



CREATING AWARENESS ON COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVE TOWARDS POVERTY ERADICATION AMONG PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN BADAGRY DIVISION OF LAGOS STATE

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Abstract

The study focuses on creating awareness on community-based initiative through poverty eradication among the parents of the preschool children in Badagry Local Government in Lagos State. The research design for this study was descriptive research survey design. The population for this study comprises of parents of preschool children in Lagos State. The sample of this study comprises of 120 parents of preschool children in three local government education authorities in Lagos State. The LGEAs are Amuwo-Odofin, Badagry and Ojo local government education authorities. Multistage sampling technique was used for the study. Two research instrument were used. The two instruments was structure questionnaire on 15 items each related to CBIQ and PPEQP. Cronbach Alpha techniques was used for the two instruments which obtain reliability co-efficient of $r=0.77$ on (CBIQ). $r=0.84$ on (PPEQP) respectively. Inferential statistics of Pearson Product moment correlations PPMC and t-test was employed to test the hypotheses at a significance level of 0.05. The finding reveals that there is a significant and positive relationship between awareness levels among the parents of preschool children and community-based initiatives in Lagos State. Also, the study affirms that there is a significant difference between the well-being and development of preschool children on family living in poverty. The study recommended that, there should be partnership with Non-governmental Organisations, school and community centres to facilitate workshops, seminars and awareness programmes and organise regular workshops and training sessions for parents, focusing on topics such as financial literacy, vocational training, and child development.

Keywords:

Poverty Eradication, Community-Based Initiatives, Preschool Children.

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Introduction

A Community-based initiative is a project or programme that is initiated and implemented by a group of people who share a common interest or goal in a particular community. Community based initiatives is on the other hand aims at specifically address social, economic or environmental issues within the community. Community based initiatives can be instituted either through individuals, groups or by organisations with its focus on a very wider range of issues as opined by Oduolowu (2022) as education health, environment and social justice. Poverty can create considerable stress for families and conflicts can also arise between children and parents because of economic pressure that may leads to child labour in a bid to helping their parents to earn a living. Poverty is a global enigma. According to the World Bank in 2015, over 700 million people were living on less than \$1.90 a day. While that represents a milestone (in 1990, it was over one *billion*) that's still way too many people. That number also includes extreme poverty that is defined by the UN as “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services”.

Poverty is defined as a state or circumstance in which an individual or a group lacks the financial means and necessities for a basic level of living. When a person is unable to get the minimum basic needs of life it means poverty. Poverty-stricken people can go without proper housing clean water, healthy food, and medical attention.

Community-based initiative is a non-profit organisation which provides services to people in the rural area who don't have sufficient income to cater for the family and there are various kinds of initiatives which include; empowering men and women with various skills so that they use that to take care of their ward, volunteering donations like text books, writing materials, health care and food, clothes etc. In 2011, 21.9% of Indians populations were living below the national poverty threshold. A community based initiatives are often praised for their capacity to enhance legitimacy, solve societal problems, foster social innovation and achieve sustainability (Attuyer 2015;Mulgan 2012;Torfing,Sorensen & Roiseland 2019

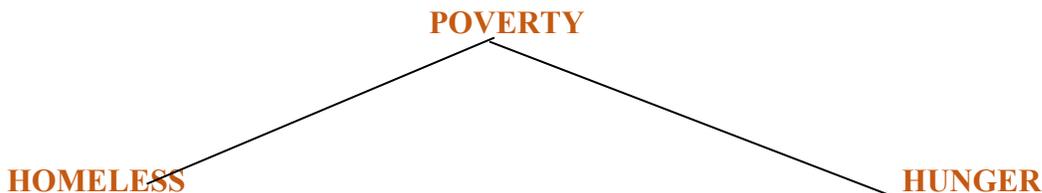


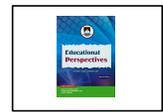
Diagram on two main dimensions of poverty include: Hunger and Lack of Shelter by Researchers, 2024

The World Bank Organisation is working to identify individuals and dimensions of power. This include; identifying social indicators to track education, health, access to services, social exclusion and vulnerability. The World Bank's Poverty and Shared Prosperity series provides the latest estimates and trends in global poverty and shared prosperity. The 2022 edition provides the first comprehensive look at the landscape of poverty in the aftermath of an extraordinary series of shocks to the global economy. Global progress in reducing extreme poverty has virtually come to a halt. After COVID-19 dealt the biggest setback to global poverty in decades, rising food and energy prices—fueled by climate shocks and conflict among the world's biggest food producers—have hindered a swift recovery. The report analyses how fiscal policy was used in the first year of the pandemic to support the most vulnerable groups. It also sheds light on the impact of taxes, transfers, and subsidies on poverty and inequality in 94 countries before 2020, providing important new insights into the impacts of fiscal policy not only during crises but also during normal conditions.



The report identifies how governments can optimize fiscal policy to help correct course. The causes of poverty include the following.

1. **Lack of good jobs/job growth:** This is the first reason a lot of people think about. When you don't have a good job, you aren't getting a good income. In many countries, traditional jobs like farming are disappearing. The Democratic Republic of Congo is a good example, where most of the populations live in rural areas stripped of natural resources from years of colonialism. Half of the DRC live below the poverty line. Even in nations like the United States where many people do have jobs, those jobs aren't paying enough. According to the Economic Policy Institute, large groups of workers with full-time, year-round employment are still below federal poverty guidelines.
2. **Lack of good education:** The second root cause of poverty is a lack of education. Poverty is a cycle and without education, people aren't able to better their situations. According to UNESCO, over 170 million people could be free of extreme poverty if they only had basic reading skills. However, in many areas of the world, people are not getting educated. The reasons vary. Often times, families need kids to work, there are not schools close by, or girls are not being educated because of sexism and discrimination.
3. **Warfare/conflict:** Conflict has a huge impact on poverty. In times of war, everything stops. Productivity suffers as well as a country's GDP. It's very difficult to get things going again as foreign businesses and countries won't want to invest. For families and individuals, war and conflict can make it impossible to stay in one place. It's also very common for women to become the primary breadwinners, and they deal with many barriers like sexual violence and discrimination.
4. **Social injustice:** Whether it's gender discrimination, racism, or other forms of social injustice, poverty follows. People who are victims of social injustice struggle with getting a good education, the right job opportunities, and access to resources that can lift them out of poverty. The United Nations Social Policy and Development Division identifies "inequalities in income distribution and access to productive resources, basic social services, opportunities" and more as a cause for poverty. Groups like women, religious minorities, and racial minorities are the most vulnerable.
5. **Lack of food and water:** Without access to basic essentials like food and water, it's impossible to get out of poverty's cycle. Everything a person does will be about getting food and water. They can't save any money because it all goes towards their daily needs. When there isn't enough sustenance, they won't have the energy to work. They are also way more likely to get sick, which makes their financial situation even worse. Lack of infrastructure.
6. **Infrastructure includes roads, bridges, the internet, public transport, and more.** When a community or families are isolated, they have to spend a lot of money, time, and energy getting to places. Without good roads, traveling takes forever. Without public transport, it may be next to impossible to get a good job or even to the store. Infrastructure connects people to the services and resources they need to better their financial and life situation, and without it, things don't get better.
7. **Lack of government support:** To combat many of the issues we've described, the government needs to be involved. However, many governments are either unable or unwilling to serve the poor. This might mean failing to provide (or cutting) social welfare programs, redirecting funds away from those who need it, failing to build good infrastructure, or actively persecuting the population. If a government fails to meet the needs of the poor, the poor will most likely stay that way.
8. **Lack of good healthcare:** People who are poor are more likely to suffer from bad health, and those with bad health are more likely to be poor. This is because healthcare is often too expensive or inaccessible to those who need it. Without money for medicine and treatment, the poor have to make really tough decisions, and usually essentials like food take priority. People who are sick get sicker, and then they



- can't work, which makes the situation even direr. If people do seek treatment, the cost often ruins their finances. It's a vicious cycle.
9. High costs: The last root of poverty is simple: stuff costs too much. Even the basics can be too expensive. According to stats from the World Food Programme, the poorest households in the world are spending 60-80% of their incomes on food. Food prices are also very unpredictable in certain areas, so when they rise, the poor have to keep cutting out other essentials. Housing is another essential that is rising. Global house markets have been climbing, according to the International Monetary Fund. Income growth, however, has not.

“We believe that everyone has equal value and should have access to high-quality education around the world. Our Nisai 2030 vision supports that education can achieve all the SDGs, including the goal to eradicate poverty” (Nisai Group, 2019).

Most experts agree that education is the most effective way to take millions of people out of poverty – access to high-quality education results in decent economic growth (SDG 8), creating a knock-on effect for making Goal 1 (no poverty) much more achievable (Nisai Group, 2019)

According to official reports, 171 million people were lifted out of extreme poverty situations in the last 10 years having left school with basic reading skills. Statistics show that if all children were educated with basic reading and writing skills, the world's poverty could be reduced by 15% a year. With the purpose of improving early language and literacy skills for children, we present you with our literacy intervention resource: Units of Sound. The programme helps students and schools to improve their communication, literacy and language skills. Through Units of Sound, we are able to make a direct impact on Goal 1 to break the cycle of poverty, also proving that literacy is the fundamental start to education (Nisai Group, 2019)

United Nations has found that one of the biggest inequalities that preserve the cycle of poverty is gender. In developing countries, education plays an important role in giving women more control over how many children they have. After an extra year of primary education, a girl's individual wage increases to 10-20% and 25% with secondary education. Moreover, 80% of a mother's wage goes to her family, which can result in lifting a household out of poverty. At Nisai, we provide equal and quality education to all as well as we promote girls' empowerment and their right to education (Nisai Group, 2019).

The overall climate change, as well as the rapidly increasing frequency of natural disasters, could drive as many as 122 million people into poverty by 2030, as mentioned by UNESCO. By offering primary and secondary education to citizens, it can provide future farmers with critical thinking skills to encourage a sustainable change in agriculture and help end poverty. It is essential for us to integrate climate and ecological change into the educational curriculum. These skills can impact students in understanding, analyzing and using their resources to think creatively and change their behaviour towards a positive future.

Education is essential to our world's economic development and can help eradicate poverty. We believe that a balanced education system promotes economic development, productivity and can generate individual income. Investing in education can be an efficient means of eradicating poverty, but that depends on how well it is tailored to its context.

Concept of Poverty

The concept of poverty is not the exception but rather the norm. However, the formalization of its definitions, particularly in the realm of social science, arose when research on poverty began to unveil its intricate and multifaceted character. Consequently, it has become challenging to establish a single universally accepted definition for poverty (Heywood, 2021). According to a study by Kankwenda, Gregoire, Legros, and Ouedraogo (2016), poverty is rarely defined in isolation; instead, it is often framed in relation to concepts



such as economic growth, well-being, social exclusion, or equity. As a result, the definition of poverty is contingent on the specific context, be it global, regional, local, or even individual.

The early stage of poverty study, as outlined in chronological order by Maxwell (2009), traces its roots to the pioneering work of Charles Booth in London and Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree in York. They developed a poverty standard for individual families by estimating essential requirements such as nutrition, family income, housing, and community aspects. This standard measured poverty in terms of hunger, as the household budget was allocated to meet specific nutritional and other standards.

The majority of studies focusing on poverty in Nigeria concur that absolute poverty is the most prevalent form, affecting a significant portion of the population, particularly in rural areas and urban slums. In contrast, relative poverty assesses an individual's or household's access to goods and resources in comparison to others within their society. Essentially, someone is considered poor when their living conditions fall below the minimum standards set by the prevailing societal norms. It's important to note that the measurement of relative poverty varies across countries and changes over time, as highlighted by Davis and Sanchez (2014).

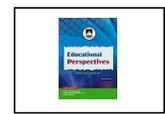
Dike (2022) introduces the concept of "moderate poverty," which refers to those individuals whose basic needs are met but only just barely. This category includes the average working class in many developing nations, who manage to meet their basic needs but still live on the edge of poverty. Another perspective, subjective poverty, relies on individuals' self-assessment to gauge the level of poverty they perceive themselves to be experiencing. The World Bank (2021) takes a comprehensive approach to determine poverty, focusing on various assets including human assets (such as labor capacity, skills, and health), natural and social assets (like land), physical assets and access to infrastructure, financial assets (savings and access to credit), and social assets (networks of contacts and reciprocal relationships) as key factors.

The World Bank adopted the "dollar per day" measure in 2002, using Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) to set the threshold at US \$1 per day. In the context of Nigeria, this amounted to N 46.2 in 2002, N 59.2 in 2013, N150.00 in 2020, and unofficial estimates now suggest it to be over N 300.0 today. During the 1970s, the concept of basic needs played a significant role in national development plans, especially as advocated by United Nations agencies, notably the International Labor Organization (ILO). The ILO defined the minimum consumption needs of a family to encompass essentials like sufficient food, adequate shelter, and clothing. It also emphasized the importance of essential community services such as access to safe drinking water, sanitation, public transportation, healthcare, education, and cultural facilities. Additionally, it highlighted the necessity of providing agricultural tools and enabling rural areas to engage in farming.

In the 1980s, scholars like Chambers expanded the understanding of poverty beyond purely monetary or income aspects. This expansion included dimensions like participation, vulnerability, security, livelihoods, which was later adopted as "sustainable livelihood" by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, and Amartya Sen's "capabilities for functionality" approach. Sen argued that income's value lay in its ability to grant access to one's essential requirements.

Nigeria Poverty Profile

While poverty exists in both urban and rural areas of Nigeria, extensive visits to rural regions, villages, and communities across the country have consistently revealed that poverty is most pronounced in these rural areas. In rural areas, one frequently encounters deteriorating and crumbling infrastructure, particularly in essential services like healthcare, education, information and communication, and transportation systems. These factors contribute significantly to the lack of opportunities for productive engagement and hinder efforts to improve the precarious living conditions of rural residents (Aribisala, 2018). Rural dwellers, it can be noted, bear the brunt of poverty, particularly in Nigeria.



Global Action (2018) and Aderonmu (2020) have observed that rural communities face significant marginalization. These areas often experience high birthrates alongside elevated rates of infant and maternal mortality, leading to a reduced life expectancy. Children in rural areas frequently appear disheveled, dirty, and poorly groomed, living in substandard sanitary conditions that make them susceptible to diseases and potential epidemics.

The deprivation and deficiencies experienced in these areas have turned poverty into a widespread and severe problem. Studies have shown that such conditions exacerbate civil unrest, violence, conflicts, and criminal tendencies, as witnessed in the post-election disturbances in certain parts of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, and Kaduna States in 2021. According to Campbell and Harwood (2021), Nigeria's issues go beyond divisive post-election politics; they encompass ethnic and religious conflicts, deeply entrenched poverty, and corruption, all of which are interconnected. They suggest that Boko Haram, once a fringe radical Islamic group in the north, is evolving into an insurrection with support from the impoverished and marginalized northern population. While poverty and underdevelopment are prevalent across Nigeria, the northern region faces even greater challenges.

Reports indicate that poverty is more widespread in northern Nigeria. According to Human Development Statistics (2019), the Northeast zone has the highest Human Poverty Index (HPI) rate at 48.90%. The Northwest follows with 44.15%, the North Central with 34.65%, the South-South with 26.61%, the Southeast with 26.07%, and the South West with the lowest rate of 21.50%. Within the northern region, states like Bauchi, Jigawa, and Yobe are among the worst affected, while in the south, poverty is notably pronounced in Akwa-Ibom, Delta, and Edo State, as indicated by studies conducted by Aigbokhan (2016). Additionally, a study carried out by the Central Bank of Nigeria and the World Bank in 1999 on Poverty Assessment and Alleviation in Nigeria revealed that the living conditions and environments of rural residents had deteriorated. The percentage of the core poor increased from 62 percent in 1980 to 93 percent in 1996, while the moderate poor also rose from 28.9 percent in 1992 to 36.3 percent in 1996 (FOS 1999). These reports attributed the growth in the number of impoverished individuals in rural areas, among other factors, to the neglect of necessary rural infrastructure for development and a lack of information on government operations.

Concept of Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project

The concept of Community-based poverty reduction projects has emerged as one of the more recent approaches to delivering development assistance in various parts of the world. Since the 1980s, the prevailing development philosophy has shifted towards "participatory and community-led development," primarily because some previous poverty and development projects failed due to the lack of involvement of the affected communities. This failure was often attributed to a top-down approach to poverty reduction. In essence, the community-based poverty reduction strategy directly engages beneficiaries in the planning and management of programs, making it a bottom-up approach to poverty reduction and development (Eze & Olabimtan, 2020).

Mansuri and Rao (2013) mentioned that Community-Driven Development has its roots in the cooperative movement championed by Gandhi, which aimed to promote village self-reliance and small-scale development to counter the adverse effects of modernization and colonial rule. Another influential perspective was Freire's (1970) "pedagogy of the oppressed," which was later promoted by USAID and implemented in over 60 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America by the 1960s (White, 1999). The recently concluded 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) empowerment agenda included community-based delivery of public services as a key priority in development policy.

Numerous studies, particularly those by Torjman (2018), Mansuri and Rao (2013), and Khawaja (2014), have offered comprehensive insights into the Community-Based Poverty Reduction approach. Drawing from these studies, the community-based poverty reduction approach aims to involve marginalized populations and



communities in the governance of local organizations and human resource development. The primary goals of this strategy are to: support local development initiatives, enhance the capacity of local groups to manage resources, and facilitate these processes through necessary changes in legal, technical, and policy frameworks (Nour, 2021). By creating a supportive environment that respects people's rights, fosters dignity, awareness, and self-worth, communities can harness their potential for self-organization. This opportunity enables communities to identify their challenges, raise awareness about pertinent issues, and advocate for appropriate policy changes (Torjman, 2018).

The term CPRP, originally introduced by The World Bank, pertains to initiatives in which communities hold direct authority over crucial project decisions and the administration of investments. The World Bank's objective is to break down information barriers between social planners and potential beneficiaries by involving beneficiary communities directly in the management of social funds. This involvement is believed to enable participating communities to influence the organisation of poverty reduction programs and actively contribute to shaping the direction of projects (Torjman, 2018).

Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project Initiatives in Nigeria

After evaluating previous efforts in poverty reduction in Nigeria and recognizing the shortcomings, particularly the absence of a participatory approach, there arose a need for a pilot Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP) that would ensure the active participation, selection, and implementation of projects at the community level. A poverty analysis conducted from 1994 to 1996, facilitated by the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) with support from the World Bank and DFID, served as the foundation for this initiative. During this period, a database was developed, and a participatory poverty assessment known as "Voices of the Poor" was conducted in 16 communities, involving over 2016 individuals living in poverty. Subsequently, this assessment was expanded to 36 communities in 13 states, with participation from both governmental and non-governmental representatives. The findings of this assessment, as summarized in the report "Poverty in the Midst of Plenty," provided crucial insights from the analytical and consultative process, forming the basis for the design of the Community Action Programme for Poverty Alleviation (CAPPA). The NPC used the Vision 2020 strategy document to create the poverty alleviation framework for the implementation of CAPPA (FGN Report, 2016).

The Community Action Programme for Poverty Alleviation (CAPPA) was launched in 2018, with its foundation built upon updated data and consultations conducted by several organizations, including AFDB, the World Bank, DFID, UNICEF, UNDP, as well as Federal and State governments. The findings of these assessments revealed that poverty was notably prevalent in various sectors such as health, education, agriculture, water, and sanitation, among others. This survey data served as the basis for targeting specific areas within the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP), considering factors like sector, sub-sector, gender, household size, and more. The CPRP comprised two main components. Component 1 was overseen by the Poverty Alleviation Unit (PAU) of the National Planning Commission on behalf of the Federal government. It was responsible for policy coordination, capacity building, poverty monitoring, and impact assessment. Component 2 was managed by State Agencies in the respective pilot states, representing the State governments. For instance, in Lagos State, the Lagos State Agency for Poverty Reduction (LBAPR) was responsible for this component's implementation. Subsequently, in collaboration with the Federal government of Nigeria and the World Bank, the Lagos State government carried out preparatory activities for the implementation of the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project.

Noticeable among the community based initiatives includes

Having a community garden

1. Neighbourhood watch programmes

2. Local food cooperatives
3. Community based health clinics
4. Organizing a community blood drive
5. Charitable donations
6. Raising fund for local volunteer

Aftermath of poverty in the life pre-school children cannot be over emphasized in that it can lead to some or all of the following.

1. **Nutrition and Health Issues:** Since the families of the pre-school children are not well to do and with no job or poorly paid job access to nutrition food and it attendant poor healthcare will be the other of the day. Pre-school children living in poverty may suffer from malnutrition and thereby increasing health challenges.
2. **Educational Differences:** Disparities or differences in education occur when children from low income families have limited access to quality early childhood education. This can lead to educational disadvantages and this will take toll in their lives for years to come.
3. **Behavioural and Emotional Issues:** Family financial strain, unstable housing problem can contribute to emotional and behavioural challenges in the life of pre- school children.
4. **Cognitive Development:** The level of cognition of an individual most especially child can be hindered due to non-availability of books, educational toys and of course a ventilating or stimulating environments that promotes learning.

Poverty Eradication Styles among the Parents of Pre-School Children

1. **Creation of awareness:** As regards poverty and its consequences: Poverty According to Abidogun2020 is everywhere and it is Onus on individual to strike a balance as regards how to get out of poverty and its associated consequences. This according to him is for a community and its agencies to organize public awareness on how to live above board by embarking on the small and medium scale business that involves less capital and that can equally put food on every family's table.
2. **Job Creation:** Job creation is another way of alleviating poverty in our own local community and Badagry Local Government as a reference point. A riverine area where there is possibility of sea foods and other water or aquatic animals. This according to Adeyemi (2019) will bridge the gap between poverty and parent of the pre-school children in Badagry Local Government creating a small and medium scale job is the key in any economy that is regarded as viable. This will be done by identifying areas of opportunities within your business organization and paying a living wage in one way that can make a change to help neighbours living in abject poverty in our community.
3. **Raising of fund for those experiencing Homelessness:** Homelessness is another parameters that we used to measure a poverty striking communities as highlighted by Omotuloye2011. Home or house is among the necessities of life that should not be taking for granted. Lack of (home):can results in sleeping under bridges or shanties or uncompleted buildings thereby expressing the inhabitants to danger. Fund raising can be done and the proceeds can go a long way in alleviating poverty in that area.
4. **Fund Donation:** It will also go a long way by using it to meet the needs of the parents of the pre-school children in needs of assistance.

Research Questions

1. What are the current levels of awareness among parents about community-based initiatives aimed at poverty eradication for preschool children?
2. How can community-based organisations and government agencies enhance awareness and participation of parents in poverty eradication initiatives for preschool children?
3. Are there cultural or societal factors that influence parental participation in poverty eradication initiatives for preschool children?

Research Hypotheses

- H₀₁:** There is no significant relationship between awareness levels among parents of preschool children regarding community-based initiatives for poverty eradication.
- H₀₂:** There is no significance difference between the well-being and development of preschool children on families living in poverty and those not living in poverty.

Methodology

The research design for this study was descriptive research survey design. The population for this study comprises of parents of preschool children in Lagos State. The sample of this study comprises of 120 parents of preschool children in three local government education authorities in Lagos State. The LGEAs are Amuwo-Odofin, Badagry and Ojo Local Government Education Authorities. Multistage sampling technique was used for the study. A purposive sampling technique was used to select the three LGEAs in Lagos State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 40 schools from each the three LGEAs, while simple random technique was use to select 3 parents of preschool children each from the 40 schools. Two research instrument was used. The two instruments were structure questionnaire on 15 items each related to CBIQ and PPEQP. Cronbach Alpha techniques was used for the two instruments which obtain reliability co-efficient of $r=0.77$ on (CBIQ). $r=0.84$ on (PPEQP) respectively. Inferential statistics of Pearson Product moment correlations PPMC and t-test was employed to test the hypotheses at a significance level of 0.05.

Results

- H₀₁:** There is no significant relationship between awareness levels among parents of preschool children regarding community-based initiatives for poverty eradication.

Table 1: Summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing relationship between awareness levels among parents of preschool children and community-based initiatives for poverty eradication.

| Variables | Mean | Std.D | N | r | Sig. | Remark |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-----|--------|------|-------------|
| Parental level of awareness | 14.76 | 3.03 | 120 | .820** | .000 | significant |
| Community-Based Initiative | 9.91 | 2.79 | | | | |

**correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of (2tailed)

Table 1 reveals that there is a significant positive relationship between awareness levels among the parents of preschool children and community-based initiatives in Lagos State ($r = 0.82$; $P < 0.05$). Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected. The positive relationship implies that parents of preschool children are aware of the community-based initiatives in their various communities. This is in line with what Global Action (2018) and Aderonmu (2020) have observed that rural communities face significant marginalization. These areas often experience high birthrates alongside elevated rates of infant and maternal mortality, leading to a reduced life expectancy.

- H₀₂:** There is no significance difference between the well-being and development of preschool children on families living in poverty and those not living in poverty.

Table 2: summary of independent t-test analysis showing well-being and development of preschool children on family living in poverty

| Variables | Family living | N | Mean | Std.Ddf | t. | Sig. | Remark |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| Well-being and development of preschool children. | Family living in poverty | 37 | 2.303 | .7651 | 118 | 4.55 | 0.002 |
| | Family not living in poverty | 83 | 2.685 | .5336 | | | |

Table 2 affirms that there is a significant differences between the well-being and development of preschool children on family living in poverty ($t= 4.55$; $df = 118$; $P<0.05$). This implies that the family that are not living in poverty have the higher mean score of well-being and development of preschool children (2.685) than the family living in poverty (2.303). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion of findings

The data reveals that there is a significant positive relationship between awareness levels among the parents of preschool children and community-based initiatives in Lagos State. This is in line with what Global Action (2018) and Aderonmu (2020) have observed that rural communities face significant marginalization. These areas often experience high birthrates alongside elevated rates of infant and maternal mortality, leading to a reduced life expectancy.

Table 2 affirms that there is a significant difference between the well-being and development of preschool children on family living in poverty. This implies that the family that are not living in poverty have the higher mean score of well-being and development of preschool children (2.685) than the family living in poverty (2.303)

Conclusion

Creating awareness on community-based initiatives for poverty eradication among parents of preschool children is a crucial step towards improving the overall well-being of families and community. Raising awareness empower parents to take an active role in addressing poverty related issues, including education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Educating parents about poverty eradication strategies can help break the cycle of poverty by equipping families with the knowledge and skills to improve their economic situation. These initiatives encourage collaboration and community support, fostering a sense of togetherness that can lead to more effective poverty eradication efforts. By involving parents in these initiatives, we can provide a more conducive environment for preschool children’s growth and development, setting the stage for a better future. Building awareness among parents ensures that the efforts to eradicate poverty are sustained over time, as parents become advocates for change in their communities.

Recommendations

1. There should be partnership with NGOs, school and community centers to facilitate workshops, seminars and awareness programs.
2. There should be use of social media platforms, websites, and mobile apps to disseminate information, resources and success stories.



3. Organize regular workshops and training sessions for parents, focusing on topics such as financial literacy, vocational training, and child development.
4. Engaging community leaders, influencers, and local volunteers to help spread the message. Their endorsement can boost credibility and trust within the community.
5. Encourage the formation of support groups where parents can share their experiences, learn from each other and collectively work towards poverty eradication goals.



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