

37 output such as cocoa, groundnuts, natural rubber, and palm oil. But rather than record
38 remarkable progress in national socio economic development, Nigeria retrogressed to become
39 one of the 25 poorest countries at the threshold of twenty-first century. National Bureau of
40 Statistics revealed that over 20.9 million Nigerians youth are unemployed as at December 2018.
41 It was also revealed in June 2018 that Nigeria had overtaken India as the nation with the highest
42 number of people living in extreme poverty across the world, with an estimated 86.9 million
43 people measured to be living on less than \$1.90 a day. This may the reason why Nigeria has been
44 bedeviled by the wave of insecurity for lives and properties. The former governor of Central
45 Bank of Nigeria, Mr. Lamido Sanusi, on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, identified insecurity in the
46 country, high unemployment rate as well as improper orientation of the youth as major threats to
47 development in the country.

48 Social entrepreneurship has been acknowledged by the scholars as a veritable tool to
49 accelerate the decline in unemployment and poverty. According to Mohammed and Ndulue [1],
50 social entrepreneurship involves pursuing highly innovative approaches to addressing social
51 problems and doing so in an opportunistic, persistent, and accountable manner, either for profit
52 or non- profit. Research observed that social entrepreneurship is designed to engage the
53 community with empowering the disadvantaged financially communities to jointly mobilize their
54 business in order to generate profits, and then the results of operations returns to the community
55 to increase their income [2]. The European Commission [3] also described the social
56 entrepreneurship sector as an approach to make impact on society and economy. This connotes
57 that social entrepreneurship is not only able to generate employment opportunities, but also
58 alleviate poverty and create multiplier effects to drive the economy, and create social welfare.

59 Social entrepreneurship has received a lot of research attention in developed and
60 developing nations and it has measured and conceptualized in many different ways. However,
61 the construct has not been explored and is still remain challenging construct in Nigeria. This
62 study therefore intends to fill gap in knowledge by examining the influence of social
63 entrepreneurship on employment generation and poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

64 **Research Questions**

65 These following questions shall guide this study

- 66 i. To what extent does social entrepreneurship influence employment generation in
67 Nigeria?
- 68 ii. To what extent does social entrepreneurship influence poverty alleviation in Nigeria?

69 **Concept of Social Entrepreneurship**

70 The concept of social entrepreneurship has been widely used in different forms. The
71 establishment of Grameen Bank by Muhammad Yunus, Ashoka: The Innovators for the Public
72 by Bill Drayton, Youth United by Jyotindra Nath, Rand De by Ramakrishna and Smita Ram,
73 SKS Microfinance by Vikram Akula and Roozi.com by Nick Reder, Brent Freeman and Norma
74 La Rosa has popularized the term. Social entrepreneurship looks to be new concept but it is old
75 as a phenomenon. Many scholars have referred social entrepreneurship differently as it is
76 evolving and popular in different parts of the world [4]. According to Martin and Osberg [5], a
77 definition of social entrepreneurship should start with entrepreneurship, the term social is only
78 marking the kind of entrepreneurship. Dees [6] supported this view. Theory building of social
79 entrepreneurship is based on entrepreneurship research. Bornstein and Davis [7] defined social
80 entrepreneurship as a process by which citizens build or transform institutions to advance
81 solutions to social problems, such as poverty, illness, illiteracy, environmental destruction,

82 human rights abuses and corruption, in order to make life better for many. Harding [8] also
83 defined social entrepreneurship as an attempt by a social entrepreneur to use a microeconomic
84 solution for a macroeconomic problem that is structural transformation of an economy. Robinson
85 [9] saw social entrepreneurship as a process, which includes phases like, identification of a
86 particular social problem and a solution to address it, the evaluation of the social impact realized,
87 the sustainable model of the business that generate social-objective directed for-profit or a
88 business-directed nonprofit entity that addresses the double (social & economic) or triple bottom
89 line (social, economic & environmental). The European Commission [3] argued that social
90 entrepreneurship is a broad tendency charge of social needs on the part of all of these different
91 actors across the public and private sectors usually goes under the term social entrepreneurship.

92 **Concept of Poverty**

93 Oladunni [10] simplifies the concept of poverty to mean a situation of not having enough to eat,
94 poor drinking water, poor sanitation, poor nutrition, unfit shelter, high infant mortality rate, poor
95 environmental condition, low educational opportunities, lack of productive health care, lack of
96 active participation in the decision making process as it affects the individual or society. Aliyu
97 [11] defined poverty as the condition in which a person is unable to meet minimum basic
98 requirements of food, health, housing, education and clothing. World Bank [12] also defined
99 poverty as the inability of an individual or a sector of a society to unable to meet basic needs
100 requirements'- (physical: food, healthcare, education, shelter e.t.c and non physical: participation,
101 identity e.t.c) for a meaningful life. Alagbe [13] further states that the incidence of poverty is
102 highly concentrated among people with the following characteristics: Poor material possession,
103 low education, unstable employment/unemployment low status jobs, low unsuitable income,
104 poor housing conditions, large families, and absence of savings. According to Chen and

105 Ravallion [14], poverty also relates, however, to other deprivations such as poor health, lack of
106 education, vulnerability, exposure to risk and powerlessness. Poverty alleviation therefore, refers
107 to efforts aimed at reducing the magnitude of poverty defined in terms of the proportion of the
108 population living below the poverty line [15]. According to Bornstein and Davis [7], poverty
109 reduction is often used as a short-hand for promoting economic growth that will permanently lift
110 as many people as possible over a poverty line.

111 **Brief History of Nigeria Association of Social Workers**

112 Nigeria Association of Social workers (NASOW) was established in 1975 and is properly
113 registered as a corporate body with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria,. The National
114 body is an affiliate of the International Federation of social Workers (IFSW). Social Work is a
115 profession that is change and action oriented. It is a skilled and paid job that has the objective of
116 assisting individuals, groups, families, communities and societies to solve their problems. In
117 doing this, social workers work as enablers, counsellors, advocates and resource mobilizers.
118 They are also multi disciplinary team players as they work with, teachers, other Health
119 Professionals, Law enforcement professionals and lawyers to help a service user from a state of
120 disfunctionality to functionality.

121 The main objectives of the association is to provide a forum where professionals working
122 with government and non-governmental organizations working in areas directly concerned with
123 social welfare issues come together to device means of promoting the quality of social welfare
124 service delivery. There service users are, children in need of care and protection, the physically
125 and mentally challenges, youths, the aged, families, communities, refugees and internationally
126 displaced persons, traumatised individual, the socially and economically excluded, etc.
127 Members can be found in, Social Welfare offices in all the six Area Councils and Social

128 Development Secretariat, NGOs and international aid agencies; others are Nigeria Social
129 Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), FCT Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Social
130 Development Secretariat, National Human Right Commission, Orphanages, National Agency for
131 the Prohibition of Human Trafficking (NAPTIP), All General Hospitals and Community Health
132 Centre.

133 **Empirical Review**

134 There many studies which have been carried out on this areas and are closely related, relevant
135 and serves as guide to this current study which were reviewed as follows:

136 Mohammed and Ndulue [1] evaluated the impact of social entrepreneurship on poverty
137 reduction, a study of wecyclers social entrepreneurship Ltd (WCSEL), Lagos State. Data was
138 mainly collected from secondary sources and ordinary least square regression through the help of
139 Eview statistical package was used to analyze the data collected. The research findings revealed
140 that there is a positive significant relationship between social entrepreneurship and poverty
141 reduction. Study conducted by Ogundele, [16] also found that social entrepreneurship has a
142 significant effect on poverty alleviation, Chinonye and Maxwell [17] also investigated the role of
143 social entrepreneurship as an effective tool against poverty reduction towards the initialization of
144 sustainable development in an economy. A structured questionnaire was employed to collect data
145 from 300 staff of a social enterprise (ASAFE) in Cameroon. Ordinary least square regression
146 was used to analyze the data collected. The result revealed that there is a positive significant
147 relationship between social entrepreneurship and poverty reduction. Jan [18] also examined the
148 relationship between social entrepreneurship and poverty reduction. The survey design was used
149 in the study. Primary data were sourced via structured questionnaire from 300 respondents. The

150 results revealed that there is positive relationship between social entrepreneurship and poverty
151 reduction.

152 However, Richard [19] evaluated the impact of social entrepreneurship on poverty
153 reduction in Istanbul, Turkey. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 7000
154 social entrepreneurs in Turkey. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to
155 analyze the data. The results revealed that there is no positive significant relationship between
156 social entrepreneurship and poverty reduction.

157 Based on these above conflicting and inconclusive results, it is therefore hypothesized
158 that:

159 **H₀₁:** Social entrepreneurship has no influence on employment generation in Nigeria.

160 **H₀₂:** Social entrepreneurship has influence on poverty alleviation in Nigeria.

161 **Conceptual Framework for the Study**

162 After the careful study of literature review, the following conceptual model is formulated to
163 illustrate the influence of social entrepreneurship on employment generation and poverty
164 alleviation in Nigeria.

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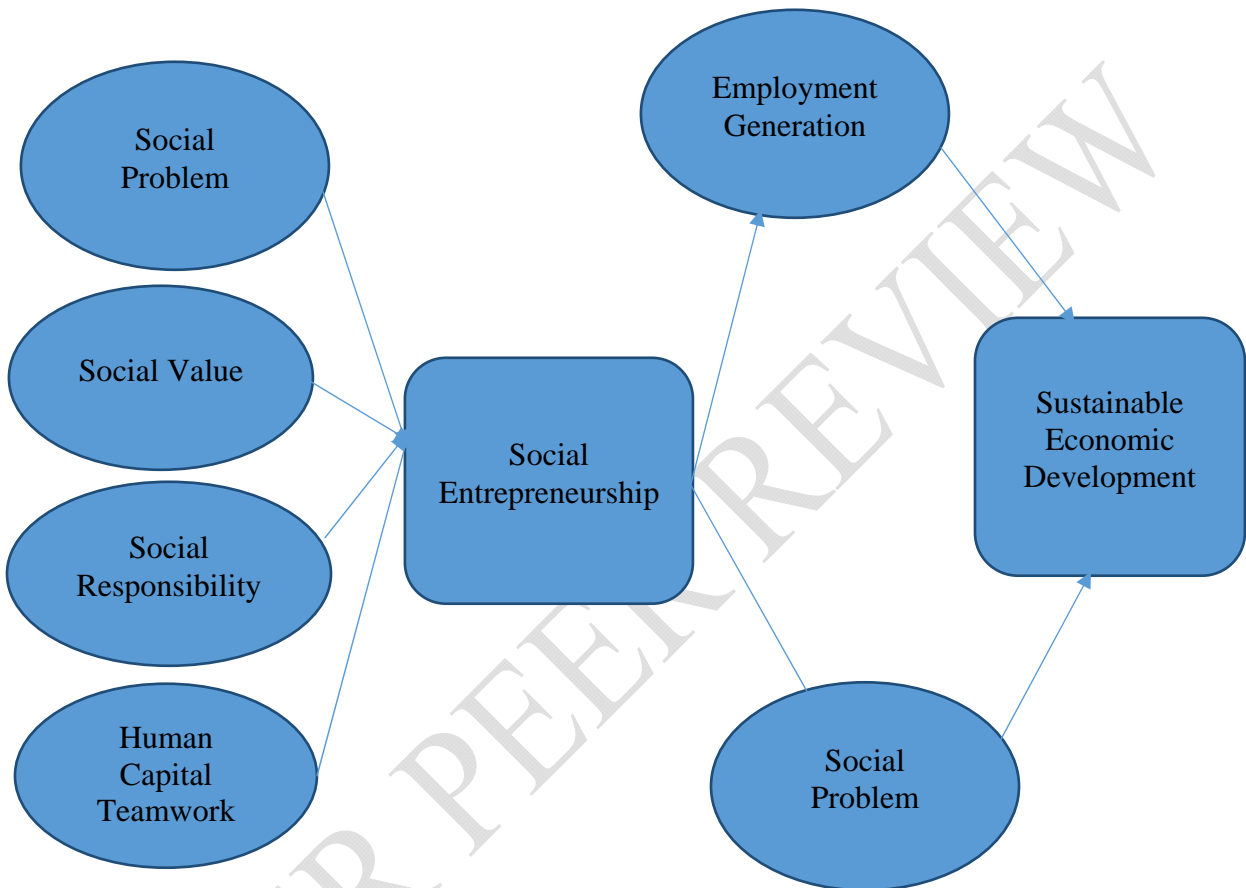
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188 **Figure 1: Conceptual Model**

189 **Source: Author's Computation**

190 Figure 1 presents a summary diagram of the proposed causal model for the prediction of
191 social entrepreneurship from the concept: employment generation and poverty alleviation. The
192 model specifies the role of social entrepreneurship as a predictor of employment generation and
193 poverty alleviation that lead to sustainable economic development. The proposed conceptual
194 framework is presented and the hypothesis regarding the relationships between the variables are
195 specified.

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Methodology

203 Descriptive survey was employed for the study. A descriptive survey method is a kind of
204 research where participants answer the set of questions. The responses are then studied and
205 explained. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 150 members of the Nigeria
206 Association of Social Workers, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja Chapter. The Nigeria
207 Association of Social Workers is presently working for effective social welfare service delivery
208 to its numerous service users resident in the federal capital territory Abuja and its environs. Data
209 were sourced through structured closed ended questionnaire designed by the researcher for the
210 study with the aid of personal interview. The reliability coefficients (Cronbach's) of social
211 entrepreneurship scale was 0.81, employment generation scale was 0.79 while the poverty
212 alleviation scale yielded reliability alpha of .78. In the present study, to test the validity of the
213 scale, the scale was subjected to face validity. The scale was administered to five experts and got
214 their expertise on the validity of the items in the scales. Data were analysed with the aid of mean,
215 standard deviation, Pearson correlation and Linear regression.

Data Analysis, Results and Discussion

217 Table 1: **Correlations Analysis showing the relationship between the variables**

	Mean	SD	1	2	3
1. Social Entrepreneurship	4.4600	.60899	1	-	-
2. Employment Generation	4.4933	.56458	.682**	1	
3. Poverty Alleviation	4.5000	.59922	.469*	.436*	1

218 **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

219 Table 1 depicts that employment generation ($r = 0.682^{**}$) and poverty alleviation ($r =$
 220 0.469^{**}) have a significant association with social entrepreneurship. This implies that social
 221 entrepreneurship measured by social problem solving, social value, social responsibility and
 222 human teamwork has a significant relationship with employment generation and poverty
 223 alleviation. The study concurred with Chinonye and Maxwell [17] and Mohammed and Ndulue
 224 [1] findings, that there is a positive significant relationship between social entrepreneurship,
 225 employment generation and poverty reduction. In another study, Jan [18] examined the
 226 relationship between social entrepreneurship and poverty reduction. The results revealed that
 227 there is positive relationship between social entrepreneurship and poverty reduction.

228 **Influence of social Entrepreneurship on employment generation.**
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Table2 (a) Results of Regression Analysis

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin – Watson
1	.682 ^a	.466	.462	.41408	1.567

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Entrepreneurship

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Table 2(b) ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	22.117	1	22.117	128.994	.000 ^b
	Residual	25.376	148	.171		
	Total	47.493	149			

a. Dependent Variable: Employment Generation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Entrepreneurship

Table 2 (c) Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.672	.251		6.668	.000

Social Entrepreneurship	.633	.056	.682	11.358	.000
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a. Dependent Variable: Employment Generation

231
 232 Table 2 a, b, c, show that social entrepreneurship has a significant impact on employment
 233 generation ($F(1, 148) = 128.994$; $R^2 = 0.466$; $P < .01$). The predictor variable independently
 234 explained 46.6% of the variance of employment generation, indicating that social
 235 entrepreneurship contributes 46.6% to employment generation. The estimated Durbin - Watson
 236 value of 1.567 clears any doubts as to the existence of positive first order serial correlation in the
 237 estimated model. The model was constructed to test the null hypothesis that social
 238 entrepreneurship has no significant influence on employment generation. The F-statistic of
 239 128.994 indicates that the overall regression plane is statistically significant. Therefore, null
 240 hypothesis is rejected while alternative hypothesis is accepted.

241
 242 **Influence of social Entrepreneurship on poverty alleviation.**
 243

Table 3 (a) Results of Regression Analysis

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin - Watson
1	.469 ^a	.220	.215	.53102	1.378

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Entrepreneurship

244

Table 3 (b) NOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	11.767	1	11.767	41.730	.000 ^b
1 Residual	41.733	148	.282		
Total	53.500	149			

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty Alleviation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Entrepreneurship

Table 3 (c) Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	2.442	.322		7.595	.000
1 Social Entrepreneurship	.461	.071	.469	6.460	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Poverty Alleviation

245
246 Table 3 a, b, c, show that social entrepreneurship has a significant influence on poverty
247 alleviation ($F(1, 148) = 41.730$; $R^2 = 0.220$; $P < .01$). The predictor variable independently
248 explained 22% of the variance of poverty alleviation, indicating that social entrepreneurship
249 contributes 22% to poverty alleviation. The estimated Durbin - Watson value of 1.378 clears any
250 doubts as to the existence of positive first order serial correlation in the estimated model. The
251 model was constructed to test the null hypothesis that social entrepreneurship has no significant
252 influence on poverty alleviation. The F-statistic of 41.730 indicates that the overall regression
253 plane is statistically significant. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected while alternative
254 hypothesis is accepted.

255 **Conclusion and Recommendations**

256
257 This study examined the influence of social entrepreneurship on employment generation and
258 poverty alleviation in Nigeria with specific reference to Nigeria Association of Social Workers,
259 Federal Capital Tertiary (FCT) Abuja Chapter. The study established that social entrepreneurship
260 measured by social problem solving, social value, social responsibility and human teamwork has
261 a significant relationship with employment generation and poverty alleviation. The findings
262 concurred with previous studies that significant and positive relationship exist between social

263 entrepreneurship, employment generation and poverty alleviation. The study therefore concluded
264 that social entrepreneurship is driving force of social and environmental goals that have an
265 impact on sustainable economic development.

266 Subsequently, the study recommended that government at all levels, private organizations
267 and non- government organizations should embrace the concept of social entrepreneurship and
268 address the issues such as insecurity, acute unemployment, and abject poverty ravaging our
269 society. More also, the concept of social entrepreneurship should be included as a separate
270 branch of management courses in all tertiary institutions of learning.

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