

Impact of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) on Poverty Alleviation among Rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract. End Poverty in all its form everywhere is one of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and seven targets were adopted as framework to reduce poverty in the world. Despite ongoing progress, 10 per cent of the world lives in poverty and struggle to fulfill basic needs such as health, education, and access to water and sanitation. Extreme poverty remains high in low-income countries particularly in Nigeria where poverty rate stands at 40.09 percent, representing 82.9 million persons. This study therefore seeks to assess the impact of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) on poverty alleviation among rural women and youth in Federal Capital Territory Abuja-Nigeria. The study adopted political system theory as propounded by Easton and Barnard (1965) for theoretical analysis. The study adopted survey and documentary research design. Both primary and secondary method of data collection was utilized. The finding from the study revealed that SDGs' Empowerment scheme has positive and significant relationship between poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory. It also SDGs' soft credit loan has positive and significant relationship between poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory. Government should be empowered more women and youth through massive investment in industries and agriculture in order created job and wealth from agro-business and as well sustain food security thereby reducing poverty among rural populace in Federal Capital Territory Abuja. Government should massively invest in rural economic development and there should expansion of credit loan scheme to cover more household in Federal Capital Territory Abuja

Keyword: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Poverty, poverty alleviation, women, youth and Federal Capital Territory

1. Introduction

Eradicating Poverty in all its form is one of "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with seven targets to achieve result. The seven "outcome targets" are: eradication of extreme poverty; reduction of all poverty by half; implementation of social protection systems; ensuring equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources; and the building of resilience to environmental, economic and social disasters" (United Nations, 2015). "The two targets related to "means of achieving" SDG 1 are mobilization of resources to end poverty; and the establishment of poverty eradication policy frameworks at all levels" (United Nations, 2017). "Poverty arises from the lack of access to income, social or physical security, absence of voice or protection of human rights and lack of access to justice. Though the common practice is to measure poverty as (living on less than \$ 1 a day); illiteracy, ill-health, disability, inequality and environmental degradation are also aspects of being poor".

"Despite ongoing progress, 10 per cent of the world lives in poverty and struggle to fulfill basic needs such as health, education, and access to water and sanitation" (World Bank, 2020). "Extreme poverty remains high in low-income countries particularly in Nigeria where poverty rate stands at 40.09 percent, representing 82.9 million persons" (Business New, 2020, May 4th).

Rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory engage in social and economic activities to tackle

poverty. “The activities includes; teaching, civil service, food vending, trading, tailoring services and farming. Women and Youths are active in the areas of: artisanship, small scale business, carpentry, information communication technology, printing; animal husbandry, crop farming from tilling, planting, harvesting and processing farm produces for sale in the markets” (AMAC, 2019).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and One Sixty Nine (169) targets were adopted as instrument for poverty alleviation by Federal, State and Local Government in Nigeria. The SDGs spread “a wide scope of issues which includes; poverty, hunger, health, education, and gender inequality but added new topics such as energy, infrastructure, economic growth and employment, inequality, cities, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, forests, oceans, and peace and security. Nigeria Government has been implementing the SDGs’ programmes at various levels, but despite this effort, many Nigerians remain poor. The standard of living is very low” (UN, 2015). This study seeks to ascertain whether SDGs has significant impact on poverty alleviation in Federal Capital Territory.

Few studies conducted only focus on developed countries rather than the developing countries. Most especially none of the studies was conducted to ascertain impact of SDGs on socio-economic development in Nigeria. For instance, “Qian-Qian, and Linwang (2015) only studied the issue of Poverty reduction within the framework of SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda in china. Kamruzzaman (2016) only focused on Poverty Eradication Target of Sustainable Development Goals in Tanzania. Edward and Joanne (2017) only cover Sustainable Development Goals and the systems approach to sustainability with no specific area of study”. Dajian (2017) focus on research from “global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to sustainability science based on the object-subject-process framework”. This study seeks to bridge the gap by assessing the impact of Sustainable Development Goals on Poverty Alleviation in Federal Capital Territory.

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- To what extent has SDGs Empowered scheme alleviates poverty among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory?
- To what extent has SDGs soft credit loan alleviates poverty among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory?

- What are the socio-economic facilities provided by SDGs in rural communities for the benefit of women and youth in Federal Capital Territory?

The study seeks to achieve the following objectives;

- To find out whether SDGs has Empowered rural Women/Youth and its effect on poverty alleviation in Federal Capital Territory
- To determine whether SDGs has provided soft credit loan to rural Women/Youth and its effect on poverty alleviation in Federal Capital Territory.
- To identified some of the socio-economic facilities provided by SDGs in rural communities for the benefit of women and youth in Federal Capital Territory?

The following Hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

- There is no significant relationship between SDGs Empowerment scheme and poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory.
- There is no significant relationship between SDGs soft credit loan poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory.
- There is no significant relationship between SDGs and the provision of socio-economic facilities in rural communities for the benefit of women and youth in Federal Capital Territory.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Sustainable Development

“Analyzing the definition of sustainable development, it is understood that it does not present a “magic recipe” solution to save the environment from degradation and depletion, but it suggests a change in humanity’s behaviour. Moreover, this concept does not only mean saving the environment or some particular species, but human survival” (Barter and Russell, 2012). Barter et al (2012) also points to a clear statement that the human environmental system makes up a single, indivisible system, since by mentioning the “generations” it refers to generations - past, present and future - related to the human environment, since they are inseparable”(P. 13). This idea is corroborated by Weiss (1992), “when he emphasizes that

intergenerational equity corresponds to maintaining the planet's natural resources we share with other species and humans, in past, present and future generations". In the words of Barter and Russell (2012), "the definition of sustainable development does not refer to saving nature, but to the internalization of strategies, and thus adding new resources to enable economic growth and prosperity to be shared by all". This term, "sustainable development, refers to a series of processes and practices, involving action, and focusing on the improvement of human life" (Ba-Blewitt, 2008; UNSGHLPS, 2012)," "providing a long term vision to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, make growth inclusive, and turn production and consumption more sustainable" (UNSGHLPS, 2012, P. 6). The term action or act indicates that, the survival of the human race cannot be outsourced, that is, the strategic attitudes that aid in our survival must start from humanity itself. It is important to note the importance given to the strategic issue, especially in relation to corporations, which are seen as essential actors in the face of innovations, practices and technologies that can help to generate sustainable results (Barter and Russel, 2012). Lélé (2013) "complements the Brundtland defined "sustainable development" as the core of development discussions". In the meantime, "sustainable development, combined with humanity's social and political projects development, has promoted efforts to find ways and through them make societies more sustainable" (Salas-Zapata, Ríos-Osorio, Castillo, 2011).. "After analyzing the concept of sustainable development as define by World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) (1987)". For Moffatt (2007), "Sustainable development is a means of sustaining an activity or process ensures that a system works in the long term". "Others understand the idea that, in a future, life will be healthier than in the present" (Blewitt, 2008). Bañon (2011) defines Sustainable development "as a habitual way of acting, and as a consequence, people should avoid destructive effects on environmental, social and economic domains, consistent with a harmonious relationship that promotes a promising life". "These concepts points towards human progress and development in quality of life through continuous economic growth" (Barter and Russell, 2012), that is, "the impacts mainly affect the human population and their well-being" (Moldan, 2012). "It is worth noting that sustainable development aims at a new vision of economic growth, as confirmed by WCED (1987:1) "a new era of economic growth". Barter and Russell (2012:29) identify economic growth as fundamental to enable human survival". Ayres (1996) argues that the concept of sustainable development guides how

humanity must act in relation to nature, and be responsible for its own generations. Based on this, Lozano (2012) emphasizes that economic growth must be based on social justice and the efficient use of natural resources. Harlow, Golub and Allenby (2013) complement that economic growth and modernization is dominant characteristics of sustainable development.

The key principle of sustainable development "underlying all others is the integration of environmental, social, and economic concerns into all aspects of decision making, all other principles in the sustainable development framework have integrated decision making at their core". (Dernbach, 2003). "It is this deeply fixed concept of integration that distinguishes sustainability from other forms of policy. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (UN, 2015). The concept of sustainable development "can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society" (Pisano, Lange, Berger and Hametner, 2015). "All too often, development is driven by one particular need, without fully considering the wider or future impacts. We are already seeing the damage this kind of approach can cause, from large-scale financial crises caused by irresponsible banking, to changes in global climate resulting from our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy sources. The longer we pursue unsustainable development, the more frequent and severe its consequences are likely to become, which is why we need to take action now" (Pisano, et al, 2015:5). "Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development. One implication of not doing so is climate change. But the focus of sustainable development is far broader than just the environment. It's also about ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. This means meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity" (Pisano, et al, 2015:7).

Sustainable development "is aims towards economic growth without human-lead damage to the environment, long term view in relation to future generations Includes environmental, economic and social aspects in mutual balance as well as proposes changes in humanity's behaviour and materialized through strategies Involves processes and practices" (UN, 2015).

Sustainable development can be conceptualized “as a strategy used in the long term to improve societies’ quality of life (wellbeing). This strategy should integrate environmental, social and economic aspects, especially considering environmental limitations, due natural resources access in a continuous and perpetual way. The strategy concept, that is, the act of managing, is elaborated based on sustainability assessments results, and focuses on the negative aspects, recovering or normalizing to the point where the evolutionary process of the system occurs naturally” (UN, 2017).

2.2 Concept of Poverty

In conceptualizing poverty, “two schools of thought have emerged. One of the schools is classical economist they conceive poverty as lack of income or material well-being”, corroborating this view, Arinze (1995) described poverty as “the lack of income needed to acquire the minimum necessities of life”. Galbraith (2002) citing Aneke (2000) state that “people are poverty slicken when their income even if adequate for survival, fall markedly below those of the commodity they cannot have what the larger community regards”. Aliyu (2003) asserted that “several types of poverty may be distinguished depending on such factors as, time or duration (long, short terms or cyclical). Poverty may be widespread throughout a population, but the occurrence itself is limited to direction and distribution (widespread, concentrated individuals). It can also involve relatively permanent insufficiency of means of securing basic needs. The condition may be to describe the average level of life in a large group in concentrated or relatively large groups in an otherwise prosperous society”.

More so, the concept of poverty is “relational, i.e. we cannot talk about poor except in the context of the rich. Poverty and wealth exist in parallel relationships, in which one means nothing without the other. The two categories auger simultaneously in history through the same processes and relationships associated with the production and distribution of material resources in human society” (Aliyu, 2003:38).

Poverty is a “state of involuntary deprivation to which a person, household and nations are subjected. This means individuals, household, and nations under scale can be poor, so long as it exhibits the characteristics of poverty source” (Aliyu, 2003:42).

Poverty “is also associated with poor health low level of education, low level of calories in ones diet, lack

of shelter, low level of employment. Furthermore, poverty refers to the inability of an individual or family to secure basic needs even in the midst of social surrounding of general prosperity or lack of some general attribute that would allow an individual to maintain himself. And people that are associated with such behaviours like inability to manage money either by laziness, drunkenness and producing too many can make a nation or an individual to be poor” (Aliyu, 2003:45).

According to Gbosi and Philip, (2004) “Poverty has economic, social and political ramifications. The poor are materially deprived, socially alienated and politically excommunicated. Basically, Poverty has been conceptualized in the following ways:

- Lack of access to basic needs/goods.
- Lack of or impaired access to productive resources.

Poverty as lack of access to basic needs/goods is essentially economic or consumption oriented. Thus the poor are conceived as those individuals or households in a particular society, incapable of purchasing a specified basket of basic goods and services”. “Basic goods as used here include; food, shelter, water, health care, access to productive resources including education, working skill and tools, political and civil rights to participate in decisions concerning socio-economic conditions” (Ajakaiye and Adeyeye 2001 in Gbosi, 2004).

2.3 Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction

Today, it is widely agreed by the scientific community that climate change is already a reality. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that human activities are altering our climate system and will continue to do so. The impacts of climate change, and the vulnerability of poor communities to climate change, vary greatly, but generally, climate change is superimposed on existing vulnerabilities. Climate change will further reduce access to drinking water, negatively affect the health of poor people, and will pose a real threat to food security in many countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (IPCC, 2014). Therefore, “the best way to address poverty reduction is by integrating sustainable development into development agenda and planning. According to the core philosophy of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we should call on the international community to make concerted efforts to formulate the SDGs and the development agenda, eliminate extreme poverty in the next fifteen years, respond to the challenge of climate change to

leave a more clean and green earth to future generations, and spare no effort to promote world peace and security. Rio20 Conference reached a consensus on the combination of poverty reduction goals and SDGs, which has become the basic trend of the present discussion on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The eradication of poverty is the biggest global challenge facing the world and the premise for sustainable development. Consequently poverty eradication and sustainable development are inseparable” (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2014).

2.3.1 Five major transformations

“A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development, the report of the UN High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post2015 Development Agenda proposes to carry out five major transformations:

- Leave no one behind;
- Put sustainable development at the core;
- Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth;
- Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all;
- Forge a new global partnership” (UN, 2013).

2.3.2 Six key elements

“In the General Report on Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, The Road to Dignity by 2030, the UN Secretary General stressed that future sustainable development should be based on rights and take people and the environment as the centre. The report also proposes six essential elements for sustainable development, including:

- 1) Dignity. End poverty and inequality. It is the primary goal of the Sustainable Development Agenda to eliminate poverty by 2030.
- 2) People. Ensure universal access to health and education services, including women and children. Women and children must have equal access to financial services.
- 3) Prosperity. Develop powerful, inclusive economies with the ability to transform. Ensure all people; including women, the disabled, youth, elderly and migrant population have decent work, social protection and the access to financial services.
- 4) Our planet. Protect the ecological system.
- 5) Justice. Sustainable development requires the states and governments at all levels to be inclusive and participatory and be responsible to the people. Protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 6) Partnership. Promote global unity and cooperation to accelerate sustainable development” (UN, 2014b).

2.4 Poverty Reduction Goals

Poverty reduction here refers to “generalized poverty reduction. In other words, the poverty we talk about includes not only income poverty, but also multidimensional poverty covering education, public health, drinking water and sanitation facilities. Based on generalized poverty reduction, we can sort out the Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDGs proposed by UN High-level Panel of Eminent Persons. A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development, the report of the UN High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post2015 Development Agenda proposes that the SDGs should include 12 universal goals. Corresponding to the SDGs proposed by UN High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the SDGs, which have been under discussion, include a total of 17 major goals” (UN, 2013). “Based on the concept of generalized poverty reduction, the goals proposed can be divided into three categories: multidimensional poverty reduction goals, sustainable development goals, and global partnership goals. Ending extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030 is the summary of the SDGs, reflecting the significance of poverty reduction in the issue of development” (UN, 2013).

2.5 Review of Empirical Studies

Qian-Qian, Liua, and Linwang (2015) examined “poverty reduction goals within the framework of Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. It also discusses the relationship between poverty reduction and sustainable development. Poverty reduction and sustainable development are inseparable and poverty reduction is the premise for sustainable development. It concludes that to end poverty and inequality should continuously be given top priority for the Chinese government, because poverty reduction is China’s soft power. Meanwhile, new ways of poverty alleviation should be explored and government should make great efforts to create a new partnership for poverty reduction and development”.

Kamruzzaman (2016) examined “Poverty Eradication Target of Sustainable Development Goals. The study revealed that, tackling anti-poverty programmes with appreciates and strong political commitments by all related stakeholders can eradicate poverty. The study concludes that without strong political commitments by all related stakeholders and an approach to look beyond existing models poverty eradication target may turn out to be another statement of good

intentions by the international aid architecture with little meaningful practical relevance”.

Edward and Joanne (2017) evaluated “Sustainable Development Goals and the systems approach to sustainability. Study illustrate how each of the 17 SDGs can be characterized as a goal primarily attributed either to the environmental, economic or social system, and as suggested by the systems approach, there may be important tradeoffs in attempting to attain all these goals simultaneously. By adopting standard methods of the theory of choice and welfare under imposed quantities, the study show that is possible to measure the welfare effects of an increase in the indicator level for one SDG by identifying the tradeoffs that occur with achieving another goal. They present a quantitative assessment of current progress and tradeoffs among the 17 SDGs, using a representative indicator for each goal”.

Dajian (2017) Assessed “impact of global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to sustainability science based on the object-subject-process framework. This study provided an analytic framework for sustainability science, named the object-subject-process (OSP) framework for examining the key issues encountered during the theoretical research and policy analysis. This study emphasized that, on the object dimension, sustainable development means to seek for economic and social development within biophysical limits of the earth and the relationship of environment, society, and economy should be containing and complementary rather than parallel and substitute; on the process dimension, sustainable development should adopt both the responsive and proactive strategies for the whole process management which employing pressure-state-response (PRS) model rather than dealing with one part of them; on the subject dimension, sustainable development research should involve the key stakeholders who are kind of collaborate governance rather than separate each other”.

Brambilla and Porto (2016) examined “Trade, Poverty Eradication, and the Sustainable Development Goals. The study investigates if trade can help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of poverty eradication using microeconomic and macroeconomic mechanisms and the effects of trade and trade policy on consumer prices, producer prices, and wages. As these mechanisms affect the real income of households, they determine the likelihood that a household may be lifted out of or pushed into poverty. The impacts of trade on growth and longer-term consequences of trade liberalization were also analyzed using data

from African countries. While there is sound evidence that trade can be pro-poor, there is significant heterogeneity in the poverty impacts of trade, both across households and countries. This highlights the importance of complementary policies such as infrastructure, trade facilitation, and social protection”.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

2.6.1 Political System Theory

Political System theory propounded by Easton (1957) was adopted as theoretical framework. The theory analyzed on political and administrative systems and the way they are structured and function.

“A system is a set of interconnected elements that function together in tandem to make up the whole being. So, a Systems approach administration is described as a system comprising subsystem, structure, people, action and interaction that enable it(administration or organization) to perform certain functions. Every system influences its subsystems and is also influenced by its subsystems. This system rejects the closed system approach of an organization or Classical theory of organization where it was stated that an organization is independent of the environment and society and is not connected to it. It states that the organization and environment work together and have frequent exchanges in order to adjust and in the end there is homoeostasis (stable state of equilibrium).It also rejects the theory of the Classical theory of taking decisions which are best and there is one best way of doing things, it rather supports the concept of 'equifinality (the property of allowing or having the same effect or result from different events' that means that anything done or decision taken in an organization, no matter how it is done but the intention should be the same, of getting the work done and achieving the goal, then the end results will always be the same or as desired” (Easton, 1957).

“Public policy is viewed as a political systems response to demands arising from its environment. The political system comprises those identifiable and interrelated institutions and activities (what we usually think of as governmental institutions and political processes) in a society that make authoritative allocations of values (decisions) that are binding on society (Easton, 1965:143). Systems implies an identifiable set of institutions and activities in society that functions to transforms demands into authoritative decisions requiring the support of the whole society; implies that the

elements of the system are interrelated, that the system can respond to forces in its environment, and that it will do so to preserve itself” (Easton, 145).

Public Policy may be viewed as the response of a political system to demands arising from its environment. Easton (1965), states that “the political system theory, is composed of those identifiable and interrelated institutions and activities in a society that make authoritative decisions (or allocations of values) that are binding on society”.

“Inputs into the system from the environment consist of demands and supports for the policy. The environment consists of all those conditions and events external to the boundaries of the political system.

Demands are the claims made by individuals and groups on the political system for action to satisfy their interests. Support is rendered when groups and individuals abide by election results, pay taxes, obey laws, and otherwise accept the decisions and actions of the authoritative political system made in response to demands. These authoritative allocations of values constitute public policy” (Easton, 1965).

This theory takes “a holistic approach which takes into account and studies all elements of system inputs like hierarchy and communications, personnel and procedures, informal as well as formal and the interface (connection) between organizations and the environment. It states that organizations and the environment it functions in are interdependent and should be analyzed together and how they influence each other. There are demands from the society such reduction in level of poverty, gender equality, improved girl child education, reduction in environmental degradation etc. In order to response to these demands, public policies and programme was designed with implementation process and therefore Sustainable Development Goals programmes were initiated in respondent to the above demands”.

3. Methodology

Descriptive survey and documentary design was adopted in this study. This design was use because it involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or answer research questions concerning the current status of the subjects of the study.

The target populations for this study are; rural women and youth that benefited from the Sustainable Development Goals programme in FCT. The total number of rural women and youth that benefited

from the SDG empowerment programme across FCT is 9,682. Simple sampling technique was used to select the sample population for this study. The total population of 9,682 was narrowed down using Robert & Krejcie sample size determination. The formula is given as:

$$n = \frac{X^2 NP (1-P)}{d^2 (N-1) + X^2 P (1-P)}$$

s = required sample size.

X² = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level (3.841).

N = the population size.

P = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size).

d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05).

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{3.84(9682) (0.5) (1-0.5)}{0.0025 (9682 -1) + 3.84(0.5) (1-0.5)} \\ &= \frac{3.84(9682) (0.5) (0.5)}{0.0025 (9682) + 3.84(0.5) (0.5)} \\ &= \frac{9197.9}{24.20+0.96} \\ &= \frac{9197.9}{25.16} \end{aligned}$$

Two method of data collection was utilized in this study: primary method and secondary method. The data are derived from primary and secondary sources.

Primary data was collected using oral interview due to the educational level of the respondent. Structured questionnaire with closed ended questions that allow respondents to give straight answer either “Strongly Agreed or Agreed or Undecided, Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed were administered with the help of three research assistants. The reason is to cover at least 80% of the respondents as well as obtaining factual information on SDG and empowerment of women entrepreneurs.

Secondary data were sourced from published journal materials on Sustainable Development Goals, Women and Youth Empowerment, socio-economic development, poverty eradication, Sustainable Development Goals bulletins; Data were sourced from Test books on Poverty Alleviation, Data were sourced from magazines pages on women and youth empowerment and development, Data were also sourced from newspapers on SDGs development and other from internet.

For the purpose of this study, two statistical techniques of data analysis were utilized; they are descriptive and inferential statistical techniques: The descriptive statistics was used to present quantitative data in frequency table and percentage while the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 was used to analyze the data using ANOVA techniques of data analysis

The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 significant levels. The analysis will be done using independent variable (SDGs) and Poverty Alleviation as the dependent variable.

Model specification

$$PA = \alpha + \beta_1 SDGEPR + \beta_2 SDGSCL + e$$

Where:

PA = Poverty Alleviation

α = Constant

β = Slope

SDGEPR = SDG Empowerment Scheme

SDGSCL = SDG Soft Credit Loan

4. Results and Discussion

Out of the total number of Three Hundred and Sixty Six (366) questionnaires distributed to the beneficiary of SDGs programme in rural communities of Federal Capital Territory Abuja. Only Three Hundred and Five (305) were duly completed and returned while Sixty one (61) were missing. The returned questionnaires of Three Hundred and Five (305) were used for further analysis.

Table 1: Respondents’ Opinions on whether SDGs has empowered the rural women and Youth in FCT

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agreed	27	9
Agreed	190	62
Undecided	34	11
Disagreed	43	14
Strongly Disagreed	11	4
Total	305	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From the table 1, it clearly shows that 27 respondents, representing 9% of the total respondents strongly agree that, SDGs has actually empowered rural women and Youth in FCT. 190 respondents, representing 62% agreed, 34 respondents, representing 11%, could not ascertain whether SDGs has empowered rural women and Youth in FCT. 43 respondents, representing 14% totally disagreed, while 11 respondents, representing 4% strongly disagreed.

Table 2: Respondents’ Opinions on whether SDGs has provided soft credit loan for rural women and Youth in FCT

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agreed	16	5
Agreed	165	54
Undecided	40	13
Disagreed	72	24
Strongly Disagreed	12	4
Total	305	100

Source: Researcher’s Survey 2020.

From the table 2, it clearly shows that 27 respondents, representing 9% of the total respondents strongly agree that, SDGs has actually provided soft credit loan for rural women and Youth in FCT. 190 respondents, representing 62% agreed, 34 respondents, representing 11%, could not ascertain whether SDGs has provided soft credit loan for rural women and Youth in FCT. 43 respondents, representing 14% totally disagreed, while 11 respondents, representing 4% strongly disagreed.

Table 3: Respondents’ Opinions on whether SDGs has provided socio-economic facilities for rural communities for the benefit of women and Youth in FCT

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agreed	31	10.2
Agreed	172	56.3
Undecided	42	14
Disagreed	49	16
Strongly Disagreed	11	4
Total	305	100

Source: Researcher’s Survey, 2020.

From the table 2, it clearly shows that 31 respondents, representing 10.2% of the total respondents strongly agree that, SDGs has actually provided socio-economic facilities for rural communities for the benefit of women and Youth in FCT. 172 respondents, representing 56.3% agreed, 42 respondents, representing 14%, could not ascertain whether SDGs has provided socio-economic facilities for rural communities for the benefit of women and Youth in FCT. 49 respondents, representing 16% totally disagreed, while 11 respondents, representing 4% strongly disagreed.

Test of Hypotheses

There is no significant relationship between SDGs Empowerment scheme and poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory

Table 4: Test of Homogeneity of Variances

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
174.252	2	281	.000

Source: Field Survey (2020) using SPSS Version 20.0

F Table for $\alpha = 0.05$; F(df1, df2) = (2, 281).

Table 5: ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	44.922	2	22.461	144.343	.000
Within Groups	43.726	281	.156		
Total	88.648	283			

Source: Field Survey (2020) using SPSS Version 20.0

Dependent Variable: poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory

Independent Variable: SDGs Empowerment scheme

The result of data analysis in table 4.9 reveals that the mean is statistically positive and significant at 5% level of significance. The $F(2, 281) = 144.343$ is greater than the $F(\text{tab}) = 2.9957$, therefore the estimated parameters are statistically positive and significant. This means that the Null hypothesis is rejected while accepting the alternate hypothesis since the $F(2,281)$ of 144.343 is greater than the $F(\text{tab})$ of 2.9957: We therefore concluded that there is positive and significant relationship between SDGs Empowerment scheme and poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory.

Test of Hypothesis II

There is no significant relationship between SDGs soft credit loan poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory

Table 6: Test of Homogeneity of Variances

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
106.739	2	281	.000

Source: Field Survey (2020) using SPSS Version 20.0

F Table for $\alpha = 0.05$; $F(\text{df}_1, \text{df}_2) = (2, 281)$

Table 7: ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	55.387	2	27.694	233.967	.000
Within Groups	33.261	281	.118		
Total	88.648	283			

Source: Field Survey (2020) using SPSS Version 20.0

Dependent Variable: poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory

Independent Variable: SDGs soft credit loan

The result of data analysis in table 4.9 reveals that the mean is statistically positive and significant at 5% level of significance. The $F(2, 281) = 233.97$ is greater than the $F(\text{tab}) = 2.9957$, therefore the estimated parameters are statistically positive and significant. This means that the Null hypothesis is rejected while accepting the alternate hypothesis since the $F(2,281)$ of 233.97 is greater than the $F(\text{tab})$ of 2.9957: Therefore, the study concluded that there is positive and significant relationship between SDGs soft credit loan poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory.

Test of Hypothesis III

There is no significant relationship between SDGs and the provision of socio-economic facilities in rural communities for the benefit of women and youth in Federal Capital Territory.

Table 8: Test of Homogeneity of Variances

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
376.204	2	281	.000

Source: Field Survey (2020) using SPSS Version 20.0
 F Table for $\alpha = 0.05$; $F(df_1, df_2) = (2, 281)$

Table 9: ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	30.253	2	15.127	72.790	.000
Within Groups	58.395	281	.208		
Total	88.648	283			

Source: Field Survey (2020) using SPSS Version 20.0

The result of data analysis in table 4.9 reveals that the mean is statistically positive and significant at 5% level of significance. The $F(2, 281) = 72.790$ is greater than the $F(\text{tab}) = 2.9957$, therefore the estimated parameters are statistically positive and significant. This means that the Null hypothesis is rejected while accepting the alternate hypothesis since the $F(2,281)$ of 72.790 is greater than the $F(\text{tab})$ of 2.9957. Therefore, the study concluded that there is positive and significant relationship between SDGs and the provision of socio-economic facilities in rural communities for the benefit of women and youth in Federal Capital Territory.

5. Findings

Finding from the study revealed that, “SDGs’ Empowerment scheme has positive and significant relationship between poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory. This finding is in line with the study conducted by Qian-Qian, et al (2015) whose study revealed that, there is relationship between poverty reduction and sustainable development in China. The study concludes that, Poverty reduction and sustainable development are inseparable and poverty reduction is the premise for sustainable development. The result of this study also agrees with the document revealed from Office of SDGs. See Appendix ii: SDGs Empowerment Scheme for Women and Youth in FCT-Abuja”.

Finding from the study revealed that, “SDGs’ soft credit loan has positive and significant relationship between poverty alleviation among rural Women and Youth in Federal Capital Territory. This finding of this study agree with the study conducted by Brambilla and Porto (2016) whose finding reveal that, trade can help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of poverty eradication using microeconomic and macroeconomic mechanisms and the effects of trade and trade policy on consumer prices, producer prices, and wages. As these mechanisms affect the real income of

households, they determine the likelihood that a household may be lifted out of or pushed into poverty”. The result of this study also agrees with the document revealed from Office of SDGs. See Appendix iii.

Finding from the study revealed that, “SDGs to some extent has provision of socio-economic facilities in rural communities for the benefit of women and youth in Federal Capital Territory. This finding collaborated with the study conducted by Another Study conducted on Poverty Eradication Target of Sustainable Development Goals by Kamruzzaman (2016) whose study also revealed that, tackling anti-poverty programmes with appreciate and strong political commitments by all related stakeholders can eradicate poverty”. The result of this study also agrees with the document revealed from Office of SDGs. See Appendix i.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examines “impact of SDGs programme on poverty alleviation among rural women and youth in Federal Capital Territory Abuja and concludes that, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) to some extent has reduced poverty through empowerment of women and youth. Rural women and youth in Federal Capital Territory Abuja were empowered with soft credit loan Irrigation pumps; Sewing machines; Knitting machines; grinding machines; Motor cycles; crop seeding; tricycle and entrepreneurial training. SDGS has provided some socio-economic facilities and services in rural communities for the benefit of women and youth in Federal Capital Territory. These facilities and services includes; Construction classroom/provision of sets of classroom furniture, procurement of teaching materials, Infrastructures in Orphanages, installation of solar energy, construction of borehole and installation pumping water machines, construction of agro processing demonstration centres for cassava and rice, construction of health centre and clinics, procurement of health care facilities and upgrading of facilities health care emergency obstetrics, construction of VIP toilets;

procurement of seeds/seedlings for distribution. Services includes; health care delivery, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; capacity building for teachers and develop a global partnership for development as well as provision of basic social amenities like water, road and agricultural input”. In the light of the above findings, the researcher recommends as follows:

- Government should be empowered more women and youth through massive investment in industries and agriculture in order created job and wealth from agrobusiness and as well sustain food security thereby reducing poverty among rural populace in Federal Capital Territory Abuja.
- Government should massively invest in rural economic development and there should expansion of credit loan scheme to cover more household in Federal Capital Territory Abuja.
- There should aggressive investment in socio-economic amenities especially in areas health care delivery system, pipe-borne water, electricity, market, telecommunication and protective environmental so as to promote healthy living in rural communities of Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

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Appendix

Appendix i: basic socio-economic facilities and Service provided by SDGS between 2015 – 2020

Year	SDGs Basic socio-economic facilities and Services	Total number of Projects
2015	Construction of Class Room Block for primary and secondary school; Borehole installation, skill acquisition training and agricultural extensionservice.	39
2016	Primary Health Care centers and free health service; skill acquisition training and agricultural extension service	52
2017	Rural Electrification and Solar installation and Primary Health Care centers and free health service; Pipe-borne water and	38
2018	Pipe-borne water and Borehole installation and Construction of Class Room Block for primary	83
2019	Construction of Class Room Block for primary and secondary school; Rehabilitation of School and Health centre; skill acquisition training and agricultural extension service.	64
2020	Borehole installation; Construction of Class Room Block for primary and secondary school	71
		347

Source: SDGs' Report, 2015 – 2020

Table 1 above shows that, Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) programme has executed about Three hundred and Forty Seven (347) projects in the last Six years within rural communities in Federal Capital Territory Abuja. The project executed includes; Construction of Class Room Block for primary and secondary school; Rural Electrification; Solar installation; Borehole installation; Primary Health Care centers; Rehabilitation of School and Health centre; free health service; skill acquisition training and agricultural extension services.

Appendix ii: SDGs Empowerment Scheme for Women and Youth in FCT-Abuja

Year	SDGs Empowerment Equipments	Total number of Beneficiaries
2015	Irrigation pumps; Sewing machines; Knitting machines; Grinding machines; Motor cycles; crop seeding; tricycle and entrepreneurial training	1,374
2016	Irrigation pumps; Sewing machines; Knitting machines; Grinding machines; Motor cycles; crop seeding; tricycle and entrepreneurial training	1,429
2017	Irrigation pumps; Sewing machines; Knitting machines; Grinding machines; Motor cycles; crop seeding; tricycle and entrepreneurial training	1,511
2018	Irrigation pumps; Sewing machines; Knitting machines; Grinding machines; Motor cycles; crop seeding; tricycle and entrepreneurial training	1,587
2019	Irrigation pumps; Sewing machines; Knitting machines; Grinding machines; Motor cycles; crop seeding; tricycle and entrepreneurial training	1,838
2020	Irrigation pumps; Sewing machines; Knitting machines; Grinding machines; Motor cycles; crop seeding; tricycle and entrepreneurial training	1,943
Total		9,682

Source: SDGs' Report, 2015 – 2020

Appendix iii: Number of the Women and Youth Beneficiaries from SDGs Credit Loan Scheme 2015 – 2020.

Year	Programme	Number of Women Beneficiaries	Number of Youth Beneficiaries	Total number of Beneficiaries
2015	SDGs Credit Loan Scheme	529	448	977
2016	SDGs Credit Loan Scheme	544	379	923
2017	SDGs Credit Loan Scheme	642	424	1064
2018	SDGs Credit Loan Scheme	581	439	1020
2019	SDGs Credit Loan Scheme	690	128	818
2020	SDGs Credit Loan Scheme	831	219	1050
		3817	2037	5852

Source: SDGs' Report, 2015 – 2020

Table 2 above shows that, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) programme has provided soft Credit Loan for Women and Youth within rural communities in rural communities of Federal Capital Territory Abuja. A total of Five Thousand Eight hundred and Fifty Two (5,852) benefited from the SDGs Credit Loan Scheme in Federal Capital Territory Abuja

Appendix V: Ongoing Project SDGs

S/N	Area councils	Basic Hospital Built Equip.	Farming and extension service	Scaling up of routine immunizaion	Toilet for pry school	Water installation	Solar powered and rural electrification
1	ABAJI	10	28,000	20	52	56	12
2	AMAC	5	40,000	27	46	46	7
3	BWARI	10	38,000	26	55	55	12
4	G/LADA	10	35,000	24	55	55	12
5	KUJE	10	57,000	39	55	55	12
6	KWALI	10	47,000	31	55	55	12

Source: Office of the Special Advice to the President on SDGs