

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PLATEAU STATE

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Abstract

The Rural Communities In Nigeria Since Independence To Date Have Experienced Gross Underdevelopment, This Has Manifested Itself In The Rural Areas In The Form Of Unemployment, Poverty, Illiteracy, Prostitution, High Mortality Rate, Kidnapping, Banditry, Boko Haram Insurgency, Corruption, Poor Educational Facilities, Robbery Among Others. These Social Vices Continued To Manifest In The Communities Despite Government Intervention With Several Policies And Programmes. The Inability Of Government At All Levels To Solve These Fundamental Problems That Affects Rural Populace, The People In These Communities Decided To Organise Themselves Into Community Development Associations To Address The Challenges That Affect Them. The Methodology That Was Used In This Research Work Was Descriptive And Qualitative Using Thematic Analysis. The Data Were Derived From Both Primary And Secondary Sources. The Study Revealed That Community Development Associations In Plateau State Have Contributed To Rural Development. The Study Showed That The Proliferation Of Community Development Associations In Plateau State Was As A Result Of The Failure Of Government Policies And Programmes To Address The Needs Of The People At The Grass Root Level. The Research Work Recommends That People Should Form Self-help Associations To Bring The Much-needed Public Goods In The Rural Areas. The Need To Organise A Formal Dialogue Between The People And Rural Development Partners To Establish A Meaningful Rural Development Policy.

Keywords: Community Development; Rural Policies; Rural Development.

Introduction

The Conditions Of Rural Areas In Nigeria Are Very Pathetic, For Example, Increase In Illiteracy Rate, Diseases, Poverty, Unemployment, Increase In Mortality Rate, High Cost Of Agricultural Facilities Without Corresponding Increase In Farm Products, Robbery, Prostitution, Banditry, Kidnapping, Fraud, Boko Haram Insurgency Among Others. the Intervention Of Government By Planning Some Community Development Programmes Like; National Social Investment Programme, Subsidy Reinvestment Programme, National Economic And Empowerment

Development, Youth Empowerment Programmes, national Directorate Of Employment Among Others. As Stated:

Regardless Of The Techniques Adopted By Different Governments In Nigeria To Address Local Underdevelopment Issues, The Story Continues As Before. There Are Still Imbalance And Poverty Especially In The Rural Territories. There Is A Great Deal Of Public Grumbings On The Underdevelopment Circumstances Of Numerous Rural Territories Which Constitutes A Danger To Nigeria's Vision Of Getting One Of The Twenty Most Grounded Economies By 2020 (vision 2020). A Great Deal Of Assets (financial) Has Been Infused, However All In Vein(yakubu 2009) Cited In.

Supporting The Above; There Are Some Crisis Indicators Which Include; Poor Governance Characterised By Corruption, Social Injustice, Political Instability, Gross Mismanagement, Poor Infrastructural Facilities In Rural Areas.

In Support Of The Effort Pf Community Development Associations, The United Nations Agency For Social And Economic Development Posits That Rural Development Is The Quantitative Change Or Upliftment In The Standard Of People In The Rural Areas, Brought About Through Integrated Approach, By Both Governmental And Non-governmental Agencies And The People Themselves. Obinne In Ogidefa (2010) In Perceived Rural Development:

To Include Making And Broadening Opportunities For (rural) People To Acknowledge Maximum Capacity Through Education And Partaking In Decision And Activity Which Influence Their Lives. He Likewise Saw It As Endeavors To Increment Rural Output And Make Employment Opportunities While Eradicating Essential (or Extreme) Instances Of Poverty, Illnesses And Ignorance.

Hence, Consolidating All The Basic Components Of Community Development, Rural Development Can Be Portrayed As The Incorporated Way To Deal With Food Production As Well As Physical, Social And Institutional Infrastructural Activities With An Ultimate Objective Of Achieving Both Quantitative And Subjective Changes Which Bring About Improved Expectation For Everyday Comforts Of The Rural Population.

Literature Review

Community Development Associations

Community Development Is A Process Of Collective Action By The Members Of The Community To Have Control Over Issues Bordering On Their Living Conditions. In Other Words, It Is Seen As Social Process Through Which The Communities Collectively Take Control Of Their Destiny With The Aim Of Improving Their Living Conditions. That Is Why Matanmi (2007:100) Asserted That:

Individuals Have Come To Understand That The Administration At Local, State Or Federal Levels Can't Give Every One Of Their Needs. This Has Required The Coming Together Of Individuals To Form Community Development Associations That Will Take Care For A Portion Of The Social And Financial Needs Of The People.

In This Regard, The Activities Of Community Development Associations Have Become Pronounced And Vital Due To The Failure Of The State. That Is Why Many Community Development Associations Have Been Known To Have The Social And Economic Development Of Their Various Communities As Their Major Objectives Where They Are Located. For Example, In

The Area Of Education, Many Community Development Associations Have Been Involved In Building Classrooms For Primary And Secondary Schools. Although These Were Later Handed Over To The Government, They Are Still Building Many Community Secondary And Primary Schools. This Claim Was Supported By (matanmi,2007:95):

" That Community Development Associations Additionally Play Noticeable Parts In The Provision Of Infrastructural Amenities, For Example, Roads, Culvert And Social Administrations, For Instance, Clinics, Market Stalls, Pipe-borne Water, Boreholes And Electricity. He Further Notes That It Is Clear That Indigenous Information And Decision Making Nationalized Through Local Associations, For Example, Occupational Associations, Age Grade Affiliations, Fill In As A Medium By Which Communities Can Carry On Any Self-help Venture. This Is To Ingrain In The Individuals The Spirit Of Helping Themselves Accordingly Reducing The Accept That Government Will Give And Do Everything To The Individuals".

In Line With The Provision Of Infrastructures By Community Development Associations. The Study Showed That These Community Development Associations Have Engaged In The Provision Of These Public Goods. As Indicated By An Investigation Led By On The Activities Of Community Development Associations In Atiba Local Government Region Of Osun State Uncovered That There Were About 160 Community Development Associations In The Territory. Approximately 40% Of These Community Development Associations Gave Social Amenities Worth N17.56 Million Naira To Their Immediate Communities.

Rural Development

The Concept Of Rural Development Was Seen As Socio-economic Development Of The Rural Areas, With The Sole Purpose Of Improving The Standard Of Living Of The Local Poor People. It Was Noted In The Word Of Jere, 1990; Chukeuemeka& Charity, (2011), See Rural Development As The Procedure Of Expanding The Per Capita Income And The Standard Of Living Of The Rural People. To Enable Them To Become The Pillars That Will Move Their Destiny. In Another View (paul, Salisu, Agba, Michael & Chukwurah, 2013; Ogidefa, 2010) Perceived Rural Development As That:

Which Include Forming And Widening Chances For (rural) People To Realise The Full Capacity Through Learning And Share In Making A Decision And Act, Which Affect Their Survival. That It Is The Ability To Improve On The Rural Output And Create Empowerment Opportunities And Eradicate The Problems Of Ignorance, Poverty, And Diseases.

Thus, Rural Development Has To Do With Qualitative Changes In The Local Environment In Terms Of Social, Economic And Cultural Spheres. It Is The Overall Development In The Condition Of Living Of The Populace Residing In Areas That Are Lacking In Terms Of Socio-economic Development. Rural Development Has To Do With The Effort Of The People Together With Other Partners In Community And Rural Development Projects To Improve The Standard Of Living Of The People In The Communities.

In The Case Of Plateau State, Little Or No Research Has Been Undertaken To Assess The Contributions Of Community Development Associations And Rural Development In Plateau State.

Theoretically, This Research Article Adopted The Community Development Theory. The Summary Of The Main Characteristics Of The Theory To Include; Organisation Of Community Agencies, Development Of Local Competences, Political Action For Change, Tenets Of Structural

Change, Socio Economic Integration, Institutional Development And Renewal, Collective Problem Solving, Self-help And Empowerment, Participation, Mobilisation Of Material And Human Resources, Developing Social Capital, Social Inclusion And Capacity Building. Thus, Community Development Associations Are Aimed At Developing A Strong Viable And Improved Community, It Is A Fact That In Any Country Especially Nigeria, It Is Very Difficult For The Government However Benevolent To Provide All The Needs Of The People In Rural Communities.

In Support Of The Theory Of Community Development, The Upsurge Of Community Development Associations Has Become Inevitable Because Human Needs Are Many And Government Alone Cannot Cater For Such Needs. It Is Supposed To Be A Collaborative Work Among Partners In Community Development Project. The Aim Of Such Community Developmentpartners Is To Ensure The Provision Of Community Infrastructures For The Generality Of The Local Populace. That Is Why Observed That:

Human Needs Are Unquenchable And The Government Alone Can't Meet Them, Different Endeavors Have Been Made By Government, Local Communities, Voluntary And International Associations To Change Rural Communities In Recent Times. One Of The Methodologies Being Utilized Is Best Carried Out Under Umbrella Of Community Development Associations To Give The Necessities Of Communities In The Sphere Welfare Services And The Providing Other Infrastructural Services To Make Life Significant To Them. He Further Said That, It Is The Aggregation Of Individuals Living Inside A Given Region Or Community With A Sole Point Of Pinpointing Their Felt Needs And Concurring On The Ways, Means And Moves Towards The Acknowledgment Of Such Identified Needs.

As A Result Of The Effort By The Community Development Partners, The Theory Of Community Development Is Seen As A Forum For People To Articulate Their Views, Aspirations And Community Needs. The Purpose Is To Consider The Most Effective Way Of Addressing Their Felt Needs Within The Pull Of Resources At Their Disposal. This Scenario Was Captured By Adebagba(2006):

That The Essential Aim Of Community Development Associations Is To Help Individuals In The Local Community To Identified Their Social Needs, To Consider The Best Method Of Meeting These And To Begin Doing As Such, As Long As The Availability Of Resources Permit Them. Hence It Targets At Developing And Preserving Society That Pre-assumes And Strengthens A Common Direction Of Interest And Collaboration So As To Accomplish Share Points.

Methodology/materials

Study Area:plateau State Is The Twelfth Largest State In Nigeria, And Is Roughly Located In The Center Of The Country. Its Capital Is Jos, Plateau State Is Celebrated As ``the Home Of Peace And Tourism``. It Has A Population Of Around 3.5 Million People Based On The 2006 Population Census Conducted By National Population Commission In 2006.

Plateau State Is Located In Nigeria`s Middle Belt. With An Area Of 26,899 Square Kilometers, It Is Located Between Latitude 80 Degree 24`n And Latitude 80 Degree 32` And 100degree 38` East. The State Is Named After The Picturesque Jos Plateau, A Mountainous Area In The North Of The State With Captivating Rock Formations. Bare Rocks Are Scattered Across The Grasslands, Which Cover The Plateau. The Altitude Ranges From Around 1,200 Meters (about 4,000 Feet) To A Peak Of 1,829 Meters Above Sea Level In The Shere Hills Range Near Jos. Years Of Tin Mining Have Also Left The Area Strewn With Deep Gorges And Lakes.

Research Design;

A Research Design Is Seen As A Framework For The Gathering And Breaking Down Of Data. The Selection Of A Research Design Shows Decisions About The Scale Of Preference Relating To Different Approaches To The Research Process (bryman, 2001). The Research Design For This Study Is Narrative, Which Will Be The Most Appropriate For The Comprehension Of The Character And Tradition Of Community Development Associations And Rural Development Activities.

Sampling Method:

Therefore, A Purposive Sampling Method Is A Judgmental Sampling; It Means The Researcher's Choice Of The Informant. This Is Because Of The Qualities That The Informant Possesses. It Is Not A Random Sampling Technique That Needs Underlying Theories. In Another Way, The Researcher Will Be The One To Decide. What Is To Be Done And Plan To Get People Who Are Willing To Provide The Information Based On Their Knowledge Or Experience

Data Collection Method: The Sources Of Data For The Study Were Both Primary And Secondary Data. Primary Data Are Original Research Responses Which Are Obtained Via The First-hand Study. In Contrast, Secondary Data Remains As Research Information Which Is Widely Obtainable And Gotten From Relevant Literature. Primary Data Include Information Collected From Interviews, Audios And Videos Recordings, Observations, Records Of Minutes Of Meetings, Focus Groups, Among Others.

Secondary Data Refers To The Existing Dataset Which Had Previously Been Gathered By Another Person Conducting Research, Which Could Be For A Different Research Question. Therefore, Secondary Data Are Obtained From Related Textbooks, Journals, Magazines, Periodicals, Reports On Community Development Associations And Rural Development Activities In Plateau State. Others Are Seminar Papers, Articles And Other Related Books On The Subject Matter

In This Research, A Qualitative Approach Was Being Used. The Rationale Behind Using Qualitative Methodology Is To Increase The Understanding About Dynamics, Opinions And Perceptions Of People In The Case Study Areas On Community Development Associations And Rural Development Activities And Its Significance In Improving The Average Living Conditions Of The Populace At The Local Level.

Data Analysis

Data Analysis Is Described As The Method Of Using Logical Means To Recap, Condense, Or Evaluate The Data Collated From The Field. However, The Researcher Adopted The Use Of Qualitative Data Analysis, Which Dealswith The Interpretation Of The Data Obtained From The Field. This Was Through Interviews, Recordings Of Minutes Of Meetings, Audio/video Recordings, Observations, Among Others.

However, The Researcher Employed The Use Of Thematic Analysis As A Type Of Qualitative Data Analysis For The Comprehension Of The Trend Under Study. Thematic Data Analysis Deals With The Identification Of Patterns And Themes Within The Data Through The Process Of Familiarisation, Generating Codes, Searching For Themes, Review Themes, And Writing The Analysis And Findings.

Results/discussion

The Research Findings Revealed That Community Development Associations In Plateau State Have Contributed To Rural Development Through Community Empowerment Process. Community Development Associations Have Empowered Communities In Providing Amenities. As Asserted By A Member Of Gar Community Development Association (gcda):

"the Association Has Contributed A Lot To Rural Development By Empowering The Community On The Plateau, Such As Building Classrooms And Halls At Government Secondary School Gar. It Has Also Assisted In Paying Parent-teachers Association Staff At Government Secondary School Gar. The Association Built Two Classes At Central Primary School In Gar. It Constructed Roads From Central Primary School Gar To Kamoi. The Association Through Communal Labour Constructed Rural Roads From Central Primary School Gar To Angwan Mission``.

The Above Assertion On Community Empowerment By These Community Development Associations On Education Captured By Another Member Of Tel Community Development Association (tcda):

"as A Member Of The Association, Our Association Has Contributed To Education. It Has Paid School Fees/scholarships To The Less Privilege Students In Both Secondary And Tertiary Institutions. The Association Embarked On Medical Outreach To The People Of The Community, Thereby Referring Some Of Them For More Medical Attention In Mangu Rehabilitation Centre".

To Confirm The Fact That Community Development Associations And Rural Development In Plateau State Have Engaged In Community Empowerment In The Rural Areas Of The State. In The Work Of Mallo And Anigbogu (2010) On Rural Community Participation In Infrastructural Development. Case Study Of Some Selected Communities In Plateau State, Nigeria. The Study Revealed The Following;

Table Social Infrastructure Projects Achieved Through A Community Effort To Empower Communities In Bokkos District Of Plateau State

Type of infrastructure Project	Number of communities	Period			
		1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2009	2009-2020
Building of schools	05	04	-----	01	-----
Establishment of health care facility	02	01	01	-----	-----
Renovation of public facility such as primary health care and secondary schools	21	04	06	07	04
Construction/donation of a block of the classroom to public primary or secondary schools	22	07	07	06	02
Water supply (sinking of the borehole)	03	-----	-----	03	-----

Source: Mallo And Anigbogu (2020).

That Rural Community Of Bokkos District In Plateau State Are Conscious Of The Fact That Community Empowerment Contributes To Human Capital Formation And Development. As Such, They Have Made Attempts To Complement Government Efforts By Building And Renovating Public Schools, Health Care Facilities, Rural Water Supply, Among Others (mallo & Anigbogu, 2010).

In Plateau State, These Community Development Associations Apart From Community Empowerment Through The Provision Of Educational Facilities, They Have Empowered Communities By Opening Up Skill Acquisition Centres In Their Community. This Was Revealed By A Member Of (ngas Development Association (nda):

"we Were Able To Build Skill Acquisition Centers In Pankshin To Train Youths In Various Skills, For Example, Tailoring, Carpentry, Welding, Salon, Among Others. We Were Able To Organised Youths In Our Various Branches To Prevent This Social Problem Such As Drinking Of Illicit Drugs Known As ``gokolo``. The Problem We Have Here Is That Those Who Trade In The Illicit Drugs Claimed That They Are Licensed, But Our Stand Is That No One Can Be Licensed To Kill. If They Are Licensed, Let Them Go Back To Their Various Places And Use The License There. These Are Some Of The Problems We Have".

The Above Statement Was Further Captured By A Member Of (afizere Cultural And Community Development Association, Accda) That Their Association Has Contributed To Rural Development In Several Ways; In Conjunction With Non-governmental Organisation. The Association Empowered Women By Giving Them Soft Loans To Aid In Their Businesses In Making Soap, Salon, Pomade, Among Others. That The Association Was Established On The Pillar To Foster Unity And Progress Among Members. The Organisation Sensitizes Members On The Need To Empower Themselves. The Association Assists Members With Soft Loans So That They Can Contribute Meaningfully To The Development Of The Community(a Member Ofan Community Development Association (fcda).

In The Sphere Of Road Construction, Rehabilitation And Maintenance, These Community Development Associations Have Contributed. As Stated By A Member (irrigwe Community Development Association Icda): "our Community Development Association Has Contributed A Lot, It Has Constructed Roads From Peryang To Danmangu. The Association Constructed Four Culverts Within Irrigwe Community To Connect The Various Villages. Still, It Faced The Challenge Of Fund Which They Couldn't Be Able To Finish Them". That Our Organisation During Rainy Season Mobilises For The Construction And Filling Of Potholes Linking Government Science School Kuru With National Institute For Policy And Strategic Studies Kuru, From Trade Center Linking Marabanjamaas Explained By A Member Of Kuru Community Development Association (kcda). Also, A Member Ofmwaghavul Development Association (mda) Asserted That Their Association Has Contributed To The Area Of Roads Maintenance From Daika To Ajing. The Association Also Rehabilitated Roads From Mangu Town To Bwai, Chakfem And Kombun.

According To A Member Of Berom Educational And Cultural Organization Beco), Community Development Associations Engaged In Providing Social Activities To The Communities As Stated In His Words:

``the Organisation As The Mother Body Organises The Annual Cultural Festival Known As Zain Berom. This Has Brought Some Cultural Awareness Among The People And To Generations To Come. The Association Renders Voluntary Services; We Have Volunteer Coordinators Who Are Going To Recruit People That Will Volunteer To Give Various Services Towards Community Development``.

Which Is Vital In Community Development. That There Was A Communal Clash With The Neighbouring Community. The Movement Played A Crucial Role To Ensure That Peace Return To Both Communities. It Engaged Its Neighbouring Community In Dialogue At Different Levels That Have Contributed Immensely, Which Has Made Them Leave As Brothers And Sisters.

In Line With The Role Of These Community Development Associations In Peace Building Among Communities, A Member Stated That:

`` In Shendam Here As You Know, Is One Of The Major Towns In The Whole Of Plateau State, It Comprises Of All The Tribes. On Our Side, We The Goemai Youths Met With Other Tribal Youth Organisations Within Shendam To Ensure That There Is Peaceful Coexistence Among Tribes In Shendam. So, I Think That Alone Is A Development Of Our Community; We Are Peacefully Living With Other Tribes. Secondly, On Our Own As An Organisation, We Thought It Wise To Have A Place To Be Meeting With All Other Youth Organisations. By That, Our Predecessors Were Able To Lay On The Ground The Foundation Of A Youth Center. As Of Now, We Are Working On The Youth Center `` A Member Of Goemai Youth Movement (gym).

In Plateau State As Far As Community Development Is Concerned, Which Is In Line With The Literature ``embodies An Interactive Process Of Change, Where Institutions And Communities Become Transformed As People Who Participate In Changing Them Become Transformed. Rather Than Setting Individuals Against The Community And Overall Societal Needs, The Community Empowerment Construct Focuses On Both Individual And Community Change`` (wallerstein & Bernstein,1994: 142).community Participation Exists As One Of The Essential Elements Of An Energised Community (reid, 2000;laah, Adefila, & Yusuf, 2014))

To Confirm The Above Statement On Addressing Some Of The Community Infrastructural Demands By The Activities Of Community Development Associations And Rural Development In Plateau State. A Research Was Conducted In Some Selected Communities Of Plateau State To Address Some Of The Demands In Community Infrastructure, Especially Electricity. As Revealed Below (mallo, & Anigbogu, 2010);

Table .6.4

Socio-economic Impact Of Projects Executed Through Communal Efforts On Rural Areas In Regard To Electricity.

Activity	Number of communities where activity was identified	Socio-economic impact
<i>Viewing Centers</i>	07	Rural dwellers are entertained by going to watch programmes such as sports and movies for a stipend Source of employment to those who set up the business
<i>Welding and carpentry</i>	08	Source of employment,use of electrically powered machines in workshops
<i>Hotels and bars</i>	15	Source of employment,provide places for relaxation after a hard day job. Avenue for social events.
<i>Barber/hairdressingSaloon</i>	10	Source of employment,use of electrically powered devices,improving the quality of service and bringing it closer to the people

In Addition To The Above Assertion On Social Activities As Part Of Community Empowerment By Community Development Associations In Plateau State, A Member Ofdoemak Development Association (dda) Has This To Say About Community Empowerment Programme By Their Community Development Association:

"yes, Our Community Development Association Has Tried In The Sustainability Of The Cultural Heritage By Organising A Youth Cultural Day To Celebrate And Expose The Culture Of The People In The Younger Generation. The Community Embark On Clearing The Markets On Fridays And Thursdays. The Association Has Prepared A Proposal For Rural Electrification Of The Community".

The Community Development Associations In Plateau State Also Engaged In Providing Health Care Services To Their Communities As Attested By A Member ofmangu District Development Association (mdda):

"our Association Renovated Primary Health Care Clinic In Mangu Town; It Also Procured Ambulance For The Clinic. The Association Renovated District Head Office In Mangu; The Organisation Engaged In Cleaning Of Street/markets; It Also Organises Peace And Awareness Campaign". As Captured By A Member Of Another Association Goemai Youth Movement (gym) ``our Community Organises Environmental Sanitation Day In Which All The Youths Participate In Cleaning The Community And Filling Of Potholes Within The Community".

Other Areas Of Community Service Provided By These Community Development Associations In Plateau State As Observed By A Member:

"our Association-built Secretariat And Multipurpose Center At Ambul; It Also Built Market At Deshid In Ambul. The Organisation Built A Community Hall At Ambul; It Purchased Vehicles For Transport Service To Transport Human And Food Items To Other Markets. It Also Constructed Road/bridge At Yeff And From Deshid To Tomaso All In Ambul. The Organisation Also Built Dispensary At Deshid; It Also Dug Boreholes At Yeff, Tamuchi And Amaru" A Member Of Ambul Community Development Association (acda).

In The Same Vein, A Member Of The Kalong Youth Development Association (kyda) Observedthat Their Community Development Association Has Contributed To Community Development In Numerous Spheres As Stated In His Words:

*"theorganisation Engages In The Promotion Of Educational And Agricultural Policies. The Association In The Area Of Education, It Built Classrooms In The Secondary Schools Within The Community; It Donated Computers To The Schools Within The Community. The Organisation Constructed Roads From Pandam To Yelwa; It Orientates The Members Of The Community About The Latest Development In Terms Of **Advancement** In Business And Agricultural Opportunities. It Also Orientates And Participates In Vigilante To Curb The Problem Of Insecurity; It Has Taken The Building Of A Police Station To Curb The Menace Of Insecurity".*

As Agents Of Peace And Unity In Plateau State, In The Sphere Of Community Development Associations And Rural Development Activities, Which Is Fundamental. This Is Because Rural Development Cannot Take Place In An Atmosphere Of Hatred. According To A Member Of Bache Youth Movement (bymt) That Their Association Has Contributed A Lot In Terms Of Peace Building,

Table 6.4 (continued)

Activity	Number of communities where activity was identified	Socio-economic impact
Grain Mills	10	Employment generation, use of electrically powered machines for milling.
Fashion Design/ Tailoring centers	15	There is employment generation, there is tailoring shift from the use of a manual machine to electrically powered one and the services are readily available to residents of the area, there are better quality service and higher productivity.

Mallo&anigbogu (2020)

From The Above Table, The Study Indicated That Community Development Associations In Plateau State Have Contributed To Addressing The Issues Of Community Infrastructures. These Community Development Associations Have Done That Through Rural Electrification, Which In Turned Boost Economic Activities In The Rural Areas. As Confirmed In The Words Of Mallo, & Anigbogu (2010):

That Communities That Were Connected To Power By Community Development Associations In The Process Of Addressing Some Of The Community Infrastructural Demands Of The People Have A Way Of Stimulating Socio-economic Activities. Some Social And Economic Activities Emanating From Communities Connected To The Power Grid Can Generate Employment Opportunities, Which Made Life Easier For The Residents. It Has Also Motivated The Youths To Remain Within The Rural Setting.

In The Process Of Communal Engagements, Community Development Associations Encountered Some Challenges To Include; Corruption, Poor Management Of Resources, Poor Record Keeping, Domination By Men, Lack Of Sincerity, Lack Of Transparency, Leadership Tussle, Poor Leadership, Political Interference, Lack Of Support By Government And So On.

Recommendations/conclusion

Based On The Findings Of The Research, It Has Been Revealed That; Community Development Associations Have Contributed To Rural Development.

In Suggesting How To Improve Community Development Activities In The Country, It Is Worthy To Point Out Here That, There Is No Single Strategy Of Community Development That Will Be The Panacea For The Problems Of Community Development. In This Context Therefore, One Will Suggest Issues That Have To Be Addressed, If Genuine Rural Development Is To Take Place:

A. Mobilisation Of Resources

In The Search For Means Of Income, Community Development Associations Should Organise Fund

Raising, Increase Annual Membership Dues, Donations From Friends And Well-wishers Of The Communities. This Should Be Encouraged, Organise Launching, Award Nights As A Method Of Mobilising Resources For Communal Engagements.

B. Inter-communal Relationship

The Issue Of Inter-communal Relationship Is Very Paramount. This Is Because Of Ethno Religious Diversity Within The Country. The Various Community Development Associations Should Collaborate In Terms Of Communal Activities To Move The Country Forward.

C. Supporting Communal Engagements

There Is A Need For The Government To Support Community Development Associations And Rural Development Activities. This Is To Enable Them Perform Credibly Well In Communal Engagements And Prompt Payment Of Counterpart Funding To Support Communal Activities. These Community Development Associations Need Financial Aids From Non-governmental And Governmental Organisations To Support Their Actions At The Local Level.

Conclusion

Community Development Associations Contributed To Rural Development In A Variety Of Ways; Community Development Associations Contributed In Providing Services Such As Building Classrooms, Staff Offices, Organise Free Classes, The Building Of Clinics To Take Care Of The Health Challenges In The Villages, Rural Electrification, Road Construction/maintenance, Construction Of Bridges/culverts, Creating Awareness About Modern Agricultural Policies. They Carry Out Sanitation Exercise Within The Communities, Building And Maintenance Of Chief's Palaces, Setting Up Vigilante Units To Combat Insecurity. They Organise Cultural Festivals To Expose The Youths To The Cultural Values Of The Community, Enlightening The People About The Relevance Of Community Development Activities, Hosting Peace Summit, The Establishment Of Skill Acquisition Centers, Among Others.

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