

**Title:** Youth poverty reduction in Nigeria : a policy perspective

**Author:** Momah, Patricia Adaeze

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**Abstract:**

The extent of poverty experienced by Nigerian youth and its effects on national security, sustainable poverty-reduction, socio-economic development, and the global economy has made youth-poverty a serious concern worthy of timely redress. Accordingly, this study explores potential remedies to curb youth-poverty in Nigeria from the economic-empowerment standpoint. The study adopts four steps to address the research problem. First, it reviews the relevant literature related to the topic. Second, it investigates the extent, nature, and causes of youth-poverty in Nigeria. It also examines the limitations of the national monetary, fiscal, and labour policy processes, and the efforts of the non-government agencies in contributing effectively to the reduction of youth poverty in Nigeria. Third, it gained insight into these investigations through qualitative in-depth interviews with twenty-two purposely selected macroeconomic and labour policy process officials. Fourth, an analysis of the findings based on a framework approach along with the relevant theoretical outlook, facilitated potential policy recommendations for managing youth-poverty in Nigeria. Amidst other findings, inadequate economic-empowerment and increased poverty amongst young people in Nigeria is largely associated with the unsatisfactory performance patterns of both past and present governments. The poor socio-economic and politico-legal situations in the country not only limited monetary, fiscal, and labour policy processes but also have hampered the efforts of non-government agencies in achieving economic-empowerment and poverty-reduction for Nigerian youth. The study concluded that both global and national youth-poverty reduction policy frameworks are required to deal adequately with the factors limiting the economic-empowerment and emergence of young Nigerians from poverty. It underscores good democratic governance, as essential tool to attain youth economic-empowerment and poverty-reduction in Nigeria. The study argued strongly that only responsive governance can create the requisite structure to address the problem of youth-poverty.