

**FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND POVERTY
ALLEVIATION: A STUDY OF LIVING FAITH CHURCH,
OTA, NIGERIA**

ELOMIEN, OFURE EMMANUEL

(19PAK01957)

SEPTEMBER, 2021

**FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND POVERTY
ALLEVIATION: A STUDY OF LIVING FAITH CHURCH, OTA,
NIGERIA**

**ELOMIEN, OFURE EMMANUEL
(19PAK01957)**

B.A International Studies and Diplomacy, University of Benin, Benin City

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.SC) DEGREE IN POLICY
AND STRATEGIC STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COLLEGE OF
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY,
OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

SEPTEMBER, 2021

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Policy and Strategic Studies in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

Mr. John A. Phillip
(Secretary, School of Postgraduate Studies)

.....
Signature and Date

Prof. Akan B. Williams
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

.....
Signature and Date

DECLARATION

I, ELOMIEN, OFURE EMMANUEL (19PAK01957), declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Olumuyiwa Ajayi of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria. I attest that the dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

Elomien, Ofure Emmanuel

.....
Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled “**FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION: A STUDY OF LIVING FAITH CHURCH, OTA, NIGERIA**” is an original research work carried out by **ELOMIEN, OFURE EMMANUEL (19PAK01957)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, under the supervision of Dr. Olumuyiwa Ajayi. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science in Policy and Strategic Studies.

Dr. Olumuyiwa Ajayi
(Supervisor)

.....
Signature and Date

Prof. Daniel Gberevbie
(Head of Department)

.....
Signature and Date

Dr. Augustine Eneanya
(External Examiner)

.....
Signature and Date

Prof. Akan B. Williams
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

.....
Signature and Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to God Almighty and to His only begotten son Jesus Christ who is the Author and finisher of my faith, for His grace, goodness and mercies that made this work a reality.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I acknowledge God Almighty for his manifold wisdom and grace that made the completion of this work a reality. Also, I appreciate the Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, for allowing God to use him to provide an enabling platform that enables knowledge to thrive.

I am grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Abiodun H. Adebayo for the key role he played that made the completion of this work a success. I appreciate the Registrar for his work. Also, to the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor A.A.A. Atayero, who made it possible for me to start the programme. My gratitude also goes to the Dean, School of Postgraduate studies, Professor Akan Williams, who constantly encouraged me throughout the programme. My special thanks also go to the Dean, College of Leadership Development Studies, Professor Olujide Adekeye for the fatherly role he played in the course of my studies. I am immensely grateful to the Head of Department, Professor. Gberevbie, D. for his support. My gratitude also goes to the former Head of Department, Professor Folarin, S. F, for his motivation and inspiration.

I appreciate my supervisor, Dr Olumuyiwa Ajayi, who guided me through the entire process. I appreciate his valuable suggestions, guidance and support throughout the study. The confidence he reposed in me motivated the timely completion of this research. I appreciate the PG Coordinator, Dr Oni, S. and the Departmental Office, Mrs Ochim M.R. for the invaluable support they rendered that made the completion of this work possible. I appreciate other staff of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, for their moral support during this study. I am indebted to a host of professionals who have influenced my studying ability during this study. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all my family members for their prayers, support and encouragement. Thank you all.

To God be the glory!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCEPTANCE	II
DECLARATION	III
CERTIFICATION	IV
DEDICATION	V
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	VI
LIST OF FIGURES	IX
LIST OF TABLES	XI
ABSTRACT	XIII
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Research Questions	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study	4
1.5 Research Propositions	4
1.6 Significance of the Study	4
1.7 Scope of The Study	5
1.8 Definitions of Terms	7
References	9
CHAPTER TWO	11
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.1.1 Concept of an Organisation	11
2.1.2 The Concept of a Faith-based Organisation	11
2.1.3 Typologies of Faith-Based Organisations	13
2.1.4 Faith-Based Organisations in Nigeria	14
2.1.5 Faith-Based Organisations and Development in Nigeria	15

2.1.6 The Concept of Poverty	17
2.1.7 Nigeria as the World Poverty Capital	19
References	21
2.1.8 Some Causes of Poverty in Nigeria	26
2.1.9 Overview of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria	30
2.1.10 Gaps in Literature	33
2.2 Theoretical Framework	34
2.2.1 Application of the Theory to the Study	34
CHAPTER THREE	36
METHODOLOGY	36
3.1.1 Research Design	36
3.1.2 Population of the Study	36
3.1.3 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques	37
3.1.4 Sources and Method of Data Collection	40
3.1.4.1 Five-Point Likert-Style Rating Scale	41
3.1.4.2 Open Questions	41
3.1.4.3 Historical Research	42
3.1.4.4 Structured Interview	42
3.1.5 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	42
3.1.6 Methods and Data Analysis Techniques	42
3.1.7 Ethical Consideration	44
3.2 Area of the Study	44
References	47
CHAPTER FOUR	48
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	48
4.1 Data Presentation	48
4.3 Qualitative Findings Through Interview	69

CHAPTER FIVE	72
DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	72
5.1 Summary of Findings	72
5.2 Discussions of Findings	73
References	77
CHAPTER SIX	78
SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION	78
6.1 Summary	78
6.2 Recommendations	80
6.3 Contributions to Knowledge	81
6.4 Conclusion	81
6.5 Limitations of the Study	82
Appendices	83

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Map of Ogun State showing the Local government Areas	6
Figure 2: Map of Ado-Odo Local Government Area	7
Figure 3. Global Poverty Ranking: African countries will represent 9 out of the top 10 by 203020	
Figure 4. Some major 2020 newspaper Headlines mirroring economic hardship in Nigeria.	29
Figure 5: Scree plot	62
Figure 6: First and second Principal Component analysis	63
Figure 7: second and third principal component	64
Figure 8: second and third principal component	65
Figure 9: First and second principal component for impact level	66

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. List Types of Faith-Based Organisation	87
Table 2. List some higher educational institutions founded by some FBOs in Nigeria	89
Table 3. List some health centres and hospitals founded by some FBOs in Nigeria	90
Table 4. List some Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria since 1960s	31
Table 5. Sample size for big population	38
Table 6. shows how questionnaires are administered to respondents, rate of questionnaires returned, number rejected, and the total number analyzed	40
Table 7. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	48
Table 8: Period of stay in Ota	50
Table 9: Faith-based organisations have the potentials to assist the public spiritually and socio-economically	50
Table 10: Faith-based organisations have the potentials to contribute to national development through humanitarian endeavours	51
Table 11: Faith-based organisations are often the last hope of the common man in any society	51
Table 12: Faith-based organisations are doing enough to lift the poor out of poverty	52
Table 13: Faith-based organisations have the potentials to initiate programmes that will help to reduce poverty, hunger, health insecurity and illiteracy in their immediate community	52
Table 14: Faith-based organisations have the potentials to contribute significantly to nation-building	53
Table 15: Faith-based organisations should put a system in place for monitoring the effectiveness of their poverty alleviation programme	53
Table 16: The strategic programmes of the Living Faith Church have improved the wellbeing of Ota people	54
Table 17: The Living Faith Church is obliged to cater for its host community in order to ensure personal security and community security	54
Table 18: The Living Faith Church has strategic programmes targeted at poverty alleviation in Ota Community, Nigeria	55
Table 19: The poverty alleviation strategies of the Living Faith church are well defined and easily identifiable	55
Table 20: The poverty alleviation programmes of the Living Faith Church are easily accessible	56
Table 21: The Living Faith Church's poverty alleviation programmes have a significant impact on the living standards of the needy in Ota community.	56
Table 22: The Living Faith Church has a system for monitoring the effectiveness of its poverty alleviation programmes at the grassroots.....	57
Table 23: There is a feedback mechanism put in place by the Living Faith Church to evaluate the impact of its poverty alleviation programmes in Ota community.	57
Table 24: The poverty alleviation programmes of the Living Faith Church have contributed to social and economic growth in Ota community.	58
Table 25: The poverty alleviation programmes of the Living Faith Church have positively impacted Ota community.	58

Table 26: The Living Faith Church can effectively contribute to sustainable development goals by providing a food bank and tuition-free education within Ota community.	59
Table 27: The Living Faith Church will win more souls for Christ if most of the poor can feel the impact of the church's poverty alleviation programmes.	59
Table 28: The Living Faith Church is doing enough to lift the poor out of poverty in Ota community.	60
Table 29: Importance of components (Eigen-analysis of the Correlation Matrix)	60
Table 30: The principal component loading vectors	61
Table 31: One-Sample Test	68

ABSTRACT

Reports show that 41 percent of Nigerians (86, million people) live below the poverty line, while another 25 percent (53 million) are vulnerable. In the light of this, a question bothering on the roles of Faith-based Organizations in alleviating poverty is often raised. In other to answer the question that is often raised, this study focused on the impact of Faith-based Organizations on poverty alleviation; a study of Living Faith Church, Ota, Nigeria. Policy and programmes the church put in place in alleviating poverty was investigated and how these programmes contribute to poverty alleviation in Ota, Nigeria. Cluster sampling technique was adopted, interview and a well-structured questionnaire was used for the survey. The population of the study is made up of residents of Ota, in Ado-Odo Local Government Area of Ogun State Nigeria, selected from five locations in Ota, i.e. Iyana Iyesi, Ijagba, Osuke, Iju, and Oju-Ore. The data collected from the questionnaires were analyzed using Descriptive, Principal Component Analysis, and student's t-test. The findings from this study reveal that the Living Faith Ota is alleviating poverty within its host community of Ota through some of its programmes and interventions in the community. The study concludes that for poverty alleviation to be sustainable, the development and deployment of poverty alleviation strategies has to not only be systematic, but should also be individual centric. The study recommends that faith-based organisations in Nigeria should include poverty alleviation as part of their core policy and programmes so as to significantly reduce poverty rate in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Faith-Based Organisation, Poverty, Principal Component Analysis, Student's t-test, Nigeria.*