Social Security programmes for children and Socio-Economic Developments in Rivers State 2007-2020

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Abstract

This work on social security and socio-economic development in Rivers State, wascarriedout to cover the period between 2007-2020.Social security was conceptualizes firstly as the protection provided by the society for individual or a social group against a fall in their standards of living as a result of temporary adversity, secondly, social security was seen as the amelioration by the society of those standards of living of individuals or social group which are below an acceptable minimum levels. The study adopted the social deprivation theory which has as its chief proponents, Pieson (2012), Pethgrew (1967) Smith (2001) and so no. the crux of the theory is that a socially deprived person is most likely to havelimited access to the social world due to some factors bothering on the deprivation of basic capabilities as lack of freedom,, reduced opportunities, freedom

of speech, political voice or even human dignity. Literatures on social security and socio-economic development were reviewed as the secondary sources of data, while primary data were obtained using structure questionnaires, the analysis of the data collected led the study to conclude that, the Rivers State Government social security programme had an enormous impact an socio-economic development on not only the state at large but also on the individual lives of citizens and residence. The study therefore recommended the resuscitationof all social security programme of the state especially the free medical programme.

Key words: Social Security, Socio-Economic Development, Development.

1.1 Background to the study

Social security has been the concern of many nations over the years, having noted the need for solidarity and risk pooling by the society as it has become more evident that no single individual can guarantee his or her own security. Most developed nations have engineered sophisticated institutional arrangements in order to protect their citizens against risk and provide assistance. The vulnerability of man to the risk and uncertainties associated with human capital development and life sustenance especially for children is never in doubt, therefore to ameliorate this risk, everyone is in need of some form of social security guarantee either within the traditional (informal) or modern (formal) settings.

In Nigeria, like other developing nations, families, children of the aged and the community at large has been at the fore front of providing social security in the form of food, shelter and care for the old people, siblings, near kins and the society vulnerable before the institutionalization of modern means of providing social security by the government. The African extended family system provides a very good example of a traditional social security institution or mechanism through which the societies vulnerable get some form of social security assistance to cushion the effects of life's rough edges by the provision of food, shelter, clothing and care. The Nigerian government has also bought the idea of providing social security of some sought for hercitizen either through the contributory or noncontributory social security programme

The totality of what constitutes social security has been largely neglected, where it's been addressed, the primacy has been on 'welfare" hand outs and pronto poverty alleviation strategies targeted at adults only. Therefore we endorses the opinion of Egbule and Ugoji (2004) cited in Mezieobi and Nwaosu(2017) that social development should include all systemic and progressive transformation of some aspects of social life which directly affects man's living conformity to acceptable practices and social order in the bid to make man's life current in sustainability. Researchers in the areas of social security have been dissatisfied with the level of social security protection programme for the population especially as it relates to orphans and other vulnerable individuals in the society who for age lacks the capacity or legal right to engage in productive labour to help themselves.

In most developing countries like Nigeria, being orphaned at a tender age is more or less a sentence to a life of hardship, destitution and poverty, most children who falls within the category of orphans and vulnerable children end up suffering abuses by those who are charged with the responsibility of care taking. These abuses often come in deferent forms, either physical, psychological, emotional, mental, sexual and so on .while others are forced into the labour market at an early age, working in most cases in extremely harsh conditions. Musovo(2007) cited in Poroma, Deedam, Agormoh, and Diri, (2018) posited that many reasons could be adduced for child labour, which includes poverty, lack of education, lack of adequate deterrent laws against child labour, illiteracy, child poverty, marriage breakdown, and the lack of social safety nets. This they said goes to affect the socio-economic development of the state, consequently they opined that there is the need for a well thought out policy and programme for the care of children , ensuring greater access to social services for better social conditions that will eliminate poverty. this work therefore aim to investigate the overall effect of social security programmes, policies and schemes for children on the socio-economic development of the state and it overall impact on poverty reduction, crime, health and wellbeing and the resultant effects on vulnerable children of a decrease or total collapse of such scheme.

Therefore it has become pertinent that, from the cradle to the grave, humans everywhere are in need of care and support and of all things that makes life comfortable and worth living. This study is set out to ascertain if the River State

government has any form of social security programme for children, what the components of this social security programme of the Rivers state government for the society including vulnerable children are, and finally to identify the impact of these social security programme of the state government on socio-economic development of the people, looking at the indices of development, including Poverty reduction, health and well-being, labour market impact and so on.

This research examines how the guarantee of social security programmes of the Rivers State Government for children impacted on the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in the society in the areas of their health care, living conditions and education. The current growing interest of researchers on social security programmes, policies and schemes, it has become very pertinent to identify and note the impact of an effective implementation of a well-funded social security programme will have on the development of the state, especially as the efforts of government is now directed at improving social security pension scheme for the old and the need to balance budgetary provisions, guarantee financial stability amidst the challenges of pressure to further reform the social security system to accommodate more individuals and the needs to enhance development.

1.3 Research Questions:

In carrying out this research work we shall attempt to provide answers to the following questions:

1. What social security programmes for children do the Rivers State Government have in place?
2. What is the impact of the Rivers State Government social security programmes for children on socio-economic development?

1.4 Objectives of the Study:

The following shall constitute the central objectives of this study.

(i) To identify the social security programmes of the Rivers State Government for children

(ii) To determine the impact of the Rivers State Government social security programmes forchildren on the socio-economic development of the state.

1.5 Hypotheses

This work is anchored on the following hypotheses.

(i) Rivers State Government social security programmes do no contribute to socio- economic development.

2.1 The concept of Social Security and Socio Economic Development: Since the end of the cold War, Scholars have identified strong links between security and development. (NwanegboandOdigbo, 2013; Chandler, 2007). The argument has centered on conflict induced underdevelopment. The plausible consensus of security and development literatures is that, the two are different and yet inseparable concepts that affects each other, thus according to Chardlar (2007) and Stan (2004) the issue has triggered a barrage of debates on the security – development nexus. Many scholars have adduced varying and sometime complicating definition and interpretation of the word security. Nweke (1999) looking at it from the national perspective, interpreted it to mean, guidance against internal and external threat, regime maintenance and the achievement of an acceptable level of economic viability. While Abba (1996) is of the view that security, means the protection of lives, rights of citizen, resource, territory, sovereignty and lawful institution which must utilize the resources of the nation for the provision of secured, just and equitable living conditions for all.

Narrowing the security down to country specifics, the indices of Nigerian security problems will include the unsure security of lives and property, poverty, unemployment, hunger, disease and illiteracy. Fukuyama (1992) opined that, if people are impoverished, the national security is thus threatened. At the center of the forgoing is the issue of human security, anything that threatens the life, rights and existence of the people is a security threat, and therefore inimical to development. These threats may include financial/economic crisis, aging population, high level of youth unemployment, transition to a market based economy and the issues of structural adjustment. These are issues positioned within the domain of social protection, for which a nation's social security system is programmed to cater for as to engender social stability and social justice as well as socio economic developments. On the need to give a suitable and workable definition to social security in a developing country, Leliveld (1991) argued that the definition given to social security determines to a large extent how the scheme

functions; therefore arrived at the following as the definition of social security. "a social security firstly is the protection by society of individual or social group against the fall in their standards of living as a result of temporary adversities, and secondly, the amelioration, by society of those standards of living of individuals or social groups which are below an acceptable minimum level's (Leliveld, 1991, The two sides to this definition is that, social security is aimed at protecting the abysmal fall of a certain group below an acceptable poverty level, and on the other hand it improves the living condition of another social group.

Humans everywhere, without regards to levels of socio economic development or region of domiciliary, is at risk of certain forms of social problems, this problem could be in the form of sickness, work injuries, accident, unemployment or loss of employment, poverty and the need for care at old age. This problem does require both material and non-material help from society, the institution and extension of social security tends to mitigate the effect of these anomalies by providing safety nets for vulnerable individuals and social groups. According to Vobruba, (1998) social security policies has a macroeconomic justification as it plays a major stabilizing role in economic development by enhancing the stability of demand for consumer goods thereby making its constant. Baveridge, (1943) drew attention to the connection between social security as an inbuilt stabilizing mechanism and socio economic development, when he wrote in 1942 that "if unemployment benefits are made as high as is at all compatible with the preservation of a fluid labour market and the incentive for the individual to find work rather than enjoy himself, then the purchasing power of the working classes will be protected when a crisis begins, and the violence of depression will be reduced"(Baveridge,1943). In alluding to this Von Hauff (2004) stated that, social security is the responsibility of the state, the system is to create a safety net to protect the population against social risk and to ensure adequate standard of living, in conclusion he queried why it is often forgotten that social security can make substantial contribution to the socio economic development of either an industrialized nation or a developing nation. Kolawale (2008) prescribed some development strategies a development planner can choose from, amongst which are economic growth strategy, human capital formation/development strategy, human welfare, here referred as social security strategy and grass-root sustainable human development strategy. Most government has adopted at one point or the other, one or more of these strategies.

The human welfare strategy has been a preferred human capital development strategy of many developing states.

The handling of social society issues in a developing county's governmental structure are often very challenging. More than half a decade after the creation of Rivers State, the population still struggles with base line economic and development issues. The state is still ranked amongst the educationally less advantaged states in the country. Crime rate is high, underemployment among youths is rift, these despite the fact that the state occupies a prominent position in the committee of states as an oil producing state.

Rivers State which is often referred to as a microcosm of Nigeria, the state also have had her fair share of the high level of poverty that is manifest in the country. Therefore, a well-articulated perspective of social security programs must come from the political leadership. Unfortunately, the increased challenges of insecurity and other socio-economic development indices according to Ali (2013) is as a rebuilt of leadership failure and the inability to guarantee human security as a form of social welfare based on the principles of equity, freedom and justice. An integrated social security framework according to Norton, Conway and Foster (2001) is unlikely to take off unaided from technocrats. It is, therefore most desirable that other units of government other than the specialized social welfare agencies become centrally involved in the development of public policies. In the approach to the development of an effective poverty reduction strategy which has the capacity to engender socio-economic development, there is the need for developing countries to ensure great political skill to facilitate the consensus on which the population is willing to see tax funded resources go towards social security and the social protection of the poor, old people, vulnerable children and other social groups.

A robust socio-economic development is the aim, goals and target of every wellmeaning political leadership. The bulk of these socio-economic development is dependent on strict economic activities and core development issues of security. The absence of security, either as hard or soft security is an invitation to underdevelopment and the distortion of both social and human capital. This state of affairs has led some scholars to place emphases on conceptualization of security

as the absence of threat to peace, stability, national cohesion and the socio political and economic objectives of a state.(Igbuzor, 2011, Oche, 2001, NwaneboandOdigbo2013). Thus, Oladeto and Folorunso (2017) agreed that security is a panacea to development and economic growth.

Articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enacted by the United Nations, declare social security and the access to the same as a basic human right. In the same way, the Social Security (minimum standards) Convention 102 adopted by the International Labour Organization ILO in 1952 also prescribed the minimum benefits in important areas of social security, also the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen 1995 did emphasize the establishment and incremental expansion of social security schemes as a panacea for widespread socio economic development and the global fights against poverty.

With the prime place given to social security in the discus of development policy(s), National and International Development Organizations are increasingly getting involved in the reform and the further development of social security system. This as a result of economic and demographic changes, substructural changes which have led to changing conditions in many developing countries. The increasing expectations of the working population in the economically expanding sector, a decline in the poverty level, in the informal sector, the range or degree of cover by the scheme, the efficiency of social security systems especially in developing countries have all worked together to necessitate the need for adjustment of the social security system. (Van Hauff, 2004, Jager, 2001). NwanguandOnonogbu (2014) have contended that despite the fact that, the executive heads of the 36 state governments and the 774 local government councils enjoy security votes, the huge fund allocated to this accounting subhead has not translated into better and more secured environment that is supportive of sustainable socio economic development. The prevailing public opinion the duo said is in total support of the abrogation of security votes on the grounds that it is not economically sustainable in the face of the nation's dwindling economic fortunes. Rather, greater emphasis should be paid to the human component of the national security, otherwise known as "soft security" which they said involves the conscious formulation and effective implementation of policies and programs that will accelerate the mitigation of the effects of poverty, exploitation, diseases,

injustice and vulnerability to enhance socio economic development. The summary of the deposition of Nwangu and Ononogbu (2014) is that, rather than governments at the state level spending money on "hard security" such resources should be channeled towards a viable social security scheme (soft security) as the trickled down effect of a well thought out and properly implemented social security program has the capacity not just only to ameliorate the suffering of the population or a targeted social group but also act as a catalyst to spur economic development. Nnoli (2006) shared in the views of Nwangu and Ononogbu (2014), when he stated that; political exclusion, economic marginalization, and social discrimination threaten the security of citizens to such an extent that they now view the state as the primary source of threat to their survival,this Nnoli (2006) opined may anger the victimized citizen to take the laws into his own hand, the government haven failed to guarantee the protection of human security.

Socio-economic development is a product of development and can be seen as the process of social and economic transformation in the society. Every changes of economic nature that takes place in the social sphere is the concern of socio-economic development. The apparatus for the measurements of socio-economic development is Gross Domestic

Product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy, employment rate and other less tangible factors as freedom of speech, personnel dignity, freedom from fear of physical harm, the ability to participate in civil society and community activities etc. The incorporation of social security into development planning have been advocated since the mid 1960's. This was in recognition of the effect of social security transferred payment on aggregate savings which is capable of laying a ground work for a more productive economy in the future. The often overlook of social security by development planners as a development engineer is associate with the prima facea antagonistic outlook of economics and social development policies, given the degree of austerity imposed upon the limited resource available to especially emerging nations for the satisfaction of the collective economic demands of her citizen (ILO.1966). Both economic and social development policies are aimed at improving the welfare of the population, the integration of social security programmes within the economic plan does not necessarily imply the subordination of social security to economic growth. A social security program,

need not work at cross purpose with the objectives of development planning, the integration of social security policies into development planning can actually help in the actualization of economic development.

Social Deprivation Theory

Social deprivation entails the reduction or prevention of a normal cultural interaction between an individual or group of individual and the rest of the society. Social deprivation is included in the general rubric of relative deprivation theory as put forward by Samuel stuffer (1962) the term social deprivation though slightly ambiguous, included a broad network of related factors that contributes to social exclusion including poverty, poor education and low social economic status of the affected individual.

A socially deprived person is most likely to have limited access to the social world for some factors bothering on the deprivation of basic capabilities as lack of freedom, which may include a reduced opportunity, freedom of speech, political voice or even human dignity. Pierson (2012) identity the five main factors that contributes to social exclusion, which includes poverty, lack of access to job opportunities, denial of social support, exclusion from services and negative attitude of the local neighborhood. Social exclusion is also commonly associated with abusive care talking, development delay, mental illness and suicide in several cases of social deprivation or exclusion.

Children ran the risk of being exposed to abnormal social experiences by care givers.

According to Pethgrew, (1967), Smith (2001), Relative Deprivation become a major social science concepts because social judgments are shaped and not only by absolute standard, but also set by social comparisons. A child who is socially deprived, excluded or suffered abusive caretaking during the critical period of childhood is at risk of difficulties in obtaining normal social behaviors and my even ps denied access to social supports, that child is most likely to come out poor, and uneducated, the inability to receive a fair share of economic resources will fuel the increased gap in socio economic status, this low status will further become social deprivation based on the lack of access and opportunity of a political voice,

which in turn restrict his involvement and participation in the community . The non-participation in the labour market, lack of access to basic services further reduces inclusion of social relation which consist of events such as social activities, support in times of need. This critical aspect of support in times of need to get up and about is what social society does for vulnerable children and therefore substantiates the appropriateness of this theory to the study.

Findings on the Availability of Social Security Programmes for Children.

Table1.1. Actual Response based on access to and the knowledge of access to social security programs in the state

S/NO	Name of communities	Free Sch. Bus	Free Medical	PH children Home	Remand Home	Rehabilitation Centre	Unempl. benefits	F/Welfare
1	Port Harcourt	44	36	6	1	-	39	28
2	Okehi	10	27	3	-	1	27	13
3	Okirika	29	21	5	2	-	32	29
4	Bori	35	40	1	-	1	30	27
5	Asarama	7	2	-	1	-	17	11
6	Oyigbo	40	38	1	-	2	25	30
7	Omoku	18	26	2	-	1	19	23
8	Abonema	22	41	9	1	1	43	39
9	Bonny	-	16	2	-	-	21	10
	Total	205	247	29	5	6	253	210

Source: Field work 2019

Table 1.1 above showing respondent knowledge of, and access to Rivers State government social security programmes indicated that of the 375 respondents, 205 have accessed or knew someone who has accessed and benefited from the Free School Bus programme. That is to say, either they themselves have used the free school Bus or knew someone who has used the school bus provided by the State government. A further look into the distribution of respondents shows that Port Harcourt recorded the higher number of respondents who have either accessed or knew someone who has accessed the programme. Other communities like Bori,

Oyigbo and Okirika that either has boundaries with Port Harcourt or a major town in the state also recorded a high responses in the access to the programme, while Island communities, like Bonny and Asarama shows a very low record on the access to the free school bus programme. Our observation of the reason for this trend of events was anchored on the fact that, these are Islands communities which hitherto does not have direct access and linkage with the state capital Port Harcourt by road, and therefore may not have benefited from the programme the same is the case with Abonema; Omoku and Okehi, though connected by road are not covered by the program going by the policies of government.

Our study revealed also that the Free School Bus programme was basically for school children within the Port Harcourt metropolis while rail road, (train services) of the free school bus program operates between Port Harcourt and Oyigbo, this may very well be responsible for the high response from these two communities.

Response on the access to the state governments Free Medical Programme shows that 247 respondents representing 80.6 % has either access and utilized the services or knew someone who has accessed and used the services rendered under the programme. Apart from Asarama and Bonny, other communities recorded over 60% of respondents who has either accessed by themselves or knew someone who has accessed the services of the Free Medical programme. The low access to the programme recorded in Asarama as revealed by this study is attributed to the lack of medical facility in the community, the nearest health centre to Asarama community is located at Uyanda while the only General Hospital in Andoni Local Government Area is situate at Ngo town a distance of about 7km by sea, therefore logistical issues may have played a major role in the low access to the state government Free Medical Programme while it was revealed for Bonny, that the presence of oil, gas and allied companies in the Island communities with improved medical services to staffs and members of their immediate families, including spouse, children and aged parents may have contributed to the low patronage of the services, provided by the state hence the low response and access to the state program. The Free Medical Programme, the study noted, recorded the highest response as to knowledge and access to services, over and above the school Free Bus Scheme, even though the medical services was reserved for the aged and

children ages between 06years, the reason for this, the study note is the fact that unlike the free school bus scheme, the free medical services is with centered in Port Harcourt metropolis rather, all the local governments headquarters, town and villages with government medical facilities, (Health centers, Cottage Hospitals and General hospital and some private hospitals and clinics) also provides this free medical services to the targeted social group.

From the responses gathered, it appeared that a large portion of the population have very little knowledge of the existence of Port Harcourt Children Home, The Remand Home and the Social Rehabilitation Center and the services they provide. A total number of 29 respondents for the Children's Home, 5 respondents for the Remand

Home and 6 respondents for the Social Rehabilitation Center representing only about 30% of the total respondent affirmed either having accessed the services of either of the 3 homes or knowing someone who has accessed such services. This study further noted that because of the kind of service provided by these home, many are not proud to associate with it's as they find it socially stigmatizing. However two of our respondents recorded in Port Harcourt and Omoku, revealed that they were products of the Port Harcourt Children's Home.

In the overall, 75.8% of our respondents accepted an access to or the knowledge of the services provided by the Family Welfare Programme of the state, While 62.5% affirmed having been affected by the services of the programmes. The programme which services chiefly is to settle family disputes (marital) and secure child's care. the programme of the family welfare unit, has over the years resolve issues relating to many broken homes as well as ensuring that children from failed marriages and home does not suffer the negative effect of a broken home.

As shown by table 1.1 above, 317 respondents are of the view that the social security programmes of the state government are desirable by the population, while about 55 respondents think that social security programmes of the state government are not desirable, 196 respondents out of the 317 who sees the state social security programs as desirable believed that the Free Medical Services made the most impact on the population, 69 respondents thinks it's the free school bus,

while 49 respondents are of the view that the Family Welfare Programme made more impact on the population. Oral interview on the reason for this order of preference shows that, most pensioners' are beneficiaries of the free medical programme and therefore at a cross road as to which of the programmes to choose as having made more impact on their lives. Some claimed that's pension is as of rights having served the state for 35 years meritoriously while the free medical programmes is an added advantage which the governments can withdraw at any time, therefore they believe it has made more significant impact on their lives. The free school bus which 69 respondents said has made more impact was as a result of the age brackets of the respondents in that category as most of them were either direct beneficiary(s) or those whose children directly benefited thereby lifting the financial burden from them.

Majority of our respondents are of the opinion that the inclusion of unemployment benefits as part of the government social security programmes. Most of the respondents who advocated for the inclusion of the unemployment benefit, believes that such payout will reduce the increase poverty rate among the population while those who voted against unemployment benefits felt that it will make many youth too lazy to work as long as they have access to the benefits. Furthermore 80% percent of our respondent believes that lack of fund may have hindered the efficiency and efficacy of social security in the state. It is their believe that with more funding, social security programmes could do much more in improving the living standards of the population, lifting many out of poverty, and engineering the overall development of the state which was the view of 334 of the respondents.

Though the government of Rivers state over the years has instituted social security programmes to cater for the societies vulnerable, however the interest of this study is to examine social security programmes for children between 1999 - 2015, which happened to be the first two (2) administrations of the fourth republic, covering a period of sixteen (16) years. The administration of Sir. Dr. Peter Odili in the year 2000 instituted some social security programmes for children in the state. The Odili's administration which was the first civilian administration of the fourth republic in the state lasted between 1999-2007, apart from keying into the Federal Government policy of Universal Basic Education, which made education free and

compulsory, launched the Free School Bus for all categories of school children within the state, Free medical services for children between the ages of 0-6 years and the elderly who are 60 years and above in all government owned hospitals while the government also undertook the payment for such medical services given to the people under this social group if referred to specialist's hospital within and outside the country.

Launching the Free Medical Care Programme (FMCP) in May 2000, Sir, (Dr.) Peter Odili the executive governor of Rivers State, Stated that the mission of the programme is to reduce the health/economics burden of the residents of Rivers State by providing adequate and efficient health care services to all. As a special form of health care for Rivers citizen, The Governor stated that the Free Medical Care Programme will reduce morbidity and mortality rate in River state by improving the health status of the residents. The programme was targeted at the vulnerable individuals in the society which includes children below the ages of 6 and adults over 60 yrs, pregnant women requiring caesarian section, emergencies within 24 hour, inmates of the Remand Home, the

Children's Home, as well as orthodox clergymen, their wives, members of the Nigerian Legion and the wives of fallen soldiers. The FMCP policy further stated also that, all patients approved for oversea medical treatment by the government will have their bill paid for by the government through the FMCP.

In October 2011, the Free Medical Care Programme, was expanded by the Governor ChibuikeRotimiAmaechi's administration to include all residents of the state who registered into the programme. The expansion initiated by the Amaechi's administration included to cater for all categories of disease which are treated in government facilities. Furthermore the governor announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two private hospitals to continue to provide medical care for FMCP registered participant during of crisis, strike or industrial action by government owned hospital.

Under this policy, twelve (12) private clinics located in different areas of Port Harcourt's and ObioAkpo Local Government Areas were contracted to attend to FMCP patience until february 2015 when the programme was put on withhold due to paucity of fund.

Before then, the Governor, also signed in 2013 another Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with International Trauma and Critical Care Limited (ITCCL) to cater for highly specialized referrals from the government owns health facilities (

Source: Rivers State Governor's Office 2016)

Since the inception of the Free Medical Care Programme, the participating facilities have increase from the initial thirty-six (36) at the onset to One hundred and seventy one (171) by time the programme was suspended in 2015, while seven hundred and forty one thousand (741,000) cases have been treated included natal registrations and deliveries. Another five hundred and thirty five (535) patients accessed the free medical care at designated partner private hospitals while over thirty thousand (30,000) case has been attended to at the Professor Kelsey Harrison Hospital (PKHH) and the Dental and Maxilo Facial Hospital (DMFH) Manager by the (ITCC).

Before the Free School Bus and Free Medical programmes of the state government, the state was known to own and ran the Port Harcourt Children's Home to carter for orphans and vulnerable children, the Remand Home and the Rivers State Government Rehabilitation Centre was added in the wake of Port Harcourt the capital city of Rivers state being one of the designated centers to host the FIFA junior world cup in 1999 and the need arises to keep destitute and homeless persons out of the streets , while the family welfare and other related matter of the Ministry of Social Welfare are housed within the premises of the Government Approved School, Borikiri, Port Harcourt. The foregoing is an indication that the Rivers State Government does actually have some social security programmes for Children in the state. The institutions through which the government ran these social security programs are:

1. The Port Harcourt Children's Home
2. Remand Home Port Harcourt

3. Government Approved School
4. Free medical services
5. Free school Bus

In addition to the marked existence of institutions providing social security for children, the Rivers Government budgetary proposals also shows the allocation of fund for social security programmes to these institutions.

Table 1.2. Rivers State Government Budgetary Allocation for Social Security Programmes to the Ministries of Health, Social Welfare and Rehabilitation 2012-2016

S/N	Name of MDA	Cost Plan 2013-2016	Budget Allocation for 2012	Budget Allocation for 2013	Budget Allocation for 2014	Budget Allocation for 2015
1	MoH General Free Medical Programme	24,000.000.000.00	4,000.000.000.00	1,000.000.000.00	Not available	Nil
2	MoSW&R-PHChildrens Home (Feeding Only)	108,000.000.00	,000.000.00 Feeding only/Education of OVC	,000.000.00 feeding Only	27,000.000.00	27,000.000.00
3	MOSW & R Remand Home Borikiri 9feeding Only)	60,000.000.00	Not Available	15,000.000.00	15,000.000.00	15,000.000.00
4	MOSW & R					

	Social Rehabilitation Center /RISBE (Feeding Only)	120,000.000.00	15,000.000.00	30,000.000.00	30,000.000.00	25,000.000.00
5	MOSW & R Govt. Approved School	58,300.000.00	15,000.000.00	15,000.000.00	15,000.000.00	13,300,000.00
5	Education of OVC MOSW& R	15,000.000.00	Not Available	5,000.000.00	5,000.000.00	5,000.000.00

Source; Adapted from the Rivers State Government Budget 2012, 2013,2014,2015,2016

According to the table, the Rivers State Government Free Medical Programme operated by the state Ministry of Health has a cost plan allocation of N24,000.000.000 (Twenty Billion Naira only) for the year 2013-2016, the Port Harcourt Children's Home, N108,000.000.00 (One Hundred and Eight Million naira) only, the Port Harcourt Remand Home Borikiri, N60,000.000.00 (Sixty Million naira only), Social Rehabilitation Center Iriebe was allocated N120,000,000.00 (One hundred and twenty million naira) only, while the Approved School Borikiri, got N58,300,000.00 (Fifty Eight Million, Three Hundred Thousand Naira) only.

An additional N15, 000.000.00 (Fifty Million Naira only) was allocated to the ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation under the subhead of education of

orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) for the year 2013-2016. Records according to the table, indicates that N4,000.000.00 (Four Million Naira) only was allocated for the Free Medical Programme in the year 2012, while a paltry N1,000.000.00 (One Million naira) only was allocated for the same programme the following year 2013, while there are no records of monetary allocation for the Free Medical Program in the year 2014 and 2015 budget.

The Port Harcourt Children's Home got an allocation of N27,000.000.00 (Twenty seven Million Naira) only for the feeding of the children in each of the year 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 while there are no records of monetary allocations to the Remand Home for the year 2012, the Home however got N15,000.00 (Fifteen Million Naira) for each of the following three years 2013, 2014 and 2015, for the feeding of inmates.

The Social Rehabilitation Center Iriebe got an allocation of N15,000.000.00 (Fifteen Million Niara) in the year 2012 for the feeding of House mates, the amount was doubled the following year 2013 and 2014 to N30,000.000.00 (Thirty Million Naira) each while the allocation to the center recorded a 20% reduction in the year 2015, which brought the total amount accruing to the center to N25,000.000.00 (Twenty Five Million Naira).

The Rivers State Government Approved School Borikiri, also got an allocation of the sum of N15,000.000.00 (Fifteen million Narira) for each year between the year 2012, 2013, 2014 and in the year 2015, the school got the sum of N13,300.000.00 (thirteen Million, Three Hundred Thousand Naira).

Finally according to the table, N5,000.000.00 was allocated for the education of orphans and vulnerable children in the 23 local government areas of the state in each of the years between 2013-2015. There were no records of financial allocation under that sub head in the year 2012.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study concluded that, the Rivers state Government social security programme has an enormous impact in the socio-economic development of the indigenes and residence of the state while it was operational. The programmes has

impacts on poverty reduction and the stimulation of socio-economic development wetting the state.

This study therefore Recommends as follows: that all the discontinued social security programmes of the state Government should be recommenced and expanded to cover the inure stare especially the free medical programmes which has the combined ability to generate employment for residence of the state.

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