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ABSTRACT

This study examines and analyses the perceptions of people on the influence of human rights and social justice on the actualization of human development in Nigeria through the constructs of education, health, and income using primary data. The primary data were collected from four (4) rural communities in South-western Nigeria using a cross-sectional technique. In the last few decades, Nigeria has experienced different developmental initiatives such as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and National Economic Enhancement Development Strategy (NEEDS) which were tailored towards the enhancement of human development in the country; however, these initiatives have been hindered especially due to injustice and abuse of fundamental social and economic rights. For instance, the development policy in Nigeria caters mostly for the people living in the urban areas while over 50% of the total population living in the rural areas is deprived. This is reflected in the uneven outcomes across geographical and social groups. Prior research in Nigeria has not examined how social justice and human rights influence educational attainment, healthcare delivery, and income distribution in the rural communities using primary data. This study was empirically conducted to fill this gap in the existing literature by assessing the relationships between integrative social-rights (human rights and social justice) (exogenous) and the three contextualized human development factors (education, health, and income) (endogenous) among Nigerian Muslim adults, ages 20 to 49 years living in rural communities. The data were explored in relation to Islamic framework. A total number of 500 survey questionnaires were distributed to collect data from the respondents in the selected rural areas in South-western Nigeria and 384 responses were finally used for the analysis. For data analysis, both SPSS (version 16) and AMOS (version 20) were used. This study found a significant inter-factor relationship between human rights and social justice among the Nigerian rural populace. The study also
found that human rights and income and social justice and health explain the variances in human development. Education was found to be an important variable influencing social and economic right, followed by income and then health. Overall, the findings in this study suggest no significant differences in the perception on human development for males and females groups. Although gender was not found to influence human development in this study, it should not be assumed to mean that gender equality in education, income, and health exists in Nigeria. It is widely reported that gender inequality plays a major role in influencing social and economic status. The findings in this study provide the foundation for making further investigations on social justice and human rights factors in order to promote equality and equity in education, income, and health among the Nigerian citizens irrespective of tribal or ethnic and religious affiliations.
ABSTRAK

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB: African Development Bank
AMOS: Analysis of Moment Statistics
C.R: Critical Ratio
CBN: Central Bank of Nigeria
CFA: Confirmatory Factor Analysis
CFI: Comparative Fit Index
CPI: Corruption Perceptions Index
CR: Construct Reliability
DHS: Demographic and Health Survey
DS: Descriptive Statistics
EFA: Exploratory Factor Analysis
FA: Factor Analysis
FMoH: Federal Ministry of Health
FOS: Federal Office of Statistics
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
HCT: Human Capital Theory
HDI: Human Development Index
HDR: Human Development Report
IDOs: International Development Organisations
IEF: Islamic Economics Framework
ITF: Islamic Theoretical Framework
KMO: Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin
LDCs: Least Developing Countries
LEEDS: Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
MDCs: Muslim Dominated Countries
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals
ML: Maximum Likelihood
MT: Modernisation Theory
NBS: National Bureau of Statistics
NCES: The National Consumer Expenditure Survey
NEEDS: National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NFI: Normed Fit Index
NGOs: Non-governmental Organisations
NHP: National Health Policy
NHDR: Nigeria Human Development Report
NPC: National Planning Commission
NPE: National Policy on Education
PA: Path Analysis
PCA: Principal Component Analysis
RMSEA: Root Mean Square Error of Approximations
S.E: Standard Error
SAP: Structural Adjustment Programme
SEEDS: State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
SEM: Structural Equation Model
UBE: Universal Basic Education
UNDP: United Nations Development Programmes
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UPE: Universal Primary Education
WDR: World Development Report
WHO: World Health Organisation