



**CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL**
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA
CHSUDJ



VOLUME 7 NO. 1

MAY, 2018

ISSN NO: 2141-7601



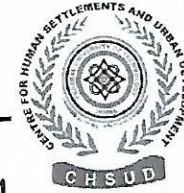
PUBLISHED BY:
CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,
P.M.B. 65, MINNA, NIGER STATE

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CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL (CHSUDJ)

Volume 7 No. 1 May, 2018 ISSN: 2141 - 7601



Published by:
Centre for Human Settlements and Urban Development
Federal University of Technology, P.M.B 65, Minna, Niger State - Nigeria
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ANALYSIS OF CHILD POVERTY IN BOSSO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NIGER STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

The report of the 2006 National Population Census reveals that about 48% of the Nigerian population falls within the age group of 0 – 17 years. Coupled with the economic downturn experienced in Nigeria, the future of the Nigerian Child remains uncertain. This affect children greatly because they are dependent economic actors, who cannot meet their basic needs by themselves. The impact of poverty on the wellbeing of children cannot be overemphasized, it is therefore of concern to this study to measure Child Poverty in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger state from a multidimensional standpoint as against the traditional use of income alone previously used as the benchmark for poverty measurements. The Alkire and Foster (2007) counting approach was applied to generate a Multidimensional Child Poverty Index for the study area at a poverty cut-off of 0.5. The study reveals that there is severe deprivation in more than one dimension in the study and the dimensions of Living Standard, precisely Water Access and Sanitation with an index of 0.22 and 0.42 respectively contributed the most to Child Poverty in the study area. This is accompanied by the dimensions of Education and Housing (0.54 and 0.5. Furthermore, results revealed that areas that are urban experience Medial Poverty (0.5-0.7), while the rural areas has an index within the range of 0 - 0.49 expressing Acute Poverty. It is therefore germane to this study that this strokes of poverty meted on children is greatly curbed through child-centered sustainable approaches cum strategies, which should be more of a commitment than a routine inclusion on print. Combined action between government and non-governmental organization is also recommended in making basic amenities readily available and accessible because a child embodies a country's future irrespective of current location, which is why their wellbeing is of maximum concern.

Introduction

Poverty is not a comfortable experience anywhere due to its many extents and consequences that do not respect age nor gender (Begum 2012). Developing countries are in constant struggle with this issue and the situation in Nigeria only confirms what is obtainable in other developing countries, mostly sub-Saharan countries (Weismann *et al*, 2007). African Economic Outlook (2005), reported that poverty rate swiftly

increased from 27% in the 1980's to 70% in 2003. This is quite similar to the figures obtainable in Nigeria as reported by National Bureau of Statistics-NBS, (2005) that Poverty increased from 28.1% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985 and 65.6 % in 1996 then dropped to 54.4 % in 2004 and futher increased again to 65.6 in 2010 (Ogbeide and Agu 20015). This figure isn't a soft landing where the future is concerned.

Alloys, V. A. and Umaru E. T.

An Analysis of Child Poverty in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria.

Poverty spreads essentially when citizens are not gainfully engaged in an economic activity or resources are unequally distributed among areas (Combat Poverty Agency, 2005). While UNICEF (2013) stated that 54% of Nigerians live on less than 1 dollar per day, apparently more children in households with low income will experience poverty due to their reliance on parents to meet basic needs.

Furthermore, children constitute a larger share of the global population (Morgan and Stewart, 2015). A critical look at the total population of Nigeria in 2016 reveals that about 48% of the people in Nigeria fall within the age group of 0 – 17 years of age (NPC, 2006). Coupled with the economic downturn experienced in Nigeria, the future of the Nigerian Child remains uncertain. Hence, increased severe deprivations may deter the real economic growth in the future when all working population become aged (less productive). Therefore, the absence of basic resources required for children's survival and development, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential, or participate as full and equal member of the society, defines the term Child Poverty (UNICEF 2007).

Children, especially in parts of Africa are kept out of school or attend school for only a short period (UNICEF, 2011). Also, Melik (2012), added that, the cost of a child going to school is almost the wage or monthly salary of a parent in some countries, thus crippling the whole idea of spending it on receiving knowledge. Doors of opportunities opened through education are only utilized by the fortunate few, leaving others to only

wish but never find themselves smiling through life. Black *et al*, (2010) reported that about 10 million children die every year from preventable diseases and 93% of these deaths occur mostly in Africa, from which Nigeria ranks the third most affected country.

Nigerian children are disadvantaged in areas such as health, education, nutrition, social insecurity amongst others and these characteristics apply to both urban and rural areas (Aliyu and Garba, 2012; Adetola and Olufemi, 2012; and Sanusi and Danasabe, 2016). The rural areas lack basic infrastructural services while the urban areas are faced with unemployment and poor state of basic facilities. Child poverty has indeed become a social issue of which the society must see how to bring in solution. It is the responsibility of the government to provide basic facilities and amenities for its citizenry. The absence of these provisions affects children and have a tendency of irreparable damage. It is indeed needful to say that a preserved childhood is better than a repaired adulthood.

It is therefore of concern to this paper to measure Child Poverty in Bosso Local government area of Niger state from a multidimensional standpoint as against the traditional use of income alone previously used as the benchmark for poverty measurements. Laderachi *et al* (2003), posited that, the choice of poverty measurement has a lot of impact on the type of poverty reduction interventions. The main objectives are the creation of a Child Poverty Multidimensional Index and the determination of a spatial

variation between the urban and rural areas in the study area

The Study Area

Bosso is a Local Government Area in Niger State, Nigeria. The headquarters is in the town of Maikunkele. It has an area of 1,592 km². Bosso Local Government Area was carved out of the Chanchaga Local Government Area on the 19th of September, 1991 by the then Military Government of President Ibrahim Babangida. The projected population for Bosso Local Government at 2016 is 205,865 (NPC, 2006). It is bounded to the north by Shiroro Local Government Area, to

the east by Paikoro Local Government, to the south by Katcha and Gbako Local Government Area and to the west by Wushishi Local Government area (Figure 1).

There are two districts peculiar to Bosso Local Government Area. They are Maikunkele and Bosso districts. Bosso district is bigger in terms of land mass and the number of villages. Bosso Local Government Areas has ten wards namely; Beji, Bosso1, Bosso 2 Central, Chanchaga, Garatu, Kampala, Kodo, Maikunkele, Maitumbi and Shatta (figure 2).



Figure1: Niger State showing Bosso Local Government Area
Source: Niger State Ministry of Lands and Housing (2015)

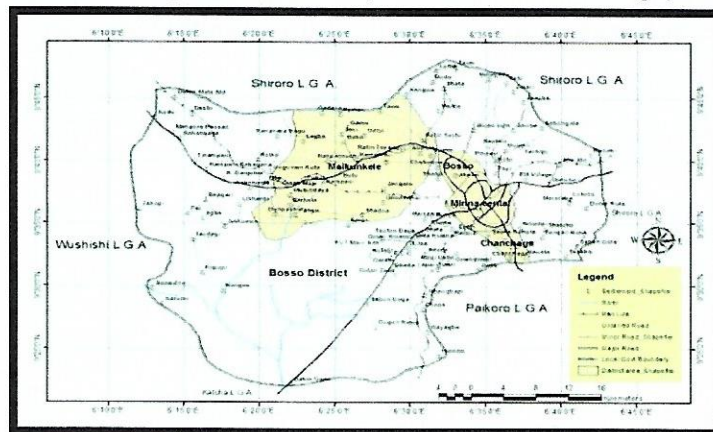


Figure2: Bosso Local Government Area
Source: Niger State Ministry of Lands and Housing

Child Poverty Measurements

There is no singular approach to assessing Child Poverty (Roelen and Gassmann, 2008). Therefore, there are so many approaches employed to measure Child Poverty depending on the Objective, Concept, Resource base and poverty measure itself (Roelen, 2010).

In explaining the importance of an objective, Gassmann and Deneubour (2009) revealed that the objective of a child poverty measurement will influence the way poverty experienced by a child is conceptualized. And it varies along time and space, that is, among countries or within countries. Child poverty may be measured between Nigeria and Kenya or between Lagos and Kaduna states to establish a form of comparison that will lead to a decision. Examples of study on Child Poverty measurements based on objective analyses across countries include that of Gordon, Nandy, Patazis, Pemberton and Townsend 2003 which measured Child Poverty among developing countries using the Bristol Approach. Roelen (2010) further gave examples of how the objective of a Child Poverty Measure varies within countries (space) as seen in the work of Barnes, Wright, Nobles and Dawes (2007) in South Africa. Under the subject of objective, some Child Poverty Analysis were aimed at capturing the trend of poverty (time) such as the measurement carried out by Land (2005), which intended to understand the trend of Child Wellbeing in the United States of America. Child Poverty was conceptualized by two schools of thoughts, namely; Child Wellbeing (Ben-Ariel 2000) and Child Well-

becoming. Child Well-Becoming believes that the child should be prepared for the future while Child Well-Being supports that childhood is a state in and of itself (White 2002). The distinctive importance of child well-being follows the concept of Child Rights.

Existing Child Poverty Measurements also differ along their choice of resource base. Resource base refers to that aspect of children's lives reflecting their poverty status. This aspect includes income and other basic needs such as education, housing, nutrition and health, which can differ from Uni-dimensional to Multidimensional. The aspects that are more of uni-dimensional capture the monetary aspects of poverty (Bradbury and Janti 2001; Corak 2006) while the multi-dimensional focus has been looked more often in recent times (Gordon *et al*, 2003; Bradshaw, 2006; Save the children, 2008; Aliyu and Garba, 2012). Aspects included in the resource base (multi-dimensional) include education, health, shelter, food, sanitation and social network. The resource base reflects the concept as well as the defined objectives.

The fourth aspect that differentiates Child Poverty Measurements is the way the poor children are counted and how the detailed information is put together in a composed manner. This is further divided into count and index measures. The difference between the two measures is that the Count Measure takes a micro-perspective into Child Poverty but the Index Measure takes on an inclusive perspective at a group level.

Existing approaches were further classified by Aliyu and Garba (2012)

into the Count and Index measure but added the Holistic approach measure as highlighted below;

1. Child Poverty on Count Measure – Monetary poverty measures, Corak Practical Measures and Bristol Deprivation Measures, Alkire and Foster approach e.t.c
2. Child Poverty Index Measures – EU Child Wellbeing Index and the US Child and Youth Wellbeing Approach.
3. Holistic approach measure-Young Live Approach and Deprivation, Exclusion and Vulnerability (DEV) Framework for Child Poverty.

A summary of his detailed classification reveals that the counting measure has the benefits of producing easily quantifiable and interpretable data, but eludes the most vulnerable group in its surveys (Aliyu and Garba 2012). While the index measure hides underlying information, but allows comparism among demographic groups. The holistic approach collects and measures a large range of information on Child Poverty but has less impact on communication/advocacy or monitoring purposes.

Attempts at Child Poverty Definition

Poverty as viewed by UNICEF (2007) is a great hindrance to the growth, survival and development of a child, starving them of their entitled right as humans and thus causing irreversible damage in the long and short run. The first attempt at measuring child poverty in developing countries was carried out by Gordon *et al* (2003) and funded by the United Nations Children Fund. This attempt was based on the

Relative Deprivation theory of Townsend and on the Internationally Agreed Definition of Absolute Poverty. This definition describes poverty as severe deprivation of human needs that are most basic. The definition of Absolute poverty gave birth to the first internationally agreed definition of Child Poverty. Child poverty was therefore defined as the deprivation of access to nutrition, water, sanitation, healthcare, participation and protection by children themselves, thus putting them on harm way, unable to relish their rights, grasp their full potential and contribute to the society.

The Alkire-Foster Approach

This child poverty measure builds on measures that are previously in place, while improving on their weakness and harnessing the strength. This measure gives both the incidence (headcount of the poor and intensity (areas in which they are deprived and the extent to why they are deprived) of multidimensional poverty. It also reflects the simultaneous deprivation experienced by children.

For instance, a researcher can find out that children in three different regions are multidimensionally poor by say 37%, 57% and 37% respectively and as well see that the children in the first region are deprived in about two dimensions (information and education), the children in the second region are deprived in four dimensions (health, sanitation, information and nutrition)and the children in the fourth region is deprived in seven dimensions (health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education, housing and government welfare). This is always and easily displayed as a researcher

uses the Alkire method in analyzing child poverty. The specific aspect of poverty highlighted at the end of the day is very important for precise policy intervention.

The Alkire and Foster (2007) method includes two steps, first, an identification method that identifies 'who is poor' by considering the range of deprivations they suffer and second, an aggregation method that generates an intuitive set of poverty measures (that can be broken down to target the poorest people and the dimensions in which they are most deprived). The identification method reveals who the poor are and the range of deprivation they suffer from, while aggregation method generates an intuitive set of poverty measures that can be broken down to target the poorest people and the dimensions in which they are deprived.

Batana (2008) used the A-F (2007) method to measure multi-dimensional poverty based on the dimensions assets, health, schooling and empowerment. Their findings revealed how a deficiency in education contributes to multidimensional poverty.

Methodology

The research was purely quantitative as, emphasis was basically on the statistical analysis of data collected through the administration of questionnaires to obtain results, which will in turn effect the formulation and implementation of policies central to the reduction of Child Poverty in the study area. The primary data were based on the application of 380 questionnaires randomly in selected settlements within the wards of Bosso local government. Dillman and Salant

2007 sample size formula was adopted in determining the amount of questionnaires to be administered in each of the ten wards in the study. The list of wards in the study area includes; BejiBosso 1, Bosso 2 Central, Chanchaga, Garatu, Kampala, Kodo, Maikunkele, Maitumbi and Shatta. The frame used for the study was extracted from the Projected Total Population of Niger State Primary Health Care Development Agency (SPHCDA) – Malaria Consortium and the National Population Census data for 2006. The unit of analysis was households and the sampled population is 34,311. Multi-Stage Sampling Technique (Cluster and Random sampling) was adopted for this study hence, questionnaires were randomly distributed to households in selected settlements within each of the wards in Bosso local government because it gives every household of the selected settlement an equal chance or probability of being included in the research.

Data were collected on non-income indicators exposing children's access to basic needs (housing condition, sanitation, and access to potable water, information and education).

On the other hand, secondary data were obtained from studies on child poverty situation up 2012 and demographic figures were extracted from National Population data available.

The Alkire and Foster Multidimensional Poverty Measurement method was also adapted in generating an Index for Child Poverty in Bosso Local Government. This approach to Multidimensional Poverty measures who the poor are, their different

deprivations experienced and also produces an instinctive set of poverty measures that can be broken down to target the poorest people and the dimensions in which they are most

deprived. Table 1: shows the proposed dimensions and indicators that was considered in this study.

Table 1: Dimension and Indicators.

	Dimensions	Indicators – a child is deprived,
Health	Health	If the child hasn't been immunized before the age of 2.
	Housing	If a child lives in a household with inadequate flooring (dung, Sand or dirt floor) or inadequate roofing or overcrowded in a room (more than 3 or more persons in a room).
Living standard	Sanitation	If a child uses unimproved sanitation facilities (pit latrine without slab, open pit latrine, bucket latrine and hanging toilet) or shares toilet with other families.
	Safe drinking Water	If it takes up to 30minutes for a child to get water or use unsafe water sources (surface water, open wells).
	Information	If a child does not have access to radio or television Phone or computer
Education	Education	If a child has to trek up to 1km to get to school or within the age of 6-17 years not attending school or hasn't completed primary education or have a pair of uniform and lack proper footwear.

Source: Adapted from the Global Study on Child Poverty and Disparities (2008)

Results and Discussions

Child poverty was measured for each of the dimensions of Child Basic Needs which are; Water, Health, Education, Housing, Information and Sanitation using the sub-indicator for each of the dimensions. The composite Child Poverty Index was then computed from all dimensions to understand the level of Child Poverty

experienced in each ward of Bosso Local Government at large. The Child Poverty Index at sub-dimensions were computed using the un-weighted proportion of households with each category, while the composite Child Poverty Index is computed using the Alkire and Foster weightings. Results was set at a poverty cut-off of 0.5 and the result is categorize into 3; Acute

poor (0-0.49), Medial or Moderate poor (0.5-0.79) and Non-poor (0.79-1).

Water Poverty Index

Child Poverty Index in terms of access to water was measured using three indicators, they are:

Source of Water (S.W), Location of Water Source (L.W.S) and Time Spent in Search of Water (T.S). Table 2 shows the Water Poverty Index among children in Bosso L.G.A. The result reveals that all the community experience Child Poverty from the dimension of Water access. All the communities recorded an index of less than 0.5. The highest Water Access Index (0.34) is recorded in Bosso ward (II), followed by Chanchaga (0.25), while Shatta recorded the least Water Access Index of 0.11. The result also shows that communities performed slightly better in terms of water source and time spent in water collection, but performed poorly in the location of the water sources. The Composite Water Poverty Index (CWPI) for Bosso L.G.A is 0.22, which implies that children in the LGA experience Acute Child Poverty from the dimension of water access.

The unavailability of pipe borne water supply in the study area leave children without access to portable or safe drinking water in the study area thereby enhancing the risk of disease such as diarrhoea and cholera. This corroborates with the finding of UNICEF (2005) also, that 63% of children in Sub-Saharan Africa have no access to safe drinking water. This invariably affects schooling and children's productivity also. Furthermore, having to walk these long distances to get water to meet

daily demand is against the provisions of the Child Right Act (2003) and more importantly this deprivation put the children in harm's way often times.

Table 2: Child Water Poverty Index

Ward	S.W	L.W.S	T.S	CWPI	Rank
Bosso	0.54	0	0.18	0.24	3 rd
Bosso 2	0.59	0	0.44	0.34	1 st
Maikunkele	0.43	0	0.29	0.24	3 rd
Shata	0.23	0	0.11	0.11	10 th
Maitumbi	0.47	0	0.25	0.24	5 th
Chanchaga	0.52	0	0.22	0.25	2 nd
Kodo	0.16	0	0.36	0.17	8 th
Kampala	0.2	0	0.24	0.15	9 th
Beji	0.36	0	0.26	0.21	6 th
Garatu	0.24	0	0.39	0.21	6 th
Bosso LGA	0.38	0	0.28	0.22	

Source: Authors Analysis (2017)

Source of Water (S.W), Location of Water Source (L.W.S), Time Spent in Search of Water (T.S) and Composite Water Poverty Index (CWPI).

Health Poverty Index

Child access to Health Care was measured using child access to immunization between the ages of 0-2 years. The proportion of households whose children were immunized between ages 0-2 years was computed as index and presented in Table 3. The result shows that Bosso LGA records a Health Poverty Index of 0.91, which implies that the L.G.A is not poor in terms of Access to Health Care. The result shows government commitment towards providing health care service in the area. Furthermore, it is also observable that communities within the urban areas perform better than

their rural counterpart in terms of access to health care.

Table 3: Health Poverty Index

Ward	Health Poverty Index	Rank
Bosso	1	1 st
Bosso 2	1	1 st
Maikunkele	0.98	5 th
Shata	0.77	11 th
Maitumbi	1	1 st
Chanchaga	0.97	6 th
Kodo	0.79	10 th
Kampala	0.81	9 th
Beji	0.83	8 th
Garatu	0.86	7 th
Bosso LGA	0.91	

Source: Authors Analysis (2017)

Housing Poverty Index

Housing Poverty Index was computed using three (3) sub-indicators; type of housing, type of floor material and room occupancy ratio. The result of the Housing Poverty Index is presented in Table 4. The result shows that Kodo (0.45) and Shatta (0.47) experience Housing Poverty from both dimensions of floor material and room occupancy ratio with, while all other communities experience moderate housing poverty. Bosso L.G.A records a Housing Poverty Index of 0.59, which implies that Housing Poverty in Bosso LGA is medial poor. None of the community is non-housing poor. It is also observable from Table 4, that the Housing Poverty Index of the community is induced by the Room Occupancy Ratio of the households. All the communities are non-housing

poor from the dimension of floor material (table 4).

Table 4: Housing Poverty Index

Ward	Floor Material	Occupancy Ratio	Housing Poverty Index	Rank
Bosso	1	0.44	0.72	1 st
Bosso 2	1	0.35	0.68	3 rd
Maikunkele	1	0.31	0.66	5 th
Shata	0.85	0.08	0.47	9 th
Maitumbi	1	0.34	0.67	4 th
Chanchaga	1	0.37	0.69	2 nd
Kodo	0.81	0.09	0.45	10 th
Kampala	0.88	0.11	0.50	8 th
Beji	0.94	0.19	0.57	6 th
Garatu	0.87	0.16	0.52	7 th
Bosso LGA	0.94	0.24	0.59	

Source: Authors Analysis (2017)

Information and Communication Index

Table 5 shows the Poverty Index from the dimension of access to information and communication facilities such as phone, television, newspaper and Internet Facility. The result reveals that Bosso LGA is non- poor in terms of access to information and communication facilities with an index of (0.73). This trend is observable across all the communities except Shatta which experience moderate poverty (0.56) from this dimension (table 5).

Table 5: Information and Communication Poverty Index

Ward	Access to Information gadget
Bosso	0.82
Bosso 2	0.79
Maikunkele	0.69
Shata	0.56
Maitumbi	0.80
Chanchaga	0.85
Kodo	0.74
Kampala	0.66
Beji	0.73
Garatu	0.65
Bosso LGA	0.73

Source: Authors Analysis (2017)

Education Poverty Index

Education Poverty Index was computed based on the proportion of households with children been the ages of 6-17 years who are currently out of school or have never attended school before. The analysis reveals that only Bosso is non-poor in terms of education with an index of 0.92. Six communities experience poverty in terms of children access to education, communities are Garatu (0.29), Kodo (0.33), Beji (0.35), Kampala (0.38), Shatta (0.40), and Maitumbi (0.45), all other communities experience moderate education poverty. Generally, Bosso LGA experience moderate education poverty (0.54) deprivation (table 6). This result is also consistent with the findings of UNICEF (2013) that almost 50% of Nigerian children are out of school as they cannot combine learning and earning alongside especially among age 5-14 years. Children could be involved in many varying degrees of

labour, which their families consider important than to gather knowledge.

Table 6: Education Index

Ward	Education Index	Rank
Bosso	0.92	1 st
Bosso 2	0.76	2 nd
Maikunkele	0.45	5 th
Shata	0.40	7 th
Maitumbi	0.61	6 th
Chanchaga	0.69	4 th
Kodo	0.33	10 th
Kampala	0.38	8 th
Beji	0.35	9 th
Garatu	0.29	11 th
Bosso LGA	0.54	

Source: Authors Analysis (2017)

Sanitation Poverty Index

Sanitation index was measured using two sub-indicators, the indicators are; type of toilet facility and proportion of household using shared toilet facility. The aggregate of the indicators is computed as the sanitation index and result of analysis reveals that all the communities experience severe deprivation in access to sanitation except Chanchaga (0.66), Bosso (0.61), and Maitumbi (0.55) who experience moderate deprivation to sanitation facilities. The sanitation index for Bosso LGA is 0.42, which implies that Bosso LGA is deprived of sanitation facilities (Table 7). This agrees with the findings of Adeola and Olufemi (2012), that children do not have access to sanitation facilities.

Table 7: Sanitation Poverty Index.

Ward	Type of Toilet	Shared Toilet	Sanitation Index	Rank
Bosso	0.67	0.46	0.61	2nd
Bosso 2	0.55	0.59	0.48	4th
Maikunkele	0.53	0.62	0.46	5th
Shata	0.19	0.79	0.20	9th
Maitumbi	0.61	0.51	0.55	3rd
Chanchaga	0.74	0.42	0.66	1st
Kodo	0.36	0.71	0.33	7th
Kampala	0.21	0.73	0.24	8th
Beji	0.41	0.65	0.38	6th
Garatu	0.16	0.77	0.20	9th
Bosso LGA	0.45	0.62		0

Source: Authors Analysis (2017)

Child Poverty Index in Bosso L.G.A

Child Poverty Index for Bosso LGA is presented in Table 8. the result is set at a poverty cut-off of 0.5 and the result is categorize into 3; Acute poor (0-0.49), Medial or Moderate poor (0.5-0.79) and Non-poor (0.79-1).

The analysis reveals that none of the settlement is none child poor, they experience either acute or medial poverty. Five wards experience Moderate Child Poverty, and they are Bosso (0.76), Bosso 2 (0.71), Maikunkele (0.58), Maitumbi (0.65), and Chanchaga (0.68). All other communities experience Acute Child Poverty (Table 8). The quality of living standard (Access to. water facilities -0.22 and Sanitation - 0.42) contributes the most to the Multidimensional Child poverty in the study area and this is followed by education, housing, information and health dimensions which contributes the least. This finding is also consistent with those of Aliyu and

Garba (2012), Adetola and Olufemi (2012) and Sanusi and Danasabe (2016) Child poverty index in Bosso LGA is 0.57, which implies that Bosso LGA experience Moderate or Medial Child Poverty. Children in Bosso local government area are therefore deprived in basic services/amenities.

Table 8: Child Poverty Index

Ward	Education	Living Standard	Health	CPI	Remark
Bosso					MCP
Bosso 2	0.30	0.13	0.33	0.76	MCP
Maikunkele	0.25	0.12	0.33	0.71	MCP
Shata	0.15	0.11	0.32	0.58	CP
Maitumbi	0.13	0.06	0.25	0.45	MCP
Chanchaga	0.20	0.12	0.33	0.65	MCP
Kodo	0.23	0.13	0.32	0.68	CP
Kampala	0.11	0.08	0.26	0.45	CP
Beji	0.13	0.07	0.27	0.47	CP
Garatu	0.12	0.10	0.27	0.49	CP
Bosso LGA	0.18	0.10	0.30	0.57	MCP

Source: Authors Analysis (2017)

Acute poor (0-0.49), Medial or Moderate poor (0.5-0.79) and Non-poor (0.79-1).

Spatial Variation in Child Poverty in Bosso LGA

Variation in Child Poverty in Bosso LGA was examined and the result is presented in Table 9. Chi-square was used to ascertain the existence of a statistical variation among the wards in the study area. The result from the Chi-square test records a chi-square value of 88 and a p-value of 0.253. This implies that there is no statistical significant variation in Child Poverty among the spatial units in Bosso LGA. Data from table 8 was computed to generate the map below. Figure 3 shows the spatial variation in child

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poverty in Bosso LGA. It was observed that five (5) wards namely: Shatta, Beji, Kampala, Kodo and Garatu experience acute child poverty, the other wards experience medial child poverty. This shows that all the wards experience one form of child poverty or the other.

Table 9: Variation in Child Poverty in Bosso LGA

	Value	df	p-value
X ²	88.00	80	0.253
N	11		

Source: Author (2017)

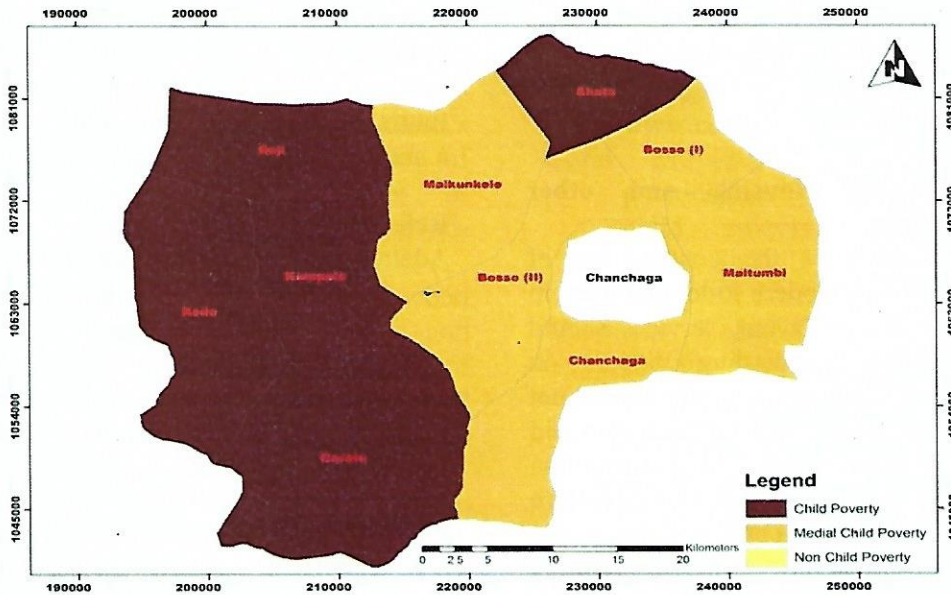


Figure 3: Spatial Variation in Child Poverty in Bosso L.G.A

Source: Author (2017)

The urban areas within the study area experience medial poverty while the rural area experience acute poverty based on the figure above, thereby leaving Bosso local government area on a spot. This variation is not plausible because of the long term risk that lurks in the eyes of the children trapped in those dis-advantaged areas.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the findings stated from the study, the following recommendations

are hereby important and considered useful.

Education

An uneducated child is a breach of obligation on the part of the parent as well as the society (Mill, 1970). A system where only 50% of it populace is educated is not commendable, hence learning has to be motivated through feeding schemes and provision of academic resources in schools especially in rural areas. Public

recognition by the government for outstanding performances in schools. Awards of scholarship to reduce the burden of fee payments particularly in the study area. Enforcement of primary education for children less than 17years old.

Water

Provision of more water infrastructure in Bosso Local Government. Placement of approved water Sources within walking distances in study area. Awareness campaigns on the treatment of water before consumption.

Sanitation, Housing and other amenities.

Supervision of the construction of houses with modern toilet facilities. In the design of layout, services should be placed according based on standards. Occupancy ratio should not be more than 2 in in a room to avoid overcrowding. Equitable distribution and monitoring of infrastructure between the urban and rural areas in in the study area. Provision of more toilet facilities in compound houses to allow hygiene-friendly-usage.

Conclusion

This study was aimed at measuring Child Poverty in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria adapting the Alkire-Foster Multidimensional Child Poverty Measurement. Dimensions of basic needs considered in the analysis were safe drinking water, education, housing, health, sanitation and unformation. The highest contribution to Multidimensional poverty in Bosso L.GA are access to safe drinking water, sanitation, education and the

least contribution was from health. The index for multidimensional poverty in the study is 0.57 at a poverty cut-off at 0.5. The absence of portable water supply and good sanitation effect the Rights of children to live healthy and contribute positively to the society. Poverty is more severe in the rural wards than the urban wards of the study area. Hence, a combined action between the government and other Non-Governmental Organizations are required to lessen Child Poverty because a child embodies a country's future, which is why their wellbeing is a maximum concern.

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