to have extensive knowledge of materialism's development and implementation (greed or misappropriation; Kilbourne et al., 2018). IAD framework could be deployed to recognize the significant governmental factors that could induce public behavior (Ostrom, 2011, 2010) and allow people to undertake a strategic socioeconomic improvement and impact (Goldsmith, 1992).

Failure of policies in Nigeria required institutional analysis, specifically where

diverse policies upon policies have been formulated, and implemented without results, and yet no analysis of the situation in order for appropriate channel to resolve or address the issue and lesson learned for improvement, that is NEEDS and VISION 20: 2020 to improve the standard of living and quality of lives of Nigeria citizens. The socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria affected by extreme poverty and unemployment level as of 2021 require institutional analysis through the IAD framework. In a governance policies study on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria, rules were applied in the analysis in consideration that constitutional rules were well suitable with the rule in use, as specified by the IAD framework to provide the path to policies. In this case, Nigeria's constitution spelled out the government's responsibility to provide adequate goods and services to its citizens. This study found that government has not measured up to its constitutional responsibility and does not understand why it exists, as detailed in Chapter 4.

In the IAD framework, constitutional rules govern policymaking (Baldwin et al., 2019). IAD lays out evaluation criteria to understand government analysis, such as effectiveness, equity (fiscal equivalence, redistributional equity), accountability and adaptability; the relevance among all were adopted in the outcome of this study (Blomquist, 1992; Imperial, 1999; Imperial & Yandle, 1998; Ostrom et al., 1994). Weible and Sabatier (2018) affirmed that effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and accountability are all often adopted as evaluative criteria to public policy analysis the outcome of a study.

### **Rationale for Selection of Institutional Analysis and Development Framework**

The IAD framework has a problem-solving trajectory and directions (Weible &

Sabatier, 2018). The framework recognizes that federal or national government does not exist on its own; instead, it came into existence because an individual cannot govern or manage natural resources individually, to avoid some actors taken more portion than the other. The decision to have a collective action (policy) to situate a representative known as government, to represent its interest to manage and govern the nation's natural resources, to provide adequate goods and services through its policies as entrenched in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Given this role, governance is expected to address people's needs by forming all-inclusive policies in the people's best interest. Instead, the government and policymakers' actions have fallen short of the people's needs towards selfless service to ensure adequate provisions and sensitivity to address poverty and create sufficient employment in the country. Policymakers and governance are driven by self-interest and other fundamental issues which take precedents over public welfare. This indicates governance is in crisis, and the policymakers' policy and behavior demystify Nigeria's situation for good governance, as substantiated in the result Chapter 4 of this study.

IAD identified that government policymakers are induced by the governance policies, the socioeconomic issues, and the physical world (Andersson, 2015; Ostrom, 2012). There is an underlying disquiet that ensues between the delegation of responsibility to government, governance, and accountability to the citizens (Oliveira & Fonte-Filho, 2017). Deficiency in channeling public funds appropriately makes government policy inefficient, thereby disrupting development and impacting society (Ugoani, 2020). IAD enables researchers to explore and explain how policymakers use

governance policies to resolve socioeconomic issues and to recognize the rationality of governance policy; which paved the way that made it achievable to establish an informed policy for improving governance performance (Ostrom, 1987; Weible & Sabatier, 2018). According to Eneh (2011), Nigeria's governments are affected by systemic disproportion and disconnection.

The advent of economic development in Nigeria required that governance and natural resources management be resolved, else the problem would persist and become insoluble (Oyewunmi & Oyewunmi, 2018). Over the years, public policy has become exceptionally exigent, and government has kept pace with solutions to improve extant policy to fit the present problems (Abas, 2019). The level of socioeconomic development in Nigeria cannot attest to indicate the policy is tailored to suit the current poverty and unemployment situation in the country. Policy deficiency, policy alterations, and the administrators' incapacity contributed to the failure of policy blueprints in Nigeria (Dauda, 2017). Nag (2018) asserted that governments in developing countries are unproductive and deficient in providing the public aspirations concerning the development and welfare of citizens. The poverty situation in Nigeria is alarming; Kura et al. (2019) affirmed that governance deficiency seems to be the principal cause responsible for the failure to alleviate poverty.

Bolarinwa (2018) attested that poor resource governance has led to the government's inability to develop the economy and provide adequate public goods and services for its citizens' wellbeing and has resulted in agitation. It does not seem policies are ever evaluated in Nigeria's context; otherwise, the level of degradation of

socioeconomic development would have been resolved. So much has been expended on development in Nigeria, but no significant achievement has been recorded to alleviate poverty in Nigeria through various government policies and programs. Government and policymakers' existence hinges on the multidimension process taken to make public policy suitable to address peoples' needs. The Nigerian system actors are driven by difference and diverse interests to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria. Fractured policies have the potential to create diverse challenges for government and policymakers; if adequate attention and necessary processes are not adopted, then socioeconomic issues would remain unresolved in Nigeria.

Unless governance policies possess the competency to react to fluctuating situations in the country, government performance or improvement on policies are prone to fail (Imperial, 1999; Ostrom et al., 1993). Governance accountability, public consciousness, and government transparency are required to impact poverty policy positively (Kura et al., 2019). The evaluative mechanism recommended by the IAD framework presents significant facts and evidence to public policymakers about citizen preferences and desire for public goods and services that policymakers may decide upon for policy actions (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). Based on these impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria, I used the IAD framework, along with transaction cost theory and agent-based theory, to resolve governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria to draw the consciousness of the policymakers to the strategic direction towards improving the livelihood of Nigeria citizens. While the analysis involves the government itself, governance performance was

explored using the aspect of policymakers and the citizens (people) directly involved within Nigeria system by understanding that one person's cost (poverty) can be another's benefit (wealth; Imperial, 1999). The rationale stems from IAD's making it possible to use multiple approaches to decipher institutional (government) policy.

### **Relation of Institutional Analysis and Development Framework to Study and Research Question**

The purpose of this study was to explore the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. IAD framework posits that research scholars use existing literature to make a case for their research (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). I identified strategic policy direction to implement policies that would resolve socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria through attracting the consciousness and attune the mind of the policymakers to the level of poverty in Nigeria such that would proffer solution to create standard means of livelihood to the people. Policy strategy indicates the governance of policy formulation and specific directions for implementation (Carter et al., 2016). Fundamental to the effectiveness and achievement of a government, policy strategy provides the mechanism for insights and possibly, improving the manner of governance of the citizen (Carter et al., 2016).

IAD framework is problem-solving oriented; the study's outcome provided the path to the strategic directions of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The research provided an understanding of the salient issues that impact socioeconomic development in Nigeria that led to policy strategy and direction for government and policymakers. IAD has compelling and discerning effectiveness in the

descriptive institutional analysis of the consequence of divergence directions of governance on a policy preference and consequences.

IAD is a suitable framework for public policy and administration projects considering poverty and deficient development in the world leaning on several issues emanating from several facets, or else it could be an option or choice not explored (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The IAD's emphasis on problem-solving or tackling shared actions quandary explicitly instigates or incite questions on the manner policymakers coordinate, approach, or involve in conflict (Schlager & Cox, 2018; Heikkila & Andersson, 2018). To institute the impact of governance on poverty curtailment and socioeconomic development issues, other aspects of governance must be explored, particularly policymaking and management direction (Kwon & Kim, 2014).

IAD framework paved the path to explore the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria based on diverse governance policies from the military to civilian regime conceived to ameliorate the socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria but had failed to progress obstructed by subsequent government. governance policy reversal is a critical issue that impacted socioeconomic development in Nigeria (Olowu, 1981; 2015; 2019). Evidence from diverse governance policies of Nigeria Government since 1976 till present indicates the failure to stimulate socioeconomic development to provide means of livelihood to its citizens, which is evident in every corner of the nations such as Universal Primary Education 1976 (UPE), Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructures, 1986 (DIFRRI) (Okotoni, 2017; Olowu, 2019). The most recent governance policy is Vision 2020. Going by the



antecedents of previous governance policies in Nigeria, Eneh (2011) noted that Vision 2020 remained a vision until accomplished not only by approving but through consciousness to improvement and committed desire to resolve issues affecting the citizens by the Government sincerely. Vision 2020 never realized its vision which is that, “By 2020, Nigeria will have a large, strong, diversified, sustainable and competitive economy that effectively harness the talents and energies of its people and responsibly exploits its natural endowments to guarantee a high standard of living and quality of life to its citizens” (Vision, 2020).

Rather than actualize the vision, from an estimated population of 206 million in 2020, 40.1% of Nigerians are in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$ 1.90 daily. While 27.1% are unemployment with 28.6% underemployed (National Bureau of Statistic, 2020; Worldbank, 2020). For these reasons, IAD posits when policy researchers are exploring outcomes of policies, the focus of the exploration is on the performance of a policy system (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). To this effect, the research question was “How have diverse government governance policies impacted socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria?” Critical reflection on efficient governance regarding government policy actions or approaches on the economy and the impact of the actions on the socioeconomic status of the citizens and the country’s international activities are imminent (Sallah, 2017). IAD framework posits that resolving the action situation is not the only aspect of governance that should be explored but also the actors’ behavior (Ostrom, 2012).

Given the elites have been in charge of governing Nigeria for more than 20 years,

socioeconomic development has failed in Nigeria. Changing the government's governing behavior and policymakers in the country is critical to the consciousness, commitment, and decisions on socioeconomic development problems in Nigeria (Ojo et al., 2014). Development in a country is not by accident; it entails the consciousness of committed and rational affluence connected with personal wealth and governance policy, influential and notably individual money-making or spinning governance, and a humble citizen group (Chatterji, 2017; Leftwich, 1995). Nigerian citizens' socioeconomic status is a significant issue that required reviewing the actors' governance policies and actions over the years, leading to poor status of the situation to proffer solution towards attracting the consciousness of the policymakers. Going by IAD framework principles in exploring the results policies, the summit of the investigation was on a policy system's performance (Polski & Ostrom, 2012).

IAD provides a multifaceted platform to explore issues that concern the resources of a nation and socioeconomic development (Ostrom, 2003). Consequently, this study did not focus on any of the previous governance policies directly explored their impact as governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria, which resonate with the Ostrom's assertion to investigate the performance of the policy system. This is because that the same faith of failure had befallen all policies meant to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria, according to literature which also affected the Vision 20: 2020. At present, despite all diverse governance policies, Nigeria has expended over N33.9 trillion, and as of 31 December 2020, is in debt. This has plunged into the nation's development without any significant evidence of impacting the livelihood of the citizens.

To this end, I explored a little of how governments evolve to care for their citizens' wellbeing.

### **Literature Review Related to Key Concepts**

#### **Government and Its Responsibility**

The existence of government stems from the fact that all individuals in a city cannot manage the resources available appropriately and individually. The likelihood that access to natural resources by everyone in a city might result in one person extracting more than needed at a particular time is imminent; therefore, it could deprive some people of adequate access or sufficiency. Given this situation, governments emanate when people realized they would be effectively safeguarded coming together with coherent agreement to have a representative or a few with authority than the multitude to steer their affairs, this led to the creation of sovereigns and eventually results in a country to prevent intrusion from the enemy in some cases (US History, n.d). Government exists specifically to create rules and then to serve people (US history, n.d). Nag (2018) surmised that the desire to seek a government emerges from the reality of diverse interests and resultant disagreements amidst humanity.

According to Gastil (1990), a representative form of government can be premised on two foundations, one is the common preference of people to superintend over their activities and situations or come what may participate or have a voice in the person governing their activities and situations. Government is regarded as the office, power, or purpose of governing (Fasensfest, 2010). Governing is holding power or directive in person (Fasensfest, 2010). Stoker (2019) noted that government is portrayed by its

capacity to resolve issues and decide on the best option and its competency to implement. Specifically, government is inferred to imply to be established using a structured system or strategy to govern (Stoker, 2019).

### **Government Responsibility**

Government exists to provide goods and services to the citizens. Nag (2019) stipulated that the government has the responsibility to respond in diverse situations and opinions to impart all-inclusive development and livelihood of the people of society. Government plans the policymaking and policy strategy required for effective and provable natural resource and country governance policies (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2009b). As cited in the World Bank Governance and Development document (1992), McLean (1987) stipulated that the government remained the sole provider of two categories of public goods and policy to ensure the efficiency of the market and mitigating actions to be applied the inefficiency of the market. Since the advent of democratic government in sub-Sahara African territory, the region's citizens have been expecting a resolution to the multiple socioeconomic issues staged by poor governance of past dictatorial governments (Patrick, 2016).

However, despite the expectations from the government, it became clear that governments in developing nations have been deemed inefficient and ineffective in implementing the policy goals related to development, welfare, and interest of the vulnerable (Nag, 2018). Iyoha et al. (2015) asserted that the actions and exploits of the government and economic executives who depend on oil revenue and gains has plunged Nigeria into the oil resource curse. The government is concerned with the extent of

improvement and wellbeing of the citizens as well refined and emerged, including education, health, welfare, social justice, freedom, and contribution of stakeholders in the country's policymaking processes (Nag, 2018). The all-embracing denotation of the development and the incompetency, inefficient, and ineffectuality of the government to provide the public goods of the citizen resulted in the established and general principles of governance in the study of social science (Mathur, 2008; Nag, 2018). According to World Bank (2020), governments' capacity to efficiently deliver public goods, undergird an environment possible to create employment and development, resolve deficiencies, and involve citizens in the procedures is highly critical at present.

Nations with effective governments are stronger, are more capable of stimulating private economy development, able to ameliorate poverty, provide consequential services, and draw the public's trust (World Bank, 2020). The situation is different in Nigeria because the government continues to fail to deliver citizen wellbeing (Fagbadebo, 2007; Kwe, 2006). The essence of reviewing how government emanates and their responsibility is to urge their consciousness back into governance and to govern policy tasks entrusted to them by their nations' constitution. The government in this context is referred to as a democratic government. Consequently, for equitable assessment among the citizens, government was created as representative of the people. Governments emanated with the need to protect people from conflicts and provide law and order (US History, n.d).

### **Overview of Governance**

Governance evolves from the Greek verb *kubernao*, which signifies direct (Khan

et al., 2019). Many scholars have provided the different meanings of governance.

Fasenfet (2020) indicated that governance is the activity of governing. Khan et al. (2019) affirmed that governance is the means of controlling or governing the policies, handling, and undertaking of an institution at the executive stage with the power, credibility, and the duty to carry out such acts. Governance is the systems and approaches structured to ascertain accountability, transparency, responsiveness, the rule of law, stability, equity and adequateness, growth, and all-inclusive participation (IBE.UNESCO, n.d).

Governance has been used in various studies in social, economic, and policy network settings (Keping, 2018).

Governance denotes a structure or procedure for exerting control by government administration and other agencies with regards to collectively common principles, which could be referred to as (the bedrock of governance) and extensive constitutionally-entrenched governmental approach (framework of governance), that implements government responsibility to provide public goods and services that establish and incorporate the connection between the government and the citizens (Adhikari, 2020). Governing is the sole occupation of government; governance concerns initiating, stimulating, and affirming specific patterns of connection between the federal government and civil society actors in the governing action (Fukuyama, 2016; Howlett & Ramesgh, 2014). Fukuyama (2016) further explained that governance is the government's ability to deliver essential goods and services. According to Ojo et al. (2014), governance is the only way to provide means of livelihood to the citizen of a country.

Governance issues worldwide and among nations have drawn and have continued to draw attention (Iyoha et al., 2015). Nag (2018) attributed governance to the outcome of the responsive Sociopolicy or sociopolitical ways of governing. Governance currently stands as a fundamental feature of any development policy globally (Opoku, 2019). Governance distinction depicts a significant part in demonstrating why social and economic development varies extensively between countries (Bilan et al., 2019; Gaygisiz, 2013). Scholars and policymakers often adduced economic issues in developing nations to poor governance, leading to declining financing, decreased effective development and reduced per capita income, and sluggish improvement in development based on weak governance (Jude & Levieuge, 2013; Peres et al., 2018).

According to UNESCO (n.d), governance concerns power distribution and sharing, the process of policy formulation, the setting of priorities, and making stakeholders accountable. World Bank (1992) and United Nations Development Programme (1997) emphasized governance as the way through which authority is exerted in the administration of social and economic development of a country (Adamu & Rashid, 2016). United Nations Development Programme considered governance as the activities that concern economic, political, executive power to manage a nation's resources and activities consisting of techniques, procedures, and policies used by the citizens and civil society to express their challenges and welfare, apply their legal entitlement, perform their responsibilities and reconcile their discordances. International Monetary Fund (2020) indicated that governance is a comprehensive proposition comprising detailed characteristics of the governing approach of a country, encompassing

its economic policies, policy framework, the judicial system, and compliance to the rule of law. In 2017, World Bank advocated and admonished developing countries and international development organizations in its policy report to reevaluate and reconsider their strategy, perspectives, and approach to governance, as significant to prevailing over problems connected to security, development, and equity.

Adhikari (2017) affirmed that governance has emanated as the fundamental concept of international development. Sacchetti and Catturani (2017) asserted that governance's fundamental purpose is to organize and manage the development solution to a recognized and established situation. Keping (2018) ascertained that the rationality for governance is to facilitate, manage, and govern citizens' standard of living through diverse strategy, policy, and social interaction to improve and strengthen the public interest. Governance is applying political power and policy on citizens' welfare and administering the country's resources for socioeconomic development (Adamu & Rashed, 2016; Agy, 2015). Governance involved the government's competency to adequately and effectively initiate and execute solid and definitive policies in a country and regard for the citizens (Anowar, 2010; Rakhare & Coetzee, 2020).

Joseph et al. (2016) agreed that governance reflects government competency to effectively superintend resources appropriately, formulate, execute and implement sound policies and regulation, and consider citizens and the government agencies that govern economic and social connection within the system. However, governance in Africa persists as a crucial and exigent issue confronting the region (Idowu, 2020). The problem of Africa's development is a crisis of governance, according to World Bank (2012) in its



study of Sub-sahara Africa. The study asserted that due to the absence of resisting authority, government officials in several nations, Nigeria inclusive, have satisfied their personal interests devoid of concern about being questioned of their activities.

Governance problems are menace ravaging socio-economic development and political crisis in Nigeria (Fagbadebo, 2019a).

Deficiency in governance substantially results in poverty and poor development status (Bilan et al., 2019; Gaygisiz, 2013; Rodrik et al., 2004). Joseph et al. (2016) indicated that governance is a crucial intrinsic for improving the standard of living of the citizens of a country. Bad governance has been attributable to the issues impeding poverty alleviation policies in Nigeria (Dauda, 2017). Adegbami and Adepoju (2017) lamented that should there have been effective and efficient management of constitutional guided countries' economy and resources, expedited development would have been accomplished in welfare goods delivery, advance citizens' standard of living, and poverty eradication. The absence of public goods and services provided by the government to the citizens without a probable substitute to its structure attracts the issue of good governance among scholars, development multilateral banks and agencies, established governmental organizations, and other related bodies in the global problems (Adegbami & Adepoju, 2017).

### **Governance in Nigeria**

Gisselquist (2012) indicated that World Bank (1994) emphasizes development as the crux to governance goal of a nation's activities and situations while resource management is in line with the OECD for socioeconomic development. Even though the

enormous natural and mineral resources in Nigeria are expected to have culminated into socioeconomic development, poverty and unemployment have dominated the space of the country, which is the architect of lack of accountability and mismanagement of the resources depicting the failure of governance (Sunday & Lawal, 2016). Sunday and Lawal (2016) suggested that governance in Nigeria has not culminated into development while resource management has plunged and deteriorated socioeconomic development. The path to socioeconomic development is endangered, and the competency to assume that level of development is rare presently (Oyewunmi & Oyewunmi, 2018). Reinforcing governance is consequently appraised as a crucial situation for restoring the vulnerable and curtailing poverty (Kwon & Kim, 2019).

Ugoani (2020) studied poor public management and public governance failure with a focus on Nigeria's oil resources experience as a curse or a blessing. Using a qualitative method to expound evidence from secondary data complemented by regression analysis, Ugoani found that deficient governance has resulted in poverty in Nigeria despite its abundance of natural resources. Ugoani affirmed that Nigeria is blessed with abundant resources and cursed by exploitation and bad governance, which impedes development and survivability. Yagboyaju and Akinola (2019) studied Nigeria's state and the crisis of governance as a critical exposition and found that policymakers and governance are driven by self-interest, and other underlying issues, which is significant over public welfare. Yagboyaju and Akinola studied Nigeria's State and crisis of governance; they employed a qualitative method using secondary and primary data, including keen investigation of Nigeria's situation and found that governance is deficient

and that the policymakers' approach to policies demystifies Nigeria's situation for a path to good governance.

Governance has been in the mantra of multilateral agencies' operation in developing countries and often conspicuously entrenched in their agenda (Gisselguist, 2012). Globally, the issue of governance has generated interactions. As the democratic government evolves, the quest for good governance has been adjudged to be the yardsticks to determine a nation's effectiveness and impact on its development (Iyoha et al., 2015). Keping (2016) insisted that governance can countervail for specific inadequacies of government and the application of policy and management, however, it is absolutely not a nostrum. To desist from recurring problems of underdevelopment and development, there are assurances and commitment to accountability and transparency and citizens' participation in policies on problems that impact their livelihood and settings (Fagbadebo, 2019b). Good governance has been advocated as significant in economic development research, given information disclosure possible to rectify resource allocation, improve effectiveness, and improve economic development expectations promptly devoid of manipulation (Joseph et al. 2016).

Though good governance definition is still evolving, there is no specific one globally (Fukuyama, 2016). The willingness to do the right thing is critical to good governance but essentially missing in Nigeria's context from the literature review. The acts of the government actors at the helms of Nigeria's affairs have not delivered public goods and services adequately to the citizens, which is deficient to socio-economic development in the country.

### **Good Governance—Governance Quality**

Good governance is denoted as a process and system that direct the government and socio-economic operations (Elahi, 2009; Yousaf et al., 2016). Olanrewaju et al. (2020) focused on inclusive growth effects of institutional quality in Nigeria and affirmed that purposeful governance competency and behavior significantly impacted socioeconomic development such as the USA, Europe, and Asia. Good governance is fundamental to well structure development, poverty alleviation, deprivation, standard education, and logical growth (Kola et al., 2017). According to Rothstein (2012), good governance is an issue where the citizens are in the custody of the political, legal, and policymaking governments, enabling instituting and implementing policies commonly referred to as public goods. Oyedeji (2016) asserted that good governance or impartial governance suggested constitutional responsibility empowering the government (Agent) to regard and recognize the constitutional rights and wellbeing of the citizens (the principal) in obedience to democracy.

The possibility of good governance is imminent where government activities fail within the dictates of the existing constitutional and moral conscience or ethical value of the policymaking circle (Fagbadebo, 2019b). Keping (2017) examined governance and good governance as a new framework for political analysis using qualitative method to deduce the empirical study. Keping noted that the established concerns confronting researchers are the approach to solve governance debacle and accomplish its effectiveness. The adventure to resolve the issue of governance results made several researcher and multilateral agencies devise different perspectives ranging from sound

governance effective governance, meta-governance, and good governance, with good governance dominating the sphere of academic endeavors (Keping, 2017). Good governance is the effective and efficient collaboration between the government and the society in which its achievement depends on executives and legislatures (policymakers) in charge of the public affairs and political management of a country (Keping, 2016).

Using a qualitative method an empirical study, Nag (2018) studied government, governance, and good governance. Nag substantiated that the quest for good governance emanated not from a government or democratic nations but instead through the multilateral development agencies' policy intervention. The dynamic characteristics of government control consigned with the responsibility of ascertaining the expeditious delivery of the public good and service, ameliorating the citizens' poverty and wellbeing, paved the way for the episode of good governance (Nag, 2018; Rhodes, 1996). Nag stipulated that the exploration of the fundamental rationales for developmental inadequacies in developing countries prompted multilateral development agencies to make good governance the core of intervention in the beneficiary countries of their support. Nag declared that the proposition of good governance postulates adequately improved society comprising enlightened, knowledgeable, and engaged citizens, but not in operation in most developing countries like sub-Saharan Africa, which necessitate the need for decisive governance.

### **Proposition of Good Governance**

Good governance has been advocated for poverty alleviation (Grindle, 2004; Kwon & Kim, 2014; Singh & Chudasama, 2020). Kwon and Kim (2014) studied poverty

reduction and good governance and adopted quantitative research using longitudinal data and empirical analysis. They found that deficient performance from economic growth in several developing nations evolves from bad governance within the circle of world organizations and policy analysts' good governance exigent to poverty palliation has induced compelling attention in development programs globally in the preceding decades (Grindle, 2004; Kwon & Kim, 2014; Singh & Chudasama, 2020). Considering that developing nations have weaknesses in government and management of the concepts of governance, the nations are confronted with immense issues that concern government provision of welfare, goods, services, and security. International development organizations have instituted a good governance strategy as critical and imperative to eradicate poverty to access financing by developing nations (Davis, 2017; Grindle, 2004; Singh & Chudasama, 2020). The advent of this assertion by the multilateral development agencies demands reinforcing inclusiveness, transparent, and accountable structure of governance provided the intention is to alleviate poverty at the same time prospering the lives of the deprived and defenseless in the society (Davis, 2017; Grindle, 2004; Singh & Chudasama, 2020).

Good governance entails demand for reliable and dependable governments established on propositions of transparency and accountability (Pswarayi-Riddihough, 2018). Accountability extends above ordinary responsibility of provision of demand or service and connotes liability where there is a deficiency in the provision of service promptly and effectively, which culminates into an obligation (Pswarayi-Riddihough, 2018). Accountability implies that government in power can be questioned for their

actions and policies (Biermann & Gupta, 2011; Ishor & Rosenbaum, 2012; Ochieng et al. 2016); while transparency drives assist to curb exploitation in non-Western countries as it delineates the structure whereby the public can obtain information unrevised or modified by strong top government actors (Ferry & Eckersley, 2015). The citizens have the right to the accountability of government, and it is also their responsibility to request for it (Pswarayi-Riddihough, 2018). The indication of this is that transparency can elicit improved accountability where it considers settings, adaptability to developments, and ascertains public can obtain and deduce the applicable data (Ferry & Eckersley, 2015). Fagbadebo (2019b) studied interrogating constitutional requisites for legislative oversight in the promotion of accountability and good governance in South Africa and Nigeria using a qualitative study and asserted that accountability and transparency are required to be assured, and the citizens' participation is critical to problems that impact their lives and current settings.

Davis (2017) studied good governance as a foundation for sustainable human development in Sub-Sahara Africa using quantitative method through bivariate unstandardized regression coefficient and descriptive breakdown of governance. Davis found that policies and actions intended at improving government efficiency, policymaking consistency, and curbing perversion would culminate into consequential impact in improving social wellbeing attempts in sub-Saharan Africa. Davis posited that ameliorating good governance processes would include governments' drive to undertake enhanced accountability, transparency, and improved effectiveness and efficiency, among other significant attributes of good governance discerned by the United Nations. Good

governance edges to desist from misappropriation, incompetence, mismanagement, stealth, and bureaucracy to integrate consideration for governance accountability, transparency, effectiveness, inclusiveness, fairness, and responsiveness (Graham et al., 2003; Devaney, 2016; Stoker, 1998; UNESCAP, 2008). However, in Nigeria, there is a separation between the activities of the government and the information available to the citizens, which appears and indicates government, and its agencies are not accountable to the public (Waziri, 2020). The exploration of Waziri confirmed Davis's research outcome, which implies that attention should be given to exploring how the structure of governance impact to improve social services development possibilities and alleviate poverty in Sub-Saharan African Countries such as Nigeria.

The framers of Nigeria's constitution were explicit on precepts' precedence as structures for good governance (Fagbadebo, 2019b). The preference for good government and wellbeing of every Nigerian citizen is enshrined in Nigeria's constitution on the concepts of freedom, impartiality, and justice, and specifically for integration among the Nigerian citizens (Fagbadebo, 2019b; Nigeria Constitution, 1999). However, despite the Constitution's position, Olarenwaju et al. (2020) found that good governance had not impacted the wellbeing of the people; rather, it had a notable consequential impact on Nigeria's socio-economic development. Indeed, good governance expectations and their meaning have not been explored and put into action in Nigeria as specified and emphasized in the Constitution (Ugwu & Abah, 2020). Nigeria and other developing countries globally are confronted with the process of initiating sound governance and socio-economic setting for policies and plans to be executed (Anazodo et al., 2015).



Ekundayo (2017) studied good governance theory and its implications on good governance in Nigeria and employed a qualitative method using a theoretical approach. Ekundayo found that good governance does not exist in Nigeria; rather, bad governance dominates the space of the country. Ekundayo indicated that there is clear evidence that poor governance thrives and predominates in poverty, insecurity, high cost of governance, and poor standard of living; that since independence and no Nigerian government leader has adhered to the principle of governance. Oyewunmi and Oyewunmi (2018) studied corporate governance and resource management in Nigeria as a paradigm shift a qualitative study and initiated an explanatory narrative method to decipher the principle of corporate governance and economic resources management, conceptualizing only crucial aspect to the research. Oyewunmi found that if there must be economic development in Nigeria, governance and resources management must be tackled and addressed; otherwise, the issues would remain unresolved.

Adegbami and Uche (2016) studied despotic democrats and good governance in Nigeria, focusing on the challenges of Nigeria's fourth republic using qualitative method and secondary data. In exploring the governance approach of Nigerian policymakers and how their strategy had impacted the nation's pursuit for good governance and comfortable living, the authors concluded that good governance unquestionably is essential for government provision of welfare and services, economic improvement, nationwide harmony, and political strength in Nigeria. The authors indicated that mismanagement had instituted an impediment in the cycle of development in Nigeria. Its economic resources have remained drained by the elites who constitute themselves into

unconstitutional citizens and their followers controlling the circle of governance (Adegbami & Uche, 2018). Consequently, it has become exigent that Nigeria citizens rise and assert good governance through objection of questionable-constitutional actions.

Okoye et al. (2018) studied repositioning of democratic governance in Nigeria, implication of national economy using qualitative empirical descriptive study and affirmed that a deficiency in good governance had impaired Nigerian leaders' ethical value since its assumption of democracy in 1999. Notwithstanding the trend for uncommon development in Nigeria and the drive to assume the best economy by its unrealized Vision 2020 policy, governing approach to accountability, transparency, and absolute regard for the rule of law remained a significant problem to subjugate in this era (Okoye et al. 2018).

Good governance depicts a government management process that improves citizens' concerns and wellbeing (Keping, 2018). Development and its consequent execution of applicable policies and reinforcing government legislative policy are required for good governance (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2009b). Ostrom's institutional analysis and development evaluation criteria is an offshoot of good governance where the outcome of a policy performance is measured and evaluated based on its efficiency, equity (redistribution), accountability, and adaptability (Baldwin et al., 2019). Consequently, the need and reason to discuss good governance's antecedents in this study are drivers to strategic governance policies for socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Good governance is exemplified by obvious, evident, informed, proven, knowledgeable and impactful policymaking; an administration inculcated with a

proficient and expert principle; a lawmaking system and government providing accountability for its policies; and a civic institutions involvement in the public matter; and everyone acting in consonance with the rule of law (Kwon & Kim, 2014).

Consequently, according to the former United Nations Secretary-General Annan, good governance is the only most critical determinant of exterminating poverty and stimulating development (United Nations, 1998). In this regard, good governance has been clamored to be the core of development policy as the donor agencies have asserted good governance in assisted countries as a critical decision to access or undertake multilateral organizations aid (Gisselguist, 2012).

Any deviation from good governance will result in poor governance, culminating in poverty, unemployment, and a bad economy. Klosowicz (2018) in a qualitative explanatory case study affirmed that poor governance could destroy a nation's economy momentarily. Although governments can impair the system, their management, and policymaking in the Western nations, the public could potentially un-elect concerned representatives, agents, or legislature in the upcoming political contest. Bad governance could result in humanitarian crises, like poverty, relegation, and creating discordance within and outside, inducing impoverishment within the people of the same nation (Klosowicz, 2018). Suleiman and Aminul Karim (2015) in a qualitative case study using primary and secondary data on 50 participants including policy experts, corroborated that lack of plan and fundamental requirements of the standard of living have influence increase in social and economic disparity that exists among the wealthy and the poor resulting in an immense deficiency in socioeconomic (social, physical, basic facilities,

installations) development in Nigeria.

Fagbemi and Adeoye (2020) conducted a quantitative study to review Nigeria's governance issues, focusing on the impact of natural resources rents. The authors noted that shreds of evidence from the study implied that poor governance in Nigeria resulted in the government's incompetence to concentrate on governance quality for improved economic development, perhaps prompted or generated by extreme reliance on natural resources gains which has instituted bad governance and misdirection dispositions. Prevalent governance deficiency in Nigeria was adduced to have created an unsettling situation of substantial funds fortune on the government structure and policy design (Fagbemi & Adeoye, 2020). Instead of using the available resources to provide goods and services for its citizens, the Nigerian government is not channeling it to strategically impact the nation (Fagbemi & Adeoye, 2020). Therefore, poor governance in Nigeria has transformed the core mechanism of the nation's socio-policies and economic structure, which unhinge and leading to the inexistence of socioeconomic livelihood development generating a surge of demoralization, uncertainty among the public and the vulnerable prone to extreme poverty (Suleiman & Aminul Karim, 2015). Worth noting is the fact that most successful countries globally were unable to assume their most cherished position in the world devoid of good governance, generating revenue, accountability, and transparency by government, lawmakers, and their conformists. Good governance is obviously not in effect in developing countries; therefore, it had impaired the ability and competency to formulate specific policies and ascertained and produced evidence-based policy (Gisselquist, 2012).

## **Public Policy and Policy Making**

Public policy requires the government to respond and put up a policy to resolve problems pertinent to the well-being of the public and citizens of a nation (Nelson et al., 2020). According to Abas (2019), public policy is an established decision formed by governments or public institutions to tackle public issues or originate strategy, plan, or programs and resolutions in the form of policies to address public issues. The proponents of public policy asserted that public policy is anything or whatsoever governments decide, determine, and desire to do, accomplish, or not accomplish (Dye, 2012, McConnell & Hart, 2019). Policy can be a planned systematic synergy of governance systems and the procedure of resolving problems (Colebatch & Hoppe, 2018; McConnell & Hart, 2019). Policy includes comprehensive scopes, plans, resources, and financing, also execution of the policy into action and application (Nelson et al., 2020; Nelson, 2013). Where problems attain top nationwide policymaker consciousness for a lengthy sufficient period to depict the issues thoroughly, they are possibly to initiate or set in motion course of action or plans to generate a government policy resolution (Cairney et al. 2016).

Interpreting a policy issue is a complex endeavor because it includes the diversity of interrogations and consequently demands the competency of policymakers to interpret evidently and comprehend the issue or circumstance confronted that require their action to generate or initiate a reaction in the form of policy (Nzuki et al., 2013; Yagboyaju, 2019). Where little attention is given to issues by policymakers, the policy may potentially be impulsive and ill-conceived or abandoned to the preference of distinct sections among government agencies, civil society, or individual actors within a

community (Cairney et al., 2016). Policy rationale is envisaged as being problem concentrated, specifically, focused on the significant public social problems and issues confronting governments which require their attention to be resolved by analyzing the procedures of policy formulation and selections, and by exploring and investigating the implementation and policy results (Angeli & Allison, 2019; Lasswell, 1951;1970). According to Howlett and Mukherjee (2017), policy formulation depends on the interaction of evidence-based exploration of problems with influence-based deliberations, such as the governmental valuation of the costs and benefits of the anticipated policy and its consequence on the beneficiaries and constitutional concerns of governments. Policymakers in developing countries are confronted with enormous problems in governance, developing and implementing social welfare policies, in addition to insufficient funding and incompetency or reluctance to provide public good and services to citizens (Easton et al., 2017; Harvey et al., 2007).

However, in Nigeria, Akinde (2020) articulated the central problem and challenges confronting Nigeria's socioeconomic development concerns policy deficiency from a weak governance system, which begs policymakers' consciousness of policy formulation and implementation. Dauda (2017) found that there is less attention to policymaking. Attention should be placed on policymaking reformation and improvement, sincere allegiance, and adherence to good governance to tackle dishonesty and provide public goods and services for the wretched and vulnerable society in Nigeria.

Yagboyaju (2019) explained a need for developmental objectives and improved Nigeria's policy processes based on the extensive interaction between knowledge and

development. It has become an exigent demand to provide evidence-based research for socio-economic development policies in Nigeria (Yagboyaju, 2019). Knowledge of issues and development are intertwined and become the anchor of socioeconomic issues by bringing about the consciousness of the depth and severity of development (Yagboyaju, 2019).

The Nigerian government has embarked on diverse policy formulation and implementations despite no obvious or evidence or indication of development reflecting, and Nigeria still hovering within countries regarded as developing nations globally (Ugwuanyi & Chukwuemeka, 2013). Azu (2016) analyzed the function of public administration on policy implementation in Nigeria in consideration of diverse policy collapse in Nigeria, which hinged deficient governing competency. Using secondary data in the qualitative research, Azu found that policy failure in Nigeria often occurred at the implementation stage. Azu indicated that even though policy formulation is the guiding principle towards accomplishing the country development objectives, where the policies fall short of appropriate composition or structure based on deficient governance or governing techniques, the concerned policies are doomed to deviate from direction have no impact on its intentions.

To resolve the situation of policy in Nigeria, government is required to explore a constructive reevaluation of its diverse public policies and programs formulated to prompt economic prospects and possibilities efficient of generating employments (Longe, 2017). Ohiomu and Oluyemi (2019) noted Nigerian government should formulate policies towards curbing depleting national resources and revenue with conscientious

policies toward undertaking activities intended and assured to improve the quality of life and livelihood of the citizens. The policy in this respect is critical because Nigeria government elites have converted the ostensible Nigeria democracy into commercial business considering that the strategy is presently the undercurrents and stimulating determinants for politics inside the Nigerian government (Chukwu & Ngban, 2018). Consequently, relevant policy and governance procedures should be focused on realistic and feasible economic concepts to accomplish structured and effective governance of accessible resources (Oyewunmi & Oyewunmi, 2018). Public policies are a solid developmental mechanism entrusted to government developing nations; therefore, Nigeria should not be exceptional based on its diversity and other complicated issues when the issues can be addressed in fairness, dedicatedly, in principle, and consciously (Nwafor-Orizu et al. 2018).

Public policymaking is regarded as the critical demonstration of government's governing, application of power, and sociopolitical or government policy on social lives instituted on a nation's Constitution (Razaei & Rezvani, 2019). Policy formulation is an integral aspect of the procedure of initiating public policies and includes governments and other policymakers seeking and responding to inquiries concerning approach societies can adopt to resolve diverse types of issues and situations impacting the citizens and institutions in the struggle of their objectives or livelihood (Howlett & Mukherjee, 2017). Governments are expected to have policy agenda before the commencement of the policy process for appropriate monitoring and its effectiveness towards ensuring that all information required is articulated before embarking on the policy process. Given



different descriptive studies of policymaking in different sectors and countries, there emerged five stages of policy cycle to solve a societal problem: problem recognition, proposal of solution, choice of solution, putting solution into effect, and monitoring results (Brewer & deLeon 1983; Dye, 1972; Howlett & Cashore, 2020; Hupe & Hill, 2006).

The policy cycle process involves agenda-setting, which indicates the procedure through which issues are drawn to the consciousness of governments, while policy formulation entails the approach in which policy choices are formulated in government (Howlette & Cashore, 2020). Whereas policy making is the procedure through which governments choose a specific policy or no policy, policy implementation involves the technique governments use to put policies into action (Howlette & Cashore, 2020). The policy evaluation stage involves the procedures through which the outcome of policies are analyzed, explored, and examined by the government and civil societies, of which the result might lead to a recreation of policy issues and resolutions (Howlette & Cashore, 2020). A public policymaking cycle, from panel and decision-making to evaluation and monitored is instituted in connection to underlying rights and consequently contained within the dominance of the constitutional and government structure, its disposition and responsibilities could perhaps be divergent (Razaei & Rezvani, 2019). The fundamental change intended at improving the competency and advancing government course of action in policy formulation and implementation indicates a delegated and network governance instead of a concentrated and government-established approach. This approach centers on a comprehensive form of policy mechanism or modernizations for

public action, rather than the institution and initiative to solve public issues (Vahdaninia & Darodi, 2019).

Dialoke et al. (2017) conducted a study on policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria, the underdevelopment bane using qualitative approach. The authors employed secondary data and postulated that there had been divergent policy formulation in Nigeria with an inconsequential aspect of the policies executed, yet there is no evidence or specific development to signify the little implementation. Dialoke et al. noted that policy formulation had not resolved Nigerian citizens' poverty, problem, and development intention. Given Nigeria had projected through its Vision 2020 policy to assume one of the top 20 economies in the World by 2020, it aimed to explore its natural resources to provide and ensure quality means of livelihood. With this aspiration, it became evident to Dialoke et al. that the level of deficiency in public policy in Nigeria due to inadequate government and governance could impede the proposed ambition to metamorphose into a developed nation by 2020. Invariably, policy implementation problems such as delusional objective transformation, political influence, social disquiet, uncertainty, indiscretion to the citizens' competence to incorporate their ideas to policy implementation, and contempt on policy environment have been ascertained to have contributed to lack of economic development and crisis in Nigeria (Ajulor, 2018).

Developing nations are confronted with a high increase in citizens and poverty (Okere & Chike, 2020). Policy implementation hinged on countries peculiarities based on its political, social, economic, governance, and behavioral dynamics that impact competently or deficiently a policy or plan is executed (Khan & Khadaker, 2016; Meter

& Horn, 1975; Steward et al. 2008). Government policy and programs to improve accountability have been inefficient and unproductive due to misrepresentation and deficient accountability in Nigeria (Adams et al., 2019; Standing 2014). Khan and Khandekar established that divergent situations are connected to the deficiency in policy implementation and achievement, ranging from collaboration, financing, dedication, willingness, competencies between policymakers and top-down foundation. In Nigeria, self-interest is often in competition with the nation's policy as perpetually displayed in the character and personality of the policymakers, making them the policy formulator to be obstinate to resolve the issues ravaging the country (Abomaye-Nimenibo et al., 2019).

Public policy is a guide to action, and it relates to a broader framework that involves putting into operation a philosophy, principle, vision, and decisions that are translated into various programs, projects, and activities. Formulation of strategic policy and legislation along with competency and prerequisite skills can culminate into the involvement of the local stakeholders, which produces a sense of belonging and inclusiveness, resulting in benefits of effective participation that would yield expected outcome and good management of the policy process and its implementation (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2019). The prospect of Nigeria's economy and inclusion of other developing nations significantly hinges on the formulation of constructive public policy assertion in addressing the economic problems and employment possibilities in the 21st century.

### **The State of Public Policy and Policy Performance on Socioeconomic Development**

Implementation of the policy is a crucial phase in the policymaking exercise

(Khan & Khandekar, 2016). A major issue that concerns policy implementation is that the process of its execution is devoid of adequate strategic direction or principles (Khan & Khandekar, 2016). In using quantitative method, Khan and Khandekar (2016) developed five models with hypotheses and found that deficient policy performance is connected with diverse issues like deficient coordination, financing, dedication, implementers competency, and top-down approach. The position of Khan and Khandekar on the state of deficient policy performance is not farfetched from the literature reviewed on Nigeria's socioeconomic development policies (Anger 2010; Emmanuel, 2019; Itumo & Nwefuru, 2016; Ugoani, 2019).

Diverse policies to resolve socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria were signed by various government as their tenor evolves (Solomon & Fidelis, 2018). However, these policy documents remained history in the Nigeria system due to monumental failures documented by scholars and reality on the ground because indeed the objectives were not achieved; therefore, the situation of poverty, unemployment, and all indices of socioeconomic factors have not evolved beyond the point of policy formulation while the situation had deteriorated, persisted, and still counting. In some cases, policy gets obstructed when changes occurred in Nigeria's government, which has contributed to significant policy deficiency resulting in Nigeria's socioeconomic issues. Policy without legal action and enshrined in a good governance system will suffer from enforcement and lack of implementation, which is practically a bane in the Nigerian government system (Itumo & Nwefuru, 2016). Policies and strategies to combat global circumstantial deterioration and failure, gender imbalance, and poverty are always

inadequate, ineffective, or insufficient (Jerneck, 2015).

The Nigerian government initiated diverse policies on socioeconomic development towards alleviating poverty in consideration of acute deprivation, which had impacted the lives of its citizens. In a search to resolve the socioeconomic issues to provide standard means of livelihood for Nigerians, some of the selected policies discussed below were initiated, despite the implementation remained on the shelf for review. As a strategy to resolve socioeconomic issues confronting Nigerians based on previous diverse policies, in 2000, the Poverty Alleviation Program was initiated (Kura et al., 2019). The intention was to curb youth restlessness; however, the policy was obstructed owing to deficient policy design, deficient coordination, insufficient financing coupled with a deficiency in monitoring and evaluation (Kura et al., 2019). Consequently, National Poverty Eradication Program was launched with the objective of poverty elimination in Nigeria rather than alleviate poverty; the policy was enmeshed in different issues that attracted the legislators to investigate the activities carried out under the policy (Kura et al. 2019). The project could not be accounted for and linked for specific evidence of achievement after spending almost USD 98million (Amber, 2010; Kura et al., 2019).

According to Obamuyi and Fapetu (2016), the Nigerian government came up with the NEEDS in 2003 based on different socioeconomic issues confronting the country's Medium-Term Strategy. NEED was an encompassing developmental policy going by its objective to stimulate growth and ascertain poverty curtailment, to provide empowerment, job creation, wealth creation, and transformation or reorientation (Uche,

2019). However, NEEDs was engulfed with insufficiency, ineffectiveness, not analytical approached, without an appropriate economic target, and devoid of right-based approach; consequently, NEEDS policy failed to actualize the needs of the Nigerian citizens (Obamuyi et al., 2016; Uche, 2019). While the federal government was implementing NEED, the policy was introduced to state and local governments as State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) and LEEDS (Alumona, 2016; Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013b).

Ugoani (2019) discussed mismanagement and policy failures in Nigeria by exploring historical perspectives using qualitative research and revealed that 85% of the 20 policies reviewed from 1960 of Nigeria independence and 2000 failed as a result of corruption mismanagement of natural resources. Among the policies reviewed are Operation Feed the Nation of 1979, National Directorate of Employment, 1986, Directorate of Food, Road and Infrastructure, 1986, Structural Adjustment Program, Family Economic Advancement. Ugoani noted evidence from the failures of all diverse development policies in Nigeria led to the formulation of the Economic Recovery and Review Plan policy. Solomon and Fidelis (2018) affirmed that the urge to restore Nigeria economy from previous policies manned by bad governance and inefficiency resorted into the policy of Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan with the overall goals of stimulating development, creating a worldwide competitive economy and facilitating inclusive development by contributing to the Nigeria citizens from 2017 – 2021. However, as of 2018, Solomon and Fidelis (2018) decried that Economic Recovery and Review Plan lacks a legal framework supporting its foundation and implementation

through the pathway to achieving its objective in reckoning with the evidence in the policy gap and implementations.

Ugoani (2019) stated that despite the slight increase in the GDP in Nigeria, poverty and unemployment persist mainly owing to a ravaging lack of governance and fraudulent acts. Ugoani concluded that diverse socioeconomic policies that crumbled in the country occurred explicitly due to governance issues and malpractices as policies formulated are driven by the self-interest of the politicians. In agreement with Ugoani, Uche (2019) observed impediments and practical best alternatives posited that it is shameful that diverse development policies in Nigeria had not yielded expected objectives to the public; instead, enormous socioeconomic development issues linger without strategic resolution. Using secondary data in the qualitative study, Uche found that policy contradiction, policy reverse, unwillingness, and lack of dedication to implementation, and dependency on international directives are very much an impediment on the cirque to Nigeria development. Accountability and transparency have been adjudged as the survival of policy on socio-economic development to curb fraud at all strata of the government and Nigeria's economy (Ugoani, 2019).

Chukwuma and Nwanbam (2017) reviewed the impact of Vision 20: 2020 in policy in Nigeria, focusing on a few local governments of a state of 6000 population using qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and noted the policy as commendable. Vision 20: 2020 had a broad goal of restoring the economic, social, and achievable development to deliver sufficient infrastructure and social goods and services to enhance Nigeria's economic development. Nevertheless, the policy was confronted with poor

governance issues, misappropriation, buying power, flawed fiscal system (Chukwuma & Nwanbam, 2017). Isah (2020) studied the reason why policies changed in Nigeria in a qualitative study using secondary data and noted that such occurred due to the collapse of the existing policy to achieve its intended goals, political uncertainty, unrest, incompetent and unprincipled democratic government, and policy dispersion, a shift in government, and socioeconomic determinants. Policies are formulated to resolve peculiar issues ravaging a section or group within a nation's economy, despite in some cases, policies formulated may not impact the specific group of citizens envisioned (Isah, 2020).

There are shreds of evidence that Nigeria's development policies and plans have confronted severe governance policy issues; however, the consciousness of the policymakers to human capital development, competency, quality education will enable the actualization of Vision 2020 (Chukwuma & Nwanban, 2017). The assertion of Chukwuma and Nwanban (2017) remained a wish from literature pieces of evidence in consideration that 2020 had passed. However, Nigeria's socioeconomic development issues persisted further from its conception to 2020, the year of its realization. Failure is synonymous with Nigeria projects and policies and had been adjudged so by scholars (Eja & Ramegowda, 2020). To ascertain the position of policy performance failure in Nigeria, it is critical to review the status of poverty and unemployment rate in Nigeria in relation to Vision 2020.

As of 2009, when the government conceived Vision 20: 2020 with its intended objective to direct the potentiality and energy of Nigeria citizen and appropriately or accountably harnesses natural resources to ensure a quality means of livelihood to the



citizen, the population was 154,324, 933 with 53.5% in poverty while 19.7% were unemployed. (Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, 2009). By 2020, Nigeria's population had increased to 206,000,000, with 40.1 % Nigerians living below the poverty line while 33.3% are unemployed and 22.8% underemployed (Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, 2020; World Bank, 2020). The essence of these statistics is to reveal the number of Nigerians living in poverty between 2009 when Vision: 2020 was formulated to evaluate the status of the socioeconomic situation of the citizens as of 2020, the year of implementation, and possibly evaluation of its achievement. As of 2009, 82,563,839 Nigeria were in poverty with a GDP of USD291.88 billion, while as of December 2020, 82, 606,000 Nigeria remained in abject poverty with a GDP of USD 448.12 based on World Bank 2019 data.

As of 2009, Nigeria total public debt was USD25.8Million with an exchange of USD 1 to N150.85, which is far less than the total public debt of USD 86.4Billion with an exchange rate of USD 1 to N381 CBN rate, which culminates in a debt of N33.9 trillion spent on development in Nigeria. (Debt Management Office 2021) despite, there is no evidence to depict how Nigeria had expended on its diverse development policy. Given this situation at the Nigeria debt portfolio's presentation to the Nigeria senate in 2020, the Senate Chairman on Foreign and Local Debts lamented, "that the big question in the minds of average Nigerian aware of this fact is what did we do with the money? In other words, where did the money go? What do we have to show as a people for these huge debts accumulated over the last four decades?" (Elumoye, 2020).

The senate leader's lamentation advocated that the aspiration of development for growth and improved standard of living Nigerians seems to devolve because of the

government's inability to channel the nation's scarce resources to achieve the society's expected development objectives as entrenched in the Constitution.

### **The Impact of Governance Policies and Socioeconomic Development Issues in Nigeria**

Governance and policy are fundamental to describing, analyzing, and impacting development towards desired performance (Patterson et al., 2017). Several authors have explored the perpetual and evolving socio-economic issues separately in Nigeria, yet they had remained unresolved since independence (Ojo et al. 2014). There are few empirical researchers who have explored comprehensively the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development like severe poverty, unemployment degradation, education, and human development (Shah et al., 2019). Vast deprivation, unemployment, insecurity, ignorance, dysfunctional health system, collapsing and damaged infrastructure, huge debts are among socio-economic issues in Nigeria (Uche, 2017).

Igiebor (2019) explored political corruption in Nigeria, focusing on its Implications for Economic Development in the Fourth Republic in a qualitative study, and revealed that "top to bottom corruption" has negatively affected Nigeria's economic development. Using secondary sources, Igiebor noted that political corruption affects and impairs policymaking, government institutions, governance, rules of law, regulations, and coherent processes. Igiebor indicated that development is a diverse process in people's coexistence; it can be observed from the political, societal, and economic perspectives. Igiebor inferred that social development is often conceived as progressive social change where economic development is always construed as improvement in people's quality of

life in a particular society. Igiebor found that despite the enormous wealth and resources in Nigeria, the challenges of honesty, transparency, competence, and accountability remain a significant issue. The need for the citizen to insist on accountability and transparency in governance to hinder personal benefits to curb corruption and to participate effectively in policymaking and its implementation is imminent in Nigeria (Igiebor, 2019).

Kura et al. (2019) examined poverty in Nigeria and government efforts towards its alleviation and sustainability. Kura et al. used secondary sources and discovered that despite enormous resources that have been expended on poverty reduction projects, there had not been any specific decrease; instead, it had increased tremendously. Kura et al. indicated that increased poverty hinges on corruption, duplications of projects, competitions among government agencies, and policymaking obstruction. Kura found that government inadequacy and weakness could be adduced as the foremost reason that permeates the incompetency to alleviate poverty, while the theory only provides the background for knowledge on poverty. Kura asserted that despite several government efforts on poverty alleviation policies, inefficient macroeconomic management, political instability, and bad governance have been attributed to the failure of poverty reduction in Nigeria. Kura et al. indicated that the program failure hinges on a lack of specific policy structures and precepts, lack of progression, and policy interference. Despite all programs structure to reduce poverty in Nigeria, the government has failed to concentrate on their comparative results and implications (Kura et al., 2019).

Obamuyi and Oladapo (2016) investigated the Nigerian economy and the

tendency for development in the face of sociopolitical challenges facing the country, which have impeded the level of economic development despite human and material resources endowment. Using qualitative approach and secondary data, the authors recognized the sociopolitical challenges to include corruption, poverty, unemployment, insecurity, politics, and governance amid several other issues in Nigeria. The authors found that to ensure economic development and progress in policy development, the government must be accountable for managing the national resources to prevent recklessness, poverty, and unemployment with a strong emphasis on policy formulation with the intention of economic development. Oyewunmi and Oyewunmi (2018) discovered the need for transformation and policy direction considering diverse insecurities issues that have affected socioeconomic contexts, a decline in public expenditure, and business implication in Nigeria. In a qualitative purposeful content analysis research, Awofeso and Irabor (2020) indicated how socioeconomic issues in Nigeria are aggravated by poor governance resulting in high unemployment, insufficient social wellbeing, inadequate health facility, which has continued to expand, inequalities, and imbalanced among the wealthy and the poor, thereby crippling social integration and confidence in governance.

Kubalu et al. (2017) provided a dynamic analysis of the relationship between human development and Nigeria's economic growth using quantitative econometrics techniques and found that despite the abundance of natural and human resources, Nigeria's development rate is prolonged and pathetic. In corroboration, Ita (2020) affirmed that human development is pertinent to development and indicated that one of

the necessary means and approach for improving the human livelihood judging from the standard of living hinges on access to good education and essential health services; however, in Nigeria, the health facility is deficient, security status is disturbing, while education is consistently deteriorating. World Bank's 2018 Human capital index placed Nigeria at 152 of 157 nations (World Bank, 2020). Kubalu et al. pointed that the rate of the increase in human development is the aftermath of the revolving decline in the budget allocated to the social development area of the Nigerian economy. Human development is obligatory to determine the socioeconomic development of a nation, in consideration that development does not hinge on the provision of development, growth in GDP and good governance, and evidence of purposeful economic development reflecting in the livelihood of the people is equally critical (Kubalu et al., 2017).

Waziri (2020) focused on democracy, governance, and socioeconomic rights on development in the Nigerian context using qualitative method and empirical research design. It noted that lack of responsibility to enforce chapter II of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, especially socioeconomic constitutional privileges policies, has contentiously stipulated the omission in ascertaining the connection between democracy, good governance, and economic development in Nigeria. Waziri discovered that socioeconomic privileges are privileges embedded in the Constitution of many nations that have encountered evidence exploitation and mismanagement of their constitutional and economic privileges, resulting in a deficiency in human development in democracy considering the human as the focus of development in any country. Nigeria's Constitution was explicit on security and well-being of the citizens that is

remained the fundamental reason of government existence; consequently, governments, irrespective of their constituent and position, are saddled with the responsibility of ensuring the policy implementation (Itumo & Nwefuru, 2016). Joseph et al. (2016) indicated that the citizens must challenge the government accountability of their responsibility to the public; specifically, Nigerian citizens must never again be quite or inaudible on weak governance policies.

World Bank (2020) asserted that Nigeria remained confronted with immense developmental issues, including the required decrease in oil reliance and reform the economy, tackle inadequate infrastructures, constitute a stable and efficient government, and tackle governance problems and public financial management structure. In studying evidenced-based research for socioeconomic development policies in Nigeria using qualitative approach and exploring secondary data, Yagboyaju (2019) found that governance deficiency has become challenging to exterminate poverty, provide infrastructural facilities, and curb insecurity, obstructing its development. Policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria is a decade issue in search of development to convert initiated or founded policies into practice and action; however, it had remained an issue given that the space within expected outcomes and realities remained specifically expansive (Yakubu, 2019). The Nigerian government has structured diverse development policies despite the required socioeconomic development has persistently evaded the citizens despite the solid initiatives. Good governance in a country is a significant driver of socioeconomic development policies (Gisselguist, 2012).

### **Implication of the Governance Policies on Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria**

Governance is the use of the rule of law to manage the natural resources of a country. However, the quality of governance is consequently fixated on the impact of government policies' influence on the standard of living of the citizens of a country (Huther & Shan, 2016). The citizens of a country experience the impact of inadequacies in executing a policy when the recipients face hindrances or limitations in obtaining sufficient goods and services necessary and obligatory (Cejudo & Michel, 2017; Peter, 1998). The inconsistency of governance policy indicates the magnitude that government directions and policy are disorientated and unaccountable (Delios & Henisz, 2003; Wang et al., 2017). It has become imperative that the principles of governance policies are not the focus of execution solely; however, it must be upheld and adhere to restrain the intensifying level of inadequate services and also the mismanagement and misdirection that had disintegrated socioeconomic development policies as a result of bad governance (Enaifoghe & Maramura, 2018).

Policymaking regarding socioeconomic development has often been to urgently address issues mostly unsubstantiated without thorough investigation and evidence, thereby not representing the desires and interests of Nigerian citizens (Ezeani, 2012). The absence of appropriate governance policies results in rising economic inequality, poverty, and social difference where policy actions to revamp socioeconomic developments are not addressed (Mok, 2012; Townsend, 1979; Townsend & Donkor, 1996; Walker, 1982, 1984; Walker & Walker, 1987). Governance policies and constitutional arrangements

should center mainly on curbing poor education, health disparity, and socioeconomic issues among nations (Zheng, 2016).

Development organizations are increasingly taking cognizance of the need to extensively review the permissive structure of governance (Hansen 1996; Huther et al., 1996; Picciotto 1995; World Bank 1992, 1994); influences (Shan, 1996) and policies required in governing and directing the root consequences of the governance on the standard of living of its citizens (Huther & Shan, 2016). Governing includes undertakings of a nation concerning social, political, and management players apparent as determining actions or conducts to direct, control, supervise and manage segments of society (Hussein et al., 2019); while socioeconomic development is inevitable, inadvertent issues often emanated consequently (Zheng, 2016).

According to Salihu et al. (2012), governance policy for economic development in Nigeria has no commitment or certainty for policy tenacity and execution. Such action could occur due to misrepresentation of objectives of self-seeking facts through the ploy of parochial policies by different actors in the drama and arena of policymaking while grappling for authority balancing or allocation within different interests to secure their political arena, financial interest, and personal gains (Salihu et al., 2012). There is a disconnect between the aristocracy policymakers and the citizens in Nigeria, the recipient of the inadequate policy formulation and its implementation (Philip & Peter, 2013). While the citizens seek better livelihood through the provision of goods and services from policymaking, the policymakers seek personal gains to further entrenched their wealth which has been the bane for policy failure in Nigeria (Philip & Peter, 2013). The



privilege of making policy has given the aristocrat policymakers the impetus to redirect Nigeria resources for personal gains (Berkhout et al., 2018; Ukeje et al., 2020), thereby entrenching poverty and unemployment's grave impact on the livelihood of the citizens.

In a qualitative case study using secondary data of reasons why policies changes in Nigeria, Isah (2020) affirmed that the advent of diverse governance policies in Nigeria in some cases could be to the advantage of the citizens; however, corrupt political elites often devise means of converting such policies for their personal benefits. Poor governance has deserted diverse crucial policies meant for development in Nigeria (Isah, 2020). Policy implementation issues in Nigeria hinges on crucial influences such as governance, policymaking, and behavior influences (Tochukwu et al., 2018). Governance impediments are inherent in policy, government, research-based, and livelihood decisions implemented at all levels of government which have firm effects on policy impact to certain occurrences and results (Behnassi, 2019). However, if in existence, the governance policies are deficiently ineffective to resolve the problems of socioeconomic development (Behnassi, 2019) in Nigeria.

In corroboration, evidence from literature indicated that diverse governance policies for decades have been adjudged deficient and ineffective to assure the proceeds of governance and socioeconomic circumstance of Nigerian citizens (Olaopa et al., 2012). Governance policies in Nigeria have not yielded the expected socioeconomic development; instead, the policymakers and political elites operate in opulence at the expense of the citizens, using the national resources for personal gains instead of the proportionate distribution of public goods and services (Olaopa et al., 2012). The action

of the policymakers had led the citizens to seek alternate means of survival, thereby resulting in misappropriation, swindling, unlawful actions, and related unrest activities, resulting in poverty and unemployment status in Nigeria society (Olaopa et al., 2012). According to United Nations Development Programme (2021), Nigeria ranked low at 161 positions in the human development index in 2020 using 2008-2019 data, while 53.4% of Nigeria's population live below the income poverty line of \$1.90 per day.

The United Nations Development Programme (2021) multidimensional poverty index report based on health, education, and standard of living in Nigeria stood at 40.9%, with an index value of 0.254 despite the abundance of resources concentrated in Nigeria. The corruption perception index 2020 revealed that Nigeria ranged 149 out of 179 countries reviewed and adjudged among countries not to address corruption effectively (Transparency International, 2020). Diverse policies are deficient and had not realized their intended objective in Nigeria because of the proclivity for corruption, incapacity, political inducement, and drive, which impacted diverse policies affecting the outcomes adversely against the desired expectations (Mueller, 2020). Nigeria's policy space has been characterized as a battleground and arena of disputes for instinctive dispositions given the governance structure alongside governing behaviors inclusive of unavoidable effects of not just public impoverishment but equally socioeconomic failures (Adejumobi, 1991; Olaopa et al., 2012). Studying governance and challenges of socioeconomic development in Nigeria, a qualitative case study research using secondary sources, Ojo et al. (2014) asserted that the governance approach in Nigeria had impeded the socioeconomic development desire of the citizens, with corruption having a

significant impact on accessing necessary goods and services.

Anyaechie and Areji (2015) studied economic diversification for sustainable development in Nigeria using qualitative case study. Anyaechie and Areji indicated that gains from the oil production in Nigeria are not expended appropriately on the economic development, which hinges on ideological situations that concern political elites with personal interest and bad socioeconomic situations that had impacted the development of the economy. The economic circumstance of Nigeria has not provided for the standard means of livelihood of the citizens (Anyaechie & Areji, 2015). Governance policies in Nigeria have been inadequate because of financial management attitude, deficient infrastructure, poor financial system, bad governance, defective educational coordination, and prevalent corruption (Anyaechie & Areji, 2015). Perverse corruption in Nigeria impedes efficient management of Nigeria's economy to uphold policy required to impact the economy, thereby affecting the standard of living of the citizens as few elites within the economy held on to the country's resources for their personal benefit (Anyaechie & Areji, 2015).

Public policy practice in Nigeria is apparently perverted compared to other countries of similar governance systems (Tochukwu et al., 2018). Alternatively, the 20 economies in the world Nigeria planned to join in its Vision 20: 2020 policy premised on adequately managing and harnessing the nation's resources to achieve economic objectives that would eliminate poverty in Nigeria (Falebita & Koul, 2018). As a result, consequential impediments to advance and improve a collective concept and direction is in existence in Nigeria in addition to economic policy and inconsistency of governance

policies systems (Leck et al. 2015); a contrast to the broader circumstance of governance issues existing in several developing countries (Behnassi, 2019). The attitude, governance, and constitutional transformation that control policymaking politics are required for the government's attentiveness in Nigeria (Bukari, 2015). The transformation will enable citizens' rights to development; however, the most exigent is the policymaking direction (Bukari, 2015).

The consequence of the citizen participation in the policymaking government and policymaking consciousness of policymakers is the exclusive practice of government policy and good governance that should be the center focus of the Nigerian government to deliver on socioeconomic development (Bukari, 2015). Cairney and Oliver (2017) found that committed and undeviating principles impart the approach for policymaking; recent evidence on accomplishing a policy panacea is required to be followed through a redirection of consciousness and effective rules and principles. Socioeconomic failure has the tendency to influence and spring on consciousness from a problem to another, and various evidence can be employed to stimulate and inspire that redirection in policymaking (Cairney & Oliver, 2017). In policymaking, immense understandings exist between the ill-considered resolution of different stakeholders and extensive, thorough long-term solutions to resolve socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. In this regard, a generic qualitative approach was adopted in this study to elicit how diverse government governance policies impacted socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria.

## Summary

The literature review focused on a critical analysis of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria remained unyielding of the expected results due to policymakers' lack of consciousness and direction to drive appropriate policies without personal gains. The impetus to achieve socioeconomic development that impacts citizens can be viewed from poverty reduction and unemployment in Nigeria. Economic growth is not sufficient to determine the citizens' standard of living in Nigeria if there is somewhat sufficient income, infrastructure, and access to public goods and services to meet essential means of livelihood. The multilateral agencies have continued to affirm and assert the need for good governance and policy direction to transform the space of African countries, especially Nigeria. Nigeria has become the headquarters of poverty above India (Adebayo 2018; Omodero, 2019). Based on this position, it has become pertinent to attract the consciousness of the Nigerian government and policymakers for strategic policy direction that would improve the livelihood of average Nigerian citizens.

In Chapter 2, I analyzed the origin of the IAD framework, its theoretical preposition, previous applications, the rationale for selecting the IAD for this study, the relation of the IAD to the study. Using available literature, I provided the context of the government and its responsibility, overview of governance, governance in Nigeria, proposition of good governance, public policy and policymaking, the state of public policy and policymaking in Nigeria, and finally, the implication of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. This information was critical to deciphering

the perspective of related components that defined the research question. Chapter 3 is focused on research methods. The chapter identified the research tradition, including the critical research participants, information gathered, and analysis of the study data, and ethical requirements.

### Chapter 3: Research Method

The purpose of this generic qualitative study was to explore the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The focus for Chapter 3 was the study's methodology. I provided the rationale for the design choice and discussed my role as a researcher in this study. In this chapter, I discussed data collection of semistructured interviews from policy and development experts with competency and in-depth knowledge of governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria as well as archival and policy documents that determined the scope and the reach of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The recruitment participation and data analysis plan. The chapter included criteria that confirmed data trustworthiness and discussion on the ethical issues surrounding this study.

#### **Research Design and Rationale**

The research design for this study was the generic qualitative approach (Kahlke, 2014; Merriam; 2009; Sandelowski, 2010; Thorne, 2008). The central research question for this study was "How have diverse government governance policies impacted socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria?" Qualitative research encompasses gathering evidence-based facts, including individual perspectives and interviews on a phenomenon (Denzin & Lindon, 1998; Kumar et al., 2017). In this study, the qualitative method was suitable because it is used to seek peoples' perspectives and experiences on a phenomenon (Patton, 2015). Generic approaches provide a direction uninhibited and extensively in-depth to describe real-world events (Kahlke, 2018). Generic qualitative

research suggests that empirical fact is related to the human being (Gray, 2014; Jahja et al., 2021; Monn & Blackman, 2014; Neuman, 2014). The intention of generic approach is to elicit participants' perspectives on issues that are not their internal personal experience (Bellamy et al., 2016). Researchers conducting a descriptive generic qualitative approach seek reliability and credibility of an actual occurrence that people and participants would ascertain in their perspectives of the study (Percy et al., 2015). A generic qualitative approach was suitable for this study because I explored the understanding of policy and development experts on how diverse governance policies had impacted on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

Researchers can also engage in a qualitative study with other designs such as narrative inquiry, phenomenology, grounded, ethnography, or case study (Merriam, 2016). The narrative approach employs stories expressed by an individual to understand how life is lived in the participants' words (Creswell & Poth, 2016; Rodríguez-Dorans & Jacobs, 2020; Toolis & Hammarck, 2015). The narrative approach was not suitable for this study because I did not engage the participants to identify their life stories.

The phenomenological approach emphasizes discovering how people decipher experience and change experience into awareness, both individually and as common understanding (Patton, 2015). Phenomenology concerns how individuals perceive their problem, describe it, feel about it, judge it, remember it, make sense of it, and discuss it with others (Patton, 2015). Phenomenology aims to explore and elicit the phenomenon experienced by the participants who dictate the phenomenon's significance from their consciousness (Bevan, 2014). Phenomenology was not suitable for this study because the



focus was not on the participants' lived experiences on the impact of governance policies on the socioeconomic development of their lives.

Grounded theory is the outcome of a study and describes a process of action; this approach employs multiple processes of gathering data and contrasting the different data gathered (Tie et al., 2019). The grounded theory approach gives the researcher the prospect to develop a general theory of a procedure or exploit based on the participants' opinion (Percy et al., 2015). The theory is grounded in the participants' experiences and helps explain the process or practice of a large group of people (Lewis, 2015). Grounded theory was not suitable for this study because the intention was not to develop a theory.

Ethnography is used to examine the pattern of a group sharing the same culture (Chatti et al., 2017). In ethnographic research, the participants possess common experiences, beliefs, attitudes, and values (Bass & Milosevic, 2016; Percy et al., 2015). Researchers gather data specifically in ethnographic research by relating with the group and noting personal opinions of their activities, interactions, and conducts (Bass & Milosevic, 2016). The ethnographic approach was not suitable for this study because I did not need to interact with the participants for observation or interaction to understand their daily lives activities or setting to answer the research question. (Bass & Milosevic, 2016; Percy et al., 2015).

Finally, a case study assists the researcher in gaining an in-depth understanding of a phenomenon (Creswell & Poth, 2016). The case study design is an evidence-based inquiry that explores a case or cases of a phenomenon within its natural settings dealing with how and why questions on the phenomenon of interest. (Yin, 2002; Yanzan, 2015).

Initially, the chosen approach for this study was a single case study, which would have allowed me to have an in-depth comprehension of the problem of study and have a detailed description of the phenomenon's existence (Gustafsson, 2017). However, my aim was to seek the perception of experts about governance policy and socioeconomic development rather than studying individuals or groups of individuals, (Labaree & Galleta, 2014).

Though this study was qualitative, the central premises of this research did not align with any one of the five main approaches. I chose a generic qualitative approach, which involved taking an analytic lens of the study (Caelli et al., 2003). I took the position of constructionist epistemology in qualitative research. Constructionist epistemology infers that fact emanates from human participation within their environment, which produces the truth from the human perspectives of the society in which it is engaged (Jahja et al., 2021). Based on this lens, people construct understanding from their interaction and the meaning of the society within their environment (Corrty, 1998; Gray, 2014; Jahja et al., 2021). For this reason, constructionist epistemology validates a generic qualitative approach (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). Though positivist relies on scientific evidence such as statistics and experiments, constructivist belief in the reality constructed from human knowledge interaction from others experience in the real world (Burkholder et al., 2016).

### **Role of the Researcher**

A researcher is responsible for conducting research conscientiously with integrity and honesty (Antes & Maggi, 2021). Often the researcher is referred to as the research

instrument (Dodgson, 2019), essential to describe the phenomenon (Høffding & Martiny, 2016). I served as the primary instrument in this study. The primary role of a qualitative researcher is data collection, arrangement, and analysis of data (Collin, 2014). I interpreted data as well as maintained ethical standards during data collection by ensuring transparency to mitigate bias. To protect the participants, I conducted the research process within universal ethical objectives to guarantee respect, safeguard from harm, and ensure the participants' privacy (Chowdhury, 2015; Swauger, 2011). Further, on July 28, 2021, I completed the collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) on Research, Ethics and Compliance for Doctoral Researchers to conduct this study.

The interest in this research emanated from 16 years of banking and presently as a policymaker, which provided public policy experience. The background in this topic assisted in understanding the perspective of the policy and development experts, considering that the issue of corporate governance in the private sector and governance policies on socioeconomic development are interrelated. Though I am a policymaker, I did not have any relationship with the study participants. My experience as a civil servant, governance expertise, and research knowledge provided an in-depth perspective in conceptualizing this study. As an integral part of the natural environment under study, I often converse with several policymakers, policy experts, and development experts.

My integration in this group assisted in reaching the participants and making them comfortable participating in this study. Rapport was important to elicit rich and thick data in this qualitative research. The preparation of an interview required an understanding of the recorder and settings that could impact data collection (McGrath et al., 2019). Data

were collected for the research with the focus on gathering in-depth information from the participants based on their knowledge in this study without influencing their participation. I avoided suggesting questions or responses that exposed the participants and allowed them to speak within the study context without injecting personal opinions to distort the data collected, thereby creating bias.

The objective of thoroughness in qualitative research is to ensure that research design, methods, and conclusion are precise, accessible, reaffirm, available to critics, and devoid of bias (Rose & Johnson, 2020). I used a journal to assist with documenting any bias as a cue to eliminate all predetermined thoughts about governance policies and socioeconomic development before reviewing notes collected and audiotapes during the research process. I used journals to detail my reflection on the research process from its conception to the conclusion of this study. Keeping a reflective journal all through the research process is critical to the study and enhances the confirmability of the study (Cypress, 2017). The reflexivity in this study required structured or methodical awareness of my subjectivity regarding the meaning, design, and creation of the research (Ravitch & Carl, 2016). As a researcher, knowing the subjectivity behind this study was critical to the credibility of the conclusion (Ravitch & Carl, 2016). Reflectivity is critical in the entire research process, from creating research, data collection, and analysis to concluding the study (Berger, 2015; Brandbury-Jones, 2007; Guillemin & Gullima, 2005). Using a journal assisted to mitigate bias on information gathered during the process of the research. Journaling the research process helped to avoid bias in this study because the research process and procedures allowed for a precise and articulated account

of how the research evolved through self-reflection of the research design. Biases were also managed by listening to the participants and taking notes. I ensured no interference with the data collection process and analysis to review data and gave objective outcomes as extracted from the participants (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

Further, I was transparent in the data collection, analysis, and interpretation for objectivity and avoided bias in the research process for credibility. In qualitative research, detailing the processes of data collection, analysis, and finding reduces bias and improves transparency (Bradely et al., 2020). Extensive transparency in qualitative data collection produces credibility and significance for the research outcomes for theory and practices. (Aguinis & Solarino, 2019). An audit trail was conducted to ensure rigor in this study by employing its strategy of dependability and confirmability towards the credibility of the study (Carcary, 2020).

## **Methodology**

### **Participant Selection**

The target population for this study was policy and development experts with competency in governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Secondary data were obtained to triangulate the result of this study, such documents as archival and policy documents as it concerns diverse governance policies of the Nigerian government. The sample for this study is policy and development experts with 10 years' competency and in-depth knowledge of governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Purposive sampling was employed to identify participants who fit the inclusion criteria for the research.

I contacted the participants individually, and after an exchange of proper contact, an email was initiated to commence the process of the formal introduction of the study. For accuracy, multiple data sources were used to triangulate the findings by comparing the participants' perspectives with existing documents. Using multiple sources of facts can contribute genuineness to the research by describing the study (Baskarada, 2017). Data triangulation was employed using interview information and archival documents to substantiate the findings of this study (Denzin, 1970; Joslin & Muller, 2016; Mitchell, 1986), which improves the research's rigor, quality, and genuineness.

### **Sampling Strategy**

In qualitative research, the researcher samples intentionally, not at random (Moser & Korstjens, 2018). The purposive sampling approach is a distinct and clear strategy of ascertaining that specific groups of cases within a sampling field are included in the fundamental research sample (Robinson, 2014). A purposive sampling includes choosing participants from a broad field that concerns the research topic (Etikan et al., 2016; Reybold et al., 2013). Using a purposive approach to identify those with the knowledge of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria was critical to elicit rich information. The research participants are policy experts and development experts with competency and in-depth knowledge of the impact of governance policy on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The choice of purposeful approach stems from the sensitivity of the research topic and the knowledge of those who understand the research problem (Elmir et al., 2011). Those considered in this study are adult and not vulnerable individuals as outlined in the ethics of research and following

Office of Research and Compliance on Institutional Review Board requirement (IRB; Walden University, n.d.).

### **Sample Size**

Involving several participants enables diverse opinions in a qualitative research (Mason, 2010). The sample size for the study was 12 participants through purposive sampling. The participants involved in this study are policy experts and development experts with competency and in-depth knowledge of governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Consequently, recruiting sufficient participants to elicit data until saturation was achieved with participant 10 was my study's goal (Van Rijnsoever, 2017). Sampling of 12 experts in the field of governance, policy, and socioeconomic development in Nigeria was considered appropriate in lending their experience to explore the impact of governance policies in accordance with the concept of saturation (Wahlstrom, 2017).

The participants possessed at least 10 years of experience working within Nigeria with an understanding of the topic under study. The inclusion criteria are crucial to ensure that the participant provides rich content and description of the research questions. The criteria are characteristics that the participants possessed in consideration of their inclusion in the study no unqualified participate was included in this research. Salkind (2010) noted that inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria combine characteristics used in the choice or suitability standard adopted to rule in or out the intended population for a research study. Participant selection hinged on their suitability to the research topic, which was included in the planning procedures in this research.

Creating or initiating inclusion and exclusion for research participants is a standard, expected procedure when planning and preparing excellent research protocols (Patino & Feirera, 2018). In this generic qualitative study, I interviewed 13 participants with a minimum of 10 years of expertise and experience in governance, policy, and socioeconomic development within the Nigerian context; however, only 12 confirmed their interview contents during member checking, which constitute the data in this research. I ensured appropriate participants were selected and contacted for my study to avoid the possible risk of impacting the research outcome.

The availability of the participants that meet the criterion was considered, and other factors that could impede the progress, inaccurate data, and timely project submission. It is expedient for researchers to focus on the appropriate inclusion and exclusion criteria and take cognizance of their impact on the credibility of the research (Patino & Feirera, 2018). The name of the organization where the participants were recruited was not mentioned in the study or the individual's name for the purpose and confidential information.

The number of 12 participants that participated in this study aligned with purposeful sampling and its objective to provide deep-rooted insights instead of the empirical generalizations always emanated in quantitative research (Malterud et al., 2016). Sample size must be sufficient to capture and uncover the significant opinion of the participants (Mason, 2010). However, where the sample size is enormous, it could result in a surplus or repetition of data possibly remain unused (Mason, 2010). As a researcher, I am aware that the point of saturation is when no new data merge from



interviewees to prompt data collection (Wahlstrom, 2017). Data saturation is most often adopted ideal criterion for belief and exploration to determine sample size in qualitative research (Guest et al., 2020).

I used a qualitative approach for this study that focused on the detailed and thick description of the research questions instead of relying solely on the sample size. The inclination of this approach is the essence of using purposeful sampling to select the 12 participants with expertise and competency that provided a detailed and thick description of how diverse governance policies had impacted socio-economic development. The depth of details obtained from the participants determined data saturation at interview 10 when no new information emerged in this study. The sample size composition determines the point of saturation, where no new data emerges; it indicates consistent themes from the data without any new themes; consequently, a researcher has attained data saturation (Fusch & Ness, 2015). In essence, data saturation was determined when sufficient details to recreate the study have been elicited from the participants (Fusch & Ness, 2015; O'Reilly & Parker, 2012; Walker, 2012) when the capacity to collect further details has been achieved, and no new coding emerges from the data (Fusch & Ness, 2015; Guest et al., 2006). The generic qualitative approach provided the path to elicit sufficient rich quality and thick description of the study through its flexibility.

### **Instrumentation**

Qualitative research emphasizes the deepness and quality of data gathered, seeking to enrich research above description to give the researcher an in-depth understanding of a phenomenon (Anyan, 2013). Researchers are not only involved in data

collection but also connect with the participants to construct and cogenerate expositions in a qualitative study (Ravitch & Carl, 2016). In a qualitative study, several methods are adopted to elicit an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon through written or verbatim interpretation, and the often adopt types are interviewing and observation (Creswell, 2007; Jamshed, 2014). However, in this study, an interview was used for data collection. Qualitative researchers explore qualitative interviewing as one method for data collection (Brayda & Boyce, 2014).

Qualitative interviews are commonly administered face to face (Farooq & Villiers, 2017; Novick, 2008; Qu & Dumay, 2011). The presence of human contact in this type of interview is always considered required for the interviewer to develop and sustain rapport with interviewees to facilitate collecting rich, in-depth data (Farooq & Villiers, 2017; Gillham, 2005; Hermanowicz, 2002; Shuy, 2003). In the process of face-to-face interviews, participants' body language and cues from the natural setting of contact further enhances researchers' understanding (Bryman, 2001; Gillham, 2005; Farooq & Villiers, 2017). A researcher must understand each data collection method's benefits and drawbacks and its suitability to the research questions to make a choice (Marshall & Rossman, 2006). Interviews encompass an interface between the participants and the researcher whose questions set protocol for discussion to stimulate their perception and opinion on a phenomenon (Lesley, 2019).

Based on the literature, I concluded that the face-to-face interview technique was an appropriate data collection instrument for this research. I developed unique research questions to elicit the participant perceptions. In this study, I conducted semistructured

interviews to gather responses to the research questions. Interviews are forms of unstructured, semistructured, direct, and personal interviews with each participant and researcher asking questions to encourage detailed, rich data on the topic of interest (Queirós et al., 2017). Semistructured interviews are often adopted in a qualitative study (Dempsey et al., 2016; Holloway & Wheeler, 2010).

A semistructured individual interview is administered with preconceived questions with the choice to explore one of the questions deeper to extract in-depth perspectives (Queirois et al., 2017). The choice stems from the topic's sensitivity and the epistemology and ontology point that knowledge and reality can mainly be derived from those who experienced and understand the phenomenon (Elmir et al., 2011). The choice of semistructured interviews would give the participants the confidence to trust the researcher to provide rich data because of adequate briefing on the research protocol and background facts on the research inquiry (Magnolia, 2017). In-depth interviews can be conducted face-to-face despite several scholars advocating that researchers establish a relationship and rapport before administering sensitive interviews (Dempsey et al., 2016; Liamputtong, 2007; Liamputtong & Ezzy, 2005; Murray, 2003). Researchers must be significantly restrained to ensure that participants are not inadvertently exploited to reveal more than the desired information during the interview (Peter, 2015).

I planned my research in line with Burkholder et al. (2016) advice that researchers are expected to plan for the exploit regarding the setting, the participants, date, and time for the interview. I planned the interview questions based on knowledge gained from the empirical research to depict the impact of governance policies on

socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Given the knowledge from the literature, framework, theory, personal experience, the questions were detailed and arranged into the interview guide. The same interview guide was administered to all the participants to provide the flexibility of adapting the interview as required to elicit the data. The interview guide is included in this study as Appendix A.

Descriptive semistructured interviews have been explored in policy research and other fields (McIntosh & Morse, 2015). The choice to use semi-structured interviews stemmed from its flexibility, content, and variation in the questioning associated with exploring research questions (Labaree & Galletta, 2014). In this study, the structure of the interviews contained open-ended questions for collected data. I planned the questions to enable the participants to have the preference to detail and deepen responses concerning their perspectives with the semistructured questions accompanying the interview procedure. Before conducting an interview, a guideline or interview guide must be prepared by the researcher (Ravitch & Carl., 2016; Rubin & Rubin, 2012).

The theoretical framework for this study was the IAD framework. For IAD, policymakers and scholars inquiring on a phenomenon that concerned how diverse governance policies, strategies, or structure allows people to resolve issues constitutionally, the IAD framework assisted in this study in arranging methodical, interrogative, and ethical abilities (Ostrom, 2019). IAD assisted in gathering knowledge from evidence-based research and evaluating previous conducts, actions, and attempts at developments (Ostroms, 2019). In corroboration of IAD perspectives, qualitative study entailed the use and collection of additional empirical evidence including personal

experience, case study, narrative, introspective, interview, historical, observational, visual texts, and interactional that depicts methodical, situation and complicated circumstances and meanings in peoples' lives (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005). IAD provided the path to analyze previous governance policies and the impact of the policymakers' policies as they subsequently affect the daily livelihood decisions of citizens of Nigeria citizens (Ostrom, 2019).

### **Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection**

The participants considered interview are policy experts and development experts with competency, and 10 years of experience about the phenomenon. I contacted the participants individually after the IRB approval and provided them with the explanation of the purpose of the research and data collection procedures. Purposive sampling was employed to identify participants that fit the inclusion criteria for the research. Using a purposive approach to identify those with the knowledge of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria was critical to elicit rich information. The rationale for using a purposive approach stemmed from researcher belief, on logical theoretical comprehension of the research topic, that specific groups of people possess a unique, diverse, or significant perspective on the issue under study, and their inclusion in the sample is critical (Mason, 2002; Robinson, 2014; Trost, 1986).

I obtained participant details and then emailed the informed consent, which equally served as the introduction letter. Subsequently, I followed with several telephone call to confirm receipt of the email. I created rapport over time and request to know the participants' intention to participate in the study before requesting the signed informed

consent and the interview time. Using email and telephone to reach out to participants after obtaining their information determined their inclination to partake in the study and timing. Relationship and rapport are crucial to engage the participant in achieving the purpose of the study. Rubin and Rubin (2012) noted that building conversational participation stems from the relationship with the interviewee. Achieving success in responsive interviewing entails growing a dependent personal relationship between the researcher and the interviewee that inspires open, truthful, and thorough responses, most on sensitive and personal issues, which culminate to conversational partnership (Rubin & Rubin (2012).

The participants considered for this study are adult and not vulnerable individuals as outlined in the ethics of research and following the IRB of Walden University. The participants were contacted individually to discuss the objective of the study and, after that, I obtained their contact details and other necessary information. After the first meeting of introduction, an email containing the introduction letter, informed consent form, and interview procedures was initiated to further brief the participants on the study dynamics for data collection. The ethical procedures were discussed extensively with the participant, including anonymity, privacy, right to withdraw, and keeping the information shared confidential. I built rapport during this process which provided comfort to the participants. The major ethical issues envisaged in this research based on the research question are the participants' privacy and confidentiality but after the assurance, I received the participants nodes be part of the study.

Researchers confront ethical issues in all research phases, from planning to

reporting, including privacy, confidentiality, informed consent, researcher's possible effect on the participants, or conversely (Sanjari et al., 2014). Conducting an in-depth and face-to-face interview can cause harm because the rapport the researcher has built over time could make the participant free to reveal extensive information, and the complacency of the researcher has the possibility of leading to harm if not intentionally controlled. Researchers must be significantly restrained to ensure that participants are not inadvertently exploited to reveal more than the desired information during the interview (Peter, 2015). The participants' privacy and confidentiality has been adequately protected by removing identifier elements and appellative that could expose their identity, details adjustments, and the adoption of effective strategies like the data storage approach (Sanjari et al., 2014) in this study. Data were cautiously modified for anonymity to avoid exposing the participant's identity and in-depth information (Dempsey et al., 2016).

The ethical standard was adopted to recruit the participants and data collection to ensure that the participants do not face any reputational issues based on the possible leakage of their information. The research question was developed based on the literature review on the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The research questions illuminated the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria, which emanated from the literature, institutional analysis, and IAD and personal experience as a researcher living within the research setting. The literature that provided insights into the research questions and embedded within the study for logical flow.

## **Data Collection**

The primary data collection technique for this study included interviews with 12 policy experts and development experts. I used semistructured interviews with open-ended questions to elicit strategic policy direction policymakers need to improve livelihood and enhance citizens' living standards. I conducted 12 face-to-face semistructured interviews with open-ended questions with policy experts and development experts who possess over 10 years of experience in governance policy and socio-economic development. I used iPhone 12 Pro audio tapes to record the interview; I listened to the recordings and transcribed the data personally using the pause and play strategy to accurately capture the participants' information. I documented my exploits with the participants in the field note and Journal created since the advent of the research topic to entrench the credibility of the study. Recorded interviews will be stored in a protected computer, and data will be preserved in a password-protected folder.

I used archival and policy documents as secondary data collection to triangulate the interview data. Triangulation is critical in policy and public administration research to enhance the credibility of the study (Ospina et al., 2016). Data collection in qualitative research contains choosing and constructing verbal data to analyze and comprehend problems, social discipline, individual and gathering of expertise, and relevant lived experiences (Flick, 2018). The data collection includes deciphering existing archival and policy documents (Flick, 2018). To ensure the validity and credibility of the research content, several techniques can be adopted to conduct qualitative research to ascertain its credibility. The techniques include persistent observation, negative case analysis,



triangulation, prolonged engagement, referential adequacy, peer debriefing, and member checking (Amankwaa, 2016; Lincoln & Guba, 1985). In this study, I engaged in interviews, archival documents, triangulation, member checking, journaling, iPhone 12 pro audio recorder for appropriate data collection.

The journal, field notes, and audio recordings served as additional sources to provide a deep connection with the data and research processes. Tessier (2012) noted that using field notes, transcripts, and audiotape recording separately has disadvantages, which may create an error in the data. However, the three processes could complement each other to strengthen the data to ensure reliability (Tessier, 2012). The participants were assigned pseudonyms P1, P3-P13 to ensure confidentiality of the information provided at all the stages of data collection and in the field notes, journals, and audiotapes and data analysis. Researchers are saddled with the responsibility of protecting the identity of the participants at all levels of the study ranging from setting choice and recruitment, beyond data collection, to analysis and dissemination of the research (Allen & Wiles, 2015; Creswell, 2013). In analyzing data, participants must be honored using adjusted or adopted names or pseudonyms in describing outcomes, prevent revealing details possible to harm participants through the use of complex narratives to hide participant identity (Allen & Wiles, 2015; Creswell, 2013).

### ***Field Note***

The field note was reviewed after each interview session, while encounters during the data collection process were documented to suggest, follow up with the participants. The field note allowed transparency in the research process because its content revealed

what transpired during the interview. Field notes are always suggested in qualitative research to document required contextual data to ensure in-depth context that occurred beyond the initial conception of the researcher (Phillippi & Lauderdale, 2018).

### ***Journal***

The journal provided details of the conception of the research topic of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria to the point of data collection for the study, coding process, data analysis, and research conclusion. The journal has an overview of how the research topic emanated and improved from the initial conception of the idea to explore the cost of governance and its implication on Nigeria's economy. However, after reviewing several articles, it became apparent that the topic is an integrated part of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development as an issue in Nigeria which was subsequently adopted as the research topic for this dissertation. According to Coghlan and Brydon-Miller (2014), journaling is the method of recording events, opinions, and perspectives over a period of time, usually with a specific goal or project in focus. The Journal provided the insights to understand the relevancy of the topic and required explorations to provide strategic policy direction to Nigeria's Government and policymakers to improve the standard of living of the citizens.

### ***Audio Recorder (iPhone 12 Pro)***

Audio recording was an instrument used for data collection to preserve in-depth information expected from the participants used to produce the transcripts to further connect with the data. Rubin and Rubin (2012) advised that if a researcher sets out to

prepare transcription personally, occurring ideas should be documented in a different memo file to reflect the interview. The process of translating the audio recording verbatim to text captured the exact words of the participants. Transcription of Interview to text is an integral component of the data analysis process that should be accurately detailed in a dissertation or research (Halcomb & Davidson, 2006; Wellard & Mckenna, 2001). The experiences with each of the participants was documented.

The field note assisted in capturing the participant description of the research topic, while the Journal provided the journey of the research process. The audio recording preserved the extensive rich data expected from the participants, not documented in the field note or Journal which validated and ensure the integrity of the data. Researchers could use various means to document and transcribe the data collected, depending on their intent with the information or appropriate research techniques. In this study, I used semistructured interviews at the participants' preferred location. The data were collected using face-to-face interviews with the participant's consent using an iPhone 12 pro audio recorder to document the information.

The face-to-face interviews were the preferred data collection tool to elicit rich data from the experts. The participants were informed of their choice to participate in the interview. Before the interview date, participants were contacted individually to reconfirm the date and time as scheduled. Follow-up with participants was crucial and necessary considering their busy schedule and keeping the meeting in their record without interruption. Where obstruction of timing, the interviews were easily rescheduled for the convenience of the participants. When one of the participants (P2) failed to

confirm the interview transcript after several calls, text messages and email the participant data were obliterated data from the study to avoid delays.

### **Data Analysis Plan**

The data analysis plan for this study was thematic analysis. Researchers analyze data to make sense of the large amount of data collected from an interview, field notes, recording, documents and literature to make sense of the data to describe and explore the objective of the study. Thematic analysis is used in qualitative research to analyze patterns or themes to interpret the meaning within the data. The thematic method emphasized the organization and thorough interpretation of the data and theoretical perspectives and insightful explanations from the participants, documents, and literature. Thematic analysis provided comprehensive details of the information gathered in this study. According to Nowell et al. (2017), thematic analysis is appropriate for describing important details of a large amount of data. It compels the researcher to use a systematic or thoughtful approach to data management or analysis, generating a concise and well-expressed interpretation and results.

Thematic is an approach for recognizing, analyzing, arranging, depicting, detailing, and illustrating the themes extracted from the research data (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Nowell et al., 2017). In a generic qualitative study, thematic analysis is often used (Bellamy et al., 2016). Thematic analysis is regarded as the most suitable for research that strives to explore through perceptions of experts to be employed in this study. The thematic analysis presents a methodical element to data analysis (Alhojailan, 2012). The thematic analysis enables the researcher to align an analysis of a theme's recurrence with

one of the entire contents to expatiate reliability, complexity and improve the research's entire interpretations (Alhojailan, 2012). To this effect, thematic analysis was suitable for this generic qualitative study which ensured the data collected are adequately analyzed to achieve the objective of the research.

Thematic analysis is considered suitable to be conducted systematically while taking cognizance that qualitative analysis is intrinsically flexible and somewhat complex (Lester et al., 2020). Joffe (2012) noted that thematic analysis is one of the immensely systematic and transparent qualitative analyses that produce fundamentals for proving justifiable representation of participants' understanding and perspective of a study, partially considering its grasps on the extensiveness of themes exigent, devoid conceding depth of data analysis. In corroboration, Leister et al. (2020) affirmed that the advantage of systematically assembling data analysis in stages portends initiation of a transparent process for a researcher and primarily the research audience (reader). Lochmiller and Lester (2017) advocated seven stages to adopt towards conducting qualitative analysis, specifically suitable for thematic analysis. Considering that this study is inclined to generate comprehensive descriptive explanations that revealed the overarching comprehension of the data and based on perspectives expected to the research questions, a systematic approach to analyzing data was critical in this thematic analysis. The systematic stages involve data assembling and organizing, data transcription, data collection intimacy, recording the data, data coding, categories and themes constructing using fundamental coded extracts, and ensuring the transparency of the analysis process (Lester, 2020; Lochmiller & Lester, 2017).

A further review of the literature revealed that Yin's (2011) data analysis process is inclined with thematic analysis of data by compiling, disassembling, reassembling, interpreting, and concluding the study (Castleberry & Nolen, 2021). Data were transcribed to get immersed with the content, read the transcript several to have an in-depth understanding and familiarize with the data obtained (Castleberry & Nolen, 2021). To disassemble means to dissect the data through coding, which was done repeatedly to represent the data better (Castleberry & Nolen, 2021). The substantial amount of data generated through the interview was dissected into coding using qualitative software - NVivo. In reassembly of the data, the codes and categories generated were compared in terms of their relevancy to produce the theme to represent the existence of salient data gathered from the research question which constituted categorized information and delineation embedded in the data set (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Castleberry et al., 2021).

Castleberry and Nolen (2021) indicated that during reassembly, the analytical thinking of the researcher's manifests. I expressed the data as obtained and not presented or organized to reinforce the theory adopted or strained it (Castleberry & Nolen, 2021). At the conclusion of the data analysis process, I made analytical conclusions from the data extracted as codes and then themes (Anderson, 2010; Castleberry et al., 2021). In thematic analysis, unprocessed data emerges to codes, and codes emerge as themes and thematic maps; therefore, recognizing and describing these themes resulted in the interpretations in this study. The conclusions reflected the information relevant to the research questions and purpose of the study (Castleberry et al., 2021; Yin, 2011). Qualitative data analysis software such as NVivo aided in the process of using thematic

analysis as depicted in Chapter 4.

Qualitative data analysis software was used to quickly understand in-depth information and content of the data gathered which unraveled the phenomenon. According to Wood et al. (2016), researchers adopt this software to aid different research approaches, and some often adopt the programs to aid analyses of data collected from interviews, focus groups, field notes, and open-ended survey questions, documents, etc. In this study, I considered the use of NVivo analysis software to analyze the data from participants on the impact of Governance policies on Socioeconomic development in Nigeria. NVivo® has attributes such as character-based coding, rich text efficiency, and multimedia activities critical for qualitative data management (Zamawe, 2015). NVivo also has incorporated solutions that provide researchers from diverse geographical areas to simultaneously address the same data documents through a network (Zamawe, 2015).

NVivo assisted in importing data, organizing, exploring and connecting the data gathered in this study. NVivo incorporates data from multiple sources to conduct a thorough, in-depth analysis obtainable (QSR International, 2020). NVivo essentially focus on coding; however, the features indicate how several tools could be applied to different phases of the research revealed the software could be rationally regarded as the means for organizing, retaining, handling, gathering, analyzing, interpreting, and describing or reporting the data (Edwards-Jones, 2014).

NVivo allowed the space for an organized data to maximize the features of the software to explore data from interviews, literature, field notes, and other types of data that collected in this study. Qualitative data analysis software is perfect when researchers

have ample data that may consume time in hands-on coding, which can only be done accurately with little data. La Pelle (2004) noted that qualitative analysis could be conducted using a traditional method of a word processor with limited creativity derived from qualitative data analysis software such as NVivo. The difference between combining data and reasoning conceptually is describing or presenting evidence of qualitative analysis (Padgett, 2012). Consequently, I was conscientious and committed to rigorously analyzing and exploration of the data during analysis which assisted to code content that emanated and articulate themes that depicted the participants' opinions and views about the phenomenon. Considering that extensive data were collected for this research, NVivo was suitable for this study.

### **Issues of Trustworthiness**

I adhered to a transparent approach in data collection and data analysis for this research that is thorough, trustworthy, and credible to depict the quality of qualitative research. The trustworthiness and validity were the focus from the conception of the research topic, literature review approaches to data collection, and was strictly adhered to its conclusion. The transparency approach in this research was proven with a meticulous focus on data analysis processes, from recording, listening, accurate transcription, coding, categorization, and the emergence of the theme to ensure data quality. Thorough data analysis revealed the complexity of human experiences and presented their cooperation to expose the perspectives of participants based on experiences on the impact of Governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. I listened to the audio recordings, generated the transcripts, and ensured all likely data errors were corrected.



The transcript was coded from the participants' perspectives from question to question to capture the codes embedded in each response appropriately.

The transcripts were reviewed alongside the field note to cross-check codes captured during the data collection. The exact process was repeated in categorization to ensure the questions were thoroughly gleaned to capture the meaning of data from the participants' perspectives. According to Simon (2011b), researchers can use several techniques to focus on validity, which encompasses the quality, thoroughness, and trustworthiness of the study and achieve reliability dealing with the dependability. The acceptability of qualitative research depends on the rigorous procedures adopted to achieve the research's extensiveness and critical findings (Nowell et al., 2017).

Qualitative research's thoroughness reflects reliability and validity, which are all features of quality study (Cypress, 2017). Ensuring rigorous process in the research strengthened the generic qualitative research design and the appropriateness of the method to answer the questions. The readers could deduce qualitative research rigor from the study's credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability, which are all trustworthiness criteria (Cypress, 2017). In this research, I exhaustively reviewed the research questions vis- a- vis the participants' responses to ascertain the consistency in their ideas, perceptions, and opinions about the research topic. Member checking helped ensure that the participants reviewed the transcripts' content before coding to ensure the integrity of the data.

The quality of qualitative research originates from trustworthiness and credibility, delineating the quality of the diligence employed in the research process and approach by

the researcher (Rose & Johnson, 2020). The research process was transparent, in-depth, and considered the coding processes by organizing the data's contents to disclose their link for accurate categorization before recognizing the suitable themes that depicted the worldview and perspectives of the participants for quality assurance in the research. The research audience would ascertain the processes adopted in this research and the researcher's worldview on the analysis to ensure its scholarly acceptance and transferability within the academic or professional circle.

### **Credibility**

Recording and transcribing data from participants is a critical aspect of all qualitative research approaches, and it is a fundamental premise underpinning all qualitative data analysis (Laumann, 2020). I commenced ensuring quality, trustworthiness, and credibility in this research through attention to data analysis processes, recording the interview, listening to the recordings to generate the transcripts, and reviewing transcripts. The research process was honest by gleaning through the data, in-depth, and incorporated in data analysis processes to ensure the quality of the research. I documented the research details for readers to understand the process followed in this study for possible replication in the future. Member checking is frequently adopted to establish and confirm the exactness of data from the participants after the researcher has concluded data collection and conducting data analysis (Naidu & Prose, 2018).

I forwarded the interview transcripts to 10 participants through email and two participants through WhatsApp after indicating the channel as their preferred means of communication to affirm their words or make corrections where their perspectives were

not appropriately captioned. The 12 participants responded to the emails and WhatsApp as applicable to confirm the contents of the transcripts of the interviews and make necessary corrections as applicable. Birt et al. (2016) affirmed that member checking enables participants to add or delete data and make adjustments and clarifications where required. After the data analysis procedures, I provided the participants access to the research result to ascertain the findings as a representation of the perspectives shared on the Impact of governance policy on socio-economic development in Nigeria to ensure the credibility of the study.

I achieved triangulation by reviewing the interview transcripts severally and corroborating the data from the participants' perspectives with existing archival documents and literature to ascertain the coherency and consistency in the multiple sources toward the credibility of this research. According to Carreta (2016), data in research must be ascertained frequently. The use of multiple sources helped to ensure triangulation in this research and proves that the finding and subsequent interpretations are credible (Nowell et al., 2017). The essence of triangulation is that researchers can precisely and accurately uncover the phenomenon (Rose & Johnson, 2020).

I used reflectivity to ascertain credibility in this study. Reflectivity assisted in understanding and structure awareness of impeding subjectivity concerning the research's explanation, approach, and initiation (Ravitch & Carl, 2016). I utilized reflectivity to ensure conscious action was taken on emotions and ideas. Reflexivity enhances transparency in research by indicating the researcher's perspective in handling research and analyzing data and permits the necessary impartiality to ensure the credibility of their

outcomes (Darawsheh, 2015). The reflectivity process enabled me to remove and recognize my subjectivity, beliefs, and existing knowledge to improve the credibility of this research.

### **Transferability**

Transferability involves the level to which research outcomes can be valuable and helpful to other studies (Etikan, Musa & Alkassim, 2016). Transferability reveals the necessity to understand to ascertain the entire research process to determine its significance to other studies and for easy understanding by the readers (Given, 2012). In this research, I used and revealed a thick description that portrayed the participants' expertise of the phenomenon to provide readers with proper understanding to adopt to make a comparison and determine its relevancy to their research or any other purpose. The description of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria is thick because the codes and categories described through the participant's contents make the research relevant to public policy and administration scholars and governments globally. I focused on rich data details to provide the research audience with truthfulness employed in this study to understand the participants' perspectives and insights into the research topic (Rose & Johnson, 2020).

### **Dependability**

Dependability includes the strength of the study findings and the researcher's attempts to interpret various situations in the research, the approach, or the methodology as adequate (Kalu & Bwalya, 2017). Dependability entails assessing the finding by the participants, interpretations, and recommendations that corroborates the data collected

from the participant (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). I used archival, policy documents, and interview transcripts to provide an audit trail of the data analysis process to ensure the research is dependable. I shared the research findings with the participants to confirm the connection between their data and the finding to achieve member checking to ensure the research reliability. The data collected in this study remained robust, presented, and analyzed in its exactness as obtained with evidence of the traceable process. An audit trail and member checking were adopted to ensure the dependability of this research. I obtained data and adhered to ethical standards by ensuring that participants' identities were kept confidential and private through the use of pseudonyms in the data analysis.

### **Confirmability**

Qualitative research recognizes that the world is a subjective place; hence, its objective is to ensure findings can be confirmed (Ravitch & Carl, 2016). I consciously and appropriately documented the research process for readers to understand the in-depth details of the research methods and their efficiency in this study for confirmability of the research. From the conception of the research topic, I adopted an audit trail, a traceable process as a strategy to document the research process from its conception to the conclusion. According to Rose and Johnson (2020), an audit trail is a document that provides the strategy employed throughout the research process, entrenching the comprehension of data collected to ensure accuracy in the research endeavors.

Throughout the study, I ensured a robust audit trail for readers to judge the research from the detailed description depicted to reveal the truthfulness embedded in the outcome of this study by documents, recordings, interview transcripts, reflectivity, and field notes,

and research process.

Houghton et al. (2013) affirmed that reflectivity allows researchers to meet rigor in qualitative research through the creditability of the data, dependability of the study, and confirmability of the findings. Sampling policy and development experts for this study lend credibility and confirmability. Using reflectivity will assist readers to have an informed knowledge of the researcher to confirm the research process from the trajectory of data collection to data analysis.

### ***Member Checking***

Member checking is referred to as participant or respondent affirmation of their words and seeks the credibility of research outcomes (Birt et al., 2016). Before the data collection, I informed the participants about the access to the interview transcript to confirm their words for member checking through the informed consent. Thomas (2017) affirmed that researchers preparing to perform member checks must integrate these details as an integral component of the consent processes for individuals contacted to be involved in research. After completing the analysis, coding, and interpretation, the participants were provided access to the research outcomes before the conclusion to seek their perspectives on the results and necessary input. According to Birt et al. (2016), researchers are responsible for depicting the research epistemological view that external reality exists, which was solely explored through the participants' knowledge and interpretations of the research and the skills deployed in this study (Birt et al., 2016).

To ensure the originality of the transcript and the participants' words, I listened to the audio recording severally. I transcribed the contents for accuracy using the field note

to confirm unclear statements or words concurrently before sending it to participants for member checking. The interview transcripts were forwarded to the participants for confirmation of their words to confirm results to ensure member checking. McGrath (2019) affirmed that member checking poses as a resonator and technique of substantiating understanding details provided by the participants, particularly in identifying specifics, nuances, viewpoints, interruptions, or other actions. Researchers seeking to corroborate descriptions of participants' viewpoints or experiences or in evidenced-based or coordinated research approaches, particular adoption of member checks may perhaps be proper (Thomas, 2017).

### **Ethical Procedures**

The trustworthiness commences with ethical consideration of the researcher in the study; that is where the foundation is to ensure data integrity begins. Research must secure approvals from the IRB to ascertain the processes of recruiting participant conforms with the ethical principles and standards principles. Without integrity in the data collection, the whole process of reliability or validity of the study would be faulty reason why an experienced adult with expertise on governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria were recruited for the study. Adherence to the ethical principles in a study will confirm the research trustworthiness and integrity, critical standards adopted, readers' approval of the study, and the researcher's obligation to the study (Janghorban & Azarkish, 2019). The participants were provided informed consent that details protection of their privacy, confidentiality, risk, and benefits of the study and the interview procedures.

The ethical issue involved in this study is reputational, which concerns the privacy of the participants and confidentiality of the data from participants. The participants' details were de-identified, protecting their privacy and confidentiality of data by using Pseudonyms P1, 3-13. The interaction between researcher and participants did not raise any ethical issue that required considered before the commencement of the process therefore, appropriate ethical guidelines were put into place and shared to understand the participants. Sabar and Ben-Yehoshua (2017) noted that ethics in qualitative study seek principles, commitments, and values that should guide the scholars and characterize ethical behavior in consideration that all are embedded in the research process. Researchers are confronted with ethical issues in all phases of the research, from planning to reporting, including privacy, confidentiality, informed consent, researchers' possible effect on the participants, or conversely (Sanjari et al., 2014).

Obedience to ethical standards in research can uphold research precision, crucial principles in the collaborative study, readers' support for research, and researchers' responsibility to society (Janghorban & Azarkish, 2019). Though qualitative researchers do not intend to interfere with their interaction with the participants, their communication necessitates cautious obedience to the statement of ethical principles in consideration of the exposure to lived experiences of human beings (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). Previous experience in the IRB process guided me before embarking on data collection. It assisted in understanding the ethical consideration standards under the field of study and ensuring adherence to IRB ethical process in absolute to avoid potential issues in the future. Researchers must have crucial ethical guides before, during, and after research; not



peculiar to research that concerns risky and vulnerable issues but inclusive of all manner of research irrespective of the level of sensitivity (Zapata-Barrero & Yalaz, 2020).

Research is a methodical exploration aimed to advance or contribute to reducible data, and human subjects are participants from whom a researcher collects data through involvement or interaction with the participants or recognizable confidential data (Enfield & Truwit, 2008).

Ravitch and Carl (2016) noted that regulated guidelines emanated from consequences of questionable, complicated, and uncontrollable research endeavors previously in an uncontrollable environment that generated severe harm to participants and groups. IRB are constituted at various universities and at the federal level to regulate and determine the appropriateness of a research project regarding institutional obligations group regulations, relevant law, standards, and professional conduct and practice quality. In consideration that information obtained from the participants could be developed in an unpredicted means, thereby resulting in unintended harm to the participants. To ensure appropriateness in the ethical standards, I have improved competencies to ascertain my suitability as a human instrument and because personal skills are critical in natural settings and research processes (Sanjari et al., 2014).

In qualitative research, researchers have a principal obligation to respect their participants and ensure primary ethical principles such as not infringing harm and safeguarding the participants' rights and comfort is adequately adhered to (Sabar & Ben-Yehoshua, 2017; Wood, 2007). Researchers must take cognizance of the effect of their questions on the participants and reduce harmful effects on human subjects; the reflexive

tactic is suggested (Sanjari et al., 2014). As a result, I informed the participants of the research process and the risk involved to make an informed decision either to participate or not consequently they gave their consent. Ravitch and Carl (2016) noted that revealing the research process to the participant will guide the expected questions from the researchers, what involvement necessitates; likely consequences; handling of data; those that will have access to the data; the process of dissemination; the objectives, intentions, and research methods; the research supporter or sponsors; and any possible benefits. This information was embedded in the informed consent and presented to participants respectfully, obtainable, and explicit (Ravitch & Carl, 2016).

Protecting privacy or confidentiality in research is critical to human self-respect (Given, 2012). Researchers always provide promises of confidentiality to protect the privacy of participants, which indicates that the information obtained from the participants would not be disclosed in a manner that would reveal the identity of the participants or the source of information (Given, 2012). Protecting the participant privacy is significantly related to reducing harm and respecting autonomy in this research (Hammersley & Traianou, 2012). How to determine the part of the information to be kept private and reveal publicly is very significant in the contemporary world, and qualitative research presents a considerable possibility for infringing on Privacy (Hammersley & Traianou, 2012). Promises of privacy is critical when researchers seek to elicit sensitive information from the participant or any other form of research, therefore without assurance of privacy protection; participants may not provide the required information that could depict adequate responses to the research questions (Given, 2012).

Sanjari et al. (2014) stated that researchers could adopt some effective strategies to protect privacy, such as data storage approach, removal of identifier elements, and researchers' details adjustments and appellatives that could reveal details of the participants. However, these strategies depend on the structure of the research inquiry where required researcher must use pseudonyms to protect the identity of the participants (Sabar & Ben-Yehoshua, 2017). In essence, the participants were assured of their privacy through informed consent and at every meeting before, during and after the data collection, the participants were assured of their protection and privacy. Consequently, privacy assisted in improving the quality and credibility of data (Given, 2012).

In this study, I ensured that the professional expertise data of participants remained anonymous to respect participant privacy. I provided the participant with the plans on how the information provided would be disseminated in the informed consent. Where it is critical to share the data, the researcher must seek the consent and permission of the participant as respect and cognizance of their input before engaging the data for use other than the initial purpose known to the participants (Mozersky et al., 2020).

I developed guidelines and standards for responsible, ethical qualitative data (Mozersky et al., 2020). Informed consent was comprehensive and explicit such that the participants were comfortable that their information and perspectives on the research would only be used for their knowledge, and where required for use researcher would seek appropriate consent as a sign of respect before deploying the data for other use. I sought IRB (Approval # 11-10-12-21-0441755) for this study before data collection. In readiness, on July 28, 2021, I completed the CITI Program on Research, Ethics, and

Compliance for Doctoral Researchers with Record ID 4378597 as a requirement to conduct this study. The knowledge based on research has entrenched the capability and experience to embark on this study.

### **Summary**

In this chapter, the description focused on the methodology employed in the study, the research design and its rational, Philosophical worldview, and my responsibility as the main instrument in the study. The chapter contained data collection instruments such as participant selection using inclusion criteria, sampling strategy, size, data management analysis employed using thematic analysis and NVivo to unravel the qualitative data. Experts' perspectives were used to elicit information on governance policies on socioeconomic development, a generic qualitative design using purposeful sampling was the best suitable for this study. I used reflectivity to depict the entire process of the research. Finally, the chapter concluded with the Issues of trustworthiness and ethical procedures followed to ensure participant privacy and confidentiality of information through the study.

## Chapter 4: Results

The purpose of this generic qualitative study was to explore the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. This study became necessary due to the lack of effective execution of various government policies, as reflected in the Vision 20: 2020, which was never realized. I tried to understand governance from 12 participants' perspectives through semistructured interviews. The chapter presents how data were obtained from the participants, the process to generate themes and meaning, the research setting, the data collection method, and the analysis process. Data analysis findings and evidence of trustworthiness are also provided, and the chapter concludes with a summary.

### **Research Setting**

The interviews were administered based on the participants' availability due to their busy schedules. Two of the participants requested to reschedule their interviews to another date and time due to their busy schedules, which I granted, and the interview took place eventually at their convenient time and private place of their choice. One of the participants who indicated interest and consented to the study apologized for not interviewing due to his travel schedule. Two of the participants indicated that WhatsApp is their most accessible means of communication for any correspondence for quick response due to their busy schedules, which I adhered to for quick responses on their participation. I conducted all the 12 interviews at the private place preferred by each participant and at their convenience. At the beginning of the interview, all the participants understood that they were not under any obligation to participate in the study. The

interview duration varied across the participants. Time spent on the interview was between 22minutes to 109 minutes. I conducted all 12 interviews for 522 minutes 18 seconds and yielded sufficient data to the point of saturation from P10.

### **Demographics**

The study was conducted to explore the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria, and this information was obtained from interviews with 12 policy and development experts. Participants are individuals within government cycles and development experts with in-depth knowledge of governance and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. All participants are within government cycles and the development experts who have been involved in policies and socioeconomic development since 1999 and have served in various capacities as policy and development experts within the Nigerian system. The participants' age ranges were between 50 and 60+ years with working experiences directly on policy and development from 12 and above 40 years. Six of the participants had a doctoral degree; others had an MBA with diverse experiences in policy and development. The participants reside in Nigeria. All identifier elements and appellation that could expose the participants' identity, details adjustments, and the adoption of effective strategies like the data storage approach have been incorporated to ensure confidentiality and privacy of the 12 participants in the study. Table 1 presents the demographic details of the 12 participants for this study.

**Table 1***Participants' Demographic Characteristics*

Participants' Code	Expertise Competency	Years of Experience	Qualification
P1	Policy Expert	22	MBA
P3	Policy Expert	32	MBA
P4	Policy & Development Expert	13	PhD
P5	Policy Expert	15	PhD
P6	Policy & Development Expert	20	PhD Student
P7	Policy & Development Expert	18	PhD
P8	Policy & Development Expert	25	PhD
P9	Policy & Development Expert	42	PhD
P10	Policy & Development Expert	25	PhD
P11	Policy & Development Expert	15	MBA
P12	Policy Expert	35	MBA
P13	Policy Expert	12	MBA

**Data Collection****Number of Participants**

After receiving Walden University IRB approval, I administered 12 face-to-face, semistructured interviews. As discussed in Chapter 3, purposive sampling was appropriate to obtain a sample to identify those with the knowledge of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria to elicit rich information. The participants possessed over 10 years of experience in governance policy and socioeconomic development within the Nigerian system and had served in various government cycles capacities. I determined data saturation after the 10 interviews when sufficient details to recreate the study were elicited from the participants; however, I completed all the interview appointments, which provided additional insights.

### **Location and Frequency, and Duration of Data Collection**

The interviews took place within Nigeria, with nine out of 12 conducted in Abuja and three others were conducted in Lagos and Ogun State of Nigeria. I used the semistructured interview and documented the responses of the participants. For member checking, I shared the interview questions with the participants to follow the sequence of the questions in their responses. In some instances, the specific interview questions were repeated to probe the questions for further clarity and reinforce some of the participants' perspectives. All interviews were conducted between November 17–December 15, 2021.

### **Data Recording**

The participants received the recruitment letter to participate in the study through email, and after indicating their interests in participating in the study, the informed consent was forwarded through email. After obtaining the consent, the 13 participants scheduled their interview time at an agreed time and date. Before commencing the interview, I expressed appreciation for their participation and reemphasized the purpose of the research. The consent form was reiterated, and the right to withdraw from the study without any negative consequences. After obtaining assurance from each participant of their willingness to participate and their consent to audiotape, the interview process commenced. I recorded the interviews using the iPhone 12 Pro Recorder feature and face-to-face interview techniques. During each interview, I also wrote notes of significant and most notable comments from each participant, which serves as my field note.

### **Variations in Data Collection and Unusual Circumstances**

There was no variation in data collection and unusual circumstances. The 10



semistructured open-ended interview questions were administered to all the participants. In some cases, participant responses to the interview questions were used to probe the question to ascertain further and clarify their statements. During the first interview, my phone rang because I was using it to obtain the data, so the participants suggested I put it on airplane mode, which helped prevent further interruptions and was applied through the data collection period for all the participants. However, the interruption occurred less than 3 minutes after the interview commenced and was immediately handled within 2 minutes. Thereafter, data collection continued by opening a new recording without deviation from the participant's sequence of information on the interview. The two recordings were merged to create the participants' interview transcript, which was confirmed during member checking. I adhered to the interview protocol, ethical procedures were discussed extensively with the participant, including anonymity, privacy, right to withdraw, and keeping the information shared confidential before and after each interview.

## **Data Analysis**

### **Coding With Microsoft Word and NVivo (Data Compilation)**

Coding is the transformational procedure between data collected and extensive analysis (Saldana, 2016). Coding involves making sense of the transcripts of interview data collected from participants to understand the data in a qualitative study (Cope, 2016). I transcribed all audio files for the 12 participants. The transcripts were assembled into Microsoft Word documents, and each of the transcripts was assigned pseudonyms P1, P3–P13 to ensure confidentiality of the information provided at all the stages of data

collection. I performed necessary data cleaning on the data. I read through all the transcripts repeatedly with the field notes, which helped to manually code the 12 interview transcripts from Questions 1 to 10 directly by individual participants on paper, and then, I extracted related contents into Microsoft word for data intimacy. By doing this, I became more acquainted with deciphering the data and the participants' perspectives, which assisted in the analysis process.

Using NVivo, I disassembled the data to generate codes from the participants' datasets and referenced the detailed quotes with participants' perspectives. Then I imported the 12 transcripts into NVivo software and assembled each for coding. Tags were attached to several codes that emanated from the 12 transcripts separately; I revisited this process to check the codes line by line discretely. The NVivo software used for this research assisted in assembling and disassembling the multiple data collected while the initial manual coding entrenched my in-depth knowledge of the data about the research questions and my theoretical framework.

### **Data Reassembling—Theme Process**

Thematic analysis is an approach for recognizing, analyzing, arranging, depicting, detailing, and illustrating the themes extracted from the research data (Nowell et al., 2017). The researcher's analytical thinking manifests during data reassembling (Castelberry & Nolen, 2021). This data analysis process required more extensive analytical knowledge to separate the coded data into categories; therefore, I created a codebook in NVivo named Thematic Coding Analysis. I printed the codebook and cross-checked the codes for duplications and similarities in the NVivo across the participants'

responses to the subresearch questions. The duplications and similarities were determined after ascertaining the overlap of codes across the questions and participants' responses. The manual coding generated in Microsoft Word was also reviewed with the codebook and participants' responses as coded in NVivo to reaffirm the duplications and similarities before arriving at the suitable categories to represent the data. The categorization of the generated codes paved the way for the emerging themes that represent the research question and subresearch questions from the participants' perspectives.

From the 12 Interview transcript datasets, 262 codes emerged with 442 references from the NVivo analysis. I generated 685 codes from the Microsoft Word process to recognize the data for intimacy initially from interview Questions 1–10 with duplications and similarities across the questions. The codes were grouped using identified duplications and similarities in contents and then categorized according to their relevancy to identify salient points from the participants' perspectives to generate 153 categories. I repeatedly examined the codes before placing them in the appropriate categories based on their similarities in themes. From the 153 categories, 14 themes and policy strategies and directions emerged based on their relevancy to represent salient data regarding the research question. After I was convinced and satisfied that the themes represented the codes and categories, I reassembled the themes. The emerging themes were then grouped according to thematic interpretations that answered the subresearch questions to ensure the data collected were adequately analyzed to achieve the research objective.

### **Specific Codes, Categories and Themes That Emerged from the Data**

The themes were appropriate to represent the perspectives of the participants' responses to the research questions. Some of the codes, categories and themes that emerged from the data include bad governance and weak system, poor leadership, policy formulation issues, misplaced priorities, centralization of power and federalism system, lack of interagency collaboration and coordination, lack of cohesion, unhealthy competition, greed, lack of education, lack of capacity and competency, lack of training and knowledge of policy for execution, multifaceted corruption, personal preferences and self-interest, government interference and political elites, external influence, copy and paste policies, lack of guiding philosophy and party ideology, policy implementations issues, lack of empirical evidence based research, local governance failure, lack of interface with the beneficiaries of policy, town hall meetings, policy conducts, diversity, multi-ethnicity, deficient recruitment and selection of public servants, poor electoral process lack of sense of a nation, lack of inclusive governance, lack of accountability, lack of transparency, lack of strong institutions, infrastructural deficits policy inconsistency and continuity, politicization of poverty and poverty, the need for rolling plans, political considerations, lack of alignment of capital to key expectations, followership, and citizens' responsibility.

The codes are interwoven and embedded within the contents of participants' responses to the interview questions. Based on how themes emerged, all themes will be discussed, answering the three subquestions, and interview question, in some cases, they will overlap. I will discuss themes under subquestions. Interview Question 1 and

Question 9 were addressed to depict the participants' perspectives and insights on the governance system in Nigeria and the policy strategy and direction, respectively. The code and categories addressed the research questions and expressed detailed issues captured in the research problem, focusing on the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

### **Evident of Trustworthiness**

I adhered to a transparent approach in data collection and data analysis for this research that is thorough, trustworthy, and credible to depict the quality of qualitative research. The trustworthiness and validity were the focus from the conception of the research topic, literature review approaches to data collection, and was strictly adhered to its conclusion. The transparency approach in this research was proven with a meticulous focus on data analysis processes, from recording, listening, accurate transcription, coding, categorization, and the emergence of the theme to ensure data quality. Thorough data analysis revealed the complexity of human experiences and presented their co-operations to expose the perspectives of participants based on experiences on the impact of Governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. I listened to the audio recordings, generated the transcripts, and ensured all likely data errors were corrected. The transcript was coded from the participants' perspectives from question to question to capture the codes embedded in each response appropriately.

The transcripts were reviewed alongside the field note to cross-check codes captured during the data collection. The exact process was repeated in categorization to ensure the questions were thoroughly gleaned to capture the meaning of data from the

participants' perspectives. According to Simon (2011b), researchers can use several techniques to focus on validity, which encompasses the quality, thoroughness, and trustworthiness of the study and achieve reliability dealing with the research dependability. The acceptability of qualitative research depends on the rigorous procedures adopted to achieve the research's extensiveness and critical findings (Nowell et al., 2017).

### **Credibility**

I commenced ensuring quality, trustworthiness, and credibility in this research through attention to data analysis processes, recording the interview, listening to the recordings to generate the transcripts, and reviewing transcripts. The research process was honest by gleaning through the data, in-depth, and incorporated in data analysis processes to ensure the quality of the research. I documented the research details for readers to understand the process followed in this study for possible replication in the future. I forwarded the interview transcripts to 10 participants through email and two participants through WhatsApp after indicating the channel as their preferred means of communication to affirm their words or make corrections where their perspectives were not appropriately captioned. The 12 participants responded to the emails and WhatsApp as applicable to confirm the contents of the transcripts of the interviews and make necessary corrections as applicable.

After the data analysis procedures, I provided the participants access to the research result to ascertain the findings as a representation of the perspectives shared on the Impact of governance policy on socio-economic development in Nigeria to ensure the

credibility of the study. I achieved triangulation by reviewing the interview transcripts severally and corroborating the data from the participants' perspectives with existing archival documents and literature to ascertain the coherency and consistency in the multiple sources toward the credibility of this research. The use of multiple sources helped to ensure triangulation in this research and proves that the finding and subsequent interpretations are credible. I used reflectivity to ascertain credibility in this study. I utilized reflectivity to ensure conscious action was taken on emotions and ideas. The reflectivity process enabled me to remove and recognize my subjectivity, beliefs, and existing knowledge to improve the credibility of this research.

### **Transferability**

In this research, I used and revealed a thick description that portrayed the participant expertise of the phenomenon to provide readers with proper understanding to adopt to make a comparison and determine its relevancy to their research or any other purpose. The description of the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria is thick because the codes and categories described through the participant's contents make the research relevant to public policy and administration scholars and governments globally. I focused on rich data details to provide the research audience with truthfulness employed in this study to understand the participants' perspectives and insights into the research topic.

### **Dependability**

I used archival, policy documents, and interview transcripts to provide an audit trail of the data analysis process to ensure the research is dependable. I shared the

research findings with the participants to confirm the connection between their data and the finding to achieve member checking to ensure the research reliability. The data collected in this study remained robust, presented, and analyzed in its exactness as obtained with evidence of the traceable process. An audit trail and member checking were adopted to ensure the dependability of this research. I obtained data and adhered to ethical standards by ensuring that participants' identities were kept confidential and private through the use of pseudonyms in the data analysis.

### **Confirmability**

I consciously and appropriately documented the research process for readers to understand the in-depth details of the research methods and their efficiency in this study for confirmability of the research. From the conception of the research topic, I adopted an audit trail, a traceable process as a strategy to document the research process from its conception to the conclusion. Throughout the study, I ensured a robust audit trail for readers to judge the research from the detailed description depicted to reveal the truthfulness embedded in the outcome of this study by documents, recordings, interview transcripts, reflectivity, and field notes, and research process. Sampling policy and development experts for this study lend credibility and confirmability. Further, using reflectivity will assist readers to have an informed knowledge of the researcher to confirm the research process from the trajectory of data collection to data analysis.

### ***Member Checking***

Before the data collection, I informed the participants about the access to the interview transcript to confirm their words for member checking through the informed



consent. After completing the analysis, coding, and interpretation, the participants were provided access to the research outcomes before the conclusion to seek their perspectives on the results and necessary input. To ensure the originality of the transcript and the participants' words, I listened to the audio recording severally. I transcribed the contents for accuracy using the field note to confirm unclear statements or words concurrently before sending it to participants for member checking. The interview transcripts were forwarded to the participants for confirmation of their words to confirm results to ensure member checking.

### **Results**

I aimed to explore the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The research question was “How have diverse government governance policies impacted on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria?” The research is anchored on three subresearch questions:

- Subquestion 1: What governance policy strategy has been adopted by Nigeria Government to resolve socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria?
- Subquestion 2: What challenges are or can be described as inherent in executing policies for socioeconomic development in Nigeria?
- Subquestion 3: How have governance policies affected the nature and pace of development in Nigeria

Table 2 contains the subquestions and the corresponding themes.

**Table 2***Subquestions with Corresponding Themes*

Subquestions	Themes
1. What governance policy strategy has been adopted by Nigeria Government to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria?	1. Bad Governance Strategy 1b. Absence of Empirical Evidence to Drive Policy 2. Budget proposal, Developmental Plan and Annual Budget Policy Strategy 3. Political Interference and Personal Preferences Strategy 4. External Influences Strategy.
2. What challenges are or can be described as inherent in executing policies for socioeconomic development in Nigeria?	5. Centralization of Power and Local Governance Failure 6. Deficient Budgeting Process, Decision- Making and ideology on Policy 7. Lack of Inter-Agency Coordination and Collaboration 8. Poor Leadership 8a. Recruitment and Selection Process Issues 8b. Lack of Education, Competency, Capacity, Knowledge and Training 8c. Demotivation and not well-structured Civil Service 8d. Lack of Strong Institution 9. Multifaceted Corruption 10. Policy Formulation and Policy Implementation Issues 10a. Lack of Execution of Vision 20: 2020, 10b. Lack of Policy Continuity and Consistency 10c. Misplaced Prioritization 10d. Lack of Monitoring and Evaluation to drive policy impact with absence of Innovation and Technology 10e. Absence of Policy Impact Analysis, 10f. Lack of Cultural Milieu and Diversity as a consideration in policy formulation; 11. Absence of Lack of Sense of a Nation an emerging theme 11a. Followership Responsibility and Lack of Control 11b. Absence of Revenue Generation, Prioritization and Resources Alignment Policy Strategy and Direction SRQ1 and SRQ2
3. How have governance policies affected the nature and pace of development in Nigeria?	12. High Level of Poverty 13. Impact on socioeconomic Development 14. Escalation of Insecurity in Nigeria Policy Strategy and Direction Cont.SRQ3

In this generic qualitative study, I explored participant experiences using semistructured interviews with open-ended questions through face-to-face techniques and triangulated with policy and archival documents to generate their perspectives to answer the research question and sub-research questions. The 12 participants: P1, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, and P13, took part actively in the research. The Subquestions 1-3 were used to depict the 12 participants' perspectives to the sub-research questions. Each of the participants responded to the 10 interview questions; in some cases, the responses to the questions overlapped. Participants' perspectives on the 10 interview questions present responses to reflect their opinions on the sub-research questions. I detailed the policy strategy and direction after the discussions on the critical issues that emanated from Subquestions 1 and 2. The themes are presented as they relate to the subresearch questions one after the other.

**Subquestion 1: What Governance Policy Strategy Has Been Adopted by Nigeria Government to Resolve Socioeconomic Development Issues in Nigeria?**

***Theme 1: Bad Governance Strategy***

The perspectives shared by the participants depicted that a bad governance strategy exists in the Nigerian policymaking process, which indicates a lack of a tenet of good governance principle according to the United Nations. Eighty-three percent of the participants shared that bad governance exists in Nigeria and has pervaded as one of the Nigerian government's strategies on its governance policies to resolve socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria instead of good governance as enshrined in Nigeria Constitution and global practices. P1, P6, P8, P9, P10, and P13 shared their perspectives

on the lack of efficiency and effectiveness as an integral aspect of the Governance policy strategy Nigeria government use to drive and resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria.

According to P13,

In the Nigerian context, Governance Strategy, in the way I understand it, is a system put in place to create a better life for the people and an organized system that will also improve activities geared towards better welfare and improve the overall life of the Nigerian people. So, basically, in Nigeria, the System is available here. The issue we are discussing is whether it is working or is achieving the aim. I would tell you that we have a weak system that is not really achieving its set objectives, and it is really bad because the System is weak, structurally weak, and in terms of achieving the desired aims, it is also very weak. So, structurally and in the process of getting things done, we cannot say the System is doing well at all. So, the Governance strategy in Nigeria has a problem, specifically.

P10 asserted that

In Nigeria, how well we resolve socioeconomic development determines our prospect as a nation; broadly speaking, Governance has not yielded or responded to the expectations of many, and that is my opinion that since independence, we have always had reason to believe that the System of Governance should do more and perform better than it does. That is not to say there are no points where it has done well, but to say that; it has done below the expectation of its people as a nation.

P6 alluded

Governance strategy would entail the security of lives property; provision of infrastructure that makes life livable in the country, and what I mean by this is, ability by those that lead to providing things like pipe-borne water, electricity, a good health system, an education system, a system that makes it possible for people to be employed, not underemployed and unemployed System. A system that would guarantee maximization of our agriculture potential because we are rich both in land and in human resources. So, good Governance strategy for me would mean how to have good Governance. I mean, the United Nations they have their development goals; they have targets; how do leadership and Government achieve all these goals because the world has become a truly global village. So, we see things that are happening in other countries; we should be able to move Nigeria, putting the right things together; so that Nigeria can move from test to first. So, for me, when we talk about Governance, those are the issues that should be addressed.

P8 corroborated that

I think in the Nigerian context; Governance, in the sense of administration, in the sense of managing of public resources, in the sense of delivery of economic public goods and services. The rule and processes of interactions employed to utilize natural, social, and human resources to achieve these socioeconomic goals in Nigeria for citizens are what I understand as a Governance in Nigerian perspectives. In the present context, Governance will not just be traditional

conventional Government; Governance here signal how the traditional three branches of Governance, executive, legislature, and judiciary, interact with a host of non-governmental, private, public-private non-profit institutions to achieve strategic public goods, are they doing that? We can say yes. Of course, we can say they are doing it. The question then is, are they doing that effectively? Are they efficient effective? Are they supplying good enough public goods, whether it is water, light, good road network, social welfare, Security, and all that? So, the answer is, of course, NO! So, the Governance is not delivering as it ought to; it is not delivering even close to good enough. But Governance is happening because resources are being used, power, public power, the public coercive power of the state is being utilized to drive things and get things done together with private and non-profit sectors. But performance, in terms of outcome and quality of processes, we can see that it is not being done well, but definitely is being done.

In relation to P1, P13, P10, P6, and P8 comments above, P9 added that

Governance is a system of control that those in authority use to pass across the policies and ensure that we agree with the policies and how they implement the policies through laws, rules, and regulations, I guess. The various action of the Government on its existence in order to make the control viable. Imagine there are Government, there are executive arms of Government that propose certain actions and through its various organs, ministries, and agencies to ensure development in various sectors of the economy. If it goes against the constitution, they have to go to the house of Representatives to ensure that there are adequate rules and

regulations needed for that policy to work. I also imagine that the various Ministries have to have budgets of action, proposals, or budgets for action backed by funds to carry out or to implement these policies. Whether or not they carry these out effectively or not is another ballgame entirely. As far as Nigeria is concerned, there are policies to be implemented, and sometimes they are not.

83% of the participants shared from the viewpoint of Lack of Accountability and Transparency as an integral of governance policy strategy to resolve socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria.

P4 explained that

Governance itself implies that you are there to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people, ranging from the provision of health to education and the rest of the things that the people would normally expect from those in an elected position. However, in Nigeria, it is more of a perverse system, to the extent that things do not take a logical pathway and are not always based on empirical evidence on what a good Governance should reflect in terms of results for the people. So, Nigeria's governance system is so much convoluted, and it is usually dependent on geopolitical orientation rather than a nation-building outlook. Exposure of those in the leadership to clicks also affects, in most cases, the selfless approach to Good Governance strategy. So, it is an interesting model, but one that really does not reflect what the defined role or position of leaders should be related to the position of governance.

P12 supported that

Governance in Nigeria context is putting men and materials together for development and giving them leadership. However, in the Nigerian context, Governance here is simply the people who, by virtue of our votes, have become leaders in our society, either the Presidential level or at the State level or the Local government level; see Governance policy strategy merely as a projection of their own worldview, that is a projection of how they see society should be structured.

P11 reinforced that.

Governance is those structures, processes, systems that enable us to collectively make the best decisions on how to use resources to achieve whatever the set objectives or the set goals. When we say Governance, especially within the public policy space, or the public admin space, or think around how the Government is organized to deliver goods and services to Nigerians. However, Governance can also transcend to look more specifically at issues around accountability, issues around transparency with managing resources, public resources to deliver some specific expected ends for the people. In Nigeria, if we are doing it right, we will not be a frontier economy. I am not even sure we are a developing economy anymore; I think we have dropped off that list. So, we are not doing Governance, right.

Additionally, 75% of the participants stated that no one could question the political actors (policymakers and government) as they act as desired without recourse to the impact of their action on the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic



development in Nigeria. The participants described the lack of accountability of the political actors with instances and buttressed each other's opinions from the analysis.

P5 established that

One of the specific issues impeding governance policies on socio-economic development in Nigeria is lack of accountability; agencies are allocated budget every year. However, have we asked them what they do with the budget. No one is held responsible for not delivering; no one is held responsible for mismanaging, and so, we find ourselves not making incremental steps because the system protects people depending on who they are and their state of origin. So, that is part of what has remained a challenge in executing governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

P1 posited that you had a situation where anything goes. Government did just decide on what they wanted to do; nobody is questioning them at all.

P4 affirmed that

You find that performance and sustainable results are no longer key considerations for measuring success or being re-elected. We do have KPIs implied in the letters of the policy, but the behavior that reflects a posture of delivery and accountability is lacking in most cases in the MDAs charged with coordination and implementations. Our misconstrued sense of accountability; we choose to be accountable for what we think will get other people into trouble but, not necessarily because we want to check what is going on. Our oversight function is not really credible because it is not transparent. So, if it were

transparent, it would have been one of the key mitigating factors in holding everybody accountable.

P9 confirmed that

Interestingly things do not just happen at the level of governance strategy to the people, even in institutions, parastatal, and agencies. Sometimes, they forget there are rules; there are rules of how things are supposed to be done at the ministries, parastatal, and agencies. Sometimes they bypass the rules and do what they have to. So, they bypass rules, and the rules do not always hold, and sometimes, you there not question; if you question, you will find yourself in some kind of soup. When perhaps, the head of the parastatals, the Minister, comes into office, I am sure he would roll out his plans, but then you can question him o! Nobody is asking if they are doing what they want to do. Those who are put in Government, nobody is asking, are they doing it the way they should do it. Are there laid-down structures of how you will carry out a policy?

P11 advanced that

Senior Government officials and politicians know that they are not accountable to anyone for the delivery of those policies. So, they know that it is not like there are such set organizations by any parties tracking to see what the government has delivered based on his policy pronouncement. So, nobody really cares; if you really boil it down, it does not matter. People would make decisions; more of pecuniary considerations or parochial interest to what the policies say.

P13 stressed that

We can have one person that we can hold responsible for some of the actions in not meeting up with the required socioeconomic issues. But, if we have ten (10) people, there will be blamed, trading blame. This one would say, I have done my own; these guys have not done their own and all that.

P3 Indicated that

Well, I think the first reason for the implementation of the policies is that "everybody's job is nobody's job," that is what they say. So, usually, the policies that have been rolled out in some cases did not identify who is responsible for what at the minute level.

P9 introduced another dimension to the discussion that

Are there monitoring systems in place? I do not really know! Because I imagine that elsewhere you would call your representative to question, you will have a town hall meeting with the person representing your constituency. The constituency will come in, and they will fire questions on what is happening. But, that does not happen in Nigeria. So, it is challenging to understand priorities. That is why I like this idea of town hall meetings, and so on, where we call our representatives and say, come, we put you there to go and do this; you guys are not doing it.

P7 substantiated that

In terms of accountability, in terms of transparency, we seem to be having a whole lot of challenges putting the right peg in the right hole. So, all this interference causes much an issue for us, and we continue to have such issues on

socioeconomic development.

P7 pointed out the rule of law, lack of transparency and accountability in Nigeria's governance system in this conversation.

Lawmaking and rulemaking are structures and processes to be well-governed to ensure that those structures work. Then, sometimes how transparent that structure could be and generally how everything is well laid out, such that everyone benefits from it is what I would say that Governance strategy is in Nigeria. To a large extent, the governance structure is in place, yes, before now, one would say we have a system that was taking us to the rule of law, in terms of transparency of how things are being done. But, you recall earlier, we have what we might call due process, which is part of the entire governance structure, but now, I am not sure we have such a system that enables that because that will in turn, also give way to transparency and accountability. But, I think largely, we seem to be missing the landmark. So, are we really following that part? Well, I would say before now, yes, but we seem to be tilting away from such. The rule of law, transparency, accountability, due process, just name it; they are all part of the element of good Governance strategy, but it seems to be lost now.

P11 concluded that

The way we manage the resources we have, be it human, be it natural, it does not account for any of the core tenets you would want to see in a good system that has good Governance. Now are we, do we realize that we have a problem, yes, I think we do realize we have a problem, and that is why we have that myriad of good

governance programs by the Government both the Federal, State, and Local level and, also good governance programs driven by the development partners. Have we achieved the expected results? My guess would be NO! from my own experience. So, in summary, I think we are still struggling a little bit with entrenching Good Governance strategy in Nigeria.

Some participants P12, P11, and P9 noted that Nigeria's Governance policy strategy lack inclusiveness and participation in policymaking. P12 stipulated that In our African and Nigerian context, Governance policy strategy is not participatory by those governed. We have a patriarchal system in which somebody simply issues orders that he expects the rest of society to obey. So, we really do not have a Governance strategy in the strict sense of a democratic system in which people have a say in the way that they are being governed. So, democracy is only *mouthing* but is never implemented. So, that is the Governance policy strategy in the Nigerian context.

P11 attested to this statement that

If you look at the policy development process in Nigeria, for instance, it is not inclusive. We do not reach out to all the relevant stakeholders or parties to agree on what should go into our policies. Now, when we finally agree on a policy, how we implement it is also not inclusive, and it does not pay attention to all of the issues of socioeconomic development.

P9 supported that, "If people say they want black egg you give them a black egg. So, as we say in marketing, the beneficiaries are critical; what do people want? Then you make

it. So, if you are not thinking about the people, who are going to be affected.”

**Theme1b: Absence of Empirical Evidence from Beneficiaries to Drive Policy**

**Process.** Eighty-three percent of the participants shared their perspectives on how the absence of empirical data evidence and lack of government interface has been a challenge inherent in policy formulation and execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. According to the participants’ P4, P7, P9, and P10 empirical evidence play many roles in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development because it aided smooth implementation and addressed the issues as it impacts the society. The evidence derived from the beneficiaries is expected to feed into the National data to formulate policies for its effective execution, but that is not the case in Nigeria because the government does not interface with policy beneficiaries. According to P7, “We have not been able to really demonstrate these policies as evidenced-based policies in making them. No research, no informed policy research, informed or evidence policy research making or policies informed by research.” P4 informed that

Historically policy development is based on empirical evidence, but implementation tracking is not dependent on verifiable evidence. The tracking is sometimes based on the emotionality of political actors and their commentators. So, their handlers design the communication to suit political gains and not necessarily on transparent measures. Again, the difficulty in making the right policies go back to firstly, as long as the policies that are being formulated are not underpinned by empirical evidence and secondly, the decision to implement does

not align with what is for national development, the result will also fall short of globally accepted standards for measuring similar policies in a similar context.

P11 alluded that

I used to serve as an aid to one of the former presidents, and in that position, I was privy to a lot of the meetings and decision-making process at the highest level in Nigeria, and what I left that position with, my experience was that we do not arrive at policy, guided by evidence. Because we do not collate data, we find no insights into our issues and what ordinarily may be economic challenges we defined as political. What are ordinarily socio challenges, we give a religious connotation and then go down a rabbit hole that does not address the issue, and this is because we do not allow evidence to inform our understanding of the problem. Now, our failure to understand the problem means that we come up with bad answers to bad questions. So, we develop these ideas and call them policy recommendations, but you are making policy recommendations to the Wrong Question. At the very superficial level, senior government officials and politicians will take the posture that policy matters and that they integrate into the decision-making process. But, the reality is from my experience; they also know that those policies were not founded on any evidence, any serious evidence. They all know that those policies are not well considered.

P9 explained that

Sometimes we say the governor is too slow; he has been in power for so long that he has not done anything. This is why they need to think of what they want to do

before they get there. Do not become governor and start setting a think tank; start your think tank from now because 2023 will soon come. Identify the area where there has been a failure or gaps. Forget about what APC or PDP must have done. What are the gaps in the National life of the Nigerians? What will make Nigeria a good place to be? Are there problem in any sector of the economy, education, health and others? You must understand that in a country every part of the country is as good as important as important person. So, you must commit to each sector of the economy adequate resource to ensure efficient performance of the economy. Otherwise, you would waste our time formulating policy. Waste our time formulating policy!

Additionally, participants' emphasis on lack of empirical evidence affects how policies are executed as P1, P8, and P9 provided their additional perspectives on this challenge. P1 stated that

There are varied reasons why policies do not appear to work overtime, and while we continue to lag behind on the development Index, some of these issues have not worked. Some of the policy interventions have not worked for a number of reasons. One is even the quality of the policies themselves. How well are these policies taught through? What is the process of making policy? What is the process through which you make this? A situation where you have a few people who sit in an office and call themselves experts and then decide to articulate policies for Hundreds of millions of people in the country, for me, can be counterproductive. Counterproductive because it could just become an exercise in



futility because it ultimately does not achieve the purpose of whom the policy was put in place, and therefore it is almost like a waste of government resources.

Because the people making those policies spend time making it, they are paid salaries, and then monies are also spent making those policies, and then it ends up not being utilized. That is one reason thing, the quality of this policy.

P8 corroborated that

Structural character means that policymakers in Abuja are not feeding inputs. Their policies are not benefiting from the unique challenges of the local communities in Nigeria. So, the policies are framed ignorant of the local conditions. So, therefore, the quality of the policies themselves are impacted by the structure of policymaking which is not generally connected to the local area of problems. So, these create high degrees of policy failure. Like I said, I do not see much integration; I see disintegration and incoherency. Some of the policies of Universal Basic Education are not integrated at the grass-root. I see more of disintegration and not integration because, in most of the policies, there is not enough handshake between federal, state and local government and policy institutions.

P9 expanded that

Before you even get to the policy, we could also do what we call participatory. This policy is supposed to affect a group of people; let us go ask them. In Tanzania, you have to go and ask them to get to know what you think they want in those days. What do you want here? Not that you see that here and say, oh! I

think the farmers need tractors in that place. NO! You cannot make tractors a policy when the farmers do not need tractors when everything there is a stoning area. What mitigates policy action is a lack of fairness, lack of equity, and is not well planned. I wanted to share that national cake. That one is what is called it in English. I must share part of this national cake!

P9 further noted that

There is so much mistrust. The citizenry does not trust the government no matter how much they do; nobody believes they are doing it right. That is why I say there is not enough information. Imagine that for every policy, there must be something like a valuation. I know that NEC- Nigeria Economic Council tries to get involved in it sometimes in those things. We spoke to people at various levels about what was supposed to come out when we were doing this. You can state the fact that things changed; we have done it so far; what do you folks think? I remember there was a year in this State; they decided to build bridges or nook down some houses. I think that government should have gone to the people first and asked what do you people want in this area, give us the list of things that you want? Like the governor of a state, I have X number of local government; what do you want in this local government? What are your greatest needs here? What are your greatest needs there? What is your need here, and from there, they always have a think tank? They say they have a think tank. The think tank does not come from every part of the State. They just carry some academics, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), former Government officers, some party leaders. They sit down

somewhere over the course of two weeks or a month; they say they are looking at the various areas the government can act. Nobody gets to hear what they are doing at the end!

***Theme 2: Budget Proposal, Developmental Plan and Annual Budget Policy Strategy***

Seventy-five percent of the participants indicated that the Nigerian government prioritized socioeconomic development with a budget proposal, development plan, annual budget, policy documents but with caveats. These participants include P1, P3, P5, P6, P7, P9, P10, P11, and P13. However, 25% of the participants P4, P8, and P13 noted that other considerations drive prioritization. There is no prioritization. These arguments addressed the strategy used by Nigeria government to prioritize socioeconomic development. However, 58% of the participants informed that one of the strategies adopted by the Nigeria Government to resolve socioeconomic issues in the country is the use of development plan, budget plan, and related policy documents to inform policymaking but with a caveat detailed in the conversations. P 1 stated that

The very essence of Government anywhere in the world ought to be the welfare and the wellbeing of citizens of that country; that is really what governance is about. And so, if you are looking, if you are talking about welfare and wellbeing, what constitutes welfare and what constitutes wellbeing, to my mind will be the physical wellbeing; mental wellbeing in which case you are talking about health sector of a country, education sector, where children have access to school, access to well-trained teachers, access to technology, access to innovation and they have opportunity to actually realize their full potential in life because the government is

providing those socioeconomic infrastructures and circumstances and the body of laws that enables them to access this programs and therefore to make a success of their life for the overall benefit of society because it is in the interest of the country.

P1 further noted that

I do understand where you are going, but again I feel that is a totally different matter in terms of the quality of government, in terms of how we are doing it and where we are on the development skill, the human development index, and all that such measures use globally. So, development in Nigeria itself, well, now, governments, or states, whether you are looking at it as a sovereign state or you are looking at it as a state within a federation, within a sovereign state, all of these levels of government, govern through policy documents, through national development plans and so, this national development plans will normally embody some policies on infrastructure, policies on health, policies on technology, policies on security, policies on a whole range of issues, that is what really national plans ought to be. Now, in most recent time in Nigeria, we mostly done this through the so-called annual budgets at the Local government level, at the State level of government, and at every level of government. So, this annual level of government plans set out the policy priorities of government at those levels and then therefore again attach the planned expenditure in terms of financing to these various sectors.

P3 reiterated

Without socioeconomic development, Governance would have lost its relevance. So, usually, the policies that are rolled out either at the national level or at the subsector level are to protect and ensure that there is a development both socially and economically. But, I want to believe that as a person, when you talk of socioeconomic development in relation to governance, you are talking of the wellbeing of the population. So, the governance system in Nigeria is designed, we will talk about implementation later, is designed in such a way that the policies that come out both at the national level and at the subsector level are policies that will enable all, and in fact, will catalyze socioeconomic development. Such that when such policies are implemented, for example, to increase the GDP, it should increase the GDP, it should reduce the level of unemployment, it should make loans available, it should increase access to financial services. So, that is how the Government system should prioritize socioeconomic development to ensure that the socioeconomic development of Nigeria is catalyzed.

P5 avowed that

The governance system institutes an annual budget, and the annual budget is ordinarily supposed to be derived from a national plan, state plan, or local government plan. So, it is these plans and budgets that the priorities are set. And when a government is coming is supposed to have a certain vision of where it is supposed to take the country. The vision is being translated into a plan, and the plan is then broken down into an annual budget. Of course, what I have just told you is what it is supposed to be. Whether it works exactly that way is a matter of

discussion. So, they prioritize, but during implementation, you see all kinds of problems.

P6 buttressed the preceding.

With every state government, this is December...is the season everybody is coming out with a budget proposal...in a budget you prioritize projects. For Instance in year 2022 we are going to build 100 km of road. We are going to put some amount in agriculture. We are going to build and renovate a certain number of schools; we are going to buy laboratory equipment and all that.

P7 commented that, "Largely in terms of prioritizing the socioeconomic development, well again largely our socioeconomic needs or development needs are prioritized in terms of meeting the needs of the populace, I would want to say so!"

P10 stated that

If you look at all the documents from the development plans to the NEEDS Documents to ATAPS (Agricultural Transformation Agenda Program) documents and Vision 2020, every document we have made to address socioeconomic issues has been fantastic. They identify the issues, reduction of poverty, improvement of people's income and their wellbeing, provision of basic amenities, infrastructural facilities all of that is always in our documents. So, when you read this document, you would have a feeling that was some people some very beautiful thoughts into this document, but when we then get to implement it, a lot of things begin to go wrong.

According to P8

First, let me say how (socioeconomic priorities) it ought to. So, how it ought to be is set out in chapter 2 of the constitution, the fundamental objectives of state policy. That is chapter two of the constitution where it talks about the Government's obligation to the economic socio-cultural outcome. It talks about managing the economy in such a manner that ensures the quality of access, social justice, welfare, and security of Nigerian people. So, that is how it ought to. So, governance ought to prioritize the socioeconomic issue. But, section 13 of Chapter 2 of that constitution says that all public officers have to apply these very clear social welfare positions of the constitution. But again, the problem has been that section 6, 6c of the same constitution tends to say that this provision is not enforceable in the court. So, that creates a seeming contradiction between mandating all public officer to apply this social welfare, socioeconomic welfare conditions or outcomes in their policy, and the same constitutions saying the court cannot enforce any of it. So, it has paralyzed the mainstreaming of socioeconomic issues in governance in Nigeria because there is not enough leadership to make policymakers and managers consider these constitutional expectations as considerations or determinants of how they shape public policy and how they invest public resources.

***Theme 3: Political Interference and Personal Preferences Strategy***

Some participants indicated that political Interference and personal preferences are deployed and adopted as a policymaking strategy by the Nigerian government to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria. P4, P5, P6, P9, P11, and P12 pitched their

conversation directly under this sub-research question to express the intensity of political Interference and Personal preference of political actors to resolve socio-economic development issues in Nigeria.

P4 stated that

So, this is an interesting question because prioritizing implies that the system has been set, the policies that guide the delivery implementation of those systems as you relate to good governance are in place and have been adhered to, and people have been held accountable to it. I do not think this is the case; in most cases in Nigeria, as it relates to those elected into public office and those appointed into leadership roles. So, how does the governance system prioritize? For me, it is more around geopolitical leanings and considerations; it is more about political interest; it is less about empirical evidence-using data aligned to global standards of good governance.

P12 informed that

Well, government and policymakers do not Prioritize socioeconomic development because everything is fixated on self. So, when you say socioeconomic development, you are making an assumption that the people who make the decision are all altruistic and thinking about the people, but what we find in the Nigerian context that happens, more often than not is that the socioeconomic development comes in saying as a fallout of when people trying to a feather their own nests. Let me put it that way.

P6 substantiated the perspective of P12 with an instance that



A lot of time, people just build, how they build project, how the parliamentarians build projects. Like you now, you are my friend, and I say what is your business about, and you say my business is to do borehole. So, if I put borehole now, you can handle it and get money, and he says yes. And if Somebody says that the community already has two boreholes, he says, okay, give them two more. So, it is not because they need it; it is because those that are putting it are profiting from it. So, most of the prioritization is based on personal gain or individual gain, not for the good of the people.

P4 affirmed that

For instance: road infrastructure decisions in Nigeria, in most cases, are dependent on the geopolitical lineage of those in power at that point in time; if it is more of a northern leadership at National Assembly and in the MDA's in charge, you will find that more road projects will be built in that region, not necessarily because of economic reasons like ease of movement of goods and services to improve the quality of the people which is supposed to be part of what government should be thinking of; but rather what plays a more power persuasion is political benefits that will make their constituents feel that they are being given access to the National Coffers or considered in the National Capital Budgeting allocation outlook. So, it is really not a decision based on routes that deliver the most economic impact for Nigeria.

P9 stressed that

Social life, economic life, I do not know that there are any. I think each

government, each party who comes into government, has its own particular focus; they carry it out the way it occurs to them. I know that education is one of the issues in this country; we have not seen that there is any priority put on education. There is the transportation system; it seems that these past few years, there has been more of transportation and road networks, railway systems, and so on. The economy itself, one got confused. It does not seem to be any prioritized. One get confused as to where they are going. Health issues have been on the front burner for so long. COVID has not helped so much because it has also brought in so much challenge. Agriculture, oh no! Everything is in a kind of confused state, I must tell you. One does not even know the priority of the present Government. I do not know. There are so many conflicting things. There is constant confusion in the Nigeria State.

P11 ascertained that

Well, prioritization should be driven by a development. So, if we have done well, we should have a development agenda. You will put it together that the Development Agenda should be inclusive. But, as I made mention in the first question, we have not done those things right. So, if we have not done those things right and we attempt to prioritize, there is no shared understanding of what the priorities should be or how we decide what priorities should be. Once you do not have that in place, then what you have is people prioritizing based on whatever factors that are important to them.

***Theme 4: External Influences Strategy***

Participants discussed the adoption of external influence as a policymaking strategy to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria in diverse ways. P1, P3, P6, P8, and P13 indicated that Nigeria draws from the benchmark set by International Organizations and accepts their suggestions as a strategy to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria without considerations for the peculiarities of the country. P1 posited that

Of course, universally, there are certain benchmarks that if you have a population say 200 million, when I say universally, we can actually say the depending on the sector whether is it in the health sector, the World Health Organization, or the United Nations Development Program, UNDP or all that such multilateral bodies set out certain benchmarks whereby they advise governments to say listen why do you not set, say at the ratio of your GDP to budget expenditure on education by saying spend say 5% of your GDP on education. Because over time, the investment in the education of a certain amount has a kind of social impact, but not all sovereign nations adhere to it. Because may be due to the limited resources or they have their own different priorities, but there are those universal benchmarks. So, as a matter of fact, you can see how much importance a nation attaches to any sector by the volume of funds they devote to those sectors on an annual basis. So, the situation is not different in Nigeria. If you aggregate everything ultimately, it is not far from that universal benchmark in some cases, but the impact of all of these things aggregated or disaggregated is what really drives how much development that a country achieves and the impact it has on its

citizens, and how it also then impacts the quality of life their welfare and their well-being.

P13 maintained that

Well, the governance system in Nigeria prioritizes socioeconomic development on the lip. They just pay lip service to it because, effectively, the Nigerian Government and the system that is in place have all the policies you want to talk about. So, there are the understanding that there is a need for all that needs to be put in place. But, if we are speaking in terms of putting things in place based on a generalized governance system, which is mostly copied from other climes. Then, we will say yes, the Nigerian government pays lip service to it. There is this issue of lack of understanding our environment properly. What we do here is just copy and paste without understanding what can actually work in our own environment. So, this is also a huge, huge challenge.

P6 elucidated that

As a development expert, I can tell you that there was a big challenge even in international development because the West kept loading projects and shipping them to developing countries. They design projects in London or in New York, or in Washington. So, they stay in Washington, in Brussel, and say, okay Nigeria, we want to give them aid. We are going to give them a so and so project without interfacing with the people that are going to benefit from the Project. In governance, we are creating a problem because they were not achievable. At some point, all they did was that they give Nigeria 100 million, and then all that 100

million will go into logistics to buy pick-up trucks; they buy this and buy all that, stay in the hotel, and have conferences before the project. By the end of the day, what is actually put into the project would be like 20 million from 100 million. So, that is what is exactly happening here. So, people are not asking those they think they are doing this project for. Such as what do you need? What do you need first? And that does not happen. It is a big problem. If you do not ask people what they need, how do you provide what they need?

P1 expanded that

Taking something simply because a World Bank recommended it, to me, is less than optimal for effective policy quality articulation and implementation and impact. Taking something because you believe that because it is the African Development Bank, or therefore they must be experts is for me, I disagree! Yes, if we look at it and yes we can adapt it, or it is suitable for our cultural environment, why not? But, we should always come from the premise that we need to understand; we need to study it and see how we can adapt it to our own local environment.

P3 adduced that

The policy itself, when read out, seems to prioritize, but you will agree with me that the policies are on paper; policies are on papers. Some of the policies we have in place did not actually originate from Nigeria. Some of these policies were induced by international organizations. For example, the financial inclusion aspect of Vision 2020 policy was actually introduced by international

organizations and sponsored by international organizations such as Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation and the IMF [International Monetary Fund], and the World Bank. I think I can also add external influence. When I say external, I mean the influence of parties or governments outside Nigeria. that is another factor, mitigating Governance policies. Because we know that happens everywhere. Anyway, each country wants the best for itself, and wanting the best for yourself does not mean that you want the best for other countries. So, for example, this AFTA African Free Trade Area is being criticized because people are saying that it is not in the interest of Nigeria. Well, but we are not looking at it that way because we want to be our brothers' keeper. So, that is why I said that external influence at times could also be another factor that we could add to other factors mentioned earlier.

P8 confirmed that

I would say Nigeria's economic history, the history of the Nigeria economy has been one that has been more responsive to external influence, the colonial rule to military rule, and then the Structural Adjustment Program period where foreign economic, financial institutions seem to have more leverage over policymaking than national institutions. The result is that oftentimes the policies are not those that reflect local priorities.

P8 further established that

Structurally, we can talk about maybe the lack of autonomy. In Nigeria, the economic failure has made the country lose a sense of sovereignty. So, most of

our policies are almost dictated by the international financial institution because of our leaders' decadence indebtedness, leaders' appendix. So, we are not as sovereign as strong as we are in the first republic where the Government as part of the non-allied movement and were able to adopt policies that deviate from mainstream neoliberal order. But now, more embedded, we are weaker, we are economically poor, we are indebted, we rely so much on international development assistance (IDA), loans, and all that. So, that has further crippled the policymaking power of the State.

**Subquestion 2: What Challenges are or can be Described as Inherent in Executing Policies for Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria?**

In this research, the participants alleged over-centralization of power as an inherent challenge in the execution of policies in Nigeria. This theme is central to many challenges the participants discussed in this study across the questions. Some of the participants described over-centralization of power as inherent in executing governance policies for socioeconomic development because of its adoption in policy formulation, which is a defective structure to the Nigeria State. The participants' affirmed impact of over-centralization resulted in Local governance failure because policies do not align to the peculiarities of each state or geopolitical issues but somewhat generalized policies, which has impeded socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

***Theme 5: Centralization of Power and Local Governance Failure***

Participants described and narrated the Centralization of power and local governance failure as challenges and issues inherent in executing policies for

socioeconomic development in Nigeria. P1, P5, P8, P10, and P11 described over-centralization and federalism in this conversation as follows:

P1 indicated that

Well, for me, talking about structure deficiencies, we must be mindful of the structure, the type of federalism that we practice, the centralization of the policymaking process. Centralization! So, let us take, say, security, for instance, the cohesive powers of State harvested in a commander in chief who sits in Abuja as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Though you say that states have some measure for autonomy, but you have technically a state governor who cannot control, say a commissioner of police; a General officer commanding the military division in their state, they cannot issue legitimate order to this people especially when they are not in good terms. Even if they are on good terms, they will still have to depend on the center. So, that is centralization! Over-centralization of power in our nation in the hands of the President, in a so-called federation, is not very healthy; we have seen where it has brought us so far.

P1 expressed further,

That over-centralization is also responsible for the fact that monetary policy, macroeconomic policy, microeconomic policy, and all these things are harvested in the Central Bank of Nigeria. Now, even though there is a body called the National Economic Council where governors' seats with the Vice president as chairman to take certain decisions on economic policy, but ultimately it is the Ministry of Finance, it is the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning,



it is the Central Bank of Nigeria that has the dominant role in all of these things. So, that over-centralization of policymaking has not helped. You look at the management of our finances again, the fact there is an emphasis on sort of the so-called sharing of the national cake versus state actually really exploiting opportunities that they have in their states to expand their revenue base. It is a big-big problem! Now, this was not always the case. It was also put in the time; there was a lot of competition amongst the regions in the early 60s where these regions were basically self-sufficient, and then they achieved very important milestones economically and socially. That is not the case today; everything is now centralized. So, looking at these structures. The current structure, I think that it is defective in my view, and it is going to really require an extensive review if we are going to make progress as a nation.

P11 ascertained that

The structure of the country itself does not enable us to be nimbus to look for solutions. We are all looking at the central pot from where to draw resources, and that is a major albatross on our nation. If you cast your mind back to the 60's and this is not to glorify the 60's in any way, but when we have more of a regional structure, you have a different region fighting to find ways to grow their economy. Moving away from that regional structure, what we have today is the States just look to Abuja and heading over toward the end of the month to get a check, and whatever it is they get in that check, they build their life around. I think I saw a headline somewhere that only 3 states in Nigeria can fund their

budget, Lagos, Rivers, and Anambra. So, that means that you have essentially 90% of Nigeria that is not viable. 90% of these states in Nigeria are not viable!

P8 contended that

The nature of the Nigeria federation itself, oftentimes, there are no rules. The federal system does not allow for local experiments for policymaking, unlike the First Republic, where we had an eastern region economy, where the local government has a lot of control in managing the socioeconomic issues, the southwest. True federalism allows for its implementation at the level of different regions, its policy. So, the good policies for individuals are kind of diffuse. So, people are competing for the best. Centralization has affected policy formulation. The social crisis of federalism means that you, as the federal government, have the ownership of some of the major policy issues. If you look at the constitutional setting, the schedule of the constitutions. The legislative, the federal government, the inclusive is very high, which means most of the issues that impact the wellbeing lies with the federal government. But, the federal government lacks the capacity to zero in on the local areas, local issues. So, this over-centralization of some of these issues mean that policies developed by the federal level may never have traction at the local level in the way it is supposed to be. It may not have policy effectiveness.

P10 explained that

Though we have these national policies, and I think that is another thing. We continue running the country as a unitary state, and it has not paid us; it has not

worked well for us. Now, we take a federal decision and want to implement it in all states, even in selected states. No! The thing is, there are socioeconomic and cultural differences among the Federating States. I think to a large extent; we need to allow that. The health system, primary health should be a local government affair, but today, the Federal Ministry of health is more powerful in everything, but it does not have the reach that this local government should have if they are properly in power in addressing health issues. We stifled our Local government, such that they are virtually none existing order than having staff. So, they are unable to raise their own internally generated revenue. They are unable to even access their central allocations by themselves, and therefore they are unable to perform effectively the functions expected of local government. Our local governments are dead. Our states are biting more than they can chew because we have Omni-powerful governors. And of course, you have the federal government, which is just too far away from some of the tasks either that has been assigned by the constitution, or it has arrogated to itself by virtue of its power within the Three-Tier System.

P8 corroborated this assertion that

When you are articulating policies, let us say reducing out of school or increasing school enrollment, and in the local level of states, the government are not providing incentives, or rather providing incentives for people to get out of school, that policy will fail. So, the incoherence and lack of coordination are because of the structural issue arising from Nigeria's distorted federalism. The

collapse of governance, generalized governance across the country, rural governance, council, local, government and state. The quality of governance across different levels is very poor such that it affects both factors that can mitigate all these socioeconomic problems. The virtual collapse of local governance in Nigeria and lack of synergy to local governance and federal policymaking institutions means that ultimately, those areas that matter of wellbeing, which is usually local, will not benefit from the impact of these policies.

P5 supported that

In addressing governance in Nigeria, one must be conscious that this is not a unitary system. This is a federal system. So, there is a Federal Government, there is a state government, and there is a local government. So, in these 3 tiers, there are different dimensions relating to issues of competence relating to issues of control. At the State level, the Governors too are very dominant. For instance, the commissioners do not have the strength they are supposed to, the state assemblies are not strong, and yet they are supposed to check the executive, the local government is almost completely at the mercies of the Governors. So, these elements, these dimensions, and if you are addressing poverty, and states and local governments are not functioning well; then you have not really touched the issues.

P10, introducing the 4 levels of governance in Nigeria, further noted that

There is a fourth level of governance that we practically disregarded. That is what

we called the Town Councils. This is even lower than local government. So, within a local government, you have a few towns and cities and villages, each of these is supposed to be managed by a council or maybe in some cases by the traditional authorities in those areas, but they are virtually not recognized in the scheme of thing. So, when you talk of hygiene, the people who are supposed to provide the municipal facility are not there. So, you then have several states taking care of waste management. At that level, it is aggregated waste you expect them to be dealing with, not the house-to-house waste management. House to house management is best done by a town council. But, virtually, no town council is existing. Many local governments are even too large to operate on a house-to-house basis, yet, even at that level, there are no resources. How would they perform?

***Theme 6: Deficient Budgeting Process, Decision Making and Ideology on Policy***

Eighty-three percent of the participants described that the budgeting process, ideology, and policy decisions had been a significant challenge to the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. P4, P5, P6, and P11 specifically surmised that the budgeting process does not align with expectations, and the power of the actors drives decision-making in Nigeria in different ways.

P4 noted that

Specific issues impeding governance policies are our budgeting process, performance, and oversight role by the national assembly. The capital expenditure based on revenue projections shows that most revenues are allocated to the

recurrent expenditure rather than on implementing policies that support national development. When the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) borrows, you find that because capital project expenditure is not aligned to key expectations that would have been achieved if the selection is based on evidence. Because our budgeting process is annual, it does not allow for the long gestation of Capital projects. An example, the second Niger bridge is being going on since 2015 till now, and every year they go back to reallocate rather than allocating all necessary for delivering this critical national infrastructure into a special purpose account to avoid tampering.

P5 noted that

We have had a persistent challenge in spite of government policies, simply because one is struggling, we have constructed a country, but we are struggling to construct a nation. So, there is a distinction between the two. A nation draws in emotional attachment, completely loyalty—submergence of ethnic tendencies and preferences. Meaning the nation takes precedence over every other consideration. We are still struggling with this. So, you find that our actions, our program, our activities, our budget are still driven by what you call parochial tendencies.

P6 substantiated that

There is a lot of criminality about the budget and its proposals because you hear and I am sure if you have been in this country and you have friends, you hear the popular thing that these parliamentarians put so, so project in the budget for so amount of money. So, they put money, they put the project, and then they collect

the money budgeted, and the project is not delivered. So, I will say that, in terms of performance, in terms of implementation, the priority on paper does not match what is on the ground.

P11 contended

Look at some of the laws; I mean laws and regulations that are kind of govern the way we implement. And some of these laws have hamstrung the various sectors that are not able to move. So, a good example would be the petroleum industry. For 20 years, we tried to pass the Petroleum Industry Bill; we are glad that happened we have finally passed it. But, that had cost us some mortal wound. What happened was that in the 20 years we were monkeying around with that law, the world moved, all the investment that could have come into Nigeria, into the petroleum sector moved to other parts of Africa, Angola, Ghana, and so on. So, our inability to reach a conclusion speedily on Laws moved a lot of investment out of that single industry upon which Nigeria Enterprise runs. So, this is a case of just cutting off our noses to spite our faces.

P4 further illustrated that

The National Planning Unit of the Federal Ministry of Finance Budget and National Planning may not sufficiently socialize the previous year's budget performance as a guide for decision for the coming year. So, you find a lot of pushbacks between the national assembly and the executive based on interest, not necessarily based on governance outlook that has overall value for the country. So, what you find is that within the 4 years of each electoral cycle are individuals

or groups of power influencers who play in the periphery of legislated budgeting structure and pretending to be interested in the institutional capacity for the MDAs in their first term.

Relatedly P3, P4, P8, P9, and P11 provided illustrations of some prominent cases in the Nigerian space concerning a lack of political ideology and philosophy on policy decisions making, which had impeded the policy formulations and execution of governance policies in Nigeria because the government cannot determine the approach to development.

P11 explained that

If you look at the power sector, some of the challenges we have, why we are not able to deliver on the power sector is when we cannot quite decide if we are a market, the point I am making here is that a case of Ideology the place of development philosophy and ideology when it comes to development. We cannot quite decide if we are a capitalist market-facing economy or we are a socialist economy. If we are a capitalist market facing the economy, the industry as strategic and critical as the power sector, we would allow market forces to determine the decisions that are made in that industry, especially as we have privatized the industry. So, things around power tariffs should be decided by the market, obviously governed by a regulator. But, we have the government interfering in that process. So, the players in the market cannot charge a cost-reflective tariff. The government continues to give interventions or incentives from the Central Bank to cover the shortfalls. And what we try to exit, which is a



sector run by the government, we have now through the back door gone back to run that sector owned by the private sector. These examples I have given with the Petroleum Industry or the power sector cut across all of the major development sectors in Nigeria. Be it agriculture, water resources, solid minerals et cetera.

P8 reiterated that

The problem of the ideology, we can say Ideological nature or orientation of the public institutions and their drivers. So, these institutions are what you call neoliberal economic theory, relating to its ideology of the State. As a night watchman state, a state that basically provides a legal framework, so-called legal framework, and then does not really get robustly involved in the nature of the policymaking and outside that. So, Nigeria's state has been lackadaisical; it has not been a developmental state. State that its reason for existence is to facilitate development and if you look at development as freedom or development as transformation. Then, the Nigerian state has not really fashioned itself as such a state. That is the second reason why these issues are presently radiating.

P9 affirmed that

Do not forget that those you call government in Nigeria belong to political parties. Political parties do not have ideologies. We do not have parties with ideologies in Nigeria. I do not know what the ideology of APC is, I do not know what the ideologies of PDP are, I do not know what APGA stands for, so if we knew what each of them stood for, we could then say that you are welfarist, we hold you for what you stood for, you are capitalist, we hold you for what you stood for. So,

because of the problem of ideology among the parties, the government itself becomes an ideology-less government. That is why they are always having think-tanks because they do not know what to do. He is coming to the government; he does not just know what to do. He just now that there is plenty of money to be made by being a governor.

P4 indicated that

For instance, a new president shown in will push for new policies not necessary party ideology (for example- greener and stronger, therefore, focusing new policies on gaps in climate adaptation measures and climate finance support). The policy formulation will focus on research and data that supports the case and will guide the policy formulation process, but that has not been my experience. This political leaning policy formulation is usually because knowledgeable technocrats usually funding through technical assistance facilities are ignored at the final stages of these policy formulation process. So, it is not the process; it is the willingness of those that sit in that position to actually pass the right policies at the federal executive council level, at the ministerial levels, at the state Executive levels, and the local government levels.

P3 substantiated the assertion of P4 that

Majorly lack of commitment or lack of "political will" on the part of those in charge of governance policy is one big factor impacting socioeconomic development. So, when I talk of lack of "political will, Governance has to do with those who wrote those policies and those who implement them, and that is at the

national level and even at the subsector level. So, because the "will" to act is clearly not there. So, these policies are there to fulfill all righteousness, as they say. Those policies are rolled out to fulfill all righteousness. The "will" to implement them are not there; it is not there.

***Theme 7: Lack of Inter-Agency Coordination and Collaboration***

All the participants in this study emphasized that divergence, coordination failure, and interagency competition of political actors and the ministries and agencies of government charged with the responsibilities of the implementation of policies are among challenges that are inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria from different perspectives. 66.7% of the participants, namely: P1, P3, P4, P5, P7, P8, P9, and P13, were specific to this theme with insights from their experiences as policy and development experts in Nigeria. P1 noted that

What is the situation we have today? You find the Central Bank Governor going in one direction and the Minister of Finance going in one direction, and sometimes you cannot even distinguish between who is the Minister of Finance and the Central Bank Governor. So, there is a very strong divergence between macro-economic policy and fiscal policy. You see the Central Bank in the Power Sector. He goes to intervene in the Agricultural sector; he goes to the entertainment sector; it goes to intervene in all sorts of sectors; that is not your job! That is not your job! That is not your job. Those have to do with fiscal policies, that once the microeconomic benchmarks are agreed, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Finance to begin to articulate policies taking

cognizance of inflation rates, exchange rate, and these other issues. You are the one to now come up with the policies being mindful of the macroeconomic environment issues we are facing at that time. But today, that is not the case. Really, that is not the case. So, some of these things are real issues that cannot be ignored and have helped bring us to where we are.

P3 stated that

The policymakers are not seeing each other working together for a common purpose. Each of them is working in silos, they are not seeing a common objective that has to be attained, and that is why these policies are not integrated as part of their responsibility to improve socioeconomic development. For Instance: when the USSD was introduced in the financial sector, USSD meant Unstructured Supplementary Service Data, where you can press \*...#...#, and then you get a banking transaction done. When it was introduced, it led to a lot of banking fraud. So, Central Banks wanted to develop some regulations that would resolve and streamline the issue, but they could not do that because they had to work with the regulators in the telecommunication industry. I want to tell you it took two years, and both are government agencies. But each one is looking at "my sector is working fine." The problems are yours; banking fraud is your problem; it is not my problem. So, that is a major issue when it comes to inter-agency relationships and interagency collaboration; there is the need for that to develop if the desired impact would happen on socioeconomic development.

P3 cited a related instance

Another good example I want to give is this payment service bank (PSB) that was licensed recently. That is something that should have happened long ago because NCC as a regulator of TELCOs (telecommunication Companies), was of the opinion that regulating them to perform banking services will actually make them to improve the socioeconomic development of Nigeria, but the Central Bank was not looking at it that way; that the Incursion of the Telcos to the banking System will erode what the deposit money bank was doing. So, the two of them were not looking at the national good, the possible effect on the financial inclusion strategy. So, it took a lot of effort and period for the two organizations to come together and agree that this is what is good for the country.

P5 specified that

In terms of structure, sometimes, we have had institutions because limited assets institutions are supposed to be arranged in other to pursue limited objectives so that we can be making incremental progress. But in Nigeria, you have Economic Institutions, very important belonging to different ministries. So, you have a NEXIM which is Nigeria Export-Import Banks supervised by the Ministry of Finance. So, you have the Export Promotion Council in the Ministry of Industry. You have the Bank of Industry in the Ministry of Industry. You have Bank of Agriculture, under Agriculture, you have Raw Materials and Development Council under the Ministry of Science and Technology, and all these Institutions I have mentioned are supposed to assist with our industrialization. But, you can see that structurally they belong to different Ministries and are governed by different

policies. You have a Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency; they are so many, every Ministry and every institution are a reporting Ministry, so I call it coordination failure. There is certainly coordination failure because no one is actually asking these institutions that have limited resources to put them together so that we can achieve the objective.

P13 emphasized that

The structure is duplicated. So, people, you see, sometimes they spend years battling themselves on what to do before they understand what roles they are to play. Sometimes, our system is such that people, some departments are created for just welfarist purposes, not specifically to solve problems. I know of, I cannot remember, some departments that have gone to court to help them specify their expectations. There is a conflict between different departments, and they would now resort to going to court because you see different agencies finding themselves struggling to perform the same roles. And again, the government, the government, does not do a proper definition of its plans.

P4 alluded that

The lack of coordination between National Assembly Budget Committees and the Ministries in a meaningful way, not just at the budget defenses stage, which usually is grandstanding and a public spectacle, a more effective process that allows the Budget Office to have a strong relationship with the right capacities in National Assembly. This attitude towards performance is reflected in the approach adopted by the National Assembly who should play the oversights

function. So, these are the issues that you find that have entrenched, despite diverse policies developed in good faith.

P8 stressed that

National Economic Council seems to be the more visible framework where state governors meet together with the key minister and are chaired by the Vice President. But, that platform is designed to create some kind of clearinghouse converger; so that various state policies come to that level to get some kind of integrated converger. So that the people go back and mention that, the federal government has spelled out collectively a policy response for the state to develop policy responses derived from that overarching National Policies. But, what we see at NEC often is just basic political discussions, not really robust policy discussions, and the NEC and its infrastructures, unlike National Budget Commission. So far, I have not seen; I was in government before for five years, I have not seen a strong implementation framework that coordinates and drives and tracks these policy discussions to the States so that the States actually implements the same policies or version of that policy that aligned to the overall policies. NEC is the closest to an educated platform of policymaking but is not designed and executed properly.

P9 buttressed with an example

I was involved in a sweet potato project under Adesina; when the minister left, I was interested in the project, but those in the Ministry when Adesina left as a minister were not interested in that. Meanwhile, a superior project ought to have a

food component of that, there is a health component, but they could not work together. Everybody wants to be on top. Ha! It is a health issue; health should be in charge. It is an agricultural issue Agriculture should be in charge. No! it is not agriculture; it is an economic issue. That is overlap, overlap, overlap issue. I think the policies are not thought out well enough. So, it is like ministries are competing; it is finance that should be in charge, it is economic that should be in charge. We tend to bring in non-issues that do not have anything to do with going to a place.

P4, in another expression on the issues impeding the delivery of socioeconomic policies, noted that

Issue impeding delivery of socioeconomic governance policies is the lack of cohesion. The critical stakeholders with the different levels of governance structure do not align plans to manage resources leading to white elephant projects and lack of completion of an old project. The desire to always start new projects at the beginning of every new administration adds to the quantum of an abandoned capital project across the country. Sometimes these decisions to start new projects rather than complete valuable unfinished projects are covered with shades of geopolitical sentiments. For example, our NDC's have targets that are not taken seriously by each new administration, yet we continue to sign up on COP emission reduction targets. Sometimes you see that lack of cohesion evident in the way state government approaches policies and the federal government approach on the same issues. It is because of that lack of cohesion in policy that



you find a new policy that comes out sometimes is almost circumventing the ones that came out earlier.

P7 indicated that, “The implementation, the manner, and ways in which these national governance policies on socioeconomic development are implemented have really not taken us to where we need.”

### ***Theme 8: Poor Leadership***

The 12 participants of this study unanimously described poor leadership as an issue at the core of politics of challenges inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The participants’ adduced poor leadership, which is a result based on recruitments and selection process which does not take into consideration the educational level, competency, capacity, knowledge, and history of performance. These individuals eventually support policies that demotivate core civil servants and, as a result, determine the drive towards strengthening the pillars that support strong public service institutions, good governance, and socioeconomic development. 50% of the participant specifically pitches on poor leadership from different perspectives. According to P1,

Look, for me, at the heart of Nigeria’s developmental challenge today; at the heart of this challenge, whether you make economic progress, whether you make social progress or not is the quality of politics; politics is at the center of everything. It is the quality of your politics that determines the quality of leadership that emerges. It is the quality of leadership that emerges that then determines the ability of your planning capacity. How you manage your resources? How much progress you

made? The kind of team that is assembled to manage your affairs at the national level or at the state level, or even at the local government level. So, for me, politics is it all; it is the start it all and be it all, to my mind. So, at the heart of Nigeria's development challenge is a challenge of leadership.

P10 affirmed that

In terms of the trust, the people's level of trust in the government at all levels is lower than the expectation. Most people will not put down a bet that the leadership will perform very well. Improving our food security, for instance, addressing health issues, HIV aids, tuberculosis, the child killers' disease, how well we have done on those have been impeded not for lack of plans but for the neglect of leadership when it comes to implementation. We have emphasized it severally, corruption in all its coloration. I guess when you have self-centered leadership, it is part of that; maybe that is slightly different from corruption itself. A self-centered leadership is a problem that we need to address.

P13, when asked why socioeconomic issues remained persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies, retorted that

The basic reason for this, I would say, is that we have a serious leadership issue. And you know, for some of these socioeconomic issues to be properly dealt with, we have to have the right leaders in place. If you go through the history, Nigeria has passed through a lot of trying times from a military government that have no effective succession. So, the military guys were not trained properly in governance. They were trained to defend the Nation, which is just an aspect of the

overall system of governance. So, they are not prepared for leadership and have been handling the affairs of this country. And with that circumstance, we have not been able to meet up with the necessary socioeconomic requirements for the country.

Additionally, P13 stated that

After the Military system in 1999, where we now got into democracy, we found out that we still have a serious hangover of the military system because the people championing leadership structure are still either retired military men or people who have made money through the military system. So, the system has still been following that military route where, since proper democracy has not been properly enshrined and this has been our politicians, this has become a tradition and has made our politicians in the position of leadership think about themselves alone and not about the country.

P4 noted that

Nigeria's leadership corrupt practice is not just about what is taken from the common wealth but a thought process where people go into leadership roles expecting that it is the quickest way to self-wealth, not wealth for the people, which is supposed to be the plan for public service.

P13 corroborated the assertion of P4, citing instances of other countries approaches to leadership

In other places where we have a genuine governance system for socioeconomic development, they are more interested in the country, not in themselves. They are

more interested in what names they will leave behind after all. But, in Nigeria here, the people that are in leadership positions are more interested in amassing so much wealth so that they will continually stay in leadership positions.

P8 specified that

There is not enough leadership to make policymakers and managers consider these constitutional expectations as considerations or determinants of how they shape public policy and how they invest public resources. The failure of leadership, there is general disorientation in the character of leadership mediocracy plus partisanship haphazardly is a general failure of leadership, a general drop in standard leadership comparatively to what and where we are in the first republic and where most successful Asian countries are.

P6 stated that

The psychology and our value system, where leaders see themselves as lords and rulers instead of servants, impact governance policies on socioeconomic development. When I was in government, I liked to go back to old files in the office and what I see when they sign up is "your obedience servant." That is what they used to write when sending a memo that gets into the public, then ends it "your obedience servant"; because they see themselves as a servant. Now, our governor takes 800 million as a security vote monthly in a state where its entire budget in a year is about 150 billion; in four years, that is 32 billion. So, when you look at it, you will be asking yourself, are these public service, public servants, Public officers? Those are the names given to these people, but when they get

there, they see themselves as Lords; they are inaccessible.

**Theme 8a: Recruitment and Selection Process Issues.** P1, P3, P4, P6, P7, P9, P10, and P12 representing 67% of the participants, specifically revealed that the recruitment, selection, and elections process of those in leadership are some of the reasons why socioeconomic issues remained persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies to address development. P1 indicated that "nepotism in the placement of people who can make an important economic policy for Nigeria" is one reason why Nigeria's Policymaking structures have difficulty in formulating adequate policy and its implementation to resolve the socioeconomic issue and impact livelihood. P4 ascertained that

The first thing that comes to mind is the fact that there is no structure for the merit-based selection process. Recruitment process of those that we put in elected positions is usually based on the big-man syndrome and self-preservation considerations. They are never based on merit, and because they are never based on merit, we have people that are in the political elites based on self-interest leading to unqualified individuals in those positions. So, this is the starting point because the foundation, which is the leadership recruitment process, is flawed.

P6 stated that

When you look at our Leadership procurement processes, how we choose leaders in the country or rig election is a problem. The best candidates do not win in the election because the elections, which is the biggest tool that the ordinary person has does not count. So, People do not consult you, and they become governor;

they become president. So, they are not accountable to us. So, when the right people do not get to manned particular offices or ministries or agencies, even if your government has come with a rocket science kind of policy or budget, it cannot be well implemented. If the square pegs are in round holes, it will not work. So, these are part of things that are impeding socioeconomic development.

P6 further explained that

There is this other one they call Federal Character, which means that there are different rules for different people. You have heard about that in schools' admission, Jobs and in recruitment. For instance, a Ministry needs a 100 people, the most qualified are from maybe five states. They are going to drop those that are qualified and give it to those states where they do not have qualified people because they are doing the federal character, they are trying to balance it, so these are the things that are also affecting socioeconomic development. Because when you do it by the quota system, this person is not qualified, but because the constitution says there must be a federal character, then the wrong people get there. They want to do balancing, or they want to do quota system, or they want to do federal character, the position of running those places gets into the hand of the people that do not even know, do not even know the psychology or philosophy or mission or vision of such an organization or projects and they give it to them, and they mess it up because they do not understand what it is. So, those for me are some of the issues creating difficulties.

P7 noted that "Federal Character removes the element, rather than strengthening policy

implementation, it seems to be a clog in the wheel for it, because that is again, it does not seem to really ensure effective governance because we must meet the federal character.”

P10 affirmed that

I think the personality of the people that are taking the leadership in the country need to be watched. And the process by which people emerge into the leadership position in Nigeria is faulty. This part, one of those countries in the world where no matter how brilliant you are, no matter how conscientious you are, you cannot get to a leadership position in these countries. No matter how beautiful your ideas are.

P3 substantiated the conversation with an instance that

The means of appointing the regulator's head is a structural deficiency. Because what I have come to know is that no matter how good the workforce of an institution is, much depends on the head of that institution. So, give you an example of the Central Bank. We know that the greatest good that Central Bank has achieved came during the period of Soludo. Go back to history! The greatest good came during the period of Soludo, and why because Soludo is a Professor of Economics, so he was coming from outside but with very sound knowledge. That was why he could propose bank consolidation, that was why he proposed a minimum capital requirement of 25 billion; that was why he could propose AMCON. 13 points Agenda that he brought which subsequent Central Bank governors implemented because he was sound. So, the point I am making here is that when the head of the regulatory agencies that are supposed to be responsible

for the development of policies are not sound so or to say they were appointed based on some other considerations, other than their level of best fit, then policies that would even be rolled out would be deficient. So, I would say that what applies at the National level also applies at the regulatory level. So, appointments to the National Assembly and appointments to head institutions should not be based purely on political considerations. It should be based on what they have to offer. That is based on knowledge, based on integrity, and based on credibility.

In a similar reaction P9 noted that

When you put square eggs in a round hole, of course, you are going to have challenges and challenges. Sometimes, you find that you put a minister of employment who is a medical doctor on this ministry about employment issues. You put a lawyer in charge of infrastructure when there are engineers, except for the health sector, where you have two medical doctors who have not practiced in the long term. I think out of the right people in the right places; we would get some solutions; I do not think there are any disciplines we do not have in Nigeria who are good in their professions, we have a lot of them very good, very educated and good in their area.

P12 alluded that

I think the basic problem we have; I will say the basic issue is that our leadership recruitment model has been very bad, and we have tendered to recruit people who are incapable of solving our problems, so we end up at all times to push mediocrity and incompetence. And what all that has done is that it has continually



kept Nigeria in the doldrums of development because leadership recruitment is wrong. What we find is that incompetence takes a larger portion of society. When you do not have the right people in the right position, that is the basic thing. So, those poorly recruited people, of course, will not be able to deliver any good thing to the rest of the country. That is, we do not bring the proper people to do the proper job. So, a graduate of Islamic Studies is put in charge of credit risks and loans within the Central Bank, and what do you expect that he will be able to do?

**Theme 8b: Lack of Education, Competency, Capacity, Knowledge and Training.** All 12 participants shared their perspectives on the education level, competencies, knowledge, and training of those in the leadership position to drive development in Nigeria. P7 noted that “one of the critical factors mitigating governance policies on socio-economic development “is not being able to translate those policies into concrete actions.” Similarly, P10 maintained that there is “a lack of understanding by all the structures to tackle resources available.”

P1 indicated that

At the core of all of these issues is the incompetency of the people that manage our resources at the national level, state bureaucracy, their education, their exposure, their training, their worldview, corruption issues, nepotism issues, all these are there. There is a need to check. The other thing again is the capacity of the people making the policy; incompetence issues then come up again. Again, you also see that sometimes the people who are put in place in the position of authority or policy positions to make these policies, they do not have the

education, they do not have the training, they do not have the experience, they do not have the mental well withal. But, for nepotic reasons, for tribal reasons, these are the people that are made to make these policies. Competency is actually important. If you look at our financial, if you look at what is happening, say what is happening in our economy today, look at the exchange rate of the naira; look at the whole issue around, inflation interest rate, unemployment, macroeconomic policies, microeconomic issues, issues around interest rate. You will see that where we are today, we require people, people of a certain caliber, people who have a global standing. People who have great experience in managing crises such as Nigeria is in.

P13 corroborated that

You will find out that people are not well educated in their roles in the system. And why are they not educated? Because they do not even understand what their roles are when they are still not at other people. When you have, they say too many cooks spoil the broth, when you have duplication of functions there and there, you find out that policymakers do not even know what their specific roles are in implementing or developing the right policies for the country. So, and when from the root, people cannot develop effective policies, then implementation of the policy would also be a challenge. Because of this over-bloated system in public service, we do not have people; people do not understand their roles anymore. So, you see an overemphasis on a specific area and de-emphasis on some specific area of importance.

P11 noted

In some of the leadership positions, the way they cover up their track is to employ people who know far less than they do or when they are not able to do; that issues that are purely technical they turn it into an ethnic or religious issue and once you go in that direction, you splinter the group, and we start focusing rubbish. So, in all of my rumination on Nigeria and its challenges with development, I think we have kind of located the challenges with the capacity of the people. Although we claim to have high human capital and we highlight the fact that there are 200 million of us. If you really look at our human capital coefficient, it is very low. We have a lot of people who have gone to school but are not educated. We do not have people who have an inquisitive mind. So, we cannot think, we cannot implement. So, bad question, bad answer, bad decision, all of these recipes why we cannot get anything right.

P11 further noted that

Our low human capital that is just poor capacity. Anyone, who runs a knowledge firm, like I do, knows that the biggest challenge we have in Nigeria today is just people who cannot think and people who have no educated mind, people who have no inquisitive mind, and I think that is at the heart of the problem we have that is why. So, if I am to really locate our biggest challenge, it is our low human capital. Because, if we had a higher level of human capital, we could solve many of the other problems I talked about. It is that low human capital that means that we do not question ideas; we just accept them. It is why we are not able to

implement. Even when we decide and provide money for certain programs, we are unable to implement and because you have people who have low capacity. There are many people in government today who have not even read the policy document of the ministries that they are heading or the government that they should be superintending.

P4 established that

The challenge I see currently is that public service in Nigeria is so rotational; the model we got from the British, it does not give a lot of room for professionalism in the Ministry, people continue to be rotated, and people that have no business being in the research and development units end up being directors there. And I have had the experience because I have served as a Chief of Staff in one of those Ministries, and I know from my research background as a scholar that the capacity was very low compared to what I was asking for; in terms of analytics, it was day and night most of them did not understand. So, if as senior adviser my team and I end up doing this and core civil servants that are supposed to be the engine of the public service process for Ministers and for Permanent Secretaries are not very aware or do not have the capacity and capability to be able to work in the research department, it presents a huge problem. So, for me, that is the key thing; the research of the right human resource capacity is not built around this; therefore, it becomes a problem.

P8 expanded that

The nature of the Nigerian State, it is not a developmental state. Therefore, it does

not consciously, immediately go after acquiring capacity. Capacity, you see the basic state need for capacity for policymaking. The knowledge-based for it, the person who can do it, and the commitment to get it done; so that is the first mitigating factor on governance policies on socioeconomic development.

P12 confirmed that

You cannot give what you do not have. So, you come back from day one from .00. When you are unable to recruit the right type of people into different policymaking structures, they will not be able to deliver because they will not know what to do. Well, I can make a caveat here in terms of policymakers and whatever they do within government; the question comes back to where we started; how does it affect governance policies and whether they integrated into their response with policy? Of course, it is supposed to be the responsibility of policymakers to make the right policies to take us where we want to go. It is not just policy; policy without implementation is sterile. So, you can have people write beautiful policies insists that it will be done. But, once it comes to implementation, all manners of other things come in, and those things are the incompetence of those who are given the responsibility of implementing government policies. The fact that in Nigeria, for example, People who are incompetent, rather than pay the price for it, which is to be removed from office and removed from where they cost more harm; but because of where they come from which religion they belong, continued being promoted beyond their level of competence. And that affects us and everyone very greatly and so rather than have

an improvement in socioeconomic development, what we rather have is a serious decline in it.

P3 stressed that

For structured deficiency, yes, at the National Level, what I will call structural deficiency is the caliber of our lawmakers. Because it is what you have that you can give, and we know that in banking if you do not have something, you can borrow. So, I will expatiate on that, most of those that are in the National Assembly are pure politicians. You only have, only, very few technocrats. Most of them are politicians sponsored by politicians. So, of course, what type of policy will you expect from such people, other than politically motivated policies. And even where good ideas are brought to the table, they want to look at it from a political viewpoint. A Myopic viewpoint.

P6 maintained that

We talked about putting unqualified people in decision-making positions. I mean, if someone does not have it, they do not have it. If somebody is not qualified, they are not qualified. If somebody lacks capacity, they like capacity. But, if you are going to be having people get there for reasons other than the best interest of the country, for the best interest of the policies, for the best interest of we have had organizations that those in government after strenuous formulation processes those organizations come to be and then either they want to satisfy the man that is oga!

P9 stated that

You wonder why we have universities going on strike for so long; nobody cares about what is happening. There is one professor in the house; you wonder why they do not care; it is because they do not have the education, and they got to the highest level of policymaking. So, how would they see education as important? Lack of understanding of the goals of policy, when you set up a policy, you must understand exactly what it is supposed to do, and it is not, and it must be quantifiable, quantified to say you want a policy on Housing for all by 19 something. How many? This thing comes to mind smart goal, Smart objectives. Smart, specific what is this specific policy housing.

P5 explained that

The competence of those who are also charged with administering the system. The issues of competence of those who are running government institutions that articulate the policies and implement them. So, we have institutions, excellent institutions that are supposed to help us develop the country, but when it comes to who runs them, who manned them, we think anybody can do the job, which is not correct. So, we are not placing the right people at the right places, and we are not charging them to deliver on their mandate; so, that is it, and the oil has not helped. The State governors are more important than the Federal Government. Remember, they are the ones responsible for Primary and secondary education. So, when we are talking about public schools that will affect the capacity of the poor, we are talking about the State. So, a deeper understanding of the state Architecture and the weaknesses in this state, and their inability to carry through

programs becomes extremely important. So, that is where a lot of expertise is required. Yet, that is where we have a lot of incompetence.

**Theme 8c: Demotivation and Not Well-Structured Civil Service.** In the conversation, P3, P4, and P13 stated that poor leadership had demotivated core civil servants, thereby affecting the structure of civil service and public service, leading to structural deficiencies that challenge effective governance policies in socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

P3 noted that

The civil service or the public service that is majorly responsible for providing the enabling environment for implementing the policies is not well structured and is not well motivated. I know that as we speak, only a negligible percentage of the civil service structure is computerized. So, in this modern age and time, how will you expect to make progress. When work is being done, manually. Files are being stored manually. Maybe appraisals are even being done manually. So, that is a major problem in the implementation because it is a structural deficiency that challenges effective governance policies on socio-economic development.

P8 affirmed that

Again, the military rule has also subverted the level of the character and quality of public service. Public service before the military is more of the technocratic, non-partisan professional civil service officer. So, the deep public service and the civil service arising from the military rule is a further structural impediment to good public policy, our governance system in the country.



P13 maintained that

The structural deficiencies that challenge effective governance policies on socio-economic development are also applicable to the Civil service. Let us not look at only the political area, even the civil service; I know there is a report sometime by the Oransanye Report that has not been implemented in which they try to streamline the civil service for effectiveness. And this streamlining meant that there were some agencies that had to be merged to make governance more effective because we also have an over-bloated civil service. Where a lot of people are, there they are not doing anything; they do not even know their role in policy development.

**Theme 8d: Lack of Strong Institution.** All the participants described the structural deficiencies in Nigeria's state and its institutions emanating from poor leadership in the country. 50% of the participants' descriptions hinge directly on the lack of strong institutions in Nigeria as a challenge and inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria as a result of poor leadership.

P1 noted that "Looking at these structures, the current structure, I think that it is defective in my view, and it is going to really require an extensive review if we are going to make progress as a nation." P6 expanded that

One of the things a lot of people in development have advocated is strong institutions as opposed to strong individuals or strong leaders. I will give you an example: there was a man called Donald Trump who was president of America

for 4 years. Donald Trump had rocked the boat, shook the foundations of American democracy and all Americans lived for. If there was a Donald Trump, if this Donald trump was a Nigerian president or a Kenyan president, for instance, he would have gotten away with almost everything. But, because there were strong institutions that had the capacity to absorb the shocks in the systems, he was constantly checkmated. Some say he did some damage, but he would have done more damage, but it was impossible because there is a strong institution, there is a strong judiciary, there is a strong public service, there is a strong civil service. There is a tradition in a lot of places that it has to be this way, and the institutions are too strong that you cannot; you can shake them, but they can fall for you, you would fail.

P6 further explained that

Here because our institutions are not strong, somebody makes a call, and the governor asks how many people applied for the medical director's position at National Hospital; they say 20, then what has happened? We have shortlisted 5 people. And somebody says these five people where are they from, this one is from this, this one is from that. Then, the governor or the President or the Minister says, look, I am sending three names from these three; somebody must be. In the absence of a strong institution, because if the institutions are strong, whoever that is being talked to or instructed will be told.

In another instance, P6 stressed that

You saw the things that came out from the books by the former chief of defense

staff or chief of staff; I think the chief of staff. The book did say that, in the last days of Trump, they had all agreed that no order about the use of the code would be made. In congress, people are saying he was treasonable; those are strong institutions; in the worst-case scenario, they would resign and say they are not doing again. Look at our National Assembly; for instance, they are there to be a check on the executive, but in a lot of places, the legislature in the country has become a rubber stamp for the governors and the president. So, the wisdom of our forefathers, the wisdom of our founders, that the constitution is made in a way that makes it possible for the independence of the judiciary, the executive, and the legislature for government to run and run well is defeated, is defeated.

P13 elucidated that

Lack of institutions, having institutions, working institutions in place. We concentrate more on individuals than on institutions. So, it is what the individual says that matters, not the institutional guidelines that are in place. So, these are some of the things that are impeding governance policies on socioeconomic development. The system does not work, as I mentioned earlier. It is the human beings that are more important than the system itself. If not, the system would force whoever coming to follow a specific route. But, we are in a place where the institutions do not work, and the institutions that are supposed to guide the leader depend more on the leader to direct them. So, that is where we are; that is the situation.

P10 supported that

We have set up a system where God-fatherism imposition is the order of the day, and unfortunately, people have been so impoverished that if you give them 200 naira or 500 naira, they will go the way of the Godfather rather than the way it pays them. I have personal experience. I am into rural development. I established a base in one of the areas in this state, and I took it on myself to do some political awareness among the rural people where I live. I went from village to village trying to tell them that well in the coming election, please do not collect money from anybody, vote according to the promises they make for you so that in the next 4 years, if they did not fulfill those promises, you can tell it to their face and vote them out. During the election, politicians came with money to the same people I spoke to; they collected the money and did the bid of the politicians. When I ask them, why did you guys do this? They said, well, because I was comfortable, that was why I was talking like that. That they were not so comfortable to let us go of 200 naira when the opportunities have come, whether they collect it or not these guys would come in and they would have lost. So, they use the opportunity to collect the 200 naira. This is a personal experience, and when you have this kind of system that has been wired to favor some individual, and believe me, it is not easy for anybody to say we want to change this system; this system is entrenched.

P9 indicated that

I think we could also admit that the democracy we are even running is a different kind of democracy entirely. Judiciary is supposed to be the third arm of

government, independent from the executive, independent from the legislature.

How much independence does the judiciary have? When you know a judge of a state would have to take his money from the government because they do not like your face, you think you can afford going to give your money. We are not running democracy the way it should be run. So, there are too much of structural deficiencies. Things are wrong; I think we are not doing well.

P12 confirmed that

Structure, our model of development, which is an import-dependent society, means that you cannot develop on your own. I think there was a strategic error in the 70s where we felt that we do import substitutions as a strategy, and that act has failed because we do not have power. And so most of our factories that the import substitution model got us to build at that time have all collapsed because of very poor management, they have all collapsed. So, in virtually all parts of our economy, we find that we have to import virtually everything, and that, of course, puts pressure on our balance of payments and since we have a mono-cultural economy based, basically on oil. So, at all times, at any time that the vagaries of the oil market hit us, we tend to suffer on dually by pushing us into further under development.

### ***Theme 9: Multifaceted Corruption***

All the 12 participants of this study defined corruption in its colorations from self-interest, personal gains, raw acquisition of wealth, personal preferences, nepotism, and related issues. The participants indicated that corruption had been a significant challenge

in executing governance policies to attain socioeconomic development in Nigeria. P5 stated that “the major corruption issue is one of the specific issues impeding governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.” P1 noted that

There is also an element of Corruption; there is also nepotism. Corruption in that; if you overvalue the implementation of a project or policy without implementing it at all, that policy cannot work well. There is also the issue of interest. I might be one minister, and then I know, for instance, say I want to build a gas station right. I want to site say, I decided to site a power station, or a government might decide to say site a power station in a particular political zone. I know very clearly that this my State or my community; we do not have, say, the gas supply; I am giving an example needed to power that gas plant. But, because I am the minister and because I feel that I need to account to my people for what I have done on my time as a minister, I decide to cost the federation Billions of naira or dollars by simply putting that power station there—knowing that in order to power it, I have to go maybe 300 km to the neighboring State or to two-three States away to get the power thing when all I could have done is to go and site the power station near the gas supply and then now run wires from there to cover the rest of the political zone.

P10 indicated that

The issue of these human elements, greed, corruption has a way of killing many of these initiatives. So, someone sees a provision that is made to alleviate poverty, for instance say, all this trader money and so on. But, rather than it goes to the

trader, it goes to somebody who just embezzles it. Now, embezzlement itself is not the problem; it is the lack of repercussion to the embezzler.

P10 corroborated this conversation with an instance

You have a case where you have, what do we call it? This retirement policy is where you put some money aside when we contribute to our pension scheme. You have a pension scheme, beautiful! The employer will contribute, the employee will contribute, and at the end of the day, the employee will get something on retirement. But somebody stole the money or part of the money and nothing has happened. Nothing consequential happened in terms of the justice system, in terms of the penal code. This does two things to society; it brings down the zeal of those who want to do things right. Two is that it emboldens the criminal who wants to continue this embezzling sphere. So, our policies or subsequent policies then die for these two reasons. Either because the bad eggs were emboldened or the good eggs lose their zeal, they lose the impetus to want to perform better. So for me, these are the issues, and unless we address them. There was a time in this country when we were serious about zero tolerance to corruption. But 3 or 4 years into it, maybe as the next election was coming in line, we relaxed, and then, we were back to square one. Corruption will rank very high. Unless we address corruption, several things we are trying to do will not work.

P12 affirmed that, "Socioeconomic development is seen simply as an adjunct by policymakers. How the individual or the group that is in power advance their own interests. Primordial, where in terms of Acquisition, raw acquisition of the resources of

the State for personal benefits.”

P13 ascertained that

Well, for policymakers, I have been saying, everybody in Nigeria is thinking about themselves with corruption in the system. With a system that people are not Patriotic enough, they think about themselves. So these are some of the factors mitigating governance. Challenges of corruption and nepotism and all the easims have made socio-economic issues remain persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies to address development in Nigeria, and you realize why we keep running around in circles a lot of motion but zero movements. Corruption is a big challenge; it is a monster that is eating up this country.

P3 substantiated that

The biggest problem we have, which is known to everyone about the implementation of policies, is what I will call corruption. Corruption comes in various forms. So, because even those who are supposed to implement those policies, they are not looking at the national good. They are not looking at the nation as an entity. They are looking at the Nation; from what can I get from here? So, by the time you start looking at the country in such a way, definitely, no matter how good the policies are, it will not lead to the socioeconomic development of that Nation. So, we have diverse governance policies, but then, you can look at the level of socioeconomic development over the years.

P4 advanced the discussion that, “Corruption as a mindset and behavior is another issue why socio-economic issues remained persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance



policies to address development in Nigeria. The corrupt thinking has now become an attitude within the public service and within the Nigerian population.”

P6 adduced that

The barrier and the biggest impediment biggest obstacle is corruption, and the biggest type of corruption in Nigeria is self-interest. For me, I was embarrassed the first time I went into Government, and we were the highest body of the State government. So, we are very distinguished men and women, and then, the governor says we are forming a committee of 10 to address a, b issues and pick 10 commissioners, 3 special advisers. This is your TOR, your terms of reference, and immediately we step out of the door, one of your colleagues turn to you and say something like, “I hope say something would come out of this” That is the highest level that is not different from what happens from the Federal Executive Council. So, corruption is the biggest impediment to socioeconomic development in Nigeria. It is the number one reason why every day there are new policies.

P6 further informed that

Corruption is why there is a bill of quantity of the roads from Abuja to Lokoja; the bill of quantity specifies how much the people that the contract has been given to working in tandem with government officials that are supposed to monitor and provide quality control, they say, let us bring it to 3 inches so that we can from the 3 billion that has been appropriated for this job to take place, we can make 2 billion and 1 billion goes into the project. You see, this type of corruption. I am talking about in over-invoicing; you see this in circumvention of the procurement

process. The bids are circumvented the bids are manipulated. So, at the end of the day, policies or projects that have been outlined are shoddily done because they either end up in the hands of those that do not have the competence and the capacity or even end up in the hands of those that do not know what to do or do nothing. That is why you have abandoned projects all over the country. So, the biggest impediment to socioeconomic development is that, like we said, keep recurring, recurring, every day is corruption.

P7 in response to how policymakers and government affect governance policies and integrated it in their responsibility to improve socio-economic development and similar to the assertion of P6 identified that, “Sometimes the implementers tend to confuse the policies they have with some hidden or personal agenda, and so, unfortunately, it is impacting the socioeconomic development of the nation.”

Relatedly, P1 contributing to the same questions affirmed that

Look, there is the tendency, the tendency to personalize government in Nigeria which should not really be the case. It is that of a personalization, forgetting that some of these positions are transitory that you would not always be there and that in any case, as a public servant, your actions, you thinking, your actions, your worldview should be that which actually promotes and protects the welfare of the Nigerian people. It is not about you and your family; it is not about you and your children; it is not about you and your kinsmen. It is about the public interest of the nation because the position you have is a public position, a ministry, an agency, a parastatal is or whatever is created to serve a certain public purpose.

P10, in concurrence, informed that

Many policymakers are actors in Government and have been too self-center to look at the global good in some of the decisions they have taken with regards to policy implementation in Nigeria. You have too many examples of cases where people, because of their personal and selfish interests, jeopardize the interest of the nation.

P9 affirmed that

Of course, the issue of corruption which is in the national life not only of government but also on those that are governed. So, much corruption, so much inefficiencies that come to play. So, have they prioritized? I do not know.

The whole country, the citizenry is also joining. Those who should not join are joining in the corruption thing. Take, for instance, this idea of the oversight function, going around the university to see where they are going and what they want to do. Those are education; those are not functional policies. What did they come to do? They go and take their money and go? They do not come to check the university; they just come bring your paper, check it and say is that what you brought, of course, you must put some money and put some groundnut, you must put bank, that is corruption. That word called corruption is so multifaceted.

Everybody thinks that because Nigeria is an oil-rich country in everything, I must get my own share of it.

P11 noted that

Prioritization can also be driven by personal interest. So, people prioritize, let us

say, an infrastructure project because it serves the community that they want to get votes from or that gave them votes or you know that is related to them one way or the other without paying attention to whether that infrastructure helps to drive economic development. So, all of these challenges are because we have not done the first part of agreeing, having a shared understanding of what development should be and what are the elements that should drive development.

P8 alleged that

Nigeria state institutions are not reliable to focus and deliver benefits for citizens. They are probably more likely to be captured by self-interest that drives policy away from the optimal public interest, which is one of the critical factors mitigating governance policies on socioeconomic development.

***Theme 10: Policy Formulation and Policy Implementation Issue***

All 12 participants in this study describe issues concerning policy formulating, Lack of execution of diverse policies, including Vision 20: 2020, Lack of continuity and consistency from different points of view. The discussions are patterned in line with the related perspectives of the participants. Some participants affirmed that implementation is a significant issue in Nigeria despite governance policies and that in some cases, policies are not allowed to get to their gestation period before they are changed or discontinued. Most of the participants indicated there are sufficient diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria expected to resolve development issues, but at execution, several things crept in, which often affects effective implementation. Few disagreed that peoples' personal opinions informed the governance policies, not on the

reality of socioeconomic issues in Nigeria. However, 62% contributed specifically to policy formulations and implementation issues. P13 stated that

In terms of implementation, we have challenges. Huge challenges, that which is based on the de-structural defects. I do not think we prioritized socioeconomic development because implementation is what really matters, not just putting up some things or trying to pay lip service. There are the understandings that there is a need for all that needs to be put in place, but the issue is implementation. So, if we are talking in terms of implementation then, it is not prioritized.

P12 informed that, “We are beset with the problems of ethnicity, religion, and actually a throwback to ignorance of the past, and that now makes it impossible for our governance systems to be able to deal with the challenges that they are being faced with.”

P3 affirmed that

I want to say that when it comes to policy formulation, we have problems there, but the problems we have in policy formulation are not as much as we have in policy implementation. So, what I am saying, in essence, is that, for policy formulation, yes, we do have some policies that are actually not in the best interest, as we said. But, we have many policies that are actually good for the socioeconomic development of the country, but the problem is the implementation of those policies. And then, one will say why, because if the policy is good, why is it difficult to implement.

P3 further reacted that

We know the difference between Nigeria and the developed world is the

formulation of policy and the implementation of such. It is not that the policymakers in the developed world are more brilliant than we are. We went to school with people from that area, we attended the same courses, we attended training with people from that area, and we know that when you talk of Asians having something up there, it is not as if Nigeria is not. As if Asians are making waves, so, it is not that intellectually we are deficient. So, why is it that why others are making progress? Socially, economically, we are not. I read in the papers recently that the value of our currency 40 years ago, it is better than what it is now; why should such a thing happen?

P6 noted

I do not think that government pays attention to implementation. like I said earlier, talk is cheap. The problem in Nigeria is not lack of brilliant policies. No. We have well-drafted bills at the National Assembly; that is not the problem. The problem is implementation. Go and read our laws, go and read our laws, beautiful laws, but implementation is a challenge. If you look at the policies, good policies because most times these policies are framed from the experiences of other economies like the United States and domesticated here. But when it gets to implementation, all the attributes that make it a wonderful policy either in the United States, London, or anywhere they just grow wings, they just grow wings. They end up! That is why, if you go to the Federal government budget, a project comes in the same letters, the same sentence, the same words, there is no variation you see it appearing, recurring 10 times over 10 years.

P6 supporting its perspective with a scenario stated that

Because the money is budgeted sometimes released and some people Chop it according to our Nigeria Language. They just chop it or put it in their pocket or take it abroad, or they could dig the ground and bury the money. When people are asked to implement, monitor, or supervise, they get compromised. If somebody has taken a bribe already on a road project and you know there is something they do upfront, it is not kickback anymore, it is kick front, so the person is already compromised. How is he going to ensure that quality is maintained? So, corruption is a big issue that is responsible for even how we choose our leaders, how we choose people in positions.

P7 substantiated that

What I would say here is, rather, I do not really think we have any difficulties in formulating; where we have difficulty is the implementation. Straight on, its implementation! So, if, yes, no matter how beautiful a piece of policy could be, if the implementation is not well executed, it will result in a negative outcome of such Policy, and that is where we have issues. In terms of implementation, it is a different ballgame. Policies are not well implemented; plans are not well implemented, and even where you seem to be going the path that is needed, you see some of them are truncated.

Additionally, P7 stated that

Nigeria is a Nation of Policy, but how many of them? To what extent have these policies impacted positively on the people. It is not in the policy parse or in

themselves, but the implementation, not the formulation. I think we have in Nigeria in terms of policy formulation we have one of the best in the world.

P9 supported that

Implementation, implementation, in Nigeria, we have so many policies, so many, but are they implemented to the letter? One thing I find in Nigeria, you find a state government that has these projects they want to do, these programs they want to do, once, there is no timeline. So, it is very hard to say, if they promised us 9 months can they finish it in 9 months. Sometimes there is no timeline; sometimes, there is no specified goal. You just find them working it out the way it comes. I thought that if a government had a particular project to undertake, the funds to undertake that project would be set aside to timeline of each stage of the Implementation of the project. So that by this time, X, you know that implementation will be over. In Nigeria, we do not seem to have that timeline. Take, for instance, the Lagos Ibadan expressway; it has been tied down for so long that no one seems to know when it is going to stop; that is a problem. So, why is that happening? There is corruption in every sphere, those who, at the lower level those who are implementing the policies they will not do except they are forced, or somebody incentivizes them.

P11 disagreed that

When you talk to Nigerians, they will say, oh, you know we have got a lot of good policies; the problem is implementation. That has not been my experience as someone who has spent a lot of time working in the public sector. What I find is



that we have bad policies, and I will explain, and I need a bit of time to unpack this issue because I think it is at the heart of the problems we have in the country.

In corroboration of the above assertion, P11 shared from experience

I also found that sometimes it is the loudest voice in the room that determines the policy direction, not the most intelligent voice. And then, once someone seen as having real access to power stands up and says, oh! we need to implement XYZ, it becomes a policy pronouncement; instead of being backed with evidence, the body language determines the policy. What is the body language of the president, and that becomes a policy position? Now, if we have not if we have asked the wrong questions that arrive at the wrong answer, it does not matter how well we implement it will not work. So, we already have a problem with implementation. Our inability to use evidence to guide our policymaking process, we do not collect data. So, there is not; there is little; there is just not a lot of the policy development process that is guided by evidence, that is guided by good scholarly thinking qualified by data coming out of Nigeria.

P10 assertion that

I think the problem is in the implementing the policies, even given the circumstance we found ourselves. There are so many policies, Vision 2020, NEEDS, ATA. So, all these policies are put in place, but when it is time to implement them, that is when you realize that .... Policy implementation is an issue in Nigeria; if you formulate the best policies and you do not implement them, then we are not doing very well, which is the case in Nigeria. Many of these

have to do this human behavior, like greed, like lack of transparency, corruption, which have influenced how far we are able to achieve the lofty objectives of reduction of poverty. So, implementation, for me, is more of an issue than the formulation of this policy. In fact, we formulate too many policies.

**Theme 10a: Lack of Execution of Vision 20: 2020.** Fifty percent of the participants, P3, P4, P5, P9, P10, and P13, directly discussed Vision 2020 as one of the best policies in Nigeria but never achieved. The participants provided their perspectives of how the challenges inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria are replicated in the lack of implementation of Vision 20: 2020.

P3 explained that

Vision 2020 policy is to prioritize socioeconomic development as properly implemented. It is to priorities, but is it? Are we seeing the effect? Maybe, maybe a bit, but not to the extent at which it was planned. For example, the Vision 2020, in the financial sector, it was expected that we are going to have an international financial center. That should have been implemented, or that should have come into being the last year 2020. Part of the policy is that by 2020 the rate of financial exclusion of the adult exclusion in Nigeria will be less than 20%, but now, in 2021, that is not the case. As we speak, it is more than 36%. So, that is, what I am saying, the policy themselves seeks to prioritize socioeconomic development, but because of poor implementation or half-hearted implementation, such socioeconomic developments are not really happening.

P4 corroborated that

We can discuss Vision 2020, which is past now. We have Vision 2023 Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, which came out of COVID realities and is intended as an economic development guide to a long-term plan. So, we have so many plans in the country but little result. The question with Vision 2020 is effective implementation. I recalled I was still living in the U.S. then, and one of the ministers at National Planning had invited us to look at the education component. Some of the key recommendations that were made then in terms of our higher education positioning and growth and how the education system can work are yet to be implemented to the levels suggested in 2023- past the plan window.

P4 substantiated his perspective further

For instance, the key areas about creating a centre for Excellence ensuring that universities are more research-focused rather than just teaching universities, ensuring that our preparatory years in elementary school to secondary schools that we have the right teaching, teacher training in place. And we have the curriculum that can ensure that our kids are competitive globally. Those things you find are still approached from a kneejerk point of view. Different ministers have come and gone, different policy focus. Some focused on vocational rather than take a broader view as reflected in the plan.

P5 contended that

Well, we do not have problems in formulating policies; we have issues in implementation. Sometimes, we have the best policies on paper. If you see our Vision 2020, it was well done. It was a 10-year plan that was done; it was very

well done. But, part of the difficulty is the short-term nature of politics. There is disjointedness in our implementation because regime after regime will come up with its own new ideas. So, if you have 2020 and somebody has a 4-year tenure, he does not go to that 10-year tenure; he does not go to that Vision 2020 to draw inspiration to draw or to draw its budget or plan. So, each regime tries to demonstrate, what it has achieved, what it has done, whether or not it is moving the nation in the direction in which was originally anticipated. So, you have this disjointedness that is driven by the short-term nature of politics 4 years' tenure, 8 years' maximum, each regime trying to demonstrate that there is something. It is also because of lack of the sense of nation; if we belong and we all agree as a nation, we can be putting structures in place that may not necessarily be visible today but may be useful in constructing a greater future.

P9 maintained that

There was a vision 2020; I know that whatever Vision 2020 was, it never materialized. But, I am not sure that any of those things that we put in that vision 2020 was achieved at that time, but it has come and passed, any of those things that we put in that Vision 2020 has come, is it education, the health, the economy standard of living of Nigerians, is it the Agricultural development, in which area have we achieved this Vision 2020. I am not sure! I am not sure which of the rolling plan we have; I am not sure if we have rolling plan anymore in Nigeria.

P9 expressed further

For Instance: Using Smart objectives, specific, measurable, articulate ..... Do

you (Nigeria Government) do a policy that is realistic? Nigeria wants to get the moon or be in the moon or to join the moon by the year 2020. What is wrong? Why do you need a moon (to be among the best 20 economies in world) in Nigeria by the year 2020?

P10 asserted that, “We have a vision for 2020. One of the big deals in that Vision 2020 was the lofty objectives. By the year 2020, water for all, by the year 2020 education for all, by the years 2020, children killer diseases would have reduced to zero. Those are lofty ideas, but still, it just does not happen.”

P13 recounted back to the history and emergence of Vision 2020 that

We have a Vision 2020 done by General Abacha at the time. Policymakers did not understand the Vision 2020 Framework when a new government came. There is no square succession plan. I think 2020 took us by surprise even though we have a vision. At the time 2020 was here, there was no clear road map; it is not definitely! We know all the right things to do, but the problem is not knowing the right thing but creating the framework towards achieving that. I think Vision 2020 was the brainchild of General Sanni Abacha left and died. The true Nigerian, the people that took over from him, threw everything away with General Sanni Abacha. They did not pick it up, modernize what he has in that document, and still utilize it for growth. So, we do not have a clear succession plan here if somebody finishes from the moment.

Additionally, P13 informed that

I know Buhari has the medium-term expenditure framework, the growth, and

development plan, which is five years. But, if we have a new government and are fortunate is not of the same party, then that is the end of those plans. So, we have some policies in place, but these policies, are not driven properly to stay beyond a specific leader. A plan should carry Nigeria, all different facets of Nigeria involved in it, and they drive it. But, we are in a place where the institutions do not work, and the institutions that are supposed to guide the leader depend more on the leader to direct them. So, that is where we are; that is the situation.

**Theme 10b: Lack of Policy Continuity and Consistency.** Fifty-eight percent of the participants expressed that lack of continuity, inconsistency, and policy summersault has impaired execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria, drawing from participant perspectives to interview questions with the sub research question two, which focused on challenges of policies. Participants presented their views with instances stemming from their personal and national experiences.

P1 explained that, “There is what I want to call policy inconsistency, and sometimes policies are not allowed to gestate in terms of implementation long enough before they are summarily changed.” P6 asserted that

When you look at our growth, I mean nothing happened before our independence without a plan until I think the end of the Gowon’s government. We had what we called rolling plans or development plans that the government rolled out a comprehensive development agenda. Some were 5 years; some were 6 years and all that. All those are gone! No planning takes place; we just run on all kinds of ad-hoc arrangements. One government starts a project today; another government

comes tomorrow and jettisons everything.

P13 informed that

The policymakers are the civil servants because they are the ones that make the policy, and the government is the people, the political leadership. Now, in a situation where there is no continuity in anything, and we cut and join policies, cut and join in the sense that policymakers will develop policy and when a new government comes, there is a policy some-assault. Instead of the institution to guide the new government, the god, the new person, will decide. So, we have had a lot of U-turns on policies in Nigeria in the new government because of the way we worship human beings; we do not worry, we do not care about our institutions that do not work.

P10 noted that

We have all these plans, all these lofty ideas; I think three things come into mind, like this: we do not often have a long-term commitment to our policies. So, our policies seem to die with the administrations that established them. So, the failure of long-term commitment. When you are addressing poverty or food insecurity, it is not a four-year program, and when the implementers feel that, after four years, it has to be changed because it was initiated by somebody else, that is a problem for me. All the debt forgiveness that we had some years ago, we have now accumulated another round of debt because the policies that led to the forgiveness have practically been jettisoned in less than one decade, which is not good for governance, that is not good for the people. Too many policies that we put in

place like that. Even look at some of our financial policies, there are too many inconsistencies!

P4 alluded that

Again, if decisions around policies are not based on sustainability, you are going to have all sorts of issues coming up because the data, the intention for the policies were never in line with national development. So, that is why we continue to have different policies and hear concerns around policy summersaults.

In its expression, P4 provided a recent instance of policy inconsistency in Nigeria

So, this is quite interesting, because for instance, let us look at the Finance Ministry that informed Nigerian that they will remove petrol subsidy but will pursue a policy that will give 40 million Nigerian cash. According to reports, "The federal government has designed measures to cushion the negative impact of the removal of the subsidies on the most vulnerable 40% of the population ahead of the target date of mid-2022 for the complete elimination of fuel subsidies. First, even for a year of six months, the transport grant option is quite expensive. Paying 40 million people N5000 a year will cost the country N2.4 trillion, about 15 percent of Nigeria's total budget in 2020. Now think about this, if the subsidy was about N1.8 trillion, but a policy to replace subsidy will add about N600 Billion to the borrowing plan, that means that the policy formulation has flaws and will definitely affect National development plans. So, imagine the implication of this policy on our debt profile in addition to micro and macroeconomic issues leading to inflation and, in the long run affecting the quality of lives of citizens and the



government's ability to execute critical national infrastructure.

P3 indicated that

We should also look at is the issue of politicization. I do not know whether there is any English like that to politicize. You can look at it up in the dictionary.

Politicization, when the government comes out with a policy, and there is too much politics, too much politics in the implementation of the policy; definitely the policy will change. A very good example is that concessioning arrangement which many countries have used successfully, especially for public utilities. The government sells them or even does not sell, bid, operate, and transfer. BOOT-Build Own Operate and Transfer. That is what is done. Nigeria started it, but because of politics, they said, oh! the government that did that policy gave it to somebody who is their own, and another government came and canceled it. So, those are some of the reasons why the governance policies in Nigeria have not assisted in the socioeconomic development of the country.

P9 stated that

Take, for instance; we have this educational system it is 6-3-3-4. 6 years for primary school, 3 years for junior high school 3 years for senior high school, then 4 for university. The junior high school part of it has broken down because who wants his child to stop at the level of technical education. Everybody wants his child to become a doctor. So, you find out that everyone is moving to doctor level. I do my work, but you want to say I am superior to someone here. Some years ago, there was a child who could not go past the JSS 3, then some said, let him go

and learn a trade in a technical school. The man and his wife say, "What do you mean my child cannot go to the university. That also means that there is no enforcement in this country when you say a person who passes an exam to this level cannot go beyond this level. An example is Jamb because people are not passing well in JAMB. You now say let admission come down. This does not work seriously. I think we should maintain ground. Of course, we can say, over time, let us see if education is getting lower and lower, then you do not shift the goal post when you have carried out a policy. So, you are telling the ordinary people that you are shifting the goals post.

P9 further noted that

I think policy formulation itself might be the challenge. I do not know what the national or ministry of national planning is doing. In the early years, we are to have a target with a policy program project. It is a policy, the program that is put in place to help the policy, the project each. Maybe the number of projects program. I think that government has too many things on its plate. There is something they call a rolling plan. There is a plan maybe for the first two years; we want to focus on this. Next two years may be growth first, education, security. I think the government is eating too much, biting too much than it can chew, and everybody wants to have part of the National cake.

**Theme 10c: Misplaced Prioritization.** P6, P9, and P11 informed that implementations issues that concerned Nigeria's governance policies execution is also

connected to misplaced socioeconomic development priorities of the government without consideration for Sustainability. P6 provided an instance that

A governor noted he is putting in the budget of next year a certain local government where he will build a stadium. He hopes he can find money and complete this thing, and then my question was what is the socioeconomic impact of a stadium to a local government that the schools are dilapidated, that the hospitals are not working, that all you have are boreholes built by individuals, sold to the poor people. All you have is the stadium for the poor people; what about education? So, what will a stadium do for people with so much criminality and arm robbers will attack, the insurgency would attack as at when they like? What would the stadium do for women whose crops are daily destroyed by herdsmen and their cows? I am looking at Priority; we are talking about prioritizing. Most of our Governors today, you hear them want to do legacy projects. That is what they used to call white elephant projects. Why? So that people would know that he was a Governor. There is a particular governor who did a legacy project and bulldozed a Secretariat built more than a hundred years ago. In a country like America, the edifice he bulldozed would be like a national heritage or Monument that people would pay money to visit and boost the State's tourism potential. You see stuff like that everywhere.

P6 further informed that

A governor in Anambra has built a brand new airport. Anambra is a one-hour drive from Enugu, all of Anambra; in fact, Onitsha is the farthest. If you pass

Onitsha, you are in Delta State. Anambra on a good road from Enugu to Awka is less than 45 minutes' good road 30 minutes. There is an international airport in Enugu; there is another Airport in Asaba, which is actually like 10 minutes' drive or a 15 to 20 minutes' drive to the Niger bridge, which is the boundary between Anambra and Delta States. An Airport is a priority for a Governor in Anambra State; he has not talked about the sustenance and Sustainability of that Airport. How will the airport survive when all the people in Enugu and a greater part of Anambra will be going to the Airport in Enugu. While almost everybody in Onitsha will be going to the airport in Asaba. He has just delivered an Airport. This Airport will start commercial activity in another 3 days from this afternoon, and I am asking you, a public policy student, is that Priority?

Similarly, P6 indicated that

The governor in Ebonyi State is building an Airport too. The same thing with most of the Governors. So, they are not! Their priorities are not the wellbeing of the people or what benefits them because, as a development expert or practitioner, one of the first things you do before you do a project is what they call feasibility studies. Before you go to impact assessment, a Feasibility study is an all-encompassing thing, where you look at a lot of issues. Is it doable? Is the soil good? Can ancillary industries be impacted on positively? All that are no longer done. So, they are not in sincerity prioritizing.

P9 asserted that

We have no pathway to resolving these socioeconomic issues. One, education.

Two, health, three, poverty. Four, Industrial development, and so on? Because of the winners takes it all kind of system that we have, is the governor or president or whoever it is that says this is what I want to do. So, whether or not what he wants to do will affect the socioeconomic life or impact livelihood does not matter. I want to do roads, so you start road. I want to build schools, you were told, do not build schools instead of building schools, go to the exiting schools give them good structures, give them good teachers, give them good equipment in the laboratories ensure they have an adequate hostel and all that and he says No! no! no! I am not doing that, so he decided to build new schools, and he builds the schools and never gets to finish build the schools. So, abandoned project 1. He does not finish the schools; the schools are there abandoned, so he had education as one of his priorities that is already an abandoned priority.

P11 advanced that

So, if you have, for instance, a government that has more of an ethnic bias versus a national bias, you might see prioritization following such light. If you have a government that is slightly elitist, prioritization might be to favor more of their elite in society; if you have a government that is more socialist, it can try to focus more on the downtrodden without a lot of focus on how to drive the economy. Now prioritization can also be driven by personal interest. So, people prioritize, let us say, an infrastructure project because it serves the community that they want to get votes from or that gave them votes or that is related to them one way or the other without paying attention to whether that infrastructure helps to drive

economic development. So, and all of these challenges are because we have not done the first part of agreeing, having a shared understanding of what development should be and what are the elements that should drive development.

**Theme 10d: Lack of Monitoring and Evaluation to Drive Policy Impact**

**Analysis with Absence of Innovation and Creativity.** Fifty percent of the participants' described lack of monitoring and Evaluation to drive Policy Impact analysis with the absence of innovation as a significant issue in Nigeria as a challenge inherent in executing governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. P1 stated that, "Amongst so many other things, the last but not the least is even the absence of innovation. The fact that the policy worked 20 years ago does not mean that our policy will work even now" P9 indicated that

There are Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) officers at various levels of governance, but are they working? Those who are supposed to monitor policy, evaluate them, implementation of the policy are they doing that? And those who are doing it, if they are doing it, I am sure there are very few who are doing it. So, the efforts are not seen.

P13 noted that, "We are overpopulated. We are not using our population in the interest of the country. So, rather our overpopulation is becoming a disadvantage to us. So, these are some of the factors mitigating governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria." P5 adduced that

The revenue from Oil which is basically free money in many respects, has not allowed for creativity. And so, state governments and local governments monthly

wait for allocation, and they have not really seen themselves as centers of creation of prosperity. So, you find that that creativity is lacking. Government is unable to generate internal revenue to cover its cost because the economy is not diversified. And the diversification is a serious matter; it is not something you pronounce; it happens. You have to cause it to happen. You have to Institute actions, policies that stimulate private investors to shoot us from primary production to a diversified industrial production. And for that to happen, the state and private sector must partner in an intelligent manner. So, all of these things are part of why you will find that we are where we are. So, it is an issue of governance. It is an issue of leadership; it is an issue of overdependence on Oil. Rather than use it, Foreign Exchange to really engineer innovation, we are a country that is import-dependent and basically consumes what we do not produce.

**Theme 10e: Absence of Policy Impact Analysis.** Some of the participants' P1, P3, P4, and P9 stated that why socioeconomic issues have remained persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies to address development in Nigeria is that policy conduct is absent, known as policy impact analysis to review policies and ascertain the impacts in order to tweak to achieve its objective. P1 explained that

So, there is what you call policy conduct for you to conduct what you call a policy impact analysis. It is a very important aspect of policymaking that when you have made a policy and started implementing that from time to time, you conduct a policy impact analysis. It is this policy impact analysis that will give you an opportunity to test the impact of your policy and to see what you need to tweak to

see what you need to change, what you need to fine-tune in order to make sure that the impact of this policy is properly achieved.

P9 indicated that

No! we do not have difficulty in policymaking; the policies are there, perhaps not adequate enough. But, the policies are there, perhaps then nitty-gritty, the steps for the formulation, sometimes they bypass the nitty-gritty steps of policy formulation, perhaps they sometimes bypass it. Sometimes, they cover it up or pretend that it is not there. It is a problem! Because if you are trying to formulate a policy and you say, oh! this is going to be a problem; what you can actually do is go back and say, let us see if we can bypass it. The problem is there at the end; it would not work out. We have forgotten that there is that problem there.

Communication is not enough. A lot of things are happening, a lot of things are being done by the present government, not enough communication to say this is what is being done and therefore this is how far we have gone. We have made some mistakes, but we are going to correct those mistakes. I mean, the government does not want to hear anything that is against them. It can work! If you want to do a good project, you must listen to those who monitor; you got it wrong here, you got it wrong there, you were supposed to benefit the poor, but you are benefiting the rich. They do not want to hear. All they say is, they are marking me down. No! Anybody can be wrong. So, we should have that sense that we can be wrong, we can be wrong, the government can be wrong.

P4 mentioned that



How do we intentionally build a culture of accountability with our three levels of governance structure- federal, state level, and at the local government. It is because those in elected positions refuse to respect the structure in place leading to these issues that reflect the underdevelopment we find in all sectors of our national structure. The problem here is that almost every system process sits around and on the big man syndrome, which is that whoever is in power determines really how the structure is implemented. It is never being about developing rather about tracking existing policies. An implementation in itself implies that the individual there understands what performance and merit are constituted of, that they understand what quality performance is, and also understand what accountability reflects as it relates to managing public funds.

P3 stressed that

The greatest policy document we have in the country is the constitution. Though that is a strategic document. Now, the constitution provides that we have national police because at the time the constitution was formulated, nobody knew that we would have the problem of insecurity that we are having now. Now, people have seen the need to bring in state police because insecurity is hindering the socioeconomic development of so many areas. It has also become a national problem, but it is not a problem that cannot be solved. But, because the policy in place does not address that problem, getting it changed is becoming a major issue. So, that is why I said whatever policy we have should be subjected to review, and if the desirable impact has not been felt, then there should be a strategy to reverse

or amend such policies so that the socioeconomic development that is expected could actually be attained. I think we have a good process of Formulating policies. But, I think, and I stand to be corrected, but we do not have a good process of reviewing Implementation.

**Theme 10f: Lack of Cultural Milieu and Diversity as a Consideration in Policy Formulations.** Three of the participants P1, P12 and P3 advanced cultural milieu and diversity as critical to policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria considering the sophistication of an average Nigerians. This is an emerging issue in policy formulation. P1 Stated that, “There is one thing that is critical in formulating policy; that thing that is critical is the fact that you must always be mindful of the cultural milieu in which you operate. We cannot pretend, for instance, that our people are sophisticated to say we are one advanced nation.” P12 Corroborated that

In formulating policies, we are so fine that as much as policies are formulated, Implementation of those policies also becomes impossible due to the two factors of our ethnic biases and our religious biases. And so matters that are accepted in the south for which you can implement, and it works, when you make it a national policy, it is rejected in the North. For example, the basic problem in the north of Nigeria today is a security band that the foundations of the insecurity were late over decades when people were not being educated. So, why those in the south see education as a proper policy so that you can emancipate everybody? Some people in the north felt that education was going to make the poorer people rise up against the overlord, let me put it that way. So, the cultural milieu in which the

two systems collide also affected policymaking. So, at any time that you want to do a policy, then the national policy is now getting misinterpreted at particular levels where they are they do not work.

P3 corroborated from the perspective of diversity that

Another factor is diversity, but the diversity here is in the negative sense because we know that when you talk of diversity, diversity should assist. In fact, it should assist because if we are talking of diversity, it should take in all those factors that should be considered. But in Nigeria, I want to believe that because of the huge gap between the various regions, socioeconomic development is not moving at the same pace. And when you talk of diversity because of the huge gap in the level of socioeconomic development between the various regions in Nigeria, so policies are seen by some sectors as anti- their region. Though it is for the general good, but it is seen as anti –their regions. So, when that comes into being, you see that policies that are very, very good being criticized. People demonstrating on the street because of a policy that we all know should have helped the country.

***Theme 11: Absence of Lack of Sense of a Nation of Citizens-An Emerging Theme***

While gleaning through the data, the thematic analysis revealed that P5, P6, P9, and P13 described the Absence of Sense of a nation as one Nigeria from the political Actors and followership which had impacted the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. 33% of the participants further indicated that followership responsibility is a critical element that impacts socioeconomic development because their lack of demands from the government had made the government act as desired. Many

citizens do not pay tax because the government has failed to tax as appropriate, so citizens have no control while the government also does not align resources to allocations. P5 indicated that

The thing impeding governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria is the issue of lack of sense of a nation. The sense of nation because if we belong and we all agree on the nation, then we can be putting structures in place that may not necessarily be visible today but may be useful in construction a greater future. And that is why for instance, if there is that sense of a nation, you can begin to think of a budget with a poverty focus. So, the more, the poorer in a place, the more money we locate because we all belong to one country. The concerns of the northeast must be concerns of the entire South and the entire country, whether it is Northwest. The progress made in Aba must be made to be the progress made in Nigeria and not just Aba. So that sense, we have moved, but we have not moved in tandem.

P6 noted that

There has been a movement for, and a lot of development experts are putting this forward. The situation also has to do with the psyche of the people. A lot of leading development experts in Nigeria have advocated for what they call a sense of nation. Citizens' responsibility, what are they saying? Where Nigerians see Nigerian as a nation, not as an entity or just that country where people come and tell you that before I am a Nigeria, I am an Igbo man, oh! I am a Yoruba before I am a Nigerian. That is not a sense of a nation. Your consideration is what can I do

for this country to move forward. So, a sense of a nation is very important. So, I am saying our psychology, our psyche. There is a great movement, Nigerians saying that Nigeria should do away with indigene-ship and residency. That is, if you are going to fill in your information on your passport, that what you are going to write is citizen: Nigerian. Residence: Abuja. Nobody will be asking you where you come from, state of origin, because those are the things that are killing our sense of nation, which makes tribalism such a big issue. Let every Nigerian feel at home anywhere in Nigeria.

P9 substantiated that

In Nigeria, we still have this issue of I am from the North; I am from the South; I am from the East that is an issue with this country. So, we still have an issue of tribalism, ethnicities, nepotism, religion still coming in. I am not a Christian; I am not a Muslim. What has that got to do with executing governance policies on socioeconomic development? I am not saying people should not try to convince each other to become whatever it wants to be. But, I am just saying that, when it comes to official things, official situations, whether you are a Muslim or a Christian, a Yoruba or Ibo should not come to play when it comes to development. We must develop as a people; it does not matter who is in charge, it does not matter either a Christian or a Muslim, those things come to play. We are still just say that those things ought not need to come to play and are still preventing us from moving forward. That is why say monitoring and evaluation. If we have a monitor, how do we know that he is doing it well at this point in

time? How do we evaluate that we are doing it well at this point in time? When do you say you are not doing it well? Stop this? Is it just because you look at this man is from Ibo you are doing it stop it. If you are doing it too well now, they will say haa! Those issues should not come into governance.

P13 ascertained that

You know, because Nigeria is a multi-ethnic environment; so, there is this issue of ethnicity, and Nigeria is also a multi-religious country. These issues of ethnicity and this issue of the religious divide. So, you find out that Nigerians do not see themselves as one, effectively. So, these things are also part of the problems we have.

**Theme 11a: Followership Responsibility and Lack of Control.** P1, P6, P8, and P10 describe citizen actions as part of the challenges inherent in executing governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. P1 noted that

In addition, is a docile Citizenry. The fact that a lot of our Nigerians do not really make a requirement and does not really make demands on Government. They do not make sustained demands. If Nigerians make demands on the government, the government will be on their toes, but that is not the case presently. So, you have had a situation where anything goes. Government did just decide on what they wanted to do; nobody is questioning them at all.

P10 stated that

Followership without conscience that is also a problem. I have mentioned, given you example of people who are supposed to know these things are supposed to

affect their life, affect their livelihood but, they do not see any reason why they need to change their own way. So, when we have inept followership without conscience, that is also a problem in socioeconomic development.

P6 affirmed that

We need to talk about followership because, in development, we also believe that there are responsibilities to the leader, and there are responsibilities to the followership. Even though the followers will always tell you that the fish gets rotten from the head, but that is an excuse—bulk passing psychology. Recently, in one of the programs we do, we followed a group of women in Anambra that refused to take bribes in the last election. And we are asking them how come they refuse to take a bribe of 5000 per person to vote for a particular Governor, and one woman not so literate said we did the analysis as she said, they offered us 5 one thousand. So, if you voted and they won, it means that they paid us 1000 for every year they were in office. One one thousand! And again, they discovered that all these years, they had been given them money that no socioeconomic is coming or has taken place. So, this time around, they say No! Come and swear! Do not give us money! Raise your hand and say that, and they said they should remove their shoes and put their leg on the ground and swear that if the promise they have made, they do not come to fulfill it that their hands should wither. You see, that is the responsibility of followership. That was why someone lost an election, and the people said NO! Citizen Responsibility!

P8 indicated that, “The lack of control of the Citizens because they are not paying tax. It

is not a tax base country, resource base country, social base country. So, the level of control, the public office is not geared towards citizens as strong stakeholders in resource management.”

**Theme 11b: Absence of Revenue Generation, Prioritization and Resource Alignment.** P4, P8, and P9 noted that the government is not taxing people, and the resources generated from oil are not adequately aligned to budget; therefore, it becomes a challenge inherent in executing governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. P4 stated that, “Our vision plan is not the problem, but implementing it to achieve targets has always been a challenge. I understand that implementation is a factor of what our resource is aligned to every year, but this becomes a short-term concern of the resource allocation is based on an analysis of criticality rather than policies.”

P8 indicated that

The character of the Nigeria State is a state that is not focused on; it does not derive its sustenance from citizens, maybe in terms of tax. So, because Nigeria’s state depends less on tax and more on Natural resources and extraction industries, it creates a disconnection between the citizens and the state and when you talk about this disconnection is that public policy does not seem to center around the well-being of the citizens.

P9 substantiated that

Taxation, taxation! Everybody is complaining that we do not have enough money, enough taxation. Who is been taxed? Some are not being taxed at all. Some people do not even get taxed. How do you ensure that everybody who has an



income earns an income is taxed? We have a tax force who is trying to do something. Land tenor system, the land belongs to the state government but pay some tenement rate, and I mean, it is different from state to state, and that is what causes some kind of confusion. Too many differences amongst states. Structural, what kind of structure is that that is put in place? Different reactions in a different state. What you will consider no way in a state, of course, you have your way elsewhere. That also causes all kinds of confusion.

### ***Policy Strategy and Direction***

The 12 participants of this study provided policy strategy and Direction the government and policymakers could adopt after the response to the governance policy strategy adopted by the Nigeria Government on socioeconomic development and the challenges that can be described or inherent in executing governance policies for socioeconomic development discussed and described earlier in this study. Some of the strategies are interwoven into the Subquestions 1 and 2. More specifically, Weible and Sabatier (2018) stated that Institutional Analysis and Development theoretical framework application commences with the critical recognition of the public issues that require action, which conforms with the approach presented in this result. The participants provided policy strategy and direction to resolve the critical issues recognized as impacting governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria discussed above.

### **Policy Strategy and Direction on Subquestion 1**

According to P1 there is the need for government to understand why it exists and

a clear vision of governance that

It is extremely important for the public sector and the policymaker to understand the reason why they exist. Why does government exist? What is the essence of public service? I repeat the very essence, the only reason why governments exist is the security, welfare, and well-being of their citizens. This welfare is not well-being is intended to help their citizens prosper. Because when the citizens prosper, the country prospers, it is intended to help their citizens compete globally because Nigeria, for instance, does not exist in isolation. Nigeria is in competition to attract investment. Nigeria is in competition to invent things to portend technology. Nigeria is in competition to attract talent to the country. So, to my mind. Therefore, it is important that Policymakers must fully understand the reason why they exist.

Relatedly P13 mention that

What we need is what are the right things to do. Now, we need a government from the governance point of view good, we need a government that has a clear vision that understands the problem, that understands the structural deficits, that understands the challenges that are in place—the real patriotic government. Now, if we have that, they can use all the instrumentality of governance to make sure that the policy, the policymakers are doing the right thing and put in place some consequences, some consequences for not following the right norm.

P6 confirmed that

We need a government that will prioritize projects according to the needs of the

people. This is where it will provide a particular infrastructure for the wellbeing of the people and help the economy grow, not because he has relations, friends, or interests in that area. So, we need a reordering of our priorities. We want government officials that would be empathetic; that would feel the pains of the people; that will feel the needs of the people and do their best to react to it.

P9 indicated the need for accountability and stated that

If the government have 4 years, you can say first 1-2 years I will deal with this area, in the last two years I will deal with this area and follow it through, and when it is not possible, you could say hello citizens, fellow Nigerians, I thought I could do this, but I can do it. We will adjust to it; we are adjusting it. I have already set my men in motion to go and see how we can adjust without stopping the original plan. There must be some kind of accountability because if we carry the citizenry along, then I am sure their criticism might also reduce sometimes.

P13 identified the Need for active Rule of Law-Use of Constitution,

In most of these countries abroad, the rule of law is put in place. If the law is kept aside and people are favored differently, and if there are different laws for different individuals, then things cannot work. So, we need to have the rule of law in place, and there will be consequences for any action that is against the interest of the country. Whomever the person is, or wherever the person is from, or whichever religion defines such people are from. So, if this comes from the top and goes down to even the local government system, I think we would have a clear-cut vision.

P8 affirmed that

We need to localize governance using the principle of subsidiarity to solve the problem at the local level and therefore let us empower constitutionally, legally, resources-wise local intervention. Again, as mitigation, we can deliberately converge national institutions to talk about, let us say, Attorney generals across the country coming together. The Commissioner of finance and the minister of finance can create some kind of bureaucratic structure that enables them to share knowledge to regularly revise their policies and constitute themselves in a way that prepares review mechanisms such as a monitoring team that can help weaker states to develop confidence in good policymaking. We need to consider removing constitutional and legal impediments to the enforcement of socioeconomic rights in Nigeria. We also need to remove these constitutional constraints; so that these rights are enforceable. Government should reduce inequality by increasing Labour right, increasing access to justice and system of the law that enhance citizens wellbeing and access to justice, and reduce power asymmetry and too much power control by few people so that you create the environment for free and fair in Nigeria that will enable socioeconomic development and decisions of socioeconomic policies.

P11 noted the Need for agreement on policy- Inclusiveness. “We are a country of all kinds of people, and the right way to do it is for us to agree on what it is that is guiding the way we want to do development and then you use that to inform the policies and the programs.” P13 supported the assertion of P11 on the Need for Policy

Inclusiveness.

We need a government that can agree to itself that we are running an over-bloated system and develop the means that will get Nigerians to come together and agree on the way forward. A government that needs to be all-inclusive. All-Inclusive in the sense that all the different facets of Nigeria can come together and sit together and develop a framework from for going forward. It is not a government that would assume that is well when all is not well. So, that is from the government's perspective.

P1 suggested the need for interface with Beneficiaries of Policies and understanding their cultural milieu:

At the beginning, I said to you that government governance is universal; all of them are geared towards one purpose improvement of the wellbeing of the people of any particular country or improvement in the delivery of service of any particular country or improvement of any particular institution or parastatals. In policy formulation, when we look at our people in a collective sense, it is definitely important for us to endeavor to craft policies that take common sense of our peculiar Cultural, social, ethnic, and national idiosyncrasies into consideration. So, what works in Britain, may not work here. What works in Singapore may not work here because those policies were crafted, taking all of these other factors into consideration. It is extremely important that you understand the sensibilities, the attitude, the disposition of the people that you want to articulate this policy on their behalf or the people who are going to be the

beneficiaries of this policy.

P6 supported that

We need leaders who understand what it means to lead. Leaders that will sit down and plan. Leaders that will give the ordinary people a sense of belonging that they own this that is what they say. Or you go back to them to say what do you want? This time, how am I going to change what needs to be changed? What needs to be touched and all that? So, I think that those are issues that are impeding socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

P4 posited that there is a need for evidence-based informed Policymaking and overall value to the economy or citizens. P7 corroborated.

Policy research and strategies are required to improve socioeconomic development. We should engage in evidence-based informed policymaking and cover all that we need. I think if we can do that, it will help take relevant stakeholders along. Those you are designing policies for, you take them along, you involve the policies, so it is a whole lot.

P5 suggested the Need to have a sense of the future in the National Plan.

In terms of policies, you have to have a National Plan. You have to have a sense of the future, articulated properly, prioritized, given a sense of urgency. That national plan, maybe 5 or 10 years' plan, will then begin to govern the annual budgets because our budget is also a plan; it is also a yearly plan, and so that is that. Then, you now begin to look for competent people irrespective of where they are and where they are from to begin to man these strategic ministries and

agencies. So, that you can put effect to the policies because, like I told you, there are beautiful policies, but the implementation becomes a problem.

P5 further expressed the need to rework national budget. “We have to look at our national budget because there is really a fact to rework the budget and begin to understand have a system that removes waste, and give it a certain focus.” P8 established that

Government should have a clear, effective budget framework that allocates resources to these drivers of economic activities wellbeing. So, look at the National budget; so little is given to the improvement of socioeconomic development, welfare. If you do not, the only way to drive these through is, First and foremost, budget. The National Budget should have a much more coherent allocated framework that decides that allocates resources to critical drivers of sectors.

P9 demonstrated that

For instance, for the housing, get technocrats; let them do it for you. Let them have targets, quantities; let us have performance indicators. Let us have something to question the policymakers to say how far have you gone. Why could you not do this? Why could not you do that? I think some states so that they have town-house discussions and all that. The policy must be realistic; it must be; it must impact the people. It must impact the people that you are called to serve. The policy cannot be unrealistic; you cannot say you want to reach the moon by 2020 or 2023. What is that all for? It is unrealistic!

P3 advanced the Need for Home Grown Policies. “You see and hear terms, such

as “Home-grown.” There is nothing bad in using homegrown policies, but they must be well tested. So, I think that is another impediment to governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.”

### **Policy Strategy and Direction on Subquestion 2**

P1 stated the need for review of over centralization of government. “The current structure of over centralization is defective in my view and it is going to really require an extensive review if we are going to make progress as a nation.” P10 indicated the Need for restructuring. “I know that people have misused the lexicon laws of restructuring because it means different things to different people. But in my mind, restructuring is what I have just talked about; we need to empower our town councils and local government; that is where socioeconomic issues are best addressed.” P9 mentioned the need for ideology in policymaking:

Policy must be tangible, time-bound by this time, of course; it must be tangible and must affect, affect the people. Of course, it must be sustainable. If you, do it this way this time, we can redo it again next time. So, I think our policies are not planned well. We are not sitting down; we are not planning it well. Formulation of policy must be well done; Specific, measurable articulate, realistic, time-bound, tangible, sustainable. It must not matter now; of course, it must be part of the ideology. There must be an ideology; your plan must be part of the ideology base.

P4 stated the need for inter-agency coordination and collaboration:

The way our ministries are structured should actually lean towards complementary, not competition, unhealthy competition. So, for instance: finance



being the fiscal center guiding all the financial decisions, should work hand in hand with the relevant ministries to coordinate capital budget decisions in a meaningful manner. For instance, deploy and insist on the use of a decision support tool for prioritizing based on projected impact to national development as outlined in the national infrastructure masterplan. This coordination will also allow a more structured resource management and not an arbitrary envelope allocation. So, that way, the Finance Minister is able to coordinate with national planning to ensure federal government policy for socioeconomic development is prioritized rather than initiating new projects to create opportunities for corrupt practices in procurement and other shady ways of defrauding the government.

P9 supported that

As you brainstorm, the start of norming and brainstorming. We should sit down; where are we going to with this policy? What is the goal of this policy? We have to have particular goals, objective targets. And then say okay for this goal, it is the health sector that is in charge, health should focus on the health sector, for this goal is the farmer's income, that is agriculture and economical—the people who will do the vying, who will do the buying. So, there is a private sector participation. We should be able to delineate which of the Ministries or Agency arms of the government or society that will be in charge of a particular policy. So, there is no confusion on who does what and who reaps what right.

P12 stated the need for Change in Leadership Recruitment Model in Nigeria.

What is needed is simple, a change in the leadership recruitment in Nigeria, that

is, changes in the leadership recruitment model. Once that is changed, and those people who are the leaders now are able to put the proper set of those who have the right qualifications and the right credentials for every job that they are given. Then, that would translate to what we all want, which is socioeconomic development. My own coming from the level to say once the foundation is bad, anything you put on top of a faulty foundation will not work. And so, where we are today being that we have a different faulty foundation. Foundation as much as we had one before, the government that we have today, have even worsened it because of deploying Nepotism as a government strategist, and when you deploy nepotism, you put those who are not qualified in offices where you need this.

P6 adduced that

We must ensure that our votes would count, that our election too, and by the time we spend billions in elections; that what people do with their vote would count because it will help us to recruit good leaders and ask bad ones to step aside. Because with election cycles every 4 years, we have that opportunity to do that. So, for socioeconomic development, our democratic values must count, which includes our elections counting. Our ability as citizens to say, we do not like this person, we prefer the other person because he has not performed! Or No, no, no, no, no, no. this man in my community has shown that there is a lot of potential for the next election; whether he has money or not, let us vote for him. If we are stretching it, we are going to talk about money politics in Nigeria, how people that have money buy the votes and all that further cripples the electoral process.

P13 noted the Need for Leadership with a Clear Vision and the right Capacities to implement the right policies.

I think in a situation where each of the departments and agencies has a clear understanding of what they are doing, people are properly trained on their roles to meet up some of these socioeconomic policies, and there is a clear vision from the top, from the political leadership that is must pass through the civil and public service. Then, I think we will now have a clearly defined direction, and in this clearly defined direction, people will be trained to develop the right policies.

People will be trained to implement the right policies. I think this is why we are having these difficulties, and if these things are put in place effectively, we will move forward in this country.

P3 substantiated the Need for Leadership

When the country develops into a state where we have technocrats, successful businessmen, successful public servants populating the National Assembly, that structural deficiency of lack of knowledge, as I put it, will be removed. People will look at issues dispassionately based on what could happen or the benefit it would bring to the nation, not based on who will benefit and who will not benefit. But we know that you can give what you do not have; what do you do, you borrow? So, one will expect the national political leaders will make use of the technocrats who are out there in the university, in the academia as technical advisers when they are in the National Assembly. So, appointments to the National Assembly and appointments to head institutions should be based on what

they have to offer. That is based on knowledge, based on integrity, and based on credibility. That way, governance policies would be rolled out by those who are sound—those who know their onions.

P5 contributed that

First in first, we have to have competent, effective leadership with a vision. A leader that can create a sense of a nation. Nations are constructed deliberately through actions, programs, and acts of inclusiveness. Through creating a strong sense of belongings. So, nations draw on the emotions of the citizens, their deep loyalty. So that is one of the things that the structure that we must have.

So, a sense of national integration.

P8 stressed that

We need to build the bureaucratic of national assembly, the technocratic, the NABREU, the National Assembly Budget and Research Office need to be properly established. So, that national assembly will have the capacity to make laws that impact economic and socioeconomic development. There is a Need for budget oversight so that there are processes that determine the allocation of resources for the budget that is passed will have the research capability to develop laws that can really transform these the problematic social behavior of Nigeria institutions.

P1 maintained that, “We need competency, people of a certain caliber, people who have a global standing. People who have great experience in managing crises such as Nigeria is in.”

P6 corroborated that there is a Need for our value system to change; our value system has to change. “We need a leadership that will lead with Example by example. Do what I say and do. Do not tell me do what I say. We need a leadership that will come to equity with clean hands A leadership that will not do Sectional prosecution of corrupt officer or tribal prosecution of corruption.”

P3 posited that there is the Need for Reformation of the Civil and Public Service/ I want to say that Nigeria’s civil service needs to be reformed. There is a need for the civil service in Nigeria to be reformed. Yes, there is a need for the civil service in Nigeria to be reformed. Because there has to be reformation, and that reformation, must include motivation for those who are responsible for implementing governance policies. That is a big factor, a key factor. I just want to give an example to bring home that point. On the issue of civil service reforms. But, come to think of it, what has been the result of privatization on the socioeconomic development of Nigeria? Only very few of those institutions that have been privatized are doing well. Why? Because those who were responsible for implementing that policy of privatizing did not sell those assets to those, who could manage it. So, that is why I said the reformation of the civil service should be one that will lead to motivation. So, that in crafting the policy and implementing those policies, it will be done transparently.

P13 substantiated that

We need to revisit Oransaye’s report and implement such a report. So, that Nigeria can be more focused on those policies that would help us move ahead.

Come to the civil servant, the public servant, the agency, and the department, there should be consequences for all ill actions in those places. The head of all departments, the head of all agencies should also have a system for compliance in terms of matching whatever they need to do which the vision of the central government. If that is in place, I do not think things would just fall in the right place, and whatever it is that is put in place, in terms of other things, corruption there will be zero tolerance for corruption. There will be increased productivity in our system where people must be, everybody that is in an office will have a clear-cut Job description, and there will be a means of appraising people to know that they are meeting up with the required output. That is, they are supposed to put in place. For instance, some of our private sectors are working as you see that private sectors are doing well; that is because there is a framework in place to make sure there are outputs.

P3 stated the Need for Training for the implementers of Governance Policies.

“There is also the need for specific training for implementers of policies. Except, in some very view organization but in Central Bank they have adequate training policies adequate training programs. But, I know that there are some institutions, national institutions who are regulators that have a little program for training.” P4 maintained the assertion of P3 that

Core civil servants should be trained to be independent of the political cycles and have the capacity to interpret these data sets with political colorations. I could list policies in each of the key sectors that are actually in place now but not being

implemented. For instance, our renewable energy and energy efficiency policy has been in place since President Jonathan. This was one of the last strategy policy documents approved by the Federal Executive Council approved before that government left. Since that time till now, the policy is supposed to guide our efficiency outlook outside the area. It should guide our efficiency outlook in the way we build homes, the type of wires we use. The type of asphalt we use on our roads. If we should use asphalt against concrete, can we track efficiency gains, if any, decisions on the type of household equipment like refrigerators and energy-saving air conditioners? These are just examples of what an effective implementation of these policies would have led to. I will insist in some cases that the policies are formulated with clear directions but what we need is the implementation of existing policies. I think that is a challenge.

P6 noted that we need a strong institution.

Today, we have organizations called EFCC, ICPC, Consumer Protection Agencies, Investment Promotion Councils, Custom Exercise Department; we have the Army and the Police. If these institutions are strong; If the regulatory institutions are strong; If the supervisory institutions are strong. If the regulating institutions are strong, it will be easy for us to have these efficiencies; I mean, it will be difficult to have inefficiencies; they will run like on autopilots.

P5 Noted the need for anti-corruption. “We have to be very strong on anti-corruption. And in realizing that, it is better to prevent it than to wait at the end to catch people. So, a strong ethical reorientation of citizens, of actors, becomes very important.”

P4 noted the need for direction for Policy Formulation and Implementations of governance policies devoid of Political interference.

So, this is interesting. What policy direction? Because I have struggled with the lack of implementation of some of the good policies and not necessarily about the direction. There are policies, of course, like the subsidy removal policy, that I worry about the direction because it will clearly lead to more burden for the nation and, in the long term, the younger generation. The direction of policy implementation is my concern for well-thought-out policies that are geared towards supporting socioeconomic development in a specific sector. The Vision 2020 plan was a well-designed and thought-out policy, but the assumptions surrounding it downplayed the impact of political economy in the delivery of pathways. This is where concerns majorly seat and not necessarily policy directions. On the matter of strategy underpinning the implementation plans of government policies, I feel that the strategies agreed should not be politically driven and implementation and monitoring not be left to the role interpretation of political actors and their advisors.

P10 affirmed that

You need to go to where the policy actions are to policy implementation to know what they need. What is it they need? What do they need in that locality before you now start policy formulation towards that, and then you must ensure that there is equity, equity, not senatorial policy equity? Equity in distribution of policies and effect of policies and policy actions among the populace and



population. If you are able to do these thing, you would not have too many things mitigating governance policies on socioeconomic development.

P9 indicated the need for Monitoring and Evaluation with Innovation.

The innovation, monitoring, and evaluation constantly done because sometimes you will use money from the developing agencies; they will bring money to you. Of course, they are always monitoring us. We do not seem to know in Nigeria if they are monitoring us; we must change how; we must monitor ourselves before they monitor us.

P1 further entrenched the need for Innovation in implementation and monitoring.

So you need to constantly monitor really what is happening around you. Nigeria is not an Island at all. We are developing in the full glare of the global community. So, there is a new innovation in policy; there is a new innovation in monitoring; there are innovations in implementation; there are innovations on impact analysis, other things. So, you need to be mindful of it. So, you need to be open to new ideas. You need to really innovate. I see what is happening globally in order for you to make your country competitive, whether you are talking about it politically or even socially.

P5 maintained that

We need a government or leaders that want to understand that the world has become a global village and that the days of different standards for different countries are over because it has become a global village. They are not to produce a phone and reduce the price because they are taking it to Nigeria or taking it to

South Africa. So, we need to look at our priorities again and see how as a country, we can start putting taking the right steps for our country to see true development.

P11 stated the need to focus on the Need for Policy Impact Analysis to improve quality of life.

We should focus on how we improve our people's quality of life, not on west economic growth. So, have a country that wants economic growth like we did up until 2016, we grew up to 7% Year on year. But, the people did not grow. If you look at the growth per capita, it increased, but the quality of life of the people did not increase. So, how do we measure the increase in quality of life? We are spending a lot of money on social investment programs. Are we measuring outcomes? i.e., we have moved 1 million people from this level of caloric intake to that calorie intake level. Or are we just saying we have spent 10 billion dollars on social investment? So, it is a slight shift in how you think about development, but it is a development when you place the human being and their welfare at the core of development and all the indicators are measured and measuring how that human being has improved, not just what the economic numbers are saying.

P3 supported the view of P11 that

So, I will suggest that one of the strategies that should be adopted is a strategy that will seek to have a dashboard. Dashboard with which implemented effect of policies could be measured. That is not happening now! Those dashboards could be designed in such a way that policymakers can have a look at it. Because the truth about policies, as far as I know, and you may correct me because you are an

expert in that, is that at times when policies are being formulated, you cannot see the whole Gourmont of what that policy will lead to, you can only speculate, you only guess or think that this would be the effect of the policy on socioeconomic development. It is when you start implementing that policy, and you have milestones along the line. Reviewing the effect of those implementations and the milestones is what will tell you whether that policy is working in the right direction or not. So that is what I would suggest, that for us to improve the socioeconomic development in Nigeria by our policies, there must be a way of checking the effect of those policies on the socioeconomic development. And of course, if factors that were not foreseen when those policies were formulated has come to thwart the desirable expectation of that policy, the system should be such that the policies can be reversed, amended, or whatever to ensure that the socioeconomic development is attained.

P9 expanded that

Call-back system! There must be a call-back, what you call call-back system, where we say, look we have to reformulate. Monitoring must be in place to see that policy is going the way it ought to go. If it is not going the way, it ought to go, callback. I mean, take time out, let us go look at it. Something is wrong. Even if you are going to copy, see what was done elsewhere, see what we are doing wrong, and see if we can adapt what has been done elsewhere, not that we copy what has been done. We adapt what they are doing there here so on and so forth.

P9 informed that

There is something called SWOT; it is a very interesting qualitative measure of STEM analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We can use that for every policy when I say policy. I mean policy program project. You have the policy for the Program to address the policies or address the program. Then you have target, objectives, and target carefully laid down the procedures to achieve each of these laid down carefully. You have the opportunity to say it is not working the way we laid down; let us redo the policy; that is why we have time out. That is to say, have we done really well? How far is it and so on and so forth.

P1 advised that Learning from other Countries on Policy Implementations successes. “There are countries that have done well with respect to specific policy issues which Nigeria can actually benefit from. What other countries have done with respect to specific policy issues which Nigeria can actually benefit.” P3 agreed with the P1 assertion that, “Another thing that I think should be done is that we should not be shy; we should not be shy to take a cue from other nations of the world where governance policies have actually assisted in the socioeconomic development of those countries.” P9 demonstrated that

There is so much corruption. One is scared about this nation. I just want to say that institutions are faulty or is people that are running the situations that create the problem. It would have been nice to study how it has been done elsewhere and compare how it is done in developed country A, and then in Nigeria and the world corruption. Also, there is nothing wrong in going outside the country to see how

things can be done. I like what happened in South African you go round and see each person have access to a piece of land and built something in that piece of land, and he pays back.

P6 suggested that we need a sense of a Nation.

Let every Nigerian feel at home anywhere in Nigeria. The Asian tigers have shown us that you do not need a town or a revolution where people are shot and killed on the streets to kick off an industrial or socioeconomic development. In Singapore, Lee Kuan yew broke it; in Malaysia, Mahathir Mohammed. Today in Rwanda, an African is also moving in the right direction. The leaders can provide leadership, chart the course, and go the right way. Socioeconomic Development is not rocket science. So, what else? We need a sense of nation! We need to have a sense that this is our country. It is not enough for the country to be governed by borrowing and borrowing. In economic development, borrowing is a wonderful idea, but there are problems when you borrow and use it for things that do not aid development. So, our leaders should Step back directly look at other countries. If Rwanda can get out of this mess, we too can get out of the mess. Our WAR was from 1966 to 1970. That is less than ten years, and they are bouncing back coming to development. So, I think there is still hope; we need to touch the right cause.

P9 affirmed that

In a country with multiethnic that should not be so. By now, in Nigeria, we should not have the issue of I am from this area; it should be I am a Nigerian so that you

can be anywhere. Those issues of where you come from, whom you know, and whom you do not know should not come into governance policies on socioeconomic development.

P13 substantiated that

Developing a normative framework that can put people on the right path, leading by examples. Put aside issues of ethnicity, put aside issues of the religious divide, put the country as the focal point of our development. So, there must be advocacy in place. This advocacy can go to even the schools, the Universities, the Secondary schools, even primary schools to make them understand that our interest is Nigeria it is not about where one is from or how highly placed one is or anything or the language the person speaks or the religion of that person.

P5 stated that there is a need for followership and a sense of citizenship. “A sense of citizenship. I am a citizen irrespective of where I am, where I reside, I cannot live all my life. I cannot live all my life in Enugu, and I am from the North, and you tell me I am from the North; what does that mean? I was born there. My parents were born there.” P1 indicated that

There is a role for citizens; there is a role for government; there is a role for institutions; there is a role for everybody at every level. It is critical that even if we are talking about the role of government, we cannot dis-countenance the followership; they also have a critical role to play in the socioeconomic development of any nation.

P1 corroborated the above assertion

For instance, if you are an immigration officer, say working at the airport, right. What is your job as an immigration officer? A policeman? but you are not a policeman on the streets and forcing law and order or trying to stop a robbery, and all those athletes, you are a policeman at Nigeria's border. But, the way you do your job at the airport; or land or sea border is different; You must be friendly. You must understand that Nigeria has a need for investment that Nigeria has a need to attract tourists that these tourists are coming; these investors that are coming are bringing something to you. And that what they are bringing also helps improve the quality of your life as an immigration officer, right? Also, a custom officer needs to understand his role in facilitating trade Nigeria in attracting investment to Nigeria. It is this investment that will help to create jobs. Some of this investment will help to provide it for structure. So, this investment will help to make Nigeria safe generally. So, it behooves the Government, that institution to understand Government, that the institution of the immigration in Nigeria at the highest levels to communicate things in a way; the Minister Finance must be able to communicate this in a way to help them understand. The governor of the central bank walking through the right channels, was also able to understand we have these problems that we are interested in attracting investment.

**Subquestion 3: How Have Governance Policies Affected the Nature and Pace of Development in Nigeria?**

The participants of this study identified high level of poverty, impact on socioeconomic development and escalated insecurity is on the increase in Nigeria and

except there is an urgent action by the political actor democracy might be de-democratized.

***Theme 12: High Level of Poverty***

Some of the participants' informed poverty is on the increase in Nigeria so much that despite diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development, Nigeria has not moved to the pace of expectation of the Nation. Therefore, the effect of governance policies has affected Nigeria's nature and pace of development to the point where "Nigeria is reputed to have actually overtaken India in having the largest number of poor people in the world," according to P6. P5 stated that

We cannot say that nothing has happened. It is true that we have been characterized as the poverty capital of the world, and if you look very closely in Nigeria, you would see that that poverty is very localized. And that is why there is a dichotomy between the South and the North. So, there are certain cultural, certain governance issues that must be addressed region by region, zone by zone and the population explosion has not helped. So, even if you are growing and your population is growing more than your output, you will still remain where you are. So, the impact has not been felt as it should be because our oil revenue has not been used as it ought to be used in reengineering the structure of the country and in generating prosperity for the people, but only generating prosperity for a few. And that is why equality in Nigeria is wide and is widened.

P9 Corroborated that

Poverty is on the increase because prices of food are increasing by the day. So,



poverty is on the increase; it is difficult to understand that also despite the various policies. Poverty is rising; nobody cares about the poor man on the street. You go around town, you see destitute on the highway, everywhere, destitute. When there are rules, except for a few states and a few towns in this country, you have an urban center when their rules do not care; nobody seems to care. One gets confused as to where they are going.

P8 substantiated that

High level of poverty! High levels of poverty and corruption mean that there is no focus on it. Poverty should actually be that you will focus on policymaking, but corruption undercut it. So, that Nigeria state institutions are not reliable to focus and deliver benefits for citizens. They are probably more likely to be captured by self-interest that drives policy away from optimal public interest.

P12 ascertained that

All the indices of underdevelopment have remained persistent in Nigeria. We do not actually have a sustained effort to reduce poverty, a sustainable effort to reduce infrastructure deficit, a sustainable effort to raise our standard of living too long. All those ones, we just find that from year to year, from one government to the other, these issues will continue to bedevil us and even get worse, which is what has led to the fact today, where Nigeria is reputed to have actually overtaken India in having the largest number of poor people in the world and the in mercerization.

P6 noted that, "As long as we keep running in circles when people come to the National

Assembly, what they are pushing is their own agenda, not the agenda to remove poverty; if these things are not done, no dream, No, dream of economic growth would be realized.” P13 affirmed that

Leadership in Nigeria even purposely ensures poverty in the system so that they will use poverty as a weapon to perpetuate themselves in a leadership role. We have poverty! It is when a man eats now that he will be able to work effectively, and that can also if you see, the poverty issue affects the way people approach work. So, poverty is a big, is a big problem in Nigeria.

***Theme 13: Lack Luster Socioeconomic Development***

In this theme, 58% of the participants indicated that governance policies have impacted socioeconomic development and have further entrenched the borrowing nature of Nigeria so much that some international communities are taking advantage of the pace and nature of Nigeria to extract natural resources that should have been deployed to improve the socioeconomic development of the country. P6 stated that

Though, there are efforts, there are seeming efforts to make some of these governance policies on socioeconomic development realizable. I said seeming efforts, the efforts made for us to have electricity between 1999 and today, how much in terms of megawatts have we improved our electricity—nothing to write home about. We are struggling to bring back our rail system. But as a little boy in the early 70’s and late 70’s and early 80’s, I would go from my state capital in Enugu to visit my aunty in Jos by train. So, you keep wondering today, are we retrogressive, or are we Progressive? So, today the government is struggling to

take loans from China, and the only reason, the only reason to some extent the rail system is coming is because they outsource it to china as a part of the loan agreement, which did not allow their money to get to the hand of Nigerians. So, the loan was tied to the project. They bring in their raw materials, they bring in their equipment, and bring in their people. Well, that is a matter for another day. But, in 1960, our GDP was higher than the GDP of China. So, what other better way to tell you that we are not making any, we are not, we are not getting better. So, where do we look at, do we look at industrialization, which industries are working, a lot of industries have folded up. Our leather industries in the northern part of the country have folded up. Things that we produced here, 50 years ago, we cannot produce now.

P6 supported his view that

In Kaduna, we have Peugeot auto-mobile industry, an assembly plant. Today except for Innosson, which is a private initiative no vehicle or car manufacturing factory anywhere. When we are looking at countries like South Africa that have a Mercedes manufacturing factory, BMW like in a few other countries in Africa, all the ones we started here cannot be sustained because of electricity, talk about the road infrastructure, the roads that were built and were tolled more than 20 or more years ago are impassable today. So, I do not know where you will look at today, and then one can safely say that socioeconomic development, maybe, we just say socioeconomic and remove development because there has been no development rather, we are backsliding. I want you to look at it. You see that it is the

circumventing actions of Nigerians, especially those with the responsibility to do things in a proper or in a certain way, that is keeping us where we are, so we are moving in circles, motion without movement.

P7 informed that, “Well, generally government want to improve the lots of the citizens, it is given, that is their target, that is their goal. But, again, to what extent have they gone in ensuring that these impact on the populace positively.” P9 noted that, “Education is in a mess; it seems government wants to privatize education, which will be a challenge for the country that has so many people below the poverty line of USD 1.90.” P8 alluded that, “Let us not forget the link between socioeconomic wellbeing and democracy. If democracy fails to provide socio wellbeing, in the long run, it loses its attraction, and we might see de-democratization or democracy as not a useful social structure.” P12 affirmed that

The mercerization, the continual lack of any social amenities, the rate of infant mortality as high as anything, the deaths from common things like malaria, and related issues have affected the pace and nature of socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Even polio that we have thought had been eradicated had made a resurgence in Nigeria. So, what we have had in the 60s is still bedeviling us today.

P11 stressed that

If you take something like solid minerals, for instance, Nigeria has many of the precious metals from gold to whatever it is you can think of. But, because we cannot decide whether we are a market-facing economy or because we cannot pass the enabling laws, that sector has not been developed, and individuals, in this

case, some international, like the Chinese et cetera have moved in and mining resources that should be used to develop Nigeria for Nigerians. So, I am sure literature has a whole lot more reason and the structure why we are not able to grow.

P3 substantiated that, “No matter how good the policies are, it will not lead to the socioeconomic development of that Nation. So, we have diverse governance policies, but then, you can look at the level of socioeconomic development over the years.”

#### ***Theme 14: Escalation of Insecurity***

P3, P6, P9, and P10 mentioned escalated insecurity as a new device impeding execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. For instance, P3 informed that, “Insecurity is hindering the socioeconomic development of so many areas. It has also become a national problem, but it is not a problem that cannot be solved. But, because the policy in place does not address that problem getting it changed is becoming a major issue.” P6 stated that

Part of what is also impeding Development is the biggest one that we have now, which is insecurity, insecurity. If a government does not put in place laws and order where people feel safe with what they are doing, where people are not going to be threatened, there cannot be development. Today, one of the indices or one of the characteristics of a failed government that you read in basic government study is that the government guaranteed the security of lives and property. That is not working here.

P9 adduced that, “Insecurity has its own part to play now; I thought that in Nigeria, we

would have gone to a stage where anywhere you are in Nigeria, seem to be safe. That does not seem to be any more in Nigeria.” P10 indicated that

If all of these socioeconomics sectors had been worked on, the security challenge would have been reduced. When people do not have employment, then they think crime, when there is trouble, you hardly find somebody who has work to do going to cause trouble. The idle hand, they say, is the devil’s workshop.

The participants provided policy strategy and direction for Subquestion 3 as follows. P5 advanced the need to refocus government that addressed the capacity and capability of the poor. “We need to refocus the Government on the things that address the capacity and capability of the poor, their assets, their productivity so that they can escape poverty.” P6 supported that

Until those in the National Assembly start pushing the well-being of what Nigerians called the “Nigeria project,” the one that will improve the lives of Nigerians that will lift millions of Nigerians from poverty, that will create an enabling environment for even investors who are coming from outside to be able to come. If these things are not done, no dream will be realized. No dream at all! No dream of economic growth would be realized.

P13 noted that “Nigeria is reputed to have actually overtaken India in having the largest number of poor people in the world.”

P9 noted that there is a need for improved services.

It is important that the conditions of service it should be possible for us to say that in this sector of the economy, this must be the minimum income at this level. Of

course, income alone does not give a standard of living. So, the adequate infrastructure in the economy electricity must be available, Water pipe-borne, health is tied to water and also tied to food, Water systems, Road transportation. Thank God we now have the railway; they have really well now. And so, therefore, if you are going to talk or raise the security of the railways, they are very important. It may not be possible for things to be walleied between kontagora or Oyo rail tracks but the security of the railway system.

Additionally, P9 stated that

Food is an essential factor in the standard of living especially tied to health. If you do not have adequate food, you know most food has foodborne diseases. So, food must be adequate but must also be safe. It is only in Nigeria that safety is not taken too seriously. When they come, they say they are not safe, but the food is an important factor now. Because most of the food is foodborne diseases, Cholera is on the increase now in one part of this country, and nobody is talking yet. People that died of malaria and Cholera are more than people that died more of COVID. They do not even know that Cholera is causing more havoc than COVID, but they do not even know that because people are dying of COVID every day while Cholera is on the increase. So the health of the citizenry is important. So, States must understand that health is important. No one is saying that you cannot go abroad and have your health care but ensure that there are adequate facilities in the country. Some of the facilities you go abroad are operated by Nigerians; it is embarrassing. It is embarrassing.

P6 indicated that we need a government that will create confidence so that people can believe in their government once again.

How do you do that? Give people pipe-borne water, give them electricity, provide them health care, then let their kids have education. When they suffer and suffer pay school fees when they come out. Can they get jobs? A government that creates enabling environment. Because government does not drive development along. Do you know what it would mean if you have electricity, good road and pipe-borne water in local areas. Will anybody come to Abuja and populate the city, or over populating Lagos. People will start moving to where there is infrastructure, build houses, Building their factories. So we need a government that will Continue to give that opportunity to Nigerians.

P10 mentioned that there is a need for favorable policies for all sectors of the economy. "So, I think for me, our policies should be favorable in those sectors. Once we do that, we are in the right policy; we are giving ourselves the right policy." P11 noted there is a need for Job Creation and Employment.

Government should work on some policies that get millions and millions of people back to the farm. Some other person might argue, but the world is moving in, technology is driving everything in the world; why are you advocating that we go back to the farms. And, I would argue that in a country that is as poorly developed as we are, with the millions and millions of people walking around the place, what you want is to put them to some kind of productivity and technology will not drive that for us today. A few people should focus on technology, people



who have the attitude for it. We have gone to the right schools' et cetera, and look at the inefficiency in agriculture where we are now employing millions of people inefficiently and find ways to improve on the efficiency of those sectors. But, what is of primary importance to us given where we are developed in Ladder is to make sure that millions of people wake up every morning and have a place to go and that when they get there at the end of the day, they make some money.

For me, I think that where we are now as a country, what we should focus on is really how to get people working. How to create jobs? And any conversation we are having that is not focused on job creation is a waste of everybody's time.

P9 substantiated that

There is a need to provide jobs. People leave university every year. Let us say Polytechnic, University, first degrees, Masters, Postgraduate and do not get jobs. We must understand when we say people must go to schools; they get the degrees in various areas, and years in years out, they cannot get jobs. So, employment. There must be a policy on the employment of people! It is not fair that people finish what they should finish and then get no job to do. It is not fair for a Ph.D. to start driving a vehicle because he could not get a job or a BSc to become a security guard because he could not get a job. If we do not want people to be educated, let us say so. So, employment is important. Good employment indices must go down. We must have adequate employment in the economy, in every area of the economy. It is important that people are employed.

P3 noted that

The constitution provides that we have a national police because at the time the constitution is been formulated nobody knew that we would have the problem of insecurity that we are having now. Now people have seen the need to bring in state police because of insecurity. So that is why I said whatever policy we have should be subjected to review and if the desirable impact is not been felt then there should be a strategy to reverse, or amend such strategy so that the socioeconomic development that is expected could actually be attained

P13 ascertained and concluded that, “If these strategies are organized effectively, with everybody agreeing that we want to be one Nigeria and we want to improve our system here in Nigeria. I think lopping the policies for socioeconomic development will not be a problem.”

I sought to understand the impact of Governance Policies on Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria. To explore this issue, a central research question which asked how have diverse government governance policies impacted socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria was raised. The findings revealed that bad governance strategy stemming from the action of the political actors, government actions, and policymakers had impacted diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The participants’ perspectives revealed that the government’s inability, the policymakers, and political actors’ behaviors to execute governance policies in Nigeria has resulted in unemployment leading to high level of poverty, impact on socioeconomic development and escalated insecurity. Poor governance policies due to the incompetency, political interference, and personal gains of policymakers and political actors to drive governance

policies in Nigeria without empirical evidence from the policy beneficiaries and policy impact analysis affected the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

The continued neglect of the constitutional responsibilities and failure to understand the need of the citizens has resulted in challenges to resolve poverty issues and insecurity in Nigeria. The participants revealed that centralization of power and local governance failure; deficient budgeting process, decision making and ideology on policy, lack of inter-agency coordination and collaboration, lack of accountability, poor leadership in Nigeria, multifaceted corruption including self-interest and nepotism; policy formulation and policy implementation issues; absence of lack of sense of a nation; lack of monitoring and evaluation to derive policy impact analysis with the absence of innovation and creativity, have all culminated into high level of poverty which impact on socioeconomic development and escalated insecurity in Nigeria.

### **Summary**

In chapter, I addressed the demographic, research setting, overview of the data collected, data analysis, evidence of trustworthiness, and the description of the themes. Data emerged from the 12 participants from the research focus. Fifteen themes were developed from the data gathered. Chapter 5 contains the interpretation of findings, limitation of the study, recommendations, implications to positive social change, and conclusion.

## Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

My purpose in this generic qualitative study was to explore the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. Despite Nigeria's Vision 20: 2020 policy planned to resolve socioeconomic issues and address the implementation issues, socioeconomic issues of poverty, unemployment, and inequality persisted in Nigeria due to the lack of execution of policies. The research question was "How have diverse government governance policies impacted socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria?" The results responded to the main research question. Fourteen major themes and policy strategies and directions emerged from the analysis of the 12 semistructured interviews: (a) bad governance strategy; (b) budget proposal, development plan and annual budget; (c) political interference and personal preferences strategy; (d) external influences strategy; (e) centralization of power and local governance failure; (f) deficient budgeting process, decision making and ideology on policy; (g) lack of inter-agency coordination and collaboration; (h) poor leadership in Nigeria; (i) multifaceted corruption; (j) policy formulation and policy implementation issues; (k) absence of lack of sense of a nation of citizens; (l) high level of poverty; (m) lackluster socioeconomic development; and (n) escalated insecurity in Nigeria. This chapter includes interpretations of the findings, limitations of the study, recommendations, implications for social change, and a conclusion.

### **Interpretation of Findings**

The participants' responses to the interview questions illuminated the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The literature

review and theoretical foundation addressed in Chapter 2 were consistent with the participants' perspectives and confirmed the assertions of the 15 themes that emerged from the data analysis that answered the main research question.

### **Findings Related to Literature Review**

This study provided data to understand the impact of government governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The study results supported several studies on governance policies execution and socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The results also add to the knowledge on perspectives of policy and development experts. The study results may contribute to the strategic policy direction to reduce poverty in Nigeria.

### ***Bad Governance Strategy***

All the 12 participants indicated that a weak system and bad governance had dominated Nigeria since independence, thereby affecting the governance policies on socioeconomic development. The assertion of the participants is well-rooted in the findings of previous research stating that since independence, no Nigerian government leaders have adhered to the principle of governance (Ekundayo, 2020). P10 similarly stated, "broadly speaking, governance has not yielded or responded to the expectations of many since independence that the citizens have always had reason to believe that the system of governance should do more and perform better than it does." P6 corroborated that Nigeria's governance system does not address the issues of deficient infrastructures, public goods, and services such as health, water and an education system that make life livable in the country and makes it possible for people to be employed, not

underemployed and unemployed system.” Some of the participants also noted that Nigeria has a weak system that is not achieving its set objectives. The participant assertions affirmed the findings that bad governance has resulted in poverty in Nigeria despite its abundance of natural resources (Bilan et al., 2019; Dauda, 2017; Ugoani, 2020).

In addition to bad governance, all the participants hinted the tenets of good governance that Nigeria lacks: efficiency and effectiveness, commitment to accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, responsiveness, participation and the rule of law in governance. P7 noted, “The rule of law, transparency, accountability, due process, just name it; they are all part of the element of good governance, but it seems to be lost now.” P11 reaffirmed that “the way we manage the resources we have, be it human, be it natural, it does not account for any of the core tenets you would want to see in a good system that has good Governance.” Good governance expectations and their meaning have not been explored and put into action in Nigeria as specified and emphasized in the Constitution (Ugwu & Abah, 2020). But good governance is needed to improve society (Nag, 2020). With effective and efficient management of constitutional guided countries’ economy and resources, expedited development would have been accomplished in welfare goods delivery, advance citizens’ standard of living, and poverty eradication in Nigeria (Adegbami & Adepoju, 2017). Some of the participants’ suggested that good governance on goods and services is not being done because there are policies that need to be implemented on socioeconomic development. P11 stated, “I think we are still struggling a little bit with entrenching good governance in Nigeria.”

Lack of accountability and transparency were also related to the theme of bad governance. According to the literature, there is a separation between the activities of the government and the information available to the citizens, which indicates that the government and its agencies are not accountable to the public (Igiebor, 2019; Waziri, 2020). Mismanagement has impeded development in Nigeria (Adegbami & Uche, 2018), leading to poverty and unemployment (Sunday & Lawal, 2016). All the participants alluded that lack of accountability is a critical challenge in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Some participants noted that budgets are allocated across sectors yearly, but no one is held accountable for not delivering or mismanaging. The participants expressed that senior government officials and political actors are aware they are not accountable to anyone for the delivery of governance policies and that policies are rolled out without specific ownership, leading to blame trading among agencies and political actors. The participants' positions supported the assertions that there is a lack of responsibility and accountability to the citizens (Oliveira & Fonte-Filho, 2017). Government policy and programs to improve accountability have been inefficient due to misrepresentation and deficient accountability in Nigeria (Adams et al., 2019).

The findings also revealed a lack of responsiveness by the government to the citizens' needs. Participants indicated that the government is not reaching out to relevant stakeholders of policies to include citizens in governance policies in Nigeria. To reduce underdevelopment and development, citizens' participation in policies on problems that impact their livelihood is critical (Fagbadebo, 2019b). P9 stated,

If people say they want black egg you give them a black egg. So, as we say in marketing, the beneficiaries are critical; what do people want? Then you make it!

So, if you are not thinking about the people; who are going to be affected.

The governing approach to accountability, transparency, and absolute disregard for the rule of law remained a significant problem to subjugate in this era which is evident in the trend for uncommon development in Nigeria and the drive to assume the best economy by its unrealized Vision 2020 policy (Okoye, 2018).

#### **Absence of Empirical Evidence from Beneficiaries to Drive Policy Process.**

Based on responses from 85% of the participants, governance policies on socioeconomic development have not been evidence-based because the beneficiaries of the policies are not considered. Consequently, some participants indicated that as long as the policies are not underpinned by empirical evidence, the result will fall short of globally accepted standards. Research has also asserted that there is a disconnect between the policymakers and the citizens in Nigeria (Philip & Peter, 2018). Policymaking regarding socioeconomic development has often been to address issues urgently, mostly unsubstantiated without thorough investigation and evidence, thereby not representing the desires and interests of Nigerian citizens (Ezeani, 2012; Isah, 2017). But policy formulation depends on the interaction of evidence-based exploration of problems, such as the governmental valuation of the costs and benefits of the anticipated policy and its consequence on the beneficiaries (Howlett & Mukherjee, 2017). According to P11 “I was privy to a lot of the meetings and decision-making process at the highest level in Nigeria, and what I left that position with, my experience was that we do not arrive at policy,



guided by evidence.” The absence of appropriate governance policies results in rising economic inequality, poverty, and social difference where policy actions to revamp socioeconomic developments are not addressed (Mok, 2012).

***Budget Proposal, Developmental Plan, and Annual Budget Policy Strategy***

When participants were asked how the governance system prioritized socioeconomic development, 11 of the 12 participants responded that development plan drives policymaking strategies; however, other considerations had impeded its success in Nigeria, such as political interference and personal preference and external preferences. Public policy is an established decision formed by governments or public institutions to tackle public issues or originate strategy, plan, or programs and resolutions in the form of policies to address public issues (Aba, 2019). P1 responded that national development plans usually embody some policies on several issues; however, that has not been the case in Nigeria. P5 shared a similar view that the governance system institutes an annual budget, which should be derived from a national, state, or local government plan to prioritize socioeconomic development. P8 indicated that how prioritizations should be set based on Chapter 2 of the Constitution, which covers the government’s obligation to the economic sociocultural outcome and about managing the economy in such a manner that ensures the quality of access, social justice, welfare, and security of Nigerian people which corroborated with research (Fagbadebo, 2019b). However, despite the Constitution’s position, good governance has not impacted the well-being of the people (Olarenwaju et al., 2020; Waziri, 2020). P10 noted that all the documents from the development plans, including Vision 2020 made to address socioeconomic issues in

Nigeria, have identified the issues but not been implemented properly.

### ***Political Interference and Personal Preferences Strategy***

Each of the participants expressed that political Interference and personal preferences are applied in policymaking strategy in Nigeria to resolve socioeconomic development. P4 confirmed prioritization of socioeconomic development is more around geopolitical leanings and considerations; it is more about political interest. Literature corroborated that Nigeria government elites had converted the ostensible Nigeria democracy into a commercial business, considering that the strategy is presently the undercurrents and stimulating determinants for politics inside the Nigerian government (Chukwu & Nghan, 2018). P12 emphasized that in Nigerian consistently socioeconomic development comes in as a fallout of when people are trying to a feather their own nests. Those diverse socioeconomic policies that crumbled in the country occurred explicitly due to governance issues and malpractices as policies formulated are driven by the self-interest of the politicians (Ugoani, 2019).

The findings from the literature are evident in the assertions of the participants of this study. Evidence from the literature review aligned with the participants' perspectives of this study. P12 revealed that "most of the prioritization of socioeconomic development in Nigeria is based on personal gain or individual gain, not for the good of the people." P11 ascertained that "there is no shared understanding of what the priorities should be or how we decide what priorities should be. In Nigeria, self-interest is often in competition with the nation's policy as perpetually displayed in the character and personality of the policymakers, making them the policy formulator to be obstinate to resolve the issues

ravaging the country (Abomaye-Nimenibo et al.,2019).

### ***External Influence Strategy***

Some participants mentioned that Nigeria Government considered external influence as a strategy to drive governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. P13 stated that “Nigeria just copy and paste without understanding what can actually work in our own environment.” Some participants indicated that accepting policy advice because it is a World Bank recommended is less than optimal for effective policy quality articulation and implementation and impact or accepting policy advice because of believing it is the African Development Bank. They must be experts is not acceptable. The participants noted that if the policy advice is reviewed and suitable for Nigeria climates, it can be adapted or suitable for Nigeria cultural environment; why not? However, such recommendations must be subjected to understanding and reviews in Nigeria context and not just losing autonomy because of international aid that does not correlate with Nigerians needs and socioeconomic development. In corroboration, policy contradiction, policy reverse, unwillingness and lack of dedication to implementation, and dependency on international directives are very much an impediment on the cirque to Nigeria development (Uche, 2019).

### ***Centralization of Power and Failure of local Governance***

The participants of this study indicated that over centralizations of power and failure of local governance are challenges to policy formulations that had impacted governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. This study revealed that the federalism system adopted in Nigeria is a structural deficiency that had made state

governors dependent on the federal government and made local governance fade off to directly articulate peoples' needs to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria. The centralizations of power had weakened the competencies at the local level, thereby resulting in the collapse of local governance. In this regard, local government are not adequately empowered while the town council, the fourth level of governance in Nigeria, is no longer in existence despite their closeness to the people to resolve socioeconomic issues, as indicated by the participants. Though policy formulation is the guiding principle towards accomplishing the country development objectives, where the policies fall short of appropriate composition or structure based on bad governance or governing techniques, the concerned policies are doomed to deviate from the direction because it has no impact on its intentions (Azu, 2016). Further to the assertion, in Nigeria, federal government governance policies executed within local governance policy, even if implemented to improve socioeconomic problems, can result in a more significant disparity in society (Kamal et al., 2021).

P8 substantiated that over-centralization of some of these socioeconomic issues mean that policies developed by the federal level may never have traction at the local level in the way it is supposed to be. Such would occur because of the indisposition of government to governance policies than improved growth and social issues with the involvement of citizens (Kamal et al., 2021). To corroborate this study, Kamal et al. further emphasized that disparity in the society can degenerate the socioeconomic problems where the government failed in the implementation of governance policies which is synonymous to Nigeria. For instance, P5 buttressed if government is addressing

poverty, and states and local governments are not functioning properly; then government have not specifically handled the issues. Further findings exposed that management of the nation's finances and dependence on oil revenue is a challenge to the execution of socioeconomic development in Nigeria, the primary source of financing the country's economy. Gains from the oil production in Nigeria are not expended appropriately on the economic development, which hinges on ideological situations that concern political elites with personal interest and bad socioeconomic situations that had impacted the development of the economy (Anyaechie & Areji, 2015).

***Deficient Budgeting Process, Decision making and Ideology on Policy***

The emergence of this theme from the 83% of the participants hinge on the misalignment of allocation of resources to recurrent expenditure instead of capital projects to enhance socioeconomic development and improved livelihood of the citizens during the budgeting process in Nigeria, which often occurred yearly such that some items in the budget reoccurred several because of reallocation of funds to tackle issues not related and connected to the development of the nation. Deficiency in explicit and impactful responsible governance in utilizing enormous revenue resources stimulates poverty, mismanagement, and misdirection (Olowu, 2019). In a further affirmation of this finding, previous research enunciated that instead of using the available resources to provide goods and services for its citizens, the Nigerian government is not channeling it strategically impact the nation (Fagbemi & Adeoye, 2020). With regards to decision-making and ideology on policy, the study revealed that despite diverse government governance policies in Nigeria, submergence tendencies drive development such that the

actions of the political actors, their programs (policies), and activities of the budget are driven by parochial tendencies. Literature substantiated that such action could occur due to misrepresentation of objectives of self-seeking facts through the ploy of parochial policies by different actors in the drama and arena of policymaking while grappling for authority balancing or allocation within different interests to secure their political arena, financial interest, and personal gains (Salihu et al., 2012).

Some participants indicated that the parliamentarian and leaders in positions exploited their positions and opportunities as policymakers to hinder and subvert national projects into their personal wealth because of access to power instead of making governance policies decisions to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria. According to the literature governance impediments are inherent in policy, government, research-based, and livelihood decisions implemented at all levels of government which have firm effects on policy impact to certain occurrences and results (Behnassi, 2019). The findings from the study indicated that the inability of decisive decisions such as the Petroleum Bill has impaired executions of governance policies on socioeconomic development and had left Nigeria behind other African nations such as Angola and Ghana. Relatedly, findings revealed that pushbacks on budget decisions of national interest between executives, parliamentarian and critical agencies of government and lack of ideology on the development path either as a welfarist or capitalist affects the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. Public policy practice in Nigeria is apparently perverted compared to other countries of similar governance systems (Tochukwu et al. 2018).

Similarly, findings in this study established that a lack of ideology on how to tackle and formulate governance policies on socioeconomic development is a critical issue in policymaking and its implementations. Nigeria's actions are regarded as lackadaisical and not a developmental state; instead, the political leaning of those in positions takes precedence over socioeconomic development. Their wiliness to pass the right policies is lacking because they lack commitment, and the political will to implement is elusive. Governance policy for economic development in Nigeria has no commitment or certainty for policy tenacity and execution (Salihu et al., 2012). The privilege of making policy has given the aristocrat policymakers the impetus to redirect Nigeria resources for personal gains, thereby entrenching poverty and unemployment's grave impact on the livelihood of the citizens (Ukeje et al., 2020). The lack of execution of the Nigeria Vision 20:2020 is a testament that lack of political will has been a bane in Nigeria to drive development strategies of the government. According to the Nigeria Vision 20: 2020 development strategy policy, this policy was formulated because of underachievement and failures due to a lack of political will to see the development strategy through to the end, as revealed in previous policies.

### ***Lack of Interagency Coordination and Collaboration***

The research question addressed how diverse governance policies had impacted socioeconomic development in Nigeria. 67% of the participant identified a lack of interagency coordination and collaboration as a significant factor contributing to deficient policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria. Most of the participants stated that the lack of interagency coordination and collaboration are part of the challenges inherent in

the execution of governance policies in Nigeria. The participants pointed out that there is a strong divergence between macroeconomic policy and microeconomic policy because the political actors are not focusing on their core objectives, such as the Central Bank of Nigeria. The latter has assumed intervention in sectors of the economy such as agriculture when its core objective macroeconomic policy is lacking and at its lowest performance with inflation rising without specific actions to ameliorate the issue. Despite several government efforts on poverty alleviation policies, inefficient macroeconomic management, political instability, and bad governance have been attributed to the failure of poverty reduction in Nigeria (Kura et al., 2019). The literature reviewed confirmed the assertions of the participants. Deficient policy performance is connected with diverse issues like deficient coordination, financing, dedication, implementers competency, and top-down approach (Khan & Khandekar, 2016).

The participants expressed that government agencies work in silos without looking at the broad objectives of the government, such that policies are not integrated as part of their responsibilities to improve the country's socioeconomic development. Similarly, findings from the study revealed that core government agencies are reporting to ministries governed by different policies despite having related responsibilities, therefore distorting coordination of socioeconomic development. Essentially, participants of this study regarded this as a coordination failure because the agencies are reporting to different ministries, for instance: NEXIM, BOI, Bank of Agriculture, SMEDAN, and several others. Such action duplicates responsibilities according to the participants and leads to unhealthy competition that impedes socioeconomic development delivery in



Nigeria. duplication of projects, competitions among government agencies, and policymaking obstruction had impacted socioeconomic development in Nigeria (Kura et al., 2019). Further, the participants indicated a lack of robust policy discussion at the National Economic Council to inform the integration of policies from the National at the subnational level rather political discussions dominate with no strong framework for integration. In Nigeria, Policy is obstructed due to poor policy design and deficient coordination (Kura et al., 2019).

### ***Poor Leadership***

This study replaced the word *leadership* with *political actors* or *actors* because of the IAD theoretical framework adopted to analyze the study. Institutional Development Analysis referred to government and policymakers as actors (Leaders in government) in the action situation or area (drivers of socioeconomic development). Consequently, the word *actors* will replace leadership with explicit interpretations for research audience understanding, given that this study is on public policy performance. IAD framework posits that resolving the action situation is not the only aspect of governance that should be explored but also the actors' behavior (Ostrom, 2012). Poor leadership in Nigeria explores an aspect of the actors' behavior in executing governance policies on socioeconomic development (action situation) in Nigeria.

All the participants of this study cohesively indicated that poor leadership (actors) emanated in Nigeria based on the recruitments and selection model adopted which does not take into cognizance the educational level to attain the competency and capacity required with a performance history of the actors appointed to oversee the affairs of the

nation. These actors demotivate core civil servants, thereby affecting the pillars that support public service institutions, good governance, and policies on socioeconomic development. The path to socioeconomic development is endangered, and the competency to assume that level of development is rare presently in Nigeria (Oyewunmi & Oyewunmi, 2019). This study revealed that leadership quality determines the ability of planning capacity and resource management, which is lacking in Nigeria, resulting in a lower level of trust in government because of self-centered leadership. Research substantiated that policymakers' and governance are driven by self-interest, and other underlying issues, which are significant over public welfare (Yagboyaju & Akinola (2019).

I uncovered that no effective succession has occurred in Nigeria as Nigeria is still basking in the euphoria of military leadership because leaders that emerged since democracy are the fallout of military rule without adequate governance training to formulate and execute governance policies on socioeconomic development. Some participants stated that people without competency for leadership have been handling the affairs of this country; consequently, Nigeria has not attained the obligatory and requisite socioeconomic requirements for the country. Governance reflects government competency to effectively superintend resources appropriately, formulate, execute and implement sound policies and regulation, and consider citizens and the government agencies that govern economic and social connection within the system (Joseph, et al., 2016). The proponent of IAD framework Ostroms alluded to the assertions of the participants that except governance policies possessed the competency to react to

fluctuating situations in the country, government performance or improvement on policies is prone to fail (Imperial, 1999; Ostrom et al., 1993). Also extracted from the participants' perspectives is the government's use of nepotism and godfatherism to place people in positions instead of people who possess the capacity, which disrupts the policymaking structure. Consequently, it creates difficulty in formulating adequate policy and execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

Relatedly, findings from this study indicated that lack of meritocracy base structure permits big man syndrome and self-preservation considerations, which has entrenched into Nigeria's recruitment and selection of actors and political actors in the government system. In this regard, election rigging ushered actors into positions, depriving the right people to assume positions in ministries, departments, and government agencies, placing square pegs in round holes, and that had impacted the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic in Nigeria. In Nigeria, self-interest is often in competition with the nation's policy as perpetually displayed in the character and personality of the policymakers (actors), making them the policy formulator to be obstinate to resolve the issues ravaging the country (Abomaye-Nimenibo et al., 2019). Policy deficiency, policy alterations, and the administrators' incapacity contributed to the failure of policy blueprints in Nigeria (Dauda, 2017). This study revealed that recruitment and selection of people using federal character and political considerations create a clog in the wheel; instead of improving the governance system. Hence, it has resulted in the appointment of incompetent people who are not sound to sensitive economy positions in Nigeria, which is very rare as yardsticks in other countries; that portrayed leadership

recruitment models poorly, promoted mediocrity and incompetence, having a severe impact on the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development.

Research indicated revealed that interpreting a policy issue is a complex endeavor because it includes the diversity of interrogations and consequently demands the competency of policymakers to interpret evidently and comprehend the issue or circumstance confronted that require their action to generate or initiate a reaction in the form of policy (Yagboyaju, 2019). The participants of this study stated that the actors in leadership positions lack the understanding to tackle resources available in the country, share different worldviews with low capacity because they lack education, experiences, and training to make policies, therefore, unable to discern their roles which are challenges inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. The findings of Yagboyaju stipulated that the knowledge of issues and development are intertwined and become the anchor of socioeconomic issues by bringing about the consciousness of the depth and severity of development. Some participants noted that the incompetency of the political actors impacts and demotivates the civil service, which is the bedrock of the public service institutions; the aftermath leads to a lack of strong institutions. Governance is deficient and that the policymakers' approach to policies demystifies Nigeria's situation for a path to good governance (Yagboyaju & Akinola, 2019).

As revealed in the study, low human capital coefficient as reflected in the poor capacity in Nigeria affects issues that are technical on socioeconomic development to be assumed in the realms of ethics and religion, which further affect policy formulations and

their executions. Participants expressed that Nigeria is not a developmental state that consciously seeks to acquire the right capacity. When knowledge and recruitment are wrong, the political actors will ill-considered policy, formulation, and implementation, which ascertained that the right policy could not emanate due to the incompetence of those responsible for implementing policies. This is a critical issue in Nigeria because unqualified people are in policymaking; consequently, poor leadership emanated in Nigeria. Where little attention is given to issues by policymakers, the policy may potentially be impulsive and ill-conceived or abandoned to the preference of distinct sections among government agencies, civil society, or individual actors within a community (Cairney et al., 2016).

All the participants informed that Nigeria's institutions are not strong because political interference concentration is on individuals and impositions, which impedes the execution of governance policies in Nigeria, thereby impoverishing people. Findings from the literature reinforced that policy implementation problems such as delusional objective transformation, political influence, social disquiet, uncertainty, indiscretion to the citizens' competence to incorporate their ideas to policy implementation, and contempt on policy environment have been ascertained to have contributed to lack of economic development and crisis in Nigeria (Ajulor, 2018). Government inadequacy and weakness could be adduced as the foremost reason that permeates the incompetency to alleviate poverty (Kura et al., 2019). There are shreds of evidence that Nigeria's development policies and plans have confronted severe governance policy issues; however, the consciousness of the policymakers to human capital development,

competency, quality education will enable the actualization of Vision 2020 which was never realized (Chukwuma & Nwanban, 2017). The position of the literature and the findings from this study affirmed poor leadership resulting from poor recruitment and selection of actors without education, competency, capacity, and training, which had a significant impact on the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria, including Vision 20: 2020. The participants indicated that Nigeria is operating a different model of democracy, leading to structural deficiencies compared to other nations.

### ***Multifaceted Corruption***

The 12 participants in the study described corruption in all glaring of its coloration, which led to the theme multifaceted corruption. This theme stems from self-interest, personal gains, raw acquisition of state resources, personal preferences; nepotism, embezzlement; personal benefits; political leaning; manipulations of bids; personal agenda, and circumvention. Policymakers and the government's actions impede diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria, consequently becoming challenges inherent in its execution to alleviate poverty in Nigeria. Diverse policies are deficient and had not realized their intended objective in Nigeria because of the proclivity for corruption, incapacity, political inducement, and drive, which had impacted diverse policies affecting the outcomes adversely against the desired expectations (Mueller, 2020). Some participants revealed that corruption is ingrained in projects and policies instituted by political actors such as heads of government ministries and agencies may decide to situate a project in their place of origin to appease their

relatives, knowing that the project has no economic value to the national development with a huge cost to the country. In this regard, some participants indicated there are tendencies for political actors to personalize government obviating that the position is transitory, it is pertinent for them to understand that governance policies and actions are not about their family, kinsmen and children but concerns public interest.

According to the participants, rampant in Nigeria is that policy implementers are not concerned with the nation as an entity but operate from the mindset of what they can acquire from the system. Consequently, deploying such a worldview to implement policies would yield no socioeconomic development of that nation; obviously, there are diverse governance policies, but then we can deduce socioeconomic development from the level attained over the years. Research affirmed that perverse corruption in Nigeria impedes efficient management of Nigeria's economy to upholds policy required to impact the economy, thereby affecting the standard of living of the citizens as few elites within the economy held on to the country's resources for their personal benefit (Anyaechie & Areji (2015). Participants indicated that every Nigerian thinks about themselves with corruption in the system and not patriotic, which mitigates governance policies. In this regard, the corrupt mindset and behavior is another reason why socioeconomic issues remained persistent despite diverse governance policies; therefore, corruption has become an attitude in the public service and within Nigeria's population. Top to bottom corruption has negatively affected Nigeria's economic development (Igiebor, 2019).

This study revealed a lack of justice for those who embezzle government funds

because of their political leaning and that zero tolerance for corruption is no longer in existence in Nigeria as corruption has dominated many governance policies. P12 noted that socioeconomic development is an adjunct for policymakers as individuals exploit it to harness their interests for raw acquisitions of state resources for personal benefit. The position of the participants is supported by research that political corruption affects and impairs policymaking, government institutions, governance, rules of law, regulations, and coherent processes (Igiebor, 2019). I discovered that implementers confuse governance policies with hidden or personal agendas, thereby impacting the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. While the citizens seek better livelihood through the provision of goods and services from policymaking, the policymakers seek personal gains to entrench further their wealth which has been the bane for policy failure in Nigeria (Philip & Peter, 2013).

Some participants expressed that policymakers' and actors' have been extremely self-centered to focus on the global good in some decisions regarding policy implementations on socioeconomic development. According to P13, "corruption is a big challenge eating up this country and is the biggest problem glaring to everyone about the implementation of policies." P10 corroborated that "corruption kills many government initiatives because of embezzlement." P9 substantiated that "corruption is in the national life not peculiar specifically to the government but also in those governed." Nigeria's policy space had been characterized as a battleground and arena of disputes for instinctive dispositions given the governance structure alongside governing behaviors inclusive of unavoidable effects of not just public impoverishment but equally



socioeconomic failures (Olaopa et al., 2012). The advent of diverse governance policies in Nigeria in some cases could be to the advantage of the citizens; however, corrupt political elites often devise means of converting such policies for their personal benefits (Isah, 2020).

According to the participants, poverty should have been the focus of policymaking in Nigeria, but corruption undercuts it because Nigeria state institutions are not focusing and reliable to deliver benefits for citizens. Instead, such actions are captured in self-interest that drives policy away from the optimal public interest, which is a critical factor that mitigates governance policies on socioeconomic development. Governance policies in Nigeria have been inadequate because of financial management attitude, deficient infrastructure, poor financial system, bad governance, defective educational coordination, and prevalent corruption (Anyaechie & Areji, 2015). The level of corruption in Nigeria is further solidified by the corruption perception index 2020, which revealed Nigeria ranged 149 out of 179 countries reviewed and adjudged among countries not to address corruption effectively (Transparency International, 2020).

### ***Policy Formulation and Policy Implementation Issue***

This theme emanated to extract the policy issues connected with successive government governance policies in Nigeria, which is the core of this study's central research question: How had government diverse governance policies impacted socioeconomic issues in Nigeria? Participants were asked why socioeconomic issues remained persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies to address development in Nigeria? The 12 participants of this study echoed that lack of

implementation could be adjudged to the persistence of socioeconomic issues in Nigeria. However, from Interview Questions 1 to 10, all participants described that policy formulation, lack of execution of governance policies, including the Vision 20: 2020, and lack of continuity have impeded socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The interpretation of this theme is patterned in line with the participants' perspectives. According to the participants, implementation is a significant issue in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development before they are summarily changed in most cases or discontinued. All the participants expressed that there are sufficient governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria expected to resolve development issues, but several elements crept in at implementation, which often disrupted and impacted the executions. In corroboration, policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria is a decade issue in search of development to convert initiated or founded policies into practice and action; however, it had remained an issue given that the space within expected outcomes and realities remained specifically expansive (Yakubu, 2019).

In contrast, a few participants disagreed that political actors' worldviews and opinions drive the governance policy initiatives in Nigeria because of their connection to the seat of power; therefore, governance policies are not evidence-based; instead, the wrong answer is being proffered to the socioeconomic situations in the country. The participants' assertions were substantiated by literature that deficiency in Nigeria's socioeconomic development stems from governance policy due to limited research and insightful descriptions to influence government consciousness to its policy formulation

and implementation to discern the country's socioeconomic status (Itumo & Nwefuru). The theme further revealed issues with policy formulation of governance policies on socioeconomic development but not as in-depth in its implementation. Problems identified with the implementation of governance policies are poor policies, corruption, personal preferences, political preferences, absence of timeline, implementers compromise, ethnicity, and religion. Policy formulation is the guiding principle towards accomplishing the country development objectives, where the policies fall short of appropriate composition or structure based on bad governance or governing techniques, the concerned policies are doomed to deviate from direction and have no impact on its intentions (Azu, 2016).

Participants of this study described Nigerian policies from different perspectives. Some participants noted that most of the diverse governance policies are not in the country's best interest; however, some policies are adequate for socioeconomic development, but then the problem is the implementation of those policies. Government does not concentrate on implementation despite brilliant, beautiful, good and best in the world policies adapted from other climes but at their domestication in Nigeria; all characteristics that make it successful and effective in United States, London, or in other climes grow wings and begin to go wrong. There was an affirmation from the findings that implementation is a significant challenge grounded on structural defects because the government does not prioritize socioeconomic development; even though implementation is required to resolve the issues, it persists. There had been divergent policy formulation in Nigeria with an inconsequential aspect of the policies executed, yet there is no

evidence or specific development to signify the little implementation (Angeli & Allison, 2019).

This theme uncovers that lack of governance policies execution often led to a government project recurring yearly in the budget without variation. In most cases, the initial allocation possibly has been embezzled, which the implementer should have reported, but having conceded to incentives, quality control of the project suffers because of bad leadership. Participants indicated that governance policies do not get implemented to the letter; however, if there are any, to what extent have the policies impacted the citizens considering the status of socioeconomic issues in Nigeria, which indicated that lip services are only paid to policies. According to participants, projects and programs that emanate from governance policies lack a timeline and specific goals; consequently, adjustments are introduced as the programs evolve; for instance, the Lagos Ibadan—Expressway tied for years with no specific completion schedule. The concerns of the participants were substantiated that policy rationale is envisaged as being problem concentrated, specifically, focused on the significant public social problems and issues confronting governments which require their attention to be resolved by analyzing the procedures of policy formulation and selections, and by exploring and investigating the implementation and policy results (Angeli & Allison, 2019).

P3 asked, “what went wrong with Nigeria?” This study revealed that the gap between Nigeria and developed countries is policy formulation, and its execution in terms of the intellectual level of the implementer of governance policies in developed countries does not exceed those in Nigeria. Nigerian governance policies actors and implementers

attained same qualification and training in the same university with their counterparts in other clime given that most of them; for instance; the Asians economy is striving presently, yet intellectually Nigeria is not deficient. The puzzle, in this case, is why Nigeria is not advancing and improving in socioeconomic development despite that value of Nigeria's currency 40 years ago is better than Asians compared to the present situation in the country. As extracted from the study, policy implementation in Nigeria is a bane which indicates that formulation of best governance policies and its poor execution signified poor performance resulting in socioeconomic issues, which is the case in Nigeria. Several issues are mentioned to be lack of execution of governance policies not limited to human attitudes such as greed, lack of accountability, lack of transparency, and corruption influencing the achievement of the great objectives of governance policies to reduce poverty in Nigeria. Policy implementation issues in Nigeria hinge on crucial influences such as governance, policymaking, and behavior influences (Tochukwu et al., 2018).

In this theme, some of the participants directly hinge on Vision 20: 2020 as one of the best governance policies formulated in Nigeria but never achieved as an example of issues with policy implementation in Nigeria to corroborate the drive of this study. The study found that the Vision 20: 2020 policy was formulated to prioritize socioeconomic development in Nigeria but yielded no impact and effective implementation. The study revealed that the rate of financial exclusion of adults proposed in the policy by 2020 to achieve was 20% but presently more than 36% in 2021. The educational component proposed in the policy in positioning the higher education in Nigeria and growth focusing

on creating a center for excellence to ensure that universities are more research-focused rather than just teaching was jettisoned and yet to be implemented. Nigeria was expected to have an international financial center by 2020 for the financial sector. A similar situation befell health improvement; Agricultural development, and the economic standard of living of Nigerians as envisioned in the policy document, consequently, the participants stated that no aspect of the Vision 2020 can be referred to as achieved in Nigeria or appropriately implemented, absolutely little or none. Policy deficient is imminent if its intended objectives are not accomplished, abandoning socioeconomic problems without a solution (Zittoun, 2015).

There had been divergent policy formulation in Nigeria with an inconsequential aspect of the policies executed, yet there is no evidence or specific development to signify the little implementation (Dialoke et al, 2017). This position substantiated the perspectives of the participants of this study that Nigeria has the best policies on paper because Vision 20: 2020 was well articulated as a 10 years plan; however, the 4 year short-term tenure also played a part in the execution of the policy. I found incoherence in implementation based on each regime launch of its initiative and not drawing inspiration or consideration of an ongoing governance policy without attention to whether the new agenda conforms to the planned direction in the previous plan before the advent of its government affect socioeconomic development in Nigeria. diverse policies to resolve socio-economic development issues in Nigeria were signed by various governments as their tenor evolves (Solomon & Fidelis, 2018). Consequently, before 2020, Dialoke et al. in 2017 posited that deficiency in public policy in Nigeria due to inadequate government

and governance could impede the proposed ambition to metamorphose into a developed nation by 2020. Going by the antecedents of previous governance policies in Nigeria as uncovered in this study and affirmed by Eneh (2011) had noted that Vision 2020 remained a vision until accomplished not only by approving but through consciousness to improvement and committed desire to resolve issues affecting the citizens by the Government sincerely. True to its word; indeed, Vision 2020 never realized its vision.

The Vision 20: 2020 policy assumes Nigeria to attain one of the top 20 economies in the World by 2020; it aims to explore its natural resources to provide, eradicate poverty and ensure quality means of livelihood to its citizens. However, poverty is in Nigeria with increased unemployment, resulting in insecurity. P9 stated, why is Nigeria project an unrealistic policy? Nigeria wants to be among the first 20 economies in the World. Lack of a sense of a nation also contributed to the lack of execution of Vision 2020 policy because there is no structure to agree on what is required to improve socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Research affirmed that Vision 20: 2020 had a broad goal of restoring the economic, social, and achievable development to deliver sufficient infrastructure and social goods and services to enhance Nigeria's economic development and supported that nevertheless, the policy was confronted with poor governance issues, misappropriation, buying power, flawed fiscal system (Chukwuma & Nwanbam, 2017).

Participants noted that individual actors in government are more critical in action than the governance system in Nigeria; otherwise, the system would ensure that any government that assumes a position toiled the path of the governance policies in action to

achieve the prescribed objective of socioeconomic development. However, Nigeria is a country where the institution is not functional, whereas the system expected to direct the leaders relied more on the leaders. Research affirmed that policy without legal action and enshrined in a good governance system would suffer from enforcement and lack of implementation, which is practically a bane in the Nigerian government system and manifested in Vision 2020 (Itumo & Nwefuru, 2016). Literature supported and recognized the socio-political challenges, including corruption, poverty, unemployment, insecurity, politics, and governance, amid several other issues in Nigeria (Obamuyi & Oladapo, 2016).

The participants disclosed that the lack of enforcement of governance policy to continue its gestation in execution had resulted in inconsistency and policy summersault culminating in severe impact in the socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Findings for this study revealed that Nigeria has no specific rolling plan presently, which was employed as guides growth until the end of the Gowon regime; instead, Adhoc arrangement is prevalent in the present dispensation with the government after government jettisoning policies and launching new initiatives. The participants noted that Institution is neglected, while individuals take precedence over the governance system; so frequently, there are diverse policies, but there is no transitioning and lack of succession plan because Nigeria lacks long time commitment to governance policies on socioeconomic development; therefore, poverty, unemployment and insecurity continue to ravage the country. Participants indicated that the issues that concern poverty and other socioeconomic problems extend beyond 4 years embedded with intensive politics in



action within this period in the execution of policies; consequently; policies will not be grounded on sustainability because of lack of empirical data, which indicates that the intention was never in tandem with the national development. A recent example shared by P4 is the discontinuation of petroleum subsidy and introduction of a cash payment of N5000 to 40 million Nigerians with a possible impending consequence to further deepened Nigeria debt portfolio because the fund to execute the policy is loan as against the petroleum subsidy with reduced burden of over-priced petroleum resources and increase in prices of goods and services to be procured by the Nigeria citizens. Research supported that policy formulation had not resolved Nigerian citizens' poverty, problem, and development intention (Dialoke et al., 2017). In corroboration, program failure hinges on a lack of specific policy structures and precepts, lack of progression, and policy interference (Kura et al., 2019).

Cancellation and shifting of governance policies by government in Nigeria because such did not emanate from the government in power is induced by politics from perspectives obtained in this study. Such actions of the political actors are why governance policies have not supported socioeconomic development in Nigeria. It is shameful that diverse development policies in Nigeria had not yielded expected objectives to the public; instead, enormous socioeconomic development issues linger without strategic resolution (Uche, 2019). Nigeria Vision 20: 2020 policy indicated that "Weak implementation of diverse strategic development initiatives has constrained the country's growth and development." P9 stated that government has abounding matters on its plate, consuming too much than its capacity, while every political actor aimed to have

a share of the national cake (government resources), such that had impacted the execution of governance policies in Nigeria. The inconsistency of governance policy indicates the magnitude that government directions and policy are disorientated and unaccountable (Wang et al., 2017).

Some of the participants stated that misplacement of priority by government impacts the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development to improve the livelihood of the citizens. I discovered that some state governors and political actors often embark on a white elephant or legacy projects such as stadiums, Airports in a community that have dilapidated schools, poor health facilities, poor water system, no industrial development, and education on ground zero without consideration for the livelihood of the people or sustainability of the projects. Subsequently, when legacy projects are situated in a community that cow disrupts crops of farmers and does not get completed before the tenor of that government or built and vandalized because it lacks economic value to the State and of no benefit to the poor who could hardly feed, it turned to an abandoned project. Such situations often occurred because there was no consultation with the community on the need within the environment before embarking on such a project that the incoming government may never complete. There is a misalignment between intention and the implementation of the policy; the prioritization might be to favor specific elite within the society or to secure votes for an elected position without concentrating if the projects under the governance policies assist in driving the economic development of the nation. Nigerian citizens' socioeconomic status is a significant issue that required reviewing the actors' governance policies and actions

over the years, leading to poor status of the situation to proffer solution towards attracting the consciousness of the policymakers (Ojo et al., 2014).

The monitoring and evaluation process on the execution of governance policies is ineffective in Nigeria; if there are any, there are no traces; therefore, socioeconomic issues persist in Nigeria according to the participants. Some participants shared perspectives on deficiency in monitoring and evaluation to drive policy impact analysis to deploy lessons learned in the formulation of new policies with innovation and built-in creativity as a challenge inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The poverty alleviation policy was obstructed owing to poor policy design, deficient coordination, insufficient financing coupled with a deficiency in monitoring and evaluation (Kura et al., 2019). This study discovered that oil revenue shared to states had made their dependency on the federal government without creativity to advance the prosperity for their State. At the same time, the sovereign itself cannot generate revenue because the economy is not diversified expected to be propelled by specific actions of the government. Fifty percent of the participants indicated that over-dependency on oil is as an issue of leadership and governance in Nigeria without innovation on old policy considering the world has moved. The actions and exploits of the government and economic executives who depend on oil revenue and gains has plunged Nigeria into the oil resource curse (Iyoha et al., 2015). Nevertheless, some 20 years old, policy is still in operation in Nigeria instead of fashioning out the best approach to governance policies to resolve socioeconomic issues considering Nigeria's overpopulation, which has not been to the country's advantage.

Thirty-three percent of the participants expressed a lack of policy analysis on executed governance policies on socioeconomic development to inform policymaking to avoid similar issues on the new policy. The nitty-gritty of policy formulation is often neglected, which then emanates during implementation, thereby impacting the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development and impedes achieving its objectives according to the participants. Developing nations are confronted with a high increase in citizens and poverty (Okere & Chike, 2020). Further, despite all programs structure to reduce poverty in Nigeria, the government has failed to concentrate on their comparative results and implications (Kura et al., 2019).

An emergent issue uncovered from this study is the lack of cultural milieu and diversity as consideration for policy formulation and its effective execution. Some participants noted that the culture and diversity of Nigerians are exigent in policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria; otherwise, problems socioeconomic issues will persist in the affected community or state. Ethical biases and religious biases often impact the implementation of policies; consequently, a policy widely acceptable in a particular region, when advanced to federal government national policy, could be rejected in another region in Nigeria, for instance, education. Such action misinterprets a governance policy; invariably, the cultural milieu as an interception within different regions in Nigeria also affects policymaking. Public policies are a solid developmental mechanism entrusted to the government of developing nations; therefore, Nigeria should not be exceptional based on its diversity and other complicated issues when the issues can be addressed in fairness, dedicatedly, in principle, and consciously (Nwafor Orizu et al.,

2018). This study revealed that so far as a lacuna of culture and diversity exists in different regions of the Nigerian economy, socioeconomic development will not advance at the same pace desired because, despite all good governance policies, some considered them antiregional in some cases. In this regard, cultural milieu and diversity are considered part of policy formulation and implementation issues constituting challenges inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The perspective drawn from this study aligned with findings in that policy implementation hinged on countries' peculiarities based on its political, social, economic, governance, and behavioral dynamics that impact competently or deficiently a policy or plan is executed (Khan and Khandekar, 2016). Further, changing the government's governing behavior and policymakers in the country is critical to Nigeria's consciousness, commitment, and decisions on socioeconomic development problems (Ojo et al., 2014).

#### ***Absence of Lack of Sense a Nation of Citizens***

The findings from this study revealed that political actors and the citizens are operating in a different sphere to impede the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Some participants indicated that lack of demand from the citizens from the government entrenched the political actors to behave irrational meanwhile the government also had negated to tax as required; consequently, there is no control of the citizens because several of them do not get taxed while the government at the same time had failed to align available national resource appropriately to budget allocation. The participants of this study indicated that lack of a sense of a nation had

impeded governance policies on socioeconomic development because there is no consensus to have a good structure of governance which could make the government think of budget on poverty to the poorer community. If citizens share similar views on the progress and development of the nation, it will induce the same concerns for all the regions in the country without biases or specific preference for any which is the current situation in the country. Further the participants hinge on the psychology and psyche of the political actors and the citizens that Nigerians are not acting as a nation because everyone claims their origin instead of a Nigerian, impacting policy formulation and execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. The assertion of the participants is corroborated by Food and Agriculture Organization (2019), supporting that formulation of strategic policy and legislation along with competency and prerequisite skills can culminate into the involvement of the locals' stakeholders, which produces a sense of belonging and inclusiveness, resulting in benefits of effective participation that would yield expected outcome and good management of the policy process and its implementation.

The study unearthed that the issue of religion and ethnicity comes into action in official matters of any kind and becomes operational on development in Nigeria, and as such intercepting the country from advancing beyond its current status on socioeconomic development, which should not be the case in respective of origin of individual citizens in governance. The acculturation of biases on ethnicity and religion divides consequently, glaringly Nigeria do not consider each other as an entity in all intents and purposes. The citizens of a country experience the impact of inadequacies in executing a policy when

the recipients face hindrances or limitations in obtaining sufficient goods and services necessary and obligatory (Cejudo & Michel, 2017). Some participant indicated that Nigerians are docile citizenry who refrained demands on the government, if they do, government would have been on their toes which had led government formulating decisions on their preferences and without citizens questioning their actions despite the impact of their action in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development.

I further discovered that government, political actors and followership had imbibed the same path of lack of conscience because they often cited that fish rots from the head down despite understanding the action of government impacts their standard of living yet, there is no willingness to retract their path as well which also impedes socioeconomic development. P6 cited a situation in Anambra State in the recent governorship election where a particular candidate shared N5000 naira to be voted, which is less than USD 9.00 per person. Some State citizens accepted the offer, but some women vehemently rejected the offer indicating that previously political actors have shared such. After assuming office for 4 years of their existence, no socioeconomic development comes to effect in the state had affected their livelihood. This situation projected inept citizens and citizens' responsibility concurrently in Nigeria. The citizens must challenge the government's accountability of their responsibility to the public; specifically, Nigerian citizens must never again be quiet or inaudible on weak governance policies (Ojo et al. 2016). P8 affirmed that public service is not structured to inclusiveness of citizens as critical owners and collaborators in resources management of

the nation. The advent of economic development in Nigeria required that governance and natural resources management be resolved; else, the problem would persist and be insoluble (Oyewunmi & Oyewunmi, 2018).

This study informed that the resources generated from the oil are not properly appropriated to budget because resources allocation is premised on criticality instead of policies; therefore, public policy in Nigeria does not focus on the welfare of the citizens. To ensure economic development and progress in policy development, the government must manage the national resources to prevent recklessness, poverty, and unemployment with a strong emphasis on policy formulation with the intention of economic development (Obamuyi & Oladapo, 2016).

### ***High Level of Poverty***

The issue that concerns the lack of execution of previous diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development also reflected in the Vision 20: 2020 despite being fashioned to tame implementation issues synonymous to previous governance policies and specifically to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria, which was never realized at the expiration of its life cycle. This theme emanated to depict the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria because of the action of the political actor behavior to impede the execution of governance policies as formulated to achieve its programmed objectives. As of 2020, 82.9 million, 40.1% of Nigerians were still living on less than USD 1.90 in poverty daily, according to the National Bureau of statistic, Nigeria; however, in 2022, new data on the poverty line is being considered by World Bank's income threshold to USD 3.20, if that came to the reality that would drop



Nigeria poverty to above 70% an extreme (World Bank Group, 2021). The perspectives of the 75% of the 12 participants in this study affirmed poverty is increasingly growing in Nigeria because the effect of governance policies has affected Nigeria's nature and pace of development to the extent of being regarded as the poverty headquarter of the world acquired from India. This assertion resonates with the findings of Suleiman and Aminul Karim (2015), who posited that poor governance in Nigeria had transformed the core mechanism of the nation's socio-policies and economic structure, which unhinge and leading to the inexistence of socio-economic livelihood development generating a surge of demoralization, uncertainty among the public and the vulnerable prone to extreme poverty.

The participants indicated that the inability of the legislators to concentrate on the poverty situation in Nigeria is affecting Nigeria's dreams and socioeconomic development. Consistent with this position, Government in developing countries is unproductive and deficient in providing the public aspirations concerning the development and welfare of its citizens (Nag, 2018). Considering the poverty situation in Nigeria is alarming, governance deficiency seems to be the principal cause responsible for the failure to alleviate poverty (Kura et al., 2019). However, there are seemingly efforts on electricity which has not yielded much improvement while struggles are ongoing to resuscitate railway with Loans from China. China is supplying all materials and building the infrastructure and at the same time exploiting and mining products of Nigeria's solid mineral such as gold along with other international communities, which should have improved socioeconomic development of Nigerians; meanwhile, all

industrialization has collapsed; therefore, no significant improvement in Nigeria according to the participants. Consistent with this assertion, policies and strategies to combat global circumstantial deterioration and failure, gender imbalance, and poverty are always inadequate, ineffective, or insufficient (Jerneck, 2015).

This study discovered that leaders in Nigeria are using poverty as a widget to perdure their leadership acts; therefore, poverty lingers in all indicators of underdevelopment in Nigeria, impacting citizens' performance and functionality in their daily lives. Sociopolicy challenges of poverty and unemployment had seriously impacted Nigeria's socioeconomic development (Obamuyi & Fapetu, 2016). Despite government Vision 20: 2020 policy initiated to address the best economy for improved livelihood in 2020 (Alumona, 2021), an average Nigerian live in abject poverty, surviving on less than \$1.90 per day according to World Bank in 2020. Consequently, government governance policies have affected the pace and nature of Nigeria, resulting in poverty because the political actors have obstructed and impeded socioeconomic development with their actions and inactions. Despite government governance policies, the socioeconomic development issues persisted in Nigeria and resulted in poverty, which is sufficient to adduced to the level of development in the country from independence till present.

### ***Lackluster Socioeconomic Development***

The perspectives shared in this study revealed that specific governance situations craved for consciousness on the polarity that exists between the South and North region of the country concerning cultural contrast, in specific governance issues regionally. Participants expressed that increase in population than the generated outputs would

further deepen the socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. As informed, the revenue from oil which is the main sources of income of the Nigeria government has not been distributed proportionately, except creating wealth for only the political actors and elites consequently, entrenching inequality and poverty in Nigeria. Governance policies in Nigeria have not yielded the expected socioeconomic development; instead, the policymakers and political elites operate in opulence at the expense of the citizens, using the national resources for personal gains instead of the proportionate distribution of public goods and services (Olaopa, 2012). Given the elites (the actors) have been in charge of governing Nigeria for more than 20 years, Socioeconomic development has failed in Nigeria (Ojo et al., 2020).

The perspective shared in this study disclosed that circumvent of action of Nigerians, specifically those charged with the responsibility of policy implementation, has confined to the present situation of poor execution of governance policies to impact socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Reviewing diverse government governance policies in Nigeria as shared by the participants, the question remained to what extent has any effectively impacted the citizens. The question raised by the participants resonates with the central research question of “How have government governance policies impacted socioeconomic development in Nigeria?” Poverty is expected to be the core focus of policymaking; however, corruption subverts the path of execution exposing bad governance in Nigeria is weak to concentrate and distributes benefits to the citizens because it had been encapsulated by self-interest, which plunges policy distance from the requisite citizens’ welfare according to the participants. To institute the impact of

governance on poverty curtailment and socioeconomic development issues, other aspects of governance must be explored, particularly policymaking and management direction (Kwon & Kim, 2014).

### ***Escalation of Insecurity***

Governance deficiency has become challenging to exterminate poverty, provide infrastructural facilities, and curb insecurity, obstructing its development (Yagboyaju, 2019). In Nigeria, insecurity is a new device that had characterized the pace and nature of Nigeria, impeding governance policies to produce socioeconomic development. Some participants in this study disclosed that insecurity has crept into some region in Nigeria and has transformed to national issue. However, the problem is considered solvable but specific governance issues within the affected area required consciousness of action of the political actors because the policies, but the policies instituted with the affected area is the drawback according to the participants. Vast deprivation, unemployment, insecurity, ignorance, dysfunctional health system, collapsing and damaged infrastructure, huge debts are among socio-economic issues in Nigeria (Uche, 2017).

The participants indicated that the lack of the rule of law and its execution have resulted in insecurity, impeding governance policies on socioeconomic development, indicating a failed government globally, including Nigeria. Escalation of insecurity in Nigeria has characterized the pace and nature of Nigeria induced by an idle mind that conceives crime because of unemployment due to lack of execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The fundamental responsibility of the government to maintain public goods and services and protection of life and property is

not operational in Nigeria because safety is not guaranteed in any region in Nigeria presently. Research corroborated that poverty, unemployment, insecurity, and dilapidated infrastructure have remained unresolved due to the impact of governance policies in Nigeria (Eneh, 2011). Findings from Vision 20: 2020 indicated that according to the framer, the policy was expected to channel the capacity and strength of Nigerian citizens and appropriately and accountably harness natural resources to assure "a standard of living and quality of livelihood to the citizen (Vision, 2009). However, that had not materialized in Nigeria despite been a decade policy.

In this study, findings revealed that lack of execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development had channeled the capacity and strengths of Nigerian citizens to cause insecurity which emanated from unemployment, induced by poverty because the political actors created challenges inherent in the execution of the policies as a consequence of their political actions which affected policy formulation and its implementation. Human development is pertinent to development and indicated that one of the necessary means and approach for improving the human livelihood judging from the standard of living hinges on access to good education and essential health services; however, in Nigeria, the health facility is deficient, security status is disturbing, while education is consistently deteriorating (Ita, 2020). Research also informed on the need for transformation and policy direction considering diverse insecurities issues that have affected socio-economic contexts, a decline in public expenditure, and business implications in Nigeria (Oyewunmi & Oyewunmi, 2018). Further, if there must be economic development in Nigeria, governance and resources management must be

tackled and addressed; otherwise, the issues would remain unresolved (Oyewunmi & Oyewunmi, 2018).

### ***Policy Strategy and Direction***

On this theme, I found that deficient governance policies have escalated insecurity beyond Nigerians' expectations due to socioeconomic issues. This theme is derived from the 12 participants and elicited the perspectives for policy strategy and direction towards improving the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria after revealing the challenges inherent and impeding governance policies in Nigeria, which led Nigeria to a high level of poverty and escalated insecurity characterizing the pace and nature of Nigeria. The participants mentioned some of the policy strategy and direction from Questions 1 to 10 while responding to the questions; therefore, the aggregate of the participants' perspectives culminated into this theme as they provided policy strategy and direction that can shape Nigeria's pace in policymaking based on the challenges pointed to have impacted governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. A significant issue that concerns policy implementation is that the process of its execution is devoid of adequate strategic direction or principles (Khan & Khandekar, 2016). However, policy strategy indicates the governance of policy formulation and specific directions for implementation (Carter et al., 2016). Similarly, research corroborated how socioeconomic issues in Nigeria are aggravated by poor governance resulting in high unemployment, insufficient social well-being, inadequate health facility, which has continued to expand, inequalities and imbalances among the wealthy and the poor crippling 'social integration and confidence in governance (Irabor,

2020).

P1 indicated that as a strategic direction, the government and policymakers must understand why it exists to provide security, welfare, and well-being of their citizens; however, this contradicts the present situation in Nigeria; consequently, it becomes imperative for the policymakers understand the impetus of their existence. The assertion of P1 substantiated the root of this study in the literature reviewed under the theme government and its responsibility, citing US History, n.d which corroborated that Governments specifically emanated with the need to provide goods and services, protect people from conflicts and provide law and order. In this regard, some participants specified that a government with a clear vision that understood the Nigerian situations, the structural deficits, and the challenges inherent in the governance policies in the country is needed. The participants noted that an honest and patriotic government that will prioritize policies according to the needs of the citizens with government officials that would demonstrate compassion for the people is required in Nigeria. The participants noted that the advent of this consciousness would restructure Nigeria's governance system, which will align all policymakers with deploying the instrumentality of good governance strategy and acting ethically on the matter that concerns the livelihood of the citizens, their responsibilities, and ensuring appropriate governance policies and its effective execution is given attention in Nigeria. government has the responsibility to respond in diverse situations and opinions to impart all-inclusive development and livelihood of the people of society (Nag, 2019).

The participants suggested that the government needs to be accountable to the

citizens by providing updates on the policies' implementation. Participants further noted that if issues had impeded the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development, the citizens must be carried along as the actions evolve; that way, criticism of the government might reduce. Enormous natural and mineral resources in Nigeria are expected to have culminated into socio-economic development, rather poverty and unemployment have dominated the space of the country, which is the architect of the lack of accountability and mismanagement of the resources depicting the failure of governance (Sunday & Lawal, 2016). Accountability extended above ordinary responsibility of provision of demand or service; it also connotes liability where there is a deficiency in the provision of service promptly and effectively, which culminates into an obligation (Pswarayi Riddihough, 2018). The participants stated that the citizens should be able to question the government without being punished on issues that concern their well-being which is currently lacking in Nigeria as no one could question the actors in government. Further, accountability implies that the government in power can be questioned for their actions and policies (Ochieng et al., 2016).

Some participants indicated the need for agreement on policy to foster an inclusive system considering that Nigeria is a country with a multiplicity of people from different backgrounds; therefore, the need for a guiding principle on how to resolve the socioeconomic issues ravaging the country. The action on the all-inclusiveness agreement will lead to the emergent of homegrown policies to avoid unrealistic plans, which must be tested with a sense of the future to articulate and prioritize the National Plan. Such a process would allow for proper alignment to budget allocation to avoid policy



formulation and implementation issues. In that regard, the participants noted that Nigeria could learn and benefit from other climes on how policy issues were resolved and how governance policies have assisted in socioeconomic development. Failure tends to influence and spring on consciousness from one problem to another, and various evidence can be employed to stimulate and inspire that redirection in policymaking (Cairney & Oliver, 2017).

The participants stated that it is critical to move to a specific action arena (beneficiaries) for policy formulation and implementation. According to the participants, there is a need for policy interface with beneficiaries to understand their actual needs within their community for evidence-based data before embarking on policy formulation to ensure equitable distribution of policies and their effects across the country. Most importantly, the participants emphasized that consultation with the beneficiaries of policies and understanding their cultural milieu is fundamental to policy formulations; such action would intercept actions to mitigate governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Consequently, the process will ensure policies are crafted to inculcate the peculiarities of culture, social, ethics, and national idiosyncrasies before promulgating the policies as suggested by the participants to ensure the execution of governance policies socioeconomic development in Nigeria. According to the participants, the government must understand the citizens' sensibilities, attitudes, and dispositions; to give the ordinary citizens a sense of belonging in the issues that concern their livelihood before formulating the policies. Research corroborated that policy formulation depends on the interaction of evidence-based exploration of problems with

influence-based deliberations, such as the governmental valuation of the costs and benefits of the anticipated policy and its consequence on the beneficiaries and constitutional concerns of governments (Howlett & Mukherjee, 2017).

The participants affirmed a need for evidenced-based informed policymaking and the overall economy and the citizens, which could be nexus from all relevant stakeholders; the policies are intended to impact that way it would induce policy research and strategies needed to enhance socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Good governance is obviously not in effect in developing countries; therefore, it had impaired the ability and competency to formulate specific policies and ascertained to produce evidence-based policy (Gisselquist, 2012). The attitude, governance, and constitutional transformation that control policymaking politics are required for the government's attentiveness in Nigeria; such transformation will enable citizens' rights to development most exigent is the policymaking direction (Bukari, 2015). Committed, and undeviating principles impart the approach for policymaking; recent evidence on accomplishing a policy panacea must be followed through a redirection of consciousness effective rules and principles (Cairney & Oliver, 2017).

Some participants indicated the need for ideology in policymaking in Nigeria to ensure policies are properly outlined and sustainable, using government capacity as a review mechanism for knowledge sharing on policies. The institution and consciousness of this process would remove constitutional impediments affecting policy formulation and its implementation to allow for localized governance and ensure the rule of law strives in the Nigerian system. In corroboration to the participants' assertion, research

affirmed that government is inferred to imply to be established using a structured system or strategy to govern (Stoker, 2019). From the findings of this study, the Nigerian government should avoid political-driven strategies and policy decisions while monitoring should not be ceded to the interpretation of the political actors and their advisors. The fundamental change intended at improving the competency and advancing government course of action in policy formulation and implementation indicates a delegated and network governance instead of a concentrated and government-established approach (Vahdaninia & Darodi, 2019). This approach centers on a comprehensive form of policy mechanism or modernizations for public action rather than the institution and initiative to solve public issues (Vahdaninia & Darodi, 2019).

The findings from this study revealed the need for Inter-Agency Coordination and collaboration to ensure the ministry, department, and agencies of government are complementing each other without competition. This atmosphere will lead to synergies on policy objectives related to their respective sectors within the economy to ensure direction on policy goals and capital budget decisions towards allocation of resources to prioritized governance policies on socioeconomic development. The cooperation will induce refocused policymaking on the capacity and capability of the poor to lift them out of poverty through effective execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. Consequently, the collaboration would streamline favorable policies in all sectors of the economy to inform the right policies to improve Nigeria's governance system. The interagency collaboration and coordination would improve public goods and services to inform job creation and employment for improved quality of life of the

Nigerian citizens to reduce poverty and insecurity. Inclusive growth effects of institutional quality and purposeful governance competency and behavior significantly impacted socioeconomic development in the USA, Europe, and Asia (Olanrewaju et al., 2020). Good governance is the effective and efficient collaboration between the government and society; its achievement depends on executives and legislatures (policymakers) in charge of the public affairs and political management of a country (Keping, 2016).

The participants noted that Nigerian need leaders could chart the path to the right direction to give the multi-ethnicity citizens the comfort of being a Nigerian using a normative framework irrespective of their origin to influence socioeconomic development. Further, Nigeria leaders could learn and emulate a sense of a nation as built-in citizens and exhibited by the Asian tigers in Singapore spear headed by Lee Kuan Yew, in Malaysia by Mahathir Mohammed, and recently in Rwanda, which is an African country advancing in the right direction of socioeconomic development. Government is portrayed by its capacity to resolve issues and decide on the best option and its competency to implement (Stoker, 2019).

Seventy-five percent of the 12 participants indicated Nigeria needs a change in the leadership recruitment model to ensure well-qualified individuals and unquestionable personalities with adequate capacities are assuming positions to transform problematic social behavior of Nigeria institutions and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The participants noted that deployment of nepotism and godfatherism to institute unqualified individuals in strategic positions and elective positions in the country impedes

governance policies in Nigeria and lack of execution, the need to change the leadership recruitment model based on knowledge, integrity, credibility, and impeccable global recognition.

I found that the advent of these changes would inform leadership with a clearly defined vision and suitable capacities to formulate and implement the right governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Since the advent of democratic Governance in sub-Sahara African territory, the region's citizens have been expecting a resolution to the multiple socioeconomic issues staged by poor governance of past dictatorial governments (Patrick, 2016). Nations with effective governments are stronger, are more capable of stimulating private economy development, ameliorating poverty, providing consequential services, and drawing the public's trust (World Bank, 2020).

In a related expression, the participants stated that there is a need for our value system to change to inform reformation in the civil and public services to draw the path for motivation for those responsible for policy formulation and implementation to ensure the crafting of the policies are done transparently. Then, consequences may be instituted for ill actions possible to contravene the paths outlined for policy strategy ad direction for all heads of institutions to instill discipline in Nigeria's governance system. The participants muted that there is a need for training for the implementer of governance policies on socioeconomic development, specifically core civil servants, to be independent of political cycles with the requisite capacity to provide empirical data without political tones, given that diverse governance policies have failed in Nigeria. The participants noted the need to have effective anti-corruption strategies to curb the

activities of the political actors. Literature corroborated the participants' assertion on the need for the citizen to insist on accountability and transparency in governance to hinder personal benefits to curb corruption and to participate effectively in policymaking, and its implementation is imminent in Nigeria (Igiebor, 2019). With the change in leadership recruitment model, civil and public services reformation culture of accountability would be integrated into the Nigeria governance system, which will foster a strong institution of governance to depict good governance in Nigeria; consequently, the anticorruption system will be effective as a result of strong ethical system borne out of the system restructuring. To substantiate the findings from the participants, literature affirmed that governance is the means of controlling or governing the policies, handling, and undertaking of an institution at the executive stage with the power, credibility, and the duty to carry out such acts (Khan et al 2019). Governance denotes a structure or procedure for exerting control by government administration and other agencies with regards to collectively common principles (Adhikari, 2020). These principles could be referred to as (the bedrock of governance) and extensive constitutionally-entrenched governmental approach (framework of governance) that implements government responsibility to provide public goods and services that establish and incorporate the connection between the government and the citizens.

The participants pointed out the need to formulate and execute governance policies with clear direction devoid of political interference. The perspectives shared revealed diverse policies exist, but in most cases, some are with implementation direction issues which is worrisome; however, a recent policy such as subsidy removal

implementation issues would be an impending burden in the future. Specifically, of concern is the direction of implementing good policies adequately considered to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria. The participants indicated that Vision 20: 2020 policy was appropriately structured and organized; however, it was de-emphasized by the notion that encapsulated the political economy on its execution trajectory. Considering several anomalies that had impaired the execution of diverse governance policies in Nigeria, the participants advised that the strategies described at the formulation of the policies should not be subjected to politically driven actions and ceded to the interpretation of the political actors and their advisers to impact the implementation and monitoring of the policies. It has become imperative that the principles of governance policies are not the focus of execution solely; however, it must be upheld and adhere to restrain the intensifying level of inadequate services and also the mismanagement and misdirection that had disintegrated socioeconomic development policies as a result of bad governance (Enaifoghe & Maramura, 2018). The participants advocated that Nigeria needs to execute existing governance policies on socioeconomic development for overall value to the economy and the citizens.

The participants noted that there is a need for monitoring and evaluation with Innovation emanated in this study as a critical strategy to the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigerian government because most of the funds used in executing the policies are from development agencies; therefore, it is critical to ensure the projects are adequately monitored and evaluated in line with the expected objectives. The policy evaluation stage involves the procedures through which

the outcome of policies is analyzed, explored, and examined by the government and civil societies, of which the result might lead to a re-creation of policy issues and resolutions (Howlette & Cashore, 2020). As extracted from findings, monitoring and evaluation must evolve in Nigeria; consequently, it is imperative to monitor the pace of innovation globally, especially with the emergent innovation in policy, monitoring and implementation, and impact analysis. Nigerian leaders must understand that Nigeria must be well-positioned competitively, politically, socially, and economically to deliver on the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development to impact the livelihood of the citizens. Good governance exigent to poverty palliation has induced compelling attention in development programs globally in the preceding decades (Chudasama, 2020).

I uncovered that Nigeria needs to concentrate on policy impact analysis to improve quality of life without relying on the west's growth, such as Vision 20: 2020 tailored to be among the best 20 economies in the world by 2020. Despite that Nigeria grew 7% concurrently until 2016, there was no impact on citizens' standard of living. In corroboration, human development is pertinent to the development and indicated that one of the necessary means and approaches for improving the human livelihood judging from the standard of living hinges on access to good education and essential health services (Ita, 2020). However, the health facility is deficient in Nigeria, security status is disturbing, and education consistently deteriorates. Nigeria seems not to have any specific yardstick to determine improved livelihood despite deploying enormous resources and funding on social investment. The participants stated that it becomes expedient to conduct policy analysis to understand the impact of the policies on the



improvement of quality of life, instead of relying on the economic numbers. The participant avowed the need for improved conditions of services, improved income, and adequate infrastructure to reduce the high level of poverty in Nigeria. Research substantiated the findings in this study that human development is obligatory to determine the socioeconomic development of a nation, in consideration that development does not hinge on the provision of development, growth in GDP, and good governance (Kubalu et al., 2017). However, evidence of purposeful economic development reflected in the people's livelihood is equally critical, according to Kabulu.

Participants suggested a dashboard design for policymakers to ascertain the level of implementation in real-time because, at policy formulation, issues may not be exposed until the execution of the policies. Consequently, the level of implementation and issues uncovered will propel policy review to ensure the right strategy and direction are deployed to correct issues impacting the execution of governance policies. Fundamental to the effectiveness and achievement of a government, policy strategy provides the mechanism for insights and possibly, improving the manner of governance of the citizen (Carter et al., 2016). There is an advocacy and admonition for developing countries and international development organizations in the World Bank policy report for reevaluation and reconsideration of their strategy, perspectives, and approach to governance as significant to prevailing over problems connected to security and development and equity (World Bank, 2017). The advocacy of the World Bank in 2017 is consistent with the concerns of the participants that Nigeria Government and policymakers to embrace a callback system to reevaluate its governance policies on socioeconomic development.

Through the use of SWOT analysis, the government can determine the impact of the policies on the citizens, and if not attaining its development and strategic objective, it can be reworked by carrying all relevant stakeholders along. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation must be used to derive policy impacts analysis and other critical tools that can be deployed to ensure the appropriate execution of diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Governance's fundamental purpose is to organize and manage the development solution to a recognized and established situation (Sacchetti & Catturani, 2017).

While government and policymakers are charged to strive and ensure the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development to impact livelihood in Nigeria, the participants noted that the citizens also have a responsibility. The government has its responsibility, so also the institutions. The followership equally has a part to contribute to the nation's socioeconomic development by ensuring that the right people are voted into positions using their voting power, as displayed by the Anambra women rejecting money for voting. Followership is charged to strive to meet necessary tax obligations. Further, followership needs to display the right attitude towards all aspects of life, including their positions either in the private or public sector of the economy, to improve Nigeria's outlook in international communities and improve investment opportunities in respect of their situation. The action of the policymakers had led the citizens to seek alternate means of survival, thereby resulting in misappropriation, swindling, unlawful actions, and related unrest activities as a result of poverty and unemployment status in Nigeria society (Olaopa, 2012). Despite the socioeconomic

situation, the citizens must act as appropriate. Those in authority must be communicated at all levels to the citizens, especially the faces representing Nigeria because of current Nigeria's outlook in the global cycle. Consequently, the responsibility of the followership cannot be negated.

### **Findings in the Context of the Theoretical Framework**

Using IAD in a country such as Nigeria was recommended because it depicts action situations where the government is obligated by situations, governance policies, other actors, and the natural setting that can incorporate almost any socioeconomic problem and the policies that emanate from the situation as revealed in this study (Ostrom & Cox, 2010). The IAD framework focuses on analyzing socioeconomic problems and the policy processes intended to resolve the lack of execution of the government policies as reflected in the Vision 20: 2020 policy in Nigeria. IAD framework extensively analyzes diverse government governance impacts on policy decisions, policy on poverty, and socioeconomic development outcomes (Cox et al., 2016; Weible & Sabatier, 2018). IAD framework was recommended to analyze the imminent way that policymakers decide within institutional (governance) settings that shape (or assist in describing) their attitude, precisely when involved in shared acts on quandaries in a country such as Nigeria (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The IAD framework core presents mechanisms to explore how various policymakers (government, political actors) and institutions initiate and generate divergent results, always assessed concerning compromise between management, equality, accountability, and other directions like well-being and prosperousness (Weible & Sabatier, 2018).

IAD framework has multiple propositions for analysis conscientiously policy design (Carter et al., 2016). The IAD framework's propositional treasure is indubitably apt to connect diverse governance situations as connected to findings in this study. Policymakers' decisions on natural resource management to the collective-choice and constitutional levels to how policymakers govern the rules (policies) for policymaking (Clement, 2010). The proposition of IAD also stated that rules and principles for institutional governance entail reviewing the interests of the policymakers' involvement in policymaking design and how policymaking design impacts governance benefits, government provisions, and or wellbeing (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The finding of this study conforms with the preposition of IAD by depicting the government and policymakers' actions in policymaking in Nigeria through bad governance, Budget proposal and development plans, political preferences and personal preference, and external interference used as a strategy for policymaking which has informed the impact of governance benefits, the inadequate provision of good and services and the livelihood of Nigeria citizens which is evident from the perspectives obtained.

IAD framework posits that principles employed to explore the institutional governance, strategies, policies, and consequences of action situations are related to those utilized in diverse public policy analyses (Weimer & Vining 2016), such as effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and accountability are all often adopted descriptive principles (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). Ostrom's IAD framework evaluation criteria is an offshoot of good governance where the outcome of a policy performance is measured and evaluated based on its efficiency, equity (redistribution), accountability, and adaptability (Baldwin et al.,

2019). According to P7, “The rule of law, transparency, accountability, due process, just name it; they are all part of the element of good Governance, but it seems to be lost now.” Also, P11 affirmed that “I think we are still struggling a little bit with entrenching Good Governance in Nigeria.” Further from the policy performance perspectives, P3 noted that “the policy themselves such as Vision 20: 2020 seeks to prioritize socioeconomic development, but because of poor implementation or half-hearted implementation, such socioeconomic developments are not really happening.” This study revealed lack of tenet of principle of governance in all aspect demonstrating bad governance dominate Nigeria space which is entrenched in the descriptive principles of IAD. Consequently, this study measured and evaluated policy performance in Nigeria and found that governance in Nigeria lacks effectiveness and efficiency, accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, and the rule of law, which delineates Nigeria’s policy performance is poor from the findings of this study.

The propositions of IAD acknowledge the extensive transaction costs connected with executing policies and provide consciousness to the circumstantial condition such as biological, physical, socioeconomic elements that can influence institutional design and performance. IAD is apt in perspective shared in this study which revealed the ideological perspectives and perceptions that characterized the execution of governance policies that government, policymakers, and political actors have been deploying. Such as parochial tendencies, lack of ideology and political philosophy to influence people, the environment, and socioeconomic performance as depicted in the poor policy performance resulted in the lack of execution of diverse governance policies in Nigeria, which also

affected the implementation of Vision 20: 2020. The participants stated that the Nigerian government lacks ideology, such as ideological nature, public institutions' orientation, and the drivers. These institutions are called neoliberal economic theory, relating to its ideology of the state. This study further uncovered that those referred to as government in Nigeria belong to political parties without ideologies; therefore, political parties in Nigeria lack ideology. The participants indicated that people would make decisions more of pecuniary considerations or parochial interest to what the policies say. Findings revealed that the government's ideology and parochial interest influenced Nigeria's Vision 20: 2020 policy and performance as indicated by IAD; the government recognized that previous diverse governance policies had failed in Nigeria due to implementation issues. Consequently, Vision 20: 2020 was formulated to resolve socioeconomic issues and to resolve implementation issues that affected other governance policies to attain one of the best 20 economies in the world, which never happened as a result of poor execution.

The IAD background provides the framework's compatibility with multiple theories and models but is not limited to "new institutional economics" (Baldwin et al., 2019). IAD aimed to comprise facets that institutional scholars desire to investigate to explore diverse institutional (governance) situations encompassing human dynamics or behavior within public or administration, private sector, families, community foundations, policymaking, government, and government institutions. The exploration in this study resonates with the IAD framework because the findings depict different actions and behavior within public service and administration, policymaking, government, and

government institutions. Using the IAD lens from the perspective drive in this study on human action and behavior within public service (political actor, elites,) the study is consistent by uncovering that too much politics in the implementation of the policy is an issue such as the government that did that policy gave it to somebody who is their own, and another government came and canceled it. So, according to the participants, the actions and behavior of the government, policymakers, and political actors are why the governance policies in Nigeria have not assisted in the country's socioeconomic development. From the government's perspective, the participants stated that the government embarks on the decision they desire, and nobody is questioning their actions. The participants' further hinges on government institutions that in most cases, the head of the parastatal, minister bypass the rules and take action on what they desire or suitable for them, and the rules do not always hold; and, often, nobody there questions their action; otherwise, such persons would be punished, or the person will be robed in trouble (some soup). As detailed above, some of the human dynamics and behavior uncovered in this study resonate with IAD, which has impacted Nigeria's governance policies on socioeconomic development.

IAD accommodates a metatheoretical expression to allow researchers to explore any specific proposition or to contrast theories (Ostrom, 2010). Researchers explore a particular theory to ascertain the aspects of the IAD framework imminently applicable to expound the diverse impact of governance and their interaction (Ostrom, 2010) on society. The institutional analysis necessitates deducing the characteristics of the problem, the behavior of the people (culture), and the governing environment that the

people dwell in (Ostrom, 1990; Imperial, 1999). In analyzing a governance system extensively on the characteristic that impacts socioeconomic development, the IAD framework helped establish and describe government governance policy behavior in Nigeria in this study (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). From the Lens of IAD, the study shows that socioeconomic issues in Nigeria are deteriorating, emanating from the behavior of the government and political actors exhibiting poor leadership acts that produced a bad governance environment that the citizens of Nigeria reside, therefore, impeding and impacting the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development.

The findings from the participants are further substantiated by IAD in that the government governance policies behavior in Nigeria is devoid of appropriate policy processes because governance policies are not formed based on empirical evidence data from the beneficiaries of policies. Instead, policies are informed by the president's body language and the thinking of individuals, turned into policies as expressed by the participants. The participants informed that the loudest voice in the cabinet determines the policy direction, not the most intelligent voice. Then, once the political actor exhibits actual access to power pronounced, a need to implement XYZ it becomes a policy pronouncement without informed evidence-based to determine the policy; instead, the body language of the president is explored, and that becomes a policy position. IAD recognized that human activities in policymaking are diverse; the actors possess different information, attributes, reasoning abilities, choices, problem-solving, policymaking, and governing; consequently, the potential of these features to generate social attitude with a complicit character as self-interested persons confronts people with explicit social



objectives (Polski & Ostrom, 2012). From the Lens of IAD, several human activities in this study are diverse. They are the raw acquisition of the nation's wealth for personal benefits, greed, embezzlement, personal gains, emboldening of corruption, mediocracy, profiteering, geopolitical leaning, circumvention of the procurement process, bid manipulation, personalization of government, information asymmetry, corruption, and self-interest. Consequently, the political actors deployed these human activities based on the information at their disposal, thereby informing their attitude and reasoning capacity to solve problems that led to policymaking and governance in Nigeria, thereby impacting the execution of socioeconomic development.

Transaction cost and agent-based modeling were used from the lens of IAD in the analysis of this study. Agent-based modeling acknowledges the fundamental issues that people often confront within a different environment involving the provision and governing of public goods and natural resources. It considers asymmetric information problems, adverse selection issues, moral hazards issues, aggregation of preference issues, team collaboration issues, principal-agent issues, and the issue of establishing or shaping complex governance policy that concerns deficient direction according to Ostrom (2012) as evidenced in this study. Transaction cost involves individual freedom of actions because of lack of set rules to curb their behaviors. The position of Ostrom on the fundamental issues confronted by Nigeria citizens is rooted in the participants' description of the government, policymakers, political actors, and their advisers' actions on personal preferences, self-interest, lack of interagency collaboration, adverse selection of leaders based on parochial tendencies and nepotism displayed by the government and

policymakers. These actions had impeded the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria arising from deficient recruitment and selection of leaders to lead Nigeria institutions, consequentially to bad governance. IAD framework is well-conceived in applying all actors' intricacies in an institutional setting such as government and people or policymakers' factors that could impede and impact governance policies on a specific situation such as socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The government attributes impact policy in Nigeria, which affects citizens' individual daily decisions to survive.

The actions of the government and political actors on governing and policymaking, as depicted in this study and affirmed by IAD, link with principal-agency issues and transactions cost involved in policy processes in Nigeria. In this study, the government's obligation on governance policies and other political actors in a country like Nigeria on socioeconomic issues was supported by Ostrom et al.'s IAD propositions. The participants indicated that government and policymakers must understand why they exist and that the specific reason why government exists is to provide security, welfare, and wellbeing of their citizens right; however, the welfare in Nigeria diminished wellbeing purposeful to assist the citizens to thrive and flourish to attain a good standard of living. The participants further noted that the prosperity of the citizens would translate to the prosperity of the country, which would pave the way for the citizens to compete globally, considering Nigeria does not exist in isolation. The assertions of the participants fundamentally entrenched IAD proposition alluding to the fact that the policies that emanate from the obligation of the government and the political actor will determine the

prosperousness of citizens as an impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria which has not been the case as revealed in the study. Further, IAD substantiated the position of the participants because the framework recognizes that the federal or national government does not exist on its own instead, it came into existence because an individual cannot govern or manage natural resources individually to avoid some actors taking more portion than the other.

In corroboration of IAD and the participants' assertions confirms that Governments emanates when people realize they would be effectively safeguarded coming together with coherent agreement to have a representative or a few with authority than the multitude to steer their affairs, this led to the creation of sovereigns and eventually results in a country to prevent intrusion from the enemy in some cases (US History, n.d). Good governance or impartial governance suggested constitutional responsibility empowering the government (agent) to regard and recognize the constitutional rights and wellbeing of the citizens (the principal) in obedience to democracy (Oyedeki, 2016). According to the participants, self-centered leadership is a problem that needs to be addressed in Nigeria. Further, the participants informed that the issue of these human elements, greed, and corruption could kill many government initiatives (governance policies). The findings revealed that everybody in Nigeria is thinking about themselves with corruption in the system; therefore, corruption is a big challenge; it is a monster eating up this country. To buttress the participants' assertions, P5 substantiated that the biggest problem known to everyone about the implementation of policies is corruption and emanates in various forms in Nigeria. P4 reiterated corruption

as a mindset and behavior, which is an integral part of why socio-economic issues remained persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies to address development in Nigeria. P6 capped the conversation that the barrier and the most significant impediment, the biggest obstacle is corruption, and the most prominent type of corruption in Nigeria is self-interest.

In this regard, the findings from this study are grounded on the IAD theoretical framework; according to Ostrom (2011), the framework, theories, and models have embedded ideas that are interwoven and relevant to explore and elucidate human exploits and actions. Using the principal-agent problem idea, the government is considered the agent employed by the citizens (principal) to govern as a representative on its behalf. This act ensures effectiveness, efficiency, equity, accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, responsiveness, rules of law on its behalf. However, because of the information at government and political actors' disposal, they have used it for their own personal and self-interest, which is a breach of contract. Agency theory assumes that agents might exploit this information asymmetry to contravene or deviate from their responsibilities. When principals entrust policymaking decisions to government (agents), contravention might cause implemented policies to deviate from the principals' intentions, resulting in accountability, corruption, self-interest, and similar problems (Bjurstrøm, 2020). Individuals' freedom of action because of lack of rule of law had impacted the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. The perspectives shared in this study are inclined with the IAD framework and archival documents that diverse human elements action reposed with authorities have deployed

their human acts instead of working to improve the livelihood of the citizens that had impacted the execution of socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

The participants in this study indicated that execution of diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria remained a challenge considering lack of execution of Vision 20: 2020 policy initiated to address the best economy for improved livelihood in 2020. All the participants acknowledged there are good policies formulated in some case in Nigeria while some are informed by world view of political actors on the action situation (socioeconomic issues) without empirical evidence to inform the formulation of such governance policies. As informed by the participants irrespective of either the policy has good contents or not at implementation stages problems occurs because there is no supportive evidence from the beneficiaries of the to inform their specific needs because they were not consulted before formulating the policies. Consequently, issues emanated from the policies and impact the execution of the diverse governance policies in Nigeria such as the dichotomy between the North and the south region of Nigeria. This is a policy choice issues of IAD, which specified that Government policymakers are induced by the governance policies, the socioeconomic issues, and the physical world (Ostrom, 2012; Andersson, 2015). This resonates with policy approach aspect of IAD of government and political actors to address socioeconomic issues (Weible & Sabatier, 2018).

The participants of this study described poor governance in Nigeria as a challenge inherent in the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in indicating that Nigeria lack the tenet of good governance which is firmly rooted in IAD.

Ostrom's IAD framework evaluation criteria is an offshoot of good governance where the outcome of a policy performance is measured and evaluated based on its efficiency, equity (redistribution), accountability, and adaptability (Baldwin et al., 2019). In the case of this study, participants position on the policy performance in Nigeria indicated diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria failed the evaluation criteria of IAD. According to literature cited earlier in this study, Poor governance in Nigeria policies such as Vision 20: 2020 policy has deprived its citizens, thereby creating insurgency in search of livelihood, and aggravated by lack of employment and poverty (Famulusi & Oshomoh, 2018). This entrenched the fact that poor governance was the root cause lack of execution of Vision 20: 2020 policy in Nigeria.

The institutional circumstance of IAD is rooted in the physical and material state of affairs that influence how people can operate, serve, and set policies; invariably, the overall broader situation that generates the stimulant or inducement for people to act inconsiderably, greedily, or concertedly to produce public goods and service in Nigeria as evident in this study (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). The IAD framework is concerned with problem-solving pathways to allow scholars to explore and describe how people use institutional arrangements to resolve collective issues and comprehend institutional precedent (Weible & Sabatier, 2018), which aligns with the findings of policy strategy and directions in this study impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The IAD application commences with the critical recognition of the public issues that required action (Weible & Sabatier, 2018), which conforms with the approach to analyze the findings of this study. IAD was developed as a principle to

comprehensively harness analysis of socioeconomic issues and the policy approaches and conscious actions to address the lack of policy execution situation or outcomes (Grossman, 2019). Consequently, in line with IAD, I addressed the issues impacting the execution of socioeconomic development in Nigeria and provided policy strategy and direction to draw the consciousness of the government and policymakers to resolve the issues to improve the livelihood of Nigerian citizens.

IAD framework has been explored over the last three decades as a fundamental principle for a deep analysis of how institutions (government) impact human wellbeing, policy, and implications or result (Ostrom & Cox, 2010). The IAD framework was recommended to enable academics to explore and explain how scholars apply government policies to resolve public issues and know the rationale of government strategy or policies (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). IAD also directs in understanding the how and why provides the channels to initiate a discerning plan or strategy for ameliorating or improving governance effectiveness (Weible & Sabatier, 2018).

### **Limitation of the Study**

Limitations are issues out of the researcher's control, possibly affecting the research outcome (Theofanidis & Fountounkin, 2018). One of the limitations is that I was the primary instrument for data collection. Bias was mitigated by ensuring all the participants responded to the same questions. I adopted member checking by providing participants the interview transcripts for review and received confirmation before proceeding with the analysis interviews, triangulated with archival and Policy documents accessible to the public. The second limitation is that the participants were limited to

policy and development experts in this study. I used credibility, transferability, dependability, confirmability, and member checking as criteria set to ensure the quality of this study. I used a generic qualitative approach to guide the data collection and the analysis of this study.

Another limitation is that the participants own their perspectives on what this research uncovered and understood from the research questions. The assurance that the study poses no harm to participants' privacy and that information elicited will be anonymous and confidential pave the path to elicit in-depth information. Consequently, this assurance propelled participants to provide a thick, detailed description, as revealed in this study. The research contents represented participants' perspectives on the transferability and dependability of this study.

The study adhered strictly to the principles of the generic qualitative approach. The generic qualitative approach focuses on participants' perspectives and experiences of the external world (Percy et al., 2015). I utilized thematic analysis in this study. The participants of this study were recruited using purposive sampling to select policy and development experts with adequate knowledge of more than 10 years of experience on the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Further, archival and policy documents were accessible to triangulate the findings of this study.

### **Recommendations**

I focused on the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development issues in Nigeria. The research findings' scope was limited to the Nigerian government's execution of diverse governance policies using policy and development experts only. The



findings from this study may, however, create future research opportunities. As a result, I can offer the following recommendations.

I recommend that a similar study be extended to the subnational (states) governments to understand how their governance policies had impacted socioeconomic development to determine if similar results will be generated. I recommend that future research focus on the citizens directly impacted by lack of execution of governance policies to understand their perspectives on this topic. Both approaches could corroborate this study result and broaden how to execute governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria effectively. The third recommendation for additional research is to apply the lens of IAD framework and research design as provided in this dissertation to the statutory policymakers. However, they may not be willing to divulge details concerning the research. The fourth recommendation is to use a quantitative research approach to explore this topic. This study explicitly revealed the challenges impeding and inherent in the execution of governance policies and offered policy strategy and direction. Given the intensity of the results based on the exposition of diverse actions of the government, policymakers and political actors, this study's findings will be potentially helpful to critical stakeholders, such as Nigerian citizens, citizens of countries globally, academics, students, policy experts, development experts, and specifically, the actors involved government and policymakers in Nigeria and across the globe.

After independence, successive governments developed several policies and development plans to curb socioeconomic issues in Nigeria, using borrowed funds, despite there has not been any significant improvement. The execution of diverse

governance policies on socioeconomic development has impeded Nigerian development (Akinde, 2020); consequently, Nigeria's Vision 20: 2020 is not without its share of lack of execution. Studies have affirmed unemployment, poverty, and insecurity as a result of lack of execution of governance policies in Nigeria (Emmanuel, 2019; Itumo & Nwefuru, 2016; Ugoani, 2019); therefore, there is a need for the government to consciously improve the quality of service, income, and adequate infrastructures to improve livelihood. This study found that bad governance due to lack of policy interface with beneficiaries, accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, and the rule of law impeded socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Despite Nigeria's enormous wealth and resources, the challenges of honesty, transparency, competence, and accountability remain significant (Igiebor, 2019). There is a need for government, policymakers, and political actors to understand why they exist as a government is to provide public goods and services and impart all-inclusive development and livelihood to the citizens.

The application of IAD in this study is to discover the human elements that affect the execution of governance policies and provide solutions on how to curb their actions through policy strategy and direction (Weible & Sabatier, 2018). This process would ensure governance policies on socioeconomic development are adequately executed in Nigeria to resolve poverty, unemployment, and insecurity issues to improve the livelihood of the citizens is recommended. These recommendations are grounded in Chapter 4 of this study.

## **Implications**

### **Positive Social Change**

Nigeria's government attention is needed on policymaking reformation and improvement, sincere allegiance and adherence to good governance, tackling corruption, and providing public goods and services for the wretched and vulnerable society (Dauda, 2017). Policy strategy and direction in this study addressed the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria to provide standard quality of life to reverse the poverty situation that had bedeviled Nigeria and consequent insecurity. The social change implication for this study is the need for the government to consciously provide adequate public goods and services and bring about development to impact society through the implementation of governance policies on socioeconomic development. The government should make anticorruption policies to guide against corruption and mismanagement of public funds for appropriate utilization, as indicated in the country's constitutions, to ensure execution of governance policies on improving socioeconomic development to the benefit of the citizens and not selected political elites. Appropriate allocation of resources and the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria might influence people to make better decisions to better their lives. Consequently, the policy redirection might provide confidence to an average Nigerian to live comfortably without fear of indignity.

This study may inform policymakers and the government to urge them to appropriate strategic policy direction for implementation to impact humanity and livelihood and contribute to the body of knowledge. Deficiency in explicit and impactful

responsible governance in utilizing enormous revenue resources stimulates poverty, mismanagement, and misdirection (Olowu, 2019). Inadvertent governance, policymaking, lack of policy implementation, and unconcern for the citizens have emanated to issues affecting peoples' livelihood and access to socioeconomic development. The social change implication for this study might urge the government and policymakers to execute governance policies to reduce poverty and improve living standards. The study may enlighten government to know on how its governance policies have impaired and impacted socioeconomic development in the country. A social change could emanate from a deficiency in policy that needs a change agent to steer the process of impactful governance policies to benefit the society through efficient implementation of policies for the constant provision of public goods and services to improve the livelihood of the citizens.

Policy instruments have an objective to influence change or to circumvent change in specific ways (Borrás & Edquist, 2013); therefore, this study might inform policymakers to consider the lack of execution of various policies in Nigeria to address the policy failures for effective execution of national policy to improve employment, reduce poverty and curb insecurity for enhanced society wellbeing. This study might increase policymakers understanding of strategic policy direction to collaborate and engage with the citizens for good governance and proper policy formulations and its implementations. This study might attract investment to enhance the economy and restore a positive global perception of Nigeria with impactful governance policies. This study will inform the government's impactful policymaking and effective governance policies

on socioeconomic development to ensure effective, resourceful, and adequate governance. This study might contribute to the policy strategy and policy direction to reduce poverty in Nigeria.

### **Implication to Methodological and Theoretical Framework**

The findings from this study explained how IAD establish a lens to discern how common decisions are made by observing the decision as outcomes of human behaviors affected by different related issues (Arara & Amri, 2016) such as personal gains, political interference, nepotism, circumvention of bid, budget variations, self-interest known as multifaceted corruption of human acts. The IAD framework's propositional treasure is indisputably its appropriateness to connect diverse governance situations that occurred in the findings of this study impacting governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Using IAD framework in this study will further enhance its utilization to discern policy performance issues such as the lack of execution of government governance policies in Nigeria by scholars and students across the globe, specifically in Africa, where similar action situations of socioeconomic issues remained persistent due to human elements and political actors' actions.

Using a generic qualitative approach allows the flexibility of exploring descriptive research without allegiance to any existing approaches (Khalike, 2014). The generic qualitative approach provides the path to elicit sufficient rich quality and thick description through its flexibility from the participants of this study. According to Percy et al. (2015), the generic qualitative approach seeks people's perspectives on the actual situations, occurrences, and experiences, describing different aspects of the research

problem as extracted from the participants and depicted in the findings of this research. In a generic qualitative study, thematic analysis is often adopted for data analysis (Bellamy et al., 2016). Thematic analysis is one of the immensely systematic and transparent qualitative analyses that produce fundamentals for proving justifiable representation of participants' understanding and perspective of a study, partially considering its grasps on the extensiveness of themes exigent, devoid conceding depth of data analysis (Joffe, 2012). To this effect, the methodology was suitable for the study. The Generic qualitative approach used for this study provided the flexibility to describe the perspectives of the purposive participants to the 10 research questions using thematic data analysis to discern thick data obtained from the data collection. The research audience will find a generic qualitative approach helpful for their future research, which can be emulated from the process of this study. This study might contribute to the research body of knowledge for the transferability of methodology.

### **Implication to Practice**

For decades since independence, regime after regime has embarked on diverse socioeconomic policies in Nigeria, despite the policies have not resolved the issues of unemployment and poverty, which had resulted in undefined insecurity in the recent time. The puzzling aspect of the governance policies is the recently unachieved Vision 20: 2020, which was formulated to resolve socioeconomic issues in Nigeria and address implementation issues that had affected previous governance policies for Nigeria to attain the leagues of 20 economies in the world. The result of this study provided evidence of salient issues that impacted the execution of governance policies in Nigeria which

required the consciousness of the government and policymakers to policy formulation and implementation. This study also provided facts on what is required of the government and policymakers; they must understand why government exists to provide security, welfare, and well-being of Nigerian citizens in this case but could be applied in other climes. Understanding the reason for the existence of government is critical because it sets the foundation for the actions and how government and policymakers decide on issues that concern society.

Theme 1 in Chapter 4 focuses on bad governance that has characterized the space of public service in Nigeria. The study discovered that lack of effectiveness and efficiency, lack of accountability, lack of inclusiveness and participation, lack of the rule of law dominate Nigeria's space. These issues can be resolved by commitment and dedication to the country's constitution on the need for good governance, which spelled out how Nigeria should be governed and the need to ensure that socioeconomic development is delivered to every Nigerians instead of selected elites society. The participants were sure that Nigeria might never attain the expected socioeconomic development in decades to come without good governance; otherwise, Nigeria will keep running in circles without movement. From the findings, the Nigerian government should make conscious efforts to ensure good governance is entrenched into the Nigerian system through policymaking and actions.

The participants advocated the need for accountability as a critical policy strategy and direction. Accountability has many facets to achieving the path to executing socioeconomic development in Nigeria. A public official need to be accountable to the

national assignment reposed to them and must be willing to respond to citizens questioning without victimization of subordinates or harassment of any citizens. Being in a position of authority demands that as a government, policymakers and public officials must be willing to accept responsibility for any deficiency that occurred under detailed job descriptions and assignments. Governance policies failure in sectors managed by the government or its officials should be communicated to the public. The same applies to the utilization of funds allocated to projects and the criteria that informed such actions without reservation. The citizens have the right to how resources generated from their assets are utilized. Nigeria's assets and resources belong to all Nigerians and not any specific regions; consequently, the managers of such assets would be held accountable for mismanagement and must be willing to provide how and why diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development have failed despite being the largest oil producer in African. So, the government needs to be accountable to the public for its responsibilities.

Responses from research 12 participants and as in chapter 4 revealed that the Nigerian government needs to change its approach to policymaking and implementation devoid of political interference and External Interference which is considered to affect the governance policies formulated in Nigeria. If a development plan is considered a policy document, such needs to be based on empirical data derived from the policy beneficiaries to drive prioritization without reservation; otherwise, Nigeria will run without motion. Policymakers need to focus on Nigeria's peculiar issues and resist external influence so that the governance policies can replicate the situation embedded within Nigeria. Such



action includes interface with the policy beneficiaries to extract the citizens' specific needs, culminating in evidence-based data and information region by region, local government by local government to the council areas to inform purposeful socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The evidence-based data will feed into the development plan and budget allocations decisions devoid of political interference to channel the resources of Nigeria equitably among the citizens.

Nigeria's policymaking process needs a Proper policy process that is all-inclusive and participatory for every citizen' to agree on what is required at a particular time within their environment to give every Nigeria a sense of belonging in the matter that concerns their livelihood. Nigeria's socioeconomic issues required an appropriate policy cycle process to achieve the desired development to lift people from poverty. Nigerian dichotomy and cultural milieu between the south and the North must be considered in policymaking, so there must be an interface with those concerned. The policy information derived from the south definitely will be different from the North. In this regard, a policy cannot be generalized any longer in Nigeria, given that the best diverse government governance policies such as Vision 20: 2020 had failed even with the expectation to improve socioeconomic development and curb implementation issues as noted by the participants. Policy formulation must be specific to the needs of the people to drive effective execution of governance policies in Nigeria, with the consciousness of the government and policymakers deploying their political will to drive improved socioeconomic development in Nigeria determinedly. Specifically, in all considerations in policymaking processes in Nigeria, the attitude and disposition of the policy

beneficiaries must not be ignored for well-articulated policy because policy formulation is yet absolute effective in Nigeria.

The perspectives shared in this study, as discussed in Chapter 4, focused on the need for the Federal government to understand that concentration of power has not improved Nigeria's socioeconomic development somewhat; it further contributes to widening the inequality in the country. The autonomy of states is not visibly functional either because some of their activities revolved around the federal government, so most States are not making conscious efforts to generate internal revenue to cushion the effects of their needs compared to what regions in the '60s were able to develop independently achieved as informed by the participants. Fundamentally, the third tier of the government that should have assisted in reaching the people has been subdued by the state power to utilize resources. The central government cannot understand the need of the local people; the state is not providing information on the local government while the central power seems not to perturb. Therefore, there is a need to revitalize the local government system in Nigeria with clear directives on actualizing the improvement of livelihood, while the state needs to be innovative on how to generate internal revenue to be viable.

There is no policy cohesion between the Federal and the state with lost synergy between the local government, therefore the government's lack of coordination is affecting socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The United States, the United Kingdom, and Asia used these systems successfully to improve their socioeconomic development. If Nigeria truly desires to be among the 20 economies in few years down the line, there is the need to tailor its governance system and socioeconomic policies to

have quick access to peoples' needs unhindered by any specific State. Also, Nigeria needs to strive to disengage from the over-centralization of government to make socioeconomic development a reality in Nigeria.

The responses derived from this study, as explained in Chapter 4, hinges on the deficient budgeting process and decision-making ideology on policy. There is the need for budget allocation to address capital projects instead of recurrent expenditures to ensure projects that impact livelihood is given priority. The budgeting process is often intercepted despite being an annual document. The Nigerian government needs to avoid reallocating capital project funds to other projects unrelated to socioeconomic development of the national life. The budgeting process should be devoid of parochial tendencies or submergence of ethnicity. At the same time, policymakers need to ensure that budget processes are not to serve their personal interest or restructure to serve their personal goals but the national interest towards execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. It has also become imperative for political parties to have a specific ideology that Nigerians can relate to understand what each party intends to offer the society for informed decisions on policy formulation and implementation of governance policies in Nigeria. Countries such as the United States have political ideology and philosophy which drive their political agenda known to society.

As discussed in Chapter 4, the responses in this discussion emanated from the fierce competition between the ministries, departments, and agencies of government with the obligation to aid and execute governance policies. Each of these institutions, rather

than use their competency as de-facto policymakers to ensure the execution of governance policies entrusted into their purview, personal interest dominates, taking up each other responsibilities leading to duplication within government institutions without brainstorming on ownership of policy objectives to maximize its objectives for effective implementation. Such action impedes the execution of government governance policies due to failure in coordination. Consequently, there is the need for strong inter-agency coordination and collaboration among agencies of government to execute governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria effectively. In this regard, confusion on policy owners will be addressed with a conscious focus and commitment on policy achievement.

There is the need to change the recruitment model and selection process of leadership in Nigeria, presently characterized by nepotisms, god-fatherism, and other related actions. The recruitment and selection of leadership into the Nigerian institutions is fundamental to effective good governance in Nigeria. There is a need to appoint and elect people with the requisite education, training, integrity, and sound knowledge of the government and sectors they are to manage. This model will remove placing a square peg in role holes resulting from nepotism and god-fatherism, which is the current situation in Nigeria and has led Nigeria to dive into the bane of poor governance and personalization of government such that had impeded the execution of socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Nigeria value system need to improve and a change to reformation in the civil and public services to draw the path for motivation for those responsible for policy formulation and implementation to ensure the crafting of the policies are done

transparently with adequate capacity building to be independent of political cycles is required. To have a leader with a vision to lead Nigeria's path in the right direction, the recruitment and selection process that informed Nigeria's electoral process needs to be a model of competency, knowledge, excellence, and integrity to build strong institutions in Nigeria system with adequate competency and the capacity required to formulate and implement policies.

The perverse multifaceted corruption uncovered in this research informed the theme described in Chapter 4. Corruption in different colorations of circumventions, personal interest, self-interest considered as principal agency problem under the IAD framework constitutes inherent challenges to the execution of governance policies in Nigeria. The need for an effective anti-corruption system supported by the rule of law after entrenching good governance in the Nigerian system and public service has been restructured to motivate civil servants with adequate capacities and competency to produce information and data not connoted or quoted with political tones. Then penalties can be instituted to discipline hearing public and civil servants. Institution of effective anticorruption will ensure government, policymakers and political actors focus consciously on the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria to improve livelihoods.

Diverse governance policy formulation and policy execution in Nigeria had failed, as reflected in the Vision 20: 2020. As detailed in Chapter 4 of this research, policy implementation has been affected from the root of its formulation, therefore lack of implementation of policies remained a major reason why Nigeria has not achieved

socioeconomic development as desired by the citizens. The policies were formulated on individual worldviews and not empirical evidence-based, therefore at implementation, problems ensued because the governance policies failed to derive data from beneficiaries. To ensure adequate implementation of governance policies in Nigeria, there is the need for government and policymakers to remove human elements, ensure no political interference, avoid copy and paste policies, and institute guiding principles of accountability, transparency, and timelines in the execution of the governance policies. Secondly, the policy principles in Nigeria need to have a succession plan, remove issues of policy discontinuity, intense politics against citizens' interests, cancelation of policies, and misplaced priority. Of importance is the need to ensure that implementers of policies are adequately trained to improve and enhance their competency and capacity to avoid compromise that would impact the execution of the governance policies to curb embezzlement and circumvention likely to emanate in the absence of integrity.

Nigerians have considered each other differently based on religion, ethnicity, culture, and state of origin. In recent times, these multi ethnicities, multi-religion, and multicultural dimensions have gradually dominated Nigeria's space, impeding the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. It is now an official vice to determine the governance system in Nigeria; its structure involves appointment to a position, federal character, and official matters that concern the national life such that it has stretched to the point Nigerians no longer feel secure in other regions of the country. The findings from this study recommended Nigeria citizens need to think of Nigeria as an entity and claim Nigeria as the origin of birth before the state of birth,

either Ibo, Yoruba, or Hausa to work in harmony to deliver on execution of governance policies in Nigeria. This consciousness will foster improved quality of life and development in Nigeria.

The discussion here emanated from the perspectives obtained in this research based on the lack of execution of diverse governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Monitoring and evaluation are believed to be a channel to understand the vices impeding the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria, but a considerable gap exists. Interview responses from this study revealed there is the need to have efficient monitoring and evaluation system with embedded innovation and creativity that will quickly detect any infraction possible to impede effective execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Findings from this study suggested that monitoring and evaluation may be an avenue to review policy no incline with current needs of the people within a locality to avoid waste of resources subject to commitment and lack of compromise of implementers.

The need for policy impact analysis is critical to assist the progress and impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Policy impact needs to be enshrined in every project document in Nigeria as an evidence-based strategy that assesses the socioeconomic impacts of governance policies and not rely on numbers to measure impacts to improve the standard of living of Nigerians. This strategy will ameliorate policy issues and assist in achieving the policy objectives to inform the future structure of other policies from findings to stimulate a callback system where policies are

reviewed and adjusted based on evidence gathered. Flexibility needs to be built into governance policies for impact analysis and evaluation yearly or two years' intervals after the policy commences its life cycle at implementation from the direct beneficiaries' "the stakeholders"; that is the point of call to review the policy objectives and impacts.

Poverty is increasing in Nigeria; there is a need for urgent action to make socioeconomic development a reality in Nigeria to lift the bottom half of Nigerians out of poverty. However, lack of oversight and commitment to the national interest and constitutional responsibility has impeded the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria, considering governance policies that had failed in Nigeria, including Vision 20: 2020, which should have been safeguarded with consciousness to attain its objective. The issues that have impacted the execution of governance policies in Nigeria concern government and policymakers' inefficiencies and ineffectiveness with lack of accountability, transparency, and absence of the rule of law, which supported human elements (political actors) to act inconsiderably as affirmed by the IAD framework in their responsibility which impeded the execution of governance policy. Consequently, these actions entrenched unemployment leading to eventual Poverty, which the findings from this study uncover are on the rise due to bad governance and has also culminated into insecurity in Nigeria. There is the need for conscious action of the government and policymakers to ensure that governance policies are given adequate attention to address the socioeconomic issues ravaging Nigeria and curb the diversion of resources allocated for the execution of policies to resolve personal gains and self-interest of the political actors as revealed in this study to achieve Nigeria



objective of development. Specifically, the government and national assembly must understand the need to make poverty the center of attention in policymaking.

Insecurity in Nigeria emanated because of the lack of execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria which led people commit crimes seeing the level of opulence displayed by the political elite despite the society living in severe poverty. There is the need to ensure governance policies are not generalized because of the polarized system that exists in Nigeria each regions socioeconomic issues should be as emanated from its root cause to curb insecurity in Nigeria. The findings from this study suggested that employment issues need to be resolved because idle hands have the tendencies to think crime. Government and policymakers need to rise intentionally with the political will to resolve the issues of securities in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

The focus of this study was to describe the impact of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The theoretical framework for this study was the IAD of Weible and Sabatier (2018). I found the perspectives of the 12 participants of this study are on the lack of governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria, as reflected in the Vision 20: 2020 as confirmed in the literature reviewed in this study. In affirmation of the findings from this study, the lack of execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development remained an impediment in Nigeria to assume the development desire of the citizens given the inconsiderable actions of the government, policymakers, and political actors. Bad governance in Nigeria constitutes distraction from the standard norms of good governance, which affected Vision 20: 2020 and other

government policies. At a fundamental level, legislatures process, judicial process, and executive process, there is a flaw in the process performance because it defeats what should be tracked and how instruments of governance are deployed within the three branches of government recognized by the constitution.

There is a skewed approach to governance delivery in Nigeria through political and external interference. At the same time, the development plan is the result of the mentioned; therefore, the policymaking process lacks empirical evidence that depicts the needs of the actual stakeholders and beneficiaries of the policies; this remained a significant concern in Nigeria considering diverse governance policies that had failed. The finding from this study is derived from policy and development experts who shared their expertise and knowledge of how diverse governance policies had impacted socioeconomic issues in Nigeria because of the high level of poverty as an average Nigeria still survives on less than USD1.90. The data from the policy and development experts further corroborated the literature reviewed and archival documents available in Nigeria and further enhanced the policy strategy and direction derived from the study. Fundamental to this study is that implementation of governance policies does not happen in Nigeria, nor are policies formulated to attain its objectives.

It has become pertinent for government and policymakers to understand the poverty level in Nigeria. If there is a genuine concern to formulate policies to resolve socioeconomic development in Nigeria, then the policy must recognize the inclusiveness and participation of the policy beneficiaries and stakeholders to understand their specific needs for informed empirical evidence. However, that has not been the case in Nigeria

except for policies based on international organizations' suggestions and advice. Such action will further impoverish Nigerian because their peculiar situations are not reflective of the policy proposed; therefore, at implementation, there will be issues, and the policy will never be impactful, but then Nigeria would have accumulated debt. The findings from this study disagreed with the model of external interference to determine appropriate policies for Nigerians. The policy designed in Brussel, Washington, or London without homegrown empirical evidence is invalid in Nigeria Climes; therefore, lack of execution of such governance policy is only waiting to emanate at its lifecycle as reflected in Vision 20: 2020 not executed. Vision 20: 2020 was an ambitious development plan document with elements of international interference as uncovered in this study.

For Nigeria to aim among the best 20 economies in the world anytime soon is a tall order considering the pending governance issues and transitions that took place from military to civilian government, it was a policy that should have been reviewed at the advent of the civilian government to replicate the genuine peculiarities of Nigeria and possibly extends its life cycle. This can only be achieved where patriotic Nigeria exists who are willing to channel the course of Nigeria to the right path with the competency and knowledge required. Critical is the need to use the intelligence of Nigerian citizens to inform policymaking, formulation and at executions. The findings from this study emphasized the need and importance of policy owners among the government sectors to drive the policy execution effectively.

Critical to this study is the need to build a strong institution in Nigeria.

Recruitment and selection of individuals appointed and selected to an elective position are critical to executing governance policies on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The use of nepotism and god-fatherism to appoint people without capacity and competency without requisite education, training, and knowledge affects Nigeria's governance system. If the root to appropriately represent the people is faulty, the socioeconomic development will be unattainable because the inadequate competency and capacity to formulate quality policies and understand the importance of policy is missing. It has become imperative for the elected or appointed political actor to recognize that their position is transitory. So, being selected demands the individuals to fulfill their constitutional objectives of providing public goods and services that informed their reason for existence and not personal gain, raw acquisitions of national wealth to self-interest to the detriment of the Nigeria citizen quality life.

The literature and this study revealed that bad governance, human actions, lack of political will, and bad representation without adequate capacity and competencies to drive execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development are critical issues in Nigeria. Nigeria deserved a strong institution that can only be achieved when competency is deployed to govern the country to foster the execution of governance policies on socioeconomic development. This strong institution will create employment, impact livelihood, improve quality of life, and alleviate poverty in Nigeria to attain the desired development objective of every Nigerian.

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## Appendix: Interview Guide

Interview Guide- Semi-Structured Interview with Open-ended Questions.

The following are the open-ended questions proposed for this study: The Impact of Governance policy on Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria.

Time of Interview:

Date:

Place:

Interviewer:

Interviewee:

This interview is intended to explore how have diverse government governance policies impacted socio-economic development issues in Nigeria.

Questions:

1. What do you understand as Governance in Nigeria Context?
2. How does the governance system prioritize socio-economic development in Nigeria?
3. Why have socio-economic issues remained persistent in Nigeria despite diverse governance policies to address development in Nigeria?
4. What are some specific issues impeding governance policies on socio-economic development in Nigeria?
5. What are some structural deficiencies that challenge effective governance policies on socio-economic development?
6. Why do Nigeria's Policymaking structures have difficulty in formulating

adequate policy and its implementation to resolve the socio-economic issue and impact livelihood?

7. How have policymakers and government affect governance policies and integrated it in their responsibility to improve socio-economic development?
8. What are the critical factors mitigating governance policies on socio-economic development?
9. What policy directions and strategies are required to improve socio-economic development?
10. What other information would you like to have relating to this research?