

Conceptualising Poverty through the Lenses of Citizens: The Case of Ogun State, Nigeria

Durokifa Anuoluwapo* and Ijeoma Edwin

Public Administration Department, University of Fort Hare, South Africa

KEYWORDS Development. Nigeria. Poverty. Poverty Reduction. Unemployment

ABSTRACT Poverty is a global problem with different meanings. In eradicating the menace, governments in both developed and developing countries have come up with various alleviating programmes and strategies. For Nigeria and Ogun state in particular, varying poverty reduction programmes have been set up by successive governments. However, studies reveal that a considerable gap exists between the programme's objective and achievement. As noted by scholars, for there to be an effective policy in place, poverty perspective from the citizenry is crucial. Thus, the study using the qualitative research method and an in-depth interview analysed the meaning of poverty from the perspective of Ogun State citizens. Findings reveal from the study that citizens within the state perceive poverty from the absolute part of it. On this basis, the paper suggests that poverty reduction programmes to be set up in the state should focus on tackling deprivation of basic needs, particularly in the area of unemployment, skills acquisition and empowerment.