

Socio-economic implication of community development and rural transformation in Cross River State.

¹Sylvester Akongi Unimke; ²Esekpa, Ofem Ibor; ³Fredrick Awhen Opoh; ⁴Christopher Akongwale Ashibekong

¹Department of Social Studies and Civic Education, University of Calabar. slyakongi@unical.edu.ng

²Department of Public Administration, University of Calabar. ofem~ibor@yahoo.com.

^{3&4}Department of Social Studies and Civic Education, University of Calabar.

Abstract

The paper anchored on socio-economic implication of community development and rural transformation in Cross River State. The study was stratified into three senatorial district that made up the State. The communities were purposively selected from Yakurr, Calabar South and Ogoja Local Government Area. Four hundred copies of questionnaire were administered using a descriptive design, simple percentage frequency and interview guide. One hypothesis was tested and formulated using Pearson moment correlation. The finding revealed that, there is a significant relationship between socio-economic implication of community development to the provision of healthcare, roads educational facilities and electricity with rural transformation in Cross River State. It is on this note that the paper recommends, the provision of educational facilities as a way of developing skills and knowledge acquisition that will help to meet up the 21st century challenge in Cross River State.

Keywords: Community. Development, Transformation, Rural Economic and Wellbeing.

Introduction

In Cross River State, Community Development and Rural Transformation deals with the socio-economic basic provision of manpower development, quality improvement, construction of feeder roads, reduction of poverty, improvement of wellbeing of people, provision of health care facilities, electricity project, educational facilities and job creation for rural dwellers. Others Transformation consist of socio-economic and political consciousness and consistent initiation of plethora of policy action with the aim of enhancing the efficacy of rural people (Nwobashi, 2016). Osuala (2007) affirmed that, government effort toward community development association, centred on cooperation, international doner and non-governmental organization that has concerted effort at contributing toward basic need of rural people. Some of this projects are initiated by the state, federal and local government at different times with minimal result inspite of the huge financial resource committed toward transformation. It is believed that effort at the developing rural communities have not been efficient due to unsustainable, inadequacy and inappropriate strategies due to narrow concept of rural transformation. The failure of these concepts have often been attributed to the noninvolvement of the beneficiaries (community) mostly in government project with the communities hence they should be bottom up approach and mobilization.

Urhio (2014) affirmed that, the socio-economic implication of community transformation arises due to imbalance in resource distribution, unavailability of certain valuable asset to make life meaningful, comfortable and interesting for the people of the community corruption, misappropriation, bad governance and lack of fund etc. He further affirmed that community development entails initiation and registration by the owner's community which involve the coming together of the entire community or selected representative of the same town villages, district and local government Community Development is look upon as an agency of rural transformation through which innovations and developmental objectives are achieved for the community. Community development and rural transformation have acquired new names such as Yakurr development association, Idomi workers association, Nto-Otong community development association, Ogoja development Association, and economic transformational association of Calabar.

Thus, in developing Cross River State, the various developmental associations have assumed the socio-economic administrative status instance of understanding several

developmental project which serve as an organ for community transformation. Nikkah Redzuan (2010) affirmed that, rural transformation has plagued Cross River State and Nigeria as a whole since independence; it involves the socio-economic right of promoting development within a particular location or locality. This is done through a combine effort of all rural dwellers both male, and female. Asian Development Bank (2014) observed that rural transformation has become one of the major aims of various assistances or intervention programme of individuals, government and donor institution. Over the past years, Cross River has never been short of reformable programme aimed at alleviating the full rural policies associated with poverty alleviation and rural community, sustainable development. The document illustrated that majority of these programmes developed complication over the years. Since Nigeria gained her political independence in 1960, greater importance is attached to rural community transformation as a factor that advances the over socio-economic development of the developing country of the world.

It is this reality according to Esekpa (2022), that has made the government at different times setup various programme and specialized credit institution in an attempt to transformed and developed rural areas in all ramification and thereby moving rural dweller from object poverty and squalor to socio-economic prosperity. It is against this back drop that the paper is set out to examine the socio-economic implication of community development and rural transformation in Cross River State.

Statement of the problem

It has been observed that community development and rural transformation in Cross River State has not been given much attention in the provision of essential services. This is expressed based on poor healthcare services, lack of potable water supply, poor rural network, poor electricity, insecurity, poor road structure, dilapidated school building backs, World bank report noted that there is inadequate amenities, poor quality of life, feeder road, poor purchasing power low standard of living and low socio-economic state institutional disheartening toward development. The socio-economic benefit interms of roads, electricity, water, hospitals, institutions, administrative headquarters, market, information centres etc are centred in urban area living about 30% total government expenditure desired for the benefit of rural community development area. This is the implication channel toward degrading socio-economic quality of live that rural people are exposed to. It is on this note, the study examines the socio-economic implication in Cross River State.

Objective of the study

The overall aim is to examine the socio-economic implication of Community Development and Rural Transformation in Cross River State. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. Examined the socio-economic implication of community development in healthcare, water, electricity, roads and educational service as rural transformation in Cross River State.

Research question

What are the relationship between socio-economic implication of community development in healthcare, water, electricity, roads and educational service with rural transformation?

Statement of hypothesis

H₀. There is no significant relationship between socio-economic implication of community development in healthcare, water, electricity, roads and educational services with rural transformation.

Literature review

Theoretical literature review

This paper is anchored on one theory; Locality Development Theory. It was promulgated by Ruthman and its associate Tropman in 2001. The theory believes that, community is made up of people coming together to share common values, beliefs, customs, orientation with a sub-scribe to democratic process of decision making and control. The theory confronted mostly to consensus organization of the society and its association with community development and rural transformation. The socio-economic implication and changes occurs as a matter of community organization and communication among various community leaders, citizens and economic planner, as a way of gaining an understanding to what need to be done. The basic strategy and changes involves in this organization indigenous issue is tailored toward the population, action taken, planning and imitation by the people through community participation. The transformation model “assert that” community change can be best be brought about through broad socio-economic participation of a wider spectrum of people at the local community level. This model summarizes at “change effort” on the community level which is achievable with the co-operation of local citizen as they should be involved in the development process itself. Tropam (2001) further affirmed that people organized through community initiative projects/activities toward problem solving. The number of graduates a community produced serve as credit to such community as it attract the attention of government for empowerment and many of these community benefited more during the N-Power programme in Cross River State, Nigeria (Unimke, Oyong, Asuquo, Bisong & Bepeh, 2024).

Locality Development theory focuses on action and socio-economic result obtained through social and economic organization with the secure base people and the capacity to “act in any of the several ways to improve the community”. The paper adopted the platform of creating a community that have positive reality in building up an inclusive community infrastructure that can respond to the challenges, by taking advantage toward local resources and their by creating positive socio-economic changes. This further create economic gain, improvement in socio-economic activities, protection of community members, preservation of cultural activities with the capacity of building the community, and making it “stinger by enhancing this standard. Unimna, Unimke & Godwin (2024) assert that socioeconomic skills for economic development require application of social norms in line with best global practices towards achieving the expected public service delivery.

Esekpa (2017), observed that, the theory aimed at encouraging community members in identifying it own resource understand it own strength and developing it own resources for socio-economic development. It further works in form of empowerment, capacity building, care designed, social infrastructural development, provision of sustainable training and international development. The theory does not specified how community participation should be encouraged since it involve residents in maintaining or securing their interest.

Review empirical literature on the impact of community development and rural transformation in Cross River State

The literature empirical finding on the impact of community development and rural transformation are mixed. Abeh (2010) and Nwankwo (2014) investigated the impact of community development and rural transformation in Cross River State, and Nigeria as a whole, based on community effort; one of the most needs of man in his survival include water, solution to poverty, better meaningful life, exploitation of national resources, health care service nutrition and road facilities. In other hand, community benefit more on government projects in terms of education, security defences and agriculture and sees health as the only government

component that can cause rural transformation project in a statistical way of Cross River State Nigeria.

Esekpa (2022) also examined the empirical finding based on socio-economic implication on the impact of community development and rural transformation since it accelerate local needs and preferences involving the target population in mobilization, planning, co-ordinating consciousness, organization, volunteerism and collective action. This assumption underlying community development.

Ekpenyong (2023) observed that, community and rural participation on road is attributed to age grade and most young people contribute and increase tremendously and participated in direct labour such as grading of road, clearing of federal road and filling of pot holes in most rural areas. He further encouraged community members to be closer to each other, than ever with increased synergy between the community development association and community members in many rural transformation.

Innocent and Effiom (2022) identified the importance attached to education in respect to National and Industrial life. It is imperative that all hand must be on deck to ensure that effective management of resource and development of education in Nigeria is not new system data back to the colonial era when the administrative made use of local communities in the provision and furtherance of modern education.

Review empirical literature socio-economic implication of community development and rural transformation in Nigeria

The study shows the nexus between community development and rural transformation with a scare in Nigeria. There are two unpublished and publish work on the area of community development association and rural transformation on Nigeria. Similar to this extend the finding shows that the impact of community development and rural transformation have also been varied. In order to test the socio-economic and rural transformation of a community Okolie (2015) examined the service data for the period of 2015 – 2019 with the founding to unidirectional causality that run from government to indigenous people. Writer conclude that locality theory encouraged unity and progress in funding socio-economic development activities in areas of road maintenance, building of hospital, educational facilities, transportation, communication and water supply.

Abdu and Joseph (2020) also stated that the relationship between community development and rural transformation in Nigeria for the period of 1985-2000. The finding of this work shows that community development on health and rural transformation contributes to effective and efficient transformation in the foreseeable advancement showing health improvement and future increased in community participation and private sector. He further added that community involvement in the provision of health facilities and different forms entail development such like building of health centres, supply of drugs, etc. This finding influence include agriculture, human development on the impact of community development and rural transformation between 2001-2014. The result showed that agriculture has a significant advancement in community development both in short and long run. However, human development and agricultural has a negative impact on community development and rural transformation with a similar unpublished article.

Ugwu (2003) observed that the finding facilitated that community development facilitated improve variety such like seedlings, fertilizers, mechanics and employment opportunity. However, Toyobo and Muils (2003) added that the great contribution of human resource according to his finding was education and human capital both in short and long term

formed. Furthermore agriculture has a negative influenced such as poor from instrument, land in fertilities, health expenditure.

In all, the paper lay hold on both empirical and theoretical work conducted on the area of socio-economic implication of community development and rural transformation in Cross River –Nigeria due to the basic necessities of rural transformation, the community development and locality theory are discussed. The locality theory on community activities centred on rural transformation since is cause by human factors that affect socio-economic developmental activities positively with a framework of understanding and identifying the cause and nexus directionality of community development and rural transformation in Cross River State – Nigeria. Moreso, the empirical nature of the paper show the review of the community and rural people in areas of socio-economic contribution of individual, group of individuals and the government and non-governmental organization and donor agencies.

This group of individual or donor agencies in most community is expressed, base on the socio-economic development activities carryout by workers, age grades, traditionalist, and traders (marketer). The photograph below shows a community project carryout by Idomi Workers Development Association in Yakurr Local Government of Cross River State.



Source: Fieldwork

Methodology

The mixed method of research was adopted with a survey research design and it was credited to Agba (2020) who sees design as a systemic empirical inquiry in which the scientist does not have direct control of the independent variable due to easy manifestation carried out over on expanded of period with the socio-economic aim of determining what exist during the time of study, field and object. Data type were collected and used accurately and objectively with a descriptive existing research as a way of determining the socio-economic nature as existing at the time of investigation. The field data consist of information such as community development, rural transformation, and sampled population data consist of “Discrete”.

Both primary and secondary data were seen as a major source of the information for this research study. Majorly with questionnaire administration and interview. To compliment secondary data collection, relative literatures were review from government gazettes, state ministry of local government internet, journals, articles and related newspapers among others. To achieve this, electricity, road, water and others attributes have influence rural transformation and development in Cross River State.

The study area was selected among the three senatorial districts that made up the state (Cross River State) with two communities each, with equal representative. The sample community development and rural transformation and its socio-economic was purposively selected through, communities, ministry of local government and some selected local government. The data collected were subjected to analysis using inferential and descriptive statistical method, percentage and table constitutes descriptive analysis while inferential method adopted for test of hypothesis. The hypothesis state that there is no significant

relationship between the socio-economic implication of community development toward healthcare, water, road, electricity and educational services with rural transformation in Cross River State using Pearson product moment correlation test.

Socio-economic empirical framework and data analysis

To determine the basic relationship between community development and rural transformation in Cross River State. This study apply to a 35 year data series collected from various communities ministry of local government covering the period of 1935-2014 for both dependent and independent variable with the used of Granger causality, panel progression model and descriptive statistical analysis, by applying “view to statistical theory” in order to determine the analysis, the independent variables are community development while the dependent variable is rural transformation. This is because the primary data (focus discussion) is more a proper for work with entities such as community, local government state that have observed areas then three senatorial district of the state (Cross River State). It help to determine a quality the variable to be observed nor measured such as variables, cultural, norms and individual attitude toward community development and changes that occurs over time (Torres-Reyna, 2007).

Therefore, the effect of random on panel progressive model are used in calculating regression data estimate in order to give a better selection, explanation on the relationship between community development and rural transformation with the socio-economic application of “Hausman Test”. His application is tailored toward panel regression model.

Data analytical result and descriptive

The paper provides analytical responsive back grounds data using simple percentage and frequencies. Distribution chart

Table 1: Respondents background data

Variables	Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	172	43.0
	Female	228	57.0
	Total	400	100.0
Age	18 – 27 years	75	18.75
	28 – 37 years	125	31.25
	38 – 47 years	120	30.0
	48 - year above	80	20.0
	Total	400	1000
Grade level	0 – 06	80	20.0
	07 – 12	228	57.0
	18 – 14	92	23.0
	Total	400	100

Source 2023 Field work

The analytical background shows that respondent of female officials stood at 57% while that of male stood at 43.0% while the major analytical survey respondents within the age brackets ranging from 28-37 years 31.25, 38-47 years 30.0%, 48 – above 20.0% and 18 – 27 years 18.75 which have the lowest average percentage of the respondents. More so, the highest average percentage shows in the table elemental proved grade level between 7 – 12 (57.0%), seconded by grade level 13- 14 (23.0%) with the average percentage and level 01 – 06 with the lowest percentage respondents in the career age of (20.0) which gave a high evidence of sound knowledge responses. This implies that, some of the respondents have promotion level significantly within a given establishment of organization been it private or government sectors or establishment.

Summary

The study examines the socio-economic implication of community development and rural transformation in Cross River State. In order to achieve this, hypothesis were formulated in line with research question arise to guide the study. This hypotheses state that, there is no significant relationship between socio-economic implication of community development in healthcare, water, electricity, road and educational service with rural transformation in Cross River State. The findings was based on the previous study and view of some proponent survey design was employed for this study with adequate consideration, since it allowed the researchers to make inference with the generalization from all the members in the selected area of study. A sample of 400 respondents were selected and use for the study with a well validated structural questionnaire which served as the major instrument for data collection. The obtained data was analyzed using descriptive and Pearson product moment correlation co-efficient. The finding indicates that there is a significant relationship between socio-economic implication scheme and road construction with rural transformation in Cross River State.

Conclusion`

The study concluded that, community development is a key instrument for economic, and political transformation of rural people in the areas of education, health, road and electrification. It underscores that community dwellers or members should have full freedom as to define and determine what they want how they want it since rural transformation can be improved through community participation in Cross River State.

Recommendations

The following recommendation were promulgated with to regards to the study. They include;

1. Educational facilities should be provided in schools by community development members as a way of encouraging and developing skills and knowledge that will help to meet up with 21st century challenges.
2. Encouragement of developmental projects through planning, formulation and implementation should be promoted as a way of rural transformation.
3. Community members should be encouraged to contribute meaningfully either cash or kind to enhanced socio-economic development.
4. Infrastructural facilities such as water, road, hospital telecommunication and electricity and other rural transformation indices should be provided to improve upon by either individuals or community members or government and non-governmental organization (NGO).

References

- Abegunde, A. A. (2009). The role of community-based organizations in economic development in Nigeria: A case of Oshogbo, Osun State, Nigeria. *International NGO Journal*, 4(5), 235-252.
- Akpabio, E. M. (2012). Water supply and sanitation service sector in Nigeria: The policy trend and practice constraints. *ZEF Working Paper Series*, 96.
- Esekpa, O. I. (2022). Funding infrastructural development and management in Nigeria. *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research (IJPAMR)*, 7(4), 46-553. Retrieved from [http://journal.remss.com/index.php/ijpamr7\(4\):46-553](http://journal.remss.com/index.php/ijpamr7(4):46-553)

- Esekpa, O. I. (2017). Assessment of the impact of tours on rural development: A case study of Laboku International Festival in Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State.
- Esekpa, O. I. (2021). External funded projects and rural transformation in Cross River State, Nigeria. [Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Calabar].
- Mery Crop. (2016). Community mobilization sector approach. Retrieved from <https://www.merycrops.org/research/communitymobilization-sector-approach>
- Musa, J. J. (2010). Nigeria's rural development strategies: Community-driven development. *AUJT*, 13(4), 233-241.
- Nwankwo, B. C. (2014). Town grow communities. Retrieved from <http://www.thenationline.ng.net/new/up.content/uplead2012/08/logos.png> (Accessed on 25/04/2016).
- Nikkah, T., & Redzuan. (2010). Macro finance and poverty alleviation. *World Poverty Assembly*.
- Ogboola, L., Ifesanya, K., & Akanmu, A. (2012). Partnership between community-based organizations and local government for sustainable development of rural areas in Oyo State. *Generalities: A Multi-Disciplinary Journal*, 1(2), 67-75.
- Okoloe, A. M. (2015). *Global political economy and development of underdevelopment*. Different People.
- Osuala, E. C. (2009). *Introduction to research methodology*. African First Publishers.
- Toyobo, A. E., & Muili, A. B. (2008). Constraints militating against the effectiveness of community development projects in Ilesa. *Journal of Geography and Regional Planning*, 1(8), 144-150.
- Ugwu, L. C. (2013). Town unions and community development in Nigeria: A study of Karo.
- Wojtyla, W. (1993). Mobilizing communities: Evidence-based conception of participation. *Canadian Public Administration*, 39(3), 41-45.
- Unimke, S. A., Oyong, M. A., Asuquo, J. E., Bisong, R. O., & Bepeh, M. F. (2024). N-Power programme and poverty reduction among unemployed graduates in Cross River State, Nigeria. *Multi-Disciplinary Journal of Research and Development Perspectives*, 12(1), 52-60.
- Unimna, F. A., Unimke, S. A., & Godwin, E. B. (2024). Social studies education as a propeller for teaching global intercultural understanding. *Multi-Disciplinary Journal of Research and Development Perspectives*, 12(1), 75-89.