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Policy Brief

The Determinants of Multidimensional Poverty in Nsukka, Nigeria

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A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON POVERTY

Traditionally, the concept of poverty (or deprivation) refers to a lack of income or financial resources to meet basic needs of subsistence. Nowadays, however, poverty is increasingly appraised and understood as a multidimensional phenomenon. Some go even further to include, in poverty assessments, the idea of a lack of access to (or exclusion from) the opportunity to live a "tolerable" existence within the context of a specific society, commonly referred to as the "capability approach".

In recent years, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) has contributed to broaden the understanding of poverty at the international level, by identifying several "new" aspects (or dimensions) of deprivation based on the capability or multidimensional poverty approach.

This PEP-supported study aimed to identify the specific factors that are associated with the idea of deprivation for the population living in Nsukka – a town and Local Government Area in the State of Enugu, in **Nigeria – based on a series of welfare indicators that are relevant to this 'new' analytical perspective on multidimensional poverty.**

Two measures of poverty incidence in Nsukka

	Live on less than $1.25 per day	Multidimensional poor
Urban	53.8%	56.3%
Rural	73.4%	83.8%
Male	75.5%	72.7%
Female	61.0%	87.0%
Total	**69.6%**	**78.5%**

KEY FINDINGS

Results from the analysis of various (monetary and non-monetary) indicators of poverty and welfare in Nsukka show that:

- The **main factors** that are associated with (or determinant in the assessment of) the level of poverty or deprivation for Nsukka population include :
  - larger family size,
  - lower level of education,
  - poorer employment and health conditions,
  - living in the rural area of Nsukka region.
- The **poverty incidence rate** jumps from 70% (based on monetary poverty) to 78% of Nsukka population when non-monetary (multidimensional) indicators or factors are taken into account.
- **Inequalities in deprivation** from a multidimensional approach or perspective are clearly to the disadvantage of women, who have been found to suffer more acutely from deprivation through several "non-monetary" indicators.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

An integrated approach is necessary for policy interventions to effectively tackle issues of poverty and deprivation in Nsukka, Nigeria.

In the context of the (Nsukka) population under study, it is clear that for anti-poverty initiatives to be well-targeted and thus more effective, policy or program design and interventions must focus on addressing the specific factors that are found to be most influential in determining the level of deprivation for individuals/households in that region.

In particular, such interventions should clearly target the needs of Nsukka women, who are relatively more "deprived" in terms of multidimensional (or non-monetary) factors.

Moreover, a clear understanding of the inter-linkages between these various factors (or determinants of multidimensional poverty) is also necessary to design interventions that will be both cost-effective and more efficient in reducing poverty, by addressing core issues.

Indeed, government interventions should aim to tackle those factors with the greater "linkage effects", such as education and health, which are both non only determinant factors per se, but may also affect or work upon other factors, such as employment and family size. These sectors would thus appear to be a good starting place to address the particular needs of the Nsukka population.

This policy brief is based on :

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