



IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES TOWARD ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: This study examines the impact of government programmes on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, with particular emphasis on poverty reduction and socio-economic development outcomes. The study adopted a sequential explanatory mixed-methods design, combining quantitative data from structured questionnaires with qualitative insights from focus group discussions. Findings reveal that government interventions such as social investment programmes, youth empowerment schemes, and agricultural support initiatives are generally aligned with SDG objectives and have contributed to improved livelihoods, job creation, and financial inclusion among beneficiaries. Despite these positive outcomes, the effectiveness of these programmes is constrained by significant challenges, including corruption, weak institutional capacity, inconsistent political commitment, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The results further indicate that while awareness and participation levels are relatively high, the sustainability and long-term impact of these programmes remain uncertain. The study concludes that government programmes play a critical role in advancing SDG targets in Nigeria but require substantial reforms to enhance efficiency and accountability. It recommends strengthening institutional frameworks, improving transparency, ensuring policy continuity, and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration to maximize development outcomes. Addressing these challenges is essential for accelerating progress toward achieving the SDGs and ensuring sustainable and inclusive development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, Government Programmes, Poverty Reduction, Institutional Capacity and Public Policy

Introduction

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 by the United Nations marked a global commitment to addressing pressing socioeconomic and environmental challenges by 2030. These 17 goals provide a comprehensive framework for tackling poverty, inequality, climate change, and institutional weaknesses across nations. In developing countries such as Nigeria, the SDGs have become central to national development planning, with governments aligning policies and programmes to meet these targets (Magaji et al., 2025; Sanusi et al., 2025). Government interventions, therefore, play a critical role in translating the global SDG agenda into actionable strategies that address local realities (United Nations, 2015).

Nigeria's commitment to the SDGs is reflected in various government programmes aimed at improving

living standards, reducing poverty, and fostering inclusive growth. Initiatives such as social investment programmes, agricultural transformation schemes, and youth empowerment projects have been designed to address multiple SDGs simultaneously. These programmes are expected to enhance economic opportunities, improve access to basic services, and strengthen institutional capacity. However, the effectiveness of these interventions remains a subject of scholarly and policy debate, particularly in terms of their reach, sustainability, and measurable outcomes (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2022).

Government programmes targeting SDG achievement in Nigeria often focus on key sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, and social protection (Gabdo et al., 2025; Mansur et al., 2025; Abubakar et al., 2025). For instance, programmes like conditional cash transfers



and school feeding initiatives are aimed at reducing poverty and improving human capital development. Similarly, investments in renewable energy and infrastructure seek to promote sustainable industrialization and environmental sustainability (Sadiq et al., 2025; Al-Amin et al., 2025). Despite these efforts, challenges such as inadequate funding, policy inconsistencies, and weak implementation mechanisms continue to hinder optimal performance (Akinwale, 2020).

The complexity of Nigeria's development challenges further complicates the implementation of SDG-related programmes. Issues such as rapid population growth, unemployment, poverty, insecurity, and regional disparities create additional pressure on government initiatives (Magaji et al., 2022). While some programmes have recorded notable successes, others have struggled due to poor coordination, corruption, and a lack of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. These challenges raise important questions about the efficiency and effectiveness of government-driven interventions in achieving the SDGs (Ogunleye et al., 2021).

Empirical studies have shown mixed outcomes regarding the impact of government programmes on SDG attainment in Nigeria. While some research highlights improvements in areas such as poverty reduction and access to education, others point to persistent gaps in healthcare delivery, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. This suggests that while government programmes are essential, their design and implementation must be continuously improved to ensure meaningful and lasting impact. Furthermore, stakeholder engagement, including private sector participation and community involvement, is crucial for enhancing programme effectiveness (Ibrahim & Bello, 2022).

Against this backdrop, this study examines the impact of government programmes on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. By assessing the effectiveness, challenges, and outcomes of these interventions, the study aims to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on sustainable development in Nigeria. It also seeks to provide policy-relevant recommendations that can enhance the design and implementation of government programmes, thereby accelerating progress toward the attainment of the SDGs.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Conceptual Review

Government Programmes

Government programmes refer to structured policies, initiatives, and interventions designed and implemented by the state to address specific socioeconomic challenges and promote national development. These programmes often target key sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, employment, and social welfare to improve citizens' quality of life and foster inclusive growth. In Nigeria, government programmes such as social investment schemes, poverty alleviation initiatives, and youth empowerment projects are central to development planning and service delivery (Ologbonori et al., 2025). The effectiveness of these programmes depends largely on factors such as policy consistency, adequate funding, transparency, and efficient implementation mechanisms. When properly executed, government programmes can significantly reduce inequality, enhance human capital development, and stimulate economic growth; however, challenges such as corruption, weak institutional capacity, and poor monitoring systems often limit their impact (Akinwale, 2020; Ogunleye et al., 2021).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aimed at addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change. The SDGs provide an integrated framework that balances economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, ensuring that development efforts meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs (Tanko et al., 2025; Magaji et al., 2024). For developing countries like Nigeria, the SDGs serve as a policy guide for national planning and development strategies, influencing government programmes and international partnerships. Achieving the SDGs requires coordinated efforts among governments, private sector actors, and civil society, as well as strong institutional frameworks and data-driven monitoring systems. Despite global commitment, progress toward the SDGs has been uneven, particularly in regions facing structural and governance challenges (United Nations, 2015; Sachs et al., 2022).



Theoretical Review

Institutional Theory

Institutional Theory is highly relevant to the study of the impact of government programmes toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, as it emphasizes the role of formal and informal institutions in shaping policy outcomes and development processes. The theory posits that the effectiveness of government interventions depends largely on the strength, quality, and functionality of institutions responsible for policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring. In the Nigerian context, institutional factors such as governance structures, regulatory frameworks, accountability mechanisms, and bureaucratic efficiency significantly influence the success or failure of government programmes aimed at achieving the SDGs. Weak institutions often result in poor policy implementation, corruption, and resource mismanagement, thereby limiting the impact of development initiatives. Conversely, strong and transparent institutions enhance policy coordination, ensure efficient resource allocation, and promote sustainable development outcomes. Thus, Institutional Theory provides a useful lens for understanding how governance quality and institutional capacity affect the realization of SDG targets through government programmes (North, 1990; Scott, 2014).

Empirical Review

Abu (2025) examined the influence of Sustainable Development Goals on poverty reduction in Minna Metropolis using a survey approach covering data collected between 2024 and 2025. The study revealed that the effectiveness of SDG-related interventions varies significantly across communities, largely due to differences in programme design, targeting efficiency, and implementation quality. It further showed that poorly targeted interventions tend to yield weak poverty reduction outcomes, while well-structured and inclusive programmes produce more measurable improvements in household welfare. Based on these findings, the study recommended the adoption of integrated cash-transfer and empowerment models that combine immediate financial support with long-term economic activation strategies.

Olusanya et al. (2025) assessed the impact of youth empowerment schemes on poverty alleviation in Abuja,

focusing on initiatives such as N-Power and other government-supported youth programmes. Their findings indicated that while these schemes contributed to short-term income improvements among beneficiaries, their long-term impact on sustainable poverty reduction remained inconsistent. The study highlighted that many participants experienced temporary economic relief but lacked sustained access to stable employment or entrepreneurial support after programme completion. Consequently, the authors emphasized the need for stronger post-programme support systems to ensure lasting poverty reduction outcomes among youth participants.

Musa (2024) explored the relationship between poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development efforts in Nigeria through a review of existing policies and empirical evidence. The study identified significant gaps in policy coordination and weak alignment between SDG targets and local poverty reduction programmes. It also revealed that inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems make it difficult to measure actual development outcomes effectively. Musa therefore argued for improved policy integration, stronger institutional coordination, and the implementation of targeted cash-transfer systems supported by robust monitoring frameworks to enhance the effectiveness of SDG-related interventions.

Nnaba-Agire (2024) investigated the role of human capital development as a pathway for rural poverty reduction, particularly through training and agricultural extension services. The findings demonstrated that well-designed education and skills development programmes significantly improve income levels among rural populations, especially when such initiatives are linked to market opportunities. The study further emphasized that human capital interventions are most effective when they incorporate value-chain integration, enabling beneficiaries to translate acquired skills into sustainable economic gains. This highlights the importance of aligning training programmes with real economic opportunities to achieve meaningful poverty reduction outcomes.

Inamura et al. (2022) conducted a study on citizens' perceptions of SDG progress in Abuja, focusing on the gap between official reports and lived experiences of residents. The study found that although government reports often indicate progress toward SDG targets,



many citizens perceive limited improvement in their socioeconomic conditions, particularly in relation to poverty and access to basic services. This discrepancy underscores the importance of incorporating citizen feedback into SDG monitoring and evaluation processes to obtain a more accurate assessment of programme effectiveness. The perception-based approach remains highly relevant for evaluating SDG outcomes in areas like Gwagwalada between 2023 and 2025.

Amakoromo, Asiegbu, and Okafor (2024) examined poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria and identified key barriers affecting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Their study revealed that despite numerous government interventions, poverty levels continue to rise due to structural challenges such as corruption, weak political commitment, rising unemployment, and heavy dependence on oil revenue. They further noted that socio-political issues, including ethno-religious tensions and economic inequality, significantly undermine the effectiveness of poverty alleviation initiatives. The authors concluded that without addressing these fundamental systemic problems, poverty reduction programmes are unlikely to produce sustainable development outcomes.

Utuk (2022) analyzed the relationship between poverty and sustainable economic development in Nigeria, emphasizing the broader implications of poverty on national development outcomes. The study found that poverty significantly undermines sustainable development by limiting access to essential resources and reducing human capacity for productive engagement. It further highlighted that unsustainable exploitation of natural resources contributes to both environmental degradation and increased poverty levels. The study concluded that effective poverty reduction must be integrated with environmental sustainability policies, as poverty and environmental decline are mutually reinforcing challenges that must be addressed simultaneously.

Gap in Literature

Despite the growing body of empirical studies on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), government programmes, and poverty reduction in Nigeria, significant research gaps remain that this study seeks to address. Existing studies such as Abu (2025) and Olusanya et al. (2025) have largely focused on specific

interventions like SDG-linked poverty programmes and youth empowerment schemes, but they are limited in scope to short-term outcomes and selected urban centres, without providing a comprehensive assessment of programme effectiveness at the local government level. Similarly, Musa (2024) and Nnaba-Agire (2024) highlight policy incoherence and human capital development respectively, yet they do not sufficiently integrate how multiple government programmes collectively influence SDG attainment within peri-urban communities. Furthermore, studies by Inamura et al. (2022) emphasize perception gaps between citizens and official SDG reports, but lack recent contextual application to rapidly changing local environments such as Gwagwalada between 2023 and 2025. In addition, Amakoromo et al. (2024) and Utuk (2022) identify structural and environmental barriers to poverty reduction, but provide limited empirical evidence on how current government programmes are performing under these constraints in specific Nigerian communities. Therefore, there is a clear gap in integrated, location-specific, and up-to-date empirical analysis that simultaneously evaluates the effectiveness, challenges, and citizen-perceived impact of government SDG programmes on poverty reduction, particularly within Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, which this study intends to fill.

Methodology

This study adopted a mixed-methods research approach to examine the impact of government programmes on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria. The design integrates both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of how government interventions contribute to SDG attainment. The quantitative component was used to measure the extent and effectiveness of government programmes across key SDG sectors such as poverty reduction, health, education, and employment, while the qualitative component provided contextual explanations through stakeholder interviews. The sequential explanatory design was adopted, where quantitative data were first collected and analyzed, followed by qualitative inquiry to explain and deepen the findings. This approach enhances the validity of results by combining statistical



evidence with lived experiences of beneficiaries and implementers (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018).

Research Design

The study employed a sequential explanatory mixed-methods design to assess the relationship between government programmes and SDG achievement in Nigeria. This design involves collecting quantitative data in the first phase and qualitative data in the second phase to explain the quantitative results in greater depth. The quantitative phase focused on measuring the effectiveness of government interventions such as social investment programmes, agricultural support schemes, and youth empowerment initiatives, while the qualitative phase explored implementation challenges and stakeholder perceptions. The design is appropriate because it allows for triangulation of findings and provides a more holistic understanding of complex development issues. It also enables the integration of numerical trends with contextual insights, thereby strengthening policy relevance and interpretative depth (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018; Kothari, 2019).

Study Area (Nigeria Context)

The study was conducted within the Nigerian development context, focusing on government programmes implemented across federal, state, and local levels to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Nigeria, located in West Africa, operates a multi-tier governance structure that implements SDG-related interventions in sectors such as health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and social protection. The country is characterized by significant regional disparities, high population growth, and diverse socioeconomic conditions, which influence the effectiveness of government programmes. Nigeria's SDG implementation is coordinated by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs), working alongside state and local governments. Despite numerous interventions, challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality persist, making Nigeria a critical case for assessing the effectiveness of government programmes in achieving SDG targets (United Nations, 2015; National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2022).

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised stakeholders involved in or affected by government programmes aimed at achieving the SDGs in Nigeria. These include beneficiaries of social investment programmes, agricultural support schemes, youth empowerment initiatives, and public service interventions across different regions of the country. The population also includes policymakers, programme implementers, government officials, and representatives of non-governmental organizations involved in SDG implementation. Given Nigeria's large population, estimated at over 200 million people, the study focused on accessible beneficiaries and key stakeholders directly engaged with SDG-related government interventions (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2022).

Determination of Sample Size

The sample size for the study was determined using Cochran's formula for large populations to ensure statistical reliability and representativeness. At a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error, the initial sample size was calculated and adjusted using finite population correction where applicable. To improve response reliability, an additional 10% allowance was included to account for non-response. The sampling procedure combined probability sampling for selecting beneficiaries and purposive sampling for key informants such as government officials and programme managers. This approach ensured both statistical generalization and in-depth understanding of government programme implementation (Cochran, 1977; Yamane, 1967).

Questionnaire Instrument

The primary instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire designed to obtain information from beneficiaries of government programmes across Nigeria. The questionnaire was divided into sections covering demographic characteristics, awareness of government programmes, participation in SDG-related interventions, perceived impact on poverty reduction and social welfare, and implementation challenges. Both closed-ended and Likert-scale questions were used to ensure standardized responses suitable for statistical analysis. The instrument was administered directly to respondents to ensure clarity and improve response accuracy. The questionnaire captured key indicators such as income improvement, access to healthcare,



education, employment opportunities, and overall satisfaction with government SDG interventions (Kothari, 2019).

Validity and Reliability Test

To ensure validity, the research instrument was reviewed by experts in development studies, public administration, and research methodology. The experts assessed the questionnaire for clarity, relevance, and adequacy in measuring SDG-related government programme outcomes. Necessary modifications were made based on their recommendations to improve content validity. Reliability was tested using a pilot study conducted with a small sample of respondents similar to the study population. Cronbach's Alpha was used to measure internal consistency, with results above the acceptable threshold of 0.70 indicating strong reliability. This confirmed that the instrument was suitable for measuring the constructs of government programme effectiveness and SDG achievement (Tavakol & Dennick, 2011).

Ethical Consideration

The study adhered to established ethical standards in social science research. Participation was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all respondents before data collection. Respondents were assured of confidentiality and anonymity, and no personal identifiers were included in the questionnaire. Data were used strictly for academic purposes. The study ensured that participants were not exposed to any physical, psychological, or social harm. Approval was obtained from relevant administrative and community authorities where necessary. All collected data were securely stored and protected from unauthorized access to maintain confidentiality and integrity of research information (Israel & Hay, 2006).

Model Specification

The study adopted a multiple linear regression model to examine the impact of government programmes on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. The model assumes that SDG outcomes are influenced by government programme effectiveness, awareness, accessibility, and participation, while controlling for socio-demographic factors. Guided by Institutional Theory and Sustainable Development

Theory, the model explains how governance structures and policy interventions shape development outcomes.

The regression model is specified as follows:

$$SDG_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 GP_i + \beta_2 AW_i + \beta_3 AC_i + \beta_4 X_i + \epsilon_i$$

Where SDG represents Sustainable Development Goal outcomes, GP represents government programme effectiveness, AW represents awareness, AC represents accessibility, and X represents control variables such as income level, education, and occupation (North, 1990; Scott, 2014).

Nature and Sources of Data

The study utilized both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to beneficiaries and stakeholders of government programmes across Nigeria. Secondary data were obtained from government reports, National Bureau of Statistics publications, United Nations development reports, and academic literature. The combination of both data sources ensured triangulation and improved the validity of findings. The data were primarily quantitative, allowing for statistical analysis of the relationship between government programmes and SDG outcomes, while qualitative insights provided contextual interpretation of implementation challenges (NBS, 2022; United Nations, 2015).

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques with the aid of SPSS version 25. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were used to summarize respondents' characteristics and general responses. Inferential statistics, including Pearson correlation and multiple regression analysis, were used to determine the relationship and impact of government programmes on SDG achievement. The results were presented in tables and narrative form for clarity and interpretation. This analytical approach allowed the study to test hypotheses and generate policy-relevant conclusions regarding the effectiveness of government interventions in achieving SDGs in Nigeria (Kothari, 2019).

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation



This section presents the findings of the study based on the data collected from respondents. It includes the presentation of socio-demographic characteristics, analysis of the awareness, participation, and perceived impact of SDG programmes, as well as the challenges faced in their implementation. Both descriptive and inferential statistical methods were used to analyze the data. The demographic profile of respondents provides insight into the socio-economic characteristics of the population studied. Variables analyzed include age, gender, educational level, occupation, household size, and income level. This section helps to contextualize the responses and identify patterns that may influence the impact of SDG programmes.

Qualitative Analysis (Focus Group Discussion – 30 Items)

Section 1: Impact of Government Programmes toward Achieving SDG

Respondents identified government programmes such as N-Power, GEEP (TraderMoni), Agricultural Loans, Conditional Cash Transfers, and YouWin as aligned with SDG. Some respondents personally benefited from these interventions or knew beneficiaries.

While participants acknowledged that these programmes promote job creation and financial inclusion, many criticized inconsistent implementation, corruption, political favoritism, and poor monitoring as key limitations. Respondents also noted that government support often lacks sustainability.

The analysis reveals that government initiatives contribute to SDG but their impact is undermined by poor accountability and weak institutional coordination. A transparent, well-monitored, and decentralized implementation process would increase programme success.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a global framework for sustainable development, aiming to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, ensure quality education, promote health, and foster economic growth. Governments play a critical role in implementing policies and programmes that align with SDG targets. In Nigeria, government interventions have been instrumental in promoting poverty alleviation, social inclusion, and sustainable development (UNDP, 2019). Government initiatives such as Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programmes, National Social

Investment Programmes (NSIP), and other poverty alleviation schemes directly target vulnerable populations, particularly women and youths. These programmes provide financial support, skills acquisition, and employment opportunities, reducing the incidence of extreme poverty and improving livelihoods (Adepoju, 2020). Studies have shown that households benefiting from such programmes experience improved consumption, better nutrition, and access to basic services, contributing to the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Education is a cornerstone of sustainable development, and government programmes such as the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme, scholarships for tertiary institutions, and vocational training schemes support SDG 4 (Quality Education). By improving access to education and technical skills, these initiatives empower youths and women to participate in the labor market, enhance employability, and reduce youth unemployment (World Bank, 2022). Evidence suggests that education-oriented government programmes have a long-term impact on poverty reduction by increasing household income and promoting economic self-reliance.

Government-led health programmes, including National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), immunization campaigns, and maternal health initiatives, have positively influenced SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Improved access to healthcare reduces disease burden, lowers medical expenses for households, and indirectly supports poverty reduction (UNICEF, 2021). Social protection initiatives, including targeted grants for vulnerable groups, provide safety nets that prevent individuals from falling into extreme poverty due to economic shocks.

Economic empowerment schemes such as the YouWin Programme, National Enterprise Development Programme (NEDEP), and microcredit initiatives support SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). These programmes provide start-up capital, business training, and mentorship for women and youths, fostering entrepreneurship and income-generating activities (ILO, 2021). By facilitating access to productive resources and financial inclusion, government programmes contribute to sustainable economic development and poverty ALLEVIATION.



Government investment in infrastructure—roads, water supply, electricity, and sanitation contributes to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Community-based programmes such as rural electrification, water provision, and public works schemes improve living standards, increase productivity, and enhance economic opportunities for marginalized groups (UNDP, 2019). These initiatives reduce regional inequalities and support inclusive development, which is central to the SDG agenda.

Effective governance, transparency, and policy reforms are crucial for SDG implementation. The Nigerian government has enacted policies to enhance accountability, improve service delivery, and promote public participation in development planning (Adepoju, 2020). By strengthening institutions and ensuring policy coherence, government programmes are better positioned to achieve SDG targets, particularly in

poverty reduction, gender equality, and sustainable economic growth.

Government programmes in Nigeria have had a significant impact on advancing the SDGs, particularly in poverty alleviation, education, health, and economic empowerment. While these programmes have achieved notable successes, challenges such as inadequate funding, weak monitoring, and limited community participation can hinder their effectiveness. Strengthening implementation, ensuring inclusivity, and enhancing collaboration between government, private sector, and civil society are essential for achieving sustainable development goals.

Quantitative Analysis

- i. Strongly Agree (SA) = 5
- ii. Agree (A) = 4
- iii. Undecided (U) = 3
- iv. Disagree (D) = 2
- v. Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1

Table 4.1: Government Programmes and SDG (n = 100)

| Item | Mean | Interpretation |
|---|------|----------------|
| Government poverty alleviation programmes align with SDG objectives | 4.01 | Agree |
| Government efforts increase entrepreneurship among women and youths | 3.88 | Agree |
| Corruption hinders SDG success | 4.17 | Strongly Agree |
| Political will is strong in implementing SDG | 3.59 | Slightly Agree |
| Monitoring mechanisms are in place for SDG projects | 3.64 | Agree |

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Government poverty alleviation programmes align with SDG objectives (Mean = 4.01, Agree): Respondents agree that government poverty reduction programmes are generally consistent with SDG goals. This indicates recognition that policies and initiatives are designed to complement global development frameworks, though alignment may not be perfect or uniformly implemented. Government efforts increase entrepreneurship among women and youths (Mean = 3.88, Agree): Participants perceive that government interventions moderately support entrepreneurship development among women and youths. Vocational training, business support, and microcredit schemes appear effective, but the slightly lower mean suggests there is room for improvement in reach or effectiveness.

Corruption hinders SDG success (Mean = 4.17, Strongly Agree): Respondents strongly agree that corruption is a major barrier to achieving SDG objectives. This

highlights systemic challenges in governance that reduce programme efficiency, misallocate resources, and limit the impact of poverty reduction efforts.

Political will is strong in implementing SDG (Mean = 3.59, Slightly Agree): The slightly above-average mean indicates some skepticism among respondents regarding the commitment of political leaders to fully implement SDGs. While efforts exist, inconsistent support, policy discontinuity, or political interference may undermine the effectiveness of programmes.

Monitoring mechanisms are in place for SDG projects (Mean = 3.64, Agree): Respondents agree that some monitoring and evaluation mechanisms exist for SDG projects. However, the moderate mean suggests that these mechanisms may not be fully effective, comprehensive, or consistently applied, potentially affecting accountability and project outcomes.



The data indicates that government programmes contribute positively to SDG implementation, particularly in aligning poverty alleviation strategies and supporting entrepreneurship. However, corruption remains a critical impediment, and political commitment is perceived as inconsistent. Monitoring systems exist but may require strengthening to ensure accountability and optimize the impact of SDG-related programmes. In essence, while government interventions are recognized as supportive, structural challenges especially corruption and weak political will—limit the full realization of SDG objectives in poverty reduction.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study reveal that government programmes in Nigeria play a significant role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty reduction, entrepreneurship development, education, and healthcare. Both the qualitative and quantitative results indicate that respondents generally perceive these programmes as being aligned with SDG objectives. Initiatives such as conditional cash transfers, youth empowerment schemes, and agricultural support programmes have contributed to improving livelihoods and enhancing economic participation among vulnerable groups. This suggests that government interventions are strategically designed to address key development challenges and are yielding measurable positive outcomes, especially in promoting financial inclusion and job creation.

However, despite these positive contributions, the study found that the effectiveness of government programmes is significantly constrained by systemic challenges, with corruption emerging as the most critical barrier. The quantitative analysis shows a strong consensus among respondents that corruption undermines the success of SDG-related initiatives. This is further supported by qualitative insights, where participants highlighted issues such as mismanagement of funds, lack of transparency, and political favoritism in programme implementation. These challenges reduce the efficiency of resource allocation and limit the overall impact of government interventions, thereby weakening progress toward achieving SDG targets.

The findings also reveal moderate confidence in the level of political will and institutional commitment to SDG

implementation. While respondents acknowledge the existence of policies and programmes, there is noticeable skepticism regarding their consistency and sustainability. The perception that political will is only “slightly strong” suggests that policy discontinuity, changes in government priorities, and inadequate long-term planning may hinder sustained development outcomes. This indicates that beyond programme design, sustained commitment and policy stability are essential for ensuring that development initiatives achieve lasting impact.

Furthermore, the study highlights that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for government programmes are present but not sufficiently robust. Although respondents agree that some monitoring systems exist, their effectiveness appears limited due to weak enforcement and lack of comprehensive coverage. This gap affects accountability and makes it difficult to accurately assess programme performance and outcomes. Overall, the findings suggest that while government programmes have made meaningful contributions to SDG attainment in Nigeria, addressing structural issues such as corruption, weak institutional capacity, inconsistent political commitment, and inadequate monitoring systems is crucial for enhancing their effectiveness and achieving sustainable development.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concludes that government programmes in Nigeria have made meaningful contributions toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty alleviation, job creation, and social inclusion. The findings demonstrate that these programmes are generally well-aligned with global development objectives and have positively impacted beneficiaries through improved access to financial support, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. However, the overall effectiveness of these interventions is significantly constrained by persistent structural challenges, including corruption, weak institutional frameworks, inconsistent political commitment, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems. These limitations reduce the efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of government programmes, thereby hindering their full potential in achieving long-term development outcomes.



Based on these findings, the study recommends that the government should strengthen institutional capacity by promoting transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures in the design and implementation of development programmes. There is also a need to enhance monitoring and evaluation frameworks through the adoption of data-driven systems and independent oversight mechanisms to ensure effective tracking of programme outcomes. Additionally, policymakers should ensure consistency and continuity in development policies to sustain progress toward SDG targets. Expanding stakeholder engagement, including partnerships with the private sector and civil society, will further improve programme reach and effectiveness. Finally, government interventions should prioritize inclusivity and sustainability by ensuring that programmes are well-targeted, adequately funded, and capable of delivering long-term socioeconomic benefits to the population.

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