

Effect of Stock Market Indicators on Poverty Level in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of capital market indicators on poverty level in Nigeria from 2009- 2019. The result of the estimation showed a stable long run relationship between the dependent and independent variables as supported by the greater bound value of 10.58. The result of this study shows strong and positive correlation with the value of 0.91 which indicate there are significant differences between Stock Market Indicators and Poverty Level in Nigeria. Also, the result above revealed that the intercept (constant) of the equation is 2.76. This value of 0.000 is positive and significant since P-value is less than 0.05 level of significant, indicating Interest rate will increase by beta 0.76 and t of 6.11.

Keywords: Stock Market, Stock Market Indicators Poverty

Introduction

Capital market is the market for buying and selling of medium/long term investment or financial instruments (equities and debt) in form of stocks and bonds of more than one year. Capital markets channels savings and investment from suppliers of capital such as retail investors and institutional investors to users of capital like businesses, government and individuals. Capital markets are vital to the functioning of an economy, since capital is a critical component for generating economic output. Capital markets include primary markets, where new stock and bond issues are sold to investors and secondary markets, which trade existing securities. All these are done through underwriting and computerized trading systems.

The Nigeria capital market is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and central bank of Nigeria (CBN). The size of capital market of the country should be relative to the size of the economy if real economic progress is to be achieved by the operations of the market, since this market moves resources from people who have it to organizations that need it for productive purposes which critically smoothes the growth of the economy. Other financial institutions involved in the capital market include central bank, commercial banks, insurance companies, pension funds, unit trust, issuing houses, merchant banks, etc.

Nigeria capital market dated back to the colonial period during the British government time of searching for fund for running local administration. Most of these funds were derived from agriculture, marketing and solid minerals and mining. It was found that these sources were inadequate in meeting the growing financial obligations of the time, so, the colonial administration decided to expand its revenue base by reforming the system of revenue mobilization through taxation and other revenue sources. There were also the need to raise fund from public sector to cover the shortfall in fund availability for other purposes and this gave rise to the establishment of a financial system like the capital market (Esosa 2007). Consequently, in 1946 the British colonial administration floated a N600, 000 local loan stock bearing interest at 3% for the financing of developmental projects under the ten-years plan local ordinance. The loan stock, which had a maturity of 10-15 years, was oversubscribed by more than N1 million, yet local participation of the issued was terribly poor. As a result of continued poor local participation the federal government over time established several economic programmes with hope to foster economic and financial development, such as Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) 1986, Vision 2010, Vision 2020, Millennium Development Goal (MDGs), National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS), and other development plans which have the aim of stimulating economic growth and poverty reduction in the country.

According to (Nigeria Stock Exchange 1981), NSE was incorporated on 15th September, 1960 as non - profit making organization under the federal government, CBN, industrial development bank and business communities as contained in Lagos stock exchange act of 1961 which opened door to business in August, 1961. In 1977, its name was changed from Lagos stock exchange to the Nigerian Stock Exchange. However, the principal intermediaries between investors and financial market are issuing house, underwriters, brokers/dealers, etc. The Nigeria capital market was deregulated in 1993, thereby allowing for the determination of the prices of new issues by issuing houses and stock brokers.

The objectives of the study are to examine the differences between Stock Market Indicators and Poverty Level in Nigeria and to find out the effects of Stock Market Indicators on Poverty Level in Nigeria from 2009-2018.

The following hypotheses formulated for the study are that stock market indicators have no significant differences on poverty level in Nigeria and that stock market indicators have no significant effects on poverty level in Nigeria from 2009-2018.

Literature Review

Measurement of Capital Market Growth in Nigeria

Gross Capital Formation

Gross capital formation (formerly gross domestic investment) consists of outlays on additions to the fixed assets of the economy plus net changes in the level of inventories. Fixed assets include land improvements (fences, ditches, drains, and so on); plant, machinery, and equipment purchases; and the construction of roads, railways, and the like, including schools, offices, hospitals, private residential dwellings, and commercial and industrial buildings. Inventories are stocks of goods held by firms to meet temporary or unexpected fluctuations in production or sales, and "work in progress." This is a net addition of existing wealth and redistribution of wealth which increases the total stock that promotes the growth of the economy.

The stock of capital formation in a progressive economy should reflect the growth and development in the capital market especially in a conducive investment friendly environment. There seems to be a consensus among development experts that the level of domestic capital formation in Nigeria is low due to low level of investment arising from inadequate capital fund.

Market Capitalization

Market capitalization (also known as market value) is the share price times the number of share outstanding. This is a measure of capital market size and is used to ascertain the level of capital market development relative to the growth of the economy.

All Share Index

A market index is a quick measure to judge the overall direction of the market and the scope of its movement. A market index is a statistical parameter to reflect the composite value of market characteristics. It is an average of share prices of all companies on the stock exchange market, often used as a guide to compare the performance of different companies and industries. Or it is a series of numbers which shows the changing average value of the share prices of all companies on a stock exchange and which is used as a measure of how well a market is performing.

Stocks Traded, Total Value

Stocks traded refer to the total value of share traded during the period. This indicator complements the market capitalization ratio by showing whether market size is matched by trading.

Total New Issue

A reference to a security that has been registered issued and is being sold on a market to the public for the first time. New issues are sometimes referred to as primary shares/new offerings. The term does not necessarily refer to newly issued stocks, although initial public offerings are the most commonly known new issues. Securities that can be newly issued include both debt and equity. A company makes a new issue through underwriters who have the responsibility to place the offering with individual and institutional investors. Companies make new issues in order to raise financing for expanded operations. The offerings themselves give investors a portion of ownership in the company issuing them.

Listed Domestic Companies

Listed domestic companies are the domestically incorporated companies listed on the country's stock exchange at the end of the year. The indicator does not include investment companies, mutual funds, or other collective investment vehicles.

Total Listed Equities

This is the total amount of preferred stock equity added to the amount of common stock equity. When a private company wishes to go public to issue shares, it needs to select an exchange on which to be listed. In this regard, it must be able to meet that exchange's requirements and pay both the exchange's entry and yearly listing fees.

Government Stock (bonds)

It is a bond issued by a national government, generally with a promise to pay a periodic interest payment and to repay the face value on the maturity date. Government bonds are usually denominated in the country's own currency. Another term similar to government bond is sovereign bond. Technically any bond issued by a sovereign entity is a sovereign bond but sometimes the term is used to refer to bonds issued in a currency. The features of the capital market can be summarized

Market Size of the NSE

The market size can be measured by; the number of listed companies and their growth rate, the size of market capitalization and its growth rates and the market capitalization ratio (i.e. ratio of value of shares listed to GDP).

Market Concentration

Market concentration refers to the share of market capitalization accounted for by the dominant companies especially the multinational firms as opposed to indigenous firms, e.g. ratio of selected largest stock to total capitalization in the market.

Efficiency of the assets pricing process in the Nigeria Securities Market

In an efficient market, prices fully and correctly reflect all available and relevant information and security prices adjust instantaneously to new information. Market efficiency operates at three levels;

- > Weak market efficiency
- > Semi strong market efficiency
- > Strong market efficiency

Liquidity of the NSE

In a more general sense, liquidity of a stock market relates to the ease with which shares are traded in the market. This can be measured by the two main indices: Ratio of the securities traded to GDP (total value traded/GDP). The turnover ratio (i.e. % value of share traded/market capitalization).

Macroeconomic instability in the country has continued to be a hindrance in the effective operations of the Nigerian capital market indicators and its use to access the market operations at large. Macroeconomic policies that would ensure long-term stability are essential in attracting a sustainable long term investments. Such policies should be conducive to both savings and investment through growth in market size, liquidity, efficiency and market concentration which should stimulate growth in the economy. Policies must ensure an attractive long-term yield for equities in comparison with other domestic and foreign investment alternatives. Frequent fluctuations in exchange rates and negative real rates of return on investments often force investors to move to other investment outlets or out of the economy entirely.

Financial market and by implication financial development according to is essential for the overall growth of an economy and should constitute an important aspect of public policy. Since the adoption of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986, in an attempt to quicken the recovery of the economy from its deteriorating conditions, a great deal of interest has been shown in the activities and development in the financial sector. This is so because

the restructuring of this sector was a central component of the SAP reform. A growing body of evidence suggests that financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies and financial markets, stock markets, bond markets, derivative markets and so on, exert a powerful influence on economic development, poverty alleviation, and economic stability (Levine, 1991).

Evidences of positive effect of capital market development on economic growth have been reported by some researchers. For example, Nazir SM, Nawaz MM, Gilani (2010) report that economic growth can be attained by increasing the size of the stock market and market capitalization in an emerging market. Similarly, Levine (1996) show that stock market development is positively and robustly associated with economic growth and development. Unfortunately, Nuhui (2008) report that there are evidences that show that the establishment and development of capital markets in developing countries have contributed more negatively to economic growth, because these countries tend to have high rates of volatility in the prices of securities, market illiquidity, less regulated and organized markets, and volatile macroeconomic environments relative to capital markets in most developed countries.

This study therefore seeks to explain the link between capital market indicators and economic growth in Nigeria between 1986 and 2015. Capital markets are significant drivers of economic growth which is measured by the relevant indicators and growth in this market could fuel a long term increase in the growth rate of the economy. Capital market support economic growth by providing new sources of funding for long term investment and facilitates the improvement in corporate governance. More so, the different components of capital markets help to accelerate growth of the economy.

According to Nigerian Capital Market Statistical Bulletin (2010), some of the selected African stock market indicators were number of listed companies, market capitalization, global equity indices and turnover ratio. There has been difficulty in getting data in most of these indicators due to their inexistence at the inception of Nigeria Stock Market within the 1980's. However, data from this establishment between 2006 and 2010 showed that Nigeria had 202, 212, 213, 214, 215 number of listed companies respectively. Market capitalization within the above stated period had 32,819.36, 86,346.84, 49,802.82, 33,324.90, and 50,882.97 correspondingly. Turnover ratio also recorded 13.6, 28.2, 29.3, 11.0, 12.5, 34.0, 108.3, -35.4 and 20.3 in that same order with the exception of 2008 where no record was found in this statistical book.

In 2016, market capitalization dropped to the tune of over N1trillion due to lack of investors' confidence. However, most stakeholders attributed the prolonged lull in the equities market and economy in general to tight macroeconomic policies, falling crude oil prices which thwarted stakeholders expectations and led to the exit of foreign investors. Statistics revealed that despite the planned market recovery supported by the capital market regulators, the Nigerian stock exchange market closed for the year as one of the worst performing markets across the globe, due largely to sell pressure by panicky foreign and local investors. At the last count, monthly foreign inflows outpaced outflows as foreign inflows decreased by 23.51 per cent from N24.41 billion in September to N18.67 billion in October 2016.

Also, foreign outflows as of October 2016 amounted to N12.57 billion as against N19.18 billion in September, representing a decrease of 34.46 per cent. The total transactions at the nation's bourse decreased significantly by 32.44 per cent from N94.77 billion recorded in September 2016 to N64.03 billion (about 0.21 billion dollars) in October 2016. Similarly, total transactions from January to October 2016 decreased significantly by 40.55 per cent from N1.67 trillion

recorded within the same period in 2015 to N991.11 billion in 2016. The nation's market scenario, according to analysts, pointed to the need for increased participation of domestic investors, especially institutional investors as well as introduction of new tradable products to deepen the market. Records of trading on (Agency Report; 2016) showed that the equity market dipped by over seven per cent year to date due to massive sell-off due to the disappearance of investors' confidence.

Theoretical Framework

Modern Portfolio Theory

Portfolio theory is about finding the balance between maximizing your return and minimizing your risk. The objective is to select your investments in such a way as to diversify your risks while not reducing your expected return. While it does not replace the role of an informed investor, it can provide a powerful tool to complement an actively managed portfolio.

A portfolio probably consists of a number of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The mix of these assets constitutes portfolio allocation. How a portfolio is allocated determines its performance. During the first quarter of every year, investors typically spend a few hours reallocating their retirement accounts. Most allocation decisions are based on past performance, feelings, or some arbitrary selection process.

Endogenous Growth Theory

A number of theories and empirical papers such as (The World Bank Review 1996) have recommended that stock market development affect economic growth in developing countries. It has been a challenge in discussing the channels through which stock markets stimulate economic growth. In traditional growth theory, the growth rate is a positive function of exogenous technical progress. However, financial development is not related to economic growth, but to physical capital per worker (Pagano, 1993). On the other hand, endogenous growth models show that economic growth performance is related to financial development, technology and income distribution. Greenwood (1990) argued that income per capita helps determine membership in an information processing intermediacy that in turn improves investment decisions and economic growth. They incorporated the role of financial factors in models of endogenous growth to formalize the interactions between financial markets and economic growth. Due to the advances in the endogenous growth literature, recent models have been trying to identify the mechanism through which financial markets influence economic growth. Various channels have been suggested, firstly, financial markets can affect economic growth through efficient resource allocation. King GR, Levine (1993) proposed a model in which innovation activities serve as the engine of growth. A higher rate of successful innovations results in a higher growth rate of productivity.

In the absence of financial markets, one might invest in projects that can be promptly liquidated, instead of investing in assets that are more productive but financially illiquid. Markets can provide individuals with less risky and liquid productive investments. Secondly, financial markets can influence economic growth through the information channel. For example, Popoola (2014) argue that stock markets function as a monitor of managerial performance because the stock price incorporates performance information that cannot be extracted from a firm's current or future data. In the short run, growth is determined by moving to the new steady state which is created only from the change in the capital

investment, labor force growth and depreciation rate. The change in the capital investment is from the change in the savings rate.

The Cobb-Douglas production function denoted as $F(K, L) = K^a L^{1-a}$ means that the output (the quantity produced) is a function of the inputs capital (K) and labor (L) and the marginal product of capital is the ratio of capital income to output (that is, GDP). However, economic growth is affected by labor in terms of average hours worked per worker to output and the quality of the labor force (that is, human capital). More so, growth comes through capital stock in terms of investment in the physical stock, growth in capital stock and composition of the physical capital. Technology also affects both human and physical capital.

Financial Liberalization Theory

The Financial Liberalization hypothesis as developed by McKinnon (1981) sees the role of government intervention in the financial markets as a major constraint to savings mobilization, investment, and growth. Government's role in controlling interest rates and directing credit to priority sectors of the economy in developing countries inhibits savings mobilization and impedes the holding of financial assets, capital formation, and economic growth. Indirectly, ceiling on deposit interest rates discourages financial savings, which leads to excess liquidity outside the banking system. According to McKinnon (1981), pervasive government intervention and involvement in the financial system through the regulatory and supervisory network, particularly in controlling interest rates and the allocation of credit, tends to distort financial markets. Government intervention, thus adversely affect savings and investment decision of market participants and lead to fragmentation of financial mediation. The ultimate result is a financial repressed economy. The central idea of (Joseph Stiglitz and Andrew Weiss, 1981) is that financial markets should be liberalized and allocation of credit determinant by the free market. In this case, the real interest rate will adjust to its equilibrium levels and low yielding projects will be eliminated. This will lead to increase in overall efficiency of investment, savings and total real supply of credit would increase. This in turn induces a higher volume of investment which will then lead to economic growth.

The main critique of the financial liberalization theory emanates from the imperfect information Paradigm. This school of thought disagrees with the proposition of these scholars and examines the problem of financial development in the context of information asymmetry and costly information that results in credit rationing. As observed by (Schumpeter 1911), asymmetric information leads to two serious problems, first, adverse selection and second, moral hazard. The implication is that the information asymmetries of higher interest rates which actually follow financial reforms and financial liberalization policies in particular exacerbate risk taking throughout the economy and hence threatens the stability of the financial system, which can easily lead to financial crises while the Feedback theory suggests a two-way causality between economic growth and financial development. The analysis is as follows: A country with well - developed financial markets could stimulate and promote high economic growth through technology changes, and product and services innovation Schumpeter (1981); this in turn will create high demand in financial arrangements and services. As the financial institutions effectively respond to this demand, higher economic performance is ensured. In this regard, both financial development and economic growth are positively interdependent and their relationship could lead to feed back causality.

Empirical Review

Oluwatosin *et al.* (2013) examined the impact of Nigerian capital market on economic growth and development between 1999 and 2012. Data were sourced from Security Exchange Commission reports, Nigerian Stock Exchange Review Reports, and Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin respectively. Ordinary least square method of regression analysis was used to analyze the data. The result shows that capital market indices have not significantly impacted on the GDP. It was concluded that capital market in Nigeria has the potential of growth inducing but it has not contributed significantly to the economic growth of Nigeria because of low market capitalization, low absorptive capitalization, illiquidity, and misappropriation of funds among others. The study recommends that government should restore confidence to the market through regulatory authorities which will portray transparency, fair trading transactions and dealing in the stock exchange, improve dealing in the market capitalization by encouraging more foreign investors to participate in the market and also to increase investments instruments such as derivatives, convertibles, swap and option in the market.

Popoola (2014) empirically examined whether the stock market promotes economic growth and development in Nigeria. The study posits that stock market is a common feature of a modern economy and it is reputed to perform some necessary functions, which promote the growth and development of the economy. Ordinary Least Squares regression (OLS) was employed using the data from 1984 to 2008. The results indicated that there is a positive relationship between economic growth and the stock market development variables used. With almost 95.77 percent R-squared and 94.92 percent adjusted R-squared, the result showed that economic growth in Nigeria is adequately explained by the model for the periods of 25 years (i.e. from 1984 to 2008). By implications 95.77 percent of the variation in the growth of economic activities is explained by the independent variables. The results of the research, established positive links between the stock market development and economic growth, suggests the pursuit of policies geared towards rapid development of the stock market. Also, all sectors of the economy should act in a collaborative manner such that the optimum benefits of linkages between stock market and economic growth can be realized in Nigeria.

Onyekachi and Odi (2013) examined the impact of capital market reform on the growth of Nigerian economy. The capital market reform was proxied by Market Capitalization, All Share Index and Total Volume of Transaction on the growth of Nigerian economy proxied by gross domestic product (GDP). The study postulates that if capital market reforms are effective, the economy will grow well. The scope of the study spanned from 1990 to 2011. A stationarity test was carried out using the Augmented Dickey- Fuller test (ADF) and Phillip-Perron test (PP) and stationarity found at first difference at 5% level of significance. The Johansen-Juselius cointegration technique employed in this study proved to be superior to the Engle and Granger (1987) approach in assessing the co-integrating properties of variables, especially in a multivariate context. The result of the test indicates 1 co-integration equations at 5 percent level of significance. The study also applied Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) to determine the short-run relationship between capital market reform and economic growth in Nigeria. The result of our analysis shows that capital market reform significantly influences the rate of economic growth in Nigeria. The study also found that long-run relationship exists between capital market reform and economic growth in Nigeria. We therefore recommend that, having seen that there exists a long-run relationship between GDP and explanatory

variables (MACP, ALSI and TVT) through the use of co-integration test; it implies that government can adopt policies that will help capital market contribute to the growth of Nigerian economy and lastly, to boost All Share Index in the Nigerian capital market, there is need for availability of more investment instruments such as derivatives, convertibles, futures, swaps, and options in the market.

Odita and Oghoghomeh (2013) studied resource mobilization for long term economic development, an insight into the role of the Nigerian capital market. The authors modeled the effect and importance of the Nigerian capital market, as a veritable source of medium and long term development. The data collected were from the Central Bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin and the Security and Exchange Commission from the period of 2001 to 2010. The SPSS statistical tool was used to analyze the data. The economic development was proxy by gross domestic product (GDP), while the capital market variables considered included the annual market capitalization (AMe) and the total volume of transactions (TVT). Findings revealed that there was a positive relationship between the capital market activities and gross domestic product, although the relationship was not statistically significant. The study recommended that the more fundamental issue of building investor confidence must be addressed through transparency, fair trading transactions, political stability and social security; stringent requirements for entry into the market should be relaxed and adequate publicity should be given to the activity of the capital market.

Methodology

This study employed a time series data from 2009--2018 and was sourced from www.worldbankdata.org/indicator. In order to measure the impact of capital market indicators on poverty level in Nigeria, we used their proxies as variables of interest. That is, growth rate of GDP was used to proxy economic growth, market capitalization percentage of GDP (MCAPGDP), stock traded total value percentage of GDP (STTVGDP) are the selected capital market indicators for this study, while money supply percentage of GDP (M2GDP), real interest rate (RINTR) and gross capital formation % of GDP (GCFGDP) are financial indicators as well as control variables.

Model Specification

This study adopted a multiple linear regression method which is in use by many authors because it emphasis on specifying more than two different variables for estimation. We therefore specify the model of this study in a functional form using the selected variables as;

$$GGDP = f(MCAPGDP, STTVGDP, M2GDP, GCFGDP, RINTR) \quad (1)$$

This equation is linearly expressed as;

$$GGDP_t = \rho_0 + \rho_1 MCAPGDP_{t-1} + \rho_2 STTVGDP_{t-1} + \rho_3 M2GDP_{t-1} + \rho_4 GCFGDP_{t-1} + \rho_5 RINTR_{t-1} + \epsilon_t \quad (2)$$

Where:

GGDP = Growth rate of GDP
MCAPGDP = Market capitalization percentage of GDP

STTVGDP = Stock traded total value percentage of GDP

M2GDP = Money supply percentage of GDP

GCFGDP = Gross capital formation % GDP

RINTR = Real interest rate = Error term

Data Presentation and Analysis

In this study, the data obtained through secondary source are presented and analyzed. Data on two research questions and hypotheses stated were also presented. Results derived through the use of regression analysis, Paired Samples Correlations and t-Test are presented and interpreted.

	Years	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Stock Market Indicator	2009-2018	10	18.70	6.24	1.97
Poverty Level	2009-2018	10	11.49	5.24	1.66

Source: Descriptive Statistics Results using SPSS version 24

The mean score of Stock Market Indicator from 2009-2018 is 18.70 and standard deviation of 6.24 with Std. Error Mean of 1.97; while the mean score of Poverty Level from 2009-2018 is 11.49 and standard deviation of 5.24 with Std. Error Mean of 1.66.

Ho₁: Stock Market Indicators have no significant differences on Poverty Level in Nigeria.

Paired Samples Correlations and t-Test

			N	Correlation	T	Df	Sig.
Pair 1	Stock Market Indicator & Poverty Level		10	.907	8.582	9	.000

The result of this study shows strong and positive correlation with the value of 0.91 which indicate there are significant differences between Stock Market Indicators and Poverty Level in Nigeria. In this case, the significance level is 0.000 (less than .05), and the t-value of 8.58 with 9 degrees of freedom ($df = n-1$), and so we therefore reject the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significantly affect between the two variable.

Ho₂: Stock Market Indicators have no significant effects on Poverty Level in Nigeria from 2009-2018.

Model Variables	R	R ²	B	F	t	P-value
Constant	0.91	0.82	2.76	37.3	1.13	.293
Poverty Level	-	-	0.76	-	6.11	.000

Source: Linear Regression Analysis Results using SPSS version 24

Note: Regression significant at 5% level of significance.

Interpretation

$y = X_1 + C$ where C is the constant.

Predicted $y = 0.76X_1 + 2.76$

Results and Discussion

The value of 0.91 indicates good linear regression with 82% of the variation in the dependent variable revealed by the coefficient of determination (R^2), while the remaining 18% was due to other factors not presumed in the variation model. The result above revealed that the intercept (constant) of the equation is 2.76. This value of 0.000 is positive and significant since P-value is less than 0.05 level of significant, indicating Interest rate will increase by beta 0.76 and t of 6.11. Since the result shows that the null hypothesis was rejected it implied that Stock Market Indicators have significant effects on Poverty Level in Nigeria from 2009-2018.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examined the impact of capital market indicators on poverty level in Nigeria from 2009- 2019. The result of this study shows strong and positive relationship between the Stock Market Indicators and Poverty Level in Nigeria. Therefore we reject the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significantly affect between the two variable. significance level is 0.000 (less than .05), and the t-value of 8.58 with 9 degrees of freedom ($df = n-1$), and so we therefore reject the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significantly affect between the two variable.

It is the opinion of this study that activities in the Nigeria capital market need to be constantly evaluated using the relevant capital market indicators and making those indicators the focus of policy and investment decision. The results obtained in this study have a number of policy

implications for both the monetary authorities and the national governments. In all stages of economic growth in Nigeria, great reliance has been placed on the stock market as the medium of interaction which facilitates the exchange of the long-term funds within the nation's economic units to achieve an optimal financial flow so as to reduce poverty through optimization of investment and growth. For the stock market to achieve this objective, it is recommended that policy makers should ensure improvement in the market indicators as these indicators have indirect connection to reduction of poverty in the country. More companies should be encouraged to get listed on the floor of the market. Small and medium entrepreneurs should be allowed to access the market for investible funds given their close affinity with the grass root funds mobilization ability. This will not only spur huge economic activities in the country but will drastically reduce poverty. The study also recommends that capital market development policy should focus on the increase of money supply as this will stimulate the growth of the economy especially through increase in market capitalization. More so, there should be deliberate policy to promote development of domestic capital formation through conscious increase in local investment so as to benefit from its positive relationship with poverty level.

This study has contributed to knowledge by bringing to fore the relationship and effect of capital market indicators on poverty level. The findings which shows a strong positive relationship means that regulatory authorities ought to ensure that stock market indicators are improved so as to reduce poverty in the study area.

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