

**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ITS IMPACT ON
ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE: A CASE STUDY OF THE
FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE (FIRS), BENIN CITY,
EDO STATE**

BY

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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
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BENIN CITY**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE
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SEPTEMBER, 2023

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this project was carried out by **EBIUWA AJAYI** with Matriculation Number **SSC1713923** in the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God Almighty, the king of kings and the Lord of Lords, the source of inspiration and wisdom.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success and final outcome of this project required a lot of guidance and assistance from many people and I am extremely grateful to have completed my project and I will not forget to appreciate them, most especially to God Almighty, my project supervisor Dr. E.I. Okonnah for being patient with me and correcting me, I want to specially thank my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ajayi and my siblings for their words of encouragement and their timely support and guidance throughout my stay in school.

I am grateful to have met my wonderful friends who also brought out time to assist me Ogiamien, Gift, Igbinosun Junior, Patrick Ehimationwan, Fayare Andrew, I want to specially thank my big brother, Kelly Ajayi for always believing in my dreams, and being there for me, encouraging me not to give up and glory to Almighty God.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The provision of social services is a development strategy, while community participation is one of the methods of achieving this objective, thus, the two concepts can be conceived together as community development. The United Nations defined community development “as the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural condition of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress” (United nations, 1963). This complex process therefore, consists of two essential elements.

1. The participation by the people themselves in effort to improve their level of living with as much as reliance as possible on their own initiative.
2. The provision of technical and social services in ways which encourage initiative, self help and mutual understanding (Akinbode and Laogun, 1981).

Community development is one of the three strategies which has been adopted for rural development by many developing countries alongside agricultural extension and integrated rural development, (Williams, 1978). Thus, community’s development is aimed at utilizing the rural people to develop themselves through self - initiative and motivation, with minimum assistance from government. It is aimed at social development through self-help projects, health and nutritional improvement projects and other similar projects. It involves community members in planning and implementation of programmes for their own development.

A number of approaches or perspectives have evolved over the years, geared towards the actualization of community development. One of the most popular approach is the provision of basic social amenities to communities by government, others include:

Community Development Associations (CDA): that does initiate, mobilize resources and execute community projects.

Cooperative Societies: they mobilize credit facilities for members and build small scale industries in the community.

Community Elites: these are individual community members of groups who support the community in areas of felt needs as well as influence the government and other development agencies in sitting of projects in their communities. And the most recent in the course of institutionalizing stakeholder participation in community development is the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) are nongovernmental, nonprofit creation, self governing and led by willful volunteers. Non-governmental Organization are groupings that are outside the domain of government in the areas of formation, funding, management and the processes and procedure in which it carries out its set objectives geared towards cultural, socio-economic and political transformation of all facets of the society. Non-governmental Organization function alongside the government as well as profit based enterprises in delivery of social services for the upliftment and well being of the society, they are therefore referred to as the third sector (Ehigiamusoe, 1998).

Non governmental Organization could be international, national, regional or community based depending on its financial resources and networking capability.

The idea behind the formation of Non-governmental Organization (NGO) in essence is to effect desired changes in areas that are felt undesirable in the society. These they do on their own through collaboration and partnership with donor organizations and/or networking with other Non governmental Organization.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Many Non-governmental Organization especially those here in Edo State (Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State) are being constrained by a number of factors ranging from that of funding to shortage of volunteers. Lack of requisite community development has persistently remained one of the key challenges of economic development in Nigeria and Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State in particular. The problem takes a transverse dimension across the Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State. Nevertheless, the impact of community development seems to be more felt at the

lower levels of government especially at the local government and community levels. The fact that poor community development lies at the heart of underdevelopment, explains why the governments, the World Bank and Civil Society Organizations are focused on capacity building, workshops and initiatives at the community level. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of these Non-governmental Organization (NGO) programmes seems to be constrained by the complexities of local government areas and rural communities. Some states, for instance, have greater proportion of rural poor than others; some also have lower literacy rates than others, some more infrastructures than others. The over all level of basic infrastructural and social amenities also varies across states, local government councils and communities. The case of Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State is very glaring as most communities in the South Senatorial District face high poverty rates, chronic inadequate supply of social services and amenities and general lack of access to meaningful means of livelihood.

No doubt, a good number of Non-governmental Organization (NGO) and development agencies have obviously risen to the challenges of providing needed capacities to communities in the state and rural areas. Most of the Assistantship programmes are anchored on capacity building and poverty alleviation goals. Irrespective of the efforts of these agencies, little achievements have so far been recorded at the local grassroots. Virtually every one of the programmes and initiatives failed to yield the desired results.

Ironically, very few background studies are sponsored or undertaken by the Development Agencies and Partners to understand the social and demographic characteristics of the target communities. This has continued to result to a situation where there is visible mismatch between the community structure and the kind of programmes targeted at them.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the roles of Non-governmental Organizations on community development projects in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State.

Specifically, however, the study attempts to:

- i. Identify whether the programmes of Non-governmental Organization (NGO) enhance the quality

of community development projects.

- ii. Examine the link between community involvement and the outcome of community workshops.
- iii. Assess the degree of sustainability of capacity building programmes as basis for community development.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the literatures designed to assess the roles of Non - Governmental organizations on community development. It is among the first to provide evidence about peoples' perception about the potential benefits of strong sustainable community development.

Obasi (2000), holds that the value of any research is determined by its existing body of knowledge in the field of study. This study will as well make contributions to the existing body of knowledge in the field of study. It will guide members of the public, community development associations, cooperative societies, community elites, Non-governmental Organization and governments at the grassroots on the need for sustainable development at the local level/ community.

Again, Researchers in this field will find the paper to be educative and resourceful.

1.5 Research Hypothesis

This research work is anchored on the following assumptions:

Ho: Community development programmes of Non governmental Organization have not enhanced community Development projects in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State.

Hi: Community development programmes of Non governmental Organization have enhanced community Development projects in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study will cover the roles played by Non - Governmental Organizations (NGO) on community development in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State Area of Edo State. The study will look at the community developmental projects of the Non governmental Organization in

Orhionmwon local governments in the area.

The study assumes that the activities of the Non governmental Organization have enhanced community development projects in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State of Nigeria.

1.7 Statement of Research Questions

Nigeria is predominantly a rural economy. If development is to take place and become self - sustaining, it must therefore emphasize more on rural transformation. It is universally acknowledged that rural areas are very important to a nation. They serve as the base for the production of food and fiber.

Based on this, the research questions are as follows:

1. What extent has the Non governmental Organization contributed to the community development projects in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State?
2. What are the impacts of Non governmental Organization in the socio-economic development of the communities in Orhionmwon Local Government of Edo State?
3. What ways can these Non governmental Organization contribute more towards enhancing their socioeconomic well being?
4. What roles are they expected to play in achieving sustainable community development projects?
5. To what extent has the various policy tools and initiatives used in achieving its aims been effective?
6. What are the impacts of poor performance of the Non governmental Organization on community development projects?
7. To what extent has the capacity building programmes of Non governmental Organization and development agencies enhance the quality of community development projects?
8. How do the activities of the Non governmental Organization affect the lives of the individuals in the community?
9. Does the activity of the state government affect the policy of the Non governmental Organization?
10. How can improved findings from the donors and sponsors help achieve more success on

sustainable development projects in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Development

The concept of development is very difficult to define because it is value loaded. It is often equated with economic growth or economic development. Indeed the two concepts are often used interchangeably, but they do not mean the same thing. Economic development is an essential component of development, yet it is not the only one.

According to Rodney (1972:9), he defined development as “a many side process. At the level of the individuals, it implies increased skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self - discipline, responsibility and material well being”. On the other hand, Todaro (1977: 96-98) said that development must therefore be conceived as a multidimensional process involving changes in structure, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty.

Community Development

The scope of the concept of community development is very wide. It is a multidimensional process involving such areas as agriculture, health, education, provision of rural infrastructures, social life, political and economic issues, commerce and industry among others and their integration with the national economy.

According to United Nations (1976:4): the concept of integrated community development implies that it is a composite or comprehensive programmes for community development in which all relevant sectors such as agriculture, education, housing, health and employment are conceived as interlinking elements in a system having horizontal as well as vertical linkage in operational and spatial; terms.

Sustainable Development

Abah (2005) noted that only very few (if any) interdisciplinary concept possess greater

intellectual challenge for scholars and policy analyst than “Sustainable development”.

However, sustainability is central to all development efforts, without it, investments in the development efforts are short-level and of no effect. It is the only global barometer for measuring a resilient and enduring socio-economic system.

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Capacity Building/Development

Capacity building is the process of increasing the abilities and resources of individuals, organizations and communities to manage change (Matachi, 2006).

According to the World Bank (2003), capacity building occurs when relevant community of practice consciously use their stock of human and social capital and their access to financial, physical, and natural capital to improve a problematic situation and improve the stock of capital in the process.

Capacity development, according to Madavo (2006) is the proven ability of key actors in a society to achieve socio-economic goals on their own.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) - Historical Background

Many diverse types of bodies are now being described as Non governmental Organization. There is no generally accepted definition of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and the term carries different connotations in different circumstances. Nevertheless, there are some fundamental features. Clearly, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) must be independent from the direct control of any government. In addition, there are three other generally acceptable characteristics that exclude particular types of bodies from consideration. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) will not be constituted as a political party, it will be non - profit making and it will not be a criminal group nor a violent group. These characteristics apply in general usage, because they match the conditions for recognition by the United Nations. Hence, for this study, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) is defined as an independent voluntary association of people acting together on a continuous basis, for some common purpose, other than achieving government office, making money or illegal activities.

The term Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) came into existence in 1945 because of the need for the United Nations (UN) to differentiate in its Charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialized agencies and those for international private organization known variously as “private voluntary organizations”, “civil society organization” and “citizens associations” they are all called “Non governmental Organization”. The United Nations system uses this term to distinguish representatives of these agencies from those of governments.

Charitable and community organizations, separate from the state, have existed in many historical settings but Non governmental Organization are primarily a modern phenomenon. With the extension of citizenship rights in Europe and the Americas in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, people founded increasing numbers of these organizations as instruments to meet community needs, defend interests or promote new policies.

Moreover, the anti-slavery movement, founded in England in the late 18th century gave rise to many such organizations. For instance, the International committee for the Red Cross came into being in 1863.

In the past few years or there about, there has been greater recognition of Non governmental Organization as important partners in community development. The concept of participatory development that is conceived not only as society centered but also as democratic and people centered, has also led to the redefinition of the role of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in addressing community development priorities. This stems from their ability to innovate and experiment with models of executing development programmes, effectively reaching out to the underserved and difficult to reach areas and to marginalized sectors and groups of the society.

2.2 Institutions, Agencies and Strategies for Community Development in Nigeria

It is imperative that we examine the institutions, agencies and strategies that Nigeria has adapted over the years to tackle issues relating to rural development and their impacts on the society generally. It is often erroneously believed that rural development through the instrumentality of local government was considered almost synonymous with increased agricultural output of productivity. Thus, government policies and strategies towards the rural areas had always started with the premise that a forward thrust in agriculture is one of the essentials for initiating a broader rural development process. This misconception had led to a series of inappropriate policies and strategies such as agricultural extension approach, the community development programmes, notably among which were the River Basin Development Authorities and the Agricultural Development Projects. Experiments with the various agricultural development programmes showed that they could not improve even agricultural production, which was their main focus, let alone the living conditions of the rural sector.

It is therefore important at this point to review the institutions, agencies, policies and strategies of Nigeria's development planning from colonial era to the present time to see how they affect rural development. For more details of the various development plans, the works of Ifeanyi (2006) and Enyi

(2010) are pertaining planning for rural development dates back to 1946 when the colonial administration formulated the Ten- Year Plan for Development and Welfare for Nigeria. This was presented in the National Paper No. 24 of 1945 which could accurately be constituted as amalgamation of projects but which were not related to any overall economic targets of the country.

Under this plan, the colonial government contributed to the financing of various research institutions such as the West Africa Oil Palm Institute (Nigeria) in 1939, Nigeria Agricultural Project Mokwa in 1949, West African Research Institute (Nigeria) in 1951, Marketing Boards and Regional Development Boards in the 1950s - 1970s. These Institutes and Boards were set up with the primary motive of increasing the volume of export crops for British industries while less attention was given to the improvement of the problems of individual producers and the rural communities generally.

In 1955-1960 Development Plans, the emphasis was on increased agricultural and industrial production with a view to bringing about a rise in income and improvement in the standard of living of the people. Just like the previous plan there were no specific projects for the benefits of rural people of Nigeria. Various scholars have commented on this situation.

According to Nnoli (1977:139):

The British colonial bourgeoisie in Nigeria succeeded in establishing a colonial economy in the country as a framework for consolidating and maintaining underdevelopment. This involved systematic appropriation of economic surplus for Britain's development, discouragement of rural manufacturing, stagnation of agriculture as well as maintenance of mass illiteracy and sustained technological backwardness.

The above view was supported by Onimode (1982:122) when he said; "The plan's conception of rural development was up till 1949 the improvement of the colonial economy as a version of the traditional mode of production... such conception aggravated and perpetuated the basic features of underdevelopment".

The role of the government during this period was merely the classical one of providing physical and social infrastructures on overhead capital as the foundation of the economy. In buttressing this point,

Cannor (1982:24) said that:

The private enterprise was rather entrusted with the major job of developing the economy. The government role was to create favourable conditions for this through loans, subsidiaries, and technical assistance. As the private enterprise was essentially British, this meant mobilizing Nigerian resources for British capital accumulation.

The above views go to support the idea that the colonial plans and policies did NOT in any way contribute to rural development. The above also identify with these views and to add that these colonial legacies were carried forward to the post colonial era.

The era of rural development by the then regional governments was ushered in by the Western Nigeria Government when it formally launched the farm settlement scheme in 1960. They were encouraged by the lack of wide spread employment among primary schools leavers in the region and unused areas in the riverine providences, which could be put to use. They were desirous of pioneering a new system of farming, which involved new techniques and the use of government supervised credit. The Eastern Nigerian Government operated similar schemes. The 1967 Civil War in the country and its aftermath paralyzed the operation of these schemes. The settlement schemes in the West failed to achieve their lofty goals. Reports indicated that the rates of return on investment were too low for the average farmer to endure. The demonstration effect on the neighbouring farmers was peripheral and its effect on alleviating the unemployment problems of the school leavers had been virtually insignificant.

For instance one of the main grievances behind the Agbokoya up-rising in the Western state in 1969, was the “take it or leave it” low prices fixed for their farm products by the Western Nigerian Marketing Board. Yet the situation never changed and the farmers had to accept them for lack of better sources of income. This picture was the same, if not worse, for other marketing Boards (Derrick 1986: 989-990). The then Northern Regional Government joined the crusade and established farm training institutes, some of which formed the bedrock of the Schools/Colleges of Agriculture in the Northern States.

The truly Nigeria's First Development Plan from 1962-1968 made greater financial allocations with the objective of enhancing the standard of living although there has been so far no coherent policy for rural development. The order of priority in the first plan in terms of allocation of fund was transport and communication, electricity, primary production and trade and industry.

The second National Development Plan, 1970-1974, stated its order of priorities to be agriculture, industry, transportation and manpower development. The plan further strengthened the continuation of the dichotomy between the rural and urban sectors, in spite of the lofty objectives of the plan, one of which was to build a just and egalitarian society.

It is important to note that the concern of the federal government for rural development, received its first articulated expression in the guideline to the Third National Development Plan 1975-1980. It was envisaged that the development of the rural sector during the Third Plan would concentrate on raising productivity in agriculture, the predominant occupation of the rural areas, through increase in per capital income, more even distribution of income, reduction in the level of unemployment, diversification of the economy, etc. It would also ensure the provision of basic social amenities such as water and electricity. It was projected that under the National Youth Service Corps Scheme, all doctors must serve for a year or two in the rural areas before being registered. Increase in the supply of high level manpower, balanced development and indigenization of economic activity were also some of the objectives of the plan.

Other efforts made towards stimulating rural development were through research from the Badeku Project initiated by the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan, the Uboma Project, the socio medical project at Igbo-Ora in Oyo State. Ishoya Rural Development project by the University of Ife, the Guided Change Project by the Institute for Agricultural Research of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and the Rural Development Project of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. These projects served as models of what can be achieved in the rural areas. It was unfortunate that they also did not make any significant impact on the welfare of the rural people in the various areas.

The breakthrough in rural development came in 1976 with the creation of the Department of Rural Development in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The department coordinated and monitored the progress of the integrated agricultural development projects under the package approach. It was the plan of the Federal Government to extend agricultural projects to all states with the objective of increasing agricultural productivity and incomes of the rural population and improving the living standards of the rural dwellers.

The government in launching the local government reforms of 1976, considered as an important milestone in the evolution of the Nigeria Local Government System, emphasized the need for the participation and mobilization of the people at the grassroots. The government stated that it was through an effective local government system that the human and material resources of this country could be mobilized for local development. It hoped that the reforms would further enshrine the principle of participatory democracy and political responsibility to every Nigerian. It stated that the reform would ensure that every stratum of the Nigerian society would benefit from the continued prosperity of the country. Owing to shortage of funds and personnel the local governments have also not lived up to the expectations of the rural populace.

The 1981-1985 Fourth National Development Plan did not make way departure from the position of the previous plans on rural development. The plan maintained that the over-riding aim of the development effort remained that of bringing about an improvement in the living conditions of the people. Some of the programmes like the Directorate of Foods, Roads, and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), etc. were meant to bring about rural development in Nigeria. They too did not bring about much success because they were elitistly conceived and implemented.

The first, second, third and fourth development plans in Nigeria, like its colonial predecessor, were neither national nor developmental. According to Eteng (1982:21):

The orientation of post-colonial planning is probably the most decisive in its perpetuation of underdevelopment. First, the postcolonial environment, which essentially defines the problem of underdevelopment, is taken as the earlier colonial environment. No serious effort is made for example to terminate the stifling post (neo) colonial domination and exploitation that is the basic generating force of contemporary underdevelopment.

Eteng further maintained that even in the 1970-1974 plan when indigenization was introduced, this was not addressed to changing the structure of the post (neo) colonial capitalist planning and economy. It is equally important to state that, in Nigeria today, policies and strategies to enhance rural development have enjoyed the general attention of foreign governments, international organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) which collaborate with Nigeria in different areas of economic, political and social sectors, visible among these organizations are the UNDP, the World Bank, the IMF, DFID, USAID, the UNO, and Non governmental Organization. At the regional front we have the African Union (AU) propelled initiatives such as New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The cumulative impacts of the policies, programmes and activities of this institutions and organizations significantly affect the living conditions of the ordinary Nigerians and to large extent the development of the rural areas.

The NEPAD is a home grown African initiative to address the critical development challenges especially those that have to do with poverty and improving the living standards of Africans-including Nigerians. This became imperative when African leaders woke up to discover that over 340 million Africans or half of its population lived on less than \$ 1 per day. The mortality rate of children under five years of age is 140 per 1000, and life expectancy is only 54 year. Only 58 percent of the population has access to safe water (Olokun, 2002).

Furthermore, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) seek to attend to the development, and particularly poverty eradication goals and issues of 189 countries of the United Nations (UN). Nigeria as an active member of the UN is decisively involved in the implementation of the policy framework of the

goals by putting in place her own plan and policy structure that would enhance the success of the MDGs in Nigeria. This policy framework is the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). NEEDS is aimed at eradicating poverty and bringing about sustainable development through agencies such as the NAPEP.

The US and UK government have through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department for International Development respectively have collaborated using various schemes and programmes to reduce poverty in Africa and particularly in Nigeria. These agencies have various collaborative efforts and partnership with the Nigeria government in supporting poverty eradication through provision of health and other social services such as the Maternal Morality Support Programme where pregnant and nursing mothers and children under five years are targeted for free health care.

As can be observed, most policies and initiatives aimed at ameliorating poverty and enhance rural development in Africa and particularly Nigeria has largely failed. According to Olokun, (in Orji 2005: 218): “The dream of great Africa renaissance after social, economic and political realities of the continent have defiled 37 development plans which were said to be alien to Africa or drafted by experts and institutions that failed to appreciate the peculiarities of the continent”.

In effect what is said here is that the post colonial era was not different from the colonial era. In this regard, Enyi (2010) maintain that: like the colonial policies, the post colonial Nigerian policies exhibited a basic lack of urgency in any programme or project. The patent lack of plan discipline is another problem of planning in Nigeria. Very often the bureaucratic bourgeoisie elevate their selfish class interests over and above national interests and objectives.

In the final analysis, it is not only that plans for rural development are faulty, there are never in the interest of the ruling class to implement.

He maintained that, the ultimate objective of the national development planning effort should be

the improvement of the welfare of the individual and society. This therefore presupposes the selection of appropriate means to meet the needs of the various communities.

The meaningful formulation of a plan to meet the needs and aspirations of the Nigerian situation must inevitably be from bottom to top as opposed to the present approach of top to bottom. In this way, the needs and problems of the people would be identified and appropriate measures for resolving them will be selected, after which targets will be set, followed by the formulation of the nation's plan. This approach allows for effective mobilization of the communities, the various interest groups, and the mass media for local participation. The present practice of conceiving planning as a purely technical process of aggregating projects and programmes from the top will only benefit a few individuals at the expense of rural development (Enyi 2010:91-92).

2.3 An Assessment of the rural development efforts in Nigeria

Having looked at the institutions, agencies, policies and strategies for rural development in Nigeria, it would be necessary to carry out an assessment of the rural development efforts in the country. To start with, it must be stated that the rural development initiatives by the government have created a culture of dependence on the part of the people rather than the people themselves initiating development orientations. While it is the responsibility of government to create the enabling environment for community or rural development, the attendant corruption, greed and mismanagement associated with these institutions and agencies have not allowed them to achieve their desired objectives. In this connection Okpaga (2004) asserted that "Rather than making these institutions vehicle for rural transformation, they become conduit pipes from where public funds are siphoned into private pockets". Added to the above is the fact that the British colonial administration did not concern itself with planning for the development of the rural areas. Indeed, development is the very antithesis of colonialism. The few amenities and infrastructures that were available were concentrated in the few urban towns particularly in the "European Quarters" or "White Reserved Areas". The rural popular that constituted over 70% of

Nigerians and who produced the bulk of the colonial wealth only felt the impact of government in the form of tax drives, occasional visits by colonial officials and their agents and stories fed them by few urban dwellers or those who had been there. Thus, Onimode (1981:33) rightly observed that: “The rural dwellers who were impoverished by multiple taxes, beaten by colonial police and court repression, and submerged in a culture of silence’ through illiteracy, were undoubtedly among the most brutally exploited by the savage colonialism of Britain”.

This situation has not radically changed even after independence from British rule. The exploitative and western oriented policies and programmes of the colonial era have continued since flag independence. One area that the western oriented policies and programmes have persisted since 1960 is in the area of agriculture. Emphasis was placed on the production of cash crops and the importation of foreign foods to the neglect of local staples. The continued pursuance of this policy with the resultant neglect of the rural areas and the exploitation of peasant farmers has proved disaster for the country.

The urban-based nature of Nigeria’s development process led to a gradual deterioration in the quality of life in the rural areas, thus stimulating rural-urban migration on a massive scale, especially when mineral oil over took agriculture as the mainstay of the national economy. The helpless situation of the rural communities was accentuated by the exploitative tendencies of the Nigerian Marketing Boards of the 1950s, lack of incentives to farmers, antiquated farming techniques, lack of storage facilities, poor transportation network etc. fastened the decline in agriculture generally (Nnadozie, 1986:11).

Another area in the Nigerian agricultural policies and programmes where rural dwellers and farmers are being marginalized is the area of big agricultural schemes in various parts of the country. The policy pursued by government since mid 1970s ostensibly to boost agriculture started with Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) lunched in 1976, the Green Revolution in the second Republic and various budgetary incentives in large-scale agriculture. Similarly the Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) and big irrigation dam schemes were ostensibly to improve rural development. All these projects scattered in different part of the country and jointly financed by the World Bank and Nigerian government did not

help much in the improvement of the living standards of the rural populace. Rather it has worsened the plight of peasant by depriving them of their lands as it happened in Bakolori project in Sokokto state. The beneficiaries of these capital intensive agricultural programmes and schemes were the big barons who live in the urban area. The monies they get as loans never went to agriculture but to other businesses. The neglect of the peasant farmers has obviously led to faster decline in agricultural production with attendant negative consequences for rural development (Nnadozie: 1986).

It is also disheartening to note that in the area of investment and government provision of amenities, the urban areas are more favoured than the rural setting. Studies by Diejomaoh (1973:100-103) have shown that over the years: “The beneficiaries of government expenditure on education, health, water supply, electricity, industries and road construction are mainly urban dwellers and that less than 30% of total government development expenditure is designed for the benefit of rural communities”.

In spite of the importance of and potentialities of the rural sector in terms of its workforce, and its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), of the estimated private sector investment amounting to about N 1,632 million in the second national development plan period (1970-1974), only N246 million or 15% was spend in the rural areas. This pattern is basically the same in the Third and fourth Development plan periods, 1975-1985 (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1970-74).

It is regrettable to also observe that the various aids and assistance to Nigeria by international organizations and institutions like UNO, USAID, DFID, WHO, and others have not been utilized to the benefit of rural development in Nigeria. This has been due to rampant corruption and gross mismanagement at all levels of governments in Nigeria.

The net effect of the above analysis is that the rural areas of Nigerians are greatly neglected in various spheres of human endeavor. They lack the basic needs of life, they are deprived and exploited, and hence rural development in Nigeria has remained a mirage.

2.4 Non - Governmental Organizations and Community Development

In the course of this study, it was observed that a good number of Non governmental Organization are on ground carrying out different types of community developmental projects and programmes. All geared towards the socio-economic upliftment of the people in their various areas of interest in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State of Edo State.

A number of these Non governmental Organization are into various aspects of community development such as: community mobilization, environment, health and sanitation awareness creation, education for all awareness creation, promotion of Child's rights law, promotion of sexuality and reproductive health education and fight against child labour and human trafficking, economic empowerment, development of rural infrastructures, rescue and resuscitation of accident victims, capacity building service and so on.

A sizeable number of Non governmental Organization were equally found to have their activities stalled due to lack of support from donors or founders. Donor agencies have found enthusiasm in civil society organizations (CSOs) and described the Non governmental Organization as more reliable in terms of efficiency, equity and impact (Korten 1980: OECD: 1988; Esman and Uphoff 1984). Donor views are that state bureaucracies are unreliable, inefficient and irresponsive (Rahmato: 1991). And programmes administered through them have less chances of reaching the poor and the needy.

Some previous studies have also drawn attention to institutional capacity building at the grass root level. Building the managerial capacities of CSOs helps to reinforce them and other existing economic or social institutions for self - management enable the participants to make their own rules with regard to their own empowerment for rapid poverty eradication and economic growth.

Records have shown that in recent times, the activities of Non governmental Organization have impacted on a significant number of Edo people, touching on various aspects of life. The Non - Governmental Organizations (Non governmental Organization) includes:

1. Body Enhancement Annual Reconstructive Surgery (BEARS) foundation.
2. Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO)
3. Girls' Power Initiative (GPI)
4. Pro - Health International

The funding organizations include:

1. World Bank (WB)
2. European Union (EU)
3. Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

2.5 Activities of Non governmental Organization in Edo State and South Senatorial District

In the year 2001, there was kerosene fire explosion in Benin City causing a number of death and severe injuries to many people. It was not until 2004, (three years later) that an NGO known as the Body Enhancement Annual Reconstructive Surgery (BEARS) foundation with an international recognition in collaboration with Edo State Government carried out a plastic surgical operation on 36 patients who were among several burnt victims of adulterated kerosene fire explosion free of charge.

Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO), established in 1986 to address hardship created by the implementation of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), is another organization whose activities in Nigeria are also recognized internationally in the area of women socio-economic empowerment programme through micro-credit facilities (cash loans, training and small income yielding projects).

As at April 2006, LAPO has empowered a total of 1483 women across Nigeria, in areas of leadership and capacity building which are organized regularly by LAPO through its subsidiaries: LAPO Development Centre (LADEC), Gender, Environment and Leadership Training (GELT), Community Sensitization Agents (CSA).

The Girls' Power Initiative (GPI) have for the past ten years been involved in the training and

empowerment of young girls concerning various aspects of life: Child's right, education, leadership and other non-sexist life management skills and information on sexuality, promotion and protection of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of in and out of school girls aged 10-18 years in Nigeria.

2.5.1 Fund Providers

Among the highly recognized funders of Non governmental Organization activities in Edo State are the:

- i. World bank
- ii. European Union
- iii. Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

and some others whose activities are not highly publicized. Currently, the World Bank is sponsoring activities of twenty eight (28) Non governmental Organization for advocacy and action intervention on HIV/AIDS pandemic awareness creation in Edo State. The European Union sponsored, micro project programme in six states of the Niger Delta area of Nigeria. In partnership with Non governmental Organization and benefitting communities, E.U is currently funding the execution of more than three (3) hundred micro - projects in rural areas across the eighteen (18) local government area of Edo State. Some of these projects are: water and sanitation (boreholes and sanitation facilities) transport and communication, health, nutrition, education and vocation training, income generation, environmental management. The term micro project in this context, means project whose Bill of Quantity (BOQ) financial value do not exceed the sum of five million six hundred thousand (=N=5,600,000) while the benefitting community will contribute about 25% of the cost of executing the project which is initiated and managed by the community members upon completion.

In March and July 2006, the NDDC in collaboration with a NGO - Pro Health International carried out a free general health care service for the people of Edo State at Orhionmwon LGA. Hundreds of persons with various ailments that came within one week each which it lasted were well attended to including the major surgical operations and free drugs and eye glasses that were given.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical frameworks that were employed in the study were the theory of social change and modernization theory.

Social Change Theory

Social change in a social system can be referred to a major change in behavioral patterns, norms and values over time. The theory was proposed by Spencer and Comte'. Kezi (2011) stated that, social changes are brought about mainly through invention, diffusion and recovery. He explained that, innovation involves the recombination of existing cultural traits to fashion new things. Discovery is sharing with the other perception of fact and diffusion involves the spread of cultural traits from one another. Considering the above facts, community volunteers are the potential of nations' economy both in community engagement and involvement. This is because, the concept of volunteerism is very critical in the work of Non governmental Organization as they own virtually nothing for the services they are providing. For any effective volunteerisms, it takes serious work and efforts to have a shift in behavior patterns, norms and value since they constitute the major resource base for any country that wants to embark on any meaningful Community development. The theory is relevant to the study in the sense that, it provide guides for volunteerism and community social mobilization for community development initiative.

Modernization Theory

Modernization theory is the process of transition from a traditional society to a modern one. Modernization theory attempts to identify the social variables which contribute to social progress and development of societies, and seek to explain the process of social evolution. Modernization theory looks at how new technologies and systems are leading to move greatly homogenized world.

Ahmadu (2011) conceived technological change as continues process of change within technical, material and physical practices in a culture. He further explained that, technological changes are evident

in our society in the areas of transport, communication, agriculture, economy; housing etc. the term technological change is used to describe the overall process of intention, innovation and diffusion of technology or process. Considering the theory of modernization our community people especially youth need modern tools, facilities, skills and knowledge because, they suffer much for lack of technology to enable them use new methods and strategies for community engagement such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). The study employed the use of the theory as it states the process of moving community from its nascent stage to advanced stage through efforts of various institutions including Non-governmental Organization.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Asika (2008), research method is the particular method or means by which is particular research work is carried out. It comprises the procedures and activities involved in drawing logical conclusions on the research study. This section deals with research design, characteristics of the study population, sample and sampling techniques, data collection schedule and statistical tools used in this study.

3.1 Study Area

This research was conducted in the locals government areas in the Orhionmwon local government areas Edo State.

3.2 Sampling Procedure and Sampling Size

The research work was carried out using a list of 266 registered local Non governmental Organization operating in the Orhionmwon Local government area of Edo State. This formed the study sample frame. The list was obtained from Edo Agency for Non governmental Organization Affairs. In Selecting the beneficiaries, purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used. Community heads and 9 other person from each local government were selected form 20 communities. A total of 200 copies of beneficiaries' questionnaire were administered. In each of 20 surveyed communities, a focused Group Discussion was held.

3.3 Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data were used. Well-structured questionnaire were framed and relevant information from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and selected community members who benefited form Non governmental Organization interventions were obtained. The questionnaires were administered to officials of the Non governmental Organization and beneficiaries in the study area.

A focused Group Discussion guide was also developed and used. The data collection was done

using the three instruments highlighted above. Other techniques used in data collections included; likert scale, triangulation and ranking.

Likert Scale

In order to assess beneficiaries' perceptions towards the roles of Non governmental Organization in community development, being an emotional variable, a set of attitudinal questions were draw relating to beneficiaries perceptions on a five point liker scale with categories as follows:

Strongly agree (SA)=5

AGREE(A) = 4

Neutral (N) = 3

Strongly Disagreed (SD)= 2

Disagreed (D) =1

The scores and averages were then calculated for all beneficiaries summing up values of their responses to all questions and divided by the total number of questions respectively. Scores above the means indicated a positive attitude and those below show a negative attitude.

Triangulation

This is a process of comparing two or more sources of information or data in order to cross check and ensure accuracy and creditability

Ranking

Simple ranking techniques was adopted to collect information regarding the objectives to prioritize problems and possible suggestions to address them. This was done by rating the option on a scale of one being the lowest (Least important, less urgent) to 5 being (very important and urgent). The responses collected were analyzed.

3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

The data collected from questionnaires administration were subjected ot simple descriptive statistical analysis in form of frequencies and percentages as well correlation analysis to achieve the

objectives.

Definition of research variation

The research variables are independent, dependent and intervening variables. The independent variables include the socio-economic status of beneficiaries and economic status of both Non governmental Organization and beneficiaries. Beneficiaries were asked to supply their individual information regarding the following: Age, sex, education, marital status, occupation, income level and family size. In addition to these, their economic status and that, the Non governmental Organization were also explored. Economic status is per capital income and purchasing powers of individual and organization that affect lives.

Age is defined as years of an individual. The age group of an individual to a great extent determines his or her level of responsibility. According to Simsek and Karkervier (1996) said “Age of a producer is one of the factors which affect the decision and actions made in an enterprise, because people’s thought, behaviors and needs are primarily related to their ages”

Sex is the biological classification of human being of either male or female; this could affect an individual participation to community development activities considering culture and norms of the inhabitants of the study area.

Education is a term used to describe condition of learning and acquisition of skills. Community members’ levels of education could be determined by their involvement and even chance of benefiting from community development activities.

Marital status refers to matrimonial ranking system.

The dependent variable is community development itself; this is a function of improved standard of living of people, improved welfare and eradication of extreme poverty and hunger thereby accelerating economic growth; all these can only be achieved through and hunger thereby accelerating economic growth; all these can only be achieved through various community development efforts by both and Non governmental Organization and the community members.

The activities or effort such as; community self-help efforts e.g construction of culverts, roads

and other infrastructure and so on, training and re-training of community members, increasing active participation of community members in community development, provision of welfare packages to communities among other serves as intervening variables. The study has tried to explore if there is relationship between all these variables in the study area.

Measurement of research variables.

The major variable in this study include, community members' socio-economic factors; the roles provided by the Non governmental Organization to the communities; roles of benefiting community members toward execution of community development activities; perception of the roles of Non governmental Organization by the benefiting communities members.

Types of role of Non governmental Organization in Community Development

These was measured in terms of various activities embarked upon by Non governmental Organization in the communities such as; community self-help efforts- for example; construction of culverts, roads and other infrastructure. Training and retraining of community members; increasing active participation of community members in community development; provision of welfare packages to communities; awareness creation and sensitization of community members; promoting income generation activities; improving social services and livelihood of community members.

Roles of beneficiaries towards execution of community development activities

These were measured based on the following labour; water; venue; transportation; cash donations; participation.

Level of role of Non governmental Organization to community development:

were measured using major welfare/poverty index such as increased enrolment of school aged children in schools; increase health care and reduction of major health related ailments; increased yields and production levels of farmers; increase women participation in decision making processes; increase income levels of community member' increase demand and supply of basic social services; improved shelter and creation of conducive and healthy environment; eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;

increased access to information and services provided by the government and Non governmental Organization.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter consisted of three major sections; section A reported socio-economic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, income level, occupation and family size of beneficiaries of Non-governmental Organization's activities; Section B provided details of findings on the Non-governmental Organization activities in promoting community development initiatives while, Section C reported findings from the Focused Group Discussions.

Section A: Socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries.

Socio-economic characteristics play a significant role in the lives of individuals in the sense that they influence participation in community development. Some of these factors examined in this report include; Sex, Age and Level of Education

Table 2: Sex distribution of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage%
Male	141	70.5
Female	59	29.5

Source: Field survey, 2019

Table 2 represents the sex distribution of beneficiaries. It shows that, 70.6% of the beneficiaries were male while only 29.5% were females. This implies that, males benefit more from the community development initiatives of Non-governmental Organization perhaps due to cultural norms that placed women as second-class citizens. In Orhionmwon Local Government area, women participate less in decision making and community development especially self-help efforts for reasons of long patriarchy. This is in line with Yusuf (2002) who reported that women in Orhionmwon local government area are constrained to engage in crop production by several factors such as religious and traditional restrictions which women are also exposed to is time-consuming domestic work or household activities. According to him, women spend long hours on collection of water from distant sources, collection of firewood,

processing cooking food.

Table 3: Age of the Respondents

Age group (years)	Frequency	Percentage
10-20	40	20.0
21-30	56	28.0
31-40	77	38.5
41-50	22	11.0
51-60	5	2.5

Sources: Field Survey, 2019

Table 3 shows age distribution of beneficiaries of which 38.5% falls within the age range of 31-40 years. While, only 2.5% were within the age range of 51-60 years. This implies that, youth participate more in community development may be due to their activeness and physical structure. Youthful age is the most critical age for human productivity in the present millennium; old age might not be able to contribute as youth can. The age bracket fallen within the age bracket defined by David et al. (2009) as economically productive in a population that is 15-65 years, also the age range is an incentive for a long lasting development.

Table 4: Level of education of the respondents

Education status	Frequency	Percentage
Islamic education	26	13.0
Adult education	15	7.5
Primary education	99	49.5
Secondary education	39	19.5
Tertiary education	11	5.5

Source field survey, 2019

Table 4 shows that, 49.5% of the beneficiaries had primary education while the least percentages

of (7.5) and (5.5) were recorded by adult and tertiary education respectively.

Education is a weapon for transformation and making people release their full potentials.

This result is not a surprise considering myth and misconceptions around western education in the study area. In agreement to this finding, Aliyu (2001) documented that, low level of western education in some part of Orhionmwon Local Government area is due to holding firmly to the ethics of Islam and having reservation against western style of education. Similarly, Edet (2004) and Cohen (1987) established that, education is a key ingredient of political, economic and social empowerment which invariably could affect engagement in rural development programmes.

It has clearly show, active participation in community development efforts is dependent upon level of education of an individual or group of individuals. The more educated a community is the more enlighten and the more they actively partake in community development in their area.

Table 6: marital status of the respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	170	85.0
Single	17	8.5
Divorced	11	5.5
Widow	2	1.0

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 6 shows that, 85% of the beneficiaries are married while the least are widows. This means that marriage is not a barrier to participation in community development activities.

The married are more matured and responsive to development issues. This is in agreement with findings of Sani, (2008) who argued that; marriage is highly cherished high in the rural communities of the study area.

Table 7: Distribution of beneficiaries based on their perceptions of the contributions of the contribution of Non governmental Organization in community development

Contributions effects of Non governmental Organization activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Increased enrolment of children in schools	154	77
Enhanced health care service delivery	141	70.5
Increase yield and production levels	133	66.5
Increased women participation development	97	48.5
Increased income levels of community	77	38.5
Increase supply of basic social services	65	32.5
Increased shelter and clean environment	48	24
Supported eradication of extreme poverty	39	19.5
Increased access to information and knowledge	30	15
Reduced maternal and child mortality rates	12	6

Source: Field work, 2019

Table 7 shows that, 75% of the Non governmental Organization had attributed immense roles they played through training and re-training of community members to appreciate the value of self-help efforts.

This was vigorously pursued through enlightenment and sensitization for self-awakening. This is in line with Anyanwu, (1999) that, Citizens’ participation could best be achieved through training and re-training on the values of self-help which is of the people, by the people and for the people. Also Aliyu, (2012) reported that, training and capacity building is aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of an individual, which in turn enhances the level of participation in any community development programme. The finding is similar to that of Aliyu (2012) who found that training strengthens people and makes them to be very efficient in discharge of their activities. Only 24% played role of promoting income generation activities perhaps due to their nature, most of the local Non governmental Organization are not for profit. This implies that, community members might not be economically independent of local Non governmental Organization near future.

Table 8: Comparison of roles played by Non governmental Organization and beneficiaries perception about Non governmental Organization contributions in community development.

parameters	N	Mean	Std.	Df	Level of	Tcal.	tcritical	Remarks
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			deviation	significance				
Roles played by	9	11.122	4.4480					
Non governmental				17	0.05	0.446	1.740	Not
Organization in								significant
community								
development								
Beneficiaries	10	10.00	6.2498					

Source: field work, 2019

Table 8 shows a number of effects of community development activities executed in the area by the Non governmental Organization. Increased enrolment of children in schools through mobilization and enlightenment took the lead. Where people are educated their capacities would be developed and could facilitate sense of belonging and ownership of community development activities and partake in community development programme. This is in line with Savile (1965) who reported that, education being a weapon for human transformation has resulted into meaningful achievements of the yearnings and aspiration of the community through organized effort that enable the beneficiaries to realize and exploit their potentialities to the fullest. The least score recorded for reduction of maternal and child mortality is not unconnected with the fact that, majority of local Non governmental Organization do not have interest on maternal and child health related issues; the international development organizations takes lead of promoting maternal and child health related issues in the state.

Table 9: Perception of beneficiaries on Non governmental Organization efforts towards community development (n=200)

parameters	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Improvement of living standards		
SA		
A	108	54.0
N	66	33.0
D	14	7.0
SD	9	4.5
	3	1.5
Promotion of self-help efforts		
SA	59	29.5
A	89	44.5
N	34	17.0
D	12	6.0
SD	6	3.0

Improve welfare		
SA	81	40.5
A	66	33.0
N	29	14.5
D	11	5.5
SD	13	6.5
Extent of contribution		
Great	75	37.5
Moderate	88	44.0
Low	30	15.5
None of all	7	3.5
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field work, 2019

Table 9 shows that, the Non governmental Organization had contributed immensely toward improvement of lives and expectancy and had resulted in the improvement of community welfare and productivity. This is likely so because people always appreciate who benefit them. The indifferent could be attributed to low level of education of the beneficiaries that could not critically analyze previous and current situations to be able to tell if there is any change. In agreement to this finding is the result of Manga (2012) who reported that support is sometimes extended to individuals, group and communities and is aimed at improving their livelihood activities and is expected to result in their improved wellbeing.

Table 9 shows that, beneficiaries had attested to the fact that, Non governmental Organization promotes self-help efforts in the community. This is not surprising as government and non-governmental interventions are not permanent in the communities and hence, the need for the community member to help themselves. This is in line with Zaki, (2003) "rural communities are faced with numerous problems and government alone cannot provide everything for all its citizens, hence community group are formed to arrest such problems, this was further corroborated with principles of community development by Anyanwu (1999) who reported that principle of self-help, this is the main end product of community development. Enables people to exploit to their advantages the resources which could otherwise be dormant and makes use of under-utilized labour. Increase the component and confidence of a community in the heading of its affairs. Constitute a prerequisite for survival in the modern world. it enable people to change the way they look at their responsibilities, and help them to cultivate the sense of local initiative and effort. Enhances the development of democratic values and processes; promote the idea of ultimate

control by the people; fosters a substantial degree of freedom by individual and groups; leads to a considerable amount of government decentralization. Promotes wide spread citizens participation.

Table 9 shows, that beneficiaries have confessed that, Non governmental Organization activities in the study area are enormous to changing welfare status of beneficiaries through series of welfare package and income generation activities that improves economic capacities of beneficiaries. If the people's sufferings are elevated they tend to be removed form bondage of poverty and insecurity.

Table 9 shows that Non governmental Organization efforts in improving community are of great importance to the beneficiaries and had a knowledge Non governmental Organization roles. These effort were well received and appreciated by the beneficiaries. The least score 3.5% that reported none at all might be due to lack of awareness that a particular effort is done by an NGO not government

Table 10: Distribution of beneficiaries perception of problems of Non governmental Organization

Problems of community development	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Financial constraints	189	94.5
Inadequate personnel to implement programmes	164	82
Low level of government support to Non governmental Organization	123	61.5
Negative attitude of beneficiaries to community development	20	10

Source: Field work, 2019

Table 10 shows that Non governmental Organization face a number of problems that hinder their development. Inadequate funds and funding support constitutes a great challenge towards achieving their desired objectives. While the least was the poor attitudes of beneficiaries to community development. This is in line with Keck and Kathryn, (1998) “Funds play a vital role in any Non governmental Organization for execution of its projects, programmes or activities, which are development oriented to their community. Hence funding agencies, donors, sponsors, are very important to all Non governmental Organization”

Table 11: Comparism of proportion of Non governmental Organization problems by beneficiaries and Non governmental Organization

Pearson Square	Chi-number of valid cases	Df	Level of Significance	X2 cal	X2	Remarks
	200	4	0.05	7.134	9.49	Not significant

Source: Field work, 2019

Table 11: shows that X^2 Critical values are 7.134 respectively at 0.05 level of significance. Since X^2 Calculated – 7.134 < X^2 Critical =9.49. this indicates that, there is no significant difference in the proportion of problems of Non governmental Organization as perceived by the beneficiaries and the Non governmental Organization themselves. Hence, both have same perceptions in regard to problems that hinder Non governmental Organization progress towards community development programs. This implies that, Non governmental Organization and beneficiaries can jointly work together to address the impediments identified and that, the problems identified is no longer that of Non governmental Organization alone but the communities themselves.

4.2 Results of Focused Group Discussion (FGDs)

A total of 20 FGDs were held at 20 selected villages. In each village, 10-12 person were randomly selected to participate in the FGD session. The research was assisted by a note taker while he facilitated the discussions. Total number of person that participated in the FGDs was 214 (178 male and 36 female). The purpose of the FGDs was to elicit more information on specific issues on community development and also to validate some of the claim by the local Non governmental Organization. An FGD guide was prepared and used at the end of every FGD.

The note taker summarizes the responses after which they were collated, analyzed and presented as follow:

Level of awareness of the existence of local NGO in study area by the beneficiaries

From the summarized responses; all participants of the FGDs are fully aware of the existence of

an NGO in the study area. However, names of such Non governmental Organization are not being mentioned. This implies that, the literary level of the beneficiaries that is very low might be reasons why they cannot differentiate between Non governmental Organization efforts and that of government.

Identification of major community development problems of the study area

The beneficiaries have identified numerous community development problems in the study area. These include; shortage or inadequate funds to carryout community development initiatives. Lack of government support to community driven efforts; inadequate commitment form citizens to embark on self help efforts; inadequate materials and other forms of assistance form organizations and institutions. These problems militate against effective community development efforts by the community members themselves. This implies that, there exist several problems that impede the community action on community development. The problems can be addressed through joint efforts by all stakeholders.

Role of Local Non governmental Organization Towards Solving Community Development Problems

The beneficiaries contacted identified some roles being played by the local Non governmental Organization to promote community driven efforts. These includes; facilitating community members efforts to link them up with government agencies that has responsibility of providing community development services. Also supporting the community to identify and plan to address their problems by themselves with little or no support and intervention with government. The community members have also testified to the fact that, local Non governmental Organization have contributed immensely to the development of the community through various means such as training and re-training; sensitization and awareness creation. Non governmental Organization also support enrolments of children in schools and supported war against many community ailment

Contributions of beneficiaries during execution of any intervention by the local NGO?

The major contributions of the beneficiaries during the course of community development intervention in their domain are the labour, water and venue for events. This is not a surprise considering the community local resourcefulness. This implies that, people at the grassroots are willing to contributed

what they can source locally especially if they are fully mobilized to do so.

Identified constraints of local Non governmental Organization towards developing community

Community members attested to the fact that, several challenges confronts smooth running of community development initiatives by local Non governmental Organization. These numerous challenges includes but not limited to low or poor funding support; inadequate personnel to run the proposed intervention and possibly lack of interest of some members in area of community development.

Identified constraints of community members toward participation in community development efforts initiated by the local Non governmental Organization

Major constraints faced by community members that inhibit their full participation and contribution to community development initiatives are low level of knowledge and awareness on the importance of self help. Community people have little financial capability to support financial burden of the projects being initiated by local Non governmental Organization.

Suggested possible solution to the constraints identified above

Due to the identified challenges facing both community and local Non governmental Organization in the execution of community development efforts; few suggestions were proposed to half those challenges. This was suggested that, government individual and institutions should continue to support community development initiatives.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study was conducted in Orhonmwon Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria to assess the roles of local Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in promoting community development. The study had examine various roles played by these organizations in order to promote living standard of the beneficiaries. The study was carried out using field collection and review of other secondary data sources. In collecting relevant information for the research, two sets of questionnaires were used and a focused group discussion guide was also used to extract information. Twenty FGDs were conducted in 20 communities while, 200 beneficiaries and 15 Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) were used to respond to the research tools. Completed questionnaire were subjected to statistical analysis and results were presented in chapter four of this report.

The study revealed that, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) contributes significantly in improving livelihood of inhabitants of rural and urbans largely through training, sensitization and promotion of self-help efforts. It was also found that, there is no significance difference in the perceptions of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and beneficiaries on the roles played by the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to promote community development. The study has identify major constraints of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to promote community development. The study has identify major constraints of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to community development such as inadequate funds, skills and capacities to implement programmes, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) problem are

the same as mentioned by the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) themselves and the beneficiaries.

The study revealed that, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) are grassroots based with much recognition and having people at heart. The person who benefits from their works always appreciates and acknowledges their giants strides. The research has shown that, people if properly mobilized can partake and even contribute significantly in community development activities in their areas. It has show that, people contributed materials, cash, water, labour venue and transportation whenever a community development activities is to be carried out in their domain.

5.2 Conclusion

From the findings of the study, it could be concluded that NGOs has immensely contributed to community development initiatives through training and re-training as well as sensitization and mobilization of beneficiaries on the importance of self-help. It could be concluded that beneficiaries also contributes to their development if adequately mobilize to do so. It was further more concluded that, beneficiaries have positive perception to the critical roles of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) towards improving their livelihoods.

5.3 Recommendations

After careful examining the roles of local Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in community development in the study area and results that depicts challenges to community development in the area; the following recommendations were proposed to make Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) effective in delivering community development services.

1. Government, individuals and other agencies should increase their support to Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). These support should include, provision of enabling working environment, financial provision, materials and technical report.
2. Beneficiaries of community development programmes and activities should continue to support activities of the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in their areas and should ensure maintenance and sustainability of the completed community development projects.
3. Citizens should form more local Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to complement government efforts towards community development.
4. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) should be more dedicated in execution of community development activities especially through promotion of self-help. They should also be interested in promoting livelihood of rural dwellers;
5. Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) should always carry beneficiaries along planning, execution and even evaluation of any community development activities in their domain. This will promote sustainability and ownership of the project.
6. Beneficiaries should increase their participation levels in community development through contributing actively to all community development efforts. Maintenance culture of beneficiaries for project executed by the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) should be sustained.

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