

Funding of Rural and Community Development Programmes in Enugu State

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Abstract: Funding rural and communities development is a tax that are universally acknowledged as a societal menace requiring urgent attention. It is largely associated with Africans particularly those in rural areas where a large, proportion of the poor are found. This seminar sought to determine if Government's vision in halving funding rural or eradicating extreme poverty in line with the millennium Development Goals through its numerous newly created agencies and programmes actually matches with efforts and reality on the ground in the rural communities of The Enugu State. The data were obtained through field observation, oral interviews, and questionnaire administration and a total of 211 households were served. The data received were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Findings revealed that the vision to reduce poverty is indeed there by the presence of multifarious agencies and programmes. Strategies that would enable the rural poor to start benefiting significantly from those schemes were then suggested, in the light of the fact that intervention programmes are not only insufficient but do not appear to be effective. Strategies such as the empowerment and monitoring of intermediating field workers, the re-kindling of spirit of family and self-help and the employment of tripartite participation in poverty eradication should suffice.

Key words: Rural funding • Community development • Enugu state and Tax

INTRODUCTION

The need to bring rural communities to mainstream of contributing meaningfully to the social cultural and economic development of Nigeria requires an overwhelming priority to be accorded to its policy implementation [1]. As Larson (1985: 3-12), says, a policy or programme is a way of dealing with public problems of a sort of concrete socio-economic action or a response to weakness and inability of private sector to supply necessary goods and services or a response to a missing link within the norms of the society. It gives direction to action and activities [2]. In order words, policy refers to a verbal, written or implied overall guide setting up boundaries that supply the general units' direction in which administrative or managerial action will take [3].

The focus of various policies of rural development programme in Nigeria is meant to improve the living conditions in the rural areas with a view to curbing the streaming rural-urban migration [5]. Despite the countless number of rural development policies introduced at

different times by successive governments. coupled with the huge financial and material resources employed, little or nothing is felt at the rural level as each policy has often died with the government that initiated it before it starts to yield dividends for the rural dwellers [6]. Onuorah (1996: 12 -16), supports this claim when he states that not minding the lofty objectives of these policies, government's efforts and initiatives never endured beyond the government that initiated schemes [7]. It is on this note that this paper attempts to examine rural economic development: policy/programme implementation in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problems: The most important thing to observe from the foregoing is the fact that despite numerous rural Development programmes adopted in Nigeria from independence to date, the rural areas' situation remains sorry and pitiable. The effect of this is the concomitant phenomenon of rural-migration that has manifested in 'urban challenges', characterized by an increase in pressure on socio-economic infrastructure

including access to clean and portable water, adequate healthcare, access to basic education, proper sewage and waste disposal systems, amongst others (The Document of Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) at 50, 2010:663). Overpopulation also places undue stress on basic life-sustaining resources, which ultimately results in diminishing wellbeing and quality of life. It has also created new challenges such as climate change, depletion in resources, food insecurity, social and spatial inequalities, economic instability, urban sprawl and unplanned peri-urbanisation in the 21st Century [8].

Objectives of the Study: The broad objective of this study is to ascertain the funding of rural community development in Enugu state, the specific objectives is;

- To ascertain how far reaching the schemes have turned out to be;
- To determine why planned project beneficiaries are not benefiting;
- To identify the leakages (factors) that beset the flow of expected deliverables
- To suggest strategies that will enable the funding of rural community development programmes.

Research Question:

- To what extent has funding of rural community development programmes effective in Enugu
- How effective is the rural community development programmes in Enugu state
- What are the factors that beset the flow of the rural community development programmes
- What are the strategies to encourage the funding of rural development programme

The Significance of the Study: The study provides a clear distinction between standard of living and quality of life variables in measuring the economic condition of rural dwellers which leads to the inability to properly report their findings on quality of life criteria - not because quality of life is more of a qualitative issue but because their studies cover too many parameters of both the standard of living and quality of life [9].

Because of these, results for the standard of living and quality of life variables were not properly reported. This study concentrates on variables of standard of living alone. This helps to trace the role of cooperatives to ownership of household assets, enterprise assets, enterprise profitability and increase in household income to determine changes in members' standard of living. This

is important because it enhances our understanding of the role of cooperative societies in rural finance to be concerned with improving standards of living of the members rather than quality of life such as health and family planning which rural cooperatives may not be financially adequately empowered to do [10].

The Scope of the Study: This study on funding of rural community development programme using Ani-nri Local government Area in Enugu state from 2005 to 2014.

Hence the concept of rural and community, the effect of funding the rural development programmes, the factors that hindered the effective funding of rural community development programmes and to proffer solutions to such problems with particular emphasis to Ani-nri Local government Area.

Limitations of the Study: The Limitation of the study among other things includes;

The sensitive nature of the topic made it very difficult for the researcher to obtain some vital information from banks. These are some factors constituted a lot of problem to the success of this work as follows:

- Lack of funds: This brought about the problems that the researchers encountered, cost of transportation fare to the Institutions of Nigeria to gather data and material to carry out this research work were very exorbitant.
- Lack of facilities as research hinders the development of this work and such constituted a limit to the study.
- Inadequate time: a project of this nature should have taken more than two year to conclude but due to the academic system, the researcher had no enough time to visit some place they ought to because they combined the academic work with researching of the project.

Research design and methodology

Research Design: The exploratory research method was adopted for this paper. The paper considered the nature of the problem of rural development in Nigeria; the reform efforts made by successive governments and why these efforts have not yielded the desired result. *A number of rural developments programmes of various level governments were evaluated in relation to their inherent problems. The data for the PAPER was generated through primary and secondary sources. The primary data was by means of questionnaire/interview while secondary date was by means of published and non-published documented works.

Table 1: Population of Aninri Local Government Staff

Department	Population	%
A. Administration:		
i. Senior staff	70	18.4
ii. Junior staff	30	8
B. Finance and Supplies		
i. Senior staff	60	16
ii. Junior staff	28	7.3
C Health		
i. Senior staff	54	14.2
ii. Junior staff	20	5.2
D Works and Housing		
i. Senior staff	36	9.4
ii. Junior staff	20	5.2
E Education and Community Development		
i. Senior staff	20	5.2
ii. Junior staff	15	4
F Agriculture and Veterinary		
i. Senior staff	15	4
ii. Junior staff	12	3.1
Total	380	100

Table 2: Sample Size Distribution

Department	%	Sample Size
A. Administration:		
i. Senior staff	18.4	36
ii. Junior staff	8	16
B. Finance and Supplies		
i. Senior staff	16	31
ii. Junior staff	7.3	14
C Health		
i. Senior staff	14.2	28
ii. Junior staff	5.2	10
D Works and Housing		
i. Senior staff	9.4	5
ii. Junior staff	5.2	10
E Education and Community Development		
i. Senior staff	5.2	10
ii. Junior staff	4	8
F Agriculture and Veterinary		
i. Senior staff	4	8
ii. Junior staff	3.1	6
Total	100	195

Survey 2016

Area of Study: The study was carried out in Ani-nri Local Government Area of Enugu State. Aninri is a Local government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Ndeaboh. It has an area of 364km² and a population of 133,723 at the 2006 census. Ani-nri local government is KNOWN for the production of Rice, Groundnut, coconut and maize.

Population of the Study: Research population according to Osuala [11], refers to the whole object for which a sample is drawn. The researcher of this project work used the total member of Aninri local government staff, which has the population of 380.

Sample and Sampling Techniques: Sample procedures are the method used in drawing sample from population which gives a sample size for the study.

However, the Yaro Yamene formula was used by the researcher to determine the sample size of the study formula:

Sources of Data Collection: Data used for study where collected from both primary and secondary sources.

The Primary Source: Includes the use of structured questionnaire, personal interviews and observations.

Secondary Source of Data Explored Include: Periodicals, journals, manuscripts and other literally materials that are related to the topic of the study.

Instrument Used for Data Collection: Owing to the area covered by this study, questionnaire was designed for data collection. Data was also collected through relevant newspapers, journals, textbook, magazines, oral interview, which was done face to face by the researcher and literature from author and seminar papers.

Though there was apparently lack of versatility in the sources of method of data collection, which was as a result of time constraint.

Validation of the Instrument: Osuala [11], defined validity as the procedure adopted in ensuring that the instrument used had measured what it was designed to measure. It is very important to establish and report one form of validity or the other for the instrument, so as to enhance the strength of the work.

In order to establish the validity of the instrument ten of the local government service commission staff were used for a pilot study. The questionnaires distribution were scored they the way the researcher expected them to be scored. This showed the researcher, that the group understood the instrument for what was intended and was therefore valid.

Reliability of the Instrument: Osuala [11], said that reliability concerns the consistency with which an instrument measures whatever it measures. The test and

retest process is used to establish the reliability of the instrument. This shows that the constructed questionnaires were distributed at intervals more.

Than once to the same group of persons, to discover how consistence each element of the group is in the scoring of the instrument. Thus shown by labeling the group from number one to ten. Corresponding to the given to the reliable sample groups and distributed after 10 days, both first and second responses were scored accurately and consistently. The researcher was satisfied that the instrument was reliable because the responses from the group at different times remained consistent.

Method of Data Analysis: For analyzing the data that were collected for the research work, the researcher employed simple percentages, weighted means. However, likert type of rating scale was adopted to measure the degrees of responses as follows:

Responses Points:

- Strongly agree (SA) 4
- Agree (A) 3
- Disagree (D) 2
- Strongly disagree (SD)

RESULTS

This chapter presents and analyses data collected through the research instrument. The data are presented

according to the order of the five research questions that guided the study. In taking decision on each of the research questions a mean of 2.5 and above was regarded as important since the instrument was built on a four point rating scale.

Research Question 1: What are the agents responsible for rural and community development programme in Enugu state?

From Table 3 above, on the responses on rural and community development programme fund in Enugu state, Joint efforts of the government and the community ranked 1st with mean of 3.5, followed by government only ranked 2nd with mean of 3.2, philanthropists which ranked 3rd with mean of 2.5, non-governmental organization ranked 4th with mean of 1.6 and community only ranked 5th with mean of 1.3. it reveal that funding of rural and community development programme is been done by Government and joint effort of the government and the community.

Based on the above analysis, it revealed that government and joint effort of government and community and philanthropist are the major agent of rural and community development programme in Aninri local government fell above the mean cut off of 2.5

Research Question 2: How is the rural and community development programme fund in Enugu State?

From Table 4 above, on the responses on how rural and community development programme fund in Enugu state, loan from world bank ranked 1st with mean of 3.1,

Table 3: Responses on the Agents Responsible for Rural and Community Development Programme in Enugu State?

	Rating Scale				Total weight	Mean Score	Rank Order
	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
Those that initiate rural development project							
Government only	100	50	30	15	625	625	3.2
Philanthropists	40	30	50	75	485	485	2.5
Joint efforts of the government and the community	120	60	15	-	690	690	3.5
Community only	-	-	SO	145	340	340	1.3
Non- Governmental organization (NGO)	10	40	60	35	495	495	1.6

Source: Field survey 2016

Table 4: Responses on Rural and Community Development Programme Fund in Enugu State

	Rating Scale				Total weight	Mean Score	Rank Order
	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
Those that initiate rural development project							
Loan from world Bank	80	60	30	20	580	3.1	1 st
Loan from microfinance Bank	20	20	100	50	390	2.1	2 nd
By local government chairman	-	10	110	70	320	1.7	3 rd
By the cooperative society	10	20	20	140	280	1.5	5 th
Fund realized by age group	2	18	80	90	312	1.6	4 th

Source: Field survey 2016

Table 5: Responses on the Rural and Community Development Programme Available to Ani-nri L.g.a of Enugu State

Community Development programme available	Rating Scale				Total weight	Mean Score	Rank Order
	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
[Poverty Alleviation programme	50	40	60	40	480	2.5	1 st
[Operation feed the nation	-	-	400	90	290	1.5	5 th
Microfance bank programme for [Agricultural funding	20	10	40	120	310	1.6	~^~
FAD AM A	25	25	80	60	395	2.1	3 rd
[UBE	100	70	15	5	645	3.4	F

Source: Field survey 2016

followed by loan fro microfance bank ranked 2nd with mean of 2.1, funding by local government chairman ranked 3rd with mean of 1.7, fund realized by age group ranked 4 with mean of 1.6 and by the cooperative society ranked 5th with mean of 1.5. It reveal that funding of rural and community development programme is been finance by loan from World Bank.

Research Questions: What are the rural and community development programmes available to Ani-nri L.G.A of nugu State?

Table 5 illustration views of members of Ani-nri Local Government Area on the rural and community development programmes available to Ani-nri L.G.A of Enugu State. The results of the analysis on the Table 5 indicate that universal Basic Education was the major

community development programme they are aware of with a mean score of 2.5, poverty Alleviation programme was identify as second programme with the mean score of 2.5 Based on the above analysis, the rural and community development programmes available to Ani-nri L.G.A of Enugu State. The major programme they are aware of is Universal Basic Education and Poverty Alleviation Programme, fell above the mean cut off of 2.5, this means that the they aware not aware of all the rural and community development programme introduce by the government.

Research Question 4: What are the factors that beset the flow of the rural and community development programme in Enugu state in the period of 2000 - 2015?

Factors that beset rural and 1 community development programmes] programmes	Rating Scale				Total weight	Mean Score	Rank Order
	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
1 High incidence of corruption.	150	40	-	-	720	3.8	1 st
1 Inadequate funding	120	60	5	5	655	3.6	2 nd
1 Placing the wrong person at the 1 strategic position	70	50	50	20	550	2.8	5 th
1 Inconsistency and absence of 1 continuity in the policies and 1 programmes implementation in 1 government affairs.	60	80	30	20	560	2.9	4 th
Misguided and misdirected priority.	100	60	30	10	650	3.4	3 rd

Source field survey, 2016

Table above illustration views of members of Ani-nri Local Government Area on the factors that beset the flow of the rural and community development programme. The results of the analysis on the table 6 indicate that High incidence of corruption was the major factors besting the flow of the rural and community development programme with a mean score of 3.8, Inadequate funding was identify as second factors with the mean score of 3.6, Misguided and misdirected priority as the third with mean score of 3.4. then Inconsistency and absence of continuity in the policies and programmes implementation in government affairs came 4th with mean score of 2.9. Then closely followed by placing the wrong person at the strategic position with a mean score of 2.8.

Based on the above analysis, all the factors besting rural and community development programme in Ani-nri local government fell above the mean cut off of 2.5, this means that the factors beset the effective funding of rural community development programme effort of government.

Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of Findings: Arising from the research are as follows;

That the major agent for rural and community development programme in Ani-nri local government area of Enugu state are government, philanthropist and joint effort of government and community.

That the major institution that finance rural and community- development programme in Enugu state is fund from world bank

- That the only rural and community development programme they aware of is poverty alleviation programme and Universal Basic Education (UBE).
- That all the factors besting rural and community development programme in Ani-nri local government fell above the mean cut off of 2.5, this means that the factors beset the effective funding of rural community development programme effort of government.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing analysis it is obvious that rural or community development in Nigeria has not received its fair share in the scheme of things. The institutions and agencies charged with the responsibility for rural development and the policies and strategies adopted to meet these objectives have not lived up to expectation of the rural dwellers in particular and the nation in general. It has been shown that in spite of the numerous natural resources that Nigeria is endowed with, majority of the citizens, particularly in the rural areas live below 'absolute poverty line'.

Therefore there exists mass poverty as a result of the lopsided and urban-based development process which the governments in Nigeria have pursued till date. For instance the various World Bank, IMF and other multinational corporations-sponsored large-scale agricultural projects were not intended to better the lot of the rural dwellers. These projects and schemes are based on obsolete trickle-down theory by which the main beneficiaries are supposed to diffuse information and motivate the small peasant farmers, who would then follow their example. It would be difficult for Nigeria to attack its poverty unless it stops discriminating against peasant farmers and rural population. The above situations revolve on the neo-colonial and dependent nature of Nigerian economy and society. This appears to be the crux of Nigeria's development and other problems, including that of political instability currently ravaging the country.

The point should be made that as long as we operate this economic system, development in the real sense of the term, will remain a mirage. Mass poverty and deprivation currently facing the rural people will worsen and our independence will remain a sham. Indeed the contemporary Nigerian state can be described as a comprador state - a state in which its institutions and officials operate as agents of capitalism and imperialism

under this social system, Nigerian development programmes, particularly the so-called new strategies for 'rural development' are only smokescreens intended to cover the real thing, which is the continued domination and exploitation by western or foreign investors.

Recommendations: Arising from all the above, this seminar offers a number of recommendations as a way of solving the lingering problems of rural underdevelopment in Nigeria. These include the following:

- Since over 70% of Nigerian population live in the rural areas and produce the greatest Wealth of the nation, the rural areas should be accorded more recognition in terms of budgetary provisions and provision of social and economic amenities.
- The production needs of rural dwellers centre on poor infrastructural facilities, inadequate extension services and lack of financial credit. Therefore feeder roads are urgently needed to effectively link and integrate peasants scattered all over the country with the urban centre's to enable them to evacuate their products from the farms. They also need adequate water supply for drinking and irrigation, especially in the arid parts of the country.
- Government should provide the inability environment to foster rural and community development in Nigeria. Facilities such as education, health services, electricity supply, improving literacy, health and general quality of life are acutely inadequate in the rural areas.

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