



**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES  
OF THAILAND AND NIGERIA**



**BY  
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### **Abstract**

Poverty continues to pose a significant challenge globally. In 1990, an estimated 1.9 billion people were living in extreme poverty, constituting 36% of the world population. By 2015, global poverty estimates indicated that 735 million people were living in extreme poverty, which accounted for 10% of the world population. Thailand has successfully implemented a poverty alleviation strategy and achieved significant progress. In contrast, Nigeria has struggled to effectively implement poverty reduction strategies, resulting in limited success in addressing poverty issues. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to 1) the factors contributing to the high poverty rate in Nigeria from 1990 to 2022, 2) analyze the poverty reduction strategies implemented by Thailand from 1990 to 2022, and 3) propose recommendations for Nigeria to adopt strategies from Thailand's successful poverty reduction efforts. The data collection for this study employed semi-structured interviews, involving 12 participants with relevant experience in the field of poverty reduction. The results of the interviews illustrated several factors contributing to the poverty rate in Nigeria, including corruption, conflict and insecurity, political instability, ineffective policy implementation, and inadequate infrastructure. Conversely, the interviews revealed mechanisms implemented by Thailand to reduce poverty, such as comprehensive sustainable development initiatives, social protection programs, investment in human capital, adoption of the sufficiency economy philosophy, and measures to enhance food security. Based on the conducted interviews, the discussion identifies three primary factors contributing to the high poverty rate in Nigeria: corruption, conflict and insecurity, and inadequate access to employment opportunities. Furthermore, the interviews reveal five main strategies implemented by Thailand to reduce poverty: comprehensive sustainability initiatives, investment in human capital, establishment of social welfare programs, creation of a protection net, and measures to enhance food security.

(Total 86 pages)

**Keywords:** Comparative Analysis, Thailand, Nigeria, ECOWAS, ASEAN, MDGs, SDGs, Poverty Reduction.

Student's Signature.....Thesis Advisor's Signature.....

## Table of Contents

		Page
<b>Acknowledgements</b>		<b>i</b>
<b>Abstract</b>		<b>ii</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>		<b>iii</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>		<b>vii</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>		<b>viii</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b>		<b>ix</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Background and significance of the problem	1
	1.2 Research Objectives	8
	1.3 Research Questions	8
	1.4 Definition of Terms	8
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Literature Review</b>	<b>10</b>
	2.1 Development Theory	10
	2.1.1 Modernization Theory	11
	2.1.2 Dependency Theory	11
	2.1.3 World System Theory	12
	2.2 Regionalism	12
	2.3 Previous Studies	13
	2.4 Literature Gap	14
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Poverty Reduction</b>	<b>16</b>
	3.1 Poverty	16
	3.1.1 Global Poverty	17
	3.1.2 Regional Poverty	18
	3.2 ASEAN	20
	3.3 ECOWAS	21

## Table of Contents (continued)

		<b>Page</b>
	3.4 MDGs and SDGs on poverty eradication and strategy that should be used to achieve poverty reduction	23
	3.5 Countries that are successful in poverty reduction	29
	3.6 Current situation of Thailand and Nigeria for achieving poverty reduction	30
	3.6.1 Thailand's current situation for achieving poverty reduction	30
	3.6.2 Nigeria's current situation for achieving poverty reduction	31
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Research Methodology</b>	<b>35</b>
	4.1 Participants	35
	4.1.1 The group of interviewees from the Nigerian Government: Representatives from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs	35
	4.1.2 The group of interviewees from the Thai Government: Representatives from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development	36
	4.1.3 The group of Policy Makers from Thailand and Nigeria	36
	4.2 Research Instruments	37
	4.3 Interview	40
	4.4 Data Collection	40
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Research Findings &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>41</b>
	5.1 Research Findings	41

## Table of Contents (continued)

	<b>Page</b>
5.1.1 Poverty rate and factor that causes poverty within Nigeria/ECOWAS region during the MDGs and SDGs Era	41
5.1.2 The mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region	46
5.1.3 Recommendations from participants that Nigeria should adopt to reduce the poverty rate within their region	50
5.2 Research Discussion	54
5.2.1 Factors that are causing the poverty rate in Nigeria	54
5.2.2 The mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction	58
5.2.3 Recommendations from participants on the strategies that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region	63
<b>Chapter 6</b>	
<b>Conclusion &amp; Recommendations</b>	<b>67</b>
6.1 Conclusion	67
6.1.1 Examining the factor providing the high poverty rate in Nigeria	67
6.1.2 Examining the mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region	68

## Table of Contents (continued)

	<b>Page</b>
6.1.3 Examining the recommendations from participants that Nigerians should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty within their region	69
6.2 Recommendations	70
6.2.1 For Nigeria	70
6.2.2 For policy makers who have experience in poverty reduction	71
<b>References</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Appendix A</b> Interview Questionnaire for Nigeria	80
<b>Appendix B</b> Interview Questionnaire for Thailand	82
<b>Appendix C</b> Interview Questionnaire for Policy Makers	84
<b>Biography</b>	<b>86</b>

## List of Tables

<b>Tables</b>		<b>Page</b>
4.1	The Intended Participants and Criteria	37
4.2	List of Participants	39



## List of Figures

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Figures</b>	
1.1 Proportion of people living below \$1.90/day, 1990-2018 nowcast and 2030	3
1.2 Number of people living below \$1.90/day, 2015-2017 & 2018-2022	6
3.1 Number of people in poverty (by billions)	18
3.2 Regional poverty rate from 1990-2015 (by millions)	19
3.3 Regional poverty rate from 2010-2021 (by billions)	20
3.4 Countries that are successful in poverty reduction	30



## Abbreviations

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
AIFS	ASEAN Integrated Food Security
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FS	Food Security
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PTA	Preferential Trading Agreement
R&D	Research and Development
RIOS	Regional Integration Organizations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background and Significance of the Problem

Poverty is one of the most persevering and significant problems in the globe. Every nation has been trying to reduce it by any means. Poverty leads to a high unemployment rate, and at the same time it causes insecurity because when people have no means to survive, they might likely be a threat to society (United Nations, 2019). For example, in the insurgency in sub-Saharan West Africa Nigeria, poverty is one of the major causes of insecurity in sub-Saharan West Africa Nigeria and other regions in the world (Food Agriculture Organization, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, & African Union Commission, 2020). Thus, poverty increases health risks, poor children nowadays are much more likely to have lower birth weight, and infants living in poor households face higher rates of food insecurity and malnutrition which impairs healthy development (Gundersen & Ziliak, 2015).

However, adults, lower-income earning individuals encounter higher rates of illness, chronic disease, and disabilities than those higher-earning individuals who have higher incomes. Those lower-earning individuals have higher rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and cancer (Gundersen & Ziliak, 2015).

Reducing global poverty was a key aim of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDG target was to reduce the number of people living in poverty by half between 1990 and 2015. At the same time ending poverty also is one of the priorities stands at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched in 2015. The first of its seventeen goals are “no poverty by 2030”. Thus, tracking the global progress on international poverty tells us how close the world is to achieving

and sustaining these aims telling sustainable development goals to fulfill a better future for humans in general (United Nations, 2015a).

Poverty is one of the major significant challenges in West Africa Nigeria though in 1990, around half of the population in West Africa Nigeria and Southeast Asia Thailand were living on less than \$1.25 purchasing power parity (PPP) in a day. From 2015 to 2022 the poverty rate in Southeast Asian Thailand significantly dropped to below 10% despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenge while in sub-Saharan West Africa Nigeria it relatively kept increasing instead of decreasing to above 40%, despite sub-Saharan West Africa Nigeria has more resources and the capacity to overcome the poverty rate within their region (United Nations, 2019).

Therefore, this study is to analyze the poverty reduction strategies in Thailand and Nigeria and to examine the practice Strategy/mechanism that Thailand used towards poverty reduction within the region from 1990 to 2015 and from 2015 to 2022, also to examine the cause of poverty high rate in Nigeria region, from 1990 to 2015 and to 2022 to know whether does the Nigeria could not be able to manage to apply effective strategy/ mechanism properly and to recommend Nigeria to learn from Thailand whether to apply similarly strategy/mechanism that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their Region and in this study, the researcher selecting Thailand in ASEAN and Nigeria in ECOWAS region. Below are details explaining about the ASEAN and ECOWAS.

ASEAN is a Regional Intergovernmental Organization that was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok Thailand. During the Cold War, the member states of the Association were Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Cambodia, Singapore, Philippines, and Brunei Darussalam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. These countries join hands together in order to accelerate economic growth, social and cultural progress, and political development within the region in the spirit of quality and partnership fulfillment (Sharpe & Koperwas, 2003).

In 1990, it was estimated that 1.9 billion people were living below the extreme poverty line 36% of the world population during that time. Perhaps In 2015, there was

a significant achievement in poverty reduction, and it was the most historical year for which global estimates are, that 735 million people were living in the extreme poverty line 10% of the world population. Though, Poverty significantly reduced during the MDG era (post-2000 especially), indicating the power of intensive global efforts. Besides, the goal to reduce extreme poverty by half was achieved in 2012, three years ahead of schedule (Nayyar, 2019). The global share of the world's population living at the poverty level was been continuously decreased to 10% from 2015 to 2016. The SDG era 2017 was the most recent year whereby global estimates have been published by the World Bank that 714 million individuals were living in extreme poverty -9 percent of the world population and estimates the global poverty rate in 2019 at 8.2 percent 690 million individuals living in extreme poverty in 2019.

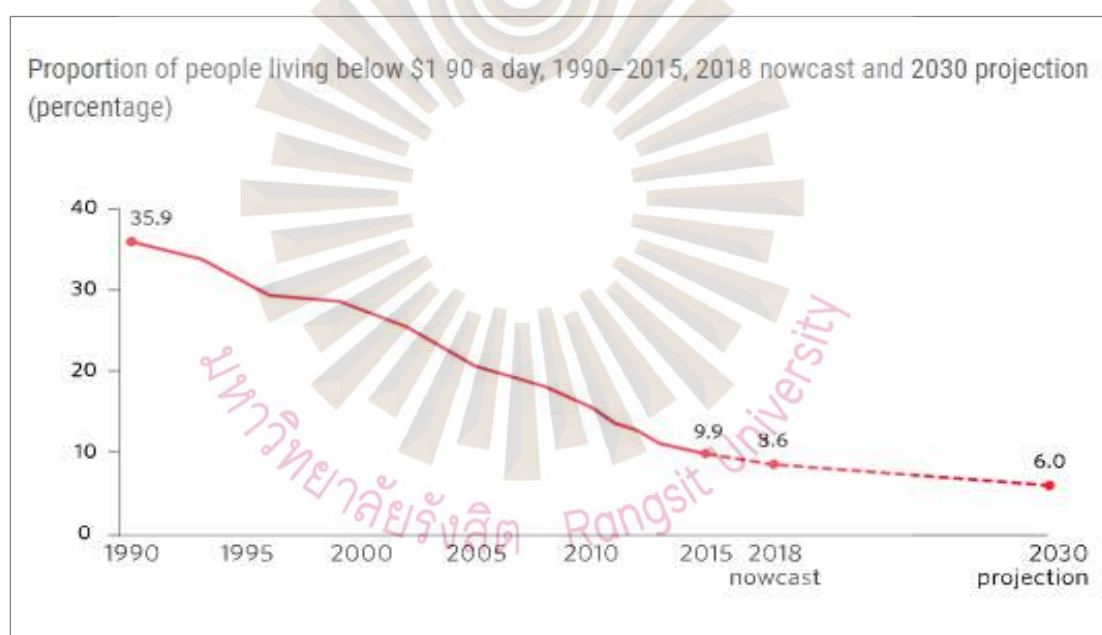


Figure 1.1 Proportion of people living below \$1.90/day, 1990-2018 nowcast and 2030

Source: United Nations, 2019

Thus, before COVID-19, the baseline projections recommended that 6 percent of the world population would still be living below the extreme poverty line in 2030, failing to fulfill the target of ending poverty. As a result of covid-19 pandemic, 71 million additional individuals were living in extreme poverty below the standard of living due to COVID-19 (World Bank, 2020).

However, the world economic diminution in 2020 related to the coronavirus pandemic was estimated to elevate the number of people living in extreme poverty by 50 million between 2019 and 2020. Perhaps in 2021, the number of individuals living in extreme poverty has fallen again, due to the recovery of global economies around the world, but still, there are an estimated 679 million individuals who are living in poverty levels over eight million more than were in 2019. As the world economy retrieves from the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank predict that most countries are likely to overcome the poverty rate in the next five years. It is estimated that the number of individuals living in an extreme poverty level below the standard of living is predicted to be 525 million, 6 percent of the world population, by 2026. This would make reaching and achieving the SDG target to end extreme global poverty by 2030, impossible (World Bank, 2019).

Southeast Asia has seen a wide range of extreme poverty, with an additional 26 million approximately, living below the international poverty line as a result of the covid-19 coronavirus pandemic (United Nations, 2019). Despite that Southeast Asia has made impressive inroads against extreme poverty, helping to reduce the global rate further. However, the pace of change is decelerating. ASEAN is remarkably successful in terms of Poverty reduction performance in regionalism. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic threat in ASEAN from 2015 to 2022, the poverty rate in Southeast Asia was significantly dropping to below 10% despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenge. Therefore, the Southeast Asia has fulfilled remarkable progress in poverty reduction by making effective and collective efforts to the region not to leave anyone behind by applying the MDG's and SDG's strategy/mechanism.

The Economic Community of West African States, also known as ECOWAS, was established on May 28, 1975, in Lagos Nigeria. Is a regional political and economic union of fifteen countries located in West Africa Collectively, these countries comprise an area of 5,114, 162 km<sup>2</sup>, and in 2015 had an estimated population of over 349 million these countries are Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The ECOWAS secretariat is based in the Federal

Capital Territory, Abuja Nigeria. (Börzel, 2013). The purpose of the West African Declaration is to promote economic cooperation and economic development among the members of the state to raise the living standard, and also a creation of borderless region where the population has access to its abundant resources and can exploit same through the creation of opportunities under a sustainable environment.

In 1990, the regions of East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia and the EU have each significantly reduced the number of people who are in extreme poverty from 1990 to 2015 during the MDG's era yet, poverty rate reduction is unmatched with sub-Saharan West African ECOWAS region (Nayyar, 2019).

From the 2015 to 2022 SDG era the poverty rate in sub-Saharan West Africa (ECOWAS) relatively kept increasing instead of decreasing to above 40 percent despite sub-Saharan West Africa (ECOWAS) having more mineral resources and the capacity to reduce the poverty rate within their region (World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2019). Sub-Saharan Africa has seen a wide range of extreme poverty, with an additional 32 living below the international poverty line as a result of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. (United Nations, 2019). This would make reaching and achieving the SDG target to end extreme global poverty by 2030, impossible (World Bank, 2019).

In 1990, the regions of East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia and the EU have each significantly reduced the number of people who are in extreme poverty from 1990 to 2015 by using the MDG's strategy yet, poverty rate reduction is unmatched with sub-Saharan West African ECOWAS region (Nayyar, 2019). Though in 1990, ASEAN and ECOWAS were at a similar level of poverty rate compared to the other regional organizations even though ASEAN's poverty rate level was above the ECOWAS region's poverty level in 1990 (Development Initiatives, 2019).

The rapid poverty reductions in the Southeast Asia region (ASEAN) contrasts with changes in sub-Saharan West Africa, where the number of people living in extreme poverty has significantly kept increasing. In 1990, around half of the population in Sub-Saharan West Africa and Southeast Asia were living on less than US\$1.25 per day. And in 2020, the rate has been dropping to well below 20% in Southeast Asia, while in Sub-Saharan West Africa remains relatively high at around 41 percent. Which is the slowest of any region in terms of poverty eradication below data shows (United Nations, 2015a).

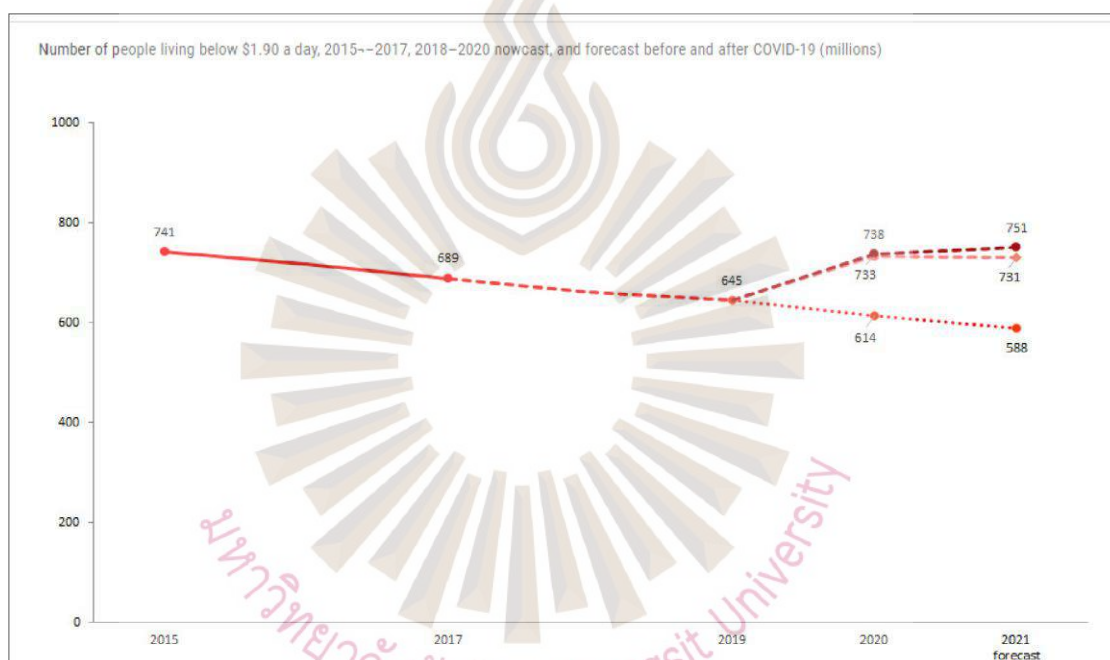


Figure 1.2 Number of people living below \$1.90/day, 2015-2017 & 2018-2022

Source: United Nations, 2019

This explains why studies in these areas and these two groups have been very important. Many scholars have tried to explain that ECOWAS has not made giant strides in terms of poverty reduction during MDG's and SDG's. Thus, this study will analyze and examine the poverty reduction strategies of Thailand and Nigeria from the selected country in each region. In the ASEAN region which is: Thailand, and in the ECOWAS, region is Nigeria.

This selected country from the ASEAN region have been among the successful country achieved lowering the poverty rate within their region despite the challenges they have been through. While the other selected countries from ECOWAS have not been archived to lower the poverty level, which is not the best for ECOWAS/Nigeria because poverty is a threat to society and economic development, the researcher selected these countries because both countries are multi-ethnic nations with differences of beliefs. The below details will describe the brief background and achievements on poverty reduction from each of the selected countries from the ASEAN region and also the unsuccessful achievements from the ECOWAS regions.

Thailand Is located in the heart of mainland Southeast Asia with a land area amount approximately 514000 sq. km and a multi-ethnic nation with a population of 55 million, Thailand is an export-dependent country and has successfully reduced the poverty rate over the past three decades from 65% in 1988 to 10% in 2018, 2019. As COVID-19 struck the economy, the individuals who are living in an extreme poverty rate jump up to 6.4% in 2020, representing another more 200,000 individuals falling below the standard of living (World Bank, 2020).

However, the growing incomes and the consumption of a household in Thailand have stalled nationwide. This resulted in a reversal in the progress of poverty reduction in Thailand with the number of people living in poverty, Thailand, also, reduced the rates of child stunting from 25 to 11% over the last 30 years through targeted, community-based nutrition programs in areas with high levels of poverty. The effective solicit brought together health, agriculture, education, water, and sanitation by the direct society-level collaboration to address malnutrition (World Bank, 2019).

Nigeria is popularly one of the rich countries in the world that have oil, gold, diamond, and other Mineral resources, located in West Africa is a multinational state and sovereign country bordering Niger in the North, Capital city Abuja with a land area of 923769 km and Population of 200 million. Nigeria has the largest economy and largest population, yet poverty is one of the major significant challenges in the

country 40.1% of the population live in poverty due to poor governance, corruption, insecurity, lack of infrastructure, poor education, and lack of power sector, no social security Forty percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line in 2020 (Müller-Jung & Oneko, 2018).

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine a comparative study of poverty reductions strategy of Thailand and Nigeria and the factor that causes the poverty high rate in Nigeria also to analyze the strategy/mechanism that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region so that to propose the recommendation that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region.

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

1.2.1 To examine the poverty rate and the factors that cause poverty in Thailand and Nigeria

1.2.2 To analyze the strategy/mechanism that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region.

1.2.3 To propose the recommendation that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region.

## **1.3 Research Questions**

1.3.1 What are the Poverty rates and factors that cause poverty in Thailand and Nigeria?

1.3.2 What is the Strategy/mechanism that Thailand Implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region?

1.3.3 What is the recommendation that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to overcome the poverty rate within their region?

## **1.4 Definition of Terms**

**ECOWAS** in this research means the West African Economic Community. ECOWAS was established on May 28, 1975 in Lagos, Nigeria. It is a regional organization on political and economic union of fifteen countries located in sub-Saharan West Africa region. The member countries are Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

**ASEAN** in this research means the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It is a regional inter-governmental organization that was established on August 8, 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand. During the Cold War, the Member States of the association were Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Cambodia, Singapore, The Philippines, and Brunei Darussalam. The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia. These countries join hands together to accelerate economic growth, social and cultural progress, and political development within the region in the spirit of quality and partnership fulfillment.

**POVERTY** in this research means a condition of impoverishment, which involves multiple aspects from limited income to vulnerability.

**GLOBAL POVERTY** in this research means the number of individuals worldwide who live and earn less than 1.50 USD/day.

**REGIONAL POVERTY** in this research means the number of individuals living below the standard level of less than 1.50 USD/day in each region.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Literature Review**

This chapter presented a review of the literature related to the study, this research is primarily to study the comparative analysis between ECOWAS and ASEAN on poverty reduction during the MDGs and SDGs. This chapter will review the following. Development theory, Modernization Theory: Dependency Theory, World system Theory, Regionalism theory, Poverty, Global poverty, regional poverty, ASEAN, ECOWAS, MDGs and SDGs on poverty reduction and strategy that should be used to achieve poverty reduction, Countries that are successful in poverty eradication, Current situation of ASEAN and ECOWAS for achieving poverty reduction, and previous studies.

#### **2.1 Development Theory**

Development theory is a group of theories about how to achieve the best beneficial reform in society. Therefore, to transform and achieve the best progressive society obviously can't shy away from economic development. The term economic development here is defined as global share and sustainable economic growth along with the systematic societal change in production, economic, and political to become an innovation-based economy and improvement in living standards. This definition differentiates economic development from economic growth that's barely based on production and distribution example: exploitation of natural resources, restructuring of the country's production GDP (Gross Domestic Product) to become a more export-dependent country, and sustaining the living standards of the poor (Adelman & Morris, 1997). Development theory has a long history and has three historical theories, below are briefly outlined: Modernization theory, Dependency theory, and World System theory.

### **2.1.1 Modernization Theory**

This theory was developed in the 1950s to 1960s. Expressing that Western nations are the most developed and successful nations while the rest of the world is in the phase of development. However, the development phase comes from the traditional society moving to the developed ones. Hence, underdeveloped countries are far behind with sustainable economic advancement and need to be governed to become more progressive nations (Rostow, 1960). Despite that most countries are trying to transform their country into a progressive and successful society with a sustainable economy and culture. However, supporting the financial and social aid from the developed countries would be very helpful to those less developed countries in different ways. Modernization theory was constructed on Classical liberalism and individual belief, free trade, and open market. Therefore, in modern society technology is a key significant factor in the development theory because it will transform less-developed nations into progressive and sustainable nations.

### **2.1.2 Dependency Theory**

In economic development, this theory was re-proving modernization theory. This theory discusses the effect of colonialism on middle-income countries and argues that the international economic and political system is the key major contribution that causes unjust situations and poverty in less developed countries. Such as inequalities, trade inequalities, and lack of financial aid, and its need to be considered in producing a future sustainable development (Prebisch, R., Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, & United Nations Department of Economic Affairs, 1950; Singer, 1950). Argued that the world has been developed into a “center-periphery” in response to the concern of the gap between developed countries and less developed countries and that economic growth in the developed industrialized nations did not benefit the less developed countries. Thus, the less developed countries become the center for outsourcing raw materials to developed countries' manufacturers. Thus, according to Prebisch et al., (1950) engaging in trade protectionism is necessary for

these countries to become self-sustaining and progressive societies. This approach aims to challenge the modernization theory's development process.

### **2.1.3 World System Theory**

This theory criticizes the dependency theory. According to Gutkind & Wallerstein (1976), the segregation of the periphery and center was facilitated into a three statistical model system containing the core, semi-periphery, and periphery. This division aims to explain the industrialization and political approach to the dilemma of economic development within less developed countries. Focuses on inequality as a separate institution from development and analyzes changes in the global capitalist system. It was initiated by policy-oriented intellectuals in countries at a medium level of advancement to account for their society's demonstrable incapability to catch up to the developed countries. i.e., from those nations' inadequate skilled workforce and manufacturing industries that can process raw materials locally.

## **2.2 Regionalism**

Regionalism has become a research field in itself, rather than being limited to a narrower state- or policy-driven process conceptualized in terms of 'regional integration' in the classical sense. The multidimensionality of regionalism has given rise to several new puzzles and challenges for both academics and policymakers, with a subsequent proliferation of a very large number of theories and concepts. The end of the Cold War saw a surge in regionalism. While the number of Preferential Trading Agreements (PTAs) exploded (Mansfield & Pevehouse, 2013), long-standing regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), experienced the delegation of more political authority and policy competencies in the past two decades (Börzel 2013). These two trends of more and deeper regionalism, respectively, are often attributed to processes of diffusion or interdependent decision-making. Regional cooperation and integration spread across time and space once the constraints of geopolitics had ceased to exist (Carlsnaes, Risse, & Simmons, 2013).

### 2.3 Previous Studies

The research was conducted on the “Differentiation in ASEAN, ECOWAS, and MERCOSUR: A Comparative Analysis by Bernardo Gaens et. al. (2020). This research investigated how the practice of differentiation facilitates flexibility and accommodates diversity in the regional cooperation process in ASEAN, ECOWAS, and MERCOSUR whether this research states empathetically the differentiation leads to centrifugal or centripetal dynamics, and it examines the impact of differentiation on internal as well as external cooperation. However, after comparing the three regional organizations it is understood that is highly challenging. All three organizations show a wide internal diversity in terms of size, economic development, GDP per capita, and Human Development gap ECOWAS in terms of the coexistence of different organizations was initially not planned but resulted from political pressure.

Another research study was conducted by Emir Suljovic (2019). This study identified the trade performance of regional integration organizations RIOs: A comparative analysis between ASEAN and ECOWAS. Both regional organizations use different ways to achieve similar goals. Whereas ECOWAS acts as a supranational RIOs with its institute and legitimacy to persuade its member state while ASEAN acting intergovernmental state, is given much less decision-making power and accountability by its member. This research discovered that ASEAN has its certain limitation regarding accountability and legitimacy because the member agreed on it this explains the preferred bilateral way of trade between ASEAN and EU establishing PTAs as each nation are more legitimized and present a higher authority as the organization itself which might be one of the reasons that the EU agreed on bilateral PTAs as well.

While, ECOWAS the supranational RIO, established its bodies to operate on the matter of decision-making, legitimacy, and accountability, the organization suffers from a high dependence on Nigeria’s trade performance and its leverage on ECOWAS’ efficiency of resource allocation and effectiveness. This leads to non-ratification of trade agreements showing a weak impact of authority and legitimacy

despite its established bodies. In terms of trade effectiveness, the organization shows a higher intra-regional trade affiliation compared to ASEAN but a weaker trade performance outside of its community borders.

Glas and Balogun (2020) researched “Norms in practice: people-centric governance in ASEAN and ECOWAS to analyze how both regional organizations. And the researcher has found out that both regions recently adopted and institutionalized the norms of people-centric governance. The evidence from the statistics of the “In ASEAN the norms are understood and enacted in a limited and defensive way. Its institutionalization has led only to selective engagement with civil society and has not altered established modes of regional governance. In ECOWAS the norms are understood as a means to render the organization more inclusive of civil society groups and have transformed the regional project in important ways, shaping the logic and form of regional intervention and conflict prevention.

## **2.4 Literature Gap**

The progress made in the analysis between ECOWAS and ASEAN on poverty reduction has seen progress in Thailand achieving the poverty rate within their region while Nigeria has struggled to achieve. Previous research has primarily focused on the overall assessment of different sectors, investigating how the practice of differentiation facilitates flexibility and accommodates diversity in the regional cooperation process in ASEAN, ECOWAS, and MERCOSUR, the trade performance of regional integration organization RIOs. Also, they studied the analysis between Thailand and Nigeria and the improvement of various sectors compared to the past. It also pointed out the reasons why Thailand were significantly successful far ahead, compared to the Nigeria which is still left behind with poverty, economic disempowerment, Insecurity, and political instability. This research study builds on previous research by investigating the comparative analysis between Thailand and Nigeria on poverty reduction, Thailand strategy for achieving the poverty rate within their country how they overcome it, and the factors that cause the poverty rate in Nigeria.

In summary, Development theory is a key significant factor in modern society because it will positively transform less-developed nations into progressive and sustainable nations. There are three historical development theories. The first theory is modernization theory, which defines Western nations are the most developed and successful nations while the rest of the world is in the phase of development. The second theory is the dependency theory argues the first theory that the international economic and political system is the key major contribution that causes unjust situations and poverty in less developed countries such as inequalities, trade inequalities, and lack of financial aid. The third theory is the world-system theory, and this theory criticizing the dependency theory focuses on inequality as a separate institution from development and analyzes changes in the global capitalist system. Thus, regionalism theory focuses on interdependent decision-making on regional cooperation and integration that has been spread across time and space once the constraints of geopolitics have ceased to exist.



## Chapter 3

### Poverty Reduction

#### 3.1 Poverty

Poverty is one of the most persistent problems in the world, which countries try to eradicate by any means while setting sustainable development goals to achieve a better future for mankind in general. There is no specific definition of poverty. Perhaps, poverty is a condition of impoverishment, which involves multiple aspects, from limited income to vulnerability. There are mainly two conceptual approaches to poverty in this research (Wratten, 1995).

The conventional economic approach defines poverty as the incapability of getting a minimum standard of living, below which the location of people is unwanted. This low-level Standard of living is to be unfaltering concerning food, housing, health care system, education, medical treatment, security, and sanitation (Pigou, 1932).

Islamic approach states poverty as the failure of a person to make provision for food, housing, education, treatment, health security of life, and sanitation for a minimum standard of living. The conventional definition of poverty does not identify the nutrition or required food of individuals that's why poverty is sometimes defined as a deficiency of nutrition. (Peerzade, 1997).

In summary, according to Wratten (1995), there are two conceptual approaches to rural poverty the first conceptual approach is the conventional economic approach that defines poverty as the inability to get a minimum standard of living. The second conceptual approach is the Islamic approach which defines poverty as a failure of an individual to make a provision for food, housing, education, and healthcare for a minimum standard of living. Therefore, poverty positively affects the development of society hence it prevents individuals from getting the minimum standard of living, At

the same time it's abstracting the individual to make a provision for food, housing, education, health treatment, and security. Thus, Poverty is one of the major problems that every nation needs to overcome for the betterment of the people and the development of society.

### **3.1.1 Global Poverty**

Global poverty is a crucial matter that prevents human development. It also provocation human dignity and world peace (Hanjra, Blackwell, Carr, Zhang, & Jackson, 2012). Global poverty is defined as the population of an individual globally who lives below the international poverty level on less than \$1.50 a day. As described by the World Bank above 736 million people or one out of every ten people on the planet currently live below this poverty threshold, and children, a highly vulnerable segment of society, account for more than half of the world's poorest citizens (World Bank, 2020).

Alleviating global poverty was a major objective of the MDGs. The MDGs aimed to lower the number of individuals living below the poverty line by half, from 1990 to 2015. It was estimated that 1.9 billion individuals were living below the poverty line in the globe, 40% of the global population at that time. Perhaps, 2015 was the most achievable year for which global poverty was reduced to 735 million individuals who were living below the poverty line -10% of the global population. Therefore, poverty was reduced during the MDGs period by half it was even achieved in 2012 before 2015 three years ahead of the schedule (United Nations, 2015a).

Alleviating poverty now stands at the depth of the SDGs that were initiated in 2015, The first seven goals of SDGs is zero poverty by 2030. Tracking global development on the international poverty level tells how close the world is due to the coronavirus pandemic. In 2015, the global poverty of people living below the standard level is slower progressive against the higher poverty line to below 8%.

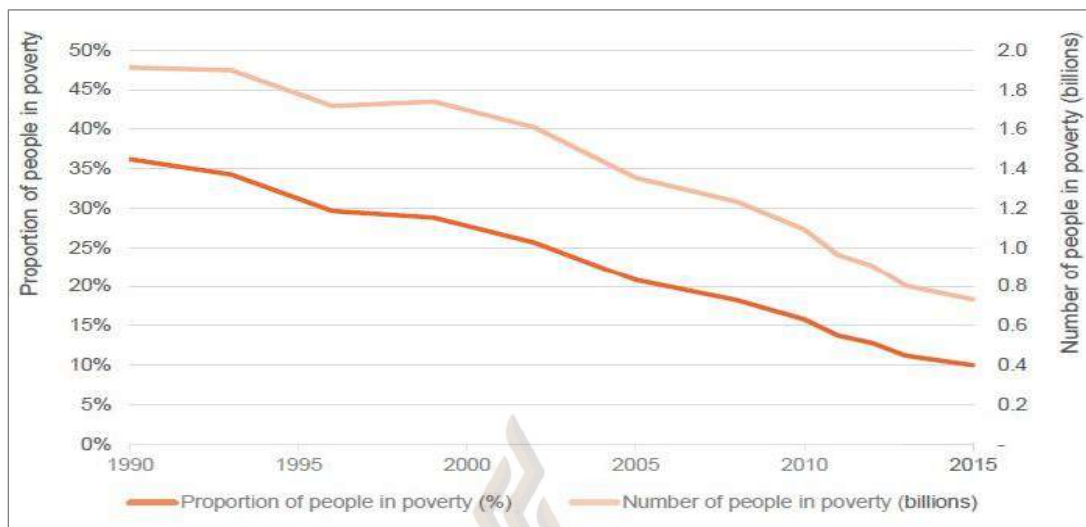


Figure 3.1 Number of people living in poverty (by billions)

Source: Development Initiatives, 2021

Since then, the global poverty rate of people living below the standard of living keeps falling by about 1% every year. Thus, toward the end of that period, the poverty rate reduction slowed. For example, between 2013 and 2015 the poverty rate fell about 0.6% annually. Continuously, the global poverty rate significantly fell by less than 0.5% per year. Perhaps Between 2015 and 2017, 9.2% of the global population still lived below the global poverty line 2017. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of individuals living in extreme poverty increased by 50 million due to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. While, in 2021 The number of people living in an extreme poverty level decreased to 7.5 percent of the global population– that are living below \$1.90 a day.

### 3.1.2 Regional Poverty

Regional poverty is defined as the number of people living below the standard level of less than \$150 a day in each region. In a regional aspect, extreme poverty has declined consistently since 1990, this achievement hasn't happened everywhere. Although both the share and number of individuals in extreme poverty level to below 1.50 per day has decreased in most regions in the world since 1990.

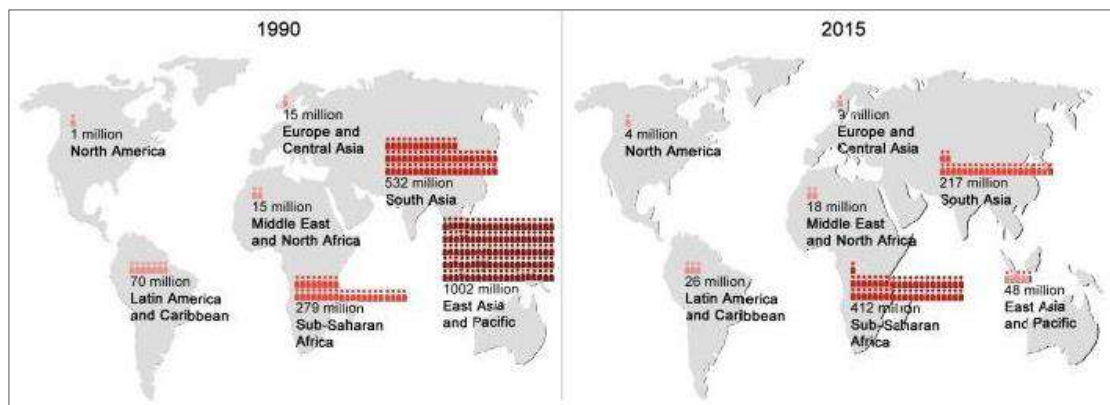


Figure 3.2. Regional poverty rate from 1990-2015 (by millions)

Source: Development Initiatives, 2021

Since 1990, the regions of East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia have each remarkably reduced the number of people who live in extreme poverty. Though East Asia and the Pacific have indicated the most remarkable change. Perhaps, in 1990 the region was home to 52% of the world's extremely poor people who live below the standard level (over 1 billion), but in 2015 this had dropped to 6% (48 million people). This significant poverty eradication of individuals living below the standard level is incomparable to elsewhere in the world, where the extreme poverty rate within that region significantly dropped from 55% to 2% during that period (Development Initiatives, 2019).

Since 2015, the countries in the regions of East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia have significantly reduced the number of individuals who are living below the standard of living. In 2010 the out of global individual who were living in extreme poverty in ASEAN were 19 percent over 214 million, but in 2021 had significantly dropped to 3 percent which is 19 million individuals. This rate of poverty reduction is unparalleled elsewhere in the globe. This means living on less than \$1.90 a day. And in 2022 the present year keeps decreasing.

The rapid poverty reduction in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region contrasts with changes in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of people living in extreme

poverty has significantly increased since 1990 and lived at almost the same level since 2002.

In 1990, 279 million individuals in sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa were living in extreme poverty below the standard of living, but in 2015, over 50 percent of the global share of poverty more than 400 million individuals were extremely poor people, the poverty rate change has also been the slowest in any region, with a fall from 55% in 1990 to 41% in 2015 and, in 2021, the region was home of more than 457 million individual living in extreme poverty. Poverty was significantly reduced elsewhere around the globe, yet, sub-Saharan West Africa represents a global share of 66% of the individuals who live below the standard of living around the world (Development Initiatives, 2019).

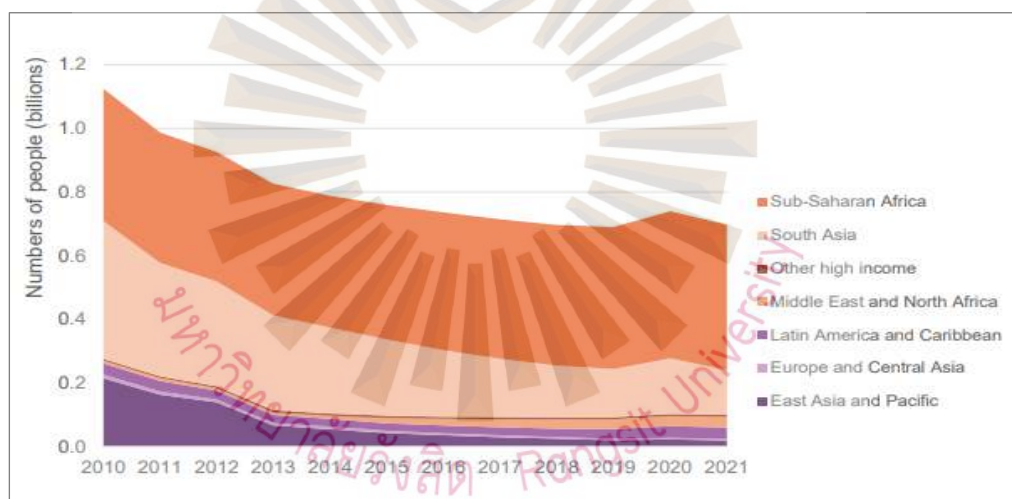


Figure 3.3. Regional poverty rate from 2010-2021 (by billions)

Source: Development Initiatives, 2019

### 3.2 ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a Regional Intergovernmental Organization that was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok Thailand. During the Cold War, The Member states of the Association were Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Cambodia, Singapore, Philippines, and Brunei Darussalam. The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia. These

countries join hands together to accelerate economic growth, social and cultural progress, and political development within the region in the spirit of quality and partnership fulfillment (Sharpe & Koperwas, 2003).

In this study, the researcher selected Thailand to conduct further research. The share of the global population living in extreme poverty below the standard of living decreased to 10% in 2015, from 16% in 2010 and 36% in 1990. Respectively. Thus, Thailand has made remarkable achievements against extreme poverty rates within their region, fulfilling to reduce the global rate further (United Nations, 2015a).

The global poverty rate has been reduced remarkably and the quality of life has improved for a huge number of Southeast Asia's 625 million residents. Gross domestic product (GDP) has been achieved by US\$2.4 trillion and still growing at 5% annually. Regional trade among the ASEAN members has jumped from \$10 billion in 1967 to \$2.3 trillion in 2015. But in 2021, had dropped to 3% percent (19 million people). This rate of poverty reduction is unmatched anywhere else in the world (Development Initiatives, 2021).

Collective efforts by Thailand not to leave anyone behind and strategy to overcome the poverty rate have helped Thailand to achieve large gains in poverty reduction. At the same time, the life expectancy improved (United Nations, 2015a). Therefore, the strategy that Thailand implemented to overcome poverty reduction within their region has been positively effective since they can achieve the above number despite the coronavirus threat.

### **3.3 ECOWAS**

The West African Economic Community (ECOWAS) was established on May 28, 1975, in Lagos Nigeria. a regional organization on political and economic union of fifteen countries located in sub- Sahara West Africa region, these countries comprise an area of 5,114,162 km<sup>2</sup> thus, in 2015 had an estimated population of over 349 million these countries are; Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote

D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The ECOWAS secretariat is based in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Nigeria (Economic Community of West African States, 2024). The researcher selected 1 country in this region which is: Nigeria (Börzel, 2013).

According to the World Bank report: the poverty rates significantly remain peak in the sub-Sahara West African region. The latest extreme poverty estimates from the World Bank revealed that West Africa is lagging behind the rest of the world. Thus, the Development expert Francisco Ferreira says it's not too late to turn things around. Hence Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where the overall number of extremely poor people is increasing rather than decreasing (Müller-Jung & Oneko, 2018).

Extreme poverty remains a major challenge in developing countries specifically in sub-Sahara West Africa a country that has been affected by conflict and political upheaval, out of the 736 million people who lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 413 million were in West Africa sub-Sahara region. This figure has been scaling in recent years and is higher than the number of poor people in the rest of the globe collectively. Yet, in 2021, the region is still home to more than 457 million individuals living in extreme poverty below the standard of living. As poverty has reduced elsewhere around the world, extreme poverty in countries in sub-Saharan West Africa now represents a global share of over 66% of the people who live in extreme poverty around the globe (Development Initiatives, 2021).

Forecasts suggest that without notable policy changes, extreme poverty will still be in the double digits in the West Africa sub-Sahara region by 2030. About 79% of the world's poor individuals live in rural areas. The poverty rate in rural areas is 17.2 % three times higher than in urban areas 5.3 %. Close to 46% of extremely poor individuals are children below 14 years of age (United Nations, 2019).

However, the West Africa sub-Sahara ECOWAS region is the only region in the world where the number of extreme poverties is increasing instead of decreasing,

according to the World Bank's latest Poverty and Shared Prosperity report. Globally, rates of extreme poverty earning less than \$1.90 a day have remarkably declined. Yet, DW spoke with a Senior Advisor in the World Bank's Development Research Group, Francisco Ferreira, about why poverty rates remain high in sub-Saharan West Africa and what efforts are being made regarding the strategy on poverty reductions by sub-Saharan the West African region (Müller-Jung & Oneko, 2018).

In summary, global poverty is defined as the number of individuals worldwide who live and earn less than \$1.50 a day. Globally, rates of extreme poverty have dramatically declined, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to approximately 736 million. However, an estimated 413 million people in Africa currently live in extreme poverty more than half of the world's total (World Bank, 2018). Regional poverty is defined as the number of people living below the standard level of less than \$150 a day in each region. Since 1990, the regions of East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia have each remarkably reduced the number of people who live in extreme poverty. Though East Asia and the Pacific have indicated the most remarkable change. However, the West Africa sub-Saharan ECOWAS region is the only region in the world where the number of extreme poverties is increasing instead of decreasing.

### **3.4 MDGs and SDGs on poverty eradication and strategy that should be used to achieve poverty reduction**

The MDGs were established in 2001 simple to determine and measurable goals expressing the fundamentals that had been agreed by most of the countries in the 2000 Millennium Declaration so that those agreements that have been made could be placed into real practice within the selected areas. Most of the developing countries assimilated the MDGs into their national (or more accurately government) development and strategic plans including importantly sectorial health and education plans into their rotated medium-term planning processes and significantly into their yearly budgets.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have disclosed unprecedented political fidelity and have restored that poverty eradication should be the major objective of international development attainments. At the present advancement, though, one of the target numbers among the eight MDG goals will be achieved at the global level in 2015 (Adejo, 2006). It revealed that September 2000 marks a silent moment in international efforts to reduce the number of people who are living in extreme poverty. As a result, Bello (2007) assumed that it was one of the reasons that being recognized by the United Nations, Governments of different nations, and individual citizens who are concerned mark it as the year when the world has put an unparalleled to fight for the global poverty level and attain the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs).

As recalled by the years 2015 when the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), report, at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, it was revealed that 189 countries with similar minds implemented the Millennium Declaration, vowing to put an effort to bring equality for individuals, men, women, and children to overcome the extreme poverty.

This effort was to express the agenda of MDG's eight goals and apply it in practice that has enabled individuals across the globe to enhance their standard of living and prospects from extreme poverty. The MDGs helped and elevated more than one billion individuals out of extreme poverty in 2015, MDG reduced hunger and elevated more girls who were left out of school to attend school at the same time protecting the planet from climate change. Despite all this exceptional attain, still, inequality has been nonstop and the development has been unequal.

Therefore, the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals (SDGs) has been set and committed, as stated in the declaration of the agenda to extend the Millennium Development goal and finish the MDG's unfinished aims to overcome extreme poverty and its form and dimensions around the globe by 2030. Hence poverty is one of the major global significance challenges and is a vital requirement for Sustainable development, hence the poverty reduction SDGs aims to end poverty

around the globe, it's one of the seven target goals among the other goals to elevate the individuals who are living below the standard of living to reduce at least by half men, women, and children and apply proper social protection systems that measure for all, poor and vulnerable (United Nations, 2015b).

Thus, a strategy achieving poverty reduction for a country to overcome the poverty rate within their region needs to apply the SDG strategy, though a poverty reduction strategy is a mechanism that any country or region needs to apply to relieve the hardship of the citizens. The below details will elaborate more about the strategy that should be used to achieve poverty reduction:

1) Comprehensive sustainable development through the promotion of rural development and economic growth is one of the key strategies that reduce poverty in Thailand. Acknowledge that the country has to robust the agricultural sector in rural areas within the region, hence poverty is high in those areas which is why implementing a comprehensive sustainable development strategy in rural areas in ASEAN is crucial (United Nations, 2019).

2) Social protection and safety net strategy are one of the inclusive sustainable developments by accessing the poor individuals who are living below the poverty standard level by giving them a financial support foundation to building capable, resilient, and self-sustaining households and communities. Social safety net and protection from the negative impacts of integration and globalization social protection programs reduce the brunt of poverty and can also prevent people from falling into poverty in the first place. By helping to prevent and ease poverty and inequality at every stage of people's lives, such programs make societies more inclusive and stable. However, only 45 percent of the world's population is effectively covered by at least one social protection cash benefit. The remaining 55 percent as many as 4 billion people have been left behind. The extent of coverage depends on the type of protection system and the region. Globally, 68 percent of people above retirement age receive a pension, but the benefits in many countries are often not enough to lift older people out of poverty (United Nations, 2019). In that case, Thailand is among the countries

that have social safety and production programs that enrich Thailand to overcome poverty rate within the region (United Nations, 2019).

3) Ensuring Human capital development is one of the major significant factors to overcome poverty in a society, hence, it helps the individual who didn't have a job to get the job. Is about investing in people for better equity and economic growth in the future to reduce poverty. Though, it means investing in good health, nutrition, education, and skills that make it possible for the individuals to be productive.,” Dr. Gabriel Demombynes, the World Bank’s Program Leader for Human Development, told in the ASEAN (Invest in Me) seminar organized by the World Bank and Chulalongkorn University’s School of Integrated Innovation in Bangkok last month he narrated that Human capital development is one of the significant factors that Thailand fulfill and progress towards poverty reduction (World Bank, 2019).

4) Access to healthcare and the promotion of free healthcare systems means that all citizens receive healthcare at no cost or a very minimal cost. One form of universal healthcare is when the government pays for the healthcare needs of its residents meaning free healthcare. This is often called the “single-payer” system. Thus, investment in healthcare is another important strategy that can be used to eradicate poverty. Thailand has traditionally relied on a mixture of public and private healthcare with an emphasis on the latter. It is a structure that is likely to continue as more countries in the Region begin to move towards the provision of universal healthcare. For those shortly to implement such schemes in the cases of Indonesia and the Philippines. However, even in these countries, which together account for more than half of the ASEAN Region’s 600 million population, the private sector is likely to continue to play an important role in the provision of services to state-insured patients. In addition, In January 2014, health insurance is due to cover almost 122 million people throughout Indonesia. A tax-exempt state corporation, BPJS Kesehatan, has been established to roll out the scheme which is to be extended to the whole of the country’s 240 million population by 2019. Thailand is already a pioneer in the Region having introduced free universal healthcare at the point of delivery in 2002 and demonstrating that the concept is not out of reach of middle-income countries. For example, Cambodian workers can have access to free medical health care in Thailand despite they are Cambodians, not Thais (Helble et al., 2019).

5) Building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities: due to the major disasters that happen in some of the ASEAN members for example the disaster that occurred in the Philippines on 8 November 2013, resulted in more than 6000 deaths with 1700 hundred missing and 2700 injured this makes Thailand more effort in developing resilience against disaster to protect the citizens and the future coming events in Thailand and they have achieved a lot (Helble et al., 2019).

6) Education is one of the most important ways to reduce poverty is to educate the poor since education opens up a wide range of economic opportunities for people. Without an educated labor/ people force, neither individuals nor countries may be able to compete effectively in the global market labor and cope with ever-changing economic environments. This is true of present information and technology-oriented economics. Helble et al. (2019) notes the success found in Zimbabwe, South Korea, Singapore, and other countries in expanding educational opportunities to the citizens. Helble et al. (2019) found that education was a factor in the more equitable distribution of the benefits obtained from growth. Notes that during the 1970s the wage inequality between the college's college-educated workers and non-college-educated workers in South Korea diminished because more and more people in South Korea completed secondary education. In contrast, wage inequality in Brazil grew because education gaps increased in the workforce. To ensure human equality to have access to quality education (Helble et al., 2019).

7) Ensuring environmental sustainability: "Sustainability is the capacity to improve the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of the Earth's supporting eco-system (Anbumozhi & Kojima, 2019) This definition has been provided by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the work of which is driven by the fact that global production and consumption system are affecting nature at persevering and dangerously high rates. As populations have increased and we have relied on the earth's natural resources such as minerals, petroleum, coal, gas, and so on, the earth's natural ecosystems and creatures from birds to insects to mammals have declined. We have changed the sacred balance of nature as environmentalist David Suzuki puts it, which has harmed both humans and other living systems (Anbumozhi & Kojima, 2019)

8) Enhancing food security and safety: Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Meechoovet, 2022). This widely accepted definition points to the following dimensions of food security: In the aftermath of the 2007/2008 food price crisis, the ASEAN Summit of 2009 pledged to embrace food security as a permanent and high policy priority. The attainment of food security has faced several recent challenges, such as economic slowdown due to the global financial crisis, as well as rising cost of living and agricultural inputs due to escalating fuel prices. Emerging threats include the shift of arable land to biofuels with potential repercussions on food production, short-term impacts of natural disasters complicated by climate change, and other long-term pressures on food production, such as urbanization, conversion of agricultural land, and migration of labor from rural areas. To systematize its approach to food security, the Summit adopted the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action – Food Security (SPA – FS) 2009-2013. The AIFS Framework identifies a strategic set of measures based on strong commitments and ownership among all Member States. The goal of the AIFS Framework is two-fold ensure long-term food security in ASEAN and improve the livelihoods of farmers in Thailand (Meechoovet, 2022).

9) Improving capability to control communicable disease: Developing robust health delivery mechanisms is a key area for policy and research. Thailand has an energetic private healthcare sector, including modern pharmaceutical and biotechnology R&D research, development, and producing capacity, which can be attached to further building up healthcare services (Cicero et al., 2019).

10) Social Justice and rights: is committed to promoting social justice and mainstreaming people's rights into its policies and all spheres of life, including the rights and welfare of difficult, vulnerable, and deprecate individuals such as women, children, the elderly people with disabilities, and migrant workers (Hadiprayitno, Muhlis, & Kusmiyati, 2019).

In summary, an agenda for sustainable development goals (SDGs) has been set and committed, as stated in the declaration of agenda to extend the Millennium

Development Goal and finish the MDGs The Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) was established in 2001 which disclosed unprecedented political fidelity and have given restore that poverty reduction should be the major Objectives of international development attainments. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have disclosed unprecedented political fidelity and have restored that poverty reduction should be the major objective of international development attainments Most of the developing countries assimilated the MDGs into their national and government development strategic plans importantly into sectorial health and education plans into their rotate medium-term planning processes and significantly into their yearly budgets. Thus, the MDGs helped elevate more than one billion individuals out of extreme poverty in 2015.

The 2030 Unfinished aims to overcome extreme poverty and it all forms and dimensions around the globe by 2030. Thus, Thailand strategy for achieving poverty reduction was: Rural area comprehensive development, social protection, and safety net, enhancing food security, environmental sustainability, social justice and rights, capability to control communicable disease, Human capital development, building disaster resilient promotion of free healthcare systems, and Education.

### **3.5 Countries that are successful in poverty reduction**

In the global battle to overcome the poverty rate, there has been a different strategy that effectively curtails these matters. Poverty reduction strategies are a very vital part of fighting against poverty and because of this, countries should cooperate and learn from one another to implement the strategy on poverty reduction.

Gratefully, with the help of the UN, the world has been making progress in terms of cooperating and implementing a good poverty reduction strategy, one of the goals of the World Bank Group is to reduce extreme poverty. The world has seen tremendous progress in reducing extreme poverty since 1990. The World Bank published an analysis in 2019 of the 15 countries that are successful in poverty reduction. The below graph shows about 15 countries.

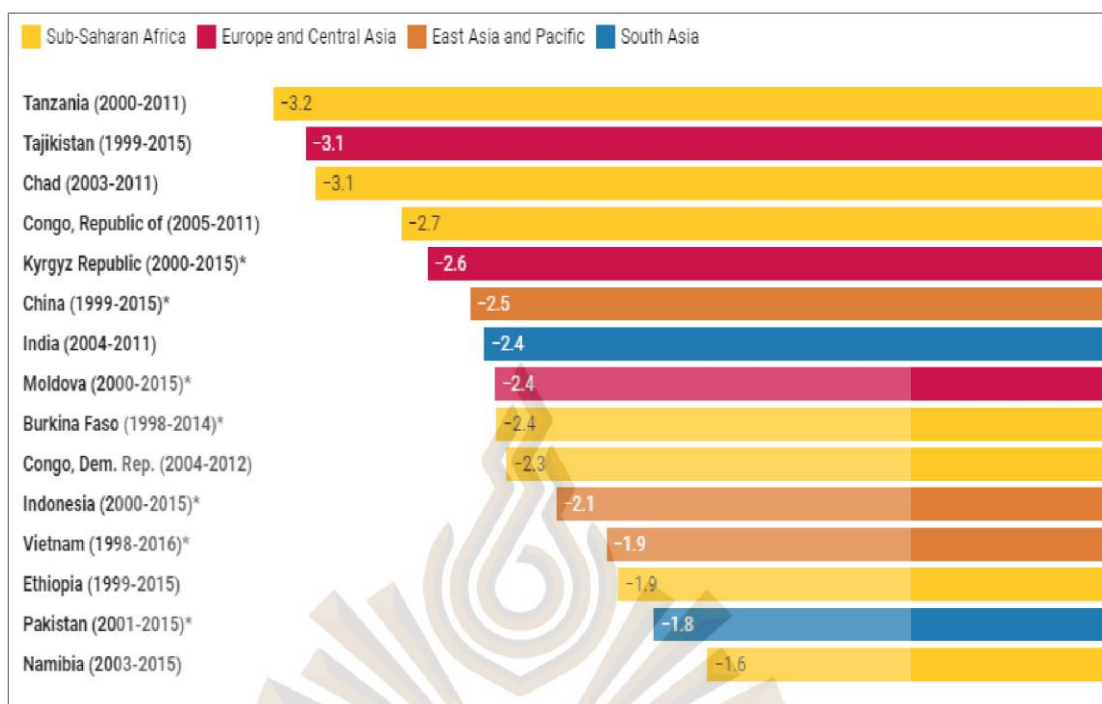


Figure 3.4. Countries that are successful in poverty reduction

Source: World Bank, 2019

In summary, in the global battle to overcome the poverty rate, the World Bank published an analysis in 2019 of the 15 countries that are successfully overcoming poverty eradication. 7 countries from sub-Sahara Africa: Tanzania, Chad, Congo Republic, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Ethiopia, Congo, Dem. Republic while, three countries in Europe and Central Asia: Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Moldova. Also, three from East Asia and the Pacific: Vietnam, Indonesia, and China, and two from South Asia, which are India and Pakistan.

### 3.6 Current situation of Thailand and Nigeria for achieving poverty reduction

#### 3.6.1 Thailand's current situation for achieving poverty reduction

ASEAN is a regional organization consisting of 650 million population of individuals covering the region, spread over 4.5 million square kilometers beyond 20,000 islands, landmasses, and a wide range of different people, languages, historical places, religious sects, and cultures (Asian Development Bank, 2023).

ASEAN region has made phenomenal progress in terms of poverty eradication within their region over the last two decades. In the form of the century, over a third 34.3 percent of the population fell below the global poverty line (\$1.90) per day. However, in the year 2018, only 3.3% of individuals remained below the poverty line in the ASEAN region. When looking at the seven ASEAN countries, the total number of individuals below the international poverty line fell from an estimated 172 million in 1999 to about 20 million in 2018. But in 2021 this had dropped to 3% (19 million people). The global poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 is revised slightly up by 0.1 percentage points to 8.5 percent, resulting in a revision in the number of poor people from 648 to 659 million. This revision represents 11 million more people living in extreme poverty, largely driven by South Asia (Asian Development Bank, 2023).

Considering and scheduling of poverty reduction have diverse covering the ASEAN region. Thailand succeeded in nearly eliminating income poverty at the end of the twentieth century. Thailand has been successful in reducing the depth of poverty rate within their region. The severity of poverty is captured by the poverty gap ratio, which measures the average shortfall in the income of the population below the poverty line. Over the last twenty years, the poverty gap ratio has fallen from just over ten percent to less than one percent. This has been achieved through the elimination of extreme poverty in Malaysia and Thailand, as well as the reduced incidence of poverty in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

### **3.6.2 Nigeria's current situation for achieving poverty reduction**

Economy Community of West African Region ECOWAS was established on 28th May 1975 (Economic Community of the West African States, 2024). ECOWAS

is a regional economy like other different regional organizations that fifteen-member nations joined, signed, and amended a treaty in Cotonou, Benin Republic city in July 1993 with approval to promote the inter-trade and economic integration in all aspects of the diversion anticipated by the countries.

Thus, ECOWAS demographically is located in the sub-Sahara West African region that has a population of 353,224 million people across the regions with a wide landmass of about 5.1 million hectares, the second largest sub-Sahara region in Africa (United Nations, 2015a) when it's comes to the war against the poverty eradication it is crucial to understand that Nigeria has been left behind and it is very obvious to understand the primary cause of it perhaps poverty is the global phenomenon though some regions overcome it.

According to the United Nations (Development Initiatives, 2021), there are (713 million) individuals who are living in extreme poverty below the standard of living of less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 10%. It is shown Extreme poverty remains stubbornly high in low-income countries and countries affected by conflict and political upheaval, particularly in Nigeria. Among the 713 million people who lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 413 million were in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2021, the region is still home to more than 457 million people living in extreme poverty. As poverty has reduced elsewhere around the world, extreme poverty in countries in Nigeria now represents a global share of over 66% of the people who live in extreme poverty around the world (Development Initiatives, 2021). This digit has been scaling in the last few years and is higher than the number of poor individuals in the rest of the world. It is evaluated to account for 43% of the region's whole population (African Development Bank, 2018).

Nigeria was one of the regional organizations that failed to fulfill the MDG goal in the world after the implementation and completion for a decade and a half, due to the following factors, the COVID-19 pandemic, corruption, conflict, growth rate of the population, poor leadership, neglecting human capital development, poor infrastructure, reliability on extracted company, trade restriction, insecurity, neglecting

social security, poor education, poor health care system, colonization, democratization, and politics (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017).

Consequently, the region needs to put more intensive efforts into reducing the poverty rate within their region by 2030, as more than 60% of the countries in Nigeria register more than 40% of the individuals living in extreme poverty line. Thus, another reason why Nigeria have failed to achieve the MDG targets and other national poverty reduction strategy development programs is the lack of adequate funding to undertake advancement projects such as infrastructure, education, and health.

Sustainable Development Goals' (SDG) 2030 No Poverty Agenda admits that eradicating poverty, by all means, is the most serious challenge in the world today (United Nations, 2019) numerous economic intervention strategies initiated by international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, world bank, and African development bank and sponsor organization to overcome poverty rate in Nigeria but unfortunately was unsuccessful due to the lack of sufficient funding, lack of thought and understanding of significant poverty plans and poor implementation of such strategy by many Nigeria nations (Igboanusi, 2014).

Presently, it is estimated that the amount that the SDG to spend to overcome extreme poverty by 2030 would be around \$66 billion per year (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017). Despite that amount, Nigeria left behind and continue to face a frequent lack of resources to fund public and private capital investments, which has limited their capability to spend money on infrastructure and social services required to speed up to development and to overcome the poverty rate level across their region (United Nations. Economic Commission for Africa, 2006).

Forecasts advocate that without significant policy change, and if care is not taken, extreme poverty will still be in the double digits in Nigeria by 2030. About 79 % of the world's poor individuals live below the standard of living life in rural areas. The poverty rate in rural areas is 17.2 percent more than three times higher than in

urban areas (5.3%); nearly (46%) of extremely poor individuals are children under 14 years of age (World Bank, 2019).

In summary, the Thailand has made phenomenal progress in terms of poverty reduction within their region by implementing strategy over the last two decades. In the form of the century, over a third 34.3 percent of the population fell below the global poverty line (\$1.90) per day. However, in the year 2022, only 3.3% of individuals remained below the poverty line in the Thailand. Nigeria was one of the regional organizations that failed to fulfill the poverty reduction strategy. According to the United Nations (2019), there are (713 million) individuals who lived in extreme poverty below the standard of living of less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 10%. It is shown Extreme poverty remains stubbornly high in low-income countries and countries affected by conflict and political upheaval, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa Nigeria. Among the 713 million people who lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 413 million were in sub-Saharan Africa Nigeria.



## Chapter 4

### Research Methodology

The research methodology will play a very dynamic role in leading towards the completion of this study. This chapter introduces the research participant, research instruments, and data collection and the limitations of the research. Thus, the qualitative research method will apply to conduct the present study.

#### 4.1 Participants

Approximately twelve participants were selected by purposive sampling technique. These twelve participants consist of government officers from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development in Thailand who have work experience in poverty reduction as well as Nigerian Government officials from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs who have also work experience in the field of poverty reduction. They were divided into three groups. Then, these three groups were interviewed using semi-structured, open-ended questions.

##### **4.1.1 The group of interviewees from the Nigerian Government: Representatives from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs**

The first group includes four Nigerian government officials who have working experience and a policymaker who has work experience in the field of poverty reduction. These four representatives were divided into two groups. The first group consisted of three Nigeria government officials from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs who has work experience in the field of poverty reduction and the second group consisted of three policymaker who has experience working alongside ECOWAS in the field of poverty reduction. The first group has criteria as follows:

- 1) Having working experience at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria on poverty reduction for 10 years.
- 2) Having work experience working alongside ECOWAS for at least 5 years.
- 3) At least having experience working on a Master plan for 5 years

#### **4.1.2 The group of interviewees from the Thai Government: Representatives from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development**

The second group of Thailand Government officials consists of four government officials from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development who have working experience in the field of poverty reduction. The second group also divided into group three of Thailand government officials and another group consisting of one policymaker who has work experience in the field of poverty reduction in Thailand was also interviewed all four Thailand in the second group had criteria as follows:

- 1) Having working experience in the Ministry of Economic and Social Development on poverty reduction for 10 years
- 2) Having work experience working alongside the ASEAN in the area of poverty reduction strategy for at least 5 years
- 3) At least have experience working on a Master plan for 5 years

#### **4.1.3 The group of Policy Makers from Thailand and Nigeria**

This group has four policymakers from both Thailand and ECOWAS/Nigeria. They have criteria as follows:

- 1) Having work experience from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of Nigeria  
and from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development of Thailand in the area of poverty reduction for at least 5 years.
- 2) Working in the position of development and poverty analyst for at least 10

years.

- 3) At least have experience working on a Master plan for 5 years.

Table 4.1 The intended participants and criteria

No. of people	Type of intended participant	Work details	Work experience (Years)
4	Nigeria	Having work experience in /Nigeria at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on poverty reduction.	At least 10 years
		Having work experience working alongside Nigeria for at least six years as a poverty strategic analyst. F3	
		Being an officer	
4	Thailand	Having experience with on Nigeria's Master Plan under the National Strategy implementation on poverty reduction within the region at least five years.	At least 10 years
		Having working experience in Thailand at the Ministry of Economic and Social Development on poverty reduction.	
		Having work experience or working alongside Thailand for at least six years in the area of poverty reduction strategy.	
4	Policymaker expertise	Being an officer	At least 10 years
		Having experience with on Thailand's Master Plan under the National Strategy implementation on poverty reduction within the region at least five years	
		Having work experience in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria or Thailand from the Ministry of Economic and Social Development both in the area of poverty reduction.	
4	Policymaker expertise	Working in the position of development and poverty analyst for at least 6 years.	At least 10 years
		Being an officer	

Source: Researcher

## 4.2 Research Instrument

In order to provide and gather as much relative and informative evaluation, this research used the semi-structured interview as the main source. The interview is a direct communication. It is considered one of the most effective approaches for

qualitative research. Interview questions are usually open-ended questions so that in-depth information will be collected. Smil (1999) mentioned that an interview allows researchers to get all information about the participant's experience. Researchers can pursue in-depth information about the topic and follow up with certain respondents for further information.

A semi-structured interview is one of the important interview types. It is an in-depth interview that is commonly used in qualitative research. This method allows the researcher to collect open-ended data in order to deeply explore participants' thoughts, opinions, and beliefs about a particular topic or research topic (DeJonckheere & Vaughn, 2018). The advantages of a semi-structured interview are as follows: firstly, semi-structured interviews can create positive rapport between interviewer and interviewee. Thus, the researcher can easily get things that cannot be easily observed such as emotions and feelings; secondly, participants are able to talk about all important information in detail and depth; thirdly, the interviewer can probe areas suggested by the respondent's answers, and can also learn from the answers which can help create picking-up information, the information of which interviewer had no prior knowledge; fourthly, with the pre-set questions in a semi-structured interview, the interviewer is not pre-judging what will or will not be discussed in the interview; fifthly, Easy to record interview, for example video and audio tape (Newcomer, Hatry, & Wholey, 2015).

This research uses the qualitative research method technique by using semi-structured and purposive samples selecting the twelve participants from both Thailand and Nigeria committees' members on poverty eradication from the selected countries of both Thailand and Nigeria.

The criterion for interviewees of this research is the participants who have working experience for more than ten years because a long-term professional and experienced participant can give more details about their region on poverty eradication. The second criterion is about the age. All participants are over 40 years old because the researcher believes that middle-aged participants usually have more

specific ideas and knowledge of what they have been experiencing in their region. The third criterion is about the regional sect of the respondent's example either from Thai or Nigerian committee members, workplaces who have been mostly the participants because interviewing those participants can get more information about the region's successes or challenges.

All participants who meet all criteria have been automatically chosen by Nigeria, Thailand, and policymakers by giving the names of the people who can be the participants for this research and then the researcher conducted with those participants. Below Table 3.2 shows the list of participants in this research. All participants will be anonymous to protect their identity.

Table 4.2 List of Participants

No.	Participant	Gender	Age	Nationality	Region	Workplace	Years of Service
1	A	Male	59	Thai	ASEAN	National Economic and Social Development	8 years
2	B	Female	50	Thai	ASEAN	Social Issue Officer	6 years
3	C	Male	45	Thai	ASEAN	External Officer Affair	5 years
4	D	Female	45	Thai	ASEAN	Asian Pacific Development	6 years
5	E	Male	50	Nigerian	ECOWAS	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	7 years
6	F	Male	55	Nigerian	ECOWAS	National Committee Member of War Against Poverty	8 years
7	G	Male	60	Nigerian	ECOWAS	National Economic Strategist	9 years
8	H	Female	50	Nigerian	ECOWAS	Information Officer	6 years
9	I	Male	40	Nigerian	ECOWAS	Development Analyst	5 years
10	J	Male	45	Thai	ASEAN	PSIA Analyst	5 years
11	K	Male	50	Thai	ASEAN	Poverty Analyst Expert	7 years
12	L	Female	47	Nigerian	ECOWAS	Poverty Analyst Expert	6 years

Source: Researcher

### **4.3 Interview**

The interviewed participants consist of twelve participants both from Thailand and Nigerian government officials committee expertise and those that had expertise in poverty reduction from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria as well as the Ministry of Economic and Social Development in Thailand and five policymakers in on poverty reduction these participants are anonyms in order to protect identity. The details of all participants are as follows:

### **4.4 Data Collection**

In this study, the researcher will obtain the information by interviewing the Thailand committee and the Nigerian committee those who are experts and have experience in poverty reduction.

Therefore, primary data will be obtained from the interviews of a total of twelve selected participants. Moreover, the secondary data also will be collected by selecting from the theories and related previous research, thus, the according data will be used as well, such data derived from reviewing reliable sources including the relevant theories, concepts, and statistic data. After Collecting the data and information, the researcher analyzed what the author mentioned and identified to explain the specific situation in Thailand and Nigeria.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Research Results**

This chapter explores and presents the research results collected by semi-interviews with the three groups of respondents which are: 1) Thailand government official who is presently working on poverty reduction, 2) Nigerian government officers from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Department, 3) Poverty reduction expertise who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies from both Thailand and Nigeria.

#### **5.1 Research Findings**

All the Thailand and Nigerian participants will be interviewed to answer the three research questions. However, some participants will also be interviewed with specific questions to get additional information that can help the researcher to answer the research questions more comprehensively. This section will show systematically the perspectives of each group of participants on each research question and research problem. It will also reflect the ideas of some participants which is useful for finding the results of this research. There are three sections under 4.1 which are: 1.) the factor that is causing the poverty in Nigeria 2.) Strategy/mechanism that Thailand Implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region and 3.) Recommendations from participants that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region.

##### **5.1.1 Poverty rate and factor that causes poverty within Nigeria/ECOWAS region during the MDGs and SDGs era**

According to the interview with Nigerian government committee member participants who work on poverty reduction in Abuja headquarters in Nigeria from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs department center as well as those who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies in Nigeria. Seven important factors

provide the poverty high rate in Nigeria that were mentioned. These factors could indicate the things that are providing the poverty rate in Nigeria.

The first factor is Nigerian political democracy. Participants E, F, G, L, H and I agreed that subscribing to fundamental freedom, equality, and justice in terms of power, resource distribution and guaranteed access opportunities to all of its citizens has failed by providing a poverty high rate /Nigeria. This factor adversely affected Nigerian Achievement by preventing societal development. Participant I (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported this point that:

“The political democracy in Nigeria has no standard value when it comes to sustainability because there is no free and fair election and no political equality and when it comes to policies on poverty reduction most of the policies adopted by the Nigerian political leaders have no conduct direction, transparency and accountability on poverty reduction. Instead of the political leaders making policies that decrease the suffering and starvation among the people they are accumulating the country’s wealth for their own, and this is one of the reasons poverties keeps increasing among the individuals in Nigeria.” (Participant I, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

However, Participant H has a different perspective on political democracy from others. He reported that political democracy is not the major problem and is not the factor in the contributing poverty rate in Nigeria, perhaps. Participant H (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) further explained that:

“The types of leaders, people, and leadership that we are always having in Nigeria are the main cause of the poverty high rate because they are not there to serve the people who are voting them in, sometimes Some incompetent people might not be able to win in a free and fair election can be the winner through influence voters or electoral officer or judiciary just for the incentive that will follow not for the country’s development, Thus, voting incompetent candidates to the office is one of the factor in contributing the poverty rate in Nigeria. Because they have nothing to offer for the citizens.” (Participant H, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The second factor is policy implementation. This factor is one of the causes of poverty high rate in Nigeria. Participants L, I, H, and F have agreed that Nigeria’s policy implementation is one of the significant factors contributing to the poverty high

rate in Nigeria. Participants E, F, L, I, G, and H agreed that nefarious policy formulation and the policy formulator in Nigeria jeopardized the country's living standards. And is negatively affecting Nigeria's poverty reduction. Participant F (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) explained this point that:

“Currently, the policy implantation in Nigeria can be judged as backward policies because of the failure of economic development promises from the colonial master's period to this present time. Different policies are adopted and most of these policies became the agents of rural class formulation and differentiation where its implementation benefits only ex-bureaucratic, army officers, politicians, business, and traditional rulers.” (Participant F, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

Similarly, Participant G (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“Nigerian Government Policies are frequently not helpful to SME business holders. The policy is a colonial legacy for the continuation of exploitation and dependency not for small-scale businesses and people from rural areas.” (Participant G, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The third factor is corruption. This factor is also one of the causes of the poverty high rate in Nigeria because it represents a threat to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions of democracy, ethical values, and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law. Participants E, F, L, I, G, and H agreed that this factor deprives people, of resources and opportunities and undermines economic growth and it contributed to the poverty high rate in Nigeria Participant F (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“Nigeria has been facing corruption as a major challenge because it gets to the point of complete and outrage theft for which no feasible notable or historical justification can be advanced, and which has played a major role in different sectors and is one of the key major in contributing the poverty high rate in Nigeria also the policymaker and policy system is corrupted from the policymakers to the bottom line even in judiciary corruption accommodate the rule of law as well as in the public administration results in the unequal distribution of services.” (Participant F, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The fourth factor is conflict and insecurities. Participants E, F, G, L, H and I agreed that these factors are associated with rising poverty in Nigeria, because the existence of a widespread conflict in Nigeria with the threats of Boko Haram, Banditry, Fulani herdsmen, Niger delta militant, Biafran etc. And the absence of law and order in some parts of Nigeria is one of the big drivers of slow progress and increases in poverty in the region. Participant L (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) explained this point that:

“Conflict and insecurities have created a cycle of poverty, especially in the affected area. These factors have disrupted economic activities, resulting in underdevelopment, job losses, and lack of access to basic services such as education and healthcare at the same time have caused a lot of life loss, scattering of individuals out of their villages, and dismantling of property and infrastructure. At the same time, it disrupts farmers in rural areas to do their farming. Farmers cannot go because of the kidnappers that ask for ransom.” (Participant L, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The fifth factor is the reliability of the extracted company or dependence on an extractive industry factor, which is another factor contributing to the poverty rate in Nigeria. Participants E, F, L, I, G, and H agreed that it increases productivity for the people, and when a lot of the growth is coming from an industry that is capital intensive, that doesn't employ many people, and that doesn't have many linkages to the rest of the economy would contribute to poverty high rate. Participant I (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) explained this point that:

“Any country that has oil wealth and its oil wealth only share and control in hand of a few individuals, like Political leaders, traditional rulers, kingmakers, and retired and present military officers only share the oil wealth among themselves, rather than sharing equitably among the population, this country might face the poverty high rate, in Nigeria there is still little economic diversification because the oil wealth is only shared among the elite group, not among the population which is mean most Nigerians still rely on subsistence agriculture, informal trade, and low skill.” (Participant I, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

However, Participant L has a different perspective on the reliability of extracted companies or dependence on an extractive industry from others. He reported that dependence on an extractive industry is not the major issue and it is not the factor

in the contributing poverty rate in Nigeria, perhaps. Participant H (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) further explained that:

“The economic dependency is there is left to the Nigerian government to do the right things because all of the refineries are working, government has to work on modernity to reduce the defense of foreign goods.” (Participant H, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The sixth factor is access to employment Participants E, F, G, L, H and I agreed that is one of the factors providing the poverty rate in Nigeria. Because the design and implementation of efficient national policies for employment generation and inequality wasn't that effective it required a deep understanding of the labor market structure and resource allocation implication. Participant F (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) explained this point:

“In Nigeria you need to get somebody's recommendation even if you have experience and excellent academic qualifications, it is just about who you know not what you can do to secure decent and reliable sources of income and this is what leads to a perpetuation of poverty and income gap segment in Nigeria.” (Participant F, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

Similarly, Participant I (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“The majority of Nigerians in the rural area have no equal rights and opportunities in government work or civil services because elected political leaders' traditional rulers and high-ranking military and government official usually put their children or relatives to good jobs like CBN, NNPC, and so on rather than a qualified person. This unemployment is identified as a major economic, political, and social problem in many sectors in Nigeria.” (Participant I, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The seventh factor is inadequate infrastructure in Nigeria and this factor is also the cause of the poverty high rate in the region. Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I agreed that infrastructure is one of the essential figures for the country's economic growth, without the infrastructure nation or country would not move forward. Examples, like Train, rail, good roads, adequate Seaport, airport, and steady electricity. these are some

of the key factors when it comes to poverty reduction but Nigeria is far left behind when it comes to adequate infrastructure, because no good roads, rails, or steady electricity. Participant L (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported:

“Good infrastructure drives the economic growth of the country and the movement of goods and services would ease, no country could function without adequate infrastructure but Nigeria’s infrastructure is moving slower and it’s what provides a poverty high rate. Example: lack of steady power in Nigeria has Leeds inflation because the cost of generator diesel is high and it’s affecting the manufacturing industries and also abstracting the foreign investment in Nigeria.” (Participant L, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

### **5.1.2 The mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region**

According to the interview with Thai government officials’ participants who work on poverty reduction and strategy in Bangkok, Thailand center from (The Ministry of National Economic and Social Development) as well as those who have work experience in the field of poverty reduction policies and strategy in Thailand. There are seven important Mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty within their region that were mentioned. These strategies could indicate the main strategies that Thailand implemented for poverty reduction within their region:

The first mechanism/strategy that Thailand implemented is comprehensive sustainable development. Participants A, B C, D, K, and J agreed that a comprehensive Sustainable development strategy in Thailand on poverty reduction is one of the strategies that has helped Thailand to reduce poverty within their region. Participant K (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported:

“Sustainable development strategy towards poverty reduction in Thailand has promoted and developed the rural area in Thailand. Thus, improved Thailand’s economic growth and a better standard of living at the same time it strengthened the agricultural sector in rural areas, one can see poverty was high in rural areas before but this strategy that Thailand implemented appreciated Thailand’s current account surplus and high foreign reserve combine, the country’s continually low unemployment and inflation

rate have placed Thailand in a very blessed economic position and environmental sustainability.” (Participant K, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The second strategy is social protection and safety net and this strategy is one of the mechanisms that Thailand implement in reducing the poverty rate within their region. Participants A, B C, D, J, and K agreed that accessing the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line and giving them a financial support foundation to be resilient, and self-sustaining households and communities. It has helped Thailand to lower the poverty within their region. Participant C (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“Thailand's strategy towards social protection and safety net is effective because it helps Thailand examine the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line provides them with financial support and strengthens the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line by aiding and delivering basic social services net in Thailand.” (Participant C, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

Similarly, Participant D (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“Thailand is among the country that gets social safety and protection net, and this strategy has enriched Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within the region, example like cash transfer, child grants, school meals, skill development, healthcare, nutritious food and quality education given to all children this program had help Thailand lower the poverty within the region.” (Participant D, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The third strategy is human capital development Participants A, B C, D, K, and J agreed that is one of the significant strategies that Thailand implemented in reducing the poverty rate within their region, by investing in people for better equity, economic growth, good health, nutrition, educations, and skills that make it possible for the individuals to be productive in the society. Participant J, (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) further explained that:

“Human capital development strategy is one of the significant factors that Thailand fulfilled by implementing poverty reduction within the region. Thailand has invested more in education research and development and agriculture that helps the poor individual’s access to education and innovative farming especially those that are in rural areas.” (Participant J, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The fourth strategy is the sufficiency economy philosophy this strategy is one of the most effective and fulfilling strategies that Thailand implemented by reducing the poverty rate within their region. Participants A, B C, D, K, and J, agreed that this mechanism was an approach being concerned with the hardship of Thai farmers who were living in poverty. After King Bhumibol ascended to the throne in 1946, and was keen on improving the living quality of Thai people in rural areas the better living country’s development should be guided by three principles of moderation, reasonableness, and sustainability. Participant C (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“The per capita GDP of Thailand was US\$200. But after the ascended to the throne of King Rama 9 and the implantation of the sufficiency economy philosophy strategy had an answer to this puzzle because it offers a practice guideline for people in Thailand to live their lives sufficiently and also a practical simple to implement and flexible to different challenges. It is like a balanced way of living and emphasizes sufficient livelihood with cooperation at the local level.” (Participant C, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

Similarly, Participant K (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“Thailand’s sufficiency economy philosophy has presented a special approach and sustainable development focusing on self-sufficiency, equity, and environmental sustainability in Thailand because most of the Thai people go into more production of their products to be self-sufficient and self-containments also this approach served as a model for other developing countries that are seeking to achieve sustainable development.” (Participant K, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The fifth strategy is the promotion of free healthcare systems for poverty reduction Thailand Participants A, B C, D, K and J agreed that healthy people contribute to society through economic development of the country whether the

private or public sector and Thailand has significant progress in promoting its health care system. And has implemented strategies in various sectors aimed at improving access to healthcare services. This strategy reduces health inequalities and promotes healthy lifestyle behavior in Thailand. Participant C, (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported that:

“The promotion of a free healthcare system has benefited Thailand citizens because Thai citizens receive healthcare at less minimal cost. It's like one form of universal healthcare when the government pays for the healthcare needs of its citizens. Usually called the single-payer system Thailand has been successful in improving access to health care services and health inequalities.” (Participant C, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

Identically, Participant B (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) also reported that:

“Investing in health is very important because perpetual illness, disease, and malnutrition in society could potentially affect economic growth and social stability in a country. Conversely, poverty, unemployment, and economic disintegration create potential malnutrition diseases, thus Thailand will handle it well because Thailand ensures that public health is soundly productive capacity not just undermines people who die prematurely or experiences serious health complication from preventable disease.” (Participant B, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The sixth strategy is food Security strategy toward poverty reduction in Thailand within their region. Participants A, B C, D, K, and J agreed that Thailand has achieved extensive and significant progress on poverty reduction, both with regards to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Particular progress has been made in addressing extreme poverty, as illustrated by the absence of persons living with an income below the standard of living, building on this success, Thailand has sought to elevate its commitment by reducing extreme poverty beyond the level of international indicators. Participant A (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) reported:

“Thailand has accomplished pivotal progress in advancing SDGs about ending hunger and promoting safe nutritious and sufficient food. This is

because Thailand has upgraded its ranking in the world food security index as well as the general reduction in the number of people per capita who are unable to access sufficient food in the last 3-5 years.” (Participant A, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The seventh strategy is education. Participants A, B, C, D, K, and J agreed that education is one of the most important strategies for poverty reduction. Because educating the poor opens up a wide range of economic opportunities for people. Without an educated labor/ people force, neither individuals nor countries may be able to compete effectively in the global labor market and cope with ever-changing economic environment. Thailand's strategy toward education on poverty reduction progressed Thailand to reduce the poverty within their region. Participant A (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) further explained that:

“Thailand has accomplished and improved the quality of education within the region including the teachers, high school and university curriculum development, these achievements have helped Thailand promote skill and competitive development to their people at the same time government’s commitment towards education combined with a focused approach and collaboration across all sectors has been a key success on achieving poverty. Reduction in the number of people per capita who are unable to access sufficient food in the last 3-5 years.” (Participant A, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

### **5.1.3 Recommendations from participants that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region**

There are seven main recommendations on what Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region. Suggested by A, B, C, E, K, and F.

The first recommendation is Human capital development. Participants A, B, C, E, K, and F recommended that the Nigerian Government should focus mainly on adequate infrastructure because adequate infrastructure would help the Nigeria to reduce the poverty rate within their region. Participant E (Personal communication, November 28, 2022) suggested that:

“Nigerian government should invest in some kind of infrastructure that would enable their citizens to be more productive such as better road, rail, and train like in Thailand because the more people’s goods can flow the faster their goods can reach the market and that would help the Nigerian economy to grow.” (Participant E, personal communication, November 28, 2022)

Similarly, Participant C (Personal communication, August 20, 2022) recommended that:

“Nigerian should learn and adapt from Thailand's strategy on poverty reduction by providing steady electricity because if the electricity is reliable then manufacturing, foreign direct investors, and other production firms would come and invest or run their business but without the steady electricity they will not do that if the electricity is there for only a few hours a day.” (Participant C, personal communication, August 20, 2022)

The Second recommendation is, Human capital development Participants A, B, C, E, K, and F recommended that the Nigerian government should pay attention to support the development of knowledge and training skills on human capital development because it will ease the poverty rate within their region. Participant F (Personal communication, November 28, 2022) recommended that:

“Nigerian government should invest more in human capital development such as quality education and restructure their healthcare system by giving social service and providing adequate facilities, knowledge, and skills to all citizens so as not to leave anyone behind.” (Participant F, personal communication, November 28, 2022)

Similarly, Participant K (Personal communication, November 28, 2022) recommends that:

“Nigerians should support the matter of rural development by providing them with some formal training on how to be self-sufficient constructing adequate roads that could link them to the city and monitoring the ongoing projects in various rural areas. This will help rural area people also to get equal opportunities to urban area people.” (Participant K, personal communication, November 28, 2022)

The third recommendation is maintaining security, Participants A, B, C, E, K, and F recommended that the Nigerian government needs to learn and adopt from Thailand focusing on maintaining security because maintaining security is very crucial. Participant A (Personal communication, November 28, 2022) recommended that:

“Nigerian should adopt from Thailand on maintaining the securities because without security foreign direct companies won’t come and invest and without the legal certainty provided by good law and regulations which are also enforced no one will come. For these reasons, security and legal order have to be among the priorities for the Nigerian government.” (Participant A, personal communication, November 28, 2022)

The fourth recommendation is the social welfare and protection net strategy Participants A, B, C, E, K, and F recommended that Nigeria should learn and adopt adequately from Thailand on social welfare and protection net strategy to reduce the poverty within their region for example Participant C (Personal communication, November 28, 2022) recommended that:

“Nigerians should adopt from Thailand social welfare and protection programs to reduce the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusions within their regions example cash transfers free school meals orphanage support and more help that will ease the hardship to their citizens. That would help to ease the poverty rate in their region.” (Participant C, personal communication, November 28, 2022)

The fifth recommendation is retaining free trade Participants A, B, C, E, K, and F recommended that retaining free trade would ease the Nigeria to reduce the poverty within their region Participant E (Personal communication, November 28, 2022) recommended that:

“Enchasing free trade could provide a significant opportunity for SMEs and big enterprises in the Nigeria region, such as job creation, business opportunities, and economic activities. Many businesses will benefit from substantial trade and investment and suggested that the Nigerian government needs to revise on their bilateral trade agreement with their neighboring countries.” (Participant E, personal communication, November 28, 2022)

Similarly, Participant E (Personal communication, November 28, 2022) recommends that:

“Free trade will help to open behind the border barriers that are affecting the flow of goods and services between both ECOWAS countries, encourage investment, and improve the rules affecting such issues as intellectual property, e-commerce, and government procurement. However, the Nigerian region needs to learn from Thailand to work on that.” (Participant E, personal communication, November 28, 2022)

The sixth recommendation is economic diversifying. especially, on sustainable resources that won't run out eventually as well as industrial and agricultural development by using technologies, innovation, and creativity in this sector. Participants A, B, C, E, K, and F recommended that Nigeria should work together hand in hand with countries like Thailand to learn about economic development because Thailand is successful in economic development. Participant E (Personal communication, September 28, 2022). Recommended that:

“Nigeria needs to consider economic diversification because it is very important and will help Nigeria to reduce poverty within their region. Therefore, I suggest and recommend Nigeria to learn and adapt from Thailand on economic diversification, particularly a country like Nigeria which is heavily dependent on extractive industries, thus extractive industries can contribute to sustainable long-term growth but only if the benefit is reinvested in more sustainable resources that won't run out eventually.” (Participant E, personal communication, September 28, 2022)

The seventh recommendation is food safety strategy Participants A, B, C, E, K, and F recommended that this strategy would help Nigeria to reduce the poverty within their region. Participant L (Personal communication, September 28, 2022). Recommended that:

“Nigeria should learn from Thailand on enhancing food and safety by ensuring the safety of the food as a public health priority Hence is an essential stage in achieving food security, because effective food safety and quality management systems are the key not only to safeguarded the health and well-being of people but also fostering economic development and improving live hoods.” (Participant L, personal communication, September 28, 2022)

## **5.2 Discussion**

From the conducted interviews and collection of all data, the following step is the discussion to identify the factors providing high poverty rate in Nigeria Also, the mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty within their region, and the recommendation that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region.

### **5.2.1 Factors that are causing the poverty rate in Nigeria**

There are 3 main factors that caused poverty high rate in the Nigeria region both scholars and participants agreed that these main important factors and these factors are:

The first factor is corruption. This study showed that corruption is one of the significant factors contributing to the poverty rates in Nigeria region. Dependency theory argues that the international economic and political system is the key major contributor that causes unjust situations and poverty in less developed countries such as inequalities, trade inequalities, and lack of financial aid (Prebisch et al., 1950; Singer, 1950). Thus, Atuobi (2007) mentioned in his research that corruption is one of the key significant factors providing the poverty rate because corruption represents a threat to the stability and security of societies, and undermines the institutions of democracy, ethical values, and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law. Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I agreed that corruption deprives people, of resources and opportunities and undermines economic growth.

For example, Nigeria has been facing corruption as a major challenge because it has attained levels of gross and egregious theft, for which no possible moral or historical justification can be advanced, and which has played a major role in different sectors in contributing to the poverty high rate in Nigeria And had the strongest Negative effect on poverty reduction in Nigeria because for the past two decades,

internal conflicts with spillover effect have severely disrupted Nigeria's social and economic development due to corruption.

However, Participants have mentioned another important factor for example Participants E, F, G, L, H and I also agreed that political democracy is one of the factors contributing to the high poverty rate in the Nigeria region and directly affects the equity and political balances particularly the policies adopted by the political leaders and had a negative effect to the poverty reduction in Nigeria.

For example, most of the Nigerian policies lack direction, transparency, and accountability, particularly poverty reduction policies, instead, the political leaders make policies that decrease the suffering and starvation among the people they are more of accumulating the country's wealth for their benefit rather than focusing on reducing the poverty rate among its people. And this study is in line with Day (2022), wherein he mentioned in his study that political democracy is a form of government in which equality, political balance, accountability, and transference in a fair and free election for the benefit of citizens.

The second factor is conflict and insecurity factors are also another factor providing the poverty high rate in Nigeria region. Because conflict and insecurity institutional fragility and violence are associated with rising poverty across the world. A number of the world's fragile and conflict-affected countries are in Nigeria region. Dependency theory argues that the international economic and political system is the key major contribution that causes unjust situations and poverty in less developed countries such as inequalities, trade inequalities, and lack of financial aid (Prebisch et al., 1950; Singer, 1950). World-system theory criticizing the dependency theory focuses on inequality as a separate institution from development and analyzes changes in the global capitalist system (Gutkind & Wallerstein, 1976). This research finding is aligned with Adelaja & George (2019) who report absence of law and order is one of the big drivers of slow progress and increases in poverty in the region.

For Example, Nigeria one of the ECOWAS stakeholders has at least two big factors that across the continent are associated with lower progress. is, as mentioned,

the existence of a widespread conflict in the northern part of Nigeria with the threats of Boko Haram and insecurities that had the strongest negative effect on poverty reduction in Nigeria, because conflict and insecurity in Nigeria is one of the big drivers of slowing the progress and increases of poverty in the region.

Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I agreed that conflict and insecurities have created a cycle of poverty, especially in the affected areas. They have disrupted economic activities, resulting in underdevelopment, job losses, and lack of access to basic services such as education and healthcare at the same time have caused a lot of life loss, scattering individuals out of their villages, and dismantling property and infrastructure. At the same time, it disrupts farmers in rural areas to do their farming, farmers cannot go for farming because of the kidnapers.

However, Participants E, F, G, L, H and I still mentioned another important factor for example policy implantation in Nigeria is also among the factors in contributing to the high poverty rate within their region. It can be judged as a backward policy because of the failure of economic development promises from the colonial master's period to this present time.

For example, different policies are adopted and most of these policies became the agents of rural class formulation and differentiation where its implementation benefits only ex-bureaucratic, army officers, politicians, business, and traditional rulers. This research finding is aligned with Adelaja & George (2019) stating that poverty high rate of Nigerian Policies had a negative effect on poverty reduction in Nigeria. Because policy formulation and the policy formulator jeopardized the country even the citizens have judged the progress due to unfulfilled economic promises.

The Third factor is inadequate access to employment opportunities. Pouliquen (2000, as cited in Gaal & Afrah, 2017) found that inadequate access to employment opportunities was a significant factor providing poverty hate in Nigeria. Because the design and implementation of efficient national policies for employment generation and inequality reduction were not that effective and the majority of the people from

rural areas have no equal opportunities when it comes to civil service and government work.

For example, high-ranking government official or politician normally put their children or relatives to well-paid jobs. World-system theory focuses on inequality as a separate institution from development and analyzes changes in the global capitalist system (Gutkind & Wallerstein, 1976). While Development Theory is a group of theories about how to achieve the best beneficial reform in society (Adelman & Morris, 1997).

Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I agreed that inequality access to employment opportunities had a negative effect on poverty reduction in Nigeria because Majority of the Nigerians in rural areas have no equal rights and opportunities in government work or civil service because elected political leaders, traditional rulers, and high-ranking military and government officials usually put their children or relatives to well-paying job like CBN, NNPC and so on, rather than a qualified person. This unemployment is identified as a major economic, political, and social problem in many sectors of Nigeria and is one of the big drivers of slow progress and increases in poverty in the region.

However, Participants E, F, G, L, H, and I still mentioned and agreed on another important factor too. For example, inadequate infrastructure because infrastructure derives the economic growth of the country and the movement of goods and services would ease, though, no country could function without adequate infrastructure. However, Nigeria's infrastructure is moving slower and is one of the factors providing the poverty rate within their region,

For instance, the lack of steady power in Nigeria has Leeds inflation because the cost of generator diesel is high, and it is affecting the manufacturing industries and also abstracting the foreign investment in Nigeria. This research is aligned with Pouliquen (2000, as cited in Gaal & Afrah, 2017) citing that inadequate infrastructure is one of the essential figures for the country's economic growth, Without the

infrastructure of a nation country would not move forward for example trains, good roads, sea ports, airports, and electricity is one of the key factors for a country to succeed to reduce the poverty within the region.

Subsequently, in terms of dependence on an extractive industry. Orogun (2010) found that dependence on an extractive industry increases productivity for the people and when a lot of the growth is coming from an industry that is capital intensive, that does not employ many people, and that doesn't have many linkages to the rest of the economy would contribute to poverty high rate. Dependency theory argues that the international economic and political system is the key major contributor that causes unjust situations and poverty in less developed countries such as inequalities, trade inequalities, and lack of financial aid (Prebisch et al., 1950; Singer, 1950). Participants E, F, G, L, H and I also agreed that this factor is one of the causes of the poverty high rate in Nigeria. For Example, Nigeria is Africa's largest economy, and it's well diversified in some ways, but in terms of exports, it's still hugely dependent on oil. And heavily reliant on extractive industries.

### **5.2.2 The mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction**

There are 3 main strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction within their region that both scholars and participants agreed on. These 3 important factors are:

The first strategy is comprehensive sustainable development this strategy had a positive effect on poverty reduction in Thailand the result was similar to previous studies conducted by United Nations (2019) that comprehensive sustainable development helped and promoted the development of the rural area and improved the economic growth and better standard of living. While Modernization theory was constructed on Classical liberation and individual belief, free trade, and open market. Therefore, in modern society technology is a key significant factor in the development theory because it will transform less-developed nations into progressive and

sustainable nations (Rostow, 1960). Participants A, B, C, D, J, and K agreed that this mechanism had a positive effect on poverty reduction in Thailand.

For example, it has strengthened the agricultural sector in the rural area and has placed Thailand in a very blessed economic position and environmental sustainability.

However, A, B, C, D, K, and J still mentioned and agreed on Thailand's sufficiency economy philosophy strategy. Had a positive effect on poverty reduction in Thailand because it offers a practical guideline for people in Thailand to live their lives in a sufficient manner. Also, the strategy served as a model for other developing countries that are seeking to achieve sustainable development (Rostow, 1960). Rostow (1960) also found that Thailand's sufficiency economy philosophy strategy on poverty reduction has presented a special approach and sustainable development focusing on self-sufficiency, equity, and environmental sustainability in Thailand.

For example, the ascended to the throne of King Rama 9 in 1946 and was keen on improving the living quality of Thai people in the rural areas the country's development should be guided by three principles of moderation, reasonableness, and, the need for self-immunity, individuals can be self-reliant with sufficient protection from impact arising from internal and external.

The second strategy is the social protection and safety net strategy towards poverty reduction in Thailand had a positive effect on poverty reduction. United Nations (2019) found that social protection and safety net is one of the inclusive sustainable development strategies. Any country could implement access to poor individuals who are living below the poverty standard level by giving them a financial support foundation to build capable, resilient, and self-sustaining households and communities. Regionalism theory focuses on interdependent decision-making on regional cooperation and integration that has been spread across time and space once the constraints of geopolitics have ceased to exist (Mansfield & Pevehouse, 2013).

Participants A, B, C, D, K, and J agreed that Thailand's strategy towards social protection and safety net is successful because numerous international organizations

such as the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, and the IMF, support and strengthen poor individuals who are living below the poverty line by providing and delivery of Basic social services in the region though, Thailand are among the beneficiary of the social safety program and this factor enrich Thailand to reduce the poverty within their region.

For example, it has helped Thailand examine the poor individuals who were living below the poverty line by providing them with financial support and also strengthening the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line by aiding and delivering Basic social services in Thailand. This enriches Thailand to lower the poverty within their region.

However, participants still mentioned another strategy that is important too for example food security participants A, B C, D, K, and J agreed that Thailand has achieved extensive and significant progress on poverty reduction, with regards to ending hunger and promoting access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, Thailand managed to reduce the number of people living in the food poverty line. And accomplished pivotal progress in advancing SDG2. Dependency Theory, according to Prebisch et al. (1950), is engaging in trade protectionism is necessary for these countries to become self-sustaining and progressive societies. This approach aims to challenge the modernization theory's development process. Prebisch et al. (1950) and Shaw (2007) found that food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their nutritive needs for active and healthy life

Meechoovet (2022) emphasized that food security had a positive effect on poverty reduction in Thailand. The result revealed that Thailand has achieved extensive and significant progress on poverty reduction, both with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) Particular progress has been made in addressing extreme poverty, as illustrated by the absence of persons living with an income below the standard of living, building on this success,

For example, Thailand has sought to elevate its commitment by reducing extreme poverty beyond the level of international indicators. Thailand has upgraded its ranking in the World Food Security Index, as well as the general reduction in the number of people per capita who are unable to access sufficient food in the last 3-5 years.

The third strategy is Human capital development. Dr. Gabriel Demombynes, the World Bank's Program Leader for Human Development, told in the ASEAN (Invest in Me) seminar organized by the World Bank and Chulalongkorn University's School of Integrated Innovation in Bangkok last month that he narrated that Human capital development is investing in people for greater social equity and economic growth in the future to prevent the poverty as the same time it means investing in good health, nutrition, education and skills that make it possible for people to have a productive and prosperous life," and is one of the significant factors that Thailand fulfill and progress towards poverty reduction.

Modernization theory was constructed on classical liberalism and individual belief, free trade, and open market. Therefore, in modern society technology is a key significant factor in the development theory because it will transform less-developed nations into progressive and sustainable nations (Rostow, 1960). Participants A, B, C, D, K, and J agreed that Thailand invests in people for better equity, economic growth, good health, nutrition, education, and skills that make citizens more productive in society is about investing in people. For example, Thailand has invested in education research and development and agriculture that helps the poor individual's access to education and innovative farming, especially in rural areas.

However, participants still mentioned another strategy that is important too, for example: education. Participants A, B, C, D, K, and J agreed that education Thailand strategy toward education on poverty progressed Thailand to reduce the poverty within their region because Thailand has improved in terms of quality education, teachers training, high school and university's curriculum development, for example these

developments have helped Thailand promote skills full youth and competitive development to their people at the same time government's commitment towards education, combined with a focused approach and collaboration across all sectors, has been key success on reducing the poverty within their region.

Previous studies conducted by Helble et al. (2019) found that education is one of the most important ways to reduce poverty educating the poor since education opens up a wide range of economic opportunities for people. Without an educated labor/people force, neither individuals nor countries may be able to compete effectively in the global labor market and cope with ever-changing economic environments. This is true of present information and technology-oriented economics. World system theory, according to Gutkind & Wallerstein (1976), the segregation of the periphery and center was facilitated into a three statistical model system containing the core, semi-periphery, and periphery.

Moreover, participants still mentioned promoting of healthcare system strategy as another important factor For example Participants A, B C, D, K, and J agreed that healthy people contribute to society through the economic development of the country whether is private or public sector and Thailand has a significant progress in promoting its health care system thus, This strategy benefit Thailand citizens receive health care at less minimal cost and have been successful in improving access to health care service and reducing the health inequalities for example Thailand ensures the public health its soundly productive capacity not just undermined people die prematurely or experiences serious health complication from preventable disease.

Helble et al. (2019) found that access to healthcare and the promotion of free healthcare systems means that all citizens receive healthcare at no cost or a very minimal cost. One form of universal healthcare is when the government pays for the healthcare needs of its residents meaning free healthcare. This is often called the "single-payer" system. Thus, investment in healthcare is another important strategy that can be used to eradicate poverty because Perpetuating illness, disease, and malnutrition in society could potentially affect economic growth and social stability in a country. Conversely, poverty, unemployment, and economic disintegration can

create potential malnutrition diseases. Thailand's strategy towards healthcare system policy had a strong positive effect on poverty reduction in Thailand.

Regionalism theory focuses on interdependent decision-making on regional cooperation and integration that has been spread across time and space once the constraints of geopolitics have ceased to exist (Mansfield & Pevehouse, 2013).

### **5.2.3 Recommendations from participants on the strategies that Nigeria should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region**

The interviewed participants in this study were Thailand and Nigerians government official committees, expertise, and those that had experience in poverty reduction, from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Nigeria as well as the Ministry of Economic and Social Development in Thailand there are seventh important recommendations that were mentioned and the relevant sector should focus on.

The first recommendation is infrastructure. The Asian Development Bank Institute (2010) found infrastructure is one of the essential figures for the country's economic growth, for example, trains, good roads, electricity, information and communication technology services. Specifically, electricity is one of the key factors for a country to reduce the poverty within their region. Participants A, B C, D, G, and J agreed that inadequate infrastructure in the Nigeria region is one of the significant factors contributing to the poverty high rate within their region. Nigeria is far left behind when it comes to adequate infrastructure because no good roads, rails, airports, and proper electricity and they should learn from Thailand and invest in specific kinds of infrastructure that would make people more productive. recommended that the Nigerian Government should learn and adapt from Thailand's strategy on poverty reduction by providing steady electricity because if the electricity is reliable then manufacturing, foreign direct investors, and other production firms would come and invest or run the business but without the steady electricity they will not do that if the electricity is there for only a few hours a day.

The second recommendation is human capital development. Human capital development is one of the major factors to overcome poverty in a society, hence, it's about investing in people for better equity and economic growth in the future to reduce poverty. Though, it means investing in good health, nutrition, education, and skills that make it possible for individuals to be productive. Participants A, B, C, G, D, and J agreed that Nigerian should adopt Thailand's strategy and pay attention to the young generation to support the development of knowledge and training skills on human capital development. Such as quality education and restructure their health care system by providing adequate facilities to the citizens and this should be the main focus as they are the back bone of the society who are keen on learning new skills. They also have the potential to be the divers of society.

The third recommendation is conflict and insecurity. Adelaja & George (2019) found that Conflict and insecurity and institutional fragility and violence are associated with rising poverty and the absence of law and order. And of course, a number of the world's fragile and conflict-affected countries in Africa. Participants A, B, C, D, G, and J recommended that Nigerians should adopt from Thailand on maintaining the securities because without security foreign direct companies won't come and invest, and without the legal certainty provided by good law and regulations which are also enforced. For these reasons, security and legal order have to be among the priorities for the Nigerian government.

The fourth recommendation is social welfare and protection. The National Social Security Policy Support Programme of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (2017) and United Nations (2019) studied social safety and protection programs to reduce the brunt of poverty and also prevent people from falling into poverty in the first place. By helping to prevent and ease poverty and inequality at every stage of people's lives, such programs make societies more inclusive and stable. Participants A, B, C, D, G and J recommended that the Nigerian should learn from Thailand to provide social welfare and protection that will covers the range of policies and programs. Such as school meals, child grants, skill development, and cash transfers to all children, The

Government should grant all citizens better access to social welfare and protection services by supporting them. At the same time, it helps to prevent and ease inequality at every stage of people's lives, such programs make societies more inclusive and stable.

The fifth recommendation is trade agreement Attavanich, et al. (2019) found that free trade agreements promote regional economic integration and build shared approaches to trade and investment between two countries also create business activities that many businesses will benefit from substantial trade and investment.

Participants A, B C, D, G, and J agreed that trade agreements contribute to greater economic activity and job creation in the region, and deliver opportunities for big and small businesses to benefit from greater trade and investment also recommended that Nigerian should learn and adopt from Thailand to Cooperate more on bilateral free trade agreement to revise on their bilateral trade agreement with their neighboring countries and encourage investment and improve the rules affecting such issues as intellectual property, e-commerce and government procurement because free trade agreements contribute to greater economic activity.

The sixth recommendation is food and safety. Helble et al. (2019) stated that food safety is food security that exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. because effective food safety and quality management systems are the keys not only to safeguarding the health and well-being of people but also to fostering economic development and improving lives hoods Participants A, B C, D, G, and J agreed and recommended that Nigerian should learn from Thailand on the matter of enhancing the food and safety and ensuring the safety of the food as public health priority hence is an essential stage in achieving food security because effective food safety and quality m who stated that food safety is one of the important factor that help to reduce the poverty within their region.

The seventh recommendation is economic diversification. Orogun (2010) stated that Ensuring food safety as a public health priority is one of the important strategies that help Nigeria lower the poverty within the region. Particularly a country like Nigeria which is heavily dependent on extractive industries. Thus, extractive industries can contribute to sustainable long-term growth but only if the benefits are reinvested in more sustainable resources that should not run out eventually. Participants A, B, C, G, D, and J agreed and recommended that Nigeria should learn from Thailand on diversifying their economy especially, on sustainable resources that would not run out eventually as well as industrial and agricultural development by using technologies, innovation and creativity in this sector. Because it will help Nigeria to reduce poverty within the region, therefore, the Nigerian government needs to work hand in hand together with economic development experts who are already successful in economic development.



## **Chapter 6**

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

#### **6.1 Conclusion**

This research has studied the Comparative analysis between Thailand and Nigeria on poverty reduction. The research collected information by interviewing 1) Thailand government officials who are presently working on poverty reduction, 2) Nigerian government officers from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Department, and 3) Poverty reduction expertise who have work experience in a field of poverty reduction policies from both Thailand and Nigeria.

##### **6.1.1 Examining the factor providing the high poverty rate in Nigeria**

From the interview with participants, there are three main factors that caused the poverty high rate in Nigeria that should be improved. These three main factors are:

The first factor is corruption which is one of the causes of poverty high rate in Nigeria. Nigeria has been facing corruption as a major challenge to the point of complete and outrageous theft for which no feasible notable or historical justification can be advanced. For example, corruption adversely affected Nigerian political democracy system Achievement by preventing the societal development in Nigeria.

The Second factor is Conflict and insecurities Conflict and insecurities. This factor become widespread in Nigeria. That have created a cycle of poverty in the Nigeria region. Conflicts and insecurities disrupted economic activities and loss of lives within the Nigeria due to the Nigerian policy implantation. Hence different policies were adopted and most of these policies became the agents of rural class formulation and differentiation where its implementation benefits only colonial masters, ex-bureaucratic, army officers, politicians, business, and traditional rulers.

The third factor is inadequate access to employment opportunities. Majority of Nigerians have no equal rights and opportunities in government work or civil services because elected political leaders' traditional rulers and high-ranking military and government official usually put their children or relatives to pay for jobs like CBN, NNPC rather than qualified person.

Thus, putting incompetent people in a position that they cannot perform well is one of the drivers of making the country backward for example Nigeria is far left behind when it comes to adequate infrastructure like good roads, rails, or steady electricity at the same time the reliability of the extracted company is contributing the poverty rate hence Nigeria is still import dependent country and relies on subsistence agriculture and informal trade.

#### **6.1.2 Examining the mechanisms/strategies that Thailand implemented to reduce the poverty rate within their region**

From the interview with the participants, there are three main important strategies that Thailand implemented on poverty reduction that scholars and participants agreed on within their region which are:

The first strategy is a comprehensive sustainable development strategy, this mechanism has helped Thailand to reduce the poverty rate within their region. Its improved Thailand's economic growth and standard of living at the same time it strengthened the agricultural sector in the rural area and has placed Thailand in a very blessed economic position and environmental sustainability. For example, Thailand's sufficiency economy philosophy this strategy has offers a practical guideline for people in Thailand to live their lives sufficiently by three principles of moderation, reasonableness, and sustainability.

The second strategy is the social protection and safety net. This mechanism has helped Thailand to reduce poverty within their region by examining the poor individuals who are living below the poverty line and giving them a financial support

foundation to be resilient, and self-sustaining households and communities. For example, Food Security enriched Thailand in accomplishing pivotal progress in advancing SDGs about ending hunger and promoting safe nutritious and sufficient food.

The third strategy is human capital development. This mechanism has helped Thailand by investing in people for better equity, economic growth, good health, nutrition, and skills that give poor individuals access to education and innovative farming. For example, Education in Thailand has reduced the poverty within their region. Because Thailand has promoted skill and competitive development to their people due to the government's commitment towards education combined with a focused approach and collaboration at the same the promotion of a free healthcare systems in various sectors that all Thai citizens receive healthcare at less minimal cost. All sectors have been a key success in achieving poverty.

### **6.1.3 Examining the recommendations from participants that Nigerians should adopt from Thailand to reduce the poverty within their region**

There important recommendations that were mentioned by the participants. These seven recommendations are:

1) Nigerian government should emphasize more adequate infrastructure. Because adequate infrastructure is one of the keys to the country's economic development. For example, steady electricity, good roads, and rails.

2) Nigerian should support knowledge and training skills about human capital development such as quality education and healthcare system, social services, and adequate facilities for all citizens, especially the youth as they are back born of the society who are keen on learning new things.

3) The Nigerian government needs to tackle the conflict and insecurity issue in the Nigeria region. Because conflict and insecurity are associated with rising poverty. For these reasons tackling insecurity and maintaining legal order have to be among the priorities for the Nigerian Government.

4) The Nigerian government should support and provide social welfare and protection net because it will help and reduce the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusions within their regions example child grants, and skill development.

5) Nigerian government should open the border and retain free trade agreements with neighboring countries. Free trade contributes to greater economic activities and will provide opportunities for SMEs and big enterprises, at the same time job creation,

6) The Nigerian government should support food safety by ensuring the safety of the food as a public health priority hence is an essential stage in achieving food security because effective food safety and quality management systems are the key not only to safeguarding the health and well-being of people but also to fostering economic development and improving live hoods.

7) Nigeria should emphasize more on economic diversification finding a way to work together hand in hand with countries like Thailand to learn about strategies on economic development.

## **6.2 Recommendations**

From the interview with intended participants, the recommendations could be divided into three relevant parts which are 1) Nigeria 2) Policy Makers who had experience in poverty reduction.

### **6.2.1 For Nigeria**

1) The Nigerian Government should find out more information about Thailand's strategy for poverty reduction concerning adequate infrastructure.

2) Nigerian should invest in some kind of infrastructure that would enable their citizens to be more productive such as better roads, and rail, like in Thailand because the more people's goods can flow the faster their goods can reach the market and that would help the Nigerian economy to grow.

3) Nigerian government should invest more in human capital development such as quality education and restructure their healthcare system by providing social

service and providing adequate facilities, knowledge, and skills to all citizens not to leave anyone behind.

4) Nigerians should support the matter of rural development by providing them with some formal training on how to be self-sufficient constructing adequate roads that could link them to the city and monitoring the ongoing project in various rural areas. This will help rural area people also to get equal opportunities to urban area people.

5) Nigerian should adopt from Thailand on maintaining the securities because without security foreign direct companies won't come and invest and without the legal certainty provided by good law and regulation which are also enforced no one will come. For these reasons, security and legal order have to be among the priorities for the Nigerian government.

6) Nigerians should adopt from Thailand social welfare and protection programs to reduce the lifelong consequences of poverty and exclusions within their regions example cash transfer free school meal orphanage support and more help that will ease the hardship to their citizens. That would help to ease the poverty rate in their region.

### **6.2.2 For policy makers who have experience in poverty reduction**

1) Nigeria need to consider economic diversification because it is very important and it will help Nigeria to reduce the poverty within their region. Therefore, I suggest and recommend Nigeria to learn and adapt from Thailand on economic diversification, particularly a country like Nigeria which is heavily dependent on extractive industries, thus extractive industries can contribute to sustainable long-term growth but only if the benefit is reinvested in more sustainable resources that won't run out eventually.

2) Nigeria should learn from Thailand on enhancing food and safety by ensuring the safety of the food as a public health priority Hence is an essential stage in achieving food security, because effective food safety and quality management systems are the key not only to safeguard the health and well-being of people but also fostering economic development and improving live hoods.

3) Encouraging free trade could provide a significant opportunity for SMEs and big enterprises in the Nigeria region, such as job creation, business opportunities, and economic activities. Many businesses will benefit from substantial trade and investment and suggested that the Nigerian government needs to revise their bilateral trade agreement with their neighboring countries.

4) Free trade will help to open behind the border barriers that are affecting the flow of goods and services between both ECOWAS countries, encourage investment, and improve the rules affecting such issues as intellectual property, e-commerce, and government procurement. However, the Nigerian region needs to learn from Thailand to work on that.



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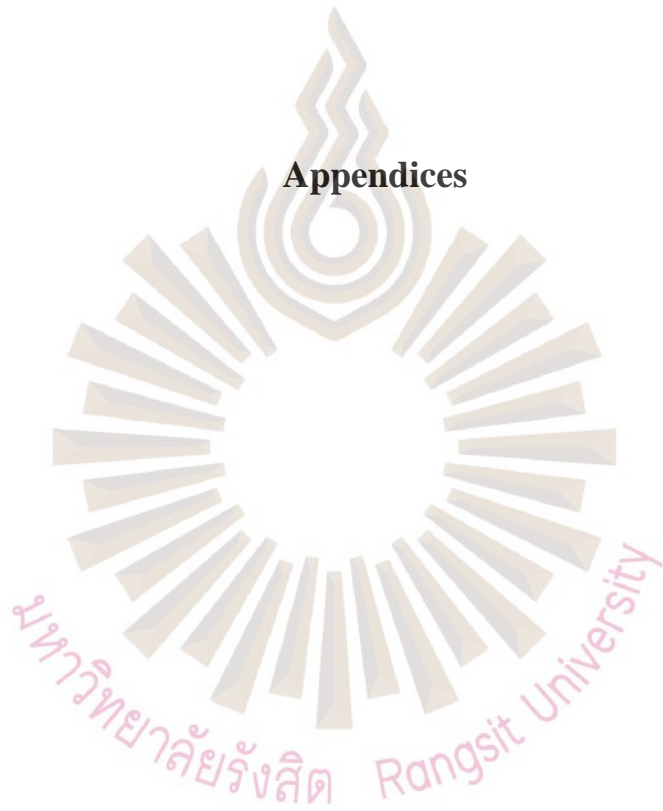
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## Appendices



The image features a large, faint watermark of the Rangsit University logo in the background. The logo is circular, composed of many thin, radiating lines that form a sunburst or fan shape. At the top of the circle is a stylized flame or torch. Below the circular graphic, the university's name is written in Thai script and English.

**Appendix A**

**Questionnaire for Nigeria**

มหาวิทยาลัยรังสิต Rangsit University

- 1) What main factors that causing the high poverty rate in Nigeria implemented abstracting in achieving to overcome the poverty rate within their region?
- 2) How does this factor affect Nigerian region?
- 3) What is your experience about poverty reduction management system?
- 4) What are the strongest key factors that abstract Nigerians to overcome poverty reduction within their region?
- 5) Do you have any difficulties with achieving the poverty reduction?
- 6) Do you think you would like you encourage Nigerian region to adopt from Thailand to apply similar strategy?
- 7) In which way that you would like the government to support or help?
- 8) Do you have any recommendations for Nigeria to improve on poverty reduction?
- 9) Do you have any other issue to recommend for the other region?



The image features a large, faint watermark of the Rangsit University logo in the background. The logo is circular, composed of many thin, radiating lines that form a sunburst or fan shape. At the top of the circle is a stylized flame or torch-like symbol. The text 'มหาวิทยาลัยรังสิต' and 'Rangsit University' is written in a semi-circle at the bottom of the logo.

**Appendix B**

**Questionnaire for Thailand**

มหาวิทยาลัยรังสิต Rangsit University

- 1) What factors/strategies that Thailand implemented to overcome the poverty rate within their region over other Thailand region?
- 2) In your opinion, what is the overall outcome or achievement of Thailand's strategy? Does it help Thailand to improve the poverty situation?
- 3) What factors abstract Thailand in achieving the poverty eradication?
- 4) What are the strongest key success factors/strategies that Thailand implemented in terms of poverty eradication within their present region?
- 5) As you are a government officer, do you have any difficulties following government policies?
- 6) Do you still have any recommendation for Nigeria that could help Nigeria to reduce the poverty within their region?



The image features a large, faint watermark of the Rangsit University logo in the background. The logo is circular, composed of many thin, radiating lines that form a sunburst or fan shape. At the top of the circle is a stylized flame or torch-like symbol. Below the circular graphic, the university's name is written in Thai script and English.

**Appendix C**

**Questionnaire for Policy Makers**

มหาวิทยาลัยรังสิต Rangsit University

- 1) What is the situation of Nigerian poverty nowadays?
- 2) In your opinion, what is the overall cause or challenge that Nigeria is facing on poverty reduction? Does it abstract Nigeria to improve the situation?
- 3) What are the problems or difficulties of the implementation in Nigeria?
- 4) How can implementing Thailand's strategy could help Nigeria to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?
- 5) How does the Nigerian government help and support to apply similar strategies from Thailand?



## Biography

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