



BBRC

Borneo Business Research Colloquium



PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

“Embedding Research Culture towards Excellence”

7 – 8 December 2016

Faculty of Economics and Business

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Organized by:

Faculty of Economics and Business

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

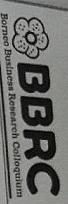


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IMPACT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN COMBATING POVERTY IN NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

Ijaiya Mukaila

ABSTRACT

In spite of the numerous policy/strategy put in place by the Nigeria government since independent in order to reduce the poverty rate in the country, policies such as: Austerity Measure and Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Integrated Rural Development Projects, Better Life Program, Family Support Program, Mass Transit Program, National Directorate of Employment, Peoples' Bank, Family Economic Advancement Program, National Poverty Eradication Program, Subsidy Re-investment Program (SURE-P), there is still high rate of poverty in the country. In responding to this high poverty rate in Nigeria, this dissertation aims to provide ways in which the level of poverty in Niger State, Nigeria can be reduced by looking at the impact of social capital on poverty reduction in Niger State, Nigeria. However, the importance attached to social capital as a solution to social interaction provides for an examination of its relevance to poverty reduction in Niger State, Nigeria. Using a set of household data generated from the administration of structured questionnaire to 479 households in Niger State. This thesis addressed three aims, firstly, the study looked at the socio-demographic factors as a determinant of household poverty in Niger State, Nigeria. Out of ten (10) variables that were tested using Tobit regression analysis, only five were statistically significant, these are, age, sex, household size, education, and health facility. Secondly, the study also examines the nature of social capital in Niger State, using descriptive statistics of cross tabulation, the result shows that there is a presence of social capital in Niger State, Nigeria, using structural equation model (AMOS). The social capital variables considered are the one suggested by Putman which includes, community volunteerism, community organizational life, commitment in public affairs, informal cooperation and trust. The results obtained shows that apart from commitment in public affairs, all other variables were statistically significant, thus, fulfilling our a priori expectation that the more the people of the study area are engaged in social capital components the more they find themselves out of poverty. This result notwithstanding, policy measures that would continue to make social capital more relevant to poverty reduction in Niger State, Nigeria in particular and the world in general were suggested.

Keywords: Social Capital, Poverty Reduction, Tobit Regression Model, Structural Equation Modelling (SEM/AMOS)