POVERTY ALLEVIATION FOR RURAL FARMERS BY LIBRARIANS

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ABSTRACT
The paper deliberated on poverty alleviation to rural farmers by librarians. It discussed type of poverty such as absolute, relative and social exclusion. The causes of poverty; which include low productivity and income, inadequacy of farm land, high illiteracy rate, insufficient storage and processing facilities, inadequate basic amenities and disasters. High unemployment, immorality migration, fear, stress and family planning are effects of poverty. Librarians can alleviate poverty by provision of information to rural farmers in different formats that the farmers can understand through organization of training, presentation and discussion fora for rural farmers, more information on housing, education, occupation, health, marketing. Librarians have to develop strengthened links with local agencies that are engaged in literacy promotion and development, improving storage facilities, provision of employment and forming cooperative societies for the benefits of the rural farmers. The paper concluded that the librarians, the extension workers, government and rural farmers need to understand and address the areas of benefits in order to alleviate poverty to rural farmers by librarians.

INTRODUCTION
According to the European Union’s working definition, poverty is given or defined as “Persons, families and groups of persons whose resources are so limited as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life in the member state to which they belong. Also, poverty is the condition where people basic needs for food, health, education, and shelter are not being met. Therefore, poverty is the state of one with insufficient resources. It is a less money or unbalanced mentality, having not enough economic resources to afford life necessities (insufficient food, accommodation, utilities and so on) to live in comfort. Poverty is when you do not have sufficient income, it means that you are economically challenged. Poverty is about finances and social placement not so much as mental health, though mental health had a connection to poverty status for example 75% of homeless people in North America suffer from some form of mental health. Poverty is a shortage of food, cloth, shelter and portable drinking water, all of which determine our quality of life. It may also include the lack of access to opportunities such as education, employment which aid the escape from poverty and/or allow one to enjoy the respect of fellow citizens. (http://in.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?gid=20090514225641AAWPjob,2003).

It recognizes that poverty is not just about income but also about the effective exclusion of people living in poverty from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities (Oketunji, 2008).

Poverty alleviation therefore is the improvement of the living conditions of people that are already poor. Poverty alleviation is as a result of overall economic growth, increase in food, education, shelter, employment, health, infrastructure, security, productivity.
Therefore poverty alleviation is the strategies used to eradicate poverty. It is a process which seeks to reduce the level of poverty in a community or amongst a group of people or countries. The popular methods used to alleviate poverty are improvement of education, economic development, income redistribution, removing social and legal barriers to income growth among the poor, creation of jobs, training, health, credit, housing, advocacy, rights, social justice, reduction in diseases, material deprivation and other infrastructures. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) publication on multiple languages on hunger and food security, are issued regularly to inform public at national and international level on how standard of living can be improved. The librarian can repackage this information and work with the extension workers on how this information can be converted to the rural farmers for better improvement in the transformation of rural farmers in order to alleviate poverty. (http://www.fao.org/focus/f/women/sustine.htm, 2013). The efforts made to reduce the magnitude of poverty is poverty alleviation.

This paper focuses on poverty alleviation for rural farmers by librarians

TYPES OF POVERTY: The following are types of poverty according to http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/poverty.html (2012):

1. Absolute poverty
2. Relative poverty
3. Social exclusion

Absolute poverty: This occurs when people cannot obtain adequate resources to support a minimal level of physical health. It is the lack of sufficient resources to keep body and soul together. It can be eradicated.

Relative poverty: This occurs when people do not enjoy a minimum level of living standard as determined by government. It is also defined as income or resources in relation to the average. It is concerned with the absence of the material needs to participate fully in accepted daily life.

Social exclusion: social exclusion is a new term used by the government as “a shorthand label” for what can happen when individuals or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown. This type of poverty is vulnerability and it can result to some psychological symptoms such as feelings of insecurity, family planning decisions and migration.

Causes of Poverty to the Rural Farmers

The causes of poverty according to Oketunji (2008) are over population, inadequate education, unequal distribution of resources in the world economy, lack of employment opportunities, environmental degradation, lack of economic and social amenities, welfare incentives and inability to meet high standard of living and costs of living.

Other causes are geographical causes such as access to fertile land, fresh water minerals, energy and other natural resources; social causes as racism, sexism, discrimination, ethnic division, disasters such as drought, flood, erosion, diseases, birth defects, handicaps, historical causes such as colonialism and environmental causes such as climate change and desertification.
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Generally, causes of poverty are:

**Low productivity and income:**
The productivity and income are due to poor subsistence farming and livestock producers that have low inputs and resources. Seventy-five percent (75%) of Nigerian population are farmers that produce food and raw materials for man and industries. These farmers do not have enough money to carry out commercial agriculture but subsistence agriculture and this will lead to low production and low income earned. Inadequate social services has an impact on poor health care, poor sanitation, long distances to schools and low agricultural output which is the main causes of poverty to rural farmers. This is because the farmers do not have the collateral to secure bank loans that will help them to purchase inputs that will assist them to produce massly for commercial purposes. The high interest rates charged by the banks also constitute another problem. For example money for the purchase of land and agricultural tools and machinery, improved seeds, fertilizers, livestock, livestock feeds, drugs, materials for construction of farm house.

Most rural farmers are involved in subsistence agriculture that cannot meet their standard of living. They are unemployed and the farming is the source of their livelihood. Even farmers who get loans at times divert such loans to other purposes such as chieftaincy and marriage ceremonies. These always have severe impact on their health, education, infrastructure and social services that are lacking. (This is in line with Romania’s [http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/_country/home/tags/Romania, 2012](http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/_country/home/tags/Romania, 2012))

In the rural areas unemployment is higher than urban cities. This is due to lack of business opportunities and productive assets experience has shown that wealthy farmers are ever willing to accept and experiment on new farming techniques than very poor or peasant farmers. Most farmers that develop positive attitude toward new innovations are more likely to succeed than those that do not respond at all.

**Inadequacy of farm land:**
Inadequacy of farm land for the rural farmers to farm always lead to decline in productivity and profitability of farming. Deforestation and desert encroachment contribute to lack of land to be used for commercial agriculture resulting to low food production. The bigger the farm the higher the rate at which a farmer will be willing to accept new ideas. Also, the smaller the farm, the slower the rate of adoption of innovation. When the results of demonstrated plots is not good, rural farmers will abandon the whole idea concerning the innovation. The land tenure system also result to inadequacy of farm land which will result to low agricultural production or commercial farming cannot be adequately achieved in such areas except subsistence farming because the land is too small. The agricultural lands are for crop production, livestock production, forestry, wildlife conservation and fisheries. Land use demands careful planning in order to ensure increase agricultural production. In order to use land most efficiently, there is the need to ensure a continuous land use policy which must not change as government changes. Current demand on land centers on agriculture, forestry, wildlife conservation, industry, housing, recreation, transport and so on is as a result of increase in population. However, it is agriculture, forestry and wildlife that make the greatest demands for land. If land is insufficient for food production, then the prices of food will be high due to increase in population. Therefore, some people in the society cannot afford to purchase the food. The above can cause poverty.
High illiteracy rate:
The higher illiteracy rate among rural farmers has affected modern technology utilization and cultures into traditional norms and practices. Most of the rural farmers have difficulties in assimilating the current trends in modern farming. Most of them still stick to their conservative attitude of farming that will still lead to poor yields. This will lead to adverse effect on food supply to the public. If the supply of food is insufficient, then, the prices of food will be skyrocketed out of the reach of the less privileged group, who cannot afford them due to poverty. If one is educated with the level of his/her education uncertainty can be easily addressed than non-educated class of people. The more educated a farmer is, the higher the rate of adoption of innovation. It will take a longer time for an illiterate farmer to accept new ideas in farming. Rural farmers are very uncooperative, hostile and unaccommodating to extension officers due to illiteracy. Since most of the rural farmers are illiterate, assisting or encouraging them to apply fertilizers and chemicals in their farms and accepting new innovations in agriculture which will boost their efficiency and productivity is difficult. This unwillingness to learn and accept modern methods of farming will cause poverty because it affects production rate of farm produces and result to food shortage.

Insufficient storage and processing facilities:
Insufficient storage and processing facilities discourage most farmers from large-scale farming, thus forcing them not to produce enough for their family and other social needs. For example silos, bans, rhombus, cribs and rafters for storing their produce are not enough for future sales when the prices will be encouraging. Processing facilities such as threshers, canning, and sealing machines are insufficient and very expensive and leading to high cost of produce. Therefore improper storage reduces the quantity and quality of farm produce. This make the farmers to sell their farm produce off at cheap rate leading to reduced income to the farmers. This will result to scarcity of food. When there is no enough food for the masses. The prices of food will be high and this will cause poverty.

Inadequate basic amenities:
Inadequate basic amenities such as electricity, hospitals, goods roads, pipe-water, schools and recreational facilities, banks, factories, institutions, have made able-bodied men and youths to move from rural to urban areas in search of non-existing jobs. Poor health-care services reduce the productivity of farmers and shortage of water creates irrigation problem for farmers. Lack of electricity will affect farmers for storage and preservation of their farm products. Bad roads makes distribution of produce to market very difficult and this leads to wastage of food. During raining seasons, some roads are rendered useless and impassable due to bad drainage. Most motor vehicles are inadequate due to high cost of vehicles, spare parts and machineries. The drivers avoid such roads and this leads to high cost of transportation due to bad roads and inadequate vehicles and other means of transportation. Therefore, high cost of transportation increase farmers’ production and produce prices. Also, most farms are not linked to roads and this eventually leads to wastage of food because the farmers will not be able to deliver the goods at the right time. All the above will lead or can cause poverty since the rural farmers are more in terms of production of food for the citizens. If they are not encouraged by providing basic amenities for them, this can cause poverty because it leads to rural-urban migration.
Disaster:
Unpredictable climate generally discourages serious farming activities for example low rainfall leads to poor yield of crops. Environmental degradation such as flooding can lead to destruction of crops, livestock and farmers migrate from area not suitable and comfortable for farming, to suitable areas on the condition that lands will be available in their new locations. Pollution of environment can create health hazards to man and animal. Deforestation reduces rainfall, forest trees, land protection and causes erosion disaster can affect their lives such as housing, clothing, education, food, water, air and employment. This migration can lead to scarcity of laborers resulting to high labour cost therefore leads to high cost of production. Disaster such as flood can lead to displacement of shelters, life and properties, also, leads to decreased of food, cash crop and animal production. This will affect exportation of crops, hence hinder economic development in Nigeria and result to poverty.

How poverty can be alleviated by librarians for rural farmers
Librarians can alleviate poverty for rural farmers by providing information in different formats to the rural farmers for example talks, posters, videos, pamphlets, radio, television, handset, flyers, pictures, photograph video conferencing and workshops. A librarian must provide information to rural farmers that will meet their needs. Their needs may be how to control pest and diseases, environmental hazards, seedlings, preservation, financial (access to loan), current methods of farming, marketing, health and water. This information has to be repackaged by librarians to the rural farmers in the language they can understand. Also, reaching centers and rural libraries are new in the rural areas where most of the informations are translated in different local languages that will be easily comprehend by them (rural farmers).

The librarians organize training whereby rural farmers can be trained by extension workers. Cooperative education, seminars, workshop, and different agricultural programmes activities that can be broadcast in radios and demonstrated in television so that the rural farmers can see, apply, and adapt and thereby improve farming systems in the rural areas. So that food will be surplus for the masses. Also, adapting to the agricultural training on how to improve in their utilization of the farm inputs to produce maximum outputs for sustainable economy and how their products can be preserve and marketed at different strategic places at reasonable prices. This will help to alleviate poverty and improve in their standard of living. Observational information is very important and the librarians have to visit rural farmers and discuss with them frequently in relation to agricultural issues. The librarians, the extension officials and the village heads will assist fully for the supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the agricultural activities of the rural farmers for massive improvement and thereby leading to better improvement on standard of living by rural farmers. Both old and middle class, spend time listening to local information on televisions and radios which they carry around. The civil servant especially teachers and local government official read newspapers (sometime state news), the librarians encourage the rural farmers by donating handset to some rural farmers for example in Jesse, Delta state so that the rural farmers can use the mobile phones to gather information that will enable them to communicate in order to get vital information as relating to farming and improve in their daily life and agricultural activities that will then sustain their lives, families, and some of the masses. Sometimes the farmers, artisans have little or no time to listen to radio or any mass media. They get home tired after each day’s job. The rural farmers access face-to-face contact with friends and families and from
their mobile phones, that can assist them to update or gather information from other sources as regards farming activities for an improved development in farm productions.

**Housing:** According to Okafor and Udeh; (2012) with access and adequate use of information, the librarian can pass information to the rural farmers on how they can gain access to land, resist diseases, manage savings and credit or raise fund to build their own house and where to obtain the types of materials to be used to build houses at more affordable prices so that the problem of shelter can be improved, reduced, or solved.

**Occupation:** Librarian can provide printed and non-printed jobs information to rural farmers that can boost their social economic status. Okiy (2005) said that rural farmers who are low income earners could boost their income level if they could take step to sell their home-grown produce and small livestock to where it is most required and at more appreciative prices. Access to and use of information can help the rural farmers to alleviate poverty if they find viable livelihood alternatives either within the rural settings or urban cities and make them to enjoy improved standard of living. Also small scale businesses and supply of raw materials to companies through cooperatives and other profitable trading that the librarians can assist them to do, through entrepreneurship can alleviate poverty for rural farmers. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, during the World Economic Forum in Cape Town with president Goodluck Jonathan opined that Nigeria will soon be a major contributor to global food; nutritional security and poverty eradication through creation of the right businesses and government support to small holder and large scale farmers to significantly expand agricultural. Therefore, Agricultural Transformation Agenda will be of significant impact on poverty alleviation. For example dry season rice production has created massive jobs creation in rural areas in the northern state of Nigeria. The dry season rice production had increased productions by more than a million metric tons. The output is one third of what the country is currently importing (Olugbeg, 2013).

**Health:** Okafor and Udeh(2012) said that access to adequate use of information may prevent the rural farmers from indiscriminate use of drugs. The spread of incurable and terminal diseases could be avoided if information about the risk gets to the grassroot e.g breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, information about these diseases are mostly in the formats (books, newspapers, handbills, internet, radio and television) that the rural farmers can be sensitized by the librarians in collaboration with health personals. The observation information by the rural farmers can act as positive impact on the spread of such killer diseases. Information on fever, cholera, anti-natal and infant mortality and, maternal health can be spread to the rural farmers by organizing workshops and video conferencing. This will help to reduce the negative impact of such diseases. Non-Governmental Organization such as Rotary International carry out free medical treatment on eyes, donation of treated insecticides mosquitoes nets to prevent malaria-fever, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, infants and maternal health care, operation of rural women with virginal fistulae at Kofa Gayan Hospital, Zaria City, provision of micro credit to the treated patients for businesses that can sustain them for daily living. Also established healthcare center at Ugwanagidi village for free medical treatment.

**Education:** Access to information and subsequent use would lead to attainment of education and skills as rural farmers with basic skills and education seem to find more opportunities to expand their economic options and attention to the improvement of rural infrastructure will help to alleviate poverty. Rotary International built school at
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Ugwanagidi village in Kaduna-State with free education from primary to secondary level. Zamfara State Government also trained youths at National Animal Production Research Institute, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria on Artificial Insemination. This project enabled Zamfara youths to train more citizens that adapted to the training. This has led to an improvement in livestock production and reproduction. This is an eye opener for other states to adopt. The Niger State Government has also asked National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI), Ahmadu Bello University, Shika-Zaria to train their youths on skill acquisition on sheep, goat, beef cattle, poultry and dairy processing and so forth. Those trained will later be giving credit facilities to start their businesses that will sustain them in life. Liberians can be part of this project and see how rural farmers can benefit from them. This will lead to poverty alleviation for the rural farmers.

Neighborhood: Access to useful information has enhanced prompt utilization of information about water supply, refuse disposal and poverty eradication action plan in their neighbourhood and the establishment of libraries and information centers dedicated to supporting literacy acquisition in the rural communities where the rural farmers are dwelling, with the help of Rotary International Organization and librarian partnership. The rural farmers in Ugwanagidi village had been provided with bore holes that are serving the community for supply of good water up to date to prevent water borne diseases.

In order for the library to be functional and effective to rural communities (rural farmers) book collections have to be supplemented basic pamphlets and audio-visual materials for easy transfer of information to a semi-literate community.

A shift of providing more relevant materials requires not only restocking of the library in the rural communities but also a retraining of staff to make them more developed in the field of librarianship. However, the ideal candidate to pass information to rural farmers have to come from the rural communities and must participate in the creation of information resources and also the librarians. For Tanzania library services board provide traditional library services which was done by Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) to start their own libraries. Malawi and Uganda have partnership with NGOs and government departments for the delivery of developmental agricultural information to rural farmers. Malawi established women's reading clubs in several libraries. They also provide both printed and electronic developmental agricultural information and providing information to professional groups and media practitioners to participate in discussions on farmer’s developmental issues. For example Toro development network provide information on market access credit facilities rural development advocacy, agricultural scientific information and entrepreneurship and agricultural news and opportunities http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/poverty/reduction (solution to poverty alleviation, 2013).

Organizing training, presentation and discussion fora for library users:- Uganda (Kyabataika, Naka Seke and Katenfesa) have collaborative arrangements with NGOs (Toro development network and groups to provide economic empowerment information to rural farmers. Leading information-sharing activities using the library as their platform (http://siteresource.worldbank.org/intafrica/resources/aap-comments.en.pdf,2013). This partnership will enable the libraries and the rural farmers to benefit from each other. They record and disseminate communities local knowledge of all information they need as regard rural farmers issues. Toro development network has been cooperating with rural farmers groups on the improvement of production and marketing of beans, groundnuts, maize, bananas, pineapples and fruit and training centre for rural farmers in Kobo role
district in Uganda, promoting radio broadcast, farm innovation and entrepreneurship for example marketing skills of rural youth and women involved in small scale business, mobile phones are also used.

**Librarians have to strengthening links with local agencies that are engaged in literacy promotion and development:** Agricultural extension workers and health information projects workers for example in Uganda, farmers made use of the libraries and some natural agricultural advisory services materials were placed in libraries for rural farmers to make use of. Information on agriculture were broadcast on their local radio station located at the telecenter (Olugbega, 2013). So far library services had been established at two hundred (200) rural communities libraries centers as well as providing resources for nine hundred (900) schools for example, Malawi provided extra-rural services department that provide information in rural schools and communities to brooding rural farmers knowledge in farms development.

**EFFECT OF POVERTY**

Since the roads in the rural communities where rural farmers are living are bad especially in the raining season. This will affect the flow of farm inputs and outputs. Librarians have to work with Federal Ministry of Works and Transport to see how new and abandoned roads can be put in active condition thereby increasing marketing flow of goods and services to urban areas that create more benefits to farmers. Also, no permanent storage facilities and warehouses that harvest and input can be stored. Many farmers use bicycles and motorcycles to access inputs such as maize seeds on timely and unaffordable basis. Many farmers cannot afford irrigation equipment hence irrigation farming is limited by rural farmers, equipment like tractors are for few rural farmers and the masses cannot afford them except only rich farmers for commercial purposes, hence poverty still remains.

Librarians and government will partnership for the modalities for improving storage facilities that must be closer to rural farmers. Kano government has built many silos in Kano State for the storage of grains. Through cooperatives, government can lease tractors and irrigation equipment to small scale farmers and repairs of roads and construction of good roads that will encourage the farmers to produce more (Romania’s http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/country/home/tags/ Romania, 2012). Librarians can encourage rural farmers on how their goods can be conveyed to bigger market at cheaper means of transportation and at more reasonable prices. Also, agricultural produce can also be produce into finished products. For instance rural areas must have capacity to produce mealie-meal at a larger scale and sell direct to urban consumers. This will create employment and add more value to maize. Dairy products can also be marketed at urban cities. Pineapples drinks can be produced from pineapples encourage fishing and diary production and also market them to cities where they are needed and where prices are higher. Most graduates in their field of study that were not relevant to the modern global challenges and working environments. For instance, you cannot claim to have skilled personal secretaries with information technology skills for their farm recording and then these graduates were trained using type writers. Many skills centers today, still trained people with type writers. How can we develop the rural farmers with type writer instead of computers?

(http://siteresources.worldbank.org/intafrica/resources/aap-comments-en.pdf, 2013). Librarians can solicit for agencies that donate free computers and donate them to rural farmers and employ computer literate staff to teach them to use the computer for their farm
recording issues that are related to farming. How about the medical doctor who watches a patient die because of lack of equipment to diagnose a disease through training obtained abroad. He cannot do it in the rural communities where the rural farmers are dwelling.

However, government input is needed in developing the rural communities where the farmers are living because they constitute 75% of our country population hence provision of availability of facilities and equipment to do job and also revisiting some retrogressive laws are vital for success. However, government through the effort of the community leaders, health clinics and universal basic education has been establish in most rural communities and most of the primary and secondary schools in Delta State now have libraries that even the rural farmers benefit from. Taking libraries to the rural dwellers and the disadvantaged group is the project of the current Minister of Education. Directors of The Universal Basic Education, Technical Board are supervising, monitoring and evaluating this project for its sustainability and progress.

(i) Globalization: Globalization is on the increase and this require bridging up the knowledge gaps between developed and under-developed countries. This gap can only be bridged by building skills globally.

(ii) Changing work environments: With the advancement of information technology. Librarians must assist rural farmers to develop skills that enable them to compete on a global stage. The effort to build skills must be through local institutions and abroad. Unfortunately most local institutions do not have good learning facilities such as well stocked libraries, internet facilities and well developed research laboratories. Therefore, they must be an improvement on learning facilities in the existing institutions, upgrading existing colleges into universities and building new universities with adequate training and re-training will help develop human resource skills.

(iii) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
The Information and Communication Technology for rural communities can be put in various strategic places in the rural communities. The role of the library is to convey the various services that can be carried out in ICTs to the rural communities and the librarians must make sure that such services are effectively delivered and utilized by the client in the rural communities. Abissat (2008) said that Ghana, Malaysia, Singapore are technologically minded countries have ICTs in their rural communities so that clients can utilize them according to their needs in order to alleviate poverty in the rural communities. Solar power was used in generating electricity in the rural communities so that ICTs services can be effectively utilized by rural farmers. Also, in Nigeria, Kwankwalawa and other villages in Sokoto are enjoying solar power for electricity including Kebbi State for the purpose of this service. This will reduce rural-urban migration. The new innovation in libraries has shut up the use of library and even makes it their second homes for users. For example public libraries in developing countries now have restaurants, snacks shop and computer games for young people and adult. Rural farmers can be involved in such activities for self-employment. This has led to cut down of crime rates in some of the countries. There are computers for browsing in the interacting grading areas. Some patrons spend all day working with computer. This can also be adapted in Nigeria rural libraries. This is why the library makes provision, for inter-personal interaction and you can also buy drinks and biscuit and eat them in this section, although, eating in the libraries cannot be consoled in all rural
libraries in Nigeria because it can invite rodents and other insects that can destroy books and other library materials but for the purpose of poverty alleviation by librarians to rural farmers, the above point can be ignored to an extent. There is internet service that draws faculty members, administrative staff, technical staff and messages from all over the universities to use resources in the internet to do their research and assignment work when they are in the rural communities (Angus, 2000). Rural dwellers also come to the library with their laptops to download information from the internet. Some rural dwellers also send e-mail to friends, relations and read newspapers electronically. The internet can also be used for video conferencing, search engines, newsgroups. USENET, Internet relay chat (IRO), communication through handsets and other ICTs services. This will also create room for entrepreneurship businesses that will help to alleviate poverty in rural areas. Therefore, with the above service, the library serve as a unifying factor in the community.

(iv) Youth Unemployment: The youth unemployment both in rural and urban cities are causing civil unrest. These youth are both illiterates and literates ones, who have skills and those graduates from the universities. Youths are now moving from one town to another and country to country in search of jobs. The receiving countries will be problems of security, education and health care provision later. These problems will lead to civil unrest. Such problems can be solved by establishing industries at the rural areas to encourage the communities to get jobs and put amenities there (rural areas) such as police station, health centers, health institutions, rural electrification, pipe-borne water, boreholes, sports facilities, recreation areas, establishment of banks and good roads in the rural areas. Enforcing on youth empowerment schemes and good education infrastructure to rural places such as schools, good libraries and skills training centers will be of positive impact on the lives of the rural farmers.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the poverty alleviation for rural farmers by librarians cannot be over emphasized. However, this will involve collaboration of the librarians, government, and the farming in rural dwellers extension workers to put the strategies in place for the improvement of standard of living when the causes and effect of poverty have been identified in all ramification of lives which force them into a subordinate role to the detriment of their own development and that of the society as whole. Therefore, librarians must address the issues that will enable the rural farmers to improve in the standard of living in order to alleviate poverty.

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