

## Perceived Effect of End Bad Governance Protest on Poverty Alleviation by Academic Staff of Public Universities in Enugu State, Nigeria

**Onu Sebastine Chigozie, PhD**

Department of Social Science Education (Political Science Unit),  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka  
capricononu@gmail.com

DOI: 10.56201/jpaswr.v9.no3.2024.pg50.59

---

### **Abstract**

*The study analysed the Perceived Effect of End Bad Governance Protest on Poverty Alleviation by Academic Staff of Public Universities in Enugu State, Nigeria. In the course of investigation, 2 research questions were provided answers to, while 2 null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha levels. Descriptive survey research design was adopted in conducting the investigation. Convenient sampling technique was applied in selecting 150 academic staff of the public universities in Enugu State. Researcher's constructed questionnaire titled End Bad Governance Protest and Poverty Alleviation Scale (EBGPPAS) was used to collect needed data. Copies of the EBGPPAS were certified for face and content validity by 3 research experts from the university system. Test-retest method was adopted in calculating the reliability test for the instrument with satisfactory correlation coefficient of 0.80. The researcher together with 4 research assistants administered and retrieved responses of 150 sampled academic staff within 3 weeks. Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ) and Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) were adopted as instruments for the analysis of research questions and hypotheses, respectively. Findings of the study revealed that the 10 points end bad governance demand made protesters have not helped in reducing poverty. Also, the Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest have not helped to alleviate poverty. It was concluded that the end bad government protest was simply a public outcry of discontent with government's ineffective solutions to obvious hardship and pains in Nigeria but has not yielded meaningful positive result in terms of alleviating poverty. It was recommended that government should take protective and measurable steps towards addressing the demands of the masses.*

**Keywords:** *Perceived Effect, End Bad Governance Protest, Poverty Alleviation, Academic Staff, Public Universities*

---

### **Introduction to the Study**

Protest in Nigeria as a key part of her national identity stretched back to periods preceding the Country's Official Independence from the Colonial masters. Akenroye (2024) recounted that the 1929 Aba Women's Riots, where women stood up to British colonial powers, setting the stage for future activism. Akenroye (2024) further noted that after independence,

there have been major protests in Nigeria, such as the heavy public outcry because of the annulment of the June 12, 1993 Presidential election, which played a crucial role in Nigeria's return to civilian rule in 1999; the #OccupyNigeria movement in 2012, which showed the power of peaceful protests when thousands took to the streets to oppose the removal of fuel subsidies, leading to significant policy changes; the #BringBackOurGirls campaign the 2014, sparked by the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok, turned into sustained protests that brought attention to broader issues of security, governance, and women's rights in Nigeria; the #EndSARS protests of 2020, which marked a major turning point, initially focused on disbanding the Special Anti-Robbery Squad but quickly grew into a nationwide demand for broader governance reforms and accountability, and currently, the #EndBadGovernanceinNigeria movement, 2024.

The #EndBadGovernanceInNigeria protest with majorly 10-point demands which lasted for 10 days, from 1st – 10th August, 2024 was a movement to deeply lament that Nigerian are fed up with bad governance, corruption, and the rising cost of living that has left millions struggling and obvious mismanagement of the nation's resources without sincere accountability. Similarly, Uti (2024) highlighted the 10 points demands of the end bad governance protest to include: constitutional and judicial reforms, establish a living wage, electoral reform, human capital development, protect farms and farmers, government waste / cost of governance/ bloated NASS insecurity, cost of living and hunger. Meanwhile, the movement significant, not just for its broad demands, such as reducing the cost of governance and reinstating the oil subsidy removed last year, but also for its ability to unite Nigerians across regional, ethnic, and religious lines and its savvy use of social media and advocacy.

However, while the protest has been concluded based on the schedule, it appears the objectives of the protesters have not yet been met, even though the masses have demonstrated the collective willpower to express their grievances and hold the government accountable. In relation to this, Dakuku (2024) noted that the protests that swept across Nigeria in the summer of 2024, whether you choose to call them "Days of Rage", "Hunger Protest", or the "#EndBadGovernance Movement," formally ended on Saturday, August 10, 2024, with the final three days of the demonstrations dedicated to mourning and honouring the brave souls who lost their lives in the struggle. Supporting this, Inibehe (2024) decried the fact that while the protesters, consisting mostly of young disenchanting Nigerians, demonstrated courage in the face of State-sponsored harassment, President Bola Tinubu and other political leaders failed to take advantage of the momentum to gain relative legitimacy, by not making serious efforts at immediately addressing the alarming poverty situation in the country.

Poverty in Nigeria can be considered as a situation of lack and want, resulting in obvious hunger and feeling of worthlessness. In attempt to define poverty, World Bank Report cited in Oladele (2019) considered poverty as a condition of hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not being able to go to school, not knowing how to read, not being able to speak properly, not having a job, fear for the future, losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water, powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom. It is thought to be the condition under which there is a serious deficiency in or lack of access to the basic necessities of normal life such as food, clothing, housing, health and education services. But, to ameliorate poverty, the concept of

poverty alleviation was coined and defined. Based on this, United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty cited in Olaniyi and Aroge (2014) stated that poverty alleviation as the global campaign for concerted action to ensure the effective reduction of poverty worldwide. The clamour for poverty to be reduced, if not eradicated in the world and Nigeria in particular could be perceived as the root cause of the increasing uprisings and protests in the country. With the academic staff of universities being part of the affected severely, it becomes necessary to examine their perception on the matter.

Academic staff entails all the university personnel whose main responsibility is teaching, evaluation of students and advancement of the academic world through research and innovations (Orji, 2024). This set of people belong to a strong activists association, known as Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), which is known to always stand against government ill policies against her members in particular and some matters of the general public. They are believed to be very knowledgeable about the possible effect of the 'end bad governance protest', hence the choice of leveraging their responses, especially those in public universities.

Public universities refer to government of owned and sponsored universities. Esiegbue and Samuel (2024) elaborated that public universities constitute part of the public tertiary institutions, especially the university category that is owned, controlled and mostly funded by the government with the State government taking responsibility for providing funding and other fundamental supports needed to sustain the operations of her universities. These universities nurture mostly the younger generation of the country's human resource. The younger generation is also understood to be the major actors during protests, as they use the medium to make attempts to persuade government to prepare a future they can be proud of. In all of these, there seems to be little or no empirical literature involving lecturers' perception on the consequences of protests in Nigeria in general and Enugu State in particular. Supporting the claim, Orji (2024) observed that there is little, if not lack of scholarly empirical investigations carried out in relation to protest and lecturers' perspective in Enugu State, as almost all the accessible literature are based on opinion and expressions that did not follow a defined scientific procedure. In order to bridge this gap, this study investigated perceived effect of end bad governance protest on poverty alleviation by academic staff of public universities in Enugu State, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The essence of protest is to request for a positive change to help make life better for humanity in general and citizenry in particular. The experience of End Bad Governance protests stemmed from Nigeria's growing economic hardship and hunger, which could be termed the worst economic crisis the country ever witnessed, due to record inflation, especially on food prices, as could be traced to the removal of fuel subsidies and the devaluation of the Naira. The protests officially began on 1 August, 2024 as demonstrators were seen on the streets displaying placards with messages like "Enough is Enough," "Stop Anti-Masses Policies," "We Are Not Slaves In Our Country," "Hardship Is Unbearable," and "Fuel Subsidy Must Be Back." In response to the protest which lasted for 10 days, government resorted to applying anti-protest strategies with some report arresting of protesters, deploying of tear gas and sometimes shooting of unarmed protesters. This resulted in some recorded casualties with four persons reportedly

shot dead in Borno State and four in Niger State. Three protesters were also reportedly killed in Kaduna State and two in Jigawa State, bringing the total number deaths to at least 14. In Kano State, four protesters were critically injured and taken to hospital. Jide Oyekunle, a photojournalist with the Daily Independent, was arrested and detained by police while reporting on the protests at Eagle Square in Abuja. A report from the United Action Front of Civil Society stated that 21 protesters were killed and over 1,100 arrested by police on the first day of the protests. Additionally, 175 people were injured. On 2 August, one protester was killed in Abuja by the police. The State Security Service (SSS) arrested two organizers of the protests, identified as Kabir Shehu Yandaki and Habibu Ruma, in Katsina State.

With all these record of casualties and losses, one wonders if the demands made by protesters have actually helped to alleviate poverty in Nigeria. It is also questionable whether government's approach to responding to the end bad governance protest has actually remedied the alarming poverty situation in the country. At the backdrop of these issues, the problem of the investigation is presented in an interrogation manner, viz: what is perceived effect of end bad governance protest on poverty alleviation by academic staff of public universities in Enugu State, Nigeria?

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were provided answers to:

1. To what extent have the 10 points end bad governance demands made by protesters helped in reducing poverty?
2. To what extent have the Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest demands helped to alleviate poverty?

### **Hypotheses**

In the study, the following null hypotheses were tested at 5% level of significance:

1. There is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the 10 points end bad governance demands made by protesters have helped in reducing poverty.
2. There is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest demands have helped to alleviate poverty.

### **Method**

Descriptive survey research design was adopted in conducting the investigation. Population of the study encompassed all the academic staff of public universities in Enugu State, namely: University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu, and Enugu State University of Medical and Applied Sciences, Igbo-Eno. Convenient sampling technique was applied in selecting 150 academic staff of the aforementioned universities. Researcher's constructed questionnaire titled End Bad Governance Protest and

Poverty Alleviation Scale (EBGPPAS) was used to collect needed data. The rating scale of the instrument was structured as follows: Very High Extent (VHE) = 4 points, High Extent (HE) = 3 points, Low Extent (LE) = 2 points and Very Low Extent (VLE) = 1 point. Copies of the EBGPPAS were certified for face and content validity by 3 research experts from the university system.

Test-retest method was adopted in calculating the reliability test for the instrument with satisfactory correlation coefficient of 0.80. The researcher together with 4 research assistants administered and retrieved responses of 150 sampled academic staff within 3 weeks. Mean (X) and Chi-square ( $X^2$ ) were adopted as instruments for the analysis of research questions and hypotheses, respectively. For remarks regarding the research questions, any calculated Mean (X) value of 2.5 – 4.0 was considered acceptable of any questionnaire item while anyone that falls below was considered not acceptable. On the other hand, the result(s) of  $X^2$ -calculated was compared against  $X^2$ -critical based on 0.05 level of significance at a derived degree of freedom. For this reason, null hypothesis whose  $X^2$ -calculated was greater than the  $X^2$ -critical value, was remarked, rejected and vice versa.

## Results

**Research Question 1:** To what extent have the 10 points end bad governance demands made by protesters helped in reducing poverty?

**Table 1**

**Mean ratings of Academic Staff of Public Universities on the extent to which the 10 points end bad governance demands made by protesters have helped in reducing poverty.**

S/N	From my perspective, the following 10 end bad government protests have helped to reduce poverty in Nigeria:	Mean	Remark
1.	Reduce the cost of food immediately to cater for hunger	1.31	LE
2.	Address the rising cost of living, such as reducing pump price of fuel to N195/ltr, electricity tariffs, import taxes, etc.	1.43	LE
3.	Curb insecurity across the country, such as prosecute known instigators & criminals, resettle internally displaced persons (IDPs) immediately	1.58	LE
4.	Reduce cost of governance by 50% like those of the Executive, National Assembly, etc.	1.55	LE
5.	Release all #EndSARS protesters; make public the #EndSARS Judicial Panel Reports and pay relevant compensations	1.34	LE
6.	Provide security to farmers across the country, restore stolen lands, subsidise farm inputs – seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and ban destructive GMOs	1.42	LE
7.	Declare a state of emergency on education and increase budgetary allocation to education and healthcare by 20%	1.41	LE

	and revert to the old National Anthem		
8.	Implement the Justice Uwais report on Electoral Reform by including mandatory electronic balloting and transmission to IREV with Electoral Act that must be signed by December 2024	1.07	LE
9.	Establish a living wage by going back to the negotiating table for an implementation plan to establish an unemployment/living wage.	1.90	LE
10.	Sponsor constitutional and judicial reforms through Executive Bill to the National Assembly to amend the Constitution to allow for referendums, Nigerians' right to vote on a new constitution	1.34	LE
<b>Cluster Mean</b>		<b>1.44</b>	<b>LE</b>

Table 1 revealed that each of the surveyed items had a calculated Mean rating that is less than 2.5. Also, the cluster or summarized Mean of the items is 1.44, which is less than the 2.5 benchmark for acceptance. This implies that the academic staff of universities in Enugu State rated all the surveyed items to be of low extent. Therefore, the 10 points end bad governance demands made by the protesters have not helped in reducing poverty in Nigeria.

**Research Question 2:** To what extent have the Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest demands helped to alleviate poverty?

**Table 2**

**Mean ratings of Academic Staff of Public Universities on the extent to which the Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest have helped to alleviate poverty.**

S/N	From my perspective, the following federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest have helped to alleviate poverty in Nigeria:	Mean	Remark
1.	Mr. Presidents' plea for protesters to stop the protest	1.11	LE
2.	Arrest and detaining of protesters by police and government security forces	1.03	LE
3.	Deploying tear gas and live bullets at unarmed protesters	1.50	LE
4.	Mr. presidents' outline and defense of his records and achievements since assuming office	1.05	LE
5.	Government's deployment of pro-Tinubu supporters to serve as anti-end bad government protest	1.31	LE
6.	Federal Government's proposal to sale of 3 ageing presidential jets	1.49	LE
7.	House of Representative members proposal of cutting down salaries by 50% for 6-month to support food sufficiency efforts	1.71	LE

8.	Federal Government' proposed improved minimum wage (N70,000) for both government workers and those in private sector	1.56	LE
9.	Federal Government's claim to have distributed 740 trucks load of rice to the 36 States in Nigeria	1.43	LE
10.	Federal Government's claim of halting plan to sell subsized 50-kg bags of rice to public servants at N40,000	1.06	LE
	<b>Cluster Mean</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>LE</b>

On Table 2 it could be seen that the calculated Mean rating of each of the surveyed items is less than 2.5. More so, the cluster Mean of the items is 1.32, which is less than the 2.5 benchmark for acceptance. This means that the academic staff of universities in Enugu State rated all the surveyed items to be of low extent. Hence, the Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest demands have not helped to alleviate poverty in Nigeria.

### Test of Hypotheses

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the 10 points end bad governance demands made by protesters have helped in reducing poverty.

### Table 3

**Chi-square ( $X^2$ ) analysis of Academic Staff of Public Universities' responses on the extent to which the 10 points end bad governance demands made by protesters have helped in reducing poverty.**

Respondents	$X^2$ -calculated	$X^2$ -critical	Degree of freedom	Alpha level	Remark
Academic Staff	765.29	177.39	148	0.05	Not significant

Table 3 revealed the values of  $X^2$ -calculated and  $X^2$ -critical to be 765.29 and 177.39, respectively. Comparatively, from these indices,  $X^2$ -calculated (765.29) is greater than  $X^2$ -critical (177.39), implying that the null hypothesis is not rejected. Hence, there is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the 10 points end bad governance demands made by protesters have helped in reducing poverty.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest demands have helped to alleviate poverty.

**Table 4**

**Chi-square ( $X^2$ ) analysis of Academic Staff of Public Universities’ responses on the extent to which the Federal Government’s responses to the end bad government protest demands have helped to alleviate poverty.**

Respondents	$X^2$ -calculated	$X^2$ -critical	Degree of freedom	Alpha level	Remark
Academic Staff	809.04	177.39	148	0.05	Not significant

From Table 4, it is seen that the value of  $X^2$ -calculated is 809.04 while that of  $X^2$ -critical is 177.39 with  $X^2$ -calculated being 809.04 and  $X^2$ -critical being 177.39, it shows the former is greater than the later. By this, the null hypothesis is not rejected. Therefore, there is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the Federal Government’s responses to the end bad government protest demands have helped to alleviate poverty.

### Discussion of Findings

The study reported that the 10 points end bad governance demand made by protesters have not helped in reducing poverty in Nigeria. The study further revealed there is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the 10 points end bad governance demand made protesters have helped in reducing poverty. In tandem with report of the investigation, Dakuku (2024) reported that the protests that swept across Nigeria in the summer of 2024, whether you choose to call them “Days of Rage”, “Hunger Protest”, or the “#EndBadGovernance Movement,” formally ended on Saturday, August 10, 2024, with the final three days of the demonstrations dedicated to mourning and honouring the brave souls who lost their lives in the struggle. Dakuku stressed that as the nation begins to reflect on these events, three critical questions come to the forefront: “Did these protests achieve their intended objectives?” “What tangible gains, if any, were secured?” “What comes next?” Undoubtedly, these questions point to the fact that the purposes of the end bad governance protest have not been attained, with poverty situation deepening like never before.

The investigated also revealed that the Federal Government’s responses to the end bad government protest have not helped to alleviate poverty. Furthermore, there is no statistically significant evidence on the extent to which the Federal Government’s responses to the end bad government protest demands have helped to alleviate poverty. In consonance with report of the study, Inibehe (2024) asserted that the mass civic action that greeted the country from 1st August, 2024 with the hashtag #EndBadGovernanceInNigeria, has expanded the conversation about the role of the government and the efficacy of citizen engagement in our political process. Inibehe decried the fact that while the protesters, consisting mostly of young disenfranchised Nigerians, demonstrated courage in the face of State-sponsored harassment, President Bola Tinubu and other political leaders failed to take advantage of the momentum to gain relative legitimacy. Inibehe further lamented that the notice of the nationwide protest was given weeks before it commenced, yet, the national and subnational governments did not exhibit the



leadership expected of them. The foregoing is also evidential that government responses, in the form of actions and inactions have not improved the poverty situation in Nigeria.

## Conclusion

In line with reports of the investigation, the 10 points end bad governance demand made protesters have not helped in reducing poverty. The Federal Government's responses to the end bad government protest have not helped to alleviate poverty. Therefore, the end bad government protest was simply a public outcry of discontent with government's ineffective solutions to obvious hardship and pains in Nigeria but has not yielded meaningful positive result in terms of alleviating poverty.

## Recommendations

Based on findings of the study, the following were recommended:

1. The masses and protesters of end bad governance should re-strategise and come up with a more feasible approach to earning the demands of the people from government with absence casualties and destruction of life and properties. Perhaps, constructive, objective and sincere dialogue and negotiations should be adopted going forward.
2. The government at all levels (federal, state and local) should realize that the nation's resources belong to the citizenry and sincerely take protective and measurable steps towards addressing the demands of the masses. The government should become responsive to the people and shun greed and mismanagement of the nation's resources.

## References

- Akenroye, A. (2024). *The right to protest in Nigeria: Charting a Path from #EndBadGovernanceinNigeria to good governance*. Retrieved on 20th August, 2024.
- Dakuku, P. (2024, August, 13). Takeaways from the endbadgovernance protest/. *This Day Live*. Available at <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2024/08/13/takeaways-from-the-endbadgovernance-protest/>
- Esiegbue, P. U. & Samuel, N. N. C. (2024). Assessment of utilization of online teaching in computer science education in government owned tertiary institutions in Anambra state. *International Journal of Education and Evaluation (IJEE)*, 10(2), 234-242.
- Inibehe, E. (2024, August, 13). Nationwide protest: A warning to Nigeria's Kleptomaniac Political Elites. *This Day Live*. Available at <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2024/08/13/nationwide-protest-a-warning-to-nigerias-kleptomaniac-political-elites/>
- Oladele J. K. (2019). Poverty alleviation in Nigeria: Marketing concept as pathway to better quality living. *Bingham Journal of social & Management Studies*, 1(3), 1-11.

- Olaniyi, F. O. & Aroge, S. T. (2014). Poverty alleviation strategies in Nigeria: The *Missing Link of Adult Education*. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences (MC SER) Publishing, Rome-Italy*, 5(23), 1674- 1679. Doi:10.5901/mjss.2014.v5n23p1674
- Orji, F. O, (2024). Academic staff defined. *X (twitter)*. Retrieved from x.com, on 20 August, 2024.
- Uti, E. (2024, July, 31). Updated the 10 things endbadgovernance protest conveners want from government. *Fij Nigeria*. Available at <https://fij.ng/article/updated-the-10-things-endbadgovernance-protest-conveners-want-from-govt/>