

Poverty and Corruption as Constraints to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract

The year 2000 would continue to be remembered in the history of Nigeria as the era of poverty and hunger reduction strategies ever adopted since independence in 1960. Since the Millennium Declaration, it provided an opportunity to focus on the eight MDGs objectives as important pillars of the country's development agenda at the federal, state and local government levels. The eight goals are aimed at achieving the following by 2015: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; to achieve universal primary education; to promote gender equality; to reduce child mortality; to improve maternal health; to combat HIV&AIDS, malaria and other diseases; to ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. Today, there is growing evidence that these objectives are far from being achieved, with less than a year to the target date. This paper seeks to examine the policy directions of Nigeria towards the MDGs within the nexus of corruption and poverty as impediments to the realization of MDGs objectives. The research relied primarily on the secondary sources of information. The findings revealed that poverty and corruption are impediments to the realization of the MDGs in northern Nigeria and Nigeria as a whole. It is observed that, without genuine poverty reduction as well as good governance, Nigeria cannot attain rapid and sustainable development. It was recommended among others that unless concerted efforts are made by the Northern state governments and until the chains of catastrophic corruptions are broken, the target deadline of 2015 of the MDGs will continue to elude the North and will thus remain a mirage.

Keywords: Poverty¹, hunger², mortality³, good governance⁴

Introduction

Nigeria is a country of paradox with widespread poverty in the midst of plenty. Long years of military rule and poor policies combined with rent-seeking culture have left the country with high levels of poverty, corruption and low access to social services.

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Over the years, a variety of public policies have been designed to tackle the problem of poverty and hunger in Nigeria. Poverty is considered as a multi-faceted as well a deep rooted problem; it has various manifestations which include: lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihood, hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited or lacking access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate, unsafe and degraded environment and social discrimination and exclusion (Alimika, 2001). This means poverty could also be considered as lack of participation in decision making or in civil, social and cultural life. Consequently, achieving this unstable development through poverty reduction would only require the desire commitment of all stakeholders to involve, individually, communities, governments, NGOs and other relevant agencies.

As such, an effective poverty reduction or eradication must reflect its multi-dimensional nature such as the signing of MDGs membership through incorporating economic, social, cultural and political dimensions. Although, when Nigeria got independence in 1960, there were high hopes and expectations of development by Nigerians based on the abundant natural and human resources, fifty-two (54) years after independence, contemporary evidence still shows that, these expectations are far from being achieved as developments have eluded the country to only exist as a mere concept taken over by poverty and corruption.

Nigeria's major source of income for the sustainable fair and equitable distribution of developmental projects before the discovery of crude oil In the 1960s was agriculture, for which the North was known. Consequently, Nigeria's total dependence on crude oil export has massively exposed its economy to unstable and unpredictable volume of revenue receivable by the government. For example, the total export receipt from goods, services and transfer dropped, while the country's import increased geometrically. This clearly shows that there is urgent need for the country to diversify its agricultural base to be self sufficient in terms of food production.

Since independent in 1960, Nigeria has engaged itself in an independent sourcing for economic capital to provide sustainable and equitable development for different ethnic nationalities in the country.

During the colonial era up till the early post-independence time, agriculture was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, so much so that most of the funds needed to execute the development plans depended on agriculture. Abdulgafar, D.S Ibrahim, W. Alasinrin, K.(2013) observed that in the 1970s and early 1980s, Nigeria was described as one of the richest countries but got retrogressed to become one of the 25th poorest towards the beginning of 20th century. In line with this position above, Soludo (2006) opined that, though there were several initiatives taken by both Federal and States Governments in the past and present to reduce poverty in the country, these initiatives were poorly implemented and supervised due to corruption. Instead, the level of poverty in Nigeria has risen with about 2/3 of the country's population living below poverty line. Soludo (2004) further stated that poverty in Nigeria has continued to persist particularly so from the late 1990s to early 2000s due to economic recession and mismanagement of the state funds by the ruling elites of both military and civilian administrations alike.

Supporting the position above, Akinwore (2013) also opines that the turn of the 20th century ushered in New Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with new hope and aspirations. The MDGs are a series of eight time bound development goals that seek to address the issues of poverty, education, hunger, equality, health and environment, to be achieved by the year 2015. Unfortunately, these remain merely conceptual rather than real. According to WHO (2000), towards the beginning of the 20th century, various far reaching agreements were made at the world conference of the United Nations with its collaborating agencies; the enormous burden of poverty, hunger, ill health which posed threat to peace and stability constitute some of the main theme of the conference. In view of this, Musa (2001) observed that: it may not be an exaggeration to suggest that the prolong periods of Military rule in Nigeria, which lasted for about thirty-eight years of the country's fifty years of independence had caused a number of problems, such as the collapse of public sector, institutions and the process of administering them. The Military leaders often accused civilian administrations of corruption and indiscipline. However, the same leaders of both civilian administrations and Military regimes have been deeply involved in corrupt practices as they moved on from time to time.

Corruption is one of the major factors which cause poverty, hunger and diseases as a result of diversion of public resources to private individuals. As such, there is urgent need by the government, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and all other related agencies to realistically and comprehensively study and address the causes of this menace with a view to planning an action to address these persistent problem today and in future. Although some efforts were attempted to address these problems in the past; for example, the previous governments, both Military and Democratic had tried to focus attention on good governance, prudence, transparency and accountability through number of ways, such as establishing Code of Conduct Bureau by the Murtala Mohammed administration in 1975, Ethical Revolution by Shehu Aliyu Shagari's civilian administration in 1979, War Against Indiscipline and Corruption by General Muhammadu Buhari's administration in 1984, Mass Mobilization for Self Reliance, Social Justice and Economic Recovery by General Ibrahim Babangida in 1985 , Failed Banks Tribunal by General Sani Abatcha in 1994, Anti-Corruption Bill by Olusegun Obasanjo in 2000.

Similarly, in 2007, the administration of Umaru Musa Yar'adua has made it a cardinal policy to observe rule of law to enhance public accountability and stamp out corruption in the Nigerian society. Thereafter, with the coming of the government of President Goodluck Jonathan in April 2012,a transformational agenda is formulated, which intends to continue to eradicate corruption, restore electric power, tackle insecurity, poverty and hunger. Although, we lack the correct indices to measure whether this crusade by Goodluck is succeeding, as evidence shows, these problems are far from over.

Furthermore, there were other several strategies taken by various governments to address these problems. For example, Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), Family Support Programme (FSP), National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND) , Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), Agricultural Projects Monitoring & Evaluation Units (APMEU), National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education (NCEMLAE), Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC), Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Family Support Programme (FSP), Better Life Programme (BLP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Poverty Eradication Commission (NADEC), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP).

However, since the primary objective of sustainable development is to reduce absolute poverty, hunger and diseases, as stipulated by the MDGs objective and in view of the forgoing world's conference held in 2000 aimed at providing lasting and secure means of livelihood that minimizes resource depletion, environmental degradation, cultural disruption and social disorder. Today, there are still clear indications of lack of adequate and sustainable development in the country to meet the needs of the people without compromising the ability of future generations (WCED, 1987). It was against this development that Musa (2001) observed and concluded that: Government invariably found itself at the centre of promoting conditions of corruption and spread wide poverty across the country in terms of some of its policies and programs. Most importantly, Military rule appears to have precipitated a culture of lack of accountability.

Today, corruption and poverty have moved to the forefront and have attracted global concern. 54 years after independence and given the huge natural and human endowment, Nigeria, which was one of the 50 richest countries in the early 1970s, has retrogressed to become one of the 25th poorest countries at the threshold of the 21st century (Soludo, 2006). According to Ogunmola and Badmus (2010), Nigeria has the 3rd largest number of poor population, after China and India. They further opined that it was in view of the above that several strategies were adopted to eradicate this disheartening situation in the Third World Countries whereupon the United Nations came together to introduce Millennium Development Goals agenda aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in the third world countries, of which Nigeria is a member. So in September, 2000, about 189 member States of the United Nations signed the Millennium Development Goals Declaration, targeting 2015.

Consequently, Fourteen years after the signing of the MDGs and with less than a year to the set deadline, the goals and objectives of the MDGs in Nigeria are far from being realized. This is because the implementation of MDGs within the context of poverty and hunger eradication in Nigeria has been unthinkable, unrealizable and above all given up as a futility and mirage. The eight (8) goals or objectives are as follows:

- i. Achieve universal primary education;
- ii. Promote gender equality and empower women;

- iii. Reduce child mortality;
- iv. Improve maternal health;
- v. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- vi. Ensure environmental sustainability; and
- vii. Develop a global partnership for development.
- viii. Eradicate poverty and hunger

Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

- j) To assess the implementation of the MDGs in Nigeria;
- ii) Assess the level of success of MDGs towards achieving its target by the 2015;
- iii) Examine the problems undermining the MDGs towards achieving its set goals and objectives;
- iv) Recommend measures towards the improvement of the MDGs.

Conceptualization of Poverty Eradication in Nigeria

Poverty, being multidimensional in nature, entails lack of adequate livelihood assets and failure to achieve basic capabilities in nutrition, health, economic and social life, etc. Adebayo (2009) notes that, in recent times, there has been the tendency to see poverty as a consequence of deprivation; lack of skills and good health; social and economic exclusion mechanisms, including lack of access to active involvement in communal life in all its ramifications. Therefore, to achieve the MDGs is now more challenging for Nigeria because the degree poverty in the country is becoming more precarious and devastating and many Nigerians are more threatened now more than ever before.

Although there is no reliable data with which to correctly measure the level of poverty in Nigeria, available evidence from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) via the recently released figures shows that the nation's poverty level was increasing even as the acclaimed overall economic growth rate was being reported. For example, the NBS (2011) reports that the poverty rate in Nigeria has risen to 71.5 per cent, 61.9 per cent, and 62.8 per cent using the relative, absolute and dollar-per-day measures respectively.

What this implies is that the country has been witnessing a trend of increasing levels of poverty in the midst of so-called economic prosperity. There is the real risk that if the country continues to be unable to translate its apparent high economic growth rate into poverty reduction, the expectations from the MDGs can quickly crumble. Perhaps, given the scenario painted above, it is not only important for policy makers at all levels to take note about the poverty situation in the country but also to take stock. Consequently, with the 2015 deadline fast approaching and less than four months, in view of this, there is urgent need to accelerate progress towards MDG achievements. To do this, there is need to not only manage but also identify and unlock the constraints that surround its full implementation at all levels in the country, especially with respect to policies, institutions, and resource allocations.

Furthermore, the success in the implementation of MDGs will surely depend on the unique, clear and stable environment. This view essentially opines that the conceptualization of poverty covers both the primary basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. While others include economic, social, and cultural rights, liberty, freedom, property rights, access to productive assets and employment, among others. These are needs of man, the lack of which could lead to a state of want, powerlessness, helplessness, despair and inability to protect oneself against economic, social, cultural and political discrimination, deprivation and marginalization, as pointed out by Deng (1995). In an attempt to widen the conceptual base in the analysis of poverty, scholars like Kankwenda have sought to see the issue of poverty beyond income earning. To him, poverty is: A multidimensional phenomena influenced by wide range of factors; these include poor peoples' lack of access to income earning and productive activities and to essential social services (health, education, safe water).

While Walton (1990) sees poverty as a multidimensional concept that embraces undesirable conditions such as inadequate income, malnutrition, lack of access to social services and lack of social and political status. Supporting the above assertion, Olayemi (1995) maintains that the poor have no access to the basic needs of life such as food, clothing and shelter, and are unable to meet social and economic obligations. They also lack skills and gainful employment as well as self-esteem.

Therefore, one calls to mind what is referred to as the Human Development Index (HDI) which is a parameter for measuring and indeed assessing the level of poverty eradication, diseases and hunger of any country.

Poverty and Corruption as constraints to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Northern Nigeria

Governance is the act of governing; it relates to decisions that define expectation, grant power, or verify performance to do and undo as demanded by time and resources. This consists of either a separate process or part of decision making or leadership processes. In developing nations such as Nigeria and northern Nigeria in particular, these processes and systems are typically abused by governments, individuals, and organizations, abuse aimed to favor their private interest. Although the drive towards actualizing the MDGs calls for the poverty and hunger eradication in Nigeria, it should be based on good governance, transparency and accountability. This is to ensure that resources are prudently managed to meet the set goals which it was meant to attain, and this must be done through increased and continuous budgetary allocations as well as proper utilization and accountability of resources.

Furthermore, this can also be enhanced through close project monitoring and periodic evaluation to prevent corrupt practices such as misappropriation, embezzlement and diversion of resources. However, the region needs a good leader as well as good governance and political actors that have the political will to freely and openly debate, negotiate and design an economic reform package that is integral to the construction of a new social contract. However, to achieve this, the era of chains of catastrophic governance, mismanagement and corruption must be broken or else Nigeria's poverty level will continue to slip further down and the actualization of MDGs will continue to remain a mirage.

On the other hand threatens corruption, a vice which started a long time ago and could be traced to the Ancient civilizations, as pointed out by Victor (1999). Victor illustrated that corruption is found in democratic and dictatorial politics; feudal, capitalist and socialist economies. Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist cultures are equally bedeviled by corruption. While Lipset and Lenz (2000) opined that corruption has been ubiquitous in complex societies from ancient Egypt, Israel, Rome, and Greece down to the present.

This does not, however, mean that the magnitude of corruption is equal in every society; rather, some countries are more corrupt than others, as aptly pointed out in *Animal Farm* by George Orwell that "all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others". The table below explained the level of corruption for Nigeria in global rating.

Corruption in Northern Nigeria, and to a greater extent in Nigeria, remains the greatest obstacle, an obscene nuisance, to economic and social development in the region. It threatens the realization of goals and objectives of Millennium Development Goals and the existence of the region as a whole. Corruption in the region has consumed all ethnic groups in different ways and often created privileged groups, excluding others. However, all efforts geared towards tackling corruption in the region by various state governments proved abortive due to many unjustifiable reasons. For example, politics is a gate way to get rich above any political ideology. There is also no political will and commitment to fight corruption except a mere concept. Above all, there is the problem of ethnic diversity which contributes immensely to the lack of national cohesion and opposition to the problem of corruption in the region and in Nigeria as a whole.

Furthermore, those who were entrusted with the task of enforcing such laws should insist to implement it to the letter rather than end up promoting the vice. All the states in the region have enough money to solve a huge part of poverty in that area on their own but due to corruption, these huge monies are always diverted to private ends. If waste and corruption were overcome and money voted could finally go to the country's infrastructure: hospitals, water supply, education, the objective of the MDGs could have been achieved. Unfortunately, corruption remains the main cause of systematic waste of the region's resources, and therefore the main cause of poverty in the Nigeria as a whole. It was in view of the following that Nigeria was described as one of the corrupt nations by Transparency International, as contained in the table below.

The Table Explained the Indices of Corruption by Ranking Across the World

		1998	2001		2003	
	country	Rank	country	Rank	country	Rank
1	Denmark	1	Finland	1	Finland	1
2	Finland	2	Denmark	2	Ice-land	2
3	Sweden	3	New Zealand	3	Singapore	3
4	Newziland	4	Ice-land	4	Sweden	4
5	Iceland	5	Singapore	5	Neither land	5
6	Canada	6	Sweden	6	Singapore	6
7	Singapore	7	Canada	7	Sweden	7
8	Netherland	8	Netherland	8	Neither land	8
9	Norway	9	Luxemburg	9	Autorial	9
10	Switzerland	10	Now way	10	Sweden	10
13	Vietnam	75	Tanzania	82	Switzerland	10
14	Venezuela	76	Ukraine	82	Angola	124
15	Columbia	79	Indonesia	83	Nigeria	132
16	Ecuador	77	Myeri	90	Bangladesh	133
17	Indonesia	80	Bangladesh	91		
18	Nigeria	81				
19	Tanzania	82				
20	Honduras	83				
	Paraguay	84				
	Cameroon	85				

Source: Transparency International, 2006

To this end, corruption and poverty constitute a serious challenge towards realizing targets of the MDGs in Nigeria by 2015. This can further be illustrated by the fact that most of the poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria have been used to benefit the members of parties in power (Igebo et al, 2007). According to Folasade-Koyi (2007), about \$20 million of the Petroleum Trust Development Fund (PTDF) has been traced to an account belonging to the PDP. Ribadu (2004) quoted by Effiong (2007) also indicated that over 60% of development funds in Nigeria have been embezzled by public officials. Akintude (2007) opined that corruption is one of the major threats endangering the realization of the MDGs in Northern Nigeria and the country as a whole.

However, the slowdown in the fight against corruption and institutional abuse experienced by agencies such as EFCC and ICPC are trivialized in laughable cases like the trial and optional conviction of the former Edo state governor Lucky Igbinedion for corruption; former Plateau State governor; member house of Representatives, Faruk Lawal; former governor of Adamawa state, Boni Haruna. Others include the Abatcha loot monies. According to UN report, poverty in the most northern states is nearly twice that of the rest of the country. The health indicators reflect this as the children in the far north are almost four times as likely to be malnourished. While child mortality is said to be over 200 deaths per 1000 live births, leading to lower life expectancy. Furthermore, the instances in terms of educational standards are just as bad; the literacy rate is just 35%, far below the 77 % in the rest of the country. Similarly, 77% of women in the far north have no formal education, compared to only 17% in the rest of the country. In northern Nigeria, primary school attendance is only 41%, while youth unemployment is extremely high. All of this contribute to joblessness and a deepening circle of poverty (Carson, 2012).

In view of these ugly facts, Nigeria has moved to the forefront of international concern towards reducing the widening gap between the rich and poor nations aimed at eradicating poverty as nucleus of its goals and objectives. As a result, the international community established far-reaching and specific development objectives called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the overriding objectives of eventually eradicating poverty and hunger in the world. This idea of MDGs was conceived by 191 member states of the United Nations, leading to the signing of the United Nations Millennium Declaration in September 2000. Consequently, toward eradicating poverty and hunger, health, education, gender equality a sustainable environment and global partnership, the year 2015 was set as the target year of success. The most prominent of the goals is to eradicate extreme poverty and corruption world wide.

According to the Nigerian Millennium Development Goal report (2013), which is a stock taking tool which examines the progress of Nigeria towards the achievement of the MDGs by the target year, for Nigeria to achieve some of the objectives of (MDGs), much still needs to be done. The findings further illustrated high potential to attain some of the Millennium Development Targets, namely: achieving universal primary education; environment; and global partnership for development.

But the current policy environment and the strong political will to implement pro-poor programmes are weak. Therefore, in view of this, current efforts need to be intensified if Nigeria is to achieve the target by 2015. In general, the progress toward targets of the goals is weak, due to the challenges of corruption and poor governance. The effectiveness of the MDGs is impeded by factors which contribute to poor development management. These include weak institutions, lack of adequate legal framework, weak financial accounting and auditing systems, damaging discretionary interventions, uncertain and variable policy frameworks, and closed decision-making, which increases risks of corruption and waste.

Furthermore, the results of poverty pose a serious challenge towards the achieving of MDGs objective. It is necessary at this juncture, to debunk the NEEDS and the sponsored propaganda about the economic recovery and transformational agenda which is one of the cardinal principles of the Jonathan administration. MDGs, NEEDs and transformational agenda have remained mere slogans rather than a programme to bring about positive change and development to the people. There is a strong consensus among agencies and scholars on the basic elements of good governance, without reference to any priority; these could be summed up thus: Poor governance is readily recognizable, according to World Bank (1992), when some of these main symptoms are identified. The poverty level in Nigeria is that it portrays a tale of regional disparities. According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the regional poverty disparity can be appreciated in table below: Zone / Regions Food Poor Absolute Poor Relative Poor living less than a Dollar Per Day.

Table 1. Indices Showing Poverty Level in Nigeria in the Six Geo-Political Zones

	Zones	Food Poor	Absolute poor	Relative poor	\$ per/day
1	North Central	38.6	59.5	67.5	59.7
2	North - East	51.5	69.0	76.3	69.1
3	North - West	51.8	70.0	77.7	70.4
4	South - East	41.0	58.7	67.0	59.2
5	South- South	35.5	55.9	63.8	56.1
6	South - West	25.4	49.2	59.1	50.1

Source: NBS National Poverty Profile January, 2012

The above table clearly shows the level of poverty in Nigeria, according to the six geopolitical zones. While table 2 indices show the top 10 selected states in both North and southern part of the country as a comparison. This poverty and hunger generally have undermined the successful implementations of MDGs programmes in the north and the country at large. Instead, the region have been devastated by systemic, worsening and intolerable level of poverty in the region. According to Jega (2004), poverty and unemployment: served to condition the minds and attitudes of Nigerian and made them susceptible to elite manipulation and mobilization of negative identities. As the state becomes unable to satisfy basic needs of the people, they in turn withdrew from the sphere of the state into ethno-religious and communal cocoons, with heightened sensitivity to the roles of the "others" in their marginalization and immiserations.

Table 2: Top 10 Selected States with Highest Indices in North by State

1	Adamawa	71.7	Abia	22.3
2	Bauchi	86.6	Anambra	20.1
3	Gombe	77.0	Bayelsa	20.0
4	Jigawa	95.0	Edo	33.1
5	Kebbi	89.7	Enugu	31.1
6	Kogi	88.6	Imo	27.4
7	Kwara	85.2	Oyo	24.1
8	Sokoto	76.8	Ogun	31.7
9	Yobe	83.3	Osun	32.4
10	Zamfara	80.9	Rivers	29.1

Source: NBS National Poverty Profile January, 2012

In contrast, however, the analysis shows that, in all the six geo-political zones in the country, the levels poverty are much higher in the Northern regions and particularly so in the North-East, followed by North-West and lastly North-Central areas of Nigeria, compared to the Southern regions. While, the North-Central region (which comprises Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau States), is absolutely poor, having 69% of its people living in the North-East (areas of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe State) as absolutely poor with less than 1 dollar income per day, equally. While in the North-west, which comprises Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara, 70% of the people are absolutely poor living on less than 1 dollar income per day.

This no doubt has undermined and would continue to undermine the objective of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The high level of poverty in the north is caused by the nature and system of agrarian structure. Other causes include the conditions of land tenure and its operation attached to a specific period of time and in a specific place. Since the introduction of MDGs in Nigeria and the North in particular, monies voted for such projects are hardly utilized due to corruption. Still, a majority of the village areas in the north are without standard primary schools. There are many sign posts for non existing projects across the region. For example, in the area of Health clinics and dispensaries, only few village areas are available. As a result of degree of poverty in the region, the level of school enrolments has drastically dropped, as most parents prefer sending their children to farms, instead of schools. The child mortality is still very high, while the HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases still at skyrocketing levels. Finally, the environmental sustainability is also still poor. All these are consequences of poverty and hunger. This is because it is not that most of these parents do not want their wives, children or themselves to go to hospitals, schools or that they are not aware of the consequences of HIV/AIDS; it is because they are poor and cannot afford it. All these are attributed to poor governance by their leaders in office.

Conclusion

In conclusion, therefore, since poverty and hunger reduction mechanisms will permit greater amount of output from any given level of input, increase in output permitted by improved good governance will also go a long way to increase standard of living of the people in the northern region. This became apparent as economic growth enhances strategies such as reducing child mortality rate, achieving better education at all levels, promoting gender equality; import substitution and export-led growth strategies are also important for poverty reduction and ensure environmental harmony. Therefore, the maintenance of this tempo, in addition to development of adequate human capital, would no doubt help to accelerate and sustain income level and enable man to take control of his environment and pave the way for sustainable poverty reduction. Similarly, since good governance has been certified by every community as a necessary precondition for economic development to foster strong and equitable development in every society, its realization will no doubt underscore the centrality of its role in sustaining the environment, poverty reduction and hunger eradication.

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