

RURAL AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS STRATEGIES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NGWA SOUTH, ABIA STATE

Angela A. OYIBE¹, M.M ADEYEYE (PhD)², G. IBRAHIM (PhD)³ & P.U. CHIGOZIRI⁴

^{1, 2, 3 & 4}Department of Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria
Email Address: oyibeangel@gmail.com

Abstract

Rural agricultural business strategies are crucial to poverty alleviation in developing regions particularly in in Ngwa South, Abia State. The study therefore, examined the effect of rural agricultural business strategies on poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia State, Nigeria. Three null hypotheses were formulated and tested at a 5% level of significance, focusing on innovative strategies in local production systems, capitalization of local resources and employment generation. The study adopted a quantitative approach with a survey strategy, based on sustainable development theory (SDT). A population of 1,635 agricultural business owners was gotten from the Local Government Authority registries. A sample size of 322 operators was determined using Taro Yammane's formula. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analysis was performed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings of the study showed: R²-Value of 0.940, F-Value of 1664.508 and the three null hypotheses were not retained. The findings showed that innovation in local production, capitalization of local resources and employment generation strategies have significant positive effects on poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia State. Therefore, it was recommended among others that policies to promote training, teamwork and access to resources to support rural enterprises that would promote poverty reduction should be highly encouraged.

Keywords: Capitalization of Local Resources, Employment Generation, Innovation in Local Production, Poverty Alleviation,

Background to the study

Over the past few decades, the issue of poverty has escalated driven by swift population growth, ineffective policies and social discrimination (Dioloke, Joseph & Ogbu, 2021). The World Bank (2023) reported that in 2022, about 712 million people globally were living in extreme poverty which represents an increase of 23 million from 2019. In Africa, it is projected that about 462 million people will continue to live in extreme poverty in 2023 (World Bank, 2023). Despite Nigeria's vast potential for development, fuelled by its rich agricultural sector and abundant human and natural resources, it remains one of the poorest nations with over 112 million people subsisting on less than \$1.90 a day by which Nigeria was captioned the world headquarter of poverty (World Bank, 2018). Apparently, the urgent need to development the economy through rural participation and input in agricultural became

inherent being an agrarian nation. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgent need to bolster local economies, particularly through the enhancement of informal sectors and the promotion of rural business (Effiong & Essien, 2022).

Rural business which involves the establishment of businesses in non-urban areas is crucial for Nigeria's economic development. This sector significantly contributes to rural economic growth and poverty reduction by generating employment opportunities and reducing rural-urban migration (Idoko, 2023). For instance, the Daura Women's Cooperative in Katsina State, renowned for its traditional textiles and the Osun State Goat Rearing are initiatives which support local employment and economic activities as exemplary of successful rural enterprises (Idoko, 2023). Rural business strategies could directly affect poverty alleviation through the initiation of new ventures and the expansion of existing ones. It introduces new markets, industries, and technologies, boosting productivity and improving living standards (Ali & Ali, 2013). Furthermore, fostering local business development mitigates reliance on volatile foreign investments and enhances economic self-sufficiency (Mitra & Abubakar, 2021). As such, rural business offers a viable strategy for promoting economic independence and addressing poverty (Bhuiyan, Hussain & Bakar, 2017). It is imperative to note that rural agriculture forms the bedrock through which food production is enhanced and sustained globally including Nigeria. Forestation, afforestation and reforestation are also forms of business channels of agriculture in the rural areas. Strategies which could promote the growth and development rural agricultural business is worthwhile.

Rural business strategies involve recognizing new business opportunities and mobilizing economic resources to launch a new business or revitalize an existing one amidst risks and uncertainties to maximize profits. This process may lead to the development of a single entrepreneur or enterprise with the primary goal of profit-making by utilizing limited resources (Evans, 2019). Rural business strategies are essential for enhancing agricultural SMEs' effectiveness, particularly in the context of poverty alleviation. Some of these strategies may include but not limited to Innovation in local production systems, capitalization of local resources, and employment generation. These strategies may directly drive business sustainable growth, impact on economic development and poverty alleviation.

Despite these benefits, poverty remains entrenched with about 40.1% of Nigeria's population living in poverty according to the 2018/19 monetary poverty line and 63% are considered to be multidimensionally poor as at 2022 (NBS, 2022). The situation is more acute in rural areas where residents live in poverty compared to those in urban areas. According to Ocheni, Atakpa, and Nwankwo (2012) insurgency, political violence, and social insecurity are factors which hinder rural business development. However, advancements in technology, globalization, and localization offer new opportunities for rural business providing cost advantages and fostering economic diversification (Sopiko, Polina, & Ani, 2013).

It is worrisome whether rural agricultural business owners operate their businesses with the best strategies that could boost their business success and sustainability and in turn promote poverty alleviation, hence the study.

Research Questions

To achieve the aims and objectives of the study, the following research questions guided the study:

1. How does rural agricultural business innovation in local production systems contribute to business success for poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia State?
2. To what extent does the capitalization of local resources influence business success for poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia State?
3. To what extent does rural agricultural business promote employment generation for poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia State?
4. What are the challenges of rural agricultural business operators in Ngwa South, Abia State?

Literature Review

This section of the literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the key concepts related to rural business strategies on agricultural small and medium enterprise (SMEs) for poverty alleviation.

Rural Business

Rural business involves the capacity of entrepreneurs in an developed area to create, manage, and operate ventures while facing uncertainties for profit. Entrepreneurs, characterized by their innovation and risk-taking, differ from rural business operators who may lack such capabilities (Byjus, 2023; Adeyeye, 2015). Rural businesses help address issues like poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment by fostering local entrepreneurial talents and promoting economic growth through new products and markets (Priyakshi, 2020). In Nigeria, despite various government programs like the National Poverty Eradication Programme and National Economic Empowerment Strategy, many initiatives failed to fully promote rural business development. Therefore, effective strategies are needed to overcome challenges in rural business agricultural SMEs.

Innovation in local production systems

Innovation in local production focuses on developing products, services, and practices tailored to local needs, improving quality of life (Crescenzi et al., 2020). In agriculture, techniques like advanced farming, crop rotation, and pest management enhance soil fertility, crop yields, and food security, while promoting sustainability (Pretty, 2008). These innovations open new markets and boost rural economic growth, while also improving skills through training (Fuglie, 2010). However, high initial costs, marginalization of less-resourced farmers, adaptation challenges, and reliance on external inputs pose significant barriers (Hassan, 2013; Hanson et al., 2020; Klerkx et al., 2010).

Capitalization of local resources

Rural capital, as introduced by Castle (1998), includes natural, man-made, and human capital, all essential for agricultural SMEs. Natural capital, such as fertile soil and water resources, enhances productivity, with fertile soil in Ngwa South supporting profitable crop production (Morris & Dawson, 2018). Reliable water sources facilitate irrigation, boosting horticulture and cash crops (Smith & Johnson, 2017). Man-made capital, including modern irrigation and storage, increases efficiency and reduces post-harvest losses (Taylor & Green, 2019). Human capital, comprising education and training, improves labour productivity and fosters innovation in sustainable practices (Kumar & Sharma, 2018; Adams & Peters, 2016).

Leveraging local resources enhances productivity, reduces dependence on external suppliers, promotes sustainability, and stimulates regional economic growth (O'Neil & Sanders, 2020). However, challenges include environmental degradation from over-exploitation, unequal access to resources, and potential barriers to adopting advanced technologies (Hanson et al., 2020; Akinyemi, 2020). Additionally, inadequate infrastructure and susceptibility to local shortages may destabilize operations (Morris & Dawson, 2018).

Rural employment generation

Rural employment generation through agricultural SMEs is vital for alleviating poverty in areas like Ngwa South, Abia State, where job opportunities are scarce. Agricultural entrepreneurship fosters employment in farming, processing, transportation, and marketing, boosting local economies through innovation and enhanced productivity (Akinyemi, 2020; Eze & Okpala, 2017). Policies supporting agricultural SMEs and workforce training programs improve skills, facilitating sustainable development and long-term economic growth (Adams & Peters, 2016; Morris & Dawson, 2018). However, agricultural SMEs face significant challenges, including high initial investment costs (Smith & Johnson, 2017), market fluctuations that threaten profitability (Crescenzi et al., 2020), and inadequate infrastructure that hampers efficiency (O'Neil & Sanders, 2020). Skill gaps may also persist despite training efforts (Kumar & Sharma, 2018), and poorly managed intensive practices can lead to environmental degradation.

Challenges of Rural Businesses

Rural agricultural SMEs face challenges such as declining employment opportunities due to structural changes and population growth, resistance to new ideas, and an aging population limiting new entrepreneurs. A lack of essential facilities, urban-centric policies, absence of SME clusters, and limited technical know-how hinder innovation. Success factors include entrepreneurial skills, family support, and community resource utilization. Key strategies for rural development and poverty reduction involve attracting small businesses, improving connectivity with larger economies, fostering a supportive regulatory environment, enhancing entrepreneurial skills, and encouraging collective self-help among small-scale entrepreneurs.

Poverty

The definition of poverty remained elusive and subjective, with the "Poverty headcount index" being the primary measure used to quantify it, defining individuals with daily incomes below \$3.20 as poor. Despite increased national prosperity and natural resource discoveries, poverty persisted, especially in Africa. The Britannica Dictionary (2023) defined poverty as lacking the usual amount of money or material possessions, which prevented individuals from meeting basic needs. It was assumed that implementing strategies of innovation in local production systems, capitalization of local resources, and employment generation within agricultural SMEs significantly contributed to poverty alleviation in rural areas by enhancing productivity, leveraging local resources, and creating job opportunities to address challenges such as limited economic diversification and low incomes. To measure the effectiveness of these strategies, the study utilized the "Poverty headcount index" to quantify the number of individuals living below the poverty line based on their daily incomes, ensuring a focused evaluation of the strategies' impacts on improving living conditions and promoting sustainable economic development in rural areas.

Theoretical Review

Sustainable development theory

The theory of sustainable development, introduced by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, promotes long-term growth by balancing economic, environmental, and social dimensions. It aims to meet current needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet theirs (World Bank, 2021). The environmental aspect focuses on responsible resource management, the social dimension ensures equitable benefits for all groups, and the economic dimension highlights inclusive growth through innovation and local entrepreneurship (Brundtland Commission, 1987). This study focuses on the economic dimension, exploring how rural agricultural SMEs use innovation and resource capitalization to drive local development and alleviate poverty.

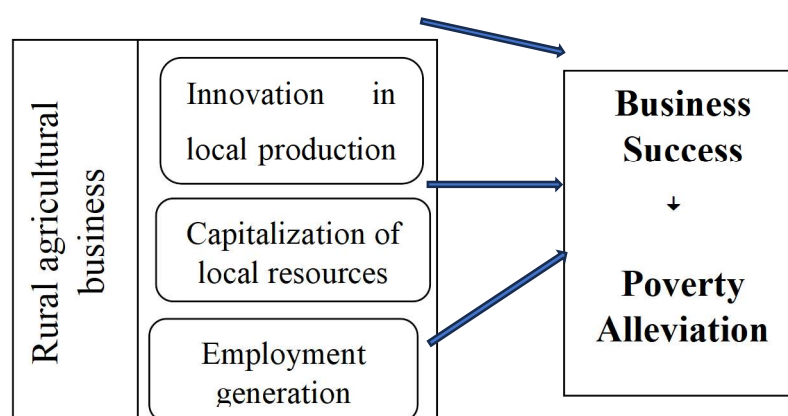


Fig 1. Conceptual Framework on rural agricultural business strategies and small and medium enterprise (SMEs) for poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia state

Source: Oyibe et al. (2024)

The conceptual framework shows the pictorial relationship of the rural agricultural business strategies construct with the effect of variables (Innovation in local production, capitalization of local resources and employment Generation) on the dependent variable which is poverty alleviation.

Methodology

A quantitative approach was employed utilizing a survey strategy. Data were collected using a self-structured questionnaire. The focus was on small and medium farmers with a social media presence, specifically within the NGWA HUB Facebook group. The total population of farmers within the NGWA HUB group was recorded at over 1,635 (Local Government Authority, 2023). To determine the sample size, the Taro Yamane's formula was employed. The sample size is 322. The study utilized a random sampling approach to ensure that every member of the target population had an equal chance of being selected. The data collected from the randomly selected sample of farmers were analysed using descriptive statistic and inferential statistics. Hypotheses were tested to explore relationships between variables and assess the effect of various factors on the outcomes of interest. This approach ensured a robust and unbiased representation of the population, facilitating valid and generalizable conclusions from the research findings.

Test of Hypotheses

Rural agricultural business strategies of innovation in local production systems, capitalization of local resources, employment generation and poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State.

Table 1: Summary of Regression Analysis Result

Variable	Standardized Coefficient (Beta)	t-value	p-value	Decision on Hypotheses
Innovation in Local Production	0.230	3.593	0.000	Not supported
Capitalization of Local Resources	0.243	4.317	0.000	Not supported
Employment Generation	0.509	9.099	0.000	Not supported
R	0.970	-	-	-
R-Square	0.940	-	-	-

Adjusted R-Square	0.940	-	-	-
F-value	1664.508	-	0.000	Significant
Durbin-Watson	1.506	-	-	-

Source: : Oyibe et al. (2024)

Discussions of findings

The regression analysis reveals that all three independent variables: rural business innovation in local production systems, rural business capitalization of local resources, and rural business employment generation significantly contribute to business success which in turn promotes poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State. Based on the findings, the null hypotheses for each variable were rejected, confirming the positive and substantial influence of these rural business strategies on poverty alleviation.

Rural business innovation in local production systems has no significant effect on poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State.

Thus, was rejected as the alternative was supported.

- for every unit increase in rural business innovation in local production systems, poverty alleviation is expected to increase by 0.23 units.
- Therefore, rural business innovation in local production systems has a significant and positive effect on poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State.

Rural business capitalization of local resources has no significant effect on poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State.

- This shows that for every unit increase in rural business capitalization of local resources, poverty alleviation is expected to increase by 0.243 units.
- Thus, rural business capitalization of local resources **significantly influences** poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State.

Rural business employment generation has no significant effect on poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State.

- This indicates that for each unit increase in rural business employment generation, poverty alleviation is expected to rise by 0.509 units.
- This demonstrates that rural business employment generation has a **significant and substantial impact** on poverty alleviation in Ngwa, Abia State.

The study has four objectives, and the result will be discussed objectives by objectives.

The socio-economic status of respondents

The demographic characteristics of respondents play a vital role in understanding the general feature of rural businesses strategies and agricultural small and medium enterprise respondents. The sample is

predominantly male with the 26-35 age range, indicating a youthful workforce that is crucial for driving innovation and adopting new practices in rural business operations (Okoye, 2022). More than 50% are married suggesting a potential for greater stability and long-term commitment to business ventures, which is essential for sustainable economic development (Eze, 2021). Their educational qualifications revealed the significance of formal education in effectively managing and innovating within small and medium enterprises (Chukwuma & Nnaji, 2023). Additionally, more than half of the respondents are mature and experienced group that is well-positioned to implement effective business strategies of innovation in local production systems, capitalization of local resources, and employment generation, are pivotal in contributing to poverty alleviation efforts in Ngwa Abia State (Obioma & Uche, 2022).

By integrating both theoretical and empirical perspectives, it is evident that rural agricultural business strategies play a crucial role in elevating the socio-economic status of individuals in rural areas.

Innovation in Local Production Systems

Innovation in local production systems significantly reduces poverty in Ngwa South, Abia State, with a Beta of 0.230 and a t-value of 3.593 ($p < 0.001$). This aligns with sustainable development theory, emphasizing innovation's role in boosting productivity, creating jobs, and fostering sustainable growth. Empirical studies by Mohammed and Ndulue (2019) and Kanitkar (1994) also show how local production innovations improve economic conditions. In Ngwa South, innovative farming techniques and value-added products increase incomes and drive community-wide economic benefits, making innovation a key strategy for poverty alleviation.

Capitalization of Local Resources

The study underscores the crucial role of capitalizing on local resources, especially human resources, in alleviating poverty. A Beta coefficient of 0.243 and a t-value of 4.317 ($p < 0.001$) highlight the importance of resource utilization for rural economic development. Aligned with sustainable development theory, leveraging regional strengths, such as local knowledge and skills, fosters equitable growth. Empirical evidences from Ogundele (2005) and Chinonye and Maxwell (2014) support this, showing that utilizing human capital and social networks significantly boosts entrepreneurship and poverty reduction in rural areas, as seen in Nigeria. Agricultural production has facilitated the growth of rural enterprises, improved high income levels and created employment opportunities. This practice ensures that local resources are fully exploited to drive economic activities that are tailored to the region's needs and capabilities, which further stimulates poverty alleviation efforts.

Furthermore, Mohammed and Ndulue (2019) found that innovative business models that effectively capitalize on local resources significantly contribute to poverty reduction in Lagos. This supports the present study's findings by demonstrating that rural businesses, when leveraging local resources such

as human capital and natural assets, enhance their productivity and competitiveness. As a result, these businesses foster economic growth and stability, leading to sustainable poverty alleviation. By tapping into local strengths and capabilities, rural communities can create resilient economies that are better equipped to address the challenges of poverty and development. Capitalization of local resources, such as land and labour, has enabled rural communities to generate income while preserving their environmental assets.

Employment Generation

The analysis demonstrates that employment generation is a significant driver of poverty alleviation in rural areas, evidenced by the highest Beta coefficient of 0.509 and a t-value of 9.099 ($p < 0.001$). This supports the hypothesis that employment is critical for reducing poverty in Ngwa South, Abia State. According to the Sustainable Development Theory, employment generation fosters social equity and economic growth, aligning with the principle that creating jobs provides individuals with the means to support themselves and their families, which is essential for achieving long-term poverty alleviation (Brundtland Commission, 1987). The theory posits that sustainable development requires not only economic growth but also equitable access to employment opportunities to ensure social stability and prosperity.

Empirical studies reinforce the importance of employment generation in alleviating poverty. For instance, Ijiwole (2019) found that employment generation significantly contributes to economic stability and resilience, particularly in rural areas. Similarly, Jan (2012) emphasizes that job creation is a key factor in reducing poverty, as it provides stable income sources and stimulates local economies by enhancing consumer spending and investment. In rural contexts, investments in skills development and employment opportunities improve productivity and lead to better economic outcomes, further supporting poverty alleviation efforts. This is particularly relevant in regions like Ngwa South, Abia State, where limited access to formal employment exacerbates poverty conditions.

The findings of this study are consistent with these empirical observations. Employment generation in rural areas not only provides immediate income but also helps build human capital through skills development and training, which strengthens the long-term economic prospects of individuals and communities (Ijiwole, 2019; Jan, 2012). By creating jobs, rural businesses contribute to both short-term poverty reduction and long-term economic growth. The significant R^2 value of 0.940 in this study further highlights that employment generation, alongside innovation in local production systems and capitalization of local resources, explains a substantial portion of the variance in poverty alleviation, indicating that these strategies are integral to fostering sustainable economic development in rural areas. The creation of employment opportunities through agricultural SMEs not only improves income levels but also enhances skills and long-term economic stability, leading to a more sustained improvement in Socioeconomic Status (SES).

Conclusions

In conclusion from the findings, the study showed that there is a significant effect of rural agricultural business strategies such as innovation in local production, capitalization of local resources, and employment generation on agricultural small and medium enterprise for poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia State. In answering the research questions, it is concluded that rural agricultural business strategies have a positive effect on poverty alleviation in Ngwa South, Abia State. The strong positive relationships observed highlight the effectiveness of these business strategies in enhancing economic opportunities, increasing productivity, and ultimately reducing poverty levels

Recommendations

Based on the above conclusions, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Adopt sustainable agricultural practices by implementing techniques such as conservation tillage and organic farming to boost crop yields and protect the environment.
- ii. Invest in education and training by providing programs focused on modern farming methods and business management to enhance productivity and economic opportunities.
- iii. Support local innovation and SMEs by developing local innovation hubs and offering financial assistance to small and medium enterprises to foster entrepreneurship and job creation.
- iv. Improve infrastructure and market access by investing in rural infrastructure like roads and storage facilities to reduce transportation costs and increase market access.

Policy Implications

Strengthen partnerships and advocate for policy support by promoting collaboration between government, NGOs, and local groups and advocating for supportive policies to address rural challenges effectively.

References

- Adenutsi, D. E. (2009). "Entrepreneurship, job creation, income empowerment and poverty reduction in low-income economies." *Munich Personal RePEc Archive (MPRA)*, 29569, 1-21.
- Ajolor, O. V., & Etim, E. (2019). Innovative agricultural policy and rural poverty reduction in Nigeria. *LASU Journal of Engineering, Science & Technology*, 1(2), 39-47.
- Ali, D. A. H., & Ali, A. Y. S. (2013). "Entrepreneurship development and poverty reduction: Empirical survey from Somalia." *American International Journal of Social Science*, 2(3), 108-113.

- Bagheri, A., & Pihie, Z. A. L. (2010). "Entrepreneurial leadership learning: In search of missing links." *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 7, 470-479.
- Bruton, G. D., & Ketchen Jr, D. J. (2013). "Entrepreneurship as a solution to poverty." *Journal of Business Venturing*, 28(6), 683–689.
- Byjus (2023). Entrepreneurship- types of entrepreneurships. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://byjus.com/commerce/what-isentrepreneurship/>
- Castle, E. N. (1998). Rural capital: A concept for rural development. *Journal of Rural Development*, 17(2), 147-164.
- Crescenzi, R., Giua, M., & Pietrobelli, C. (2020). The geography of innovation in local production systems. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 20(1), 1-23.
- Castle, E. N. (1998). Rural capital: A concept for rural development. *Journal of Rural Development*, 17(2), 147-164.
- Chinonye, E., & Maxwell, M. (2014). Capitalizing on local resources for economic development: Evidence from rural Nigeria. *International Journal of Rural Studies*, 10(2), 76-85.
- Danaan, V. V. (2018). Analyzing Poverty in Nigeria through Theoretical Lenses. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 11(1), 20-31.
- Effiong, E. (2020). Measuring poverty: A review of the concepts and indices. *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, 28(1), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1332/175982720X15732014120622>
- Effiong, E., Essien, E., & Patrick, I. (2020). Poverty and happiness: An exploratory study. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 21(5), 1725-1743. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-019-00197-2>
- Effiong, M. (2020). Perception of Poverty and Poverty Alleviation Strategies in Rural Areas of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Unpublished doctoral thesis, Department of Geography, University of Uyo, Nigeria.
- Effiong, M. I., & Essien, K. A. (2022). Paradigm for Rural Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria: Putting the Rural People at the Top. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Management Review*, 05(03), 75-76.
- Effiong, M., Essien, K., & Patrick, I. (2020). Rural Perception of Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *Journal of Environmental Design*, 15(2), 99-106.
- Esin, O., Ebong, B., & Uting, S. (2018). Poverty in Nigeria: Causes, effects, and solutions. *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, 26(2), 143-156. <https://doi.org/10.1332/175982718X15245030437843>
- Folorunso, O. O. (2020). Rural entrepreneurship development as a catalyst to employment generation and poverty alleviation in Oyo State, Nigeria. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 11(10), 49.
- Ibrahim, H. (2023). Rural entrepreneurship and poverty reduction in Nigeria. *Journal of Rural Entrepreneurship*, 12(1), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0976998120981058>
- Ijiwole, A. A. (2019). Employment generation and poverty alleviation in Nigeria: The role of social entrepreneurship. *Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies*, 4(4), 1-8. doi:10.9734/AJESS/2019/v4i4/30128
- Jan, S. (2012). Employment generation and its impact on poverty alleviation. *Journal of Development Economics*, 19(1), 45-60.
- Kalantaridis, C., & Bika, Z. (2006). Inward investment and the development of rural areas. *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*, 21(1), 1-18.
- Misango, S. B., & Ongiti, O. K. (2013). "Do women entrepreneurs play a role in reducing poverty? A case in Kenya." *International Review of Management and Business Research*, 2(1), 87-103.

- Mitra, J., & Abubakar, Y. (2021). "Knowledge creation and human capital for development: The role of graduate entrepreneurship." *Education+ Training*, 53(5), 462-479.
- Mohammed, I., & Ndulue, A. (2019). "Innovation in local production systems and poverty reduction." *Journal of Economic Development*, 45(3), 112-125.
- Nel-Sanders, C., & Thomas, A. (2022). Disruptive innovation in rural entrepreneurship. *Journal of Business Research*, 137, 281-291. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2022.07.026>
- Nel-Sanders, D., & Thomas, P. (2022). The role of government in promoting innovation-led entrepreneurial ecosystems. *Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review*, 10(1), Article a640. <https://doi.org/10.4102/apsdpr.v10i1.640>
- Ogundele, O. J. K. (2005). Rural capital and sustainable development: A case study of rural
- Omoniyi, T. (2018). Poverty in Nigeria: A review of the causes and consequences. *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, 26(1), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1332/175982718X15137075501427>
- Onileowo, S. (2024). Human capital and rural entrepreneurship in Nigeria. *Journal of Rural Entrepreneurship*, 13(1), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0976998120981058>
- capital in Nigeria. *African Journal of Economic Policy*, 7(1), 27-35.
- Paul, P., Datong, P., & Bagobiri, F. (2014). Entrepreneurship development and poverty reduction in Nigeria. *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Development*, 7(1), 1-15.
- Siemens, L. (2009). Entrepreneurship and innovation in rural areas. *Journal of Rural Entrepreneurship*, 2(1), 1-12.
- Sugeng, H. (2017). Needs-Based Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas. *Journal of Computational and Theoretical NanoSciences*, 23(12), 1748-1752.
- Surugia, A., & Surugia, R. (2018). Entrepreneurship and economic growth in rural areas. *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Development*, 11(2), 143-156.
- Umoh, G. (2022). Poverty in Africa: A review of the causes and consequences. *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, 30(1), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1332/175982722X16138274816063>
- Utami, H. & Alamanos, E. (2023) *Resource-Based Theory: A review*. In S. Papagiannidis (Ed), [TheoryHub Book](#). Available at <https://open.ncl.ac.uk> / ISBN: 9781739604400
- Windapo, J. (2018). Rural capital and rural development in Nigeria. *Journal of Rural Development*, 27(2), 147-164.
- World Bank. (2014). *World development report*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- World Bank. (2021). Poverty and Equity Brief: Nigeria. Retrieved from www.worldbank.org/poverty
- World Bank. (2033). *World development report*. New York: Oxford University Press.