

## **GENDER, INEQUALITY, POVERTY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH NEXUS IN NIGERIA**

**<sup>1</sup>AKAMIKE JOSEPH OKECHUKWU**

*Department of Economics,  
Faculty of Social Sciences. Imo State University Owerri. Imo State, Nigeria  
[akamikeoj@gmail.com](mailto:akamikeoj@gmail.com). +2348037760253*

**<sup>2</sup>OKONKWO N. OSMOND**

*Department of Economics,  
Faculty of Social Sciences. Alvan Ikoku University of Education, Owerri. Imo State  
Corresponding Author: [osmond.okonkwo@gmail.com](mailto:osmond.okonkwo@gmail.com). +2348182230979*

**<sup>3</sup>EJIOGU CYNTHIA IHUOMA**

*Department of Social Studies,  
Faculty of Social Sciences. Alvan Ikoku University of Education, Owerri. Imo State  
[Cynthiaejioгу16@gmail.com](mailto:Cynthiaejioгу16@gmail.com). +2348034089045*

### **ABSTRACT**

This study explores the intricate nexus between gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth in Nigeria, seeking to unravel the complex interdependencies that shape the nation's socio-economic landscape. Against the backdrop of Nigeria's rich history and cultural diversity, this research addresses the persistent challenges that impede inclusive development. Despite marked economic growth, Nigeria faces enduring gender disparities, economic inequalities, and high levels of poverty. This study examines the nature of the nexus and the ways in which gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth interact, influencing development outcomes. A comprehensive review of historical literature, policy documents, and statistical data forms the foundation of this study. Qualitative analyses are employed to dissect gender roles, economic patterns, social inclusion dynamics, and their impact on poverty and economic growth. Findings of the study revealed that historical legacies and cultural norms contribute to persistent gender disparities, limiting women's access to education, employment, and political participation; Nigeria grapples with high levels of poverty, exacerbated by insufficient access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities; Ethnic and religious factors shape social inclusion challenges, impacting the ability of certain groups to participate fully in economic and social activities. Based on these findings, the recommended a holistic approach, encompassing legislative reforms, targeted poverty alleviation programs, and strategies to promote social inclusion.

Keywords: Gender, Inequality, Poverty, Social Inclusion, and Economic Growth

JEL Code: I14, I15, I24, I25, I28 & J21.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria, as the most populous nation in Africa and a diverse mosaic of cultures, faces a complex web of interconnected challenges that shape the socio-economic landscape. In this dynamic tapestry, the nexus between gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth emerges as a pivotal focal point for comprehensive inquiry and action. This study delves into the intricate relationships among these factors, seeking to unravel their interplay and influence on Nigeria's development trajectory.

The issue of gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth nexus has garnered significant attention in recent years, particularly in the context of Nigeria. Gender

inequality and poverty are intertwined factors that hinder social inclusion and hinder the overall growth of the economy (Ewubare and Okpani, 2018). This study explores the relationship between these factors and aims to understand the impact they have on Nigeria's economic growth.

In Nigeria, gender inequality is pervasive, with women facing limited access to education, employment opportunities, and ownership of resources. This inequality is compounded by high levels of poverty, particularly among women and girls (Ogbeide-Osaretin & Efe, 2022). Social inclusion initiatives, such as those aimed at empowering marginalized groups, are imperative for achieving sustainable economic growth (World Bank, 2019).

Understanding the nexus between gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth is crucial for Nigeria's development. These interconnected factors have a significant impact on the country's overall progress. Gender inequality, for instance, limits opportunities for women, hindering their full participation in economic activities and perpetuating a cycle of poverty (Anyanwu & Erhijakpor, 2014). Also, addressing social inclusion is essential to ensure all individuals have access to resources and opportunities necessary for economic growth (Berg and Ostry, 2011). By recognizing and addressing these issues, Nigeria can work towards achieving sustainable development goals and improving the living conditions of its population. While economic growth is often seen as a catalyst for reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion, in Nigeria, gender inequality continues to hinder these outcomes. According to Onifade (2018), women face multiple barriers to economic empowerment, including limited access to education and financial resources. This inequality not only undermines women's well-being but also impedes overall economic growth, as harnessing the full potential of the female labor force is crucial for sustainable development (Okunola et al., 2020). Efforts to address gender disparities must be integrated into poverty reduction and social inclusion strategies to create a more equitable and prosperous Nigeria.

One significant factor that contributes to gender inequality in Nigeria is the persistence of traditional cultural norms and beliefs. These norms often assign women a subordinate status in society and restrict their access to education, employment opportunities, and decision-making power. Also, discriminatory practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation further reinforce gender inequality (Ogheneruemu & Adeyemi, 2023). Consequently, these cultural beliefs and practices perpetuate the cycle of poverty and limit the potential for economic growth and social inclusion (Abada et al., 2021).

Despite notable economic growth in recent years, Nigeria grapples with persistent gender disparities, deep-rooted inequalities, and high levels of poverty. The challenge lies in understanding how these factors converge and mutually reinforce, hindering the realization of inclusive development goals. This study addresses the following research problem: What is the nature of the nexus between gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth in Nigeria, and how do these elements interact to shape the nation's development outcomes?

To unravel the complexities inherent in the nexus, this study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Investigate the historical context and factors contributing to gender disparities.
- b. Analyze the patterns and determinants of poverty in Nigeria.
- c. Examine social inclusion challenges, particularly those related to ethnicity and religion.
- d. Assess the impact of gender inequality, poverty, and social exclusion on economic growth.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Gender Inequality in Nigeria**

Historical context and cultural factors have been key contributors to gender inequality in Nigeria. The country's colonial past, for instance, perpetuated patriarchal norms, marginalizing women and relegating them to subordinate roles in society. Additionally, cultural practices

such as early marriage and female genital mutilation further perpetuate gender disparities. These practices have a profound impact on women's access to education, employment opportunities, and overall social and economic inclusion (Bulus & Madueme, 2022).

### **Historical Context and Cultural Factors Contributing to Gender Inequality**

Additionally, the gender disparities in education and employment opportunities persistently hinder the progress of women in Nigeria. Studies have demonstrated that women are more likely to face limited access to quality education due to societal norms and traditions (Okonjo-Iweala & Osafo-Kwaako, 2008). This not only restricts their ability to acquire skills necessary for employment but also reinforces existing gender inequalities in the labor market (World Bank, 2019). Moreover, women are often subjected to discriminatory hiring practices and wage gaps, further impeding their economic empowerment (National Bureau of Statistics, 2018). Thus, addressing these gender disparities is crucial for achieving inclusive economic growth and reducing poverty in Nigeria.

### **Gender Disparities in Education and Employment Opportunities**

One significant issue affecting women in Nigeria is gender-based violence and discrimination. According to the World Bank (2019), gender-based violence remains pervasive in Nigeria, affecting women across all social and economic strata. This violence takes various forms, including rape, domestic abuse, and harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation. Furthermore, discrimination against women affects their access to education, employment opportunities, and participation in decision-making processes (World Bank, 2019). Consequently, addressing and eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination is crucial for promoting gender equality and empowering women in Nigeria.

### **Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination**

In Nigeria, gender inequality persists as a significant barrier to attaining social inclusion and economic growth. This is evident in the stark disparities between men and women in access to education, employment opportunities, and political representation. According to Okwu, Akpa, & Obiakor, (2022), women face a significantly higher poverty rate than men, with limited possibilities for upward mobility. Additionally, cultural norms and stereotypes perpetuate gender-based violence and exploitation, further exacerbating the problem. It is imperative that policies and interventions address the intersectionality between gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth to foster equitable development in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, poverty continues to be a pervasive issue with detrimental effects on individuals, families, and communities. The prevalence of poverty disproportionately affects women and girls, who often face limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Furthermore, gender inequalities exacerbate the poverty gap, as women are often subjected to discriminatory social norms and lack control over resources (Barro, 2000). Consequently, poverty not only hinders economic growth but also perpetuates social exclusion, hindering the overall development of the nation.

### **Poverty in Nigeria**

There are multiple causes and factors contributing to poverty in Nigeria. The lack of access to education plays a significant role in perpetuating poverty. This is often exacerbated by gender inequality, as women and girls face additional barriers to accessing education and employment opportunities (Okonjo-Iweala & Osafo-Kwaako, 2008). Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure, such as limited access to clean water and electricity, hinders economic growth and exacerbates poverty. The high rate of unemployment leads to a lack of income generation and further contributes to poverty (Okonkwo, 2015). These interconnected factors highlight the

complexity of the poverty issue in Nigeria and the need for comprehensive strategies to address it.

### **Causes and Factors Contributing to Poverty**

Regional disparities in poverty rates in Nigeria are significant and contribute to the overall inequality in the country. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2019), poverty rates are higher in the northern regions compared to the southern regions. This disparity can be attributed to various factors such as differences in economic development, access to essential services, and historical and social factors. Consequently, addressing regional disparities in poverty rates is crucial for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.

### **Regional Disparities in Poverty Rates**

Gender inequality and social exclusion are exacerbated by poverty in Nigeria. Women are disproportionately affected by poverty due to limited access to education, resources, and economic opportunities. This further perpetuates their exclusion from social and economic spheres. As noted by World Bank (2018), poverty and gender inequality act as barriers to social inclusion and hinder economic growth in the country. Thus, addressing poverty is crucial to promoting gender equality and ensuring social inclusion for all.

### **Impact of Poverty on Gender Inequality and Social Inclusion**

In Nigeria, gender inequality remains a significant issue that hinders economic growth and social inclusion. Women are disproportionately affected by poverty and are often excluded from decision-making processes and economic opportunities. According to Ewuim et al, (2015) it is obvious to point out that the Heifer International concept of gender equity did address the aforementioned problem of poverty alleviation. It displayed a case to substantiate the argument that engaging and empowering women and sensitizing men will not only stimulate rapid economic growth and sustainable developments, but can also contribute to sustainable livelihood of the entire community. Both men and women can see themselves as partners with equal responsibilities towards not only their families but also the entire community especially in Africa where communalism is the norm. To address this issue, it is crucial to implement policies that promote gender equality and empower women to fully participate in the economy.

Social inclusion in Nigeria is a critical element in promoting economic growth and reducing poverty and inequality. According to Umeji et al, (2020), social exclusion is not just a major cause of poverty but a key factor in poverty severity. However, social inclusion, as a means to ending poverty in Nigeria, can be achieved through creation of employment opportunities, access to education and skills acquisition as well as minimizing social exclusion. Social exclusion remains a pervasive issue in Nigerian society, particularly affecting marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities (Igbokwe-Ibeto, Akhakpe & Oteh, 2012). Efforts to enhance social inclusion must tackle various barriers, ranging from discriminatory cultural norms and practices to limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. By addressing these challenges, Nigeria can foster a more inclusive and equitable society, enabling individuals to actively participate in the country's economic growth trajectory.

### **Social Inclusion in Nigeria**

Exclusion of marginalized groups, such as women, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities, continues to hamper the progress of social inclusion and economic growth in Nigeria. Discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and disability impedes equal opportunities for these groups to access education, employment, and healthcare. According to Ibrahim &

Okoh, (2021), this exclusion leads to a perpetuation of poverty and inequality, as marginalized individuals are denied the resources and support necessary to enhance their living conditions and contribute to economic development.

### **Exclusion of Marginalized Groups such as Women, Ethnic Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities**

Barriers to social inclusion, such as gender inequality and poverty, have a significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria. According to Igbokwe-Ibeto, Akhakpe & Oteh, (2012), when a substantial portion of the population faces exclusion and limited access to resources, it hampers their ability to actively participate in the economy. This leads to a reduction in productivity, innovation, and the overall potential for economic growth. Additionally, the study conducted by Akingbade et al. (2020) revealed that social exclusion exacerbates poverty and widens the income gap, further impeding economic development. Consequently, addressing these barriers is essential to promote social inclusion and foster sustainable economic growth.

### **Barriers to Social Inclusion and Their Impact on Economic Growth**

Promoting social inclusion is crucial for sustainable development, as it ensures equal opportunities, rights, and participation among all individuals in society. By breaking down barriers such as gender inequality and poverty, social inclusion creates conducive environment for economic growth and development. This means the poor are not the problem but rather, the inaccessibility of realistic opportunities because of exclusion that prevents them from getting out of poverty (Igbokwe-Ibeto, Akhakpe & Oteh, 2012). According to Akinsanya and Oduwole (2021), social inclusion plays a significant role in reducing poverty rates and enhancing overall well-being, leading to the attainment of sustainable development goals. Moreover, it fosters a sense of community and social cohesion, enabling individuals to contribute meaningfully to society (Akinsanya & Oduwole, 2021). By valuing diversity and providing equal access to resources and opportunities, social inclusion acts as a catalyst for positive change and progress in a nation.

### **Importance of Promoting Social Inclusion for Sustainable Development**

According to Nzube et al. (2021), the nexus between gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth in Nigeria is a critical issue that demands attention. Studies have demonstrated that gender inequality and exclusion hinder economic development and exacerbate poverty levels in the country (Okonjo-Iweala and Osafo-Kwaako, 2008). Furthermore, the lack of social inclusion and economic opportunities for marginalized groups, particularly women, perpetuates the cycle of poverty and hampers overall economic growth (Ilo, 2017). Therefore, addressing gender disparities, increasing social inclusion, and promoting economic opportunities for all individuals is crucial for Nigeria's sustainable development and gender equality (World Bank, 2020).

According to Ayinde, (2019) economic growth in Nigeria has been hindered by various factors, including gender inequality and poverty. He argues that gender disparities in education and employment opportunities limit women's contribution to the economy, resulting in a loss of potential growth. Additionally, high levels of poverty and lack of social inclusion negatively impact economic growth by reducing human capital and hindering productivity. Thus, addressing these issues is crucial for achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth (Ayinde, 2019).

### **3. ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA**

Nigeria's economic growth trajectory has been marked by various challenges, including high levels of inequality and poverty. According to the World Bank (2019), Nigeria has experienced periods of economic growth, particularly in the early 2000s, due to the discovery of oil reserves. However, this growth has not resulted in significant improvements in poverty reduction or social inclusion. Gender inequality remains a persistent issue, with women facing limited opportunities for economic participation and advancement (World Bank, 2019).

#### **Overview of Nigeria's Economic Growth Trajectory**

Women face multiple challenges in accessing employment opportunities and owning businesses due to cultural norms, limited access to finance, and lack of necessary skills and networks. These disparities not only limit women's economic empowerment but also hinder overall economic growth and development in the country (Ibukun, 2020). Thus, addressing these disparities is crucial for fostering inclusive economic growth.

#### **Gender Disparities in Economic Participation and Entrepreneurship**

Gender equality, social inclusion, and economic growth are intrinsically linked in Nigeria. Studies have shown that gender inequalities hinder the full participation of women in the economy, leading to limited access to resources and opportunities. This marginalization not only perpetuates poverty but also constrains overall economic growth. Additionally, social exclusion exacerbates these disparities, particularly among vulnerable groups such as rural women and girls. Therefore, achieving gender equality and social inclusion is essential for sustainable economic development (Odekunle, 2018; World Bank, 2019).

#### **Link between Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Economic Growth**

The gender inequality in Nigeria has deep-rooted consequences on poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth. Women in Nigeria face numerous challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. This results in wider income disparities and hinders their full participation in the economy and society. According to a study by Ojonugwa et al. (2020), gender inequality has a negative impact on economic growth, as it limits the potential contribution of women to the workforce and diminishes overall productivity.

Gender inequality in Nigeria is closely linked to poverty and social exclusion, which in turn hinders economic growth. Women in Nigeria are disproportionately affected by poverty and face limited access to education, employment opportunities, and decision-making power. The country's patriarchal society perpetuates these inequalities while undermining efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development (Okoye, 2019). He further asserts that, gender-based violence and discrimination further marginalize women and hinder their ability to fully participate in economic activities. Thus, addressing gender inequality is essential for promoting inclusive economic growth in Nigeria.

### **4. NEXUS BETWEEN GENDER, INEQUALITY, POVERTY, SOCIAL INCLUSION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA**

Interconnections and interdependencies exist between gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth in Nigeria. Women, who face discrimination in terms of access to resources and opportunities, are more likely to experience poverty. The presence of poverty exacerbates gender inequalities and social exclusion, resulting in slower economic growth. Furthermore, social inclusion and economic participation of women are essential for sustainable development (Abubakar, Lawal, & Aliyu, 2022). Given these linkages, addressing

gender inequality and poverty are critical for achieving economic growth and social progress in Nigeria.

### **Interconnections and Interdependencies between these Factors**

Gender inequality and social exclusion have a significant impact on poverty and economic growth in Nigeria. Women are often subjected to lower wages and limited access to resources, resulting in higher rates of poverty among females (World Bank, 2019). Furthermore, social exclusion prevents marginalized groups, such as women and the disabled, from fully participating in economic activities and accessing opportunities for growth (Ogundipe et al., 2014). Therefore, addressing gender inequality and promoting social inclusion is crucial for poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.

### **Impact of Gender Inequality and Social Exclusion on Poverty and Economic Growth**

One strategy for promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, and fostering social inclusion to drive economic growth is the implementation of inclusive and gender-responsive policies. These policies can include providing equal access to education and healthcare services for men and women, promoting women's entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, and addressing gender-based violence and discrimination (Adeyemi, 2019). By ensuring that both men and women have equal opportunities and resources, countries like Nigeria can harness the full economic potential of its population and achieve sustainable economic growth.

### **Strategies for Promoting Gender Equality, Reducing Poverty, and Fostering Social Inclusion to Drive Economic Growth**

Gender inequality continues to be a major issue in Nigeria, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and hindering social inclusion and economic growth. Women in Nigeria face numerous barriers to education, employment, and political participation, limiting their opportunities for advancement. Eliminating women's drudgery must require other interventions such as increasing the productivity of their labour in both paid and unpaid activities through access to better technologies and knowledge (Aluko, 2000). According to the World Bank (2020), only 6.2% of Nigerian women hold managerial positions, highlighting the stark gender disparity in leadership roles. This lack of female representation further reinforces gender inequality and stifles economic progress. According to Abdullahi, (2019) the measures to achieving social inclusion in Nigeria include identifying the poor. This is a key factor in ending social exclusion and achieving social inclusion. In order to identify the poor, reliable data is required so that resources can be targeted to the poor. Besides, identifying the poor could help ensure that resources targeted to them get to them. This has become necessary as most often anti-poverty programs do not get to the poorest households in most developing countries.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The study addressed several key points regarding the gender inequality-poverty-economic growth nexus in Nigeria. First, it highlighted the persisting gender disparities and their negative impacts on women's socio-economic empowerment. Second, it emphasized the correlation between poverty and gender inequality, illustrating how women are disproportionately affected by poverty. Third, it underscored the need for social inclusion policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Lastly, it recognized the potential of gender equality to positively contribute to economic growth and development in Nigeria.

### **Recommendations**

To address the gender, inequality, poverty, social inclusion, and economic growth nexus in Nigeria, it is imperative that policymakers, civil society, and other stakeholders prioritize these

issues and work towards inclusive and equitable growth. Gender discrimination, income disparities, and marginalized social groups hinder economic progress and societal development. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to implement policies that promote gender equality, provide equal economic opportunities, and ensure social inclusion for all Nigerians.

## REFERENCES

- Abada F.C., Manasseh O.C., Nwakoby C.I., Obidike C.P., Okonkwo N.O., Alio F.C., (2021) 'An assessment of inclusive growth policy as determinant of unemployment reduction in Nigeria: An application of autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) bound test approach'. *Montenegrin Journal of Economics* 17 (4), 85-97
- Abubakar, L., Lawal, H., & Aliyu, A. A. (2022). 'Effect of poverty on socio-economic development in Nigeria: a conceptual framework approach'. *Journal of economics and allied research*, 7(4), 178–186. <https://jearecons.com/index.php/jearecons/article/view>
- Abdulahi, M.S. (2019). Three things Nigeria must do to end extreme poverty. *World Economic Forum*. [www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org).
- Aluko, E. O. (2000). 'Gender and poverty alleviation in Nigeria'. A paper presented at the 31st annual conference of the NITP in Minna, Niger State.
- Anyanwu C.J. & Erhijakpor F.O.A., (2014). 'Does Oil Wealth Affect Democracy in Africa?' *African Development Review*: 26(1). DOI: [10.1111/1467-8268.12061](https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8268.12061)
- Barro, R. (2000) 'Inequality and Growth in a Panel of Countries'. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 5(1): 5–32.
- Berg, A., and Ostry, J. 2011. "Inequality and Unsustainable Growth: Two Sides of the Same Coin?" IMF Staff Discussion Note 11/09, International Monetary Fund, Washington
- Bulus, A., & Madueme, S. I. (2022). 'Location and gender analysis of climate change vulnerability and implication for poverty reduction in Taraba State, Nigeria'. *Journal of Economics and Allied Research*, 7(1), 191–204. Retrieved from <https://jearecons.com/index.php/jearecons/article/view/109>
- Ewubare, D. B and Okpani, A.O. (2018). Poverty and inequality in Nigeria (1980- 2017). *International journal of advanced studies in Ecology, Development and Sustainability/IJASEDS*. 5(1)
- Ewuim N. C, Agbodike C. F. & Igbokwe-Ibeto C J. (2015). 'Gender inequality, poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Nigeria: lessons from the RAPT women empowerment project, Nepal'. *International Journal of Accounting Research* 2(7), Publisher: ZARSMI, UAE, and Regent Business School, South Africa.
- Ibrahim, V. H., & Okoh, M. O. (2021). 'Income inequality and economic development in Nigeria: An empirical assessment'. *Journal of Economics and Allied Research*, 6(4), 100–109. Retrieved from <https://jearecons.com/index.php/jearecons/article/view/124>.
- Igbokwe-Ibeto, C.J, Akhakpe, I & Oteh, C.O. (2012). Poverty and sustainable socio-economic development in Africa: the Nigerian experiences. *Asian economic and financial review*, 2(2):367-381.
- Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (2020). 2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria: Executive summary. *Nigerian Living Standard Survey 2018- 2019 report*. Retrieved from [www.nigerianstat.gov.ng](http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng)
- Ogbeide-Osaretin, E. N., & Efe, O. M. (2022). 'Climate change mitigation and gender inequality nexus: evidence from Sub-Sahara Africa'. *Journal of Economics and Allied Research*, 7(1), 1–12. <https://jearecons.com/index.php/jearecons/article/view/103>
- Ogheneruemu, O.E., & Adeyemi, V. A. (2023). 'Credit access by cooperative women vegetable farmers and poverty reduction in Akinyele Local Government Area, Oyo State,



- Nigeria'. *Journal of Economics and Allied Research*, 8(2), 260–270. Retrieved from <https://jearecons.com/index.php/jearecons/article/view/315>
- Okonjo-Iweala, N. and Osafo-Kwaako, P. (2008) 'Nigeria's economic Reforms: Progress and challenges. Development working paper No. 6.
- Okonkwo, N.O. (2015), 'Critical review of poverty programme in Nigeria: Evidence from Southeast zone'. *OSR Journal of Economics and Finance* 6 (6), 32-43.
- Okwu , A. T., Akpa, E. O., & Obiakor , R. T. (2022). 'Economic size, uncertainty, and income inequality in Nigeria'. *Journal of Economics and Allied Research*, 7(2), 250–264. Retrieved from <https://jearecons.com/index.php/jearecons/article/view/196>
- Umeji, G., Eleanya E.E, Obisike N.E., Okuma N. C., Unegbu I.P., Onwuka N.I. (2020). 'Social Inclusion: A Poverty Reduction Approach'. *Journal of American Academic Research*: 8(2). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3708593>
- World Bank; World Trade Organization. (2020). *Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality*. World Bank Publications.
- World Bank (2019). *The World Bank in Nigeria*. Retrieved from [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
- United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2016). *Report on the World Social Situation 2016. Leaving No One Behind: The Imperative of Inclusive Development*. United Nations Publications.