

ATTITUDES AND CHALLENGES OF RURAL DWELLERS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SAKI WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OYO STATE

By

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Abstract

*This Study Assessed The Attitudes And Challenges Of Rural Dwellers To Community Service In Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State. It Examined The Understandings And Attitudes Of Rural Dwellers On Community Service, Challenges Of Rural Dweller On Community Service And Efforts Of Gender On Community Service Participation. The Study Adopted **Descriptive Research Design**. Three Research Questions Were Raised To Guide The Study. The Population Of The Study Was Made Up Of All Adults In Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State. The Sample Consists Of 88 Adults Using Multi Stage Sampling Techniques To Select Appropriate Sample For The Study. A Structured Questionnaire Tagged :“**attitude And Challenges Of Rural Dwellers To Community Service Questionnaire**” (acrdcsq). ($r=0.76$) Was Used As The Main Instrument For The Study. Data Were Analyzed Using **Descriptive Analysis Of Mean And Standard Deviation To Answer The Questions Raised To Guide The Study**. Findings Shows Rural Dwellers Participate In Community Service Since They Understand The Concept. ($x = 3.01$, $Sd = 0.762$) Also Shows That Rural Dwellers Shows Positive Mind Set To Community Service Participation ($x = 3.21$, $Sd = 0.909$), And That The Rural Dweller Were Faced With Different Forms Of Challenges ($x = 3.06$, $Sd = 0.952$).the Study Concluded That Rural Dwellers Have Developed Positive Attitudes Through Community Service. This Suggested That Resident Always Feels Enthusiast To Participate In Community Service. In Addition, They Imbibe Good Hygienic Culture Through Community Service Participation. This*

Suggested That The Rural Dwellers Within Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State Admitted That Community Service Have Impacted Their Hygienic Culture. The Study Recommends That Community Service Awareness Should Be Intensified And Enlightenment On The Need For Peoples To Get Involved In Community Service And To Identify The Immediate Needs And Sought For Community Engagement To Solve Their Needs. Also, Government Should Shows Be More Committed To Rural Areas Where Community Service Serve As Their Channel For Development

Keywords: Attitudes, Challenges, Rural Dwellers, Community Service

Introduction

Community Service Has Become One Of The Major Tools Used In Every Society To Ameliorate Human Sufferings. Humans Are Regarded As Wanting Animals Due To Their Unlimited Needs Which Arises As A Result Of Rapid Social Development. For Human To Live A Peaceful Life, Basic Amenities Must Be In Place Like Availability Of Social And Infrastructural Facilities. Reem (2018) Observed That Increase In Population And The Rapid Change Of Social And Economic Needs Of The People Make The Phenomenon Of Volunteering Rampant In The Society. Human Wants Are Scarce And To Live In A Community, Society, Area Where Life Will Be More Adoring To Them Or To Fulfill Their Unlimited Desire Effective Community Service Must Be Rendered. Governments Across The World Are Already Overwhelmed By The Enormous Responsibilities That They Are To Render To The Nation. Therefore, Citizens Rendering Selfless Services To The Community They Live In Will Help Them To Play An Active Role In Their Society And As Well Contribute To National Development. One Of The Major Problems That The Nation Is Facing Today Is Negative Attitude Of The Youths And Older Citizens Towards Their Community And National Development. At The Local Level, Everybody Is Always Expecting The Government To Provide Virtually Everything Without The Citizen Playing An Active Role In Nation Building. For A Nation To Develop, Citizens Must Be Ready To Perform Their Social Responsibilities And Being Useful To The Community By Performing Selfless Services To The Community They Reside In And This Should Be An Integral Part Of Our Ways Of Life.

Community Service Is Defined As Participation Of Citizens In Various Activities That Benefits The Entire Members Of That Community (parker, Perry, Hamm, Chipperfield, &hladky, 2016). Supporting This Assertion Is Christine (2018) Who Defines Community Service As Work Done By A Person Or Group Of People That Benefits Others. It Is Often Done Near The Area Where Someone Lives, So The Immediate Community Usually Reaps The Benefits Of The Work. In Engaging In This Service, Volunteers Do Not Get Paid, Though Sometimes Food And Small Gifts, Like A T-shirt, Are Given To Volunteers. Community Service Helps The Inhabitants Of An Area To Develop Sense Of Belonging And Become Active Citizens That Are Ready And Willing To Contribute To A More Equitable Society (walter, 2010). Community Service Can Be Termed As A Model Under Which A Citizen Learns And Develops Through Active Participation In Thoughtfully Organised Community Service Experiences. It Involves Effort Made To Meet The Needs Of The Community. Community Service Learning Are Ways By Which Citizens Help Others By Volunteering Their Time, Effort, Or Talents, And Is Performed To Benefit At Least One Other Unrelated Person Within Their Community Without Compensation. In Other Word, It's A Selfless Service Because The Services Rendered Are Not Paid For And It Benefited Individuals Or The Community. The Question Is: Do The People Of Area Of Study Possess Adequate Knowledge And Social Skills Community Service To Promote Modern Day Community Service?

In Various Communities, This Service Can Help Group Of People In Need Such As Children, Orphan, Poor And People With Disabilities And Many More. Community Service Is Often

Organized Through A Local Group, Such As A Place Of Worship, School Or Non-profit Organization. Christine, (2018) Stated That In Comparing To What Has Happened In The Past, Community Settlers Show More Commitment Community Service Delivery. In Some Communities While People Do Respond Positively To It, If It Is Judiciously Explained, They Often Respond To Call To Community Service Delivery Since They Are Aware Of Its Importance And Ultimately The Level Of Development It Will Bring To Their Community. Hooghe And Stolle, (2003) Also Stressed Further That Today, Community Service Are Being Rendered By People Especially Residents Who Are Running A Variety Of Volunteer Programs By Their Union/association. Youth, In Particular Are Targeted, For Evidence Suggested That Young People Are More Likely To Be Socialized Into Pro-social Behaviour. Also, Hall, Lasby, Gumulka, And Tryon, (2006) Opined That Student Volunteers Make An Important Contribution To The Work Of Community Service Voluntary Organization Ranging From Small Community Groups To National Charities, As Well As To Public Sector.

Community Service Often Occurs Through Human Interaction (bennetts, 2003). Crowther (2000) Argues That, If Learning Is Seen As A Function Of Social Relationships Rather Than As An Essentially Individual Activity, Then The Concept Of Lifelong Learning Is Extended Beyond Solely The Acquisition By Individuals Of Formal Qualifications. Social Activities Are Constitutive Of Community Service (renshaw, 2003). In This Way, Community Service, Which Potentially Promotes Learning Through An Individual's Engagement In Community Relationships And Interactions That Could Become A Key Practice That Links Individuals To Cooperate And Work With Each Other. Botkin, Elmandjra And Malitza, (1979), Thus Assert That Community Service Is A Form Of Civic Action And Involvement. Davies, (2006) Opined That Scholars Have Highlighted The Importance Of Community Service As An Integral Component Of The Society Transformation, With Some Claiming That It Is Less Effective When The Individual Is Involved. Zhu And Baylen, (2005) Posited That Participation Through Involvement In Community Service, As A Form Of Voluntary Engagement In A Real Social Environment, Differs From Learning In A School Context.

Community Service Is A Potential Source Of Genuine Development That Arises Through Continuous Activity (dewey, 1938). Community Services Include All Form Individuals' Engagement In The Community In Various Forms. As A Consequence, Individuals And The Communities In Which They Serve Produce Outcomes That Have Meaning For Themselves And For The Communities. From The Enumerated Advantages Of Community Service, It Is Instructive To Find Out The Understanding Of The Respondents' On The Value Of Community Service. Citizens Attitude Towards Participating In Their Community Development Has Been Observed From Mixed Feeling In Nigeria While Some Citizens See It As Part Of Their Civic Responsibility To Their Society Other Sometimes See It As The Responsibility Of The Government To Provide All The Needs Of The Society. In Most Cases, People Respond Negatively To Community Service Delivery Especially In A Community Where Government Has Been Regarded As Failure. People Feel It Is Not Their Responsibility To Engaged In That Act, Which Often Contributes To Various Challenges Confronted By People. In Addition, James (2010) Stressed Further That People Associate Community Service With Punishment, Probably Because It Is Often Offered To Small-time Offenders As An Alternative To Fines Or Jail Term And In Some Developed Countries Like The United Kingdom One Of The Biggest Advances In Community Service Has Been The Call For Students To Take Part And Get Involved. Many Universities Have Requirements For Students To Complete A Certain Number Of Hours In Order To Graduate. The Prime Minister Of Britain, Gordon Brown For Instance, Made A Statement Requiring All Young People To Do 50 Hours Of Community Service (british Broadcasting Corporation, 2009). According To Public Service Mutuals (2013), The Community Service Sector Is Recognized As Having Primary Responsibility For Addressing The Problems Which Businesses And Government Are Not Able To Resolve I.e. Where There Is Government And Market Failure. In Relation To Nigerian Society, Community Service Has Not Been Fully Accepted As Means Of Developing The Society. This, Thus Become The Concern Of Scholars And Stakeholders In The Country. Despite The Mentras Of 'change Begins With Me' Of The Current Administration, Citizens Still Have Mixed Reaction To Their Duties In National

Development. Assessing The Attitude Of Citizens Towards Community Development Is One Of The Concerns Of This Study.

Community Service Has Vast Range Of Connections With Volunteerism, As Many People Seek Out Opportunities To Provide Service To Others As A Way To Satisfy Their Own Needs. As Budgets Get Tighter, And The Demand For Healthcare, Human Services, Recreation And Education Programs Continue To Grow, Organizations Have Become Increasingly Dependent On The Services Provided By Volunteers (jensen, 1995). However, Human Service Agencies And Non-profit Organizations Are Experiencing Shortages Of Volunteers Which Has Often Severely Hampered Their Abilities To Fulfil Their Missions (burns Et Al., 2005). Researchers Have Examined How Social Activities, Such As Volunteering, Has Contributed To A Higher Quality Of Life In The Community (dote, Cramer, Dietz, & Grimm, 2006.) Other Research Has Shown That Volunteers Can Ease The Labour Burden For Non-profit Organizations As Well As Government Agencies (kaczynski & Crompton, 2006), And Other Contributions That Volunteers Can Make To Their Organizations (bruyere&rappe, 2007). Where There Is A Resourcing Problem, This Role Can Be Fulfilled Through Use Of A Range Of Philanthropic Resources Including Charitable Donations, Grants From Charitable Foundations. Previous Studies Have Not Focused On The Attitude And Challenges Of This Study Area About Community Service. This Is Another Gap That This Study Is Out To Fill.

Community Service Has Been An Avenue For The Citizens To Contribute Their Quota To The Development Of Their Society. Despite The Importance Of Community Service To Nation Building Many Citizens Still Develop Negative Attitude Towards Voluntary Participating In What Will Benefit The Whole Community. Studies Into Community Services Within Nigeria Environment Have Mostly Focused On Formal Level Of Integrating Community Service Into The School Curriculum At All Levels. However, Not Much Has Been Done In Assessing The Attitude Of Citizens In The Rural Areas Of Oyo State Of Nigeria. This Study Therefore Aims At Assessing The Attitude And Challenges Of Community Service In Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State. The Extent To Which Gender And Educational Level Will Also Serve As Moderating Effects Is One Of The Gaps This Study Tried To Fill.

Objectives Of The Study

The General Objective Of This Study Is To Examine The Attitude And Challenges Towards Community Service In Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State.

The Specific Objectives Of The Study Are To:

- I. Examine The Understanding Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government.
- ii. Examine The Attitude Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government.
- iii. Identify The Challenges Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government

Research Questions

The Following Research Questions Guide This Study:

- I. What Are The Understandings Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government?
- ii. What Are The Attitudes Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government?
- iii. What Are The Challenges That Citizens Face In Participating In Community Service In Saki West Local Government?

Results

Research Question 1: What Are The Understandings Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government?

Table 1: Mean And Standard Deviation On Understandings Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government

S/N	Issues	N	Mean	StdDev
1.	I participate in community service	83	3.69	.987
2.	I encourage resident to participate in community Service	83	3.10	.905
3.	I take active role in community service	83	3.12	.942
4.	I dishonor community service participation	83	2.08	.927
5.	I understand benefits attached to community service	83	3.11	1.086
6.	I have no idea about about community service.	83	2.88	1.017
Average Mean Score			3.01	.762

Table 1 Shows That Respondents Were Of Opinion That Rural Dwellers Participate In Community Service Has The Highest Mean Score Of 3.69(sd=.987), Followed By Item Which Stated That Rural Dwellers Take Active Role In Community Servicewith The Mean Score Of 3.12(sd= .942),followed By Item Which Stated That Rural Dwellers Understand Benefits Attached To Community Service With The Mean Score Of 3.11(sd= 1.086), Followed By Item Which Stated Rural Dwellers Encourage Residents To Participate In Community Service With The Mean Score Of 3.10(sd= .905), Followed By Item Which Stated That Rural Dweller Have No Idea About Community Servicewith The Mean Score Of 288(sd= 1.017), Followed By Item Which Stated That Rural Dwellers Dishonour Community Service Participation With The Mean Score Of 2.08(sd= .927), The Average Mean Score Of The Distribution Is 3.01 (sd =0.762). This Shows That Rural Dwellers Participate In Community Service Since They Understand The Concept.

Research Question 2: What Are The Attitudes Of Rural Dwellers To Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government?

The Table 2 Below Presents Respondents Views On The Attitudes Of Rural Dwellers To Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government

Table 2: Mean And Standard Deviation On Attitudes Of Rural Dwellers Towards Community Service Participation In Saki West Local Government.

S/N	Issues	N	Mean	StdDev
1.	Rural dwellers shows positive mindset to community service delivery	83	3.38	.992
2.	Through Community service participation, rural dwellers sustain good relationships.	83	3.16	.819
3.	Rural dwellers pretend not to the tired when engaging in community service	83	3.00	.733
4.	Rural dwellers proved not to be diplomatic during community service delivery	83	3.28	.915
5.	With community service participation, rural dwellers maintain hygienic practices.	83	3.23	1.086
Average scores			3.21	.909

Table 2 Shows That Respondents Were Of Opinion That Rural Dwellers Show Positive Mind-set To Community Service Participation With Mean Score Of 3.38(sd= .992)followed By Item Which Stated That Rural Dwellers Proved Not To Be Diplomatic During Community Service Delivery With The Mean Score Of 3.28(sd= .915), Followed By Item Which Stated That Rural Dwellers Maintain Hygienic Practices Through Participation In Community Service With The Mean Score Of 3.23(sd=1 .086), Followed By Item Which Stated That Through Community Service Participation Rural Dwellers Sustain Good Relationship With The Mean Score Of 3.16(sd= .819), Followed By Item Which Stated That Rural Dwellers Pretend Not To Be Tired When Engaging In Community Service With The Mean Score Of 3.00(sd= .733),the Average Mean Score Of The Distribution Is 3.21 (sd =0.909). This Result Shows That Rural Dwellers Shows Positive Mind-set To Community Service Participation

Research Question 3: What Are The Challenges That Rural Dwellers Face In Participating In Community Service In Saki West Local Government?

Table 3: Mean And Standard Deviation On The Challenges That Rural Dwellers Face In Participating In Community Service

S/N	Issues	N	Mean	StdDev
1.	Disunity among residents often halt community service delivery	83	3.20	.838
2.	Disrespect among the resident during community service	83	3.14	.828
3.	Lack of government support where sophisticated equipment is required	83	3.23	1.097
4.	Lack of financial support to carry out community service efficiently	83	3.43	1.095
5.	Failure to prioritize community needs	83	3.06	.846
6.	Dysfunctional of community resident, lack of accountability by community leaders	83	2.93	.997
7.	Inconsistent of Residents in community service participation	83	2.89	.963
	Average scores		3.06	.952

Table 3shows That Respondents Were Of Opinion That Rural Dwellers Lack Financial Support To Carry Out Community Service Efficiently With Mean Score Of 3.43(sd= 1.095)followed By Item Which Stated That Lack Of Government Support Where Sophisticated Equipment Is Required With The Mean Score Of 3.23(sd= 1.097), Followed By Item Which Stated That Disrespect Among The Resident During Community Service With The Mean Score Of 3.14(sd= .828), Followed By Item Which Stated That Failure To Prioritize Community Needs With The Mean Score Of 3.06(sd= .846), Followed By Item Which Stated That Dysfunctional Of Community Resident, Lack Of Accountability By Community Leaders With The Mean Score Of 2.93(sd= .997), Followed By Item Which Stated That Inconsistent Of Residents In Community Service Participation With The Mean Score Of 2.93(sd= .997)the Average Mean Score Of The Distribution Is 3.06 (sd =0.952). This Showed That The Rural Dweller Were Faced With Different Forms Of Challenges. All The Items Are Above 2.50 Here Which Showed Agreement Level To The Questions Asked

Discussion Of Findings

This Study Focus On The Assessment Of The Attitudes And Challenges Of Rural Dwellers To Community Service In Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State. The Findings Of Research Question One Showed That Rural Dwellers Participate In Community Service Since They Understand The Concept. Findings From The Interview Further Reveals That Rural Dwellers Are Aware Of Community Service In Their Community And Resident Of Rural Dweller Are Major Participants In Community Service. This Findings Support The Work Of Swasp, (2003) Puffer, (2006); Salgado, (2004); Sax, (2004) Who Found That Many Participants Had Learned About The Benefits Of Volunteering And Gained A Greater Appreciation For Volunteers. Numerous Participants Have Become More Involved With And Knowledgeable About Their Community And Youth Community Service Participation Is On The Rise. This Findings Shows That Rural Dweller Participate In Community Service And Have Better Understanding With Benefits Attached To Community Service.

The Findings Of Research Question Two On Attitudes Of Rural Dwellers To Community Service Participation Indicated That Rural Dwellers Shows Positive Mindset To Community Service Participation And They Always Show Enthusiastic To Community Service, Only Few People Show Negative Reaction. The Result Also Implies That Majority Of The Rural Dweller Imbibe Hygienic Habit And Also Make Their Environment To Be Safe From Outbreak Of Disease. More So, Resident Show Level Of Cooperation With Their Leader During Community Service Except For Some Reasons. This Findings Support The Work Of Astin And Sax, (1998), Clary And Snyder (1999) Who Found That There Was A Positive Influence Reported On The Civic Attitudes Of Many Students As Well As Contribution To Their Knowledge Of And Interest In The Voluntary Sector. Respondents Who Had Volunteered Or Participated Before Swasp More Often Perceived An Influence On Attitudes And Decisions Than Those Who Had Not. This Findings Show That Rural Dwellers Show Positive Mind-set To Community Service Participation And Imbibe Positive Attitudes To Community Service Participation. The Findings Of Research Question Three On Challenges Of Rural Dweller During Community Service Participation Show That Rural Dwellers Lack Financial Support To Carry Out Community Service Efficiently And Rural Dwellers Are Faced With Numerous Challenges Ranges From Lack Of Fund To Implement Some Their Community Project Or Work. They Also Shared Challenges Of Government Support In Their Community And In Some Cases Where Sophisticated Materials Were Needed To Carry Out The Community Service Work, It Stands As Obstacle To Execute Those Works Successfully. Respondents Also Shared Challenges Of Lack Of Respect From Youth And Embarrassment Received From Them. However, Result Shows That Rural Dwellers Prioritize Community Service. These Findings Are Against The Works Or Findings Of Crawford, Jackson, And Godbey, (1991) And Astin And Sax (1998) Who Found Out That Intrapersonal Constraints Are The First To Be Encountered And The Easiest To Overcome While Structural Constraints Are The Most Difficult To Negotiate In Community Service Participation. Students Were Strongly Committed To Helping Others Serving In Their Communities, Promoting Racial Understanding, Doing Volunteer Work And Working For Nonprofit Organizations.

Conclusion

The Study Assessed Attitudes And Challenges Of Rural Dwellers To Community Service In Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State. Findings From The Study Lead Us To The Following Conclusion. Resident Of Rural Dweller Have Better Understanding Attached To Community Service And Take Full Responsibility Of The Engagement. This Suggested That People In Rural Area Have Benefited From Community Service.

The People In Rural Dwellers Have Developed Positive Attitudes Through Community Service. This Suggested That Resident Always Feels Enthusiast To Participate In Community

Service. In Addition, They Imbibe Good Hygienic Culture Through Community Service Participation. This Suggested That The Rural Dwellers Within Saki West Local Government Area Of Oyo State Admitted That Community Service Have Impacted Their Hygienic Culture.

Recommendation

Based On The Findings And Implications Of This Study Discussed Above, It Is Pertinent To Offer The Following Recommendations.

- I. Community Service Awareness Should Be Intensified By The Ministry In Charge Of Community Affairs And Citizens Should Be Enlightened On The Need For Peoples To Get Involved In Community Service.
- ii. Community Leaders Should Identify The Immediate Needs And Sought For Community Engagement To Solve The Needs
- iii. Government At All Levels Should Be More Committed To Rural Areas Where Community Service Serve As Their Channel For Development.
- iv. Government Should Release Fund For Community To Execute Project That Meet Their Immediate Demands
- V. Everybody Should Endeavour In The Community To Contribute His Or Her Own Quota Towards Community Service Participation.

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