

Value Added Tax, Poverty and Economic Growth in Nigeria

Afonja, J.A. & Oke, J.A.

Department Of Banking And Finance

The Polytechnic, Ibadan

Ibadan, Nigeria

E-mail: afonja.me@gmail.com; loye_faith@yahoo.com

Phone: +2348030726863; +23408059613101

ABSTRACT

Value added tax being compulsory levy on consumption has been recognized as one of the major sources of revenue to the government across the globe. Though, the rate of value added tax in Nigeria is among the lowest in the world, yet poverty is still on high increase. The main objective of this study is to determine the impacts of Value Added Tax on the rate of poverty and economic growth in Nigeria. Fully modified ordinary least square method of analysis has been adopted and the result of the findings show that value added tax has positive and significant effects on poverty and economic growth in Nigeria. Unless government improves productivity level, the increasing rate of poverty would persist and output would decrease as well. It is therefore recommended that until government profound solutions to macroeconomic problems in country, value added tax rate should not increase.

Keywords: Value Added, Consumption, Poverty, Economic growth

iSTEAMS Multidisciplinary Conference Proceedings Reference Format

Afonja, J.A. & Oke, J.A. (2019): Value Added Tax, Poverty and Economic Growth in Nigeria.

Proceedings of the 22nd iSTEAMS Multidisciplinary SPRING Conference. Aurora Conference centre, Osogbo, Nigeria. 17th – 19th December, 2019. Pp 21-32. www.isteams.net/spring2019. DOI - <https://doi.org/10.22624/AIMS/iSTEAMS-2019/V22N1P3>

1. INTRODUCTION

Value added tax being compulsory levy on consumption has been recognized as one of the major sources of revenue to the government across the globe. African continent is not left out, while most countries in west Africa are inclusive including Nigeria. Value Added Tax popularly referred to as VAT has been popularly recognized as a prominent contributor to the government coffer (Square, 1988; Ajakaiye, 2000; Adereti, Sanni & Adesina, 2011). It is the types of tax in which the incidence is borne by the final consumer on the goods and services purchased. Specifically, VAT was introduced to Nigerian economy in 1993; and fully implemented on 1st January, 1994 and it was evidenced that revenue from this source contributed significantly to the Nigerian economy (Oraka, Azubike, Okegbe, & Azejiofor, 2017). All vatiable goods were charged at 5% in Nigeria exports goods which are vat exempted but VAT is usually charged in the currency of the country in which such vatiable goods are exchanged (Umeora, 2013).

Despite, the fact that VAT rate in Nigeria remains lowest in West Africa and one of the lowest in the world. Moreso, Nigerian economy was rebased in 2012/2013 which eventually rated Nigerian economic growth rates, in the region of 7.4% (World Bank, 2014), yet poverty remains significant in the country (Wikipedia, 2014; Ngbea & Achunike, 2014).

Poverty is defined in different ways in different literatures; It refers to the denial of choices and opportunities; inadequate access to feeding, clothing a family, half- baked education and health and many more due to varieties of factors such as high rates of unemployment ,unavailability of adequate credit facilities, insecurities and low standard of living, which susceptible to violence and generally results to living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation (United Nations, 2011).Nigeria has been endowed with massive natural resources like oil (Dfri,2012) coupled with talented huge human resources to support commerce and a well-developed economy, but unfortunately aforementioned poverty rate is very high and unacceptable (World Bank, 2011).Although, the level of poverty in the economy might have been over estimated as a result of inadequate information about the informal sector which took larger proportion of the economy (Aigbokhan,2013; Yusuf, 2014).

Literatures affirmed that economic growth is one of the reasons for increased poverty (Dollar & Kraay, 2002; Dollar, Kleineberg, & Kraay, 2013) and on the other hand, it has also been recognized as a yardstick for poverty reduction (World Bank, 2001). Increased income per capita has positive impact on the welfare of the population, in other words as per capita income rises, health situation improves, level of education improves which further improve and strengthened the production capacity of the nation, hence more employment and more personal and national income (Gugerty, 1997; Warr, 2000 ,Farrington, 2006; Aigbokhan, 2008 ;Fosu, 2010; Ijaiya, Ijaiya, Bello, & Ajayi,2011). Economists stipulate that Economic growth is measured by the increase in the national income or total volume of production of goods and services of a country accompanied by improvements in the total standard of living of the people (Chinwuba & Amos, 2011; Ihendinihu & Onwuchekwa, 2012). Nigeria experienced increase in economic growth with increase in the rate of poverty. As all the stated variables are not favourably featured in Nigerian economy. There is high level of unemployment in the economy, the state of infrastructural facilities is alarming, the standard of living has been very low among others which contributes to increasing level of poverty. In 2015, the rate of poverty seemed unbearable and the vice president of Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osinbajo stated that the poverty level in Nigeria is intolerable (www.vanguard.org).

It has been stated that the present democratic administration in Nigeria had embarked on varieties of strategies, programmes and steps ensuring the rate of poverty is reduced to the bearest minimum. International monetary fund (IMF) noted that given all those taken strategies, the rate of poverty is soaring: though, the real GDP increased by 1.9 percent in 2018 from what the economy experienced in 2017,given improvement in manufacturing and services, supported by spillovers from higher oil prices, ongoing convergence in exchange rates and strides to improve the business environment (IMF,2018);Yet, inflation remained double digit at 11.4 percent as at December, 2018 indicating weak consumer demand due to high price which is against CBN's range of 6 to 9 percent (IMF, 2019).

Given the economic situation in Nigeria, couple with the high rate of poverty, unemployment, as well as the rate at which Nigerian is taken loans from international communities including China with unfavourable terms (IMF, 2019). Since 2015, IMF had been emphasizing that the country should be careful and look for other sources of revenue. In the same vein IMF, in 2019 raised the issue again, advising Nigeria to increase the rate of Value added Tax from 5 percent up and also to remove the oil subsidies which they said will not only reduce the level of corruption but will improve the revenue base and improve the economic growth in the long run. This phenomenon clarifies the current economic growth theory, long-run relationship among the increase in Value Added Tax, poverty and economic growth, causality, development of workable strategies of reducing poverty indices and planning of the social welfare policies for the country. Since the introduction of VAT in 1994 to Nigerian economy, there has been an increase in the importance ascribed to the VAT in national

macroeconomic policy (Onwuchekwa & Aruwa, 2014). Subsequently Value added tax, and rate of poverty had become comparable and a cross national comparison on economic growth also becomes a popular research topic.

There are various research methods being employed in recent decades in studying Value Added Tax and economic growth but the commonly adopted methods in analyzing the impacts of tax on economic growth include cross-sectional and time series analysis (Ajala, Oladayo & Ayorinde (2010) Adereti, Sanni & Adesina (2011) Izedonmi & Okunbor (2014) Onwuchekwa & Aruwa, 2014). The empirical analysis of these studies showed that the revenue generated from Value Added Tax in Nigeria was low, the standard of living kept falling and the economic growth is rising compared to other countries in the region. It is on this basis that this study decided to investigate the impact of Value Added Tax on the rate of poverty and economic growth in Nigeria. While specific objective is the determination of the effects of increasing the rate of Value Added Tax on the rising poverty and economic growth in Nigeria. The null hypothesis is therefore stated as;

H_0 : Increasing the rate of Value Added Tax does not have significant impact on the existing rate of poverty and economic growth in Nigeria.

The remaining parts of the study have been divided into four parts: section two is all about literature review, section three concerns the methodology of the study, while section four and five deals with empirical analysis and conclusion respectively.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Framework

2.1.1 Value Added Tax

Decades ago, history had it that tax was a form of voluntary donation or contribution towards development of the government (Barbara, 1986). This definition seems not to be so relevant in modern ages as taxation has been redefined to imply sizeable sources of revenue of government. It is a compulsory levy imposed by government (Odoh, 2010). Taxation is designed for the good and benefit of the common citizens (Okoye & Gbegi, 2013). Value Added Tax (VAT) is a consumption tax, charged at each stage of the consumption chain, and the major tax burden is always borne by the final consumer of the product or services. Each taxable person is required by the law to levy and deduct VAT at a flat rate of 5% on all invoiced amount on all goods and services not exempted from paying VAT. It was introduced as a replacement of the sales tax, which has been in operation on the basis of residence (Odoh, 2010).

VAT operates in such a way that where such tax is collected on behalf of the government (output VAT) in a particular month is more than the VAT paid to other persons (input VAT) in the same month, the difference is required to be remitted to the government on monthly basis, by the taxable person (Federal Inland Revenue Services). Before the full implementation of VAT in 1994, all taxable persons have been allowed to register for VAT up to the last quarter of 1993 so as to adjust their accounts by incorporating VAT information into their general ledgers, in order to comply with the requirements of the tax. Since then till date tax is charged at 5% value added.

2.1.2 Administration of Value Added Tax in Nigeria

The administration of VAT in Nigeria is vested in the hand of Federal Inland Revenue service (FIRS). This effectively means that it must be properly monitored so as to ensure that the intended objectives are established. The success or failure of any tax, depends largely on the extent of how it is properly managed (Loveday & Nwanyanwu 2015). The successful execution of fiscal policies depends on the quality of public administration and the formation of policies that are really adapted to the available resources (Richard, 1993). To that effect, Federal Inland Revenue Services had established five distinct bodies to ensure that VAT administration is properly handled in Nigeria. The bodies include; The Board itself (Federal Board of Internal Revenue); The Service (Federal Inland Revenue Service), The Technical Committee; The Nigeria Custom Service and the VAT Directorate. Other sub-internal bodies include; The State Internal Revenue Service; The Zonal Officer; and The Local VAT Officer. Twenty five VAT offices were established and five zonal tribunals have been approved. It was structured in such a way that the administration will work hand in hand with the Nigeria Custom services and the State Internal Revenue Services. The Custom Services specifically takes care of the VAT on imports. To qualify for VAT, an Organization of enterprise must register with the VAT Directorate. All domestic manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, importers and suppliers of goods and services in Nigeria are expected to register for VAT.

While Vat is charged on consumptions, consumption itself is the spending by households on goods and services such as clothing, food items, entertainment, health services and acquisition of assets among others (Anyanwu, 1995). It is the total quantity of goods and services that people in the economy wish to purchase for the purpose of immediate consumption (1996). As income increases consumption also increases but not by as much as the increase in income (Keynes, 1936). Income refers to earnings from productive activities and current transfers. Therefore, apart from income, literatures have identified interest rate, value added tax, relative prices, capital gains, wealth, liquid assets, attitude and expectation and availability of consumer credit among others as determinants of consumption expenditure (Colander (2001), and Iyoha (2001) Ajakiaye (2002),), Jhinhjan (2003).

Meanwhile, income and consumption are the most commonest variables indicating the living standard of the society (Obiakor, Tochukwuk & Okwu, 2015). How various households consume reflects the consumption pattern of a particular country, which depicts the total goods and services demanded and eventually constitutes larger proportion of the country's aggregate Gross Domestic Product (Harmonized Nigeria Living Standard Survey, 2009, 2010). It is the nature of consumption pattern of a country as a whole that shows the nature of welfare and the poverty being experienced overtime. When the consumption is reducing, it sometimes show that the rate of poverty is increasing as unemployment rate rises, investment falls and prices of goods and services will most likely rise. But when consumption increases, production from the companies will increase, more people will be employed, other idle resources will be employed, prices will reduce and tax revenue will increase (consumption tax, among other taxes) and improved economic growth will be experienced in the country.

Poverty can be viewed in a number of ways. It starts from the family, as severe deprivation of some basic human needs at the individual or household level. This relates to the perception that hunger is part of everyone's understanding of poverty. However, poverty has been described as an outcome of more than economic process and also include social and political processes that interact with and reinforce each other (World Bank, 2000). To this end, poverty reduction strategies should be worked out based on each country's economic, sociopolitical, structural and cultural context. This, in other words, means that it is possible to reduce or alleviate the menace of poverty but very difficult to eradicate poverty totally in an economy. Nigeria has taken various

policy decisions, antipoverty programs to ensure that poverty is reduced. Some of the steps taken were directed at price stability, social equity and economic growth and development.

2.1.3 Poverty Line

It is of high importance to explain the concept of poverty line which denotes a measure of standard of living, which separates the poor from the rich. Such measures include, income, expenditure status and intangible criteria such as freedom, the right to vote, gender equality, etc

2.1.4 Overview of Nigeria’s poverty profile

Nigerian situation is becoming an interesting research topic for the researchers due to the fact that as the level of poverty increases, the economic growth increases as well, which is contrary to the theory. The normal phenomenaon should be that when the poverty increases, economic growth should decline, all things being equal. Over the years, given the population increase, the rate of poverty increases as well. Table 1 depicts Nigerian situation from 1980 to 2015. The summary shows that as population increases, the rate of extremely poor people in the country keep increasing.

Table 1: Percentages of the Nigerian Population Considered Relatively Non-poor, Moderately Poor, and Extremely Poor, 1980–2015.

Year	Relatively Non-poor	Moderately Poor	Extremely Poor
1980	72.8	21.0	6.2
1985	53.7	34.2	12.2
1992	57.3	28.9	13.9
1996	34.4	36.3	29.3
2004	43.3	32.4	22.0
2010	31.0	30.3	38.7
2015	36.2	33.0	30.0

Source. National Bureau of Statistics (2015).

Poverty incidence in Nigeria remains generally high. This however varies among states and geopolitical zones. The Northern region has the higher incidence than the Southern part of the country. Even at that, the situation still differs within each region (Dauda, 2016)

2.2 Theoretical Review

Tax of any form must be accompanied with some of the following basic famous principles of tax: Economy, Certainty, Convenience, Neutrality, and Equity as stated by Adams Smith (1776). It is from here that other theories of taxation evolved. The prominent two models of tax include Classical Model and the Imputation Model. The classical are of the opinion that companies should be distinguished from the owners since it is the profits of the company that is charged and any amounts of dividends given to the shareholders and capital gains as the case may be would be taxed in the hand of the recipients at appropriate rates of tax; hence, value added tax here must be remitted since it is outside the power of the company agents (Nwobia, 2013). This model have many advantages especially to the company; the interest payments are tax deductible, which is not possible for dividends and it is possible for the organization to plough back its earnings for business expansion. Concerning Imputed /Imputation model, part of the tax paid by a company on its profits is “imputed” or credited against the tax liability of shareholders in receipt of dividends paid by the company out of those profits, thereby removing double taxation of distributed profits.

This model further insists on integration with the corporate-source earnings taxed at the shareholder level only (Kanyip, 2002). This theory apparently best fit the concept of value added tax since company is credited the proportion where the input VAT is higher than the output VAT. The Classical Welfare Economists (Adam Smith, Karl Max etc.) are among the theorists advocating poverty reduction. It was argued that people's welfare and wealth is a function of the value of a commodity produced by their labour as well as their purchasing power over other people's labour. This may be described as higher labour leads to higher output and income which in turn increases welfare. This school of thought also favours the "invisible hand", the free operation of the market system automatically in terms of demand and supply.

2.3 Empirical Review

Ebunoluwa & Yusuf (2018) explored the effect of economic growth on poverty reduction in Nigeria for the period of 1980-2016 using Unit Root and Johansen Cointegration as well as VAR analysis for decision making. The result of the study shows that government expenditure is positively related to poverty incidence. The GDP has a negative relationship between economic growth and poverty, while unemployment relates positively to poverty reduction. Oko (2015) studied the impact of value added tax on lease service consumption in Nigeria. The effect is variously felt among lessors, lessees and lease financiers across the globe sequel to the variance in environments of operation. The result of the study indicated that value added revenue contributed significantly to the economy of Nigeria. It also accounts for variation in the acceptability of leasing and its marketing as contributor to macro economic development through growth.

Uwaoma & Geroge (2015) investigated the impact of value-added tax on corporate financial performance of quoted companies in Nigeria.. Frequencies and simple percentages and regression analysis were used to study the impact. The findings indicated that Value- Added Tax (VAT) impacted negatively on the financial performance of agribusinesses though the impact is of insignificant value. Onwuchekwa & Aruwa, (2014) studied value added tax and economic growth in Nigeria Ordinary Least Square technique was employed for the study and the result shows that VAT contributes significantly to the total tax revenue of government and by extension the economic growth of Nigeria.

Yakubu & Jibrin (2013) investigated the impact of value added tax (VAT) on economic growth of Nigeria. The study employed Johansen Co integration analysis and the result shows that value added tax have positive impact on economic growth of Nigeria. It was also stated that the policy makers in Nigeria should continue this fiscal policy with other macroeconomic indicators. Pursuing this policy will enhance the Nigeria economy positively, more specifically in time of economic crisis in the world.

It is evident from the review of the past studies that numerous literatures have examined Value added Tax in different dimensions in Nigeria. Evidence shows that contributions of the tax from this source is of high importance to the economy but given the rate of increase in economic growth, coupled with the existence of poverty rate that is one of the highest in the world, if the rate of Value added tax in Nigeria is reviewed upward, what will be the consequence on the extremely poor in the society and the effect on the economic growth of Nigeria. Also, in terms of the methodology, most of the empirical analysis in the literature adopted ordinary least square method and this study goes further to employ another methodology which is Modified Ordinary Least Square so as to make the study different. It is on these notes that this paper contributes to the knowledge as to the best of our knowledge; no study has investigated this area in the past studies using the approaches and methodology employed on the topic.



3. METHODOLOGY

This study employed a time series data covering a period of 1980 – 2016, the data are obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin, the Federal Inland Revenue Service, and Nigerian bureau of statistics. The choice of the data and the period is necessary so as to capture the effects of the pre and post SAP (structural Adjustment Program) on the subject matter in Nigerian economy. Some of the selected variables which are of economic relevance and proxy for the study, Real Gross domestic product (RGDP) is used as proxy for economic growth, while indicators of poverty reductions are used as the explanatory variables, these include Poverty index (POV), unemployment rate (UNE), and per capita income (PEC), and Value Added Tax revenue (VAT) has been used to represents value added tax. It has to be stated that if poverty alleviation strategies in Nigeria is really successful, it would reflect on the poverty index, unemployment rate will reduce, per capita income will rise and value added would increase.

The model employed in this study follows Bloom and Canning (2004) as derived from Barro,(1996).It is a common growth model usually followed by many previous authors. It is therefore specified as:

$$GDP = VAT + POV + UNE + PEC \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

This is a functional model which can be operationalized to become a mathematical model as;

$$GDP = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1VAT + \alpha_2 POV+ \alpha_3 UNE + \alpha_4 PEC \dots\dots\dots(II)$$

we can now construct the long-run relationship between nation income and other variables as thus :

$$GDP = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1VAT + \alpha_2 POV+ \alpha_3 UNE + \alpha_4 PEC + \epsilon \dots\dots\dots(iii)$$

Where ϵ is the error term

In order to make all the variables to be at the same units , they are all logged as follows:

$$GDP = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1\lnVAT + \alpha_2\ln POV+ \alpha_3\ln UNE + \alpha_4 \lnPEC + \epsilon \dots\dots\dots(iv)$$

The study decided to employ fully modified ordinary least square for the estimation analysis. Also, a time series econometric literature requires that the regression results may be spurious if the variables are non-stationary. Therefore, it is interesting to examine the order of integration for each variable to avoid spurious correlation problem. This is done using Phillips-Perron as presented in the empirical analysis.

4. EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

4.1 Pre-Estimation Test

Table 2: Descriptive statistics

	LNREGDP	LNPEC	LNPOV	LNUNE	LN VAT
Mean	12.76943	6.195867	3.977572	2.082631	11.73288
Median	12.64719	5.886104	4.021774	2.219203	11.83790
Maximum	13.64459	7.515709	4.234107	3.214868	13.24439
Minimum	10.35923	5.347108	3.303217	0.693147	9.940832
Std. Dev.	0.663761	0.754794	0.285819	0.817391	1.015264
Skewness	-1.098761	-0.613836	-0.847735	-0.221977	-0.142607
Kurtosis	5.959036	1.829448	2.464340	1.733029	1.671082
Jarque-Bera	19.81145	4.196166	4.610591	2.628369	2.694081
Probability	0.000050	0.122691	0.099729	0.268693	0.260009
Sum	446.9301	216.8554	139.2150	72.89207	410.6506
Sum Sq. Dev.	14.97967	19.37029	2.777541	22.71638	35.04589
Observations	35	35	35	35	35

Source: Author's Computation.

This study commenced its empirical analysis by examining the characteristics of the variables estimated. The table above shows that the means and medians of all the variables lie within the maximum and minimum values indicating that the variables had high tendency to be normally distributed except otherwise while the skewness statistic showed that all the variables are negatively skewed.

Table 3: Correlation

	LNPEC	LNPOV	LNREGDP	LNUNE	LN VAT
LNPEC	1.000000				
LNPOV	0.425586	1.000000			
LNREGDP	0.612765	0.811270	1.000000		
LNUNE	0.860638	0.326089	0.539010	1.000000	
LN VAT	0.584414	0.659096	0.748307	0.434300	1.000000

Source: Author's Computation.

Studies have shown that testing of the correlation among the variables of estimates would make the researchers to detect whether the variables have high multicollinearity among themselves. As a result, the parameter estimates could be contradictory with what would be expected, because of the unpredictable effect of multicollinearity. This result shows that the variables are highly correlated. The study therefore proceed to decision making through the unit root test so as to determine whether ordinary least squared method of analysis can be adopted.

Table 4: Unit Root ADF

Variables	@ Levels	@ First Difference	Order of Integration
Lnrngdp	-1.656051	-34.24054	I(1)
Lnpec	-.2727129	-3.508783	I(1)
Lnпов	-4.462026	-5.811329	I(0)
Lnune	-1.876670	-5.603109	I(1)
Lnvat	-2.173864	-5.043660	I(1)

Source: Author's Computation.

The above results shows that almost all the variables are $i(1)$. It can be deduced that only poverty is stationary at levels. Therefore, it violates the principles of OLS and other methods should be used.

4.2 Johansen Cointegration Test

The purpose of this test is to show whether all the variables are co-movement together. This means that the test wants to determine whether all the variables can move together in the long run. The trace test in the result shows that there is only one cointegrating equation at five percent level. While max-eigenvalue tests shows no cointegration at five percent level. As depicted in the table 5 and 6 below respectively

Table 5: Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (Trace)

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None *	0.568930	71.36896	69.81889	0.0374
At most 1	0.479153	46.12439	47.85613	0.0721
At most 2	0.398762	26.55542	29.79707	0.1130
At most 3	0.259869	11.29248	15.49471	0.1941
At most 4	0.072709	2.264632	3.841466	0.1324

Source: Author's Computation.

The trace test in the result shows that there is only one cointegrating equation at five percent level

Table 6: Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Test (Maximum Eigenvalue)

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	Max-Eigen Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None	0.568930	25.24457	33.87687	0.3687
At most 1	0.479153	19.56897	27.58434	0.3717
At most 2	0.398762	15.26294	21.13162	0.2709
At most 3	0.259869	9.027850	14.26460	0.2838
At most 4	0.072709	2.264632	3.841466	0.1324

Source: Author's Computation.

Table 7: Fully Modified Ordinary Least Square Method (FMOLS)

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
LNPOV	0.618581	0.108317	5.710857	0.0000
LNPEC	0.235592	0.066860	3.523682	0.0015
LNUNE	0.113116	0.050803	2.226545	0.0345
LNVAT	0.126395	0.032534	3.884950	0.0006
C	7.190197	0.381359	18.85415	0.0000
R-squared	0.910311	Mean dependent var		12.83841
Adjusted R-squared	0.897024	S.D. dependent var		0.511466
S.E. of regression	0.164129	Sum squared resid		0.727333
Long-run variance	0.014256			

Source: Author's Computation.

The above result shows that all the variables have positive relationship with the dependent variable which is real GDP. In essence it depicts that one percent change in RGDP will lead to 61 percent increase in the level of poverty in the economy. In terms of per capita income, one percent change in real GDP will results to 23 percent increase in the per capita income in Nigeria during the reviewed period .Also, one percent increase in real GDP in Nigeria will lead to 11 percent increase in the level of unemployment in the country. As relates to the level of VAT and real GDP, one percent increase in real GDP will lead to 13 percent increase in the VAT revenue in Nigeria and all the explanatory variables were able to explain 88 percent variations of real GDP in Nigeria.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study focuses on the impacts of the increase in the rate of Value Added Taxation and economic growth in Nigeria. The result shows that any attempt to increase the rate of tax will have negative impact on the masses. Although various literatures emphasized that Nigerian Vat rate happened to be one of the lowest in the world, yet the rate of poverty continued to hammer on the economic situation of majority. Although, government have embarked on various strategies in the past but to no avail. It is therefore, advised that government should not increase Vat rate at present but can reinforce more on alleviation strategies and tried to install monitoring channels to ensure that the real extremely poor people are actually reached. Corruption plays negative role in the development of the economy, it has eaten deep into almost all sector of the economy, most of the past poverty alleviation /reduction programs failed to yield result due to the increase in the level of corruption at almost all levels. Hence, .if this is not properly handled, the same reports will continue repeating itself.

REFERENCE

1. Adereti, S.A., Sanni M.R. & Adesina J.A. (2011). Value Added Tax and economic Growth of Nigeria. *European Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 10(1), 456-471.
2. Aigbokhan, B. E. (2008). Growth, inequality and poverty in Nigeria (ACGS/MPAMS Discussion Paper No. 3) Economic Commission for Africa. Retrieved from http://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/14927/bib-56869_1.pdf?sequence=1
3. Aigbokhan, B (2013) Poverty, growth and inequality in Nigeria . African Economic Research Consortium.
4. Ajala, Oladayo and Ayorinde (2010) <http://www.pwc.com/payingtaxes> <http://www.pwc.com/payingtaxes>
5. Ajakaiye D. Olu and Odusola A. F. (1996) "Price Effects of Value Added Tax in Nigeria" Policy Analysis Series, 2(2), 48-68
6. Anyanwu, J. C. (1997). Nigeria Public Finance. Onitsha, Joance Education Publishers.
7. Barbara, S. (1986). Taxes: Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data, USA.
8. Colander, D.C (2001). Economics McGraw – Hill publishers, 4th Edition
9. Dauda, R.S (2016) Poverty and Economic Growth in Nigeria: Issues and Policies. *Journal of poverty*
10. DFID. "Nigeria". Retrieved 2019-03-21
11. Dollar, D., Kleineberg, T., & Kraay, A. (2013). Growth still is good for the poor (Policy Research Working Paper WPS6568). The World Bank. Retrieved from <http://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/pdf/10.1596/1813-9450-6568>
12. Dollar, D., & Kraay, A. (2002). Growth is good for the poor. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 7 (3), 195–225. doi:10.1023/A:1020139631000
13. Ebunoluwa, O.O and Yusuf, W (2018) Effects of Economic Growth on Poverty Reduction In Nigeria *IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance* .Vol 9, Issue 5 .25-29
14. Farrington, J. (2006). Growth and poverty in Asia: where next? (Working Paper 267). London, England: Overseas Development Institute. Retrieved from <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/896.pdf>
15. Foster, J., & Székely, M. (2000). How good is growth? *Asian Development Review*, 18(2), 59–73.
16. Fosu, A. K. (2010). Growth, inequality, and poverty reduction in developing countries: recent global evidence. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/meetings/egm10/documents/Fosu%20Longpaper.pdf>
17. Foster, J., & Székely, M. (2000). How good is growth? *Asian Development Review*, 18(2), 59–73.
18. Gyimah-Brempong, K. (2002). Corruption, economic growth, and income inequality in Africa. *Economics of Governance*, 3(3), 183–209. doi:10.1007/s101010200045
19. Ijaiya, G. T., Ijaiya, M. A., Bello, R. A., & Ajayi, M. A. (2011). Economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 2(15), 147–154.
20. Iyoha, M.A. (2001). Policy simulation with Macro Econometric models of the Nigerian Economy" *Economic and Financial Review* 2 (1), 21 – 25.
21. Izedonmi & Okunbor (2010). Empirical examination of value added tax to the development of the Nigeria economy .Retrieved from www.iiste.org.
22. Jhingan, M.L (2003). *Macroeconomics Theory*. New Delhi, 12
23. Odoh, C. (2010). The Effectiveness and Desirability of Value Added Tax, Nigerian Taxation, Official. *Journal of the Chartered Institute of taxation of Nigeria*.

24. Okoye, E.I & Gbegi, D.O. (2013). Effective Value Added Tax: An Imperative for Wealth Creation in Nigeria. Global Journal of Management and Business Research Volume 13 Issue 1. Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA) Online ISSN: 2249- 4588 & Print ISSN: 0975-5853
25. Oraka, A O. Okeogbe, T. O. and Ezejiofor R.(2017) Effect of Value Added Tax on the Nigerian Economy. European academic research 2(1)
26. Obiakor R, Tochukwuk, W and OKWU (2015) Value Added Tax and Consumption Expenditure Behaviour of Households in Nigeria: An Empirical Investigation. International Review of Social Sciences Vol. 3(6)
27. Onwuchekwa,J.C and Suleiman A.S. Aruwa, (2014) value added tax and economic growth in Nigeria, European Journal of Accounting Auditing and Finance Research 2(8)
28. Ngbea,F.T and Achunike,H.C (2014) Poverty in Northern Nigeria. Asian Journal of Humanities and Social Studies (ISSN: 2321 – 2799) 2(2)
29. Umeora, (2013).The Effects of value added tax on the economic growth of Nigeria. 1(6). Journal of Economics and sustainable Development.
30. worldbank.org. 2011-09-23. "Nigeria - Country Brief". Web.Retrieved 2012-03-21.
31. Warr, P. (2000). Poverty reduction and economic growth: The Asian experience. Asian Development Review, 18(2), 131–147.
32. World Bank. (2001). Attacking poverty: World development report. Oxford University Press. Retrieved from <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~walker/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/wdr2001.pdf>
33. Yusuf, Aremu (2014). "The Informal Sector and Employment Generation in Nigeria" (PDF).