**Perceived Effectiveness of Community-driven Development Approach of Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) in Oyo State, Nigeria**

**1FADAIRO O.S & I.E. 2OBABIRE**

1Department of Agric. Extension and Rural Development, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

2Department of Agricultural Technology, Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Email: [edwardpel2000b@gmail.com](mailto:edwardpel2000b@gmail.com), edwardpel2000@yahoo.com

**Abstract**

The failure of Top-down approach and Donor-driven development projects in Nigeria had necessitated a new approach that is community driven. This paper reports the perceived effectiveness of Community Driven Development CDD approach to Community and Social Development Projects CSDP execution in Oyo state. The multi stage sampling technique was used to sample 120 respondents out of which 101 respondents were available for interview. Data were collected through interview schedules and analyzed with the aid of frequency count, percentage, mean, Chi-square as well as Pearson Product Moment Correlation. Results showed that majority (68.3%) of the respondents were males, Christians (53.5%), Married (82.2%), with one form of education or the other (96.0%). Majority (71.3%) of the respondents had spent more than 10 years in the community. The extent of respondents’ involvement in CSDP was high (56.4%). The CDD was perceived to be highly effective for CSDP (52.5%). This implied that the CDD approach of CSDP was effective. The study revealed that there was no significant relationship between respondents’ age (χ2=5.891, p>0.05), sex (χ2=0.589, p>0.05), marital status (χ2=3.469, p>0.05), religion (χ2 =0.180, p>0.05), level of education(χ2 = 0.350, p>0.05), and effectiveness of CDD approach utilized for CSD project implementation.

However, significant relationship existed between extent of involvement in CSDP (r=0.222,p=0.025) and effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP. It is therefore recommended that CSDP in Oyo state be scaled up and the CDD approach be adopted for rural development.

**Keywords:** Top-down approach, CDD approach, CSDP

**Introduction**

Development issues are vital ingredients in the policy of any country. Development is a multidimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of poverty. According to Agbamu (2006), development is a process of gradual change and planned inducement for progressive improvement. It entails improvement in the socio-economic and technological systems that operate in a given community. It consists of resources generation process, efficient utilization and conservation of resources, which culminate in output increase in all sectors of the economy and the distribution of the output in such a way as to enhance the quality of life of the general population. Development is about people, their quality of life and provision of basic needs including housing, food and shelter.

There is no doubt that the rural areas in Nigeria are seriously facing the challenges of underdevelopment. These are of course, manifested in various ways viz. low investment in rural housing, poor schooling, poor nutrition and hunger. The rural sector is predominantly agriculture based and carries 70% of the 140 million people in the country and the bulk of its resources (CBN, 2006). It also employs about 90% of the country’s labour force (directly or indirectly) and contributes about 40% of the Gross Domestic Product (FMA&WR, 2007). In spite of these indicators, rural areas have suffered neglect arising from an urban-based approach to national development adopted over the years.

Considering this in-adequate attention on the development of rural areas, which has the highest population of the nation’s citizen, the country is still lagging behind in the area of development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2000) revealed a low human development index for Nigeria and other developing countries in Africa. The identified low human development index is the resultant effect of poor development in agriculture, their major occupation and rural infrastructure for the people. The issue of rural infrastructural development requires urgent attention as it plays a very significant role in enhancing agricultural production and produce marketing (Munonye, 2008) which will in turn improve the socio-economic standard while reducing the poverty level in the country.

Poverty in Nigeria is no longer viewed as a personal or family issue; it is a global issue needing redress. Over decades ago, several efforts have been made by successive governments in Nigeria to address issues relating to the development of the people and meeting their basic needs. These past efforts include: Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), National Accelerated Food Production (NAFPP), Green Revolution and Go back to Land Programmes as well as Directorate for Food Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) to mention a few (Fadairo and Yahaya, 2005). However, the programmes were not able to achieve as much as targeted (Onuk*etal*. 2009). The reason for the failure of these efforts was the wrong approach to the problem rather than lack of sufficient investment funds.

To correct these anomalies, Community and Social Development Projects CSDP, which was one of the recent developmental programme of Nigerian government in collaboration with World Bank, utilized the community driven development approach (participatory approach) to foster development. The project was a merger of the defunct Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (L.E.E.M.P) and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project (C.P.R.P).The L.E.E.M.P began in 2004 and ended in 2009 (CSDP, 2011). The project was a response to the global emphasis on achieving the millennium development goals in particular and the target to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 (Akinwande, 2010). The CSDP recognized the failure of past projects which invested in the top–bottom approach in service delivery and therefore employed the CDD approach to implement its development intervention. The main goal of the CSDP was to harness local resources (human and material) towards reducing poverty and the physical deterioration of the environment (CSDP, 2011) in participating states. A strong link existed across all the levels of government, at the federal level, the supervision of the activities of the CSDP was under the auspices of the ministry of finance while the direct responsibility of implementation rested on the Federal Support Planning Unit (F.S.P.U). This unit was solely responsible for financial management, gender, environmental capacity issues and it was saddled with the responsibility of providing technical assistance to the state agencies. At the Local government level, a relationship existed between Local government areas and communities within the areas while at the community level, the communities were involved in micro-project identification, human resource provision and monitoring of the projects.

It is a general belief that Community Driven Development approach is highly participatory and has the potential to achieve monumental development of rural communities (Akinwande, 2010). The popularity of the CDD stems from its potential to develop projects and programmes that are sustainable and responsive to local priorities, empower local communities, to manage and govern their own development programmes and more effectively target poor and vulnerable groups (World Bank, 2005). Oyo State as one of the participating states benefited from a series of projects and the agency anchoring the project in the state is referred to as Oyo State Community and Social Development Agency. This agency in Oyo State, just like in other participating states utilized the Community Driven Development approach in service delivery in order to achieve its goals. It is believed that this approach would be able to guarantee sustainable results while at the same time empowering the target communities to take decisions on their own. Although, the CDD approach has been confirmed potent by different donor agencies including international communities, there is a need to examine its perceived effectiveness from the beneficiaries’ point of view. It was against this background that this study set out to assess the perceived effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSD projects in selected Local Government Areas of Oyo State.

**Methodology**

This study was carried out in Oyo state, South Western Nigeria. The state occupies a land area of 28454 sq km, with a total population of 5,591589 (NPC, 2006). The settlement pattern reveals that there is a variety of ethnic nationalities residing in the state. The study population consisted of members of the Community project management committee, Local government Desk Officers as well as the managing team of the Oyo State Community and Social development Agency in the study area. Multi stage sampling was used to select respondents for this study. Out of the 33 Local Government Areas present in Oyo State, thirteen (13) Local Government Areas (LGAs) participated in Community and Social Development Projects. Three (3) 25% of Local Government Areas; Egbeda, Ibadan North-West and Ibadan North-East, were randomly selected, out of which eight (8) communities were purposively selected from the three selected LGAs being the communities where the project has been fully implemented. The communities selected from Egbeda include Kajorepo, Oganla-alewe, Ifesowapo; from Ibadan North-East, the communities are Koloko-idiobi, Abayomi Atele and IderaOluwa while in Ibadan North-West, the communities are Isokan and Adedokun**.** One hundred and twenty (120) respondents were randomly selected from the eight communities to form the sample size for the study.

Data were collected through the use of questionnaires and interview schedules designed to cover information on personal characteristics, benefits derived from CSDP, extent of involvement in CSDP and perceived effectiveness of CDD approach in CSDP. Extent of involvement in CSDP was measured on a four-point-scale of never involved = 0, mildly involved = 1, moderately involved = 2 and fully involved = 3. The highest score, lowest score and the mean were obtained. The mean score was used to categorize the respondents’ extent of involvement in CSDP. Respondents with scores below the mean were categorized as having low involvement in CSDP while respondents with mean score and above were grouped as highly involved in CSDP. Perceived effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP was measured using a three-point scale of strongly agree, agree and disagree and scores of 3,2,1 were assigned respectively. The highest score, the lowest score and mean were obtained. The mean was used to categorize the respondents based on their perceived effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP (Much effective or less effective) based on the deviation of individual scores from the mean.

Out of 120 questionnaires provided for data collection, one hundred and one 101 were retrieved for analysis. Data were analyzed with the aids of mean, frequency count, percentage and Pearson Product Moment Correlation PPMC.

**Results and Discussion**

***Personal characteristics of the respondents***

Findings from the study (Table 1) showed that majority (68.3%) of the respondents were males. This implies that women were not highly represented in the Community Project Management Committee. This might be due to the multiple roles created for females within the household as opined by (Akinbile *et. al*, 2006). Most (53.5%) were Christians, Married (82.2%), with one form of education or the other (96.0%). Majority (56.6%) of the respondents were between ages 51 years and 60 years.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their personal characteristics**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Age range in years**  31-40 | 10 | 9.9 |
| 41-50 | 25 | 24.8 |
| 51-60 | 37 | 36.6 |
| 61-70 | 22 | 21.8 |
| Greater than 70 | 7 | 6.9 |
| **Sex** | | |
| Male | 69 | 68.3 |
| Female | 32 | 31.7 |
| **Marital status** | | |
| Single | 2 | 2.0 |
| Married | 83 | 82.2 |
| Separated | 5 | 5.0 |
| Divorced | 1 | 1.0 |
| Widowed | 10 | 9.9 |
| **Religion** | | |
| Christianity | 54 | 53.5 |
| Islam | 47 | 46.5 |
| **Level of education** | | |
| No formal education | 4 | 4.0 |
| Primary | 10 | 9.9 |
| Secondary | 30 | 29.7 |
| Tertiary | 50 | 49.5 |
| Adult education | 7 | 6.9 |
| **Years of stay in the community** | | |
| 1-10 | 29 | 28.7 |
| 11-20 | 25 | 24.8 |
| 21-30 | 17 | 16.8 |
| 31-40 | 17 | 16.8 |
| 41-50 | 8 | 7.9 |
| Greater than 50 years | 5 | 5.0 |
| Total | 101 | 100 |

***Source: Field Survey, 2012***

Majority (71.3%) of the respondents had spent more than 10 years in the community. This implies that respondents have stayed long enough in the community to understand the institutions operating in the community participate in development activities in the community as well as understand the local needs of residents in the community.

***Projects that communities benefited from***

The survey (Table 2) revealed that the respondents’ communities benefited series of projects such as borehole water, well, classrooms, health centers, market stalls, road construction, drainage construction among others. From the identified projects, electricity, health centre and borehole were found to be mostly benefited by the respondents’ communities with percentages of 83.2%, 52.5% and 52.3% respectively. This is a clear indication that facilities such as electricity, health centre and borehole water constituted the greatest need of majority of the communities covered. It further implies that the project implemented was based on local needs. This is in line with the assertion of (Araral, 2009) that local needs inform the basis of projects implementation in CSDP.

**Table 2: Projects respondents’ communities benefited from**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Project benefited** | **Frequency (%)** |
| 1 | Bore hole Water | 53(52.5) |
| 2 | Well | 11(10.9) |
| 3 | Classroom Block | 26(25.7) |
| 4 | Health Centre | 53(52.5) |
| 5 | Market Stalls | 0(0) |
| 6 | Road construction | 42(41.6) |
| 7 | Drainage Construction | 48(47.5) |
| 8 | Electricity extension | 84(83.2) |
| 9 | Culvert | 30(29.7) |
| 10 | Bridge Construction | 14(13.9) |
| 11 | Toilet | 12(11.9) |
| 12 | Transformer | 5(5.0) |

***Source: Field survey, 2012.***

*Figures in the parentheses are percentages.*

***Extent of involvement in the CSDP projects***

The findings from the study (Table 3) revealed that majority (93.1%) of the respondents were fully involved in CSDP implementation. While (85.2%) were of the opinion that only committee members were fully involved in Project implementation, (69.3%) of the respondents confirmed the entire Communities’ involvement. Over (60.0%) of the respondents indicated that they were fully involved at the various stages of CSD project implementation. In addition, about 80.0% of the respondents were either fully involved or moderately involved at the various stages of CSD project implementation. This implies that majority of the respondents embraced the CSDP and participated in the various stages of the project.

**Table 3:** **Distribution of respondents based on their extent of involvement in the CSDP project**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Involvement in CSDP** | **Fully involved** | **Moderately**  **involved** | **Mildly**  **involved** | **Never involved** | |
| 1 | Individual involvement in CSDP project implementation | 94(93.1) | 4(4.0) | 2(2.0) | 1(1.0) | |
| 2 | Committee members involvement in Project implementation | 86(85.2) | 13(12.9) | 2(2.0) | 1(1.0) | |
| 3 | Community involvement in project implementation activities | 70(69.3) | 28(27.7) | 2(2.0) | 1(1.0) | |
| 4 | Community Sensitization and awareness | 92(91.1) | 7(6.9) | **-** |  | 2(2.0) |
| 5 | Election of community project implementation committee | 95(94.1) | 4(4.0) | **-** |  | 2(2.0) |
| 6 | Project identification /prioritization | 90(89.1) | 9(8.9) | **-** |  | 2(2.0) |
| 7 | Formulation of project development plan | 86(85.1) | 10(9.9) | 1(1.0) |  | 4(4.0) |
| 8 | Procurement of goods and services for project execution | 62(61.4) | 19(18.8) | 9(8.9) |  | 11(10.9) |
| 9 | Project execution /implementation | 86(85.2) | 8(7.9) | 2(2.0) |  | 5(5.0) |

***Source: Field survey, 2012***

*Figures in parentheses are percentages*

***Categorization of respondents based on their extent of involvement in CSDP***

The result of analysis (Table 4) showed that 56.4% of the respondents were fully involved in the CSDP project. This implies that the respondents have a high sense of Ownership of the project hence sustainability of the projects.

**Table 4: Category of respondents based on the extent of involvement in CSDP**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Extent of involvement** | **Series** | **F** | **%** |
| Low | 16-38 | 44 | 43.6 |
| High | 39-45 | 57 | 56.4 |

***Source: Field Survey, 2012***

***Perceived effectiveness of Community Driven Development approach of CSDP***

Results (Table 5) showed that over 80.0 % of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed with positive statements related to effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP, such as: the benefit of the project was open to all members of the community, the community would make arrangements to protect the community from damage, community would not mind spending their money to fix any repairs when necessary, the benefit derived from the project was never biased in terms of being in favour of men more than women while only 4.0% indicated that there had being instances of sabotage of the project since its completion. This implies that the respondents positively perceived the effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP in the study area. It also implies that the continuity of the project might be ensured with full commitment of the participating communities.

**Table 5: Respondents’ perceived effectiveness of Community Driven Development approach of the CSDP**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/n** | **Statements** | **Strongly agree** | **Agree** | **Disagree** |
| 1 | The project implemented by CSDP is a dire need of the community | 82(81.2) | 18(17.8) | 1(1.0) |
| 2 | The decision on the choice of project was not choice of majority of community members | 8(7.9) | 11(10.9) | 82(81.2) |
| 3 | Problem need analysis was conducted before particular project was identified | 64(63.4) | 23(22.8) | 14(13.9) |
| 4 | The benefit derived from the project is more in favour of men than women in the community | 6(5.9) | 22(21.8) | 73(72.3) |
| 5 | We will not mind spending our money to fix any repair on the project in case of any future damage | 71(70.3) | 27(26.7) | 3(3.0) |
| 6 | There has being instances of sabotage since the completion of the project | 4(4.0) | 27(26.7) | 3(3.0) |
| 7 | Everyone in the community contributed in one way or the other to the project development | 72(71.3) | 29(28.7) | **-** |
| 8 | We have the community arrangements /measures to protect the project from damage /misuse | 82(81.2) | 17(16.8) | 2(2.0) |
| 9 | The benefit of the project is open to all members of the community irrespective social status | 92(91.1) | 8(7.9) | 1(1.0) |
| 10 | The rich had better say and input in all aspects of the project than the poor | 7(6.9) | 31(30.7) | 63(62.4) |
| 11 | The composition of Community project management committee was influenced by some majority. | 17(16.8) | 16(15.8) | 68(67.3) |

**Source: Field survey, 2012**

Figures in parentheses are percentages

***Categorization of respondents based on perceived effectiveness of Community Driven Development approach of CSDP***

The result (Table 6) revealed that majority 52.5% of the respondents perceived the CDD approach of CSDP to be highly effective. It implies that increased participation of the respondents in CSDP as well as its success was as a result of the CDD approach utilized in the project. It further implies that sustainability of CSDP can be ensured through the CDD approach. This agrees with the opinion of (Padawangi, 2009) who opined that the Project operations and management would be sustainable. Therefore, the effectiveness of the CDD approach to any developmental project cannot be over emphasized.

**Table 6: Category of respondents by perceived effectiveness of CDD approach of CSDP**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Perceived effectiveness** | **Scores** | **Frequency** | **%** |
| Much effective | 29-33 | 53 | 52.5 |
| Less effective | 21-28 | 48 | 47.5 |

***Source: Field survey, 2012***

***Association between personal characteristics of the respondents and perceived effectiveness of CDD approach of CSDP***

The selected personal characteristics tested include age, sex, marital status, religion, education and years of stay in the community. Findings from the study (Table 7) revealed that there was no significant relationship between respondents’ age (χ2 =5.891, p > 0.05), years of stay in the community (χ2 = 8.741, p > 0.05), sex (χ2 = 0.589, p > 0.05) , marital status (χ2 = 3.469, p >0.05), religion (χ2 = 0.180, p > 0.05), level of education(χ2 = 0.350, p > 0.05), native of the community (χ2 = 0.151, p > 0.05) and effectiveness of the CDD approach utilized for CSD project implementation. This implies that the perceived effectiveness of the community driven development approach of the Community and Social development project was not influenced by the personal characteristics of the respondents.

**Table 7**: **Chi–square tests of relationship between respondents’ characteristics and effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Df | χ 2 value | p – value | Decision |
| Age | 4 | 5.891 | 0.207 | Not significant |
| Length of stay in the Community | 5 | 8.741 | 0.120 | Not significant |
| Sex | 1 | 0.589 | 0.443 | Not significant |
| Marital status | 4 | 3.469 | 0.483 | Not significant |
| Religion | 1 | 0.180 | 0.893 | Not Significant |
| Level of education | 4 | 0.350 | 0.986 | Not Significant |
| Native of the Community | 1 | 0.151 | 0.698 | Not Significant |

***Source: Field survey 2012***

***Relationship between extent of involvement of respondents in project implementation and perceived effectiveness of CDD approach utilized for Project implementation***

The result of correlation analysis (Table 8) showed that there was a significant relationship between extent of involvement of respondents and perceived effectiveness of CDD approach of CSDP (r = 0.222, p = 0.025). The correlation was positive. This implies that respondents’ extent of involvement in CSDP has influenced the perceived effectiveness of the CDD approach of the CSDP, i.e the higher the level of involvement, the more effective the CDD approach of CSDP was perceived to be.

**Table 8:** **Pearson product moment correlation analysis between extent of involvement of respondents and perceived effectiveness of CDD**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **r- value** | **p-value** | **Decision** |
| Extent of involvement and effectiveness of CDD | 0.222 | 0.025 | Significant |

**Conclusion**

The top–bottom approach to development often viewed poor people as the target of poverty reduction efforts, unlike the CDD approach that considers people and their institutions as assets and partners in the development process. The CSDP realized significant impacts on community potential to organize their resources in order to meet their local needs despite observable constraints. The communities also had a strong sense of ownership of the identified Projects and fully took charge of the operation and management of the project hence, sustainability of the project. Based on the findings of the study, it could be concluded that different communities benefited from different projects based on their need assessment. It was also clear that CSDP enjoyed full participation of the beneficiaries. The CDD approach of CSDP was perceived to be very effective due to the meaningful impact it had on the participating communities. It should be noted that perceived effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP was not determined by the respondents’ personal characteristics. However, the extent of involvement had influence on perceived effectiveness of the CDD approach of CSDP in the study area.

Based on this conclusion, it is recommended that: There should be scaling up of the OYSDA project in geographical, organizational and functional dimensions so as to accommodate expansion of service delivery coverage. Government at the various levels should adopt the CDD approach as a development strategy for developmental projects intended for beneficiaries at the grassroots.

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