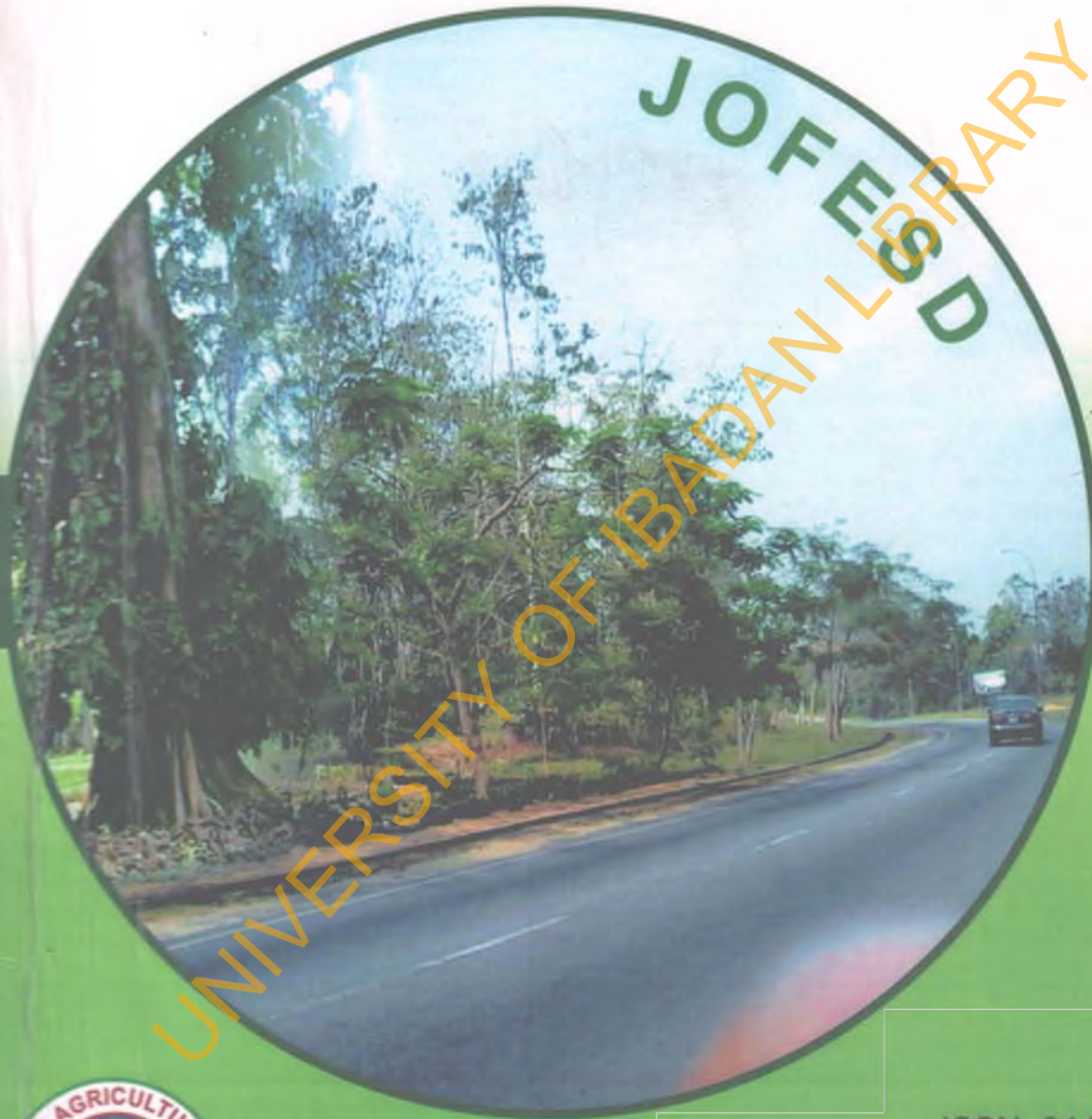




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ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (CDA) IN APETE COMMUNITY, IBADAN, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on the implementation of community development projects through Community Development Association (CDA) in Apete, Ibadan. Three specific objectives, each with corresponding research questions and hypothesis, guided the study. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population for the study comprised 1025 landlords in Apete community, Ibadan. A sample size of 197 was purposively drawn for the study. The instrument for data collection was a 14 item structured questionnaire tagged "community development projects and Community Development Association Questionnaire (CDPCDAQ)" modeled on a four-point rating of; strongly agree (SA)_4, Agree (A)_3, Disagree (D)_2 and Strongly Disagree (SD)_1. The instrument was validated by experts in community development and evaluators at the Institute of Education. The instrument was subjected to reliability test and the reliability coefficient of 0.86 was obtained. The research questions 1 and 2 were answered using mean and standard deviation while the hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis at 0.05 level of significance. The data analyzed revealed that the level of community development by the Community Development Associations in Apete, Ibadan was low (Mean=2.26). Challenges facing the Association included inadequate funding (Mean=3.44), misappropriation of funds (Mean=3.20), poor involvement of community members in development projects (Mean=3.23), poor leadership (Mean=3.60), lack of governmental support (Mean=3.50) and lack of trust by community members (Mean=3.56). The concludes that Community Development Association is a critical variable for community development. Based on the findings, it was recommended that Community Development Associations should be operated through good governance and they should be transparent in their dealings with all developmental projects. Also, government should release adequate funds for community projects from time to time.

Keywords: Community Development, Community Development Association, Community Development Projects.

INTRODUCTION

The impact of community development projects on the economic and overall growth of any community cannot be overemphasized. As a matter of fact, no community can experience development without proper execution and adequate provision of community infrastructural facilities such as water facilities, adequate roads network system, health facilities, communication network facilities and many others to mention a few (Tamuno and Otto, 2006). According to Amirize (2004), community development projects do not only provide the means of making life more meaningful for members of a community, it also results to empowerment, wakening of grass root organization and collective action toward self-improvement. In the words of Hanachor (2012), community projects, irrespective of the magnitude, is capable of brightening the community and setting off other developmental activities in the community.

Added to the above is the fact that community development projects that require construction activities will create employment for youths in any community which will invariably improve their standard of living through wages paid as a result of services rendered. This will change the population structure and social life of the area due to the influx of workers of various categories into the community. More money will be brought into the local market with a more diversified economy, more employment opportunities, new ideas and information sources which will invariably curb social vices like crime, prostitution and potential conflict situations (Olawoye, 2010). From the foregoing, it is crystal clear that community development projects play tremendous roles in making local settlements more conducive for dwellers.

Tamuno and Otto (2006) described community development project as a coordinated series of action resulting from policy decision to change resource combination and levels, so as to contribute to the realization of a country's development objectives. According to Oyebamiji, Olumati and Nwogu (2016), community development project as "any planned or deliberate programme of activities which can provide the support base, to complement efforts of individuals to enhance their wellbeing and solve their peculiar problems". Community development projects attract other development activities. It acts as a pointer, and a means of assessing the level of development in any given community.

However, it appears that not much attention has been paid to rural community development projects by successive governments since independence in Nigeria in terms of providing adequate electricity, pliable roads, standard schools, well equipped hospitals and medical centres. For instance, it is sad that in the 21st century, the community that has been producing oil on which our nation depends, is requesting for water and electricity among other amenities (Orija, 2013). In the developed world, the government builds facilities and hand such over to the people. However, in most part of Nigeria, it is the people who build and hand over to the government. Examples of such abound with some infrastructures such as schools, police station and dispensaries taken over by the government which were originally built by missionaries, philanthropists and corporate organisations. There were cases of communities that also bought all their electrical materials to provide electricity and handed over to the government yet the government collects monthly bills from the people (Adelesi, 2015).

The failure of government to rise to their responsibilities in terms of providing the needed infrastructures has made many communities to remain underdeveloped, neglected, marginalized volatile and degraded (Orija, 2013). The implication of the neglect of rural communities by the government may have resulted into frustration leading to various agitation and in some cases violence which may degenerate to communal war and vandalisation of the available infrastructural facilities. It also has the tendency of increasing social vices such as stealing, sexual harassment, drug addiction, ritual killings, corruption and so on. This has therefore become a source of concern to all and sundry because of its great adverse effect on the country.

The inability of the government to directly impact on the lives of the communities in equal degree and proportion particularly through proper implementation of community projects necessitated the formation of various Community Development Associations (CDAs) to realise the dream. Community development projects are usually carried out under the umbrella of Community Development Associations (CDAs). These CDAs constitute the convergence of people living within a given locality or community with the sole aim of identifying their felt needs and agreeing on the ways, means and moves towards the realization

of such identified needs. They execute projects, with a maximum reliance upon community resources and supplement these resources, when necessary with services and materials from the government (Olujide, 2005).

Similarly, Community Development Association (CDAs), according to Adelesi (2015), are usually a group of people within the same landed confines who then agree to come together and work together in order to build the area in which they have found themselves so it can be easier and safer for all of them to live in. When people in the same community agree to work together, what usually happens is that they can always consolidate on and also benefit from each other's efforts. By the time they become established, they also become avenues for the government to reach the people at the grassroots (Rubin and Rubin, 2001). Community Development Association (CDA) is the bed rock of developmental projects through their participation and readiness to commit their financial resources towards development of their communities. This is important because the community development associations in Nigeria are on the same pedestals when compared to other countries of the world, especially the developed ones.

To further emphasise the role of Community Development Association (CDA), Orija (2013) stated that Community Development Association is that grassroots' social formation which brings the people of the community together. It is the forum at which the common goals interests and aspirations of the people are conceived and strategies for actualizing them are formulated. It is the only organised grassroots body recognised to represent the people in matters that pertain to the community and its development. The leaders are thus chosen in accordance with their active participation, ability to mobilise the people and the effectiveness in guiding the people towards realizing the defined objectives of the community.

However, it is worrisome to note that the efforts of Community Development Association (CDA) at developing the rural communities through self-help projects are still facing some considerable setbacks. It appears that despite their self-commitment in ensuring successful execution of projects, quite a lot of these projects had been abandoned due to some challenges confronting the association.

To the best of the researcher's knowledge, relevant empirical studies had focused more on achieving sustainable community development projects through community education and participation while few studies in the area of Community Development Associations' contributions in development projects. Therefore, this study focused on the implementation of community development projects through Community Development Association in Apete, Ibadan. Consequently, this study was to assess the execution of community development projects through Community Development Association in Apete, Ibadan considering the level of development by the CDAs and the possible challenges confronting the agency.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study;

- i. What is the level of community development in Apete Area of Oyo State?
- ii. What are the challenges facing Community Development Associations in the implementation of community development projects in Apete Area of Oyo State?

Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between Community Development Associations on community development projects in Apete Area of Oyo State.

Methodology

Research Design

The study used descriptive survey research.

Population of the Study

The population of the study consisted of all the members in all the communities in Apete, Ibadan.

Sample and Sampling Technique

Through a multi-stage sampling technique, 197 respondents were selected from 5 communities: Mosoke, Lakoto, Osajin, Onigbodogi and Idi-Oro to constitute the sample for the study.

Research Instrument

The research instrument for the study was self-developed questionnaire tagged: Community Development Projects Questionnaire and Community Development Indices. The questionnaire was designed on a four-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD), with the corresponding values of 4,3,2,1. The questionnaire was made up of three sections viz A-D.

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The instrument was face and content validated. The researcher determined the reliability of the instruments using 20 members of a community that were not part of the sample for a test-retest reliability. It yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.79. This implies that the instrument was reliable.

Method of Data Analysis

The research questions were answered using mean and standard deviation while the hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis at 0.05 level of significance.

Level of community development by the Community Development Associations in Apete, Ibadan.

Table 1 shows the view of respondents on the level of community development by the community development associations in Apete, Ibadan. It shows that there is no borehole dug for the entire community through the effort of the association ($Mean=1.77$), the transformer in the community was not brought through the association's effort ($Mean=2.46$), there is no drainage construction in the community ($Mean=2.46$), health care centre ($Mean=2.19$), public primary school ($Mean=2.73$) and the road that leads to the community is not accessible and tiled ($Mean=1.93$). From the foregoing, the mean average of the whole items in table 1 is 2.26. Since the average mean is 2.26 and which is below the criterion mean score of 2.50, it can therefore be deduced that the level of community development by the Community Development Associations in Apete, Ibadan is low.

Table 1: Table showing the level of community development by the Community Development Associations in Apete, Ibadan.

No	Statement	SA		A		D		SD	Mean	Std. Dev.	Dec.	
		F	%	F	%	F	%					F
1.	There is a borehole drilled for the entire community through the effort of the association	17	8.6%	9	4.6%	82	41.6%	89	45.2%	1.77	0.92	Rejected
2	The transformer in my community was brought through the association's effort.	52	26.4%	33	16.8%	44	22.3%	68	34.5%	2.46	0.97	Rejected
3	There is drainage construction in my community	39	19.8%	47	23.9%	76	38.6%	35	17.8%	2.46	0.67	Rejected
4	There is health community care centre in my community	21	10.7%	49	24.9%	75	38.1%	52	26.4%	2.19	1.13	Rejected
5	There is a public primary school in my community.	63	32.0%	49	24.9%	54	27.4%	31	15.7%	2.73	0.79	Accepted
6	The road that leads to my community is accessible and tiled	16	8.1%	33	16.8%	69	35.0%	79	40.1%	1.93	1.05	Rejected
Weighted Average Mean									2.26			

Challenges facing Community Development Associations in the implementation of community development projects in Apete, Ibadan.

Table 2 shows the view of respondents on the challenges facing Community Development Associations in Apete, Ibadan. The result shows that; inadequate funding ($Mean=3.44$), misappropriation of funds ($Mean=3.20$), poor involvement of community members in development projects ($Mean=3.23$), poor leadership by the association ($Mean=3.60$), lack of governmental support ($Mean=3.50$) and lack of trust by community members ($Mean=3.56$) were challenges facing the CDAs. From the foregoing, it can therefore be deduced that the Community Development Associations in Apete Community are confronted with a lot of challenges.

Table 2: Table Showing the Challenges Facing Community Development Associations in Apete, Ibadan.

No	Statement	SA		A		D		SD	Mean	Std. Dev.	Dec.	
		F	%	F	%	F	%					F
1.	Inadequate funding	103	52.3%	82	41.6%	7	3.6%	5	2.5%	3.44	0.73	Accept
2	Misappropriation of funds	67	34.0%	115	58.4%	4	2.0%	11	5.6%	3.20	1.00	Accept
3	Poor involvement of community members in development projects	70	35.5%	113	58.4%	3	1.5%	12	6.1%	3.23	0.62	Accept
4	Poor leadership by the association	132	67.0%	56	28.4%	5	2.5%	4	2.0%	3.60	0.62	Accept
5	Lack of governmental support	123	62.4%	60	30.5%	3	1.5%	11	5.6%	3.50	0.95	Accept
6	Lack of trust by community members	129	65.5%	53	26.9%	12	6.1%	3	1.5%	3.56	0.97	Accept

Note: the item is accepted if the mean is above the criterion mean score of 2.50 but rejected if it is below.

Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between Community Development Associations and community development projects in Apete, Ibadan.

Table 3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) showing the Relationship between community development associations and community development projects in Apete, Ibadan.

Variables		N	\bar{X}	SD	Df	r	P	Remarks
Community Association	Development	197	19.904	4.5421	197	.443	.000	Sig
Community projects	development	197	22.034	5.8525				

S – Significant at 0.05

The table 3 showed that there was a positive significant relationship between Community Development Associations and community development projects in Apete, Ibadan ($r = .443$, $N=197$, $p<0.05$). Hence, Community Development Associations and community development projects in Apete, Ibadan are significantly and positively related.

DISCUSSION

It was established that the level of community development by the community development associations in Apete, Ibadan was low to a large extent. In line with this result, Thompson (2003) stated that most communities in Nigeria are not experiencing development and in fact, most community projects that Community Development Association commenced were abandoned. According to Amirize (2004), the level of community development by the Community Development Associations in most communities in Nigeria is very low. According to Ozor and Nwankwo (2008), it is saddening that majority of communities have been neglected by successive governments since colonial rule in Nigeria.

In addition, it was revealed that the community development associations in Apete, Ibadan are confronted with a lot of challenges such as lack of transparency and accountability among community leaders on funds, poor involvement of community members in development projects, etc. In line with this finding, Ihejirika (2007) found that associations in charge of community development are faced with numerous problems such as poor involvement of members in development projects, poor leadership, corruption, lack of vision, transparency and accountability among community leaders. The result also agrees with the findings of Amirize (2004) that most community projects are not realized due a number of factors ranging from lack of transparency and accountability among leaders, non-cooperation of members towards development projects and so on. In corroborating the above, Oyigbo (2018) stated that material and financial resources meant for development projects have been poor in quality or abandoned midway due to corruption, embezzlement of fund, nepotism and other vices. This has provoked suspicion and distrust among the members of the community and made it difficult for people to willingly and promptly contribute towards implementation of community development projects. Moreover, Abiona (2016) found in his study that non-involvement of community members appears to be a challenge to community development association. In addition, Orija (2013) noted that community development matters are not properly funded by the government and even where budgetary provisions are made, the funds are hardly released.

Also, the relationship between Community Development Associations and community development projects in Apete, Ibadan was significant. In corroborating

this, Oja (2004) found in his study that Community Development Associations if committed to the vision of the community will execute most of its projects. Similarly, Frischmann (2007) found in his study that there is a significant relationship between Community Development Association and community development projects. In line with the above, Tamuno and Otto (2000) saw CDAs as an instrument of change, a coordinated group of people who use the limited available resources to realize the community's objectives.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, it is obvious that Community Development Association is critical in implementing community development projects. This therefore means that if the Community Development Associations are dedicated and committed to the development of their community as well as being supported by the government, it will bring about a positive change in the community development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made to improve the conditions of communities.

- i. Community Development Associations should operate good governance and transparency as the basis of all developmental projects.
- ii. Government should release adequate funds for community projects from time to time.
- iii. A well functional monitoring mechanism should be established to ensure judicious use of available resources. There should also be periodic evaluation of projects and programmes to enable the community ascertain its progress/achievement based on set objectives and standard.
- iv. The people of the community should be enlightened on the need of their involvement in community projects or programmes.

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