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**Topic: POVERTY AS A NATIONAL PANDEMIC**

**Poverty being one of the most occurring problems faced in the country, Nigeria has some how manage to be one of the worlds poorest nations worldwide, poverty is no more considered as just a problem facing the community and the nation at large, it is now considered as a pandemic. Nigeria is one of the leading oil producing countries in the world. It makes billions of dollars annually, yet the majority of the population lives in poverty. With around 70% of its people living with this problem it is also one of the poorest countries in the world ( Nigeria 's economy dominated by oil ). One of the major contributors to this problem is government. Because the country is well known for its lack of leadership the money made through oil trade is kept by rich benefactors, and the poor are left with nothing. Another major problem that is increasing poverty is Nigeria's population. The amount of people being born is far exceeding the amount of jobs available for them. Due to these two factors**

**the level
People steal what they can't afford and fight over what they can. By doing this people are injured in the process and many die. Also disease is another major issue that relates to the problem. Because there is no money going to heath care, and the majority of the population cannot afford education, knowledge and materials needed to battle sickness are not available. Without these needs epidemics spread through villages and nothing can be done to stop them. In return the lifestyles of the poor are going down while the amounts of people who fall into poverty are increasing. If something isn't done soon to prevent these issues then the problems are only going to spread and the margins between rich and poor will increase. Another major issue that is increasing the amount of poverty in the country is population. Because the job market is almost totally dependant on agriculture the amount of jobs that are available cannot increase to fit the demands of the public. This is a problem for the youth who are old enough to work but cannot find a job. Some of the countries politicians have taken advantage of this by creating an alternate form of work for these individuals. To support these poverty stricken children they offer becoming part of a makeshift mob that they pay with minimal amounts of money. The mob is then used to aid the politicians in whatever ways they feel fit**

**Poverty is a major menace to humanity existence in recent times majorly in the third world countries; it is one of the greatest threats to stability and peace more than other tussles like terrorism.**

**Nigerian government claims to be fighting against poverty, but in the real sense they are all corrupt liars making little or no effort in fighting this deadly pandemic(POVERTY) being faced by the people. There’s a system that says “ let the rich get richer and the poor poorer” this statement clearly indicates that they don’t care, as long as they get richer, no need of trying to help others.**

**Another reason why Nigeria faces such problem is because of its citizens. Some if not most of Nigerians are lazy to work, putting reliance and all hope in the government and money made by others who have worked hard and become wealthy.**

**poverty can be traced to low or declining level of economic growth, income inequalities, unemployment, corruption, bad governance, diversion of funds into non-developmental projects, fund embezzlement, inappropriate macroeconomic policies, inadequate endowment**

**Some ways we can solve poverty are:**

**1.investing in female education**

**Nigeria is home to over 10 million out-of-school children, around half of whom are girls - and it is hardly coincidental that the country with the world’s highest number of out-of-school children is home to the highest number of people living in extreme poverty. Two-thirds of this population are concentrated in Nigeria’s highly populated north west and north-eastern regions, both of which have been ravaged by the terror group, Boko Haram, resulting in an educational emergency affecting about 2.8 million children.
Educating girls is proven to have both economic returns and intergenerational impact. For Nigeria to improve on this front, it must increase its investment in education.**

**2. Investment in health and wellbeing**

**Increased investment in healthcare is linked to economic growth, and consequently to reducing poverty. Nigeria is battling with a number of crushing health indicators including malaria, tuberculosis and infant and maternal mortality, all of which have a sweeping impact on productivity.**

**In order to end poverty, we must harness the demographic dividends through investment in health, education and livelihoods - especially for our young people**