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# THE STATE AND DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF VISION 3:2020 POLICY OF NIGER STATE (2007 -2015)

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## Abstract

*This study examines the role of the state in development through an assessment of the Vision 3:2020 policy of Niger State between 2007 and 2015. The study is premised on the view that development requires a deliberate and coordinated policy framework through which government can mobilise resources, establish priorities and pursue measurable socio-economic objectives. Vision 3:2020 was introduced as a long-term development framework intended to transform Niger State into one of the three leading state economies in Nigeria through agro-based industrialisation, tourism, employment creation and improved welfare. The study adopted a mixed-method approach, with survey design used for the quantitative component. The study population comprised 7,010 workers drawn from selected public institutions, private organisations and civil-society groups, while 400 respondents were selected using purposive sampling after applying the Taro Yamane formula. Of the 400 questionnaires distributed, 376 were retrieved, representing a 94% response rate. The findings indicate that 48.9% of respondents agreed that the implementation of Vision 3:2020 had made an impact on development in Niger State, while 50.266% considered the socio-economic situation of the state better because of the existence of a development plan. The study concludes that effective state intervention, policy continuity, monitoring and stakeholder participation are important for translating development visions into sustainable socio-economic outcomes.*

***Key Words:*** *State, Development, Policy, Implementation. Vision 3 2020*

## Introduction

Every development stride as a matter of necessity needs a visionary development plan that determines the direction toward which the development agenda should take. It starts from a vision about a desirable end (Todaro & Smith, 2015; Jhingan, 2000; World Bank, 1997). The V3:2020 spanning from 2007-2020 represent 13 years of strategic implementation of policies for the rejuvenation of the economic fortunes of Niger State, and modernizing its economy to become one of the three best States economy in Nigeria by 2020. It is important to note that the Vision 3:2020 was a special policy programme of the Niger State government. According to Muazu Babangida Aliyu the former Executive Governor of Niger –State, Vision 3:2020 was an essential step in building a political consensus on a development plan (Niger State Government, 2009), which encompasses inter-alia roles and responsibilities of different

agents in the polity such as the state and local government, the private corporate sectors, people's organizations etc.

From the fore-going, it's evident that Vision 3:2020 is a deliberately organized development plan with the aim of improving the standard of development in Niger State (Niger State Government, 2009; Adeyemi, 2001) through the series of actions outlined carefully in the V:3:2020 project. According to the Vision Statement of Vision 3:2020 'Transforming Niger state into one of the three top economies in Nigeria by 2020, by being the model and leader in agro-based industrialization and a global tourism destination, where there is employment and wealth, creation of opportunities for all in an atmosphere of peace (Vision3:2020, 2009). The Vision 3:2020 plan encapsulates the Development Action Plan (DAP) which was initiated at the inception of the administration of Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu in 2007. The V3:2020 has expanded the frontiers and duration of the plan for the development of Niger State by drawing a medium- and long-term framework to achieve this. It's important to note that the socio-economic situation of Niger State necessitated the formulation of the Vision3:2020 development plan (Jhingan, 2000; Todaro & Smith, 2015). The plan was predicated against the backdrop of the heavy dependence of Niger State on the Federal Government for its economic sustenance in spite of the abundant human material resources which it is blessed with.

The V3:2020 was introduced to replace the Niger State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) (Niger State Government, 2009; Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004) which was patterned after the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) of the Federal Government. The V3:2020 is a detailed analysis concerning where Niger State is now, where it intends to get to, and how it intends to get there by the year 2020. One of the objectives of the Vision3:2020 is to develop a new approach to governance in Niger State (World Bank, 1997; UNDP, 1997). To achieve this, it intends to address the issues of corruption, inflated contracts, high cost of government procurements, bribery, embezzlement, wasteful expenditures, diversion of funds, payment for goods and services not supplied, wrong attitude towards public funds, and a host of other factors that has militated against the realization of the goals of responsible and development driven governance.

From the fore-going it is important to note that the birth of Vision3:2020 was necessitated against the backdrop of the quest to find a panacea to the developmental challenges of Niger State. However, to achieve the goals of the Vision3:2020, its implementation must be given adequate priority in order to maintain the focus of the programme. The Governor of Niger state Dr.Muazu Babangida Aliyu (2007 – 2015) while buttressing the above point said "it identified the potential risks and bottlenecks and the possible solutions in order to mobilize effort in a focused manner towards the implementation of the Vision 3 2020 policy of the state (Vision3:2020,2009). To this end therefore, this research will evaluate the role of the state in development (Evans, 1995; North, 1990) and the implementation of the Vision 3:2020 from 2007-2015 in the development of Niger State. The major thrust of the Vision 3:2020 is to revitalize the economy of Niger State and maximally develop its potentials to create wealth, empower the private sector and improve the welfare of the populace.

**Research Propostions**

1. The implementation of Vision 3:2020 has made impact on the development of Niger State.

2. The socio – economic situation of Niger State is better due to the existence of a development plan than what it was before 2007.

3. The socio-economic situation of Niger State is better now due to the implementation of Vision 3:2020 than what it was before 2007.

**Literature Review**

**CONCEPT OF POLICY**

Policy refers to a deliberate course of action adopted by a government or an institution to address identified problems and achieve specified objectives. In the context of development, policy provides direction for the allocation of public resources and establishes priorities through which governments seek to influence economic and social outcomes. A development policy therefore transforms broad governmental intentions into programmes, projects and institutional actions directed towards identifiable goals (Adeyemi, 2001; Jhingan, 2000). Development planning involves looking ahead, identifying desirable objectives and determining the strategies and resources required to achieve them (Todaro, 1982).

A policy is meaningful only when it is translated into concrete implementation. The Vision 3:2020 programme illustrates this relationship because its objectives included moving the state economy up the value chain, improving knowledge and innovation, reducing socio-economic inequalities, improving quality of life and strengthening institutional capacity (Niger State Government, 2009). Policy implementation consequently involves coordination, monitoring, evaluation and feedback. Without effective implementation, even well-designed policies may fail to produce the intended developmental outcomes (Adeyemi, 2001; Moti, 2012). Policy also provides continuity and direction to government activities. A development plan enables government to establish priorities and coordinate investments within a defined period (Jhingan, 2000; Todaro, 1982). This is particularly important in developing societies where resources are limited and competing demands are substantial. The effectiveness of policy therefore depends not merely on formulation but also on institutional capacity, political commitment, accountability and continuity (Ibezim, 1999; Moti, 2012).

In the case of Niger State, Vision 3:2020 represented a deliberate attempt by the state government to establish a comprehensive development direction. The policy was designed to address socio-economic challenges and reduce dependence on the Federal Government by exploiting the state's agricultural, mineral, human and tourism potentials (Niger State Government, 2009).

**STATE AND DEVELOPMENT**

The state occupies a central position in the development process because it possesses the institutional authority to formulate policies, mobilise public resources, provide infrastructure and establish the legal and administrative environment necessary for development.

Development therefore cannot be viewed exclusively as the responsibility of the private sector or individuals. Government remains an important actor in directing economic and social transformation through deliberate programmes and institutions (Ibezim, 1999; Jhingan, 2000).

Development is broader than economic growth. It involves improvements in the material conditions of the population as well as changes in social, political and institutional structures. Todaro (1982) views development as a multidimensional process involving changes in economic, social and institutional conditions. Similarly, Ibezim (1999) associates development with improvements in the political, social and economic conditions of society. The state contributes to development through planning, infrastructure provision, education, healthcare, agricultural support, transportation, water supply and institutional reform. These functions are reflected in the implementation of Vision 3:2020, which recorded interventions in education, health, agriculture, transportation and water supply (Niger State Government, 2009). The construction and rehabilitation of schools and hospitals, agricultural support through subsidised fertiliser and tractors, and investment in water infrastructure demonstrate the role of state intervention in promoting socio-economic development.

The relationship between state and development is also closely associated with development planning. Development planning enables government to establish targets, determine priorities and direct scarce resources towards identified objectives (Jhingan, 2000; Todaro, 1982). Adeyemi (2001) similarly emphasises the importance of looking into the future, identifying societal expectations and aligning available resources with developmental objectives. The state must, however, possess adequate administrative and institutional capacity to implement development policies. Vision 3:2020 established a Programme Management Office and other implementation structures responsible for coordination, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and project prioritisation (Niger State Government, 2009). Such structures are necessary because policy formulation without effective implementation can produce limited developmental results (Adeyemi, 2001; Ibezim, 1999).

The role of the state should nevertheless be accompanied by participation from the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders. Vision 3:2020 recognised the importance of different actors, including state and local governments, private organisations and people's organisations, in the development process (Niger State Government, 2009). Effective development therefore requires collaboration rather than exclusive reliance on government.

**Vision 3:2020 Policy of Niger State (2007 – 2015)**

The Vision3:2020 plan came on board in Niger State by incorporating the Development Action Plan which was initiated in 2007.The goal of the Vision 3:2020 is to address the development challenges of Niger State by improving its socio-economic status through a concerted and purposeful course of action (Niger State Government, 2009; Sen, 1999). Niger State was created on 3rd Febuary,1976 from the former North Western State by the administration of General Murtala Mohammed. It is bounded in the North by Zamfara State, in the North West by Kebbi, in the South by Kogi, in the South West by Kwara, in the North East by Kaduna State and in the South East by the FCT. It shares borders with Benin Republic in the West. It has 25 Local Governments. It is situated in the North Central Geo-Political Zone of the country. The State has a population of about 3.9 million according to the

2006 census. Source (Vision 3:2020 Document). The State is blessed with a lot of natural resources some of which include solid minerals, vast arable land, good weather condition and water. Some of the mineral resources include gold, kyanite, kaolin, lead, copper etc. The size of Niger State, its population coupled with its abundant mineral resources has made it imperative for the government to initiate policies that will effectively harness the potentials of the State, in order to achieve its quest and desire for development (Niger State Government, 2009; Todaro & Smith, 2015).

It was given birth to in 2009 from the review of the Development Action Plan (DAP) to broaden the frontiers of development for Niger State beyond 2011.To achieve this, it incorporated the goals and objectives of the Development Action Plan. The Vision 3:2020 aims to make Niger State one of the three best economies in Nigeria by 2020.This is why it is christened V3:2020.V represents Vision;3 represents 3 best economy: while 2020 represents Year 2020. To buttress the objective of this development plan, Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu while commenting on the Vision 3:2020 Report stated that "the purpose of this report is to present before you some things on the future course of our beloved State and how we plan to obtain our objective of the Vision3:2020. This document is a follow-up to the Development Action Plan as a way of projecting Niger State beyond 2011.This is predicated on the need for Niger State to maintain its focus towards achieving its Vision Statement which stare the imagination and motivates all segments of its society to greater results (Vision 3:2020, 2009) .V3:2020 was therefore initiated to project Niger State's development quest beyond 2011.

**OBJECTIVES OF VISION 3:2020**

i\. To move the Niger state economy up the value chain

ii. To raise the capacity of knowledge and innovation and mature "first class mentality"

iii.To address persistent socio-economic inequalities constructively and productively.

IV .To improve the standard and sustainability of the quality of life

V. To strengthen the institutional and implementation capacity that will empower Nigerlites.

**Empirical Review**

**REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTION OF VISION 3:2020 IN NIGER STATE (2009-2015)**

It is important to make clarifications before making a review of Vision 3:2020 of the Niger State government. The Vision 3:2020 of the Niger State government is a home grown policy by the administration of Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu initiated since 2007. Its principal aim is to improve the socio-economic status of the State and make it one of the three best economies in Nigeria..

CARDINAL OBJECTIVES

1. Lay down appropriate strategies for successful and fruitful participation in the world economy which is fast becoming integrated.2. Redefine the roles of the State and the Local Governments in the process of social and economic development by putting appropriate legal frames and creating conducive environment for the operation of the private sector.3. Putting up sound economic and social infrastructure and facilitate good governance and rule of Law (World Bank, 1997).4. Adopt sound economic and sectoral policies focused towards the eradication of absolute poverty and the bridging of income gaps (Sen, 1999; UNDP, 1990) between social groups and economic zones and enhance individual capacity to attain essential needs of life.5. Build a democratic institution that respects diverse opinions, transparent, accountable and that is all out against corrupt behavior, rent seeking and oppression.6. Build State unity devoid of differences based on ideology, religion, race or gender in which all the people are self confident, respected and respect one another (Niger State Vision 3:2020, 2009).

**COORDINATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VISION 3:2020 IN NIGER STATE**.

Certain structures have been laid down to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Vision 3:2020 (Pressman & Wildavsky, 1973; Mazmanian & Sabatier, 1983).These structures include:

1. The Niger State Vision 3:2020 Programme Management Office (PMO).This office is expected to lead, guide, and coordinate the implementation of the Vision 3:2020 within the State. In order to achieve this ,the PMO, is expected to;I. Facilitate the strengthening of the project/programme.II. Strengthen the implementation/execution capability of the Vision 3:2020 operators.III. Disseminate project knowledge and best practices across the public and private sectors;IV. Evaluate and measure performance and development outcome of projects and programmes;V. Build monitoring and evaluation capacity in the stakeholders structure;VI. Develop project management systems to facilitate efficient project and programme implementation.VII. Establish standards which will be used as benchmarks across the programme sectors.VIII. Collate information on the status of implementation of the Vision 3:2020 operation plan:IX. Report on the status of plan implementation and progress at the operational level.X. Priotise projects based on criteria such as implementation capacity, financial viability, alignment with Vision 3:2020 goals as well as consistency with the overall Niger State strategic plans.XI. Develop and execute the Vision 3:2020 plans sectoral transformational projects;XII. Assist in the conceptualization and implementation of a comprehensive communications strategy for Vision 3:2020.XIII. Match micro level projects with the micro level plans for each sector and the overarching plan.XIV. Match the States Vision 3:2020 projects with the National Vision 3:2020 plans and coordinate and facilitate the national programme in the State.XV. Source local, regional, national, and international inputs into the programme and projects.XVI. Ensure the sustainability of Vision 3:2020 over the 12 year period, and beyond.

2. The Vision 3:2020 Programme Management Teams.

3. Vision 3:2020 Project Officers

4. Niger State Vision 3:2020 performance Executives

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF VISION 3:2020 (2007-2011)

The following has been achieved in the implementation of Vision 3:2020(2007-2011) in the following sectors (Niger State Government, 2009):

### EDUCATION

I. The building of 87 primary schools, 72 neighborhood junior secondary schools.II. Payment of Common Entrance Examination fees for both indigenes and non-indigenes.III. 61% increase in secondary school enrollment.IV. Payment of Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE) for both indigenes and non-indigenes.V. Release of N1.7 billion to complete 98 classrooms for learning through collaboration with UNICEF, Bank PHB, and MTN under the matching grants/partnership framework.VI. 22 new classrooms through partnership in secondary schools,416 double seat student desk and benches;2 new blocks of libraries and 3600 volumes of assorted text books for library development in six schools.VII. 84 set of computers connected to internet facilities.VIII. Provision of 1 new u shaped student hostel; 80 double bunk beds and 160 mattresses and 1950m wall fencing.IX. Provision of free books to students of secondary schools.

X. Creation of Ministry of Higher Education that has witnessed the upgrading of the schools of Nursing and Mid-Wifery in Bida and Minna respectively.XI. Massive development of the multi- campus institution of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU) all over Niger State.

### HEALTH

I. Rehabilitation of Bangi General Hospital one of the General Hospitals abandoned for about 12 years.II. Renovation, rehabilitation,and upgrading of Kagara and Mokwa General Hospitals. Other hospitals Suleja, Agaie, Kontagora, Mariga and Sarkin Pawa Health Centres. III. Construction of three additional hospitals in Nasco, Sabon Wuse and Gulu. IV. Free eye treatment for 11500 patients. V. Free treatment for 100 cancer patients, sickle cell patients and cleft lip/palate patients. VI. Free treatment for children between 0 – 5 and nursing mothers. VII. Attraction of S3000000000 investment into Niger State through an MOU signed with American Medical resort.

### AGRICULTURE

I. Procurement of 70000 tons of fertilizer at 65 % subsidy for distribution to farmers across Niger State.II. Purchase of 200 tractors.

### TRANSPORTATION

I. Construction of fuel dumps at the Minna International Airport.II. Purchase of 10 buses for school/metro service operation.

**WATER**

I. Renovation, rehabilitation, and upgrading of Chanchaga, Tagwai and Bosso dams.II. Drilling of boreholes in areas deemed worse hit by the situation in Minna metropolis.III. Purchase of 10 water tankers by the Niger State government to transport water to people at various locations. IV. Enhancement of water production from the Bosso dam from one million liter daily to 2million litters daily to 3 million liters per day.V. Purchase of high lift pumps for improved water supply (Niger State Vision 3:2020, 2009).

**Theoretical Framework**

The study adopted modernization theory for the study. Modernization theory is a theory used to explain the process of modernization within societies (Eisenstadt, 1966; Rostow, 1960). The theory looks at the internal factors of a country or society, while assuming that, with assistance traditional countries or societies can be brought to development in the same manner more developed countries have become developed. The conception of traditional society is however in no sense static and it would not exclude increases in output. Acreage could be expanded; some ad hoc technical innovations, often highly productive innovations could be introduced in trade, industry and agriculture. It is important to note the central fact about traditional society was that a ceiling existed on the level of obtainable output per head. This ceiling resulted from the fact that the potentialities which flow from modern science and technology were either not available or regularly and systematically applied (Rostow, 1960).

According to Eisenstaedt (1966) modernization is the process of change towards those types of socio-economic and political systems that have developed in Western Europe, and North America from the 17th century to the 19th and have then spread to other European countries and in the 19th and 20th centuries to the South American, Asian, and African continents. Modernization theory therefore, postulates a process of change by societies through the paradigm that has been set in motion by the development of more advanced countries who were once like the societies now aspiring to advance through the stages identified by the theory (Eisenstadt, 1966; Rostow, 1960).

Assumptions of the Theory

1. That societies develop through series of evolutionary stages;

2. These stages are based on different degrees and patterns of social differentiation and cultural and structural components that are functionally compatible for the maintenance of society;

3. Contemporary developing societies are at a pre-modern stage of evolution and they even need economic growth and will take on the social, political, and economic features of Western Europe and American societies which have progressed to the highest stage of social evolutionary development.

4. That modernization will result as complex western technology is imported and traditional cultural features incompatible with such development are overcome.

WEAKNESSES OF THE THEORY

Some weaknesses of the modernization theory include; (Frank, 1967; Escobar, 1995)

1. It depicts a gradual and more natural transition structures to modern social structures characteristic of Western European and North American societies.

2. That modernization destroys traditional societies, without realizing its expectations and in the process, the gap between advanced and those societies that were suppose to follow their pattern of development increased.

3. That modernization replaced traditional society poverty with greater poverty, and worse state of development socio-economically than hitherto experienced.

4. That modernization theory is ethnocentric.

**Relevance of Theory to the Study**

The theory is relevant to the study as it provides a framework to explain the role that a conscious development plan policy can play in stimulating the development of a state. It outlines stages to be followed in order to achieve development by the state. The theory adequately captures the fundamental objective of the Vision 3;2020 policy of the Niger State Government under the administration of Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu to transform the state from an agricultural based economy to an industrialized economy.

**Methodology**

The study adopted the mixed methods to gather and analyse data for the study. A survey design was adopted which involved the use of questionnaires. The questionnaires assessed the implementation of V3:2020 with concentration on its impact on the people of Niger state.

**Population of the Study**

The total population in the study is 7010 which was arrived at by summing up the total number of workers in the study area. These areas include civil servants from the state civil service secretariat, public servants from Ibrahim Badamasi University, Lapai (IBBUL), Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru, House of Assembly, Minna, private sector employees from First Bank of Nigeria Minna branch, former Diamond Bank Minna branch, National Union of Road Transport Workers, Minna branch, Amalgamated Traders Association, Minna and members from the civil society such as: Nigerian Bar Association and Nigerian Union of Journalists.

**SAMPLING AND SAMPLE TECHNIQUE**

The purposive sampling technique was employed in the administration of questionnaires to respondents. The Taro Yamane formula was used in determining the sample size for the study. The formula was developed by Taro Yamane in the year 1967. The formula states that:

n=N/1+N(e)2

Where

n= Sample Size

N=Population Size and

e= Level of Precision at 0.05

n=7010/1+7010(0.05)2

n= 7010/1+7010(0.0025)

n= 378

The Yamane formula gives the researcher the opportunity to round up to the nearest hundred. Therefore, the nearest hundred to 378 is 400. Therefore, this study made use of 400 participants as respondents.

## DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

The technique used for data collection in the study was the questionnaire (Creswell, 2014). The questionnaires consist of two parts. The descriptive part obtained information on the ministries and grade levels of respondents and enquired whether they knew about the Vision 3:2020, The second part of the questionnaire, which was the analytic part was used to elicit questions that had to do with the purpose of the study which aided the researcher to obtain appropriate answers from the respondents. Secondary source of data was also employed in the research work to generate information for analysis.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Simple statistical tools such as simple percentage and tables were used to analyse data.

**Table One Questionnaires Distributed and Retrieved**

| Distributed Questionnaires | Retrieved Questionnaires | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| 400 | 376 | 94 % |

Source: Field Survey , 2016

Table one indicates that four hundred (400) questionnaires were distributed. However, only three hundred and eighty (376) were retrieved representing 94% of the population of the study. A detail of the retrieved questionnaires in the nine organizations under study is shown in table two.

**Table Two Responses to Questionnaires in the Nine Organizations under Study**

| S/N | Institutional Domain of Respondents | Number of Questionnaires Distributed | Number of Questionnaire Retrieved | Responses | Percentage | Response Rate of Unretrieved Questionnaires in Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai | 30 | 30 | 30 | 100% | 0 % |
| 2 | Niger State House of Assembly, Minna | 40 | 40 | 40 | 100% | 0% |
| 3 | Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru | 30 | 30 | 30 | 100% | 0% |
| 4 | Niger State Secretariat | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100% | 100% |
| 5 | National Union of Road Transport Workers, Minna | 50 | 43 | 43 | 86% | 14% |
| 6 | Nigerian Bar association, Minna | 5 | 5 | 5 | 100% | 0% |
| 7 | Banks, Minna | 25 | 15 | 15 | 60% | 40% |
| 8 | Nigerian Union of Journalist, Minna | 20 | 13 | 13 | 65% | 35% |
| 9 | Association of Market Trade | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100% | 100% |

Source : Field Survey, 2016

**Research Question One**

**Table Three** The implementation of vision 3:2020 has made impact on the development of Niger State.

| Responses | Frequency | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Agree | 184 | 48.9% |
| Disagree | 138 | 37.2% |
| Undecided | 54 | 14.3% |

Source: Field Survey , 2016

Responses to research question one show that out of the three hundred and seventy six people that participated in the research, one hundred and eighty-four (184) respondents representing 48.9% strongly agree that the implementation of Vision 3:2020 has made impact on the development of Niger State. On the other hand, one hundred and thirty-eight (138) respondents representing 37.2% disagreed and fifty-four (54) respondents representing 14% were undecided. Therefore, the research proposition that the implementation of vision 3:2020 has made impact on the development of Niger State was supported.

**4Research Question Two.**

**Table Four** The socio-economic situation of Niger State is better due to the existence of a development plan than what it was before 2007.

| Responses | Frequency | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Agree | 189 | 50.3 |
| Disagree | 144 | 38% |
| Undecided | 43 | 11.4% |

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Responses to research question two indicate that out of the three hundred and seventy six people that were participants in the research, one hundred and eighty-nine (189) respondents representing 50.266% strongly agree that the socio-economic situation of Niger State is better due to the existence of a development plan than what it was before 2007. On the other hand, one hundred and forty-four (144) respondents representing 38% disagreed and fifty-four (43) respondents representing 11.436% were undecided. Therefore, the research proposition that the socio-economic situation of Niger State is better due to the existence of a development plan than what it was before 2007 was supported.

**Research Question Three.**

**Table Five** Socio-economic situation of Niger State is better now due to the implementation of the Vision 3:2020 than what it was before 2007?

| Responses | Frequency | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Agree | 179 | 47.6 |
| Disagree | 137 | 36.4 |
| Undecided | 60 | 15.9 |

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table five indicates the response of the participants of the study to research question three. Out of the three hundred and seventy six participants in the research, one hundred and seventy-nine (179) respondents representing 47.6% strongly agree that the socio-economic situation of Niger State is better now due to the implementation of the Vision 3:2020 than what it was before 2007. On the other hand, one hundred and thirty-seven (137) respondents representing 36.4% disagreed and sixty (60) respondents representing 15.9% were undecided. Hence, the research proposition that the socio-economic situation of Niger State is better due to the existence of a development plan than what it was before 2007 was supported.

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

In this study, three propositions were made. The first states that, the implementation of Vision 3:2020 has made impact on the development of Niger State. The research finding was consistent with this proposition. The researcher found out that the implementation of Vision 3:2020 has made impact on the development of Niger state. The finding is consistent with

Akosile and Fasoyiku (1992), who found out that when there is implementation of any sort, there will be development that will uplift the standard of living of the people. The finding is also consistent with the implementation literature, which emphasises the importance of translating policy decisions into concrete programmes and outcomes (Pressman & Wildavsky, 1973). The finding is also consistent with Adeyemi (2001), who found out that when a nation implements its visions, goals and objectives, there will be a significant impact in that society. Hence, this proposition was supported.

The second proposition states that, the socio-economic situation of Niger State is better due to the existence of a development plan than what it was before 2007. The finding is consistent with Moti (2012), who discovered that the practice of good governance, respect for human right, rule of law, transparency, accountability and fight against corruption in the government, the private sector and all sectors of human endeavor and society will enhance the socio-economic situation of any society.The finding is also consistent with Jhingan (2000) who found out that the existence of a development plan enhances deliberate control and direction of the economy by a central authority for the purpose of achieving definite targets and objectives within a specified period of time that will improve the quality of life of the people within a specific period of time. The finding is also consistent with Todaro (1982), who found out that the existence of development plan brings about a better socio-economic status (Todaro & Smith, 2015) because it influences, directs and controls changes in the principal economic variables such as consumption, investment and savings. Therefore, this research proposition was supported.

The third proposition states that, the socio-economic situation of Niger State is better now due to the implementation of the Vision 3:2020 than what it was before 2007. The finding is consistent with Ibezim (1999), who found out that the ability of the government to strategically implement its programmes and projects will improve the socio-economic situation of its citizenry and move them to a state of less desirability to a state of higher desirability.

## Conclusion

Based on the research findings, the researcher concludes on the note that there is need for more aggressive commitment towards the implementation of a public policy (Evans, 1995; North, 1990) like the V3:2020 so that the desirable goal of its impact can be realized across board with the utmost aim of improving the socio-economic status of the citizenry of the state. As effective state intervention, policy continuity, monitoring and stakeholder participation are important for translating development visions into sustainable socio-economic outcomes.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher has put forward the following recommendations:

(1) The review mechanisms put in place by the government to get feedback on the progress of the programme should be further enhanced (OECD, 2020).

(2) Structures should be put in place to ensure the continuity of the policy after the administration of Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu so that the gains that have been made so far as indicated by the findings of the study can be consolidated (North, 1990; Evans, 1995) so that the gains that have been made so far as indicated by the findings of the study can be consolidated.

(3) The government of Niger state should partner with stakeholders from the civil society and the trade union council in order to enhance the full implementation of the V3:2020 scheme (UNDP, 2015).

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