

# A Strategy for Poverty Eradication towards Sustainable Development

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**Abstract:** This paper explores an integrated approach to poverty eradication aimed at sustainable development, highlighting the critical role of inclusive, community-driven strategies in addressing multi-dimensional poverty. Focusing on the socio-economic and environmental challenges experienced by vulnerable communities, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, this study examines how tailored poverty alleviation strategies, supported by governmental and non-governmental entities, foster resilience and economic empowerment. Utilizing an analytical framework that incorporates sustainable livelihood models, microfinance, and community-based interventions, the study reveals that poverty alleviation is most effective when local needs and cultural dynamics guide policy formation. Findings indicate that approaches emphasizing gender-sensitive economic empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and environmental conservation substantially enhance poverty reduction outcomes. The study draws on recent case studies and empirical data to analyze the synergies between poverty eradication and sustainable resource management. Notably, financial inclusion and entrepreneurial support emerged as transformative elements, enabling marginalized populations to build resilience against economic shocks and environmental degradation. Despite the successes documented, challenges persist in scaling localized interventions to a national level, highlighting the need for continuous policy adaptation and cross-sectoral collaboration. By emphasizing localized interventions, this research underscores the necessity of frameworks that bridge immediate poverty relief with long-term sustainability goals, ensuring that poverty eradication aligns with environmental resilience. This paper also addresses the limitations of current data collection systems and the complexity of measuring multi-dimensional poverty, suggesting that future research should incorporate qualitative assessments and longitudinal studies to enhance the effectiveness of poverty alleviation programs. The findings contribute to the discourse on sustainable development by identifying practical, culturally adaptive strategies that align poverty eradication efforts with environmental conservation, thereby offering a roadmap for policy innovation in the field of development studies. This study calls for increased investment in sustainable livelihoods, microfinance, and technology-driven solutions to support the world's poorest communities in achieving lasting economic stability and environmental sustainability.

**Keywords:** Poverty eradication, Sustainable development, Community-based interventions, Financial inclusion, Environmental resilience, Microfinance

## Introduction

### Background to Poverty and Sustainable Development

Poverty eradication is a global development aim despite numerous challenges. Economic, social, and environmental poverty affects billions (Abisuga-Oyekunle et al., 2020). Poor resources, education, healthcare, and opportunity exacerbate poverty cycles and generational socioeconomic inequalities (Rwigema, 2022). Though declining in recent decades, the global poverty rate still affects huge populations, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where structural and systemic concerns limit development (World Bank, 2022). Poverty hinders sustainable development by reducing productivity, innovation, and economic progress (Bryson & George, 2020). Addressing social and environmental issues beyond economic measures is necessary to reduce poverty (Fuseini et al., 2022).

SDG 1's goal to abolish all forms of poverty by 2030 might help combat poverty in its various forms (United Nations, 2020). Economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability are prioritised (Leal Filho et al., 2021). The SDGs understand that inclusive, egalitarian, and environmentally responsible poverty reduction must break the cycle of deprivation and create resilience for vulnerable people. To end poverty, resource mobilisation, robust policy frameworks, and global cooperation are needed (UNICEF, 2024).

To fight poverty, economy, income disparity, social security, and equitable healthcare and education are needed (World Bank Group, 2024). Many developing nations rely on agricultural structural improvements for income, which may alleviate poverty if done properly (Kanyinji et al., 2022). Sustainable development programs increase poor communities' quality of life and resilience by providing affordable housing, education, and healthcare (Fuseini et al., 2022; Amofah & Agyare, 2022).

Environmental issues increase poverty since many impoverished communities rely on nature. Climate change and environmental degradation threaten food, water, and health, disproportionately impacting the poor who cannot adapt (Fisher et al., 2021). Sustainability pushes governments to use natural resources responsibly and achieve economic resilience. Uhunamure and Shale (2021) recommend renewable energy to reduce energy poverty, boost the economy, and promote sustainability. Poverty, economic activity, and environmental care must intersect to create sustainable development frameworks for disadvantaged places.

Sustainable development and poverty are related by gender equality. Rural women suffer from poverty due to lack of education, healthcare, and economic resources (Hegazi & Seyuba, 2024). Sustainable development projects have decreased poverty since women's employment and community leadership increase economic growth and social cohesion (UN Women, 2024). Sustainable development strategies encourage inclusive participation since strengthening disadvantaged groups, such as women, breaks the poverty cycle (Muchaku et al., 2023).

### **Problem Statement**

Despite global poverty eradication efforts, structural issues and socio-economic inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia prevent sustainable development (World Bank, 2024). 40% of Sub-Saharan Africans live below the international poverty line and lack water, sanitation, healthcare, and education (Statista, 2023). Current poverty reduction strategies are fragmented and short-term, therefore they seldom address poverty's complexity (Fuseini et al., 2022; Amofah & Agyare, 2022). Such strategies disregard the socio-political, economic, and environmental reasons of poverty, perpetuating a loop that hinders sustainable development (Leal Filho et al., 2021).

Economic development dominates poverty reduction efforts, ignoring social and environmental considerations. Employment from economic growth may not relieve poverty if income disparity remains and vulnerable groups are excluded (Rwigema, 2022). This requires coordination of social protection, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. Poverty eradication must address gender disparities since impoverished women and children are disproportionately affected by lack of resources and opportunity (UN Women, 2024).

Poverty reduction schemes have sustainability difficulties. Grant-based programmes may lack sustainability or resources (Zikhali, 2022). Without donor finance, vital poverty reduction programmes may collapse, leaving communities vulnerable and deepening poverty (Fuseini et al., 2022). Thus, strong, self-sustaining, community-driven poverty eradication projects that foster local ownership and capacity development are urgently required (Osore et al., 2022). Sustainable development frameworks must integrate community involvement and local empowerment to ensure poverty elimination in their areas (Muchaku et al., 2024).

### **Research Questions**

#### **Main Research Question**

How can rising nations, notably sub-Saharan Africa, reduce poverty sustainably while reaching sustainable development goals?

#### **Sub-Research Questions**

- How do economic, social, and environmental factors impact poverty in sub-Saharan Africa? Sustainable solutions?
- How can community-based groups and NGOs eliminate poverty? How can strategic cooperation improve their impact?
- Can gender equality sustainably eliminate poverty? What efforts can alleviate gender-based resource and economic disparities?

- Advise governments and development agencies on sustainable poverty eradication frameworks?

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

This study may contribute to sustainable development poverty eradication talks. Academically, it will demonstrate how economic, social, and environmental factors compound challenges for disadvantaged populations (Amofah & Agyare, 2022; Abiddin et al., 2022). This perspective will promote comprehensive poverty studies and integrated poverty reduction strategy research, contributing to sustainable development knowledge (Ika & Pinto, 2022). The multidisciplinary study examines poverty alleviation and sustainable development synergies and trade-offs, which may affect future research.

Politicians, NGOs, and development practitioners spearheading poverty reduction initiatives will benefit from the findings. Current poverty reduction attempts focus on immediate aid rather than root problems, which may not last (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021; Zikhali, 2022). This study will help stakeholders develop and implement resilient, gender-equal, and environmentally sustainable poverty eradication programmes. Development practitioners may improve disadvantaged communities' quality of life beyond poverty reduction using these methods (Fuseini et al., 2022; Hegazi & Seyuba, 2024).

Socio-political and environmental challenges have entrenched poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, making the study's findings relevant. The study will use local knowledge and community-based methods to promote culturally and contextually appropriate localised solutions (Muchaku & Magaiza, 2024; Osore et al., 2022). Communities may alleviate poverty by increasing self-reliance and lowering help need. The study presents a poverty-eradication paradigm that other developing countries might follow to support the SDGs and promote global progress towards a poverty-free and sustainable future.

#### Literature Review

##### Theories of Poverty and Sustainable Development

Many social, economic, and environmental factors produce poverty. Foundational theories explain poverty's structure and sustainability. The Basic Needs Approach, Human Capabilities Approach, and Inclusive Development Framework provide distinct poverty eradication and sustainable development perspectives.

The commonly used fundamental Needs Approach states that poverty eradication requires addressing fundamental human needs such food, shelter, healthcare, and education (Amofah & Agyare, 2022). This theory states that poverty endures because fundamental needs inhibit full economic and social participation. Governments and NGOs bridge these gaps, therefore social policies that prioritise resource allocation are essential (Abiddin et al., 2022). Opponents claim that meeting basic needs does not ensure long-term economic independence since this method fails to address poverty's structural causes (Bryson & George, 2020). Therefore, the Basic Approach is necessary but must be linked with complete sustainability frameworks.

Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum's Human Capabilities Approach promotes resources, opportunity, and choice to help individuals fulfil their potential (Libert-Amico & Larson, 2020). This view believes that poverty comprises material deprivation and constraints on cherished goals. Due to restricted well-being and productivity possibilities, poverty persists in weak healthcare and education systems (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021). The premise is that structural improvements must let marginalised people control their socioeconomic futures to eradicate poverty. The Human Capabilities Approach improves skills to foster sustainable development, unlike the Basic Needs Approach (Amofah & Agyare, 2022). This paradigm change has led to poverty-reduction initiatives that prioritise skills and community empowerment via capacity-building.

The popular Inclusive growth Theory promotes participatory and fair economic growth to reduce poverty (Muchaku & Magaiza, 2024). This idea suggests a paradigm where marginalised communities actively participate in and benefit from economic growth instead of focused on development without addressing inequality. Despite economic growth, sub-Saharan Africa maintains high poverty rates due to unequal access to resources and opportunities (Fuseini et al., 2022). Here, inclusive development is key. Through inclusive policies, this method promotes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to decrease inequality within and across states. Critics believe inclusive development is promising but hindered by socio-political issues and big economic players' entrenched interests (Osore et al., 2022). Inclusive progress Theory is necessary for poverty alleviation strategies that balance social equity and economic progress, notwithstanding these restrictions.

These basic themes underpin modern poverty and sustainable development. Basic Needs, Human Capabilities, and Inclusive Development provide a comprehensive approach to poverty's complexity. Recent studies suggest combining urgent aid with long-term empowerment and social involvement to alleviate poverty (Muchaku et al., 2023). Thus, sustainable development programs must emphasise equitable resource allocation, capacity-building, and community participation.

### **Poverty Alleviation Strategies in the Context of Sustainable Development**

Poverty alleviation techniques, particularly in sustainable development, must address economic, social, and environmental factors. Social protection, economic empowerment, and environmental conservation are key measures. Each strategy promotes resilience and lasting poverty reduction in its own way.

Cash transfers, food assistance, and health insurance are crucial strategies for poverty eradication because they meet immediate needs and build resilience (Nhapi, 2021). In sub-Saharan Africa, cash transfer programmes boost family wellbeing by providing financial stability and facilitating education and healthcare investment (Fuseini et al., 2022). Expanded social safety nets helped alleviate the effects of massive job losses and income decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021). Critics say social protection alone doesn't address poverty's core causes, such as lack of education and economic opportunity. Combining social protection with human capacity-building efforts is vital for sustained poverty reduction.

Economic empowerment programs, especially microfinance and skill development, may reduce poverty by increasing income options for marginalised groups (Afriyie et al., 2020). Microcredit programmes for women in Ghana have helped small businesses flourish, raised family incomes, and promoted financial independence, fostering communal development (Appiah-Kubi, 2021). Economic empowerment allows people to use their talents and resources to become self-sufficient, supporting the Human Capabilities Approach. Despite its successes, microfinance is criticised. Scholars argue that excessive interest rates and little financial literacy might trap people in debt rather than empower them (Gamboa et al., 2020). Thus, effective economic empowerment initiatives include financial literacy instruction and help to reduce these risks.

Environmental protection and sustainable resource management are becoming essential to poverty reduction, especially in areas where environmental deterioration directly impacts livelihoods (Hegazi & Seyuba, 2024). Sustainable agricultural practises promote food security and climate change resistance, which disproportionately affects disadvantaged agricultural communities (Zikhali, 2022). Here, community-based conservation programs that encourage reforestation and soil management have reduced poverty and protected the environment. The SDGs emphasise the link between environmental sustainability and socio-economic growth, which supports such activities. Critics warn that conservation initiatives must balance community needs to prevent relocating local communities or limiting natural resource use (Libert-Amico & Larson, 2020). Participatory techniques that engage communities in decision-making are essential for ensuring that environmental conservation programs aid poverty reduction.

### **Role of Stakeholders in Poverty Eradication**

Sustainable development demands stakeholder engagement in poverty eradication since various organisations have distinct abilities and resources to handle diverse poverty concerns. Government institutions, NGOs, businesses, and international groups fight poverty. These stakeholders' collaboration has shown results, but they still struggle to coordinate objectives and approaches.

Governments develop poverty-reduction policies. Governments use legislation, resources, and social protection to stabilise economically fragile areas (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021). Many sub-Saharan African governments have implemented cash transfer systems that provide education, healthcare, and nutrition to families (Abiddin et al., 2022). Rural farmers affected by land degradation in China and Brazil get resources and sustainable farming training via poverty alleviation relocation programmes (Qiu et al., 2020). Despite these successes, government-led programs suffer bureaucratic inefficiencies and elite capture, when powerful individuals exploit low resources (Cheng et al., 2021). These difficulties show government-led poverty reduction requires greater transparency and oversight.

NGOs cover government service gaps among marginalised and hard-to-reach groups to alleviate poverty. World Vision Ghana helps local people gain capacity and resilience via education, healthcare, and agriculture to reduce poverty (Fuseini et al., 2022). Ghanaian communities have been empowered by Basic Needs Approach NGOs by giving basic supplies, skills training, and sustainable livelihood aid (Amofah & Agyare, 2022). Critics believe NGO initiatives are short-term and may not address structural poverty, which perpetuates dependency (Shifotoka &

Kanyimba, 2021). NGOs are including locals in decision-making to foster long-term ownership and decrease aid reliance (Raeber et al., 2024).

Economic growth and job creation depend on the private sector. MFIs and SMEs have created jobs and promoted business in sub-Saharan Africa, reducing poverty (Abisuga-Oyekunle et al., 2020). SMEs have helped economically disadvantaged persons transition from informal to formal work via microloans and skills development (Morris et al., 2020). However, high microfinance interest rates and little financial literacy may trap clients in debt (Gamboia et al., 2020). Given this risk, private sector organisations are cooperating with NGOs to include financial literacy into their activities, boosting microfinance's poverty reduction potential (Appiah-Kubi, 2021).

The World Bank and UN agencies must provide funding, policy advice, and capacity building. The World Bank has carried out structural transformation in Malawi to enhance agricultural productivity and climate resilience to stabilise the rural economy (World Bank, 2022). Local governments and the UNDP promote social inclusion and empower women and youth to reduce global poverty (UNDP, 2022). International institutions provide money and expertise, but they have been attacked for imposing external solutions that may not match local needs and culture (Osore et al., 2022). This critique highlights the need of integrating local stakeholders in international poverty alleviation project design and implementation for effective, culturally relevant, and sustainable strategies.

### **Case Studies and Models from Various Regions**

Case studies from sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia demonstrate how socioeconomic factors impact poverty eradication. Sub-Saharan Africa's logistically and resource-constrained government programs collaborate with community-based techniques. In Zimbabwe's Nkayi District, a community-driven sustainable agriculture initiative promotes drought-resistant crops and irrigation to boost food security and reduce rural poverty (Zikhali, 2022). This inclusive development model encourages local participation and resilience (Rwigema, 2022). This strategy is threatened by climate uncertainty and limited access to agricultural technology, which boosts productivity and profitability.

Thai Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) encourages moderation, resilience, and self-sufficiency to eliminate Southeast Asian poverty (Khamken, 2021). Thailand's SEP approach teaches and supports local and national farmers, entrepreneurs, and small business owners, boosting rural economies. The National Innovation Agency (2020) concluded that SEP decreased poverty in Thailand by lowering market vulnerability and diversified income streams. Government subsidies may be unsustainable and unsuited for SEP in low-fiscal countries (Huang et al., 2021).

The Targeted Poverty Alleviation (TPA) program in China improves rural residents' lives via infrastructure, relocation, and education. Programme support is community-specific (Leng et al., 2021). TPA has moved millions out of poverty, but state reliance may limit recipients' independence (Lam, 2020). Top-down TPA implementation may hinder community involvement, limiting poverty reduction (Gu & Nie, 2021).

### **Challenges to Sustainable Poverty Eradication**

Policy inconsistency, governance issues, economic unpredictability, and resource constraints hinder poverty reduction. Though stakeholders work, local, national, and international factors may slow development.

Policy differences inhibit poverty alleviation. Many developing countries' long-term investment and growth are uncertain due to policy changes and unequal poverty alleviation (Nhapi, 2021). Prioritising urban expansion over rural investment increases rural inequality and poverty (Hegazi & Seyuba, 2024). Poor alignment between poverty alleviation and other national objectives like economic growth and environmental conservation may lead to fragmented initiatives that fail (Osore et al., 2022).

Corruption and secrecy exacerbate poverty. Corruption undermines poverty reduction and government trust. Odhiambo et al. (2020) believe elite capture of development resources in Kenya has hampered poverty reduction, particularly for the poor. Poor governance may cause decision-makers to emphasise their own projects above poverty-related needs (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021).

Economic instability inhibits agricultural or resource-dependent poverty reduction. Climate change and commodity price volatility endanger rural economies (Fisher et al., 2021). Smallholder farmers who depend on weather and markets suffer most. COVID-19 reduced food and employment in Mozambique, lowering poverty (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021).

## **Research Methodology & Design**

### **Research Design**

A secondary researcher studied poverty reduction via sustainability. Data analysis replaces fieldwork and experimentation in secondary research (Abiddin et al., 2022). Government, NGO, and international development agency poverty eradication statistics, policy, and literature may be studied in depth using this method. This method reviewed academic, policy, and governmental reports to understand multidimensional poverty and sustainable development (Fuseini et al., 2022; Abisuga-Oyekunle, 2020).

Secondary research examined books, papers, and policies. Recent study was used to examine theoretical and practical poverty reduction methods (Amofah & Agyare, 2022). World Bank, UN, and government publications were evaluated for accurate statistics and poverty alleviation perspectives. The policy research explored how government poverty-reduction initiatives promote sustainability. This comprehensive approach included theory, practice, and policy (Osore et al., 2022).

Large datasets and reporting from important groups may help secondary research uncover poverty trends and policy effects (Bryson & George, 2020). Comparing poverty reduction projects across geographies and policy settings using secondary data revealed optimal practices and common issues. Nhapi (2021) utilised material on Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia NGOs and governments' poverty alleviation projects. This cross-regional study illuminated socio-economic and cultural factors affecting poverty reduction.

### **Data Collection from Secondary Sources**

This study used only academic databases, journals, and policy papers. Recently published poverty eradication trends and innovations (2019–2024) were preferred for correctness and relevance (Muchaku & Magaiza, 2024). Our search included JSTOR, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar for peer-reviewed poverty, sustainable development, and policy analysis articles. These databases included theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented poverty reduction research (Rwigema, 2022).

Policy papers and World Bank, UN, and World Economic Forum materials were examined alongside scholarly publications. These sources showed global and regional poverty reduction and sustainable development government structures and strategies (Hegazi & Seyuba, 2024). World Bank and UNDP policy papers offered background for global poverty eradication and identified structural issues in low-income countries and presented remedies (World Bank Group, 2022).

Official statistics and reports gathered data. Statistics South Africa and other organisations provided accurate demographic and poverty statistics to explain South African poverty (Statistics South Africa, 2023). These figures monitored poverty throughout time, benefiting policymaking. Population Services International and World Vision case-specific reports and assessments helped academics understand grassroots interventions and community-based poverty reduction (Fuseini et al., 2022).

### **Data Analysis Method**

Thematic and comparative data analysis explained secondary data. Thematic analysis categorised poverty-related issues including education, healthcare, and economic prospects in the literature (Cunha et al., 2021). By identifying "income inequality," "education access," and "policy impacts," the study could examine complex data to determine how factors influence poverty reduction (Morris et al., 2020).

Supplementing theme analysis, comparative analysis contrasted poverty alleviation methods across regions and socioeconomic classes. This method was used to assess policy choices and identify poverty-reduction factors (Afriyie et al., 2020). The study compared poverty eradication efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, emphasising the necessity of government, NGO, and community support for sustainable development. A comparison approach identified best practices and suggested policy changes (García & Cuartas, 2021).

Data analysis contextualised thematic and comparative findings in quantitative frameworks using descriptive statistics from policy papers and government data. Statistics confirmed qualitative findings and reinforced the tale with poverty and development data. This data source and analytic approach evaluation of poverty eradication strategies in different scenarios strengthened the research.

## Limitations of the Study

Most research was impeded by secondary sources. Without personal data, real-time nuances and community-specific qualities that may lessen poverty were difficult to collect (Shava & Thakhathi, 2016). Secondary data is large but lacks primary data's immediacy and richness, creating contextual knowledge gaps (Baker et al., 2020). The study's pre-existing data may have been biased due to its size and quality.

Old or missing data is another issue. Research and reporting may not reflect socio-economic changes in fast-growing or politically unstable areas (Moyer & Hedden, 2020). Secondary resources may not adequately address research questions since they were not targeted for this study. This limitation may limit the validity of certain studies, especially in fast-changing conditions where inflation and unemployment change poverty dynamics (Valodia, 2023).

Research data comparability is poor. Secondary sources show poverty eradication efforts, however data collecting techniques and metrics vary by country and organisation, making comparisons difficult. Comparing poverty levels, measuring methods, and reporting standards may be uneven (Nhapi, 2021). This project required substantial comparative data interpretation from credible sources for consistency and dependability.

Current or regional stories struggle to get secondary data. The study prioritised data sources, although many relevant articles needed subscriptions or institutional access, limiting information (Amofah & Agyare, 2022). Despite these limitations, the study carefully selected trustworthy, current sources to reduce secondary research risks. Despite secondary data limitations, the research gained crucial insights by carefully assessing data dependability and cross-referencing results across numerous sources.

## Data Analysis & Discussion

### Economic, Social, and Environmental Factors Contributing to Poverty in sub-Saharan Africa and Sustainable Solutions

Secondary sources examined sub-Saharan African poverty's economic, social, and environmental causes. The analysis concluded that economic instability—unemployment and income inequality—remained a fundamental barrier to sustained development. Localised gains in sub-Saharan Africa have worsened poverty by not addressing economic inequality (World Bank, 2022). Agriculture drives the region's economy, but inefficient techniques and lack of modern technologies reduce productivity. Thus, wealth inequality and weak growth hurt many. Poor healthcare and education limit poverty alleviation. Low healthcare and education impede rural employment (UNICEF, 2022). Environmental challenges like climate change affect poverty. Droughts and floods hit agriculture-dependent populations most, reducing food security and poverty.

Economic factors in Sub-Saharan Africa motivate poverty study (Abisuga-Oyekunle et al., 2020). Subsistence agriculture and low economic diversification hinder sustainable development, according to Abisuga-Oyekunle et al. (2020). According to studies, sub-Saharan African SMEs struggle with financing availability and development, despite their capacity to generate employment and relieve poverty. Without funding and business, the region's economy is fragile. SMEs may decrease poverty. These findings reveal that sustainable development requires improved institutional frameworks and local business investment since economic policies increase growth but are poorly implemented.

The study confirms Bryson and George's (2020) premise that proactive public management decreases poverty. Policy misalignment promotes poverty despite strategic frameworks, study shows. Bryson and George (2020) advocate sub-Saharan African government participation, but corruption and ineptitude limit it. Strategic management theories guide poverty reduction, but data suggests policy execution must be open and responsible. This study argues that sub-Saharan African economic projects need strong institutional support and competent government management to reduce poverty.

The findings confirm Amofah and Agyare (2022)'s claim that NGOs should provide education and healthcare for social objectives. Amofah and Agyare (2022) say NGOs are crucial to government poverty eradication. The research shows that NGOs have assisted rural people with limited government aid. The data also suggests that finance and operations limit their contributions. Contrary to Amofah and Agyare (2022), the data demonstrate that NGOs are essential to poverty reduction but ineffective without government support. This suggests that NGOs and governments should form organised collaborations, especially in underserved areas, to boost social support networks during poverty reduction.

### **Role of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and NGOs in Poverty Reduction and Optimization through Strategic Partnerships**

Secondary data shows that CBOs and NGOs address government service gaps in disadvantaged and low-income areas. Statistics demonstrate these groups support healthcare, education, and economic empowerment. CBOs have successfully addressed poor communities' needs with localised, culturally appropriate activities. Alternative learning initiatives by CBOs have increased literacy and employment in places with inadequate formal education infrastructure. NGOs assist the disadvantaged become economically independent via microcredit and vocational training. The results indicated that CBOs and NGOs lack funding and strategic coordination, emphasising the need for greater government and private sector cooperation to optimise their impact.

The study shows that CBOs and NGOs can fight poverty at the grassroots level. Abiddin et al. (2022) demonstrated that CBOs actively involve communities in focused development, boosting sustainability. CBOs' community-driven, tailored solutions outperform centralised government attempts, according to research. The evidence confirms Fuseini et al. (2022)'s assertion that financial and organisational capacities restrict CBOs' effectiveness. CBOs often rely on external funding and volunteerism, but the data indicated that their long-term survival is restricted by the absence of a structured financial support system. This suggests that although CBOs are essential for tackling immediate community needs, collaborative partnerships that ensure continual resource allocation and strategic management may increase their sustainability.

NGO services reduce poverty in areas with minimal or no government engagement, according to Amofah and Agyare (2022). Amofah and Agyare (2022) stress the role of NGOs in microcredit, healthcare, and education to eliminate poverty, like this study. Bryson and George (2020) state that NGOs and local governments without strategic alignment fracture and duplicate poverty alleviation efforts, reducing their efficacy. This finding was supported by statistics demonstrating that NGOs offer excellent services but are compartmentalised, preventing poverty alleviation. Integrating NGO and government poverty eradication efforts improves strategy and stakeholder effect.

Raeber et al. (2024) believe that social capital is crucial for enduring poverty reduction, and data demonstrate that NGOs and CBOs assist poor communities build it. NGO poverty reduction programs include community people because ownership and empowerment are necessary for long-term success. Raeber et al. (2024) found that community-based therapy increased mental health and resilience in economically disadvantaged populations. Data research showed that CBOs build trust and social cohesion via community engagement. The study also shows that social capital alone is insufficient without financial and institutional support. Community engagement may reduce poverty, but partnerships that provide financial and technical support to CBOs may improve their efficacy.

The research and facts conflicted on CBO and NGO intervention scalability. Morris et al. (2020) believe that NGOs' local focus and dependency on donor money restrict their scalability, however this research indicated that CBOs may expand their influence via networks and collaborations with other community organisations. Data demonstrated how agricultural CBOs worked with neighbours on regional sustainable farming schemes. Contrary to Morris et al. (2020), CBOs can adapt and fight poverty more broadly via strategic alliances. Organised, region-wide networks that share resources and solve problems may help CBOs and NGOs expand up, according to study.

### **Gender Equality and Sustainable Poverty Eradication: Addressing Gender-Based Disparities in Resource Access and Economic Opportunities**

Secondary data demonstrated significant gender differences in resource and economic opportunities, affecting poverty eradication. Poor women face institutional barriers to financial resources, property ownership, and job, exacerbating poverty and limiting their economic potential. Rural women were excluded from agricultural growth because inheritance arrangements favour male land ownership. Lack of productive resources limited their earnings, affecting their families and the community's economic resilience. The findings also demonstrated that cultural norms and poor gender equity laws make gender equality legislation ineffective. Women worked disproportionately in low-paying informal sector jobs without social benefits, making them more vulnerable to poverty and economic shocks. Thus, gender-based resource allocation and employment disparities worsened poverty, particularly in female-headed households. These findings underline the need for targeted structural inequality solutions to reduce gender inequality and poverty.

Gender inequalities in resource access support findings indicating unbalanced resource access increases poverty in women. Women's absence from resource allocation in many developing countries perpetuates gendered poverty cycles, according to Abiddin et al. (2022). Hegazi and Seyuba (2024) revealed that rural Zambian women lack land



ownership, limiting their agricultural economic participation. This exclusion lowers their income and production. Raeber et al. (2024) found that community-based resource allocation techniques that include women may eliminate poverty more sustainably. This study reveals that inclusive policies are poorly implemented despite theoretical models. This shows that gender-inclusive resource allocation rules are not working in practice and should be reevaluated.

The findings supports Amofah and Agyare (2022)'s assertion that gender inequality in economic opportunities hinders Ghana's poverty alleviation. Amofah and Agyare say weak financial and entrepreneurial opportunities disadvantage Ghanaian women. This study indicated that financial exclusion hurt low-income women more, reducing their economic output. Bryson and George (2020) suggest government-backed financial inclusion may minimise gender-based financial barriers. Results show bureaucratic delays and cultural biases prevent women from getting financial help, therefore such programs seldom reach the poorest. The gap between policy goals and reality demonstrates that disadvantaged women require alternative financial inclusion techniques.

Fuseini et al. (2022) found that women labour more in the informal sector, where occupations are uncertain and low-paying. Results indicated women were over-represented in informal work with poor healthcare, maternity leave, and pensions. Lack of job security discourages women from saving or investing in education and skills, prolonging gender poverty. According to Osore et al. (2022), community-led development programs that provide women official work may help. Though promising, such projects seldom scale up to alleviate gendered poverty, research suggest. This gap between localised interventions and structural transformation suggests scalable strategies to provide women formal work benefits and sustainably reduce poverty.

In the Eastern Cape of South Africa, Shava and Thakhathi (2016) identified cultural norms and gender disparity. According to the report, women should prioritise domestic responsibilities above income-generating activities. Rwigema (2022) believes that social norms prevent women from being economically independent. Baker et al. (2020) suggest that government and NGO-supported community education programs may gradually remove cultural barriers. Cultural shifts are slow and need continual work, so educational activities are vital but must be backed by urgent economic measures that provide women direct access to resources and opportunities. This paper recommends combining long-term cultural change with immediate economic aid for women to attain gender parity.

### **Recommendations for policymakers and development organizations to design and implement effective, sustainable poverty eradication frameworks**

Secondary data emphasised multimodal poverty eradication. Economic empowerment, education, health, and social welfare were the most sustainable strategies. Community resilience measures included livelihood diversification and climate-resilient agriculture. These data sources showed that poverty eradication efforts relying only on financial aid or subsidies failed due to dependency and unsustainability (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021). Since local ownership of development initiatives was positively connected with project performance, community engagement in decision-making boosted poverty alleviation programs' efficacy and sustainability (Fuseini et al., 2022). Since women's empowerment initiatives reduced poverty via economic and household stability, secondary data showed that many successful frameworks featured gender-sensitive strategies.

Data analysis also demonstrated that poverty reduction frameworks unsuited to regional issues have difficulties growing and adjusting. Urban approaches failed in rural regions because of resource availability and infrastructure inequalities. Statistics show poverty eradication frameworks should be comprehensive, region-specific, and inclusive for long-term benefits.

These findings confirm and contradict earlier research. Abiddin et al. (2022) suggested multi-dimensional poverty reduction as economic progress without social and educational components sometimes only alleviates poverty temporarily. This strengthens secondary evidence that poverty alleviation involves integration. Diversifying livelihoods, particularly in rural regions, decreases poverty, say Hegazi and Seyuba (2024). They said integrating agriculture with other income boosts family resilience to economic and environmental shocks. Data on climate-resilient agriculture confirms Hegazi and Seyuba's findings on diverse livelihoods.

Several publications disputed financial aid statistics. Shepherd et al. (2021) found that targeted funding and capacity-building may increase sustainability. To establish a self-sustaining economy, they advised gradually reducing support and increasing skill development. However, secondary data from this study showed that systems depending only on financial help were less effective at alleviating poverty over time. This illustrates that financial aid should complement poverty reduction, highlighting the need for well-rounded, self-reliant measures.

## **Discussion on Key Findings**

### **Integrating NGOs and Local Governance in Sustainable Poverty Eradication**

NGOs' basic services and self-sufficiency programs have helped eradicate poverty. Ghanaian NGOs address food, water, and healthcare using the basic needs approach to promote sustainable development (Amofah & Agyare, 2022). The strategic aims of Fuseini et al. (2022) demonstrate how NGOs might reduce poverty via community-specific activities. NGOs may have a lasting impact by working with local governments to enhance resource allocation and community involvement, according to Abiddin, Ibrahim, and AbdulAziz (2022). NGOs are vital to poverty reduction, but sustainable achievements need local government-led programs to minimise dependency and empower people.

Financial instability and accountability may impede NGOs, which reduce poverty. To overcome these limits, Bryson and George (2020) recommend strategic management in NGOs, including performance monitoring and flexible program designs to satisfy community needs. World Vision overcame poverty and education in Kintampo South District, Ghana, via structured interventions (Fuseini et al., 2022). NGOs are essential to poverty alleviation, but they need strategic, evidence-based ways to grow sustainably with governance support.

### **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as Drivers of Employment and Poverty Reduction**

SMEs have created employment and money in sub-Saharan Africa, reducing poverty. Abisuga-Oyekunle, Patra, and Muchie (2020) discovered that SMEs decrease poverty by raising household incomes through employment. These firms strengthen local economies and wealth transfer, fostering sustainable development. Raeber et al. (2024) suggest that community-based economic models including SMEs may assist disadvantaged groups join the workforce and minimise informal economy usage. SME effectiveness is limited by regulatory impediments and capital shortages, according to Morris, Santos, and Neumeyer (2020).

SMEs have legal and financial hurdles, but supporting policies may lessen poverty. Ika and Pinto (2022) that SMEs reevaluate project success criteria, including social effect. SMEs should include the community, say Osore, Hassan, and Morara (2022). SME's participation in poverty reduction is vital, but they require financial inclusion policies and recognition of their socio-economic value to sustainable development.

### **Empowering Women in Poverty Alleviation Efforts**

Women empowerment reduces poverty, improving education, health, and economy. Studies show that women-focused poverty reduction efforts strengthen households, particularly in rural areas with little resources. Gu and Nie (2021) found that targeted Chinese women empowerment enhanced family incomes and economic stability. Afriyie et al. (2020) found that microcredit programs for developing women reduce poverty and increase financial autonomy. Empowerment promotes gender equality and economic participation for sustainable development. These activities may fail due to structural inequalities and cultural norms, hence community-specific interventions that address social barriers are recommended (Rwigema, 2022).

These results suggest tailoring gender-sensitive poverty reduction to cultural and socioeconomic factors. Abiddin et al. (2022) say NGOs' women empowerment strategies work best when they promote community goals. The findings suggest that long-term poverty reduction via women's empowerment must address economic and social factors. Thus, poverty reduction requires women-focused programs that transcend cultural barriers and incorporate the community.

### **Adapting Agricultural Practices for Climate-Resilient Poverty Reduction**

Agriculture supports sub-Saharan African villages, but climate change threatens output and poverty. At vulnerable rural regions, the World Bank (2022) encourages agricultural technology that enhance output and climate resilience. Hegazi and Seyuba (2024) suggest diversifying agricultural income streams with climate-resilient crops to decrease climate-related poverty. Diversification helps Nhapi (2021) provide significant social security for climate-affected farm workers. Climate-resilient agriculture decreases poverty, but it needs institutional support and local capacity-building, according to Shepherd et al. (2021).

These findings suggest rural economies must adapt to climate resilience to minimise poverty. These methods need technology and information delivery in remote locations. Wang et al. (2021) revealed that rural site-specific characteristics and advanced agricultural technology may enhance crop yield, stabilise incomes, and reduce poverty. To help rural people adapt, climate-resilient agriculture as a poverty reduction strategy requires sustained investment and knowledge-sharing frameworks.

## **Community-Based Approaches to Sustainable Development**

Local citizens must own poverty reduction efforts for sustainable poverty reduction. Community-based techniques encourage ownership and responsibility to address complex social challenges including poverty and health, according to Raeber et al. (2024). Shifotoka and Kanyimba (2021) found that Namibian community-driven development projects that leveraged local knowledge and valued long-term gains were more durable. Muchaku, Magaiza, and Hamandawana (2023) say community-based techniques, particularly where traditional and formal government institutions collide, hamper poverty eradication.

Sustainable community-based methods need institutional oversight. Community participation in poverty eradication may prevent resource misallocation and disengagement, according to Osore et al. (2022). Governance and finance are needed for community-driven poverty alleviation. These findings show that formal governance sustains community-based poverty reduction efforts and aligns with sustainable development goals.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Conclusions of the Study**

Multi-dimensional poverty in urban and rural settings requires comprehensive solutions, including community-led and inclusive economic growth, according to poverty eradication towards sustainable development research. Resource-constrained nations benefited long-term from poverty reduction that included sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation (Abiddin et al., 2022; Fuseini, 2022). NGOs assisted sub-Saharan Africans decrease poverty sustainably by giving resources, training, and economic opportunities (Amofah & Agyare, 2022). Localised solutions reduced poverty better (Abisuga-Oyekunle et al., 2020). Economic empowerment and environmental resilience policies provide sustainable benefits in places that improved lives without diminishing natural resources, according to Osore et al. (2022).

Localised efforts worked, but economic imbalances and infrastructural concerns made national poverty eradication challenging. Strong frameworks are required to address vulnerable population poverty following global financial downturns (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021; Hegazi & Seyuba, 2024). Gender-sensitive interventions reduced poverty by increasing family income and community stability (Muchaku & Magaiza, 2024). These results promote gender equality, poverty reduction, and sustainable development research (Rwigema, 2022; Shepherd et al., 2021).

The study also indicated that microfinance and small company growth decreased poverty and increased financial inclusion and entrepreneurship in low-income communities. These programmes gave individuals financial resources and skills to become self-sufficient and resilient to poverty (Afriyie et al., 2020; Baker, 2020). However, accessibility concerns, particularly for women and rural areas, remained, suggesting policy adjustments may increase poverty eradication inclusivity. Thus, the study underlined the necessity for government-nongovernment collaboration to construct inclusive economic frameworks that foster sustainable development.

### **Recommendations of the Study**

#### **Enhancing Community-Based Poverty Eradication Initiatives**

The report advocates community-driven poverty eradication activities since localised techniques empower communities and promote sustainable development. Community-led initiatives that can be adjusted to local requirements alleviate poverty better than top-down ones (Amofah & Agyare, 2022; Abiddin et al., 2022). Local governments and NGOs should work more closely with communities to provide resources to particular socio-economic and environmental issues. Targeted techniques would also improve poverty eradication monitoring and feedback-based modifications (Fuseini et al., 2022).

#### **Including Sustainable Livelihoods in Poverty Reduction**

Poverty reduction initiatives should promote sustainable livelihoods that do not compromise future resource availability for long-term success. Small-scale sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and renewable energy solutions in low-income areas may generate new revenue and protect the environment (Osore et al., 2022; Abisuga-Oyekunle, 2020). Policymakers can help low-income communities in these sustainable activities with technical and financial assistance to boost their economic resilience and poverty reduction (Hegazi & Seyuba, 2024).

#### **Strengthening Financial Inclusion through Microfinance and Enterprise Development**

Microfinance and small business help for marginalised people are recommended in the paper. These projects assist individuals overcome poverty via financial and entrepreneurial support (Baker et al., 2020; Afriyie, 2020). National financial institutions and NGOs may provide cheap financial goods to low-income populations, such as women and rural areas without banking facilities (Rwigema, 2022). Microfinance should be safeguarded against predatory lending by law to reduce poverty.

### **Limitations of the Study**

#### **Limited Geographic Scope and Cultural Generalizability**

While focused on specific regions, the findings may not accurately represent poverty eradication across cultures and social classes. The study was in-depth, but cultural attitudes on poverty and economic institutions may restrict its generalisability (Muchaku et al., 2023; Libert-Amico & Larson, 2020). The findings apply to similar scenarios, but extending these approaches to significantly varied populations would need revisions to account for local cultural dynamics and economic motivations (Kanyinji et al., 2022).

#### **Data Constraints and Inaccessibility**

Data availability made some research weaker. In rural and marginalised areas, where poverty is heaviest, income, education, and local economic information were often outdated or unavailable. This restriction made poverty determinants analysis in these locations challenging (Nhapi, 2021; Raeber et al., 2024). Thus, the results may only provide a limited picture of poverty dynamics, emphasising the need for better data collecting and open-access databases in low-income regions for future study.

#### **Challenges in Measuring Multi-dimensional Poverty**

The research struggles to assess multi-dimensional poverty—income, health, education, and basic services. The study's quantitative metrics may have neglected psychological well-being and social isolation in poverty (García & Cuartas, 2021; Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). The multi-dimensional approach is useful, but qualitative data may better represent poverty and sustainable development (Salvucci & Tarp, 2021).

### **Suggestions for Future Studies**

#### **Exploring Longitudinal Impacts of Poverty Alleviation Strategies**

Longitudinal research should examine how poverty reduction affects community well-being and sustainable development. Research might explore how poverty reduction programs adapt to economic or environmental shocks (Fuseini et al., 2022; Abisuga-Oyekunle, 2020). Academics may help vulnerable people end poverty by utilising longitudinal data to discover long-term effects and changes.

#### **Incorporating Qualitative Assessments of Multi-dimensional Poverty**

Mixed-methods study using qualitative data to capture subjective poverty experiences may assist measure multi-dimensional poverty (Morris et al., 2020; Shepherd, 2021). Such evaluations may address poverty's psychological, emotional, and social aspects, which quantitative studies disregard. Qualitative research may help end poverty by understanding its effects on people and communities.

#### **Investigating the Role of Technology and Innovation in Poverty Reduction**

Digital financial services and renewable energy may address poverty, says the report. Nhapi (2021) and Raeber et al. (2024) may study how mobile banking and solar energy lessen poverty in distant locations without infrastructure. Evaluation of these devices' efficacy and accessibility may assist policymakers innovate for under-represented groups.

#### **Examining Policy Synergies between Poverty Reduction and Environmental Sustainability**

Further research should investigate techniques that simultaneously decrease poverty and improve ecological resilience (García & Cuartas, 2021; Salvucci & Tarp, 2021). Research may show how to alleviate poverty and manage resources to help low-income people adapt to climate change and protect the environment. Research will assist build sustainable development strategies that address poverty's root causes.

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