ISSN:7161- 7342
Volume 15, Number 2, 2026
International Journal of Accounting & Public Policy

FINANCIAL REPORTING AND POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVES IN NIGERIA

Badubulachi Worlu
Email badubulachi.worlu@iaue.edu.ng, 07038830147
Department of Accounting, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
&
Akandu Chinedum
Email: chinedumaka@gmail.com, Phone: 08064804008

Abstract

This study examined the role of financial reporting in enhancing poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria, with particular emphasis on financial reporting transparency and disclosure practices. The study was anchored on the Public Accountability Theory, which provides a framework for understanding the responsibility of public institutions to provide transparent, reliable and accountable information on the management and utilisation of public resources. The study adopted a survey research design, with a population of 120 officials and stakeholders drawn from the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, National Social Investment Programme, National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy and selected Ministries, Departments and Agencies involved in poverty reduction initiatives. A census approach was adopted, resulting in a sample size of 120 respondents, while purposive sampling was used to select participants with relevant knowledge and experience. Data were structured around Financial Reporting Transparency and Disclosure Practices as explanatory variables, while Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes and Employment and Income Improvement constituted the dependent variables. Two regression models were specified to examine the effects of the explanatory variables on the two dimensions of poverty reduction outcomes. The findings indicate that financial reporting transparency positively influences access to social intervention programmes and employment and income improvement, while disclosure practices also positively influence both outcomes. The study concludes that transparent financial reporting and effective disclosure practices can strengthen accountability, improve public confidence and support the effective implementation of poverty reduction initiatives. The study recommends stronger financial reporting systems, comprehensive public disclosure, improved monitoring and greater integration of financial reporting with employment and income-generating programmes.

Keywords: ***Financial Reporting, Financial Reporting Transparency, Disclosure Practices, Poverty Reduction, Social Intervention Programmes, Employment, Income Improvement, Public Accountability Theory.***

INTRODUCTION

According to the World Bank (2023), poverty extends beyond low income to include deprivation of opportunities, capabilities, and access to essential services required for a decent standard of living. Despite being rich in natural resources, poverty and inequality remain widespread, posing significant challenges to sustainable economic development Goal 1. In response, the United Nations (2015), through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, advocates the eradication of poverty in all its forms by 2030. Consequently, successive Nigerian governments have introduced programmes such as the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), and N-Power to improve the welfare of vulnerable citizens. However, the persistence of poverty raises concerns about the management and accountability of resources allocated to these programmes.

Financial reporting is a fundamental component of public financial management because it promotes transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making. The International Public Sector

Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB, 2022) defines financial reporting as the provision of information on an entity's financial position, performance, and cash flows to support accountability and resource allocation decisions. To strengthen financial accountability, Nigeria has implemented reforms such as the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the Treasury Single Account (TSA), the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS), and the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS). These reforms have improved the quality and transparency of public sector financial reporting (Ademola et al., 2020).

Despite these reforms, weak disclosure practices, financial mismanagement, and inadequate accountability continue to undermine the effectiveness of poverty reduction initiatives. This study therefore examines the role of financial reporting in enhancing poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria, with particular emphasis on financial reporting transparency and disclosure practices.

Statement of the Problem

Poverty is a major developmental challenge in Nigeria despite numerous poverty alleviation programmes and significant public spending. The persistence of poverty and inequality raises concerns about the effectiveness of these interventions and the management of resources allocated to them (World Bank, 2023). The limited effectiveness of poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria is largely attributed to poor management and accountability of public funds. Weak financial reporting, inadequate disclosure, and poor monitoring often lead to inefficiencies, resource leakages, and failure to reach intended beneficiaries. Despite adopting reforms such as IPSAS, TSA, IPPIS, and GIFMIS, concerns remain about their effectiveness in improving accountability and poverty reduction outcomes. Although these reforms have enhanced transparency and comparability of financial statements, implementation and disclosure challenges persist (Ademola et al., 2020;). Existing studies have focused mainly on financial reporting and organizational performance, governance, and accountability, with limited attention to its role in poverty reduction initiatives and the achievement of SDG 1 in Nigeria. This creates a gap in empirical evidence on how quality financial reporting can enhance poverty reduction programmes. Against this backdrop, this study investigates the role of financial reporting in enhancing poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty).

Conceptual Framework

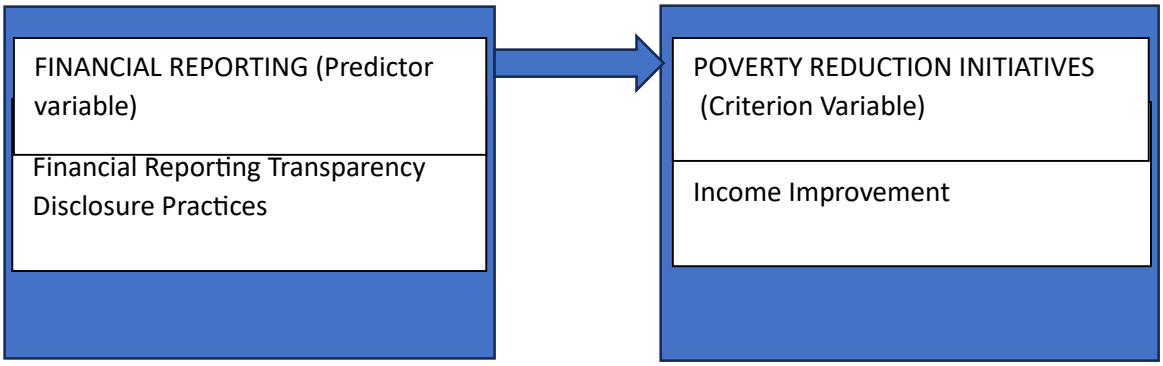


FIG 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher's Conceptualization (2026), adapted from IPSASB (2022), United Nations (2015), and relevant literature on financial reporting and poverty reduction initiatives.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The main aim of this study is to examine the role of financial reporting in enhancing poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the effect of financial reporting transparency on increased access to social intervention programmes in Nigeria.
2. Determine the effect of financial reporting transparency on employment and income improvement in Nigeria.
3. Assess the effect of disclosure practices on increased access to social intervention programmes in Nigeria.
4. Examine the effect of disclosure practices on employment and income improvement in Nigeria.

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses will guide the study:

H01: Financial reporting transparency has no significant effect on increased access to social intervention programmes in Nigeria.

H02: Financial reporting transparency has no significant effect on employment and income improvement in Nigeria.

H03: Disclosure practices have no significant effect on increased access to social intervention programmes in Nigeria.

H04: Disclosure practices have no significant effect on employment and income improvement in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Financial Reporting

Financial reporting is the process of preparing and presenting financial information relating to an entity's financial position, performance, and cash flows to facilitate accountability and informed decision-making by stakeholders (IASB, 2018; IPSASB, 2022). In the public sector, financial reporting serves as a mechanism through which governments account for the management and utilization of public resources. According to Ademola, Ben-Caleb, Madugba, Adegboyegun, and Eluyela (2020), financial reporting involves the preparation and disclosure of financial information in accordance with established accounting standards to promote transparency, accountability, and effective decision-making in both public and private sector organizations. Financial reporting provides information that enables governments, citizens, investors, and development partners to assess whether public resources are utilized efficiently and in line with predetermined objectives.The major objectives of financial reporting include providing relevant financial information, promoting transparency and accountability, facilitating planning and control, supporting resource allocation decisions, and enhancing monitoring and evaluation of government programmes. In Nigeria, public financial management reforms such as the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Treasury Single Account (TSA), Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS), and Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) were introduced to strengthen financial reporting practices and improve accountability in the management of public resources.

Dimensions of the Predictor Variable:

The predictor variable being Financial Reporting has various dimension but for the purpose of this study the 2 aspects which the researcher chose to investigate its relationship with SDG 1 poverty eradication, are Financial Reporting Transparency and Disclosure Practices

- **Financial Reporting Transparency**

Financial reporting transparency refers to the extent to which financial information is openly, clearly, accurately, and timely disclosed to users in a manner that enables them to understand an entity's financial activities and assess management accountability. Barth and Schipper (2008) define financial reporting transparency as the extent to which financial reports reveal an entity's underlying economic activities in a way that is readily understandable to users of financial statements.From the

Nigerian perspective, Ademola et al. (2020) contend that financial reporting transparency involves adequate disclosure and accessibility of financial information in accordance with accounting standards to enhance accountability and informed decision-making. S Similarly, (Ademola et al., 2020). and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB, 2022) maintain that financial reporting transparency is characterized by the clarity, timeliness, accessibility, reliability, and completeness of financial information, thereby enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions and effectively assess accountability in the management of public resources.

Characteristics of Financial Reporting Transparency

1. Openness in financial reporting.
2. Accuracy and completeness of information.
3. Timely presentation of financial reports.
4. Accessibility of financial information.
5. Clarity and understandability of disclosures.
6. Comparability and consistency of financial reports.

These characteristics are consistent with the qualitative characteristics of financial reporting information contained in the IPSAS Conceptual Framework (IPSASB, 2022) and are widely discussed in Nigerian public sector accounting literature (Ademola et al., 2020).Financial reporting transparency is important because it promotes public confidence, reduces information asymmetry, minimizes corruption and financial leakages, and facilitates efficient allocation and utilization of public resources. Transparent financial reporting enables stakeholders to monitor government expenditures and assess the effectiveness of poverty reduction programmes.

- **Disclosure Practices**

Disclosure practices refer to the provision and communication of relevant financial information through financial statements and accompanying reports to enable users to make informed decisions and assess management accountability. According to Kiabel (2012), disclosure practices involve the presentation of adequate financial information in financial reports to facilitate informed economic decisions and demonstrate stewardship over organizational resources. Similarly, Ofoegbu and Odoemelam (2018) note that disclosure practices encompass the extent and quality of financial information disclosed by reporting entities to reduce information asymmetry and improve transparency.

Disclosure practices are generally classified into:

1. Mandatory Disclosure: Information required by accounting standards, laws, and regulatory agencies.
2. Voluntary Disclosure: Additional information provided by organizations beyond statutory requirements.

Effective disclosure practices enhance accountability, improve the credibility of financial reports, facilitate performance evaluation, and strengthen public trust in government institutions. In the public sector, adequate disclosure enables citizens and oversight agencies to evaluate how public funds allocated to poverty alleviation programmes are managed and utilized.

Concept of Poverty Reduction Initiatives in Nigeria

Poverty reduction initiatives refer to deliberate policies, programmes, and interventions designed to reduce poverty and improve the welfare of vulnerable populations through social protection and economic empowerment measures. The United Nations (2015) describes poverty reduction initiatives as coordinated efforts aimed at eliminating poverty and ensuring access to economic resources, basic services, and social protection for all citizens. The World Bank (2023) also views poverty reduction initiatives as programmes intended to improve living standards and expand opportunities for poor and vulnerable groups.In Nigeria, several poverty reduction initiatives have

been implemented by successive governments. These include the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), Conditional Cash Transfer Programme, Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), N-Power Programme, and School Feeding Programme. These initiatives seek to reduce poverty through social assistance, employment creation, human capital development, and income-generating activities.The effectiveness of these programmes depends largely on the efficient management and accountability of public resources allocated to them. Consequently, quality financial reporting becomes indispensable in ensuring that funds meant for poverty reduction programmes are properly managed and utilized.

Measures of the Criterion Variable

The aspect of the criterion variables (poverty reduction) been studied are Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes and Employment and Income Improvement

- **Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes**

Social intervention programmes are government-sponsored initiatives designed to provide financial assistance, social protection, and welfare support to vulnerable populations to improve their living conditions and reduce poverty. Examples in Nigeria include Conditional Cash Transfers, N-Power, GEEP, and the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme. Increased access to social intervention programmes refers to the extent to which poor and vulnerable populations benefit from government poverty alleviation initiatives. Access is enhanced when resources allocated to such programmes are transparently managed and properly disclosed. Financial reporting transparency and adequate disclosure practices facilitate effective monitoring of intervention funds and increase public confidence in programme implementation.

- **Employment and Income Improvement**

Employment and income improvement refer to the enhancement of individuals' economic well-being through increased employment opportunities, higher earnings, and improved standards of living. According to the International Labour Organization (2021), employment and income improvement are fundamental indicators of economic empowerment and poverty reduction.

In the Nigerian context, poverty reduction initiatives seek to improve employment and income through skills acquisition programmes, entrepreneurship support schemes, agricultural interventions, and youth empowerment programmes. Effective financial reporting ensures accountability in the management of resources devoted to these programmes and enhances their ability to create jobs and improve household incomes.

Financial Reporting and Poverty Reduction Initiatives in Nigeria

Financial reporting and poverty reduction initiatives are closely related because the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programmes depends largely on accountability and transparency in the management of public resources. Financial reporting transparency enables stakeholders to access timely and reliable information regarding the allocation and utilization of poverty intervention funds. Similarly, adequate disclosure practices promote openness, reduce opportunities for corruption and financial leakages, and facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation of government programmes.

Where financial reports are transparent and disclosures are adequate, resources intended for poverty reduction programmes are more likely to reach targeted beneficiaries, thereby increasing access to social intervention programmes and improving employment and income levels. Consequently, improvements in financial reporting transparency and disclosure practices are expected to strengthen poverty reduction initiatives and contribute significantly to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This study is anchored on the Public Accountability Theory.

Public Accountability Theory

Public Accountability Theory posits that public officials and government institutions are entrusted with public resources and are therefore obligated to account for the acquisition, allocation, and utilization of those resources to the citizens and other stakeholders. The theory emphasizes transparency, openness, responsibility, and answerability in public sector financial management (Bovens, 2007). Kiabel (2012) maintains that public accountability requires public officers to provide adequate financial reports and explanations regarding the use of public funds in order to ensure transparency, stewardship, and responsible management of government resources. The theory is relevant to this study because poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria are funded with public resources. Therefore, transparent financial reporting and adequate disclosure promote accountability, reduce corruption and resource leakages, and ensure that funds reach their intended beneficiaries.

Stakeholder Theory

Stakeholder Theory was propounded by R. Edward Freeman in 1984. The theory posits that organizations have responsibilities to all stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, government, customers, and the wider society, and should consider their interests in decision-making processes. Uwuigbe, Uwuigbe, and Ajayi (2017) noted that stakeholder-oriented practices emphasize transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the information needs of various stakeholders, as organizations are expected to consider the interests of parties affected by their activities. The relevance of Stakeholder Theory to this study lies in its recognition, that citizens are key stakeholders in government poverty reduction initiatives. Transparent financial reporting and adequate disclosure practices provide stakeholders with information regarding the allocation and utilization of resources earmarked for poverty alleviation programmes. Such information promotes trust, accountability, and public participation in governance and contributes to the effective implementation of poverty reduction initiatives.

Empirical Review

Ademola et al. (2020) examined the effect of the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) on financial reporting quality in Nigeria. The study employed an ex post facto research design using secondary data from Nigerian public sector institutions. The findings revealed that IPSAS adoption significantly improved the quality, comparability, transparency, and accountability of financial reporting in the Nigerian public sector. However, the study noted that inadequate compliance with disclosure requirements and implementation challenges continued to limit the full realization of the benefits of IPSAS adoption.

Adewara et al. (2023) investigated the effect of IPSAS implementation on financial reporting quality in the Nigerian public sector. Using a survey research design, data were collected from public sector accountants and auditors and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings showed that IPSAS implementation significantly enhanced transparency, accountability, comparability, and credibility of financial reports. The study recommended stricter compliance with IPSAS and continuous capacity building for public sector financial officers.

Ofoegbu and Odoemelam (2018) investigated the adoption of IPSAS and government financial reporting in developing economies. Using documentary analysis and empirical evidence from public sector institutions, the study found that IPSAS adoption improved accountability, transparency, and comparability of government financial statements. The authors concluded that effective implementation of IPSAS strengthens public financial management and promotes accountability in government institutions.

Akinwunmi et al. (2025) examined the influence of IPSAS adoption on the quality of financial reporting in Ogun State, Nigeria. Using descriptive survey techniques, the researchers collected data from accountants and auditors in public institutions. The findings revealed that transparent financial reporting significantly enhanced accountability, reduced information asymmetry, and improved the

efficient utilization of public resources. The study concluded that improved financial reporting transparency promotes better implementation of government intervention programmes.

Erin et al. (2024) investigated the relationship between public sector transparency and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study utilized panel data from 48 African countries covering the period 2000–2019 and analyzed the data using the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM). The findings indicated that improved public sector transparency significantly enhanced social development outcomes, strengthened resource allocation efficiency, and supported sustainable development. The authors concluded that transparent public financial management contributes positively to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ofoegbu and Odoemelam (2018) investigated financial disclosure practices and government financial reporting in developing economies. Using documentary evidence and survey data, the study found that adequate disclosure significantly improves accountability, transparency, and stakeholders' confidence in public sector financial management. The study concluded that comprehensive financial disclosure reduces opportunities for financial mismanagement and enhances effective utilization of public resources**.**

Adewara et al. (2023) examined the implementation of IPSAS and financial reporting quality in Nigeria. The findings showed that improved disclosure practices significantly enhanced transparency, accountability, and the reliability of government financial reports. The study concluded that effective disclosure practices improve public confidence and facilitate efficient monitoring of government programmes**.**

Gap in Literature

The reviewed empirical studies have established that financial reporting plays a significant role in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective public financial management. Studies by Ademola et al. (2020), Ofoegbu and Odoemelam (2018), Adewara et al. (2023), and Akinwunmi et al. (2025) concentrated on the influence of IPSAS adoption, financial reporting quality, transparency, and disclosure practices on accountability and governance in the Nigerian public sector. Similarly, Erin et al. (2024) and the OECD (2023) demonstrated that transparency in public financial management enhances sustainable development and efficient resource allocation. On the other hand, studies by Oluwatayo and Ojo (2018), the UNDP (2022), and the World Bank (2023) focused on poverty reduction programmes, social intervention initiatives, and the challenges of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty).

Furthermore, there is a variable gap, as few studies have measured financial reporting using financial reporting transparency and disclosure practices, while measuring poverty reduction initiatives using increased access to social intervention programmes and employment and income improvement. There is also a contextual gap, since limited studies have specifically examined these relationships within the Nigerian public sector in the context of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty). This study therefore fills these gaps by empirically investigating how financial reporting transparency and disclosure practices influence poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria, particularly increased access to social intervention programmes and employment and income improvement, thereby contributing to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty).

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopts the descriptive survey research design. The descriptive survey design is considered appropriate because it enables the researcher to obtain information from respondents regarding their opinions and perceptions on the role of financial reporting in enhancing poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria. The design also facilitates the collection of data from a relatively large population and permits the description and analysis of relationships among the study variables without manipulating them (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Nworgu, 2015).

Population of the Study
The population of this study comprises officials and stakeholders involved in public financial management and the implementation of poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria. Specifically, the study covers personnel from the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS), and selected Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) responsible for poverty reduction initiatives. Twenty (20) respondents were selected from each of the six institutions, giving a total population of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique
Given the relatively small and manageable population of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents, the study adopted a census approach. Consequently, the entire population of 120 officials and stakeholders from the selected institutions was used as the sample size, and no further sampling determination was required.
The study also employed a purposive sampling technique in selecting the respondents because they are directly involved in public financial management and the implementation of poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria and therefore possess the requisite knowledge and experience relevant to the study.

Sources of Data
The study shall utilize primary data. Primary data will be collected directly from respondents through a structured questionnaire designed to elicit information on financial reporting and poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria.

Method of Data Analysis
The data collected shall be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation will be used to answer the research questions, while simple and multiple regression analyses will be used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. The analyses will be conducted using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Model Specification
Given the dimensions of the dependent variable, the models are further specified as:
$ASIP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FRT + \beta_2 DP + \varepsilon$
$EII = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FRT + \beta_2 DP + \varepsilon$
Where:
ASIP = Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes
EII = Employment and Income Improvement
FRT = Financial Reporting Transparency
DP = Disclosure Practices
ε = Error term.

DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

Variables	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
FRT	120	2.00	5.00	3.84	0.71
DP	120	2.00	5.00	3.79	0.74
ASIP	120	2.00	5.00	3.76	0.76
EII	120	2.00	5.00	3.68	0.79
Valid N (listwise)	120				

Discussion of Table 1

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the variables used in the study. The results show that Financial Reporting Transparency (FRT) recorded a mean value of 3.84 with a standard deviation of 0.71, indicating that respondents generally perceived financial reporting transparency to be relatively high among the institutions covered by the study. Disclosure Practices (DP) recorded a mean of 3.79 and a standard deviation of 0.74, suggesting that respondents also perceived disclosure practices to be relatively effective. Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes (ASIP) recorded a mean of 3.76 with a standard deviation of 0.76, while Employment and Income Improvement (EII) recorded a mean of 3.68 and a standard deviation of 0.79. The relatively high mean values across the variables indicate positive perceptions of financial reporting practices and their contribution to poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria. The standard deviations, which are relatively low, further indicate that the responses were reasonably concentrated around their respective mean values.

Table 2: Pearson Correlation Matrix of Study Variables

Variables	FRT	DP	ASIP	EII
FRT	1.000			
DP	.684**	1.000		
ASIP	.721**	.697**	1.000	
EII	.663**	.712**	.738**	1.000
Sig. (2-tailed)				
FRT	—	.000	.000	.000
DP	.000	—	.000	.000
ASIP	.000	.000	—	.000
EII	.000	.000	.000	—
N	120	120	120	120

Note: **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Discussion of Table 2

Table 2 presents the Pearson correlation matrix showing the relationships among Financial Reporting Transparency, Disclosure Practices, Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes, and Employment and Income Improvement. The result indicates a strong positive relationship between Financial Reporting Transparency and Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes ($r = .721$, $p < .01$), suggesting that higher levels of financial reporting transparency are associated with greater access to social intervention programmes. Financial Reporting Transparency also has a positive and significant relationship with Employment and Income Improvement ($r = .663$, $p < .01$), indicating that improvements in transparent financial reporting are associated with better employment and income outcomes. Similarly, Disclosure Practices have positive and significant relationships with Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes ($r = .697$, $p < .01$) and Employment and Income Improvement ($r = .712$, $p < .01$). The correlation results therefore provide preliminary evidence that both Financial Reporting Transparency and Disclosure Practices are positively associated with the poverty-reduction outcomes examined in the study, although the correlation analysis alone does not establish causality; the regression models are required to determine their individual effects.

Discussion of Finding

Financial Reporting Transparency and Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes

The finding indicates that financial reporting transparency positively contributes to increased access to social intervention programmes in Nigeria by improving the visibility, credibility and accountability of public resources allocated to poverty reduction initiatives. This finding agrees with Erin et al. (2024), in their study titled "Public Sector Transparency and Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa," which emphasised that greater public sector transparency strengthens accountability and supports effective delivery of development-oriented programmes. Similarly, Sabo et al. (2023), in their study titled "Financial Reporting Reforms and Accountability in Nigeria's Public Sector," demonstrated that financial reporting reforms enhance accountability and provide stakeholders with clearer information on government financial activities, thereby supporting more effective implementation of public programmes.

Financial Reporting Transparency and Employment and Income Improvement

The finding shows that financial reporting transparency has a positive contribution to employment and income improvement because transparent reporting enhances confidence in the management of public resources and supports the effective implementation of government development and poverty-reduction programmes. This finding is consistent with International Labour Organization (2021), in its report titled "World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021," which highlighted the importance of effective public policies and well-managed development interventions in supporting employment opportunities, income generation and improved livelihoods. The finding also agrees with Oluwatayo and Ojo (2018), in their study titled "Poverty Reduction Strategies and Sustainable Development in Nigeria," which emphasised that properly implemented poverty-reduction strategies can contribute to improved economic opportunities, livelihood conditions and sustainable income generation.

Disclosure Practices and Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes

The finding reveals that effective disclosure practices positively influence increased access to social intervention programmes because adequate disclosure provides stakeholders with relevant information about programme objectives, resource allocation, implementation activities and beneficiaries. This finding supports Ofoegbu and Odoemelam (2018), in their study titled "International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Adoption and Government Financial Reporting in Developing Economies," which showed that improved government financial reporting enhances the quality and availability of public financial information and strengthens accountability in developing economies. The finding is also consistent with International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (2022), in its "Handbook of International Public Sector Accounting Pronouncements," which promotes comprehensive public-sector financial reporting and disclosure as important mechanisms for transparency, accountability and informed stakeholder assessment of government activities.

Disclosure Practices and Employment and Income Improvement

The finding demonstrates that disclosure practices positively contribute to employment and income improvement by enhancing the information available for assessing public expenditure, development programmes and initiatives designed to improve citizens' economic welfare. This finding agrees with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2023), in its report titled "Government at a Glance 2023," which emphasised that transparent and accountable government practices strengthen public governance and support the effective delivery of policies and services that influence socioeconomic outcomes. The finding also corresponds with Kiabel (2012), in his book titled "Accounting in the Public Sector," which established the importance of sound public-sector accounting and reporting in promoting accountability and responsible management of public

resources, thereby creating a supportive environment for development programmes that can improve employment and income opportunities.

Summary of the Findings

1. The study found that Financial Reporting Transparency has a positive effect on Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes in Nigeria, indicating that transparent financial information supports effective visibility, accountability and accessibility of poverty-reduction interventions.
2. The study found that Financial Reporting Transparency has a positive effect on Employment and Income Improvement in Nigeria, suggesting that transparent management and reporting of public resources can support the effective implementation of programmes that enhance economic opportunities and livelihoods.
3. The study found that Disclosure Practices have a positive effect on Increased Access to Social Intervention Programmes in Nigeria, indicating that adequate disclosure of financial and programme information promotes awareness, accountability and accessibility of social intervention initiatives.
4. The study found that Disclosure Practices have a positive effect on Employment and Income Improvement in Nigeria, demonstrating that comprehensive disclosure provides useful information for monitoring public programmes and supporting initiatives capable of improving employment and income conditions.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that financial reporting plays an important positive role in strengthening poverty reduction initiatives in Nigeria through improved transparency and effective disclosure practices. Financial Reporting Transparency and Disclosure Practices enhance the availability and credibility of information concerning public resources and poverty-reduction programmes, thereby supporting increased access to social interventions as well as improved employment and income opportunities. The findings therefore establish that strengthening financial reporting practices can contribute meaningfully to more accountable public financial management and improved socioeconomic outcomes in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government institutions should strengthen financial reporting transparency by ensuring that information concerning funds allocated to social intervention and poverty-reduction programmes is presented accurately, clearly and regularly to relevant stakeholders.
2. Public-sector institutions responsible for poverty reduction should improve disclosure practices by providing timely and comprehensive information on programme funding, implementation activities, beneficiaries and outcomes to promote greater public awareness and accessibility.
3. The Federal Government should strengthen public financial reporting systems through improved adoption and application of appropriate public-sector accounting standards, digital reporting mechanisms and effective monitoring procedures to enhance accountability in poverty-reduction expenditure.
4. Government agencies should link financial reporting with employment and income-generating programmes by ensuring that financial information is effectively used to monitor resource utilisation, evaluate programme outcomes and improve interventions designed to create sustainable employment and income opportunities.

REFERENCES

Ademola, A. O., Ben-Caleb, E., Madugba, J. U., Adegboyegun, A. E., & Eluyela, D. F. (2020). *International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) adoption and financial reporting*

quality in the Nigerian public sector. *Journal of Public Affairs, 20*(2), e2036. https://doi.org/10.1002/pa.2036

Adewara, S. O., Dagunduro, M. E., Owonifari, O. E., Ajoloko, M. T., & Osatuyi, T. S. (2023). *International Public Sector Accounting Standards implementation and financial reporting quality in the Nigerian public sector*. *Cogent Business & Management, 10*(1), 2199298. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2023.2199298

Akinwunmi, A. A. J., Ajayi-Owoeye, O. A., Ogundajo, G. O., Alu, C. N. A., & Omojola, S. O. (2025). Descriptive analysis of IPSAS adoption and quality of financial reporting in Ogun State, Nigeria. *Modern Management Review, 30*(2), 25–42.

Aronmwan, E. J., & Asiriuwa, O. M. (2018). Online financial disclosure and accountability in the Nigerian public sector. *Accounting and Taxation Review, 2*(3), 36–49.

Barth, M. E., & Schipper, K. (2008). Financial reporting transparency. *Journal of Accounting, Auditing & Finance, 23*(2), 173–190.

Bovens, M. (2007). Analysing and assessing accountability: A conceptual framework. *European Law Journal, 13*(4), 447–468. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0386.2007.00378.x

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). Sage Publications.

Donaldson, L., & Davis, J. H. (1991). Stewardship theory or agency theory: CEO governance and shareholder returns. *Australian Journal of Management, 16*(1), 49–64. https://doi.org/10.1177/031289629101600103

Erin, O., Adegboye, A., & Uwuigbe, U. (2024). Public sector transparency and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment*. Advance online publication.

Freeman, R. E. (1984). *Strategic management: A stakeholder approach*. Pitman Publishing.

Hair, J. F., Black, W. C., Babin, B. J., & Anderson, R. E. (2019). *Multivariate data analysis* (8th ed.). Cengage Learning.

International Accounting Standards Board. (2018). *Conceptual framework for financial reporting*. IFRS Foundation.

International Labour Organization. (2021). *World employment and social outlook: Trends 2021*. International Labour Organization.

International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board. (2022). *Handbook of International Public Sector Accounting Pronouncements*. International Federation of Accountants.

Kiabel, B. D. (2012). *Accounting in the public sector*. Glory Educational Services.

Nworgu, B. G. (2015). *Educational research: Basic issues and methodology* (3rd ed.). University Trust Publishers.

Ofoegbu, G. N., & Odoemelam, N. (2018). International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) adoption and government financial reporting in developing economies. *Journal of Accounting and Taxation, 10*(7), 82–89.

Oluwatayo, I. B., & Ojo, A. O. (2018). Poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development in Nigeria. *African Journal of Economic and Sustainable Development, 7*(2), 150–166.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2023). *Government at a glance 2023*. OECD Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1787/3d5c5d31-en

Sabo, B., Yusuf, M., & Ibrahim, H. (2023). Financial reporting reforms and accountability in Nigeria's public sector. *International Journal of Accounting and Finance Review, 11*(1), 25–40.

United Nations Development Programme. (2022). *Human development report 2021/2022: Uncertain times, unsettled lives—Shaping our future in a transforming world*. United Nations Development Programme. https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2021-22

United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. United Nations. https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda

World Bank. (2023). *Poverty and shared prosperity 2023: Correcting course*. World Bank. https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-2031-2