

youths. Therefore, this should be seen as an expenditure that has a re-distributive effect on income, particularly as it concerns the youths.

2.2.5 Health

Ministry of health in (2012), reported that 47% of Nigerian women are mothers before they reach age 20. This is a big handicap for the 16-44 years age group, as it makes a significant number of females in this group unemployed or employed at the lower end of the labour force.

In trying to address these issues for the females to overcome their challenges and address their economic issues, government has been spending to overcome the constraints.

Table 5 indicates how much the federal government is spending per year on health. Some of the pro-poor and children government spending include free women and children vaccinations, free eye treatments for the old, occasional general medical examinations for the old also, free family planning advisory services, subsidized anti and post natal care, etc. Benefits from these spending have put the low earners in better stead to take advantage of education / trainings to improve on their skills and offer improved services.

The government spending in this regard has potentials to address issues in distribution of income, age wise. This should be looked at from the perspective that beneficiaries of these services have saved income which should have otherwise been spent to pay for the services. Also, these services put them in better positions to develop their human capacities for better job opportunities which guarantee higher income.

2.2.6 Agriculture

Most rural dwellers in Nigeria are of the age brackets of 0-15 and above 60 and are mostly engaged in agriculture. In government social responsibility, agriculture cannot be ignored. Therefore, government has been boosting the earnings of rural dwellers through agriculture.

Table 5 shows government's 2009-2015 budget for agriculture. Her agricultural guarantee scheme channels loans to the farmers at affordable rates. Government also encourages the farmers by providing subsidized fertilizers, improved seedlings and agricultural extension services. In a bid to foster human capital development in the agricultural sector, the government trained 174 retirees in aquaculture and poultry production processing and packaging in 2015. These subsidies provided by government represent some sort of transfer of income from government to low income earners who are farmers to improve their income. The improvement of income of these groups of farmers will automatically have a positive impact on age distribution of income.

2.4 Empirical review

The works of Meerman(1979) on Malaysia and Selowsky(1979) on Colombia, both based on the work of Aaron and McGuire(1970), brought benefit incidence analysis to the lime light, as a tool for assessment of redistributive and poverty reduction impact of public expenditure. The works of Meerman reported that government susidies on women education and health have income redistributive effects.

In their study, Okafor and Ichoku(2015), did a benefit incidence analysis of government spending on education in Anambra state of Nigeria. Findings are that

there is a significant relationship between government spending on education and improvement in income distribution.

Stotsky, (2016), in his study reported that a relationship exists between government spending on education, health and open apprenticeship and other such programs, and income distribution. His findings confirm those of Okafor and Ichoku (2015), and Meerman (1979).

Ogbeide and Agu, (2015), examined the causal relationship between poverty and income inequality, using Nigerian data and concludes that the effect of human capital development and social norms are present in gender income inequality.

Fapohunda (2013) used survey method to work on the relationship between human capital development, social norms and the distribution of income age and gender wise. He reports a positive and significant relationship.

This conclusion was also upheld by Makama (2015), while working independently on a survey aimed at finding the connection between age and gender income distribution and social norms in Nigeria.

3.0 Methodology

The data for this study were gathered from the Central Bank statistical bulletins and annual reports, 2019, and Federal Government of Nigeria Budgets for 2009-2019. Descriptive statistics were used to determine the significance of impact of government social spending on age-wise distribution of income. The study relied on 'gini coefficient' and simple percentages techniques to analyze how the incidence of government expenditure has contributed to reduce the skewness in income distribution age-wise. The study considered six different government social spending programs as case studies. They are Subsidy Re-investment Program,

(SURE-P), Universal Basic Education, (UBE), N-Power, Health Care Subsidies, Petroleum Subsidy and Agricultural Subsidies/loans.

The totaleffects of all government social spending is evaluated, using Gini Coefficient. It is well accepted that in measuring and comparing the incidence of benefits of public services require that we value the benefits that accrue to the individual who is receiving the service. For example, what is the monetary value that accrues to an individual that attends public school or receives health care in a public hospital. We also need a rule whichseparates a better distribution from a bad one, i.e. skewness reducing. Gini co-efficient serves this purpose.

4.0 Analysis of Benefits incidence, its effects on Income distribution.

Table 3: Gini-coefficient index

	2004	2010	2013	2016	2019
NATIONAL	0.4296	0.447	0.362	0.387	0.375
URBAN	0.4154	0.4329	0.346	0.368	0.382
RURAL	0.4239	0.4334	0.349	0.378	0.387

Source: National Bureau of Statistics 2016

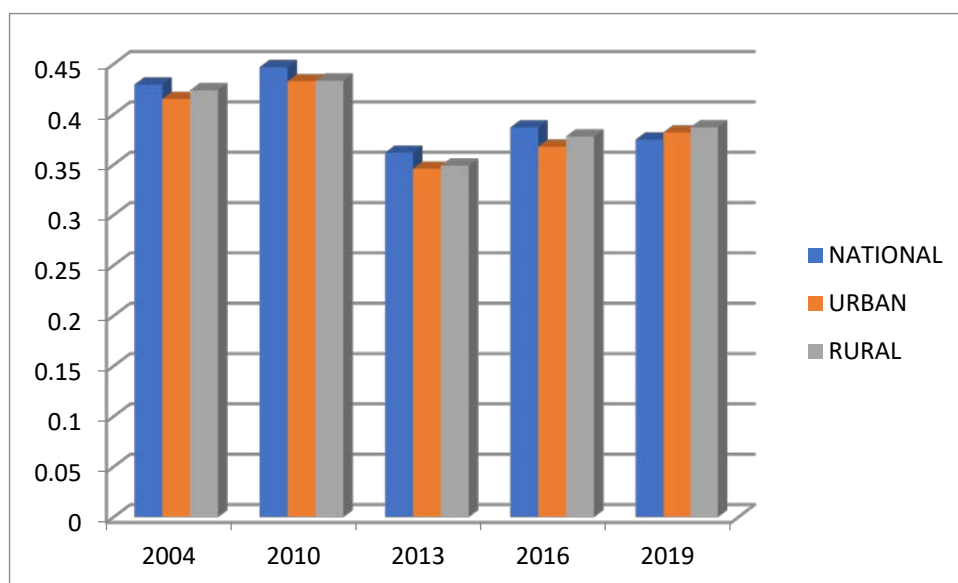


Figure 2: shows Gini Coefficient Index of Nigeri

Looking at Table 3 and also figure 2, it can be observed that the gini-coefficient in 2004 was 0.4296, but decreased to 0.387 in 2016 and 0.375 in 2019; showing about 11% distributional improvement. But when this distribution is compared with rural areas distribution; where a significant proportion of low income earners live, the result seems better, showing improvement of 12% over the same period under consideration. It can therefore be deduced that age-wise distribution of income has improved since the youths particularly those below 15 and the elderly, dominate rural area workforce. P

The Gini coefficient, Figure 2, also depicts this. It shows a graphical representation of improvement in distribution of income in Nigeria. The downward sloping of the 'Gini' graph moves from 0.447 in 2010 to 0.375 in 2019, indicating about 13.4% improvement over the 12-year period under consideration. This rate may be considered low, however, it is an indication that the Federal government income redistribution programmes have yielded some desired results.

5.0 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper examines age-wise distribution of income. The aim is to note the redistributional effects of benefits incidence.

Different government expenditure programmes were considered along with their income redistributive efficiency. However, the study indicates a reduction in skewness in the distribution amongst the various age groups. The decreasing "Gini Coefficient index, which improved from 0.447 to 0.387 in 2016 (NBS, 2017) shows it. But, this improvement notwithstanding, Nigeria still ranks amongst the

worst countries in the world. The world's acceptable standard of Gini coefficient index is 2.4.

This paper recommends that government of Nigeria should work towards improving her Gini-coefficient index, by vigorously pursuing programs that emphasize the development of youths and also make retirees more useful and productive. They should not be owed their pensions as is the usual practice. Trainings on how to spend the rest of their lives being productive and happy should be occasionally organized for them.

The country, though graded as a middle income country, its oil wealth is in the hands of few citizens. According to Gender in Nigeria Report (2012), 50% of Nigerians hold just 10% of the country's national income, while 54% live below the poverty line. Following from this, the paper further recommends that rural population who are mainly the poor and elderly be empowered through government agricultural development programs in the rural settings through the supply of subsidized improved seedlings, fertilizers, extension services and grass-root micro loans.

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