

**THE ROLES OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN AKURE-SOUTH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ONDO STATE**

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BENIN CITY**

DECEMBER, 2022

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**BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY IN PARTIAL
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BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION (BA.Ed) DEGREE IN
ADULT EDUCATION/ENGLISH AND LITERATURE**

DECEMBER, 2022

APPROVAL PAGE

I, the undersigned, certify that this project was carried out by **Eugene ADEBOWALE** with the matriculation number **EDU1702345** in the Department of Adult and Non-formal Education, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City and approve of it as adequate in scope and quality in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Education in the University of Benin, Benin City.

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Project Supervisor

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CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned hereby certified that this Research work was carried out by **Eugene ADEBOWALE** with the matriculation number EDU1702345 in the Department of Adult and Non-formal Education, University of Benin, for the award of Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) in Adult and Non-formal Education, University of Benin, Benin City.

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to the Almighty God for his divine mercy, love, wisdom, understanding, strength and provision.

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at assessing the role of CBOs in the development of rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State. To enable the study to achieve its objectives, five (5) research questions were raised. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design.

The population of this study comprised of all the people living in all communities under Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State from which a total of two hundred (200) are selected to form the sample size for the study. A questionnaire titled “Questionnaire on the role of CBOs in the development of rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State was the instrument used for data collection. The validity of the instrument was ascertained through the expert judgment approach while the test re-test method of estimating reliability was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. A reliability index of 0.87 was obtained using Person Product Moment Correlation Statistics. Collected data were analyzed using frequency count, simple percentage, and mean score standard.

Findings from the data among others revealed that the various types of Community Based Organization in the area are Micro-finance institutions (MFIs), Village development committees (VDCs), Common interest groups (CIGs), Networks of CBOs, Landlord Association, Women Association, Youth Association, Farmers Organization and Trade union. Also, the Community Based Organization’s activities in the communities under study are only carried out on Weekly, Monthly and Yearly bases. The roles of Community Based Organization in the area under study are to Finance Projects, Liaison with Government, Promoting mutual understanding, Raising fund for project execution, planning of programmes, Economic empowerment, Cooperation with other organizations, protect the image of the community, trade union, support Security for Community and government projects, and harmonize and ensure unity among rural dwellers for effective Agricultural and rural growth. It was recommended that formal and specific organized steps should be taken by the government to develop the rural areas to curb the problem of rural underdevelopment.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

There is a wide gap in the development levels of both the urban and rural areas in many sub-concentrated urban centres while the rural areas are largely neglected. Most rural areas in Nigeria lack basic amenities like pipe-borne water, good road networks, schools, health facilities, markets to mention a few making rural areas to be grossly underdeveloped (Ekong, 2010). In general terms, the rural areas engage in primary activities such as farming, trading, etc. that form the foundation for any economic development. Despite this importance, there is inadequate infrastructure, which improves the quality of life, absence of potable water, electricity and good feeder roads. The rural people have low purchasing power and standard of living. The value for the rural population in Nigeria was 79,528,440 as of 2010 representing 50.2 per cent of the nation's population (World Bank, 2010).

The decay and worsening rural conditions and the attendant increase in rural-urban migration are evident in the long years of neglect of the rural areas (Adebisi, 2009). The introduction of the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment programme (NDE), Better Life for Rural Women etc. made little or no significant improvement on the development of rural communities and the conditions of the rural dwellers. Some problems associated with the failure of some of the government's effort include lack of consistency between project formulation and execution; lack of continuity; and poor coordination (Deji, 2002).

However, meeting the need of citizens has been recognized as one of the motives behind the propagation of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) especially in rural areas. Alongside, Wahab (2000) detected that people in emerging countries lately beheld up to governments to provide the elementary socio-economic hassles. Governments in African countries have developed top-down and bottom-up methods to attain bearable expansion of their general public. It comprises the founding of a lead firm at main hubs to generate job prospects, offers basic infrastructure and uses provincial natural

and artificial wealth to inspire development and economic that would blowout to sheathing areas (Abegunde, 2003).

The disappointment of governments’ top-down method and lack of participation of the folks at the proletarian in the bottom-up approach have debilitated the assurance of the community in central establishments. The public thus searches for comfort in local institutes, which compel the government to provide development to hitches in their societies. The local organizations are linked with self-help (Ogundipe, 2003).

Furthermore, CBOs can also be called local groups which are called a series of names in diverse places. These consist of ‘community development associations e.g. neighbourhood councils and united community among others. CBOs are made up of communal labours of local folks of homo or heterogeneous characteristics but existing or employed in the same location. Their coming together produces situations that widen the base of self-governance plus circulation of command through a broader sphere of the inhabitants (Adeyemo, 2002). It is seen as charitable, non-profit, nongovernmental and extremely confined or vicinity whose participation is

placed on the same equal and whose key aim is the development of the community and economic well-being of every member (Abegunde, 2004).

The current advancement of public groups, particularly in emerging nations, has supported the view that these "bottom-up" organizations are effective which address the local needs than higher benevolent organizations. Distinctive public groups are in the following categories: community-service and action, health, educational, personal growth with improvement, social welfare and self-help for the disadvantaged. According to the World Bank, CBOs are “different in nature and drive from other NGOs. CBOs are usually membership organizations which are made up of a group of individuals who have joined up together to further their interests (e.g. women’s groups, credit circles, youth clubs, cooperatives and farmer associations).” CBO’s comprises women groups, men groups, men groups, traders union and youth clubs in the community.

In Nigeria, CBOs are self-help in most communities. They are initiated and sponsored by largely voluntary associations, located within a particular community concerned. Nearly all the villages and clans

particularly those of the south had these development associations whose member would meet once a year. During such meetings, specific development projects were launched and funds collected for execution. In this was many remote and neglected communities in the country were able to provide for themselves, services such as piped borne water, school blocks, and dispensaries among others.

The CBOs are known to have the ability to influence the ideas and actions of others and as a result of this, they are regarded as effective change agents (Adisa, 2001). The failure of governments' top-down approach and lack of involvement of the people at the grass-roots in the bottom-up strategy has reduced the confidence of the public in central authorities. Therefore, communities seek solace in indigenous institutions such as CBOs which undertake development programmes and projects that they observe as immediate needs in their communities (Adisa, 2013).

Studies have shown that the activities of CBOs in rural project development have been seen as an important element and a sure way to the speedy development of the rural areas in Nigeria (Abegunde, 2008). The

impact of CBOs have been felt in the areas of social and economic development, policy matters, health, infrastructure, environmental and physical development among others (Adeokun, Adisa and Oladoja, 2006).

However, despite these accomplishments, many rural areas in the country still lack basic amenities like pipe-borne water, good road networks, schools, health facilities, markets to mention a few making those areas to be grossly underdeveloped. Where the government is properly playing its expected role, activities of community-based organizations should complement rural development, not replacing it. It is against this backdrop that the study seeks to investigate the role of CBOs in the development of rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State.

Statement of the Problem

Attempts by governments to develop rural areas in Nigeria is not new. Several attempts have been initiated and employed by the government towards rural development. However, despite all programmes and the efforts of the governments which aimed at developing rural areas such as 1st National Development Plan (1962-1968) and the 2nd National Development

Plan (1970- 1974), 3rd National Development Plan (1975-1980) , 4th National Development Plan (1981-1985); the three Rolling Plans 1990-1992, 1993-1995, 1996-1998; and Vision 2010 and Nigeria 2020, and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) etc., there are indications that the problem has continued unabated.

This so because all the rural development strategies were formulated by the government and taken down to the people. The government also assumed to know both the needs and wants of the rural people and feels that the problems of all rural people in different parts of the country are the same. This idea was responsible for the failure of some programmes in some rural areas and the refusal of some communities to accept some programmes. The failure of the government in developing the rural areas led to the initiation of CBOs in the community who in place of government took up developmental responsibilities in rural communities. The primary question this study seeks to answer therefore is; what are the roles of CBOs in the development of rural communities.

Research Questions

To achieve the purpose of this study, the following research questions are raised.

1. What are the various types of Community Based Organization in the area under study?
2. How do people percieve the activities of the Community Based Organization in the area under study?
3. Are the activities of the Community Based Organization regular in the development of the community in the area under study?
4. What are the roles of Community Based Organization in the area under study?
5. What are the various problems hindering the services of Community Based Organization in the area under study?

Purpose of the Study

The principal purpose of this study is to find out the roles of CBOs in the development of rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State.

Specifically, the study will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- To find out the various types of CBOs in the area under study.
- To examine how people perceive the activities of the Community Based Organization in the area under study.
- To determine if the activities of the CBOs in rural communities in the Akure-South local government area regular.
- To find out the roles of Community Based Organization in rural communities in the Akure-South Local Government area.
- To investigate the various problem hindering the services of Community Based Organization in rural communities in the Akure-South Local Government area.

Significance of the Study

This study, when completed will be of great significance to individuals, policymakers, government and researchers. The finding will be of importance to policymakers and decision-makers at every level of government including the Federal, State and Local government as well as

the traditional institutions, providing them with useful and reliable information about Community Based Organization and rural development.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that are interested in community development will also find the results of this study useful. It will enable them to assess the roles of CBOs in rural development. Students and researchers in the discipline of community development will also find this work very useful in their field because it will provide veritable information on the impact of CBOs on rural development thereby serving as baseline data for further research in the area.

Finally, the findings of the study will also help expand the frontiers of knowledge by contributing to the existing stock of knowledge in the area.

Scope / Delimitation of the Study

The study seeks to investigate the impact of the roles of CBOs in the development of rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State. However, the study will be delimited to four rural communities in the Akure-South Local Government area of Ondo State.

Operational Definition of Terms

For clarity and understanding, the following terms are operationally defined:

Rural: It is a place where there is no infrastructure that makes it appear like an urban area such as infrastructure as electricity etc.

Development: This is a qualitative improvement in the living standard of members of the society or gradual and progressing ground from one state to a better one.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the review of related and relevant literature. The review of the literature is conducted under the following sub-headings.

- Conceptualizing Community Based Organization (CBO)
- Types of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Operations of CBOs
- Functions and Roles of CBOS at Local Community Levels
- Review of Strategies for Rural Development in Nigeria
- Roles of CBOs in rural development
- Problems and Constraints of CBOs

Conceptualizing Community Based Organization (CBO)

Community organization or Community Based Organization refers to organizing aimed at making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-being, and overall functioning. Community organization occurs in geographically, psychosocially, culturally, spiritually, and/or digitally bounded communities. Community organization includes community work, community projects, community development, community empowerment,

community building, and community mobilization. It is a commonly used model for organizing community within community projects, neighbourhoods, organizations, voluntary associations, localities, and social networks, which may operate as ways to mobilize around geography, shared space, shared experience, interest, need, and/or concern.

Community organization is a process by which a community identifies needs or objectives, takes action, and through this process, develops cooperative and collaborative attitudes and practices within a community. (Murray, 1967). Community organization is differentiated from conflict-oriented community organizing which focuses on short-term change through appeals to authority (i.e., pressuring established power structures for the desired change), by focusing on long-term and short-term change through direct action and the organizing of community (i.e., the creation of alternative systems outside of established power structures). This often includes inclusive networking, interpersonal organizing, listening, reflexivity, non-violent communication, cooperation, mutual aid and social care, prefiguration, popular education, and direct democracy.

Within organizations, variations exist in terms of size and structure. Some are formally incorporated, with codified bylaws and Boards of Directors (also known as a committee), while others are much smaller, more informal, and grassroots. A community organization may be more effective in addressing need as well as in achieving short-term and long-term goals than larger, more bureaucratic organizations. Contemporary community organization, known as "The New Community Organizing" includes localized perspectives and organizing methods. The multiplicity of institutions, groups, and activities do not necessarily define community organization. However, factors such as the interaction, integration, and coordination of, existing groups, assets, activities, as well as relationships, the evolution of new structures and communities, are characteristics unique to a community organization.

A community organization may often lead to a greater understanding of community contexts. It is characterized by community building, community planning, direct action and mobilization, the promotion of community change, and, ultimately, changes within larger social systems and power structures along with localized ones. Community organization

generally functions within not-for-profit efforts, and funding often goes directly toward supporting organizing activities. Under globalization, the ubiquity of ICTs, neoliberalism, and austerity, has caused many organizations to face complex challenges such as mission drift and coercion by state and private funders.

The United Nations in 1955 considered community organization as complementary to community development. The United Nations assumed that community development is operative in marginalized communities and community organization is operative in areas in where levels of living are relatively high and social services relatively well developed, but in where a greater degree of integration and community initiative is recognized as desirable. Murray (1955) in Akpeher, (2006) defined community organization as a process by which a community identifies its needs or objectives, orders (or ranks) these needs or objectives, develops the confidence and will to work at these needs or objectives, finds the resources (internal and/or external) to deal with these needs or objectives, takes action in respect to them, and in so doing, extends and develops co-operative and collaborative attitudes and practices within the community.

Eduard (1921) in Akpeher, (2006) defined community organization as "that phase of social organization which constitutes a conscious effort on the part of a community to control its affairs democratically and to secure the highest services from its specialists, organizations, agencies, and institutions by means of recognized interrelations.

Walter stated that "Community organization is perhaps best defined as assisting a group of people to recognize their common needs and helping them to meet these needs. Russell (1940) in Akpeher, (2006) defined community organization as "a process dealing primarily with program relationships and thus to be distinguished in its social work setting from those other basic processes, such as casework and group work. Those relationships of agency to agency, of agency to community and of community to agency reach in all directions from any focal point in the social work picture. A community organization may be thought of as the process by which these relationships are initiated, altered or terminated to meet changing conditions, and it is thus basic to all social work..."

Wayne (1947) in Akpeher, (2006), defined community organization as an intervention with its generic sense deliberately directed effort to assist groups in attaining unity of purpose and action. It is practised, though often without recognition of its character, wherever the objective is to achieve or maintain a pooling of the talents and resources of two or more groups on behalf of either general or specific objectives. The community-based organization is the process by which the people of the community, as individual citizens or as representatives of groups, join together to determine social welfare needs, plan ways of the meeting then and mobilise the necessary resource.

Kramer and Specht (1975) in Akpeher, (2006) stated "Community organization refers to various methods of intervention whereby a professional change agent helps a community action system composed of individuals, groups, or organizations to engage in planned collective action to deal with special problems within the democratic system of values."

Types of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Users associations (UAs): are CIGs established to operate and maintain a facility constructed with public and/or private funds, with resources mobilized from the members of the association.

Micro-finance institutions (MFIs): are community-level CIGs specialized in savings and lending.

Village development committees (VDCs): are organizations of collective governance of a village with responsibility for development. Collective governance of a community implies a set of accepted endogenous rules, i.e. the institutions of the community, and an organization responsible for the application of the rules and for organizing collective action of interest to all the members of the community.

Common interest groups (CIGs): are organizations of some members of the community that come together to achieve a common purpose. Networks of CBOs: These may join together VDCs or CIGs. The latter is more common. Federations of CIGs of various types are often classified as "Professional Associations"

Operations of CBOs

Community-based organizations (CBOs) are not for profit, organizations on a local and national level, facilitating community efforts for community development. CBOs works through people-centred modes of development such as availability of micro-finance, community participation in development ensuring community health education and infrastructure improves over time.

The purpose of CBOs is to plan, implement, and monitor social and economic development programs and provide technical and financial help to the communities. CBOs positively affects the process of rural change i.e. increase in income, improvement in health, nutrition and literacy status of the populations. Some of the programmes that can ensure bring changes in the rural communities are the availability of micro-finance for micro-enterprise, health and education, sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, safe water and sanitation (Jegede, 2000).

Yankson (2000) says local NGOs and CBOs constitute important groups within civil society. At times, they are used interchangeably to

represent private, voluntary, non-profit organisations independent of any government, which are funded through individual and corporate donations, levies imposed on members and grants from international agencies and governments. CBOs have existed for long as major survival strategists for the common man, giving immediate support to their economic challenges. However, in most cases, they have been limited by a lack of sufficient funds. The commonest expressions are in form of Cooperative Societies and Community Development Associations (CDAs).

CBOs are known as Community Development Associations, Community Development Council, Self-help Organizations or Local Organizations among others. By whatever name they are known, they are formed for the selfless services they offer either for the benefit of their members or the community in general. Arrossi (1994) conceived CBOs to mean non-governmental, voluntary and membership-based organizations which are located and actively engaged in communities, whose concerns are essential with grassroots issues about social welfare services, development projects execution and so on. Relatedly, Wilson (1990) conceptualize CBOs as more or less private non-profit organizations which are representative of

the community or significant segments of a community and which provide relative services to individuals in the community or the entire community.

CBOs are rural or grassroots-based, formed, funded and managed by community members themselves based on their felt needs. CBOs are therefore voluntary, autonomous and democratically controlled institutions with the primary aim of meeting members' social and economic needs.

Functions and Roles of CBOS at Local Community Levels

CBOs are in straight connection with indigenous groups and are therefore an important avenue for the voice of the poor and other marginalized groups to be heard. This could be expressed in term of people expressing their need by themselves to those who feel concerned about them. As independent initiatives in communities, CBOs are critical for social capital development and transformation, which are prerequisites for sustainable socio-economic development.

CBOs have not been given the full opportunity to play their rightful role in local communities thus contributing to national and international development. Several CBOs have been established or are in the process of

formation in the communities of Nigeria. These CBOs mobilize local and foreign resources to address social problems in their areas. Areas of concern have included water, electricity, roads, orphans, poverty issues, credit facilities, tree planting, and waste management. Gajanayake, and

Gajanayake, (1993) emphasizes a more full set of roles and purposes of CBOs in local societies as follows:

- Activating local knowledge, skills and systems for local development.
- Providing a forum for the community to collectively advocate for their social, economic and political needs.
- Mobilizing local resources to support local development.
- Initiating dialogue with key factors such as government and the private sector.

He indicated that awkwardly, although CBOs play a crucial role in socio-economic development; social, economic and cultural development in East Africa has tended to be a top-down affair, commonly controlled by government organizations. This in addition to other external pressures and influences from various actors in the CBO environment, has distorted the

ethos of CBOs, limiting them mostly to the role of service delivery and addressing immediate survival issues and needs.

Review of Strategies for Rural Development in Nigeria

Attempts by governments to develop rural areas in Nigeria is not new. It started in the colonial era. From the colonial period up to the end of the Second National Development Plan in 1974, rural development was pursued but solely through agricultural modernization approach which was in keeping with the prescription of the modernization perspective of development (Idike, 1992 & Ijere 1991). Because of the vital role of agriculture, its development remained the principal component of the rural development package after 1974. The idea of rural development in Nigeria during the colonial era (1990-1960) was characterized by agricultural production in response to external stimuli (i.e. demand from European countries to feed their industries with raw materials) and lacked focus on the wellbeing of the rural people (Idike, 1992 & Long, 1997).

The response of the first civilian government after independence to the challenges of rural development as summarized in the First and Second

Development Plans (1962-1968 & 1970-1974) about rural areas were a carryover from the colonial period i.e. rural development remained equated with agricultural development. All the strategies were targeted at improving agriculture.

During the Third National Development Plan period (1975-1980), the government formulated a more broad-based rural development strategy with objectives of increasing rural productivity and income, diversifying the rural economy generally and enhancing the quality of rural life through the provision of basic social amenities (Igbozurike, 1989).

The policy nevertheless remained emphasis on agricultural production and related activities. This was shown through the type of programmes established. For instance, Operation Feed The Nation (OFN) programme was established in 1976 to replace the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) of 1972 and the Green Revolution in 1980 to replace OFN.

The period of the Fourth National Development Plan (1981-1985) witnessed major changes in rural development strategies due to the re-

conceptualization of rural development by such agencies of change like World Bank, International Labour Organization, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) etc. the strategies were integrated Rural Development Programme, River Basin Development Approach, the Basic Needs Strategy and the instrument of local government. The approaches of integrated Rural Development through Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) and Accelerated Development Areas (ADA), and the River Basins Development Authorities had agriculture as their principal component. The Basic Needs Strategy was social with agriculture as the base. The military regime of President Ibrahim Babangida (1985-1993) created the National Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural infrastructure (DFRRI) for rural development. It was a multi-sectoral programme with an emphasis on the alleviation of rural poverty and enhanced quality of rural life. As well designed as the programme was, it could not achieve the desired objectives because it was highly politicized. The Better Life for Rural Women was established by the same regime targeted at caring for the rural poor Nigerians but also failed because it became a business venture for the ruling class (Igbozurike, 1989 & Ekong 2003).

In 2001, the democratic regime of Obasanjo initiated the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), the strategy to be adopted for coordinating, monitoring and implementing the programme was classified into four stages. The second strategy of NAPEP was Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS). This scheme was aimed at developing the rural areas in partnership with the electricity agencies, the existing communication networks and relevant water providing agencies through the Rural Transformation Programmes (RTP), Rural Energy Programme (REP), the rural Water Programme (RWP), and the Rural Communication Programme (RCP). The third scheme also was the social welfare service scheme for the provision of social services to alleviate both rural and urban poverty with the use of four programmes.

These include the Qualitative Education Programme (QEP), the Primary Health Programme (PHP), the Social Service Programme (SSP) and the farmers were targeted at the rural area which was the National Resources Development Scheme (NRDS). This was to ensure the conservation, harnessing and development of agricultural and other mineral resources found in the country through the Agricultural Resources Programme (ARP),

the Water Resources Programme (WRP), Solid Minerals Programme (SMP) and Environmental Protection programme (EPP). The entire NAPEP programme targeted to reduce unemployment by 50% by 2003, attain access to drinking water in rural and urban areas by 85% and rural infrastructure by 50% in 2003. One out of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and one of the seven-point agenda of Yar'Adua's regime was to develop the rural areas through agriculture. But the overall summary of impact is that none of these strategies have been able to lift the rural areas to the level of development.

Roles of CBOs in rural development

From the colonial period to date, all the rural development strategies were formulated by the government and taken down to the people. The government also assumed to know both the needs and wants of the rural people and feels that the problems of all rural people in different parts of the country are the same. This idea was responsible for the failure of some programmes in some rural areas and the refusal of some communities to accept some programmes. Some projects were sited in areas considered as

culturally unacceptable based either on cultural belief or sentiment within or between communities. For instance, a borehole provided by Benue Rural Water and Sanitation Agency in the Itakpa area of Obi Local Government Area of Benue State has not been put to use since it was commissioned because it is sited on a plot of land considered to be a meeting ground for witches and wizards. Poor implementation, monitoring, coordination, maintenance, sustainability, funding and corruption and major factors that accounted for the failure of all the rural development strategies in Nigeria (Ijere, 1991 & Igbozurike, 1989).

Since CBOs are founded by grassroots people within each community, members are known to each other, projects or programmes implementation can better be ensured. Every community or group of communities can insist and ensure the monitoring, coordination, maintenance and sustainability of its or their projects. The election of leaders can be based on character tendencies and corruption can easily be checked.

The CBOs are known to have the ability to influence the ideas and actions of others and as a result of this, they are regarded as effective change

agents (Adisa, 2001). The failure of governments' top-down approach and lack of involvement of the people at the grass-roots in the bottom-up strategy has reduced the confidence of the public in central authorities. Therefore, communities seek solace in indigenous institutions such as CBOs which undertake development programmes and projects that they observe as immediate needs in their communities (Adisa, 2013). Studies have shown that the activities of CBOs in rural project development have been seen as an important element and a sure way to the speedy development of the rural areas in Nigeria (Abegunde, 2008).

The impact of CBOs have been felt in the areas of social and economic development, policy matters, health, infrastructure, environmental and physical development among others (Adeokun, Adisa and Oladoja, 2006). The content of CBOs in Nigeria is broad-based leaving no aspect of rural life out. There are single and multi-purpose CBOs involved in various aspects of rural life. For instance, a study of CBOs in Benue State conducted by Akpehe (2006) shows CBOs categorization into ten. These are listed as:

- Community development organization (concerned with mobilization and utilization of community-based resources for sustainable development of rural communities).
- Charity organizations (formed for humanitarian purposes).
- Self-help (concerned with general wellbeing and development of communities)
- Charity organizations (formed for humanitarian purposes).
- Self-help (concerned with general wellbeing and development of communities)
- Producer organizations (engaged in a wide range of agricultural activities).
- Youth development organizations (aimed at mobilizing and encouraging youth participation in community development)
- Capacity building organizations (aimed at helping the very poor people to develop a clearer understanding of the social, political and economic factors that affect their lives).

- Women organizations (formed by women) determined to render services that can improve their socio-economic status in particular and communities within which they operate in general).
- Service provision organizations (formed to offer essential development services that could be difficult if left for government or individuals alone).
- Market/enterprise organizations (carry out various commercial activities)
- Micro-credit organizations (encourage community savings and small-scale loaning scheme).

The aggregate nature of CBOs is comprehensive as no aspect of rural need is left out. Examples abound of CBOs across all geopolitical zones of the country that have impacted positively on the well-being of their members. For instance, some rural communities in South-Western Nigeria through self-organized arrangements, mutual agreements and shared understanding, planned and executed public goods and services that directly touched on the lives of their people at the cost of N26,204,000.00. Oriokuta community spent N70,000.00 on road

maintenance in 1995, Famia community-contributed to the FamiaModakeke road project and the Elerole community spent N50,000.00 in 1995 for their road construction. In the area of the construction of culverts, Aponmode, IsaleAmero and Alabata communities in Akinyele local government area spent N1.4 million on the construction of culverts between 1996 and 2000. Igbope community in Oorelope local government spent N85,000.00 to open new roads at the outskirts of the community. Ara Joshua community in Ife South Local Government Area also resorted to self-help efforts for road maintenance (Akinola, 2007).

In the area of health facilities, nine health clinics were provided in the Ife region but the clinics suffered from a lack of staff and inadequate drugs supply. In the same manner, Alabata, Ile-ogbo and Igbope communities contributed N250,000.00, N410,000.00 and N2.5 million to the building of maternity centre in 1983-1987, 1992 and 2000 respectively (Akinola, 2007). The educational sector was not left out by these communities. Emure community spent N1.8 million for the building of a model secondary school from 2001-2005. The people of

IwoAte in Ogo-Oluwa Local Government constructed a block of six classrooms with a staff room and one workshop in 1985. Aseri and Akarakum communities in Badagry local government area renovated a primary school at the cost of N300,000.00 in 1995, the Igare community disbursed money to students in various tertiary institutions as bursary awards at N10,000.00 per student. All the communities in the Ife region spent N190,000.00 for the provision of electricity in 1995.

A study of the contributions of CBOs to community development in Lagos State was carried out by Akinsorotan and Olujide in 2005. They discovered that CBOs in Lagos State exist under different names and varying sizes scattered over the state. They supplied labour and contributed money to execute their felt-needs projects with little or no interference from external bodies. Their projects empowered the beneficiaries to break the cycle of poverty. Some of the executed projects were the provision of health facilities (health centres, maternity homes and dispensaries), market stalls, roads, schools, post office, wells, boreholes, pipe-borne water and electricity.

In the North-Central Zone of Nigeria CBOs in Benue State were not left out. For instance, Shangev-Ya Development Association in Kwande Local Government Area established Shangev-Ya Community Secondary School which facilitated capacity building and skill acquisition. The same association established a Health care centre for the improvement of the health status of the community members. It further procured two milling machines and rehabilitated 23 kilometres of the road as well as eight culverts. It also had a small scale loan scheme (Akpeher, 2006). Gbatse Youth Association in Vandeikya Local Government in Benue State is credited for her recorded achievement. In 1992, it rehabilitated a 37-kilometre road, constructed local bridges across the Ugungu, uavande and Ukyaaagu streams, constructed a public well in the Ahilejime market area and formed a vigilante group for community policing and dispute settling (Akpeher, 2006).

In the South-South Zone of Nigeria, a similar thing happened in Bayelsa State in 2006. Fourteen communities within Kolo Creek Local Government Area founded a foundation known as Kolo Creek Foundation. Some communities participating in the foundation mobilized

themselves to undertake significant self-help projects. For instance, the Amorokeni community built toilets, Kolo one, two and three communities came together and built a weekly market to enhance commercial activities in their area and the Yiba-Ama community rewired the electricity project in their area (Ebeleke, 2007).

Problems and Constraints of CBOs

Despite the actions of CBOs towards the development of the economic sector in communities in Nigeria, some several issues and constraints are being faced by the CBOs. Some of the problems include:

Finance

The costs of executing CBOs' projects are borne by the members in form of contributions, membership dues, levies, fines and donations. None of the CBOs receives subventions and donations from statutory bodies or funding agencies. Most of the CBOs spent a huge amount on various development projects. Except for members of International Organizations some religious organizations that are relatively rich, many other CBOs have a weak financial base.

Manpower

CBOs are also faced with the problem of manpower during the actual implementation of projects. Most club members are reluctant to be members of the project committee. Some members of CBOs such as Social Clubs, Town Unions and International Organizations do not reside within the community. This makes the task of project committee members more difficult. Project committee members found it difficult to meet and discuss, procure the materials necessary to the project site and supervise the project.

The work of a five-man committee is, therefore, left for one or two persons to shoulder. The problem of manpower has been one of the factors constituting a hindrance to the effective execution of projects. Only a few members of the project committee were left to implement the projects and also do not seek the services of professionals.

Government Policies

Agbola (2002) remarked that the Non-Governmental Organization often multiply where governmental rules favour them. Most CBOs

treasure their freedom. A situation where CBOs are at the mercy of officials of the Local Government to approve their project proposal and the bureaucratic process within the Government, hamper speedy execution of projects. This approval may take up to weeks (even when such proposals are approved) before the authorities of the Local Government consent to the proposal and write the CBOs officially. Many controls are being imposed by officials of the Local Government. CBOs must first seek clearance and approval before they could embark on any project.

Unfortunately, the Local Government cannot monitor and evaluate development units within the various departments of the Local Government. These controls coupled with non-encouragement and supports from the government are some of the reasons why CBOs do not finance and execute many economic development projects in partnership with the Local Government.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this chapter is to explain the method and procedure that will be used in conducting this research. Based on this, the following research methods will be employed in the course of carrying out this study.

- Research Design
- The Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Instrumentation
- The Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Administration of the Instrument
- Method of Data Analysis

Research Design

The research design for this study was a descriptive survey research design. The survey design examines the existence or occurrence of a phenomenon or variable. It is usually employed by collecting data and

describing systematically the characteristic features or facts about a given population from a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire group.

Population of the study

The population of this study comprised all the people living in Akure-South local government in Ondo State.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample for the study will consist of 200 respondents selected from five rural communities in the local government of the State. This will be done using the Multi-stage sampling technique. Below is the process of selection:

1. Four communities will be selected using a stratified sampling technique out of the fifteen communities in the local government area. The selection will be based on the issues of rurality of all the communities in the local government area. The five communities selected will be the lowest in terms of population size and considered as being more rural than the others.

2. In the second stage of selection, fifty respondents will be selected from each of the four communities selected in the first stage using accidental sampling. Hence, two hundred respondents who are indigenes of the selected communities will be the sample for the study.

Research Instrument

Data for the study will be collected through the use of the questionnaire which was designed based on the research questions raised. The questionnaire is divided into two sections, A and B. Section A focused on the demographic or personal data of the respondents such as age, sex, etc. while section B contained information that borders on the issue under study.

Validity of the Instrument

To determine the validity of the instrument, the researcher adopted the expert judgment approach. By this, the instrument was given to experts in the area under study to be assessed for validation. The experts involved in the assessment include my supervisor and other lecturers in the Department.

Reliability of the Instrument

A test-retest reliability method was used to ascertain the reliability of the research instrument. The instrument was administered twice in a pilot study, which involved twenty (20) respondents. The measures of the two sets of data were correlated and a reliability index of 0.87 was obtained using Person Product Moment Correlation Statistics

Administration of the Instrument

The researcher administered the instrument personally together with a research assistant. This helped to ensure easy and accurate distribution and collection of the instrument from the respondents

Method of Data Analysis

In analysing the data, the researcher shall make use of frequency count, simple percentage, and mean score standard.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter focuses on the presentation of results collected from the investigation. The findings are also discussed. The analyses were also done in relation to the demographic data of the respondents and the research questions examined.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex.

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	76	38
Female	124	62
Total	200	100

Results in Table 2.1 shows that 76 or 38% of the sampled respondents are male while 124 or 62% are female. This means that female participants are more than male participants in the study. The sex distribution of respondents is demonstrated with the bar chart below

Figure 1.1

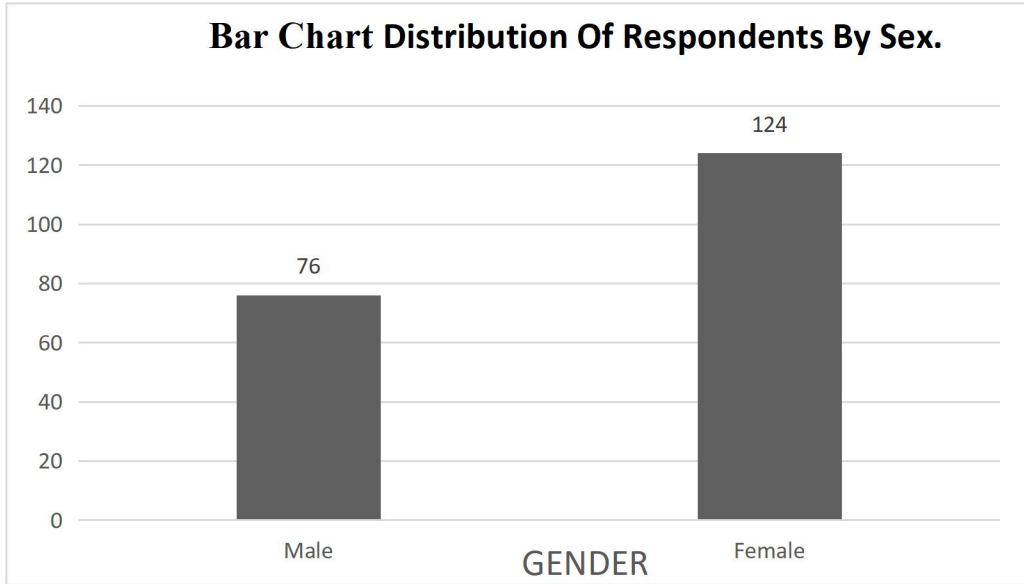


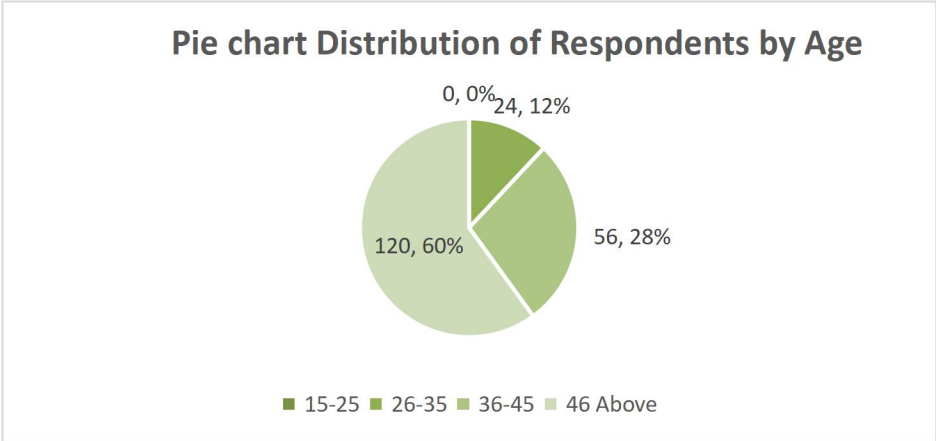
Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age.

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
15-25	0	0
26-35	24	12
36-45	56	28
46-above	120	60
Total	200	100

Results in Table 2.2 show that no sampled respondents are in the age range of 15-25, 24 or 12% of them are in the age range of 26-35, while 56 or 28% of

them are in the age range of 36-45. Similarly, 120 or 60% of the respondents fell into the age range of 46 and above. This means that the majority of the participants are older people. The age distribution of respondents is demonstrated with the pie chart below

Figure 1.2



Research Question 1: What are the various types of Community Based Organization in your area?

The Responses to Research Question 1 Presented in Table 3

Table 3. Distribution of responses on are the various types of Community Based Organization in your area.

ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1. Users associations (UAs)	200	2.2650	Rejected
2. Micro-finance institutions (MFIs)	200	2.7200	Accepted
3. Village development committees (VDCs)	200	2.9350	Accepted
4. Common interest groups (CIGs)	200	2.6350	Accepted
5. Networks of CBOs	200	2.6350	Accepted
6. Landlord Association	200	3.5450	Accepted
7. Women Association	200	3.4750	Accepted
8. Youth Association	200	3.4673	Accepted
9. Farmers Organization	200	3.3600	Accepted
10. Trade union	200	3.2700	Accepted

The data in Table above shows that items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all accepted. While items 1 did not meet the criterion mean and so is not accepted. This, therefore, means that Micro-finance institutions (MFIs), Village development

committees (VDCs), Common interest groups (CIGs), Networks of CBOs, Landlord Association, Women Association, Youth Association, Farmers Organization and Trade union are the various types of Community Based Organization in the LGA.

Research Question 2: How do people perceive the activities of the Community Based Organization in the area under study?
The Responses to Research Question 2 Presented in Table 4

Table 4. Distribution of responses on are the various types of Community Based Organization in your area.

	ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1.	People perceived CBOs as Agent of change in the community	200	2.2650	Accepted
2.	People perceived CBOs as indigenous community development initiatives	200	2.7200	Accepted
3.	People perceived CBOs as association that is concerned about the welfare of the community people	200	2.9350	Accepted
4.	People perceived CBOs as an alternative to government in their quest to develop rural communities	200	2.6350	Accepted
5.	People perceived CBOs as organizations that helps to provide basic amenities for rural communities	200	2.6350	Accepted

6.	People perceived CBOs as government tools for rural community extortion	200	1.5450	Rejected
7.	People perceived CBOs as organization that represent the government in the rural area	200	1.4750	Rejected

The data in Table above shows that items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all accepted. While items 6 and 7 did not meet the criterion mean and so is not accepted. This, therefore, means that people perceived CBOs as Agent of change, indigenous community development initiatives and as an association that is concerned about the welfare of the community people. They also perceived CBOs as an alternative to government in their quest to develop rural communities and as organizations that helps to provide basic amenities for rural communities.

Research Question 3: How often is Community Based Organization’s activities in your community?

The Responses to Research Question 3 Presented in Table 5

Table 5. Distribution of responses on are the various types of Community Based Organization in your area.

ITEMS	N	Mean	Remark
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			Score	
1.	Rarely Activities	200	2.2550	Rejected
2.	Weekly Activities	200	2.5050	Accepted
3.	Monthly Activities	200	3.4250	Accepted
4.	Yearly Activities	200	3.2650	Accepted

The data in Table above shows that items 2, 3, and 4 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all accepted, While items 1 did not meet the criterion mean and so is not accepted. This, therefore, means that the Community Based Organization’s activities in the communities under study are only carried out Weekly, Monthly and Yearly.

Research Question 4: What are the roles of Community Based Organization in your community?

The Responses to Research Question 4 Presented in Table 6

Table 6. Distribution of responses on are the various types of Community Based Organization in your area.

	ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1.	Sponsor Training	200	2.3250	Rejected
2.	Financing Project	200	2.7850	Accepted
3.	Liaison with Government	200	2.9950	Accepted

4.	Promoting mutual understanding	200	3.4000	Accepted
5.	Raising fund for project execution	200	3.1350	Accepted
6.	Planning of programmes	200	3.1950	Accepted
7.	Economic empowerment	200	3.0300	Accepted
8.	Cooperation with other organizations	200	2.9650	Accepted
9.	Protecting the image of the community	200	3.3450	Accepted
10.	trade union	200	3.0300	Accepted
11.	Security for Comm. & government projects	200	3.3500	Accepted
12.	Function to harmonize and ensure unity among rural dwellers for effective Agricultural and rural growth,	200	3.3800	Accepted

The data in Table above shows that items 2, 3, 4 to 12 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all accepted, While items 1 did not meet the criterion mean and so is not accepted. This, therefore, means that the roles of Community Based Organization in the area under study are to Finance Projects, Liaison with Government, Promoting mutual understanding, Raising fund for project execution, planning of programmes, Economic empowerment, Cooperation with other organizations, protecting the image of the community, trade union, Security for Community and

government projects, and harmonize and ensure unity among rural dwellers for effective Agricultural and rural growth.

Research Question 5: What are the various problems hindering the services of Community Based Organization in your community?

The Responses to Research Question 5 Presented in Table 7

Table 7. Distribution of responses on are the various types of Community Based Organization in your area.

ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1. Finance	200	3.7200	Accepted
2. Manpower	200	2.5300	Accepted
3. Government Policies	200	2.8450	Accepted
4. Poor Management	200	3.0850	Accepted
5. Lack of Cooperation	200	2.8700	Accepted
6. Cooperation with other organizations	200	2.5850	Accepted
7. Bad Leadership	200	3.1450	Accepted

The data in Table above shows that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all accepted. This, therefore, means that the various problems hindering the services of Community Based Organization in the area are Finance, Manpower, Government Policies, Poor Management, Lack of Cooperation, and Cooperation with other organizations and Bad Leadership.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In this chapter, the summary of the study is presented alongside the conclusion drawn from the analysis of data collected in the course of the study. The recommendations offered in relations to the findings of the study are also highlighted.

Summary

This study was designed to determine the role of CBOs in the development of rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State. To achieve the purpose intended for the study, four research questions were raised to guide the study. The questions raised and examined include:

- What are the various types of Community Based Organization in the study area?
- Are the activities of the Community Based Organization regular in the development of the community?
- What are the roles of Community Based Organization in the study area?

- What are the various problems hindering the services of Community Based Organization?

Two hundred (200) respondents were selected from four communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State which constituted the sample for the study and were used to generate the data needed. The reliability index of the instrument was 0.76 using the Pearson product-moment statistical formula from data of the pilot study carried out on it. The data collected were analysed using mean analysis and frequency and simple percentage. The results obtained from the analysis were quite revealing and instructive. These results are presented here under

Findings

The major findings from the study include:

- ❖ The various types of Community Based Organization in the area are Micro-finance institutions (MFIs), Village development committees (VDCs), Common interest groups (CIGs), Networks of CBOs, Landlord Association, Women Association, Youth Association, Farmers Organization and Trade union.

- ❖ The people's perception of CBOs in the area under study is that they are Agents of change, indigenous community development initiatives and an association that is concerned about the welfare of the community people. They also perceived CBOs as an alternative to government in their quest to develop rural communities and as organizations that helps to provide basic amenities for rural communities.
- ❖ Community-Based Organization's activities in the communities under study are only carried out on Weekly, Monthly and Yearly bases.
- ❖ The roles of Community Based Organization in the area under study are to Finance Projects, Liaison with Government, Promoting mutual understanding, Raising fund for project execution, planning of programmes, Economic empowerment, Cooperation with other organizations, protecting the image of the community, trade union, Security for Community and government projects, and harmonize and ensure unity among rural dwellers for effective Agricultural and rural growth.

- ❖ The various problems hindering the services of Community Based Organization in the area are Finance, Manpower, Government Policies, Poor Management, Lack of Cooperation, and Cooperation with other organizations and Bad Leadership.

Conclusion

Based on the findings made from data collected and analyzed, it was concluded that the CBOs are the key development agents in rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State.

Recommendations

In view of the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby offered

In the first instance, there is a need to investigate the relationship and the differences between government initiated communities based projects and CBO's projects. This, it is believed will expand the development opportunities available to rural dwellers.

Secondly, formal and specific organized steps should be taken by the government to develop the rural areas to curb the problem of rural underdevelopment.

Suggestions for Further Studies

Having successfully carried out this study, though not without some limitations, it is suggested that further studies be carried out in such areas as:

1. Appraisal of existing programmes/interventions of CBOs in rural areas
2. The roles of government in supporting CBOs in achieving rural community development in Nigeria

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APPENDIX

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE ROLES OF CBOS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN AKURE-SOUTH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ONDO STATE.**

Dear Respondents,

The researcher is conducting a study on the roles of CBOs in the development of rural communities in Akure-South Local Government, Ondo State.

We will like you to respond as correctly as possible. Your responses will be used solely for this research and as such will be treated as confidential.

Thanks for your understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Researcher

Please tick (✓) good to select from among the provided options

- SA: Strongly Agreed
- A: Agreed
- D: Disagreed
- SD Strongly Disagreed

SECTION A

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. **Gender;** Male (), Female ()
2. **Age:** 15-25 (), 26-35 (), 36-45 (), 46 above()

SECTION B:

QUESTION 1: Types of Community Based Organization

What are the various types of Community Based Organization in your area?

Please tick (✓) to select from among the provided options.

- SA: Strongly Agreed
- A: Agreed
- D: Disagreed
- SD: Strongly Disagreed

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1	Users associations (UAs)				
2	Micro-finance institutions (MFIs)				
3	Village development committees (VDCs)				
4	Common interest groups (CIGs)				
5	Networks of CBOs				
6	Landlord Association				
7	Women Association				

8	Youth Association				
9	farmers Organization				
10	trade union				

QUESTION 2: Peoples' Perception of Community Based Organization

How do people perceive the activities of the Community Based Organization in the area under study?

Please tick (✓) to select from among the provided options.

- SA: Strongly Agreed
- A: Agreed
- D: Disagreed
- SD: Strongly Disagreed

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1	People perceived CBOs as Agent of change in the community				
2	People perceived CBOs as indiginious community development initiatives				
3	People perceived CBOs as association that is concerned about the welfare of the community people				
4	People perceived CBOs as an alternative to government in their quest to develop rural communities				

5	People perceived CBOs as organizations that helps to provide basic amenities for rural communities				
6	People perceived CBOs as government tools for rural community extortion				
7	People perceived CBOs as organization that represent the government in the rural area				

QUESTION 3: CBOs Regular Activities

How often is Community Based Organization's activities in your community?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
8.	Rarely Activities				
9.	Weekly Activities				
10.	Monthly Activities				
11.	Yearly Activities				

QUESTION 4: Roles of Community Based Organization

What are the roles of Community Based Organization in your community?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Sponsor Training				
2.	Financing Project				
3.	Liaison with Government				
4.	Promoting mutual understanding				

5.	Raising fund for project execution				
6.	Planning of programmes				
7.	Economic empowerment				
8.	Cooperation with other organizations				
9.	Protecting the image of the community				
10.	trade union				
11.	Security for Comm. & government projects				
12.	Function to harmonize and ensure unity among rural dwellers for effective Agricultural and rural growth,				

QUESTION 5: Problem hindering the services of Community-Based Organization?

What are the various problems hindering the services of Community Based Organization in your community?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Finance				
2.	Manpower				
3.	Government Policies				
4.	Poor Management				
5.	Lack of Cooperation				
6.	Cooperation with other organizations				
7.	Bad Leadership				

SW

