

THE EXPLANATORY NOTE



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UNVEILING THE TOTAL NATURE OF POVERTY - THE FOUNDATION FOR ITS CONTROL

WHAT IS THE ESSENTIAL MEANING OF POVERTY?

It is a basic material condition with one, two or the three strata, veiling an individual, group or society, of a distinct identity.

The worst condition is defined by Lacking.

This may be of Needs, Wants or Fancies. The first level measures the degree of collective irresponsibility of a family or society. NOT that of any individual. For example it is a measure of irresponsibility for any individual in a family and society to LACK basic food, drink, shelter, literacy and companionship. For adults and youths, it will include work and income. The basis for this definition of irresponsibility is that man, is necessarily a social being. Nobody who is born into a family, group or society can justifiably be denied the essentials for basic existence by the collective efforts and resources of those that he finds himself with.

The second level that is of Wants is specially recognizable only IF the individual, family, group or society put in deliberate Extra Effort to provide. It is a category of convenience. It is beyond Basic, even if its supreme identity is rooted or the same with Needs. For example, a Tent, Cabin, Hut, House and a Bungalow are all forms of shelter. The tent may be the minimum that as a society, we may consider as fit, sufficient and affordable TO every individual or family. The total absence or the lack of this is what NO parent, family or society can justify. EVERYBODY needs Clean Water, Most people will want Nutritional drinks and only a Few really drink alcohol for fancy. All who drink alcohol out of frustration or simply believe it is their fancy, when they are not in control of their needs and wants, are neither useful universally for themselves nor are they useful for understanding Poverty, as a challenge.

It is clear from this that NO Nigerian citizen by birth Needs to be in this abject state of lacking Food, Drink, Shelter, Companionship, Literacy, Work and Income. There is No Explanation that can justify and withstand this level of collective irresponsibility, for which the Leadership, consisting of a generation's Intelligentsia, Philosopher Kings/Princes and the Productively Wealthy, are BLAMABLE.

For the intelligentsia, it will be fool hardy to think and propagate that the NECESSARY beginning for collectively making these chain of needs Available, is NECESSARILY by Money or Buying or Loan or Budget or Financial Plan. Where these are available, they will powerfully complement But not Replace Human Capacities and the relation of this in variant forms to nature, to eliminate this state of abject lack.

Without machinery and fertilizer and high breed seedlings, ministries and salaries, including cement, roofing sheets and nails, CANT any society eliminate the abject lack of these basics? Must marriage be a financial program?

For the Philosopher Kings/Princes, it will be Non accountable to be living on the Ignorance and Patience of those in the lack of unforgivable basics and shamelessly claim to be leaders, with arrogance.

Of what benefit is the leadership that cannot make any Covering difference to the livelihood of the led by transiting from the level they were met to a superior level? Of what reason can a leadership claim to have been for the primary benefit of its kins, secondarily for those circumstances provided the opportunity to meet and passingly for the OTHERS who are in the MAJORITY?

For the Productively Wealthy, it will be hypocritical to deny that it is a cluster of lies, breaking of covenants and plunder that are the lifeline of what appears to be success. What productively wealthy man or woman came into this world, with neither inheritance nor share work, trickery nor exploitation can have such identity?

This worst condition of Poverty, if associable with more than one digit percentage of a society and in a cross cutting manner, the intelligentsia, the leaders and producers of that generation have failed WOEFULLY. The simple reason is that it is absolutely not excusable and sensibly intolerable.

The second stratum of Poverty also doubles with the seeming appearance of being the first stratum of a provided individual, family, group or society revolving around the same Needs, Wants and Fancies. This is characterized by Just Sufficiency that is evidently above the state of abject lacking.

This stratum accordingly has either of two definitions relevant to it, in application to society. The first, that is Responsible, indicates that the triple efforts of the intelligentsia, the leadership and the producers have ENABLED the Provision of the BASIC NEEDS to ninety-one percent of ALL the human beings, with some little tolerable addition of some wants for close to half of the society. Ninety-one percent is the minimum because, man is not perfect and the natural course of history is stronger than the plans of men.

The second alternate face of this stratum is the irresponsible evidence. This is defined by a SEEMING SUFFICIENCY of a reasonable proportion of the society that are Largely, the work force. In our times, these are the Self Employed, Public and Private Employees. Their sufficiency is seeming because it is for those in the Public Sector secured by Salaries/Wages/Pension. Those in the Private sector are even worse off because value ratings are dynamic with time and both Private and Self employees can crash, with the disorientation of the Public.

The essential value of this status or stratum of Poverty is that, the security against the state of Lack is slim, thin, like barricading a tamed lion with wire net and feeling secure with feeding the beast. The most dangerous orientation of the members of this stratum is that, they misbelieve what is just sufficient for reasonable security. This is the basis and explanation for the eventual collapse of their majority into the worst state of lack with the colour of not appearing to lack.

They largely ultimately fail to sustain HAVING because their seeming sufficiency is in reality INSUFFICIENT HAVING. Thus, any family, group or society whose up to half are of the first stratum and close to half of the remaining half belong to this stratum, it is NOT SECURE and is Poor. It is a bunch of Denied and Deceived burden that has the misfortune of being Oriented, Led and Managed by either Ignorants or the Irresponsible or a combination of both.

The third and often impressive stratum is defined by the superfluous character of lacking Not in the basic needs, wants and even some fancies, But in the CAPACITY to SUSTAIN the Needs, Wants and Fancies. It is indeed this lacking that at best, enables only the seeming sufficiency of a reasonable percentage of the society. Thus, it is not that evidences of productive activities cannot be found or appreciated But these are not rooted in the society members. Innovation and Creativity are therefore minimal and often suffocated.

By qualification, this is comparatively only a Bad rank in the scheme of Poverty as against the Worse and Worst defined above. However, like the worse which has two sides, this also has an advanced second size, related to its evident more than sufficient status.

Members of this stratum are very slim in a society that is largely made of the earlier strata. By identity, they are the intelligentsia, the philosopher kings/princes and the producer champions. In such disappointing societies, they replace responsibility with irresponsible wastage by sponsoring or bearing a hanger-on parasitic sub stratum. The members of the latter are by orientation both Careless and Desperate. The first logical attribute is a logic of their not being effective producers. The second consequential attribute is being uncritical of the sponsors or even criminally intellectualizing the rape of the society to feed fat on, by the same sponsors. Even when they are evidently seen to be seriously involved in productive activities or processes, it's only a make-believe. They are covers for embarrassing activities that sustain the sponsors. Thus, to the members of the first and second strata, the worst and the worse, these are the successful and models.

However, their real failure in the capacity to sustain this super success is reflected in two ways. The first is the latent psychological Fear of falling back to the really worse or even worst stratum. This is effectively expressed through anger with material selflessness, reluctance to genuinely invest in the collective future of the society; failure to live up to expressed association with collective good or insignificant support with callous publicity. The second is that they get more committed to securing themselves rather than building the System. The logical proof of these lies in their sharpening capacity for elaborate rape, exploitation, extortion and robbery of the human and material resources that belong to ALL brazenly, systematically and legally.

Arising from the above, the logical deduction is that our existence and survival squarely rests on the definition of our material conditions, whether as individuals, families, groups or nation states. This goes further to make it inevitable for us to find ANY way out, in the absence or difficulty of a defined way. Thus, those in the

first and worst stratum are crude, naked and direct in petty methods for making ends meet, with irresponsible ones very popular. Examples include Pick Pocketing, Physical Robbery, Thuggery, Petty Trading, Hawking, Sex Work, Subsistence farming, Begging, Craft Work, Building, Praise Singing, Sweeping, Cleaning, Dry Cleaning, Message Bearing, Harvesting, etc. They are more prone to crimes, which in essence amounts to crossing into the jurisdiction of the third stratum members. And the instruments to do it are in fact their stratum relations. Thus, members of the first are used by the third, to protect itself against the same first. The members of the second stratum are those with specialized skills and knowledge. They differ only from the first, by facing less exposure to the laws of the third, compared to the first. They consist of the cream of producers. They effectively graduate into the third stratum by historical accident or opportunity. When they do, it colours the membership of the third stratum as a window for advancing into, with hard work. The Explanation for this network is simply SUSTAINED GENERAL POVERTY.

In the end, the operation of machineries of governance and administration, of human and material resources is without care for DETAILS, PROCESSES, PROCEDURES. This is displayed through PERSONALISATION of collective duties and responsibilities. The minimum facelessness of formalities are not met or are deliberately, avoided or trampled upon.

BASIC Material Poverty or condition therefore NECESSARILY connects directly with the accuracy and opportunities for Faith or Submission to Allah and following the footsteps of *Rasul*. The systematic and transparent in-built process of negating Poverty is what fundamentally enables Legal and Clean NEEDS to be met, over and above which improvements in quality, quantity and scope of variety amounts to choice of WANTS and FANCIES. Thus *Salat*, *Zakkat*, *Sawm* and *Hajj* will be in the minimum desired status, with CLEANLINESS. This is why and how CLEANLINESS is Next to Godliness. It is the direct opposite of feeding on *halal* foods and drinks gotten by *haram* means along with similar clothes, housing or prayer mat, for *Salat*. By implication, NAIRA, the means of exchange that is the idol of our times is NOT intrinsically GOOD in itself.

Thus, the Show of what we are blessed with, that pleases Allah is not anything and anyhow. The relationship between men in the making of history is Not by any one doing another a primary favour. This is because every one of us has a trust and will account for bearing it or abusing it. Therefore, when it comes to secondary favours through Open handedness, we are modestly cautioned, Not be open handed as to become a beggar. That , this life is for toiling is the basis for seeking this livelihood as if we shall not die and distancing from its consuming us , as if with Allah we will have our last worship . Thus, *Rasul* sought for protection against Poverty because it has the capacity to Weaken *Iman*. In other words, we are to live in this transitory temporary world as strangers or travellers. This negates the irresponsible life style of working for those who will inherit Super Surpluses BECAUSE inevitably WHAT YOU USE IS WHAT IS YOURS. And Muhammad (S.A.W.) added that whosoever his *Salat* does not affect his wrongs, it does not benefit him.

I believe in Allah and bear witness to *Rasul*.

I learnt that in the Qur'an is Guidance to those who are given Understanding.

I am a Participant Observer to the abject poverty in our society, afflicting close to half of our number. I am a Participant Observer to the thread of temporary shield from poverty to more than half of the remaining half, made up largely of those employed. I am a Participant Observer to the threat of poverty that is genuinely faced by the quarter of the remaining half, who bears the security of the three quarter balance.

This condition is in spite of our resources in individual and collective capacities and efforts.

As a Muslim, I have found in the Qur'an and *Hadith* the fundamental ORIENTATION which is capable of INTERVENING with quadruple distinctions. It will provide a logical and sensible basis for making good Muslims that will not be any problem to fellow humans and can hope for their safe life after death. The same will propel what it takes to keep the poverty of ALL in distant check for the comfort of all.

I have attempted recording the elements of this necessary ORIENTATION that NEEDS TO BE LEARNED in the publications of SADAQATU TAYYIBATUN FOUNDATION. The seven (7) series apply specifically to Muslims, to recover our lost discipline. The supportive ones consisting of THE PROCEEDINGS OF OUR CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE, A TRIALOGUE and a letter TO THE PHILOSOPHER KING AND PRINCES; focus on the master art and science of living - POLITICS or conflict resolution. These arise from the basic orientation defined by the 7 but are independent of the 7. They are applicable to every Nigerian, irrespective of religion, ideology, tribe or location.

These twin sets of publications will enable an ORIENTATION, a MINDFRAME of better Muslims and non-Muslims - a foundation for easier attack and security of dealing with poverty and the sustenance of prosperity.

They can be read and understood with little or no supervision by anyone with sufficient diction for senior secondary school external examination, in one calendar month.

This is the kind of project that leaders of men, movements and societies SELFLESSLY invested in and have coloured the world history. It is always recorded and made available FREELY.

This kind of project can be expensive in our times, time consuming for all times, because the results take time to mature, BUT are self-sustaining for longer than the life time of the oldest living man of our times.

This foundation is like the provision of clean and safe portable water across a society at whatever condonable cost. It will save the purse from more than reasonable cost in medical treatment expenses. And this savings will be available for agricultural development. These Good people who are healthy are SAFE

COMPETENCES NEEDED for driving the history of a people AGAINST poverty, illiteracy and backwardness.

The first challenge of faith and commitment is in making the materials available. I have tried to print out 1000 copies and distributed FREELY across the nation. They have reached MINNA, BIDA, ZARIA, KADUNA, KANO, WARRI, JIGAWA, KATSINA, YOLA, ILORIN, SOKOTO, ABUJA, LAGOS and ABEOKUTA. They are also available for FREE DOWNLOAD on the website: www.sadtayyfoundation.org.

This availability can be strengthened by strategic distribution of more and more reprints. This is slower to achieve and also painful. For instance for a state-wide focus, the number of local government areas can be the yardstick for 1000 copies each. The medium of Teachers of Islamic studies, Islamic Schools, Muslim Students' Society are responsible enough for circulation. The other aspect of the pain is that if 5 people are enabled by Allah to BEAR the orientation, out of every 100 sets to 100 persons, it will be encouraging TODAY.

This explanatory note is to invite you to build on the foundation that will ignite a better history, for ourselves, our society and beyond us, slowly but surely.

At Zaria
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