

Seventy-five in
nigeria is one of the
most



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Seventy-five years ago William Beveridge published his report on Social Insurance and Allied Services which founded the British welfare state, we have also seen its impact and influence on many other countries social welfare models .

The five giants , which were explained by Beveridge, were : Want (which addressed the main social problem of poverty in Britain in the 1940's), Disease (whereby the National Health Service act was passed), Ignorance (which stated secondary school education should be compulsory while providing services such as meals and medical needs), Squalor (reducing the issue of housing shortages and overcrowding by building more housing) and finally Idleness (keeping unemployment rates low) B. William , 1962.

These ' five giants' provide almost a blueprint to a successful welfare model if all these needs are addressed. I am going to discuss the country of Sweden which I believe has fared well in terms of social provision and compare it to Nigeria , a country which has poor social welfare provisions in my opinion. Sweden, a country that follows a Nordic social welfare model and regarded highly in social policy provision has abided by the ' five giants' to successfully provide a fair social welfare system for the country funded by taxes. The Swedish healthcare system is a public service operated by county councils which give everyone equal access to the services with the highest technology available and routinely updates .

This decentralised healthcare system was initiated by Beveridge's plea for Disease. This honourable Swedish system is contrasted by the inadequate healthcare provision in Nigeria whereby there are an underwhelming amount of both privately and publicly run healthcare establishments. The government

fail to provide sufficient infrastructure and access to drugs, supplies and resources. Though recognising and addressing the deplorable healthcare issues, the Nigerian Government have failed to implement any changes due to the poor levels of economic growth.

Dr. M. Osain, 2011. By not providing satisfactory healthcare to its residents, Nigeria has still not successfully combated the Disease giant set out by Beveridge and therefore has a failed welfare model in my opinion. Housing conditions in Nigeria is one of the most prominent social welfare problems that the country has failed to handle under Beveridge's report on squalor. With the population rising from 40 million in 1950's to a staggering 170 million currently, the country is unable to provide decent housing to the population and has resulted in a country that is severely over crowded and a majority of the population living in slums and poverty with up to 50 people sharing one bathroom. E. Rosenthal, 2012.

The source of this problem is partly due to the culture of large families in African countries with the average being 11 members per family in Nigeria. In an effort to decrease this number in the hope to reduce over crowding, the government made contraceptives free to their citizens, but it failed to provide any sufficient results due to the lack of healthcare facilities and because of cultural appropriations regarding contraceptives. There are essentially no benefits provided by the government in terms of social housing the only financial support being that loans are made available for building private housing. From my understanding the Nigerian government will struggle with this issue for much longer as poverty and overcrowding go hand in hand and

the population shows no sign of slowing down. As a juxtaposition to this crisis I will discuss Sweden's successful approach to housing aid.

The local councils provide public housing which unlike many other European systems, are not restricted by income and provide almost 20% of all Sweden's housing stock CECODHAS, 2017. Social insurance in Sweden also provides benefits such as housing supplement for pensioners and maintenance allowance along with a means tested housing allowance. anon, gov.

uk , 2017 providing these benefits increases the availability of accommodation and also the accessibility and support for citizens to be able to afford their rent/mortgages thus tackling the problem of over crowding and squalor addressed in the ' five giants'.