

Assessing the Impact of Sustainable Procurement Practices on Poverty Alleviation in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

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Abstract: Poverty is a serious a national challenge in Nigerian communities. This study explores the impact of sustainable procurement practices by FCT's, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on poverty reduction, driven by the need to align procurement strategies with broader socio-economic development goals. The study applied a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Data were collected using quantitative survey question which were distributed to 320 respondents and semi-structured interviews conducted with 30 key stakeholders across MDAs in FCT. The study applied descriptive statistics, and ANOVA to analyze the data. The ANOVA results gave a p-value of 0.0356, which is less than 0.05 and thus the null hypothesis was rejected, while the alternative hypothesis was accepted. Key findings of the indicate that while sustainable procurement is not yet fully integrated into most MDAs in the FCT, it is recognized as a potential tool for poverty reduction through job creation, meeting critical needs of communities and facilitates local economic growth and development. In conclusion, the study highlights the need for more robust policies, enhanced capacity-building initiatives, and stronger leadership commitment to embed sustainability into procurement processes. Key recommendations include increasing training for procurement professionals, improving policy frameworks to explicitly incorporate sustainability and poverty reduction objectives, and addressing financial barriers through alternative financing mechanisms. These study contributes to more effective integration of sustainable procurement practices, ultimately enhancing their role in poverty reduction in Nigeria.

Keywords: Sustainable Procurement, Poverty Reduction, Ministries, Departments, and Agencies

I. Introduction

Sustainable procurement is an evolving concept that seeks to align procurement activities with broader goals of environmental protection, economic stability, and social equity. Over the years, procurement systems worldwide have transitioned from being narrowly focused on achieving the lowest possible cost to encompassing wider concerns such as environmental sustainability, social justice, and long-term economic viability. Sustainable procurement refers to the practice of sourcing goods and services in a way that achieves value for money while considering environmental and social impacts throughout the supply chain (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2019). This paradigm shift underscores the importance of addressing the consequences of procurement decisions not only on immediate stakeholders but also on the planet and society at large. The adoption of sustainable procurement practices has, therefore, become central to global development strategies, aimed at fostering a balance between economic growth and the conservation of natural resources, while simultaneously ensuring positive social impacts.

In Nigeria, the concept of sustainable procurement is gaining traction, but its integration into public procurement processes remains an evolving journey. One of the significant legislative steps towards enhancing procurement practices was the enactment of the Nigerian Public Procurement Act of 2007, which introduced reforms aimed at increasing transparency, reducing corruption, and improving accountability in public procurement (Ayewumi, 2023). The Act provided a framework for efficient procurement practices and laid the foundation for incorporating sustainable procurement practices into the broader public sector. While these legislative efforts represent positive steps, the integration of environmental and social factors into procurement practices by Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) remains a challenge, primarily due to insufficient awareness and resource constraints. Ayewumi (2023) highlighted that, although there have been efforts to promote green procurement, there is still a significant gap between policy and practice, and sustainable procurement has not been consistently implemented across all MDAs.

Despite Abuja's status as Nigeria's capital and a center of political and administrative influence, significant pockets of poverty persist across its urban and peri-urban communities Ababio, and Lu, (2024). Paradoxically, these socioeconomic challenges exist alongside substantial public expenditure on infrastructure and service delivery projects. However, the traditional procurement systems in place often prioritize cost-efficiency over long-term social and environmental sustainability, failing to leverage public procurement as a tool for inclusive growth. This misalignment between procurement practices and development goals underscores a critical need to explore how procurement decisions can be reshaped to more directly contribute to poverty alleviation within the Federal Capital Territory.

The absence of empirical data and contextualized analysis on the role of sustainable procurement in mitigating poverty in Abuja presents a critical knowledge gap. Without evidence-based insights, policymakers and procurement officials may continue to overlook the transformative potential of procurement in tackling inequality and economic exclusion. The study sought to investigate the effects of sustainable procurement practices on poverty reduction in Abuja, FCT, with a view to informing policy, improving procurement processes and programs, and enhancing the socio-economic benefits of public spending in Nigeria's capital region.

The aim of this study is to investigate the effects of sustainable procurement practices by FCT's, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on poverty reduction in Nigeria. The following are the specific objectives of the study:

- evaluate the relationship between sustainable procurement practices and poverty reduction outcomes in FCT's, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).
- assess the influence of policy frameworks on the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement practices in FCT's, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

Research Questions

The following research questions applied to this study:

- What is the relationship between sustainable procurement practices and poverty reduction outcomes in FCT's, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs)?
- How do policy frameworks influence the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement practices in FCT's, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs)?

Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between sustainable procurement practices and poverty reduction outcomes in Nigeria.

II. Literature Review

Sustainable procurement is defined as the integration of environmental, social, and economic considerations into the procurement process Adebayo, Paul, and Eyo-Udo, (2024). It involves selecting products and services that have a reduced environmental footprint, promote fair labor practices, and support local economies. The aim is to ensure that procurement decisions contribute positively to sustainable development goals (SDGs) while meeting organizational needs (Yu, Yevu and Nani, 2020).

Sustainable procurement has emerged as a critical lever for addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges worldwide. By incorporating environmental, social, and economic considerations into procurement decisions, organizations and governments can use public spending as a tool for transformative development AfDB (2023).. In Nigeria, where poverty remains pervasive, sustainable procurement has the potential to turn the substantial public procurement budget into a mechanism for poverty alleviation and inclusive growth. This approach allows governments to achieve multiple objectives, such as environmental sustainability, local economic development, and improved social equity, through a single strategic framework (Brammer and Walker, 2011).

Global Case Studies of Poverty Alleviation: A Comparative Analysis

Case Study 1: India's Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy (2011-2025)

India has achieved remarkable success in poverty alleviation over the past decade, demonstrating how comprehensive policy frameworks can produce significant outcomes at scale. According to the World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief, approximately 171 million people in India moved out of extreme poverty between 2011 and 2023, with the poverty rate declining from 16.2% to 2.3% based on the international poverty line of \$2.15 per day (World Bank, 2025). This dramatic reduction represents one of the most substantial poverty alleviation achievements in recent global history, accomplished through a multi-pronged approach combining direct benefit transfers, employment guarantees, and targeted food security programs.

The foundation of India's success lies in its integrated approach to poverty reduction, which addresses multiple dimensions of deprivation simultaneously. The programme is operated jointly by the Central Government and the State Government of India, with responsibilities including allocations of commodities such as rice, wheat, kerosene, and sugar to the States and Union Territories, and the issue of Ration Cards for the people below the poverty line (BYJU'S, 2024). Key components include the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households, the Public Distribution System (PDS) for subsidized food grains, and various direct benefit transfer schemes that leverage India's digital identity infrastructure, Aadhaar, to ensure efficient delivery of social protection benefits.

The sustainability and scalability of India's poverty reduction model offer valuable lessons for other developing nations. Research has found that poverty alleviation programs are implemented in urban and rural areas and through women's empowerment, with social, economic, and environmental benefits being determinant factors of the implications of poverty alleviation programs (Ruja et al., 2024). India's approach particularly emphasizes women's empowerment through programs like the Self-Help Group movement and priority placement of women in rural employment schemes. However, challenges remain in ensuring that gains are sustained, particularly given global economic uncertainties and the need to address regional disparities in poverty reduction outcomes across different states.

Case Study 2: Brazil's Bolsa Família Program - Conditional Cash Transfers for Poverty Reduction

Brazil's Bolsa Família program stands as one of the world's most successful conditional cash transfer initiatives, serving as a model for poverty alleviation strategies globally. The Programa Bolsa Família (PBF) is a government programme introduced in 2003 by

the then-president, Lula da Silva. Under PBF low-income families receive cash transfers on the condition that they, for example, send their children to school and ensure they are properly vaccinated (Centre for Public Impact, 2024). The program has demonstrated exceptional targeting efficiency, with 94 percent of the funds reaching the poorest 40 percent of the population, and studies proving that most of the money is used to buy food, school supplies, and clothes for the children (World Bank, 2012). This precision in targeting has made it one of the most cost-effective poverty reduction programs globally.

The program's design incorporates both immediate poverty relief and long-term human capital development objectives, creating a comprehensive approach to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty. The Brazilian Cash Transfer Program (Bolsa Família), the largest conditional cash transfer program in the world, aims to bring immediate poverty alleviation and eradicate hunger (Machado et al., 2020). The conditional nature of the transfers, requiring school attendance and health check-ups, ensures that benefits extend beyond immediate consumption needs to build human capital for future generations. Additionally, qualifying families receive a small monthly cash transfer — distributed directly to the female head of household — in exchange for keeping children in school and taking them to regular health checks (Women Deliver, 2016), which has contributed to women's empowerment and improved household decision-making regarding children's welfare.

Recent developments in the program demonstrate its continued relevance and effectiveness in addressing contemporary poverty challenges. Bolsa Família, one of Brazil's most iconic social welfare programs, has helped 3 million recipients climb out of poverty so far in 2023, according to a release from the government (Brazil Reports, 2023). The program has undergone modernization and expansion under the current administration, with the World Bank supporting the new phase of Brazil's Bolsa Familia program, transferring R\$ 150 per month to each child aged zero to 6 years in the program, ensuring conditions that children are assisted in health and education areas (World Bank, 2023). This evolution demonstrates the program's adaptability and the government's commitment to evidence-based poverty reduction strategies that balance immediate relief with long-term development objectives.

In conclusion, both case studies (those of India and Brazil) demonstrate that successful poverty alleviation requires comprehensive, multi-dimensional approaches that address immediate needs while building long-term human capital. India's integrated model shows how large-scale, government-led initiatives can achieve dramatic results when properly coordinated across multiple sectors and administrative levels. Brazil's Bolsa Família illustrates the power of well-designed conditional cash transfers in breaking intergenerational poverty cycles. Despite global progress, about 69 million people are projected to escape extreme poverty between 2024 and 2030 compared to about 150 million who did so between 2013 and 2019, indicating that poverty reduction efforts need continued innovation and scaling (World Bank, 2024). These case studies provide valuable frameworks for other nations seeking to design effective poverty alleviation strategies tailored to their specific contexts and challenges.

Poverty Reduction in Nigeria: Definition, Key Concepts, and the Role of Procurement

Poverty reduction refers to efforts aimed at improving the welfare of individuals and communities by addressing factors contributing to poverty. In Nigeria, the concept is particularly relevant given the high poverty rate, with over 40% of the population living below the poverty line. Poverty in Nigeria is characterized by low income, unemployment, limited access to basic services, and a high dependence on subsistence agriculture Amadi-Harry, (2021).

Poverty reduction remains a pressing issue in Nigeria, a nation with abundant natural and human resources yet plagued by significant socio-economic disparities Esteves, and Barclay, (2011). Poverty reduction entails implementing strategies and policies that decrease the incidence of poverty and improve access to essential services, opportunities, and a decent standard of living. The concept in the Nigerian context extends beyond merely lifting people above the poverty line; it encompasses promoting economic empowerment, reducing inequality, and addressing structural barriers to growth (Ucha, 2019). Addressing poverty in Nigeria requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates economic diversification, investment in human capital, and the strategic utilization of public procurement as a development tool (National Planning Commission, 2021).

Tackling these issues necessitates adopting a broader perspective that encompasses the following concepts:

Inclusive Growth: Economic growth must benefit all segments of society, ensuring that wealth generation is widely distributed and not concentrated in a few sectors or regions. This principle is crucial in Nigeria, where income inequality remains a significant challenge. Inclusive growth emphasizes the integration of marginalized groups into mainstream economic activities, ensuring equitable access to opportunities (Inam, 2015) .

Job Creation: Unemployment and underemployment are major drivers of poverty in Nigeria. Effective poverty reduction strategies focus on generating employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women, who constitute a significant proportion of the vulnerable population. Sectors such as agriculture, construction, and manufacturing have the potential to absorb a large workforce and contribute to poverty alleviation (World Bank, 2019).

Local Economic Development: Local economic development focuses on empowering communities by fostering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), improving infrastructure, and encouraging investment. It is an approach that ensures public spending contributes directly to community upliftment and wealth creation at the grassroots level (Oseni and Osen, 2015) .

Human Capital Development: Investing in education, healthcare, and skill development is essential for empowering individuals to escape the cycle of poverty. Human capital development not only enhances employability but also contributes to long-term economic growth Jaffu, and Changelima, (2023).

Social Protection Mechanisms: Implementing safety nets, such as cash transfers and subsidies for essential goods, can provide immediate relief to those in extreme poverty while enabling them to participate in economic activities Ramalho, and de Fátima Martins, (2022).

III. Methodology

Study Area

Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria, serves as a strategic and appropriate study area for investigating the effects of sustainable procurement practices on poverty reduction, Audu, N. N., Nwogbo, and Ataide, (2011). As the seat of Nigeria's federal government, Abuja hosts numerous Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) that engage in large-scale public procurement activities. These activities significantly influence economic patterns within the city and its surrounding satellite towns. Given the prominence of public sector spending in Abuja, the extent to which procurement processes incorporate sustainability such as environmental considerations, local economic support, and social equity has far-reaching implications for both governance and development outcomes. This makes Abuja a compelling location to examine how sustainable procurement can be leveraged to address poverty.

Map of the study area is presented in Figure 1.

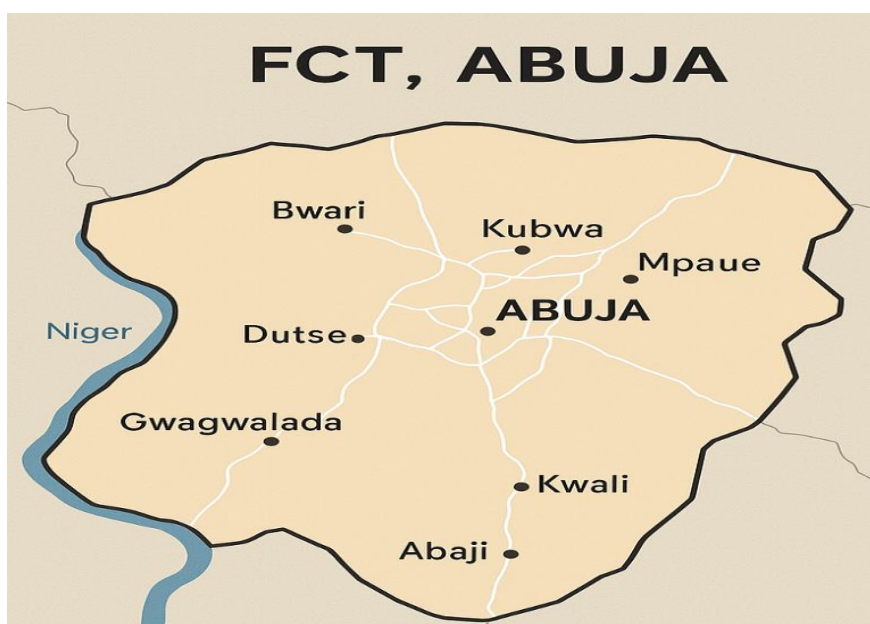


Figure 1 Map of Study Area (FCT, Abuja)

Source: Google 2024

Research Design

This study adopted a mixed-methods research design, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effects of sustainable procurement practices by Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on poverty reduction in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. The mixed-methods approach is suitable for this study because it enabled the researcher to capture both the measurable outcomes of sustainable procurement practices (quantitative) and the nuanced perspectives of stakeholders involved in the procurement processes (qualitative).

Sampling and Data Collection Methods

This study adopted a multistage sampling technique to ensure comprehensive and representative data collection from relevant stakeholders in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The procedure involved the stages presented in sections 3.3.1 to 3.3.6:

Target Population Determination:

The target population comprised key stakeholders involved in sustainable procurement and poverty alleviation efforts in Abuja. These include procurement officers in public agencies, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), local contractors, policymakers in MDAs (Ministries, Departments and Agencies), and community beneficiaries of government procurement projects.

Stratified Sampling:

The population was first stratified into five major stakeholder groups:

- Public procurement officials in MDAs
- Local contractors and vendors
- Community-based NGOs/CSOs involved in development and poverty reduction
- Policy and regulatory agency staff (including BPP, FCT Administration)
- Beneficiary communities (end-users)

Purposive Sampling within Strata

Within each stratum (stakeholder's group), purposive sampling was applied to select institutions and individuals with significant knowledge or experience in sustainable procurement or poverty reduction. For instance, only MDAs implementing capital projects or social investment programs were included.

Proportional Allocation

A proportional sample was allocated to each stratum based on their estimated size and influence on procurement decisions. For example, public officials may constitute 30% of the sample, contractors 25%, CSOs 15%, policy/regulatory bodies 10%, and community beneficiaries 20%.

Simple Random Sampling within Groups

Lastly, simple random sampling was used to select individual respondents from the identified institutions and communities to avoid bias and ensure representativeness.

Sample Size Determination

The sample size was calculated using Yamane's formula:

$$n = N / (1 + N(e^2)) \quad [3.1]$$

Where:

n = sample size.

Then putting all relevant parameters into Equation 3.1 and solving same we have:

N = total population (5,000).

e = margin of error (5% or 0.05).

$$n = 5000 / (1 + 5000(0.05^2))$$

$$n = 5000 / (1 + 5000(0.0025))$$

$$n = 5000 / 13.5 \approx 370$$

To ensure the robustness of the study and account for potential non-responses, the sample size was increased to 400 participants.

Methods of Data Collection

Detailed procedure for data collection is presented in sections 3.4.1 to 3.4.2.

Surveys

The primary data collection method involved a structured questionnaire distributed to all 400 participants. The questionnaire was designed to gather quantitative and qualitative data to address the research objectives comprehensively. The structured questionnaire was chosen due to its ability to systematically capture large-scale data, facilitating statistical analysis. It included Likert-scale questions for quantitative analysis and open-ended questions for richer qualitative insights.

Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 30 selected participants across the MDAs.

Themes explored included

- The integration of sustainability in procurement practices.
- Barriers to implementing sustainable procurement.

- Perceived impact of procurement practices on poverty reduction.

Semi-structured interviews allowed for in-depth exploration of specific issues, providing detailed narratives that complemented survey data of the study.

Method of Data Analysis

The method of data analysis for this study utilized combination of Descriptive Statistics and inferential statistical techniques to comprehensively assess the effects of sustainable procurement practices by Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on poverty reduction in Abuja, FCT. The analysis was structured into six distinct sections, each addressing specific aspects of the collected data.

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics was employed to summarize and describe the main features of the collected data. Key descriptive statistics measures calculated include:

- Mean: To determine the average responses for Likert-scale questions related to awareness, implementation challenges, and perceived impacts of sustainable procurement practices.
- Standard Deviation: To assess the variability or dispersion of responses around the mean, indicating how consistently participants perceived sustainable procurement practices.
- Skewness: To measure the asymmetry of the distribution of responses, helping to identify whether perceptions are predominantly positive or negative.

These descriptive statistics provided foundational insights into overall trends in respondents' attitudes towards sustainable procurement and its impact on poverty reduction.

Inferential Statistics

Analysis of variance inferential statistic was used to test hypothesis and explore relationships between variables and compare mean responses across different groups for example procurement vs. poverty reduction. Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 23 was used to carry out ANOVA on the study data.

Decision Rule for ANOVA: If the p-value is less than $\alpha=0.05$, the null hypothesis (no significant difference between groups) will be rejected.

IV. Results and Discussions

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic characteristics of respondents is presented in sections 4.1.1 to 4.1.5.

Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender distribution of respondents of respondents is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents

S/N	Demographic Information	Frequency Distribution	Percentage Distribution
1	Male	180	56.25
2	Female	140	43.75
3	Prefer not to say	0	0
	Total	320	100

The gender distribution in Table 1 reveals a majority of male respondents (56.25%), with female respondents constituting 43.75% of the sample. This suggests that while there is a considerable representation of women in procurement, men still dominate the field in Nigeria's public sector. However, the gender gap is not large, indicating that women are increasingly participating in procurement-related roles, especially as more gender-inclusive policies are implemented in the workforce. The lack of respondents in the "Prefer not to say" category indicates a high level of comfort with sharing gender information, which suggests that respondents feel confident and transparent in answering demographic questions.

Age Group Distribution of Respondents

Age group distribution of respondents is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Age Group Distribution of Respondents

S/N	Demographic Information	Frequency Distribution	Percentage Distribution
1	18–29 years	49	15.31
2	30–39 years	97	30.31
3	40–49 years	124	38.75
4	50 years and above	50	15.63
	Total	320	100

The age group distribution in Table 2 shows that the majority of respondents are between 40–49 years old (38.75%), which indicates a strong representation of experienced professionals who likely bring significant expertise to the procurement process. The 30–39 years group also represents a significant portion (30.31%), suggesting that middle-aged professionals, who are likely in managerial roles, make up a key part of the workforce. The relatively smaller representation of younger individuals (15.31% in the 18–29 years group) may reflect limited opportunities for entry-level positions in public procurement, or the fact that younger professionals may not yet have the experience to participate in complex procurement decision-making. The 50 and above age group (15.63%) highlights the presence of senior professionals, whose experience is invaluable in guiding procurement strategies, although their numbers are fewer.

Educational Qualification of Respondents

Educational qualification of respondents is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Educational Qualification of Respondents

S/N	Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Secondary Education	20	6.25
2	Diploma/OND/HND	47	14.69
3	Bachelor's Degree	160	50
4	Master's Degree	77	24.06
5	Doctorate (PhD)	16	5
	Total	320	100

The majority of respondents in Table 3 hold a Bachelor's Degree (50.00%), indicating that a strong proportion of procurement professionals in Nigeria's MDAs have acquired formal higher education. The next largest group comprises individuals with Master's Degrees (24.06%), which suggests that advanced qualifications are common among mid-career professionals. The relatively smaller percentage with Doctorates (5.00%) reflects the specialized nature of procurement and the fact that doctoral qualifications are less common in this field. The presence of respondents with secondary education (6.25%) and Diplomas/OND/HND (14.69%) demonstrates that there are procurement staff in entry-level and middle management positions who may have limited formal education but still contribute to the procurement process. This underscores the need for professional development programs to improve expertise across all levels of procurement.

Role/Position of Respondents

Role/Position of respondents is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Role/Position of Respondents

S/N	Role/Position	Frequency Distribution	Percentage Distribution
1	Procurement Officer	200	62.5
2	Budget Officer	49	15.31
3	Accountant	45	14.06
4	Administrative Officer	12	3.75
5	Policy Analyst	5	1.56
6	Financial Analyst	5	1.56

7	Engineer	4	1.25
	Total	320	100

The largest group of respondents (62.50%) in Table 4.4 are Procurement Officers, reflecting the central focus of the study on procurement practices. Budget Officers (15.31%) and Accountants (14.06%) also play crucial roles in ensuring that procurement processes align with financial and budgeting goals. The smaller representation of other roles, such as Administrative Officers (3.75%), Policy Analysts (1.56%), and Engineers (1.25%), suggests that while these positions are involved in the procurement process, they are less directly responsible for the implementation of procurement practices. This highlights the need for coordination across various roles to ensure that procurement decisions align with sustainable development goals, including poverty alleviation.

Years of Experience of Respondents

Years of experience of respondents is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Years of Experience of Respondents

S/N	Years of Experience	Frequency Distribution	Percentage Distribution
1	Less than 5 years	43	13.44
2	5-10 years	80	25
3	11-15 years	104	32.5
4	16-20 years	60	18.75
	Total	320	100

A substantial portion of respondents (32.50%) in Table 5 has between 11 and 15 years of experience, indicating that many professionals have gained significant expertise in procurement over a considerable period. The 25.00% with 5–10 years of experience suggests a growing pool of mid-career professionals who are likely becoming more involved in complex procurement decision-making. Those with less than 5 years of experience (13.44%) are relatively few, indicating that younger or less-experienced professionals are still in the process of building their careers in the procurement field. The 18.75% with 16–20 years of experience highlights the presence of seasoned professionals, while the 10.31% with more than 20 years of experience brings a wealth of expertise to the procurement processes. This diversity in experience levels ensures that procurement practices benefit from a range of perspectives, from fresh insights to deeply rooted expertise.

Respondents' Perspectives on Sustainable Procurement and Poverty Reduction in MDAs

Data on respondents' perspectives on sustainable procurement and poverty reduction in MDAs is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Respondents' Perspectives on Sustainable Procurement and Poverty Reduction in MDAs

S/N	Survey Theme Questions	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total Scores	No. of Respondents	Mean Scores
	Sustainable Procurement and Poverty Reduction								
1	Sustainable procurement practices contribute significantly to poverty reduction in Nigeria.	710	384	114	50	19	1277	320	3.99
2	My MDA integrates sustainability criteria in procurement decisions to address poverty.	685	356	135	56	21	1253	320	3.92
3	Public procurement has the potential to create jobs and uplift economically disadvantaged regions.	780	368	111	46	12	1317	320	4.12
4	Current procurement practices effectively address the socioeconomic needs of local communities.	590	412	117	74	23	1216	320	3.80

5	Procurement processes in my MDA prioritize long-term socioeconomic impacts over short-term cost savings.	645	420	99	68	19	1251	320	3.91
6	The integration of poverty alleviation goals into procurement is widely supported in my organization.	670	352	138	56	24	1240	320	3.88
7	Public procurement in Nigeria is underutilized as a tool for poverty alleviation.	745	396	90	50	17	1298	320	4.06
8	Sustainable procurement practices are feasible within the current public sector framework.	625	388	132	60	24	1229	320	3.84
9	There is adequate awareness within my MDA about the role of procurement in poverty reduction.	700	364	147	56	12	1279	320	4.00
10	My MDA collaborates with other agencies to enhance the socioeconomic benefits of procurement.	635	400	123	70	17	1245	320	3.89
Policy Frameworks									
11	Existing policies provide sufficient support for implementing sustainable procurement practices.	675	376	141	58	15	1265	320	3.95
12	The Public Procurement Act of 2007 adequately addresses poverty reduction through procurement.	710	372	126	52	17	1277	320	3.99
13	A lack of clear policy guidelines hinders the adoption of sustainable procurement practices.	765	336	138	46	14	1299	320	4.06
14	Policy frameworks effectively support the inclusion of local suppliers in procurement processes.	600	380	165	66	17	1228	320	3.84
15	My MDA regularly reviews policies to align procurement with poverty reduction objectives.	610	396	144	58	22	1230	320	3.84
16	Enforcement of procurement policies is consistent and effective in my organization.	630	376	150	64	18	1238	320	3.87
17	There is a need for explicit policy provisions to integrate sustainability into procurement.	740	352	120	50	19	1281	320	4.00
18	Existing policy frameworks incentivize MDAs to adopt	660	368	129	54	26	1237	320	3.87

	sustainable procurement practices.								
19	Procurement policies in my MDA align with Nigeria's broader poverty reduction strategies.	720	340	135	58	17	1270	320	3.97
20	Policy gaps significantly affect the implementation of sustainable procurement practices.	755	356	114	56	14	1295	320	4.05
Procurement Professionals' Knowledge and Capacity									
21	Procurement professionals in my MDA are trained in sustainable procurement practices.	695	348	141	56	19	1259	320	3.93
22	There is adequate knowledge of sustainability principles among procurement officers in my MDA.	620	420	120	62	20	1242	320	3.88
23	Training programs for procurement officers prioritize poverty alleviation as an outcome.	680	360	123	64	21	1248	320	3.90
24	Capacity-building initiatives are sufficient to enhance the adoption of sustainable procurement.	640	364	147	68	18	1237	320	3.87
25	Procurement officers in my MDA are equipped to evaluate suppliers based on sustainability criteria.	610	392	132	74	19	1227	320	3.83
26	Knowledge gaps among procurement professionals hinder the adoption of sustainable practices.	725	376	126	50	14	1291	320	4.03
27	My MDA encourages the continuous professional development of procurement officers.	675	372	144	52	18	1261	320	3.94
28	There are adequate resources to support training on integrating poverty reduction into procurement.	655	364	153	54	20	1246	320	3.89
29	Procurement officers are aware of the socioeconomic impacts of their decisions.	710	348	138	60	15	1271	320	3.97
30	My MDA provides guidance on incorporating sustainability into procurement processes.	690	356	141	62	15	1264	320	3.95
Financial Constraints									
31	Financial constraints hinder the implementation of sustainable	745	364	126	56	10	1301	320	4.07

	procurement practices in my MDA.								
32	Sustainable procurement practices are often perceived as more expensive than traditional approaches.	715	360	135	54	15	1279	320	4.00
33	Budgetary limitations restrict my MDA's ability to prioritize sustainability in procurement decisions.	685	368	138	56	17	1264	320	3.95
34	Cost considerations take precedence over socioeconomic impacts in procurement processes.	650	372	144	64	17	1247	320	3.90
35	My MDA allocates sufficient funds to support sustainable procurement initiatives.	635	356	147	68	21	1227	320	3.83
36	Financial support for local suppliers is inadequate to promote sustainable procurement practices.	750	340	141	46	15	1292	320	4.04
37	Investments in sustainable procurement yield long-term economic benefits despite higher initial costs.	700	352	135	56	19	1262	320	3.94
38	Financial incentives for adopting sustainable procurement practices are available in my MDA.	640	364	132	60	27	1223	320	3.82
39	Lack of financial resources prevents my MDA from engaging local suppliers.	720	336	150	54	15	1275	320	3.98
40	My MDA explores cost-effective strategies to integrate sustainability into procurement.	680	372	129	64	16	1261	320	3.94
	Local Supplier Engagement								
1	Local suppliers are given preference in procurement processes to support community development.	725	352	120	60	18	1275	320	3.98
42	My MDA encourages the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in procurement activities.	690	368	135	56	18	1267	320	3.96
43	Procurement practices in my MDA promote the development of local industries.	720	356	141	50	16	1283	320	4.01
44	My MDA actively engages local suppliers in capacity-building programs.	655	364	144	60	21	1244	320	3.89

45	Local suppliers are equipped to meet the sustainability criteria required in procurement processes.	635	388	129	62	23	1237	320	3.87
46	Lack of awareness among local suppliers about procurement opportunities hinders their participation.	750	340	120	58	18	1286	320	4.02
47	My MDA collaborates with local suppliers to develop innovative solutions for sustainability.	670	356	138	60	23	1247	320	3.90
48	Procurement opportunities are widely accessible to local suppliers in my MDA.	695	364	147	52	18	1276	320	3.99
49	My MDA provides technical assistance to local suppliers to enhance their competitiveness.	640	368	135	70	22	1235	320	3.86
50	Local supplier engagement significantly contributes to poverty reduction in Nigeria.	715	352	141	50	19	1277	320	3.99
Leadership and Institutional Commitment									
51	Leadership in my MDA prioritizes the integration of sustainability into procurement decisions.	680	360	144	54	21	1259	320	3.93
52	My MDA has a clear strategic direction for achieving sustainability through procurement.	645	376	150	64	17	1252	320	3.91
53	Leadership in my MDA actively supports training and development in sustainable procurement practices.	660	368	132	58	25	1243	320	3.88
54	My MDA's leadership recognizes procurement as a tool for poverty alleviation.	705	356	138	60	16	1275	320	3.98
55	Decision-making processes in my MDA consider the long-term socioeconomic impacts of procurement.	640	380	141	66	19	1246	320	3.89
56	Institutional commitment to sustainability is reflected in procurement policies and practices.	685	348	135	68	19	1255	320	3.92
57	My MDA fosters a culture of accountability in achieving sustainable procurement objectives.	675	364	144	62	18	1263	320	3.95
58	There is a disconnect between leadership priorities and actual procurement practices in my MDA.	735	344	126	50	15	1270	320	3.97

59	My MDA demonstrates strong institutional commitment to aligning procurement with national development goals.	700	356	138	56	18	1268	320	3.96
60	Leadership in my MDA actively monitors and evaluates the socioeconomic outcomes of procurement decisions.	665	372	132	64	19	1252	320	3.91

Table 6 presents the distribution of responses from 320 respondents on various aspects of sustainable procurement and its role in poverty reduction. The questions are grouped into six key themes: Sustainable Procurement and Poverty Reduction, Policy Frameworks, Procurement Professionals' Knowledge and Capacity, Financial Constraints, Local Supplier Engagement, and Leadership and Institutional Commitment. The Table includes total scores for each question, the number of respondents, and the mean scores, offering insights into the perspectives, experiences, and sentiments of respondents regarding the implementation of sustainable procurement practices in Nigerian MDAs. The mean scores reflect the general sentiment towards each question, with higher values indicating greater agreement or positive perception.

The study establishes that sustainable procurement practices contribute positively to poverty reduction by fostering local economic development, increasing employment opportunities, and ensuring long-term value creation within the supply chain. These findings are consistent with the work of Bugri, Ganyo, Akrofi, (2019), who highlighted that public procurement could serve as a vehicle for promoting social and economic goals beyond cost efficiency. In Nigeria, where poverty remains a pressing issue, the role of procurement in economic empowerment cannot be overlooked. Government expenditure through procurement constitutes a significant portion of the national budget, and aligning procurement with sustainability objectives ensures that economic benefits reach marginalized communities.

Hypothesis Testing

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between sustainable procurement practices and poverty reduction outcomes in Nigeria.

The hypothesis stated above was tested using ANOVA which is presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Results of Analysis of Variance

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.530	5	.106	11.778	.0356 ^b
	Residual	.037	4	.009		
	Total	.567	9			
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Procurement and Poverty Reduction						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Leadership and Institutional Commitment, Procurement Professionals' Knowledge and Capacity, Policy Frameworks, Local Supplier Engagement, Financial Constraints						

Source: SPSS Output

Interpretation of the ANOVA Results

The calculated F-value from the ANOVA analysis is 11.778.

The calculated F-value (11.778) is greater than the critical F-value (.0356).

This comparison indicates that the regression model is statistically significant, meaning that the predictors collectively explain a significant proportion of the variance in the dependent variable.

Since the p-value (0.0356) is less than the significance level (0.05), the null hypothesis (H₀) is rejected. This validates the alternative hypothesis (H₁), confirming that the predictors collectively have a statistically significant impact on sustainable procurement and poverty reduction.

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The Nigerian context further underscores the importance of sustainable procurement in addressing poverty. A major finding from qualitative data suggests that procurement decisions that prioritize local suppliers lead to increased job creation, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation. However, resistance from institutional leadership and limited financial resources pose constraints. Despite these challenges, the evidence suggests that integrating sustainability into procurement policies fosters inclusive economic growth, especially when linked with capacity-building programs for local businesses.

V. Conclusions

This study explored the “Assessing the impact of sustainable Practices on Poverty Alleviation in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria” The findings suggest that while there is a general recognition of the potential of sustainable procurement to drive poverty reduction, its integration into the procurement processes of MDAs remains inconsistent. Factors such as leadership commitment, policy frameworks, procurement professionals’ knowledge, and financial constraints all play significant roles in shaping the success of sustainable procurement practices within public institutions. The study proposes a detailed “Solutions for Poverty Alleviation in Abuja, FCT, Learning from International Best Practices”:

Leadership Commitment Solutions

Establishing Multi-Level Governance Framework

Drawing from India's comprehensive poverty reduction strategy, Abuja FCT requires sustained leadership commitment across federal, territorial, and local government levels. India's success demonstrates that "the programme is operated jointly by the Central Government and the State Government of India, with responsibilities including allocations of commodities such as rice, wheat, kerosene, and sugar to the States and Union Territories" (BYJU'S, 2024). For Abuja, this translates to establishing a Federal Capital Territory Poverty Alleviation Commission that coordinates between the Federal Ministry of FCT, Area Councils, and Ward Development Committees, ensuring consistent policy implementation regardless of political transitions.

Long-term Vision and Accountability Mechanisms

Brazil's Bolsa Família demonstrates the importance of sustained political commitment across different administrations. The program, introduced in 2003, has maintained its effectiveness through multiple government changes because of institutionalized commitment mechanisms (Centre for Public Impact, 2024). Abuja should establish a 15-year FCT Poverty Reduction Master Plan with legally binding targets and regular parliamentary oversight. This should include annual poverty reduction reports to the National Assembly and FCT House of Assembly, creating accountability structures that transcend individual political leadership.

Leadership Capacity Building and Champions Development

India's approach emphasizes that "social, economic, and environmental benefits being determinant factors of the implications of poverty alleviation programs" requires leaders who understand multidimensional poverty (Ruja et al., 2024). Abuja should establish a Leadership Institute for Poverty Reduction within the FCT Administration, providing continuous training for political appointees, permanent secretaries, and Area Council chairmen on evidence-based poverty alleviation strategies, with mandatory certification programs based on international best practices.

Policy Framework Solutions

Integrated Multi-Sectoral Policy Architecture

India's success stems from addressing "multiple dimensions of deprivation simultaneously" through integrated policy frameworks (World Bank, 2025). For Abuja, this requires developing a comprehensive FCT Poverty Reduction Policy that integrates urban planning, housing, education, health, and economic empowerment. The policy should establish clear linkages between different ministries and agencies, similar to how India coordinates between MGNREGA (employment), PDS (food security), and Aadhaar (digital identity) systems.

Conditional Transfer and Human Capital Development Framework

Brazil's Bolsa Família shows that "the conditional nature of the transfers, requiring school attendance and health check-ups, ensures that benefits extend beyond immediate consumption needs to build human capital for future generations" (Machado et al., 2020). Abuja should establish the FCT Family Empowerment Program, providing monthly transfers to families below the poverty line

conditional on children's school attendance, health check-ups, and participation in skills development programs. This should leverage Nigeria's National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) database for efficient targeting and delivery.

Women-Centered Policy Implementation

Learning from both case studies, where "qualifying families receive a small monthly cash transfer — distributed directly to the female head of household" (Women Deliver, 2016), and India's emphasis on "women's empowerment through programs like the Self-Help Group movement" (Ruja et al., 2024), Abuja should mandate that all poverty alleviation programs prioritize women as primary beneficiaries and decision-makers. This includes establishing Women's Cooperative Societies in all six Area Councils with direct access to microcredit and business development services.

Procurement Professionals' Knowledge Enhancement Solutions

Specialized Training and Certification Programs

Drawing from the precision demonstrated in Brazil's targeting where "94 percent of the funds reaching the poorest 40 percent of the population" (World Bank, 2012), Abuja needs procurement professionals with specialized knowledge in social program procurement. The FCT should establish mandatory certification programs for all procurement officers involved in poverty alleviation projects, covering social impact measurement, community engagement protocols, and transparent supplier selection criteria that prioritize local economic development.

Technology-Enabled Procurement Systems

India's success with the Aadhaar system for "efficient delivery of social protection benefits" demonstrates the importance of digital infrastructure (World Bank, 2025). Abuja should implement an integrated e-procurement platform specifically designed for poverty alleviation programs, enabling real-time monitoring of contract performance, beneficiary feedback systems, and automated compliance checking. This system should be linked to the Bank Verification Number (BVN) system to ensure transparent and efficient fund transfers to implementing partners.

Community-Responsive Procurement Protocols

Learning from India's approach where programs emphasize community participation, procurement professionals in Abuja need training in community-responsive procurement methods. This includes establishing Community Procurement Oversight Committees in each ward, training procurement officers in participatory budgeting techniques, and developing supplier evaluation criteria that consider local economic impact, employment generation potential, and community ownership of poverty alleviation interventions.

Financial Constraints Solutions

Diversified Funding Architecture

Brazil's sustained success with Bolsa Família, where "Bolsa Família, one of Brazil's most iconic social welfare programs, has helped 3 million recipients climb out of poverty so far in 2023" (Brazil Reports, 2023), demonstrates the importance of adequate and sustained funding. Abuja should establish a FCT Poverty Reduction Fund with multiple funding sources: federal budget allocations (40%), internally generated revenue from improved tax collection (30%), development partner support (20%), and private sector contributions through corporate social responsibility frameworks (10%).

Cost-Effective Program Design

Drawing from Brazil's cost-effectiveness where programs are "one of the most cost-effective poverty reduction programs globally" (World Bank, 2012), Abuja should adopt evidence-based program design that maximizes impact per naira spent. This includes conducting regular cost-benefit analyses, implementing graduated benefit systems that adjust to family size and needs, and leveraging existing infrastructure like primary healthcare centers and schools for program delivery to reduce administrative costs.

Innovative Financing Mechanisms

Learning from the World Bank's support for Brazil's modernized program, where "the World Bank supporting the new phase of Brazil's Bolsa Familia program, transferring R\$ 150 per month to each child aged zero to 6 years" (World Bank, 2023), Abuja should explore innovative financing including results-based financing agreements with development partners, social impact bonds with private investors, and diaspora remittance channeling mechanisms. Additionally, establishing a FCT Poverty Reduction Trust Fund with contributions from high-net-worth individuals and corporate entities can provide sustainable funding streams.

V. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made to improve the integration of sustainable procurement practices in Nigerian MDAs and foster their potential for poverty reduction:

Following both international models' gradual scaling approaches, Abuja should implement solutions in three phases: Phase 1 (Years 1-2) focusing on institutional framework establishment and pilot programs in two Area Councils; Phase 2 (Years 3-5) expanding

to all six Area Councils with full program implementation; and Phase 3 (Years 6-10) focusing on sustainability, impact assessment, and program refinement based on evidence and changing poverty dynamics.

Both case studies emphasize continuous improvement and adaptation. Abuja should establish a robust M&E system with quarterly progress reports, annual impact assessments, and five-year comprehensive evaluations. This should include beneficiary feedback mechanisms, third-party evaluations, and regular policy adjustments based on evidence, ensuring the solutions remain relevant and effective in addressing Abuja's specific poverty alleviation challenges.

MDAs' leadership should prioritize sustainable procurement by setting clear goals and strategies. Top management must lead by example and ensure alignment with poverty reduction objectives.

The Ministry of Finance and Bureau of Public Procurement should amend the Public Procurement Act of 2007 to include specific guidelines for sustainable procurement and poverty reduction.

The Bureau of Public Procurement should establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of sustainable procurement practices in contributing to poverty reduction.

This study makes a significant contribution to knowledge by establishing a direct link between sustainable procurement practices and poverty reduction within Nigeria's public sector.

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