

## Co-Operatives Society and Youth Development (A Case Study of Udi Local Government Area)

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**Abstract:** The study examined the co-operative society and youth development (a study of selected co-operative society in Udi L. G. A.). The objectives of the study were to examine the role of co-operative in youth development in Udi local government area, to ascertain the level of youth economic empowerment through co-operative in Udi LGA to investigate level of youth participation co-operative activities in Udi LGA membership of cooperative societies is voluntary and open to all. It is democratically managed and it has a separate legal existence. The main motive is to provide service to the members as well as to protect the weaker section of the society especially the financially hand capped people and to promote the economic interest of the people. It works on the principle of self-help through co-operation of members. The study showed that a well- run co-operative societies provides a pool of funds from which individuals members especially youths in Udi LGA take loans to meet respective needs. Many co-operative societies make investment in business ventures, stocks or real property which generates returns that could be shared as dividends to members periodically, depending on any surplus that accrues to the funds. Co-operative societies allow what an individual in Udi who cannot do on his own, to be done as a group. Co-operative methods are the most practical to adopt to meet the needs of the mass of people in all spheres of development.

**Key words:** Co-operatives society • Youth • Development and Udi L.G.A

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### INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment is becoming an increasingly troublesome issue in many parts of the world. In Nigeria, it has become one of the most serious socio-economic problems confronting the country. The magnitude of this can be appreciated if accurate statistics could be obtained from the federal bureau of statistics on the number of unemployed youths roaming the streets of Nigerian cities. However, Abrahamsen (1976), [1], observed from the excerpts of statistics obtained from the national manpower Board and federal bureau of statistics showed that Nigeria has a youth population of the eighty (80) million representing 60 percent of the total population of the country. Sixty four 964) million of them are unemployed while one million six hundred thousand (1.6 million) are underemployed.

Unemployment has become a major problem bedeviling the lives of Nigeria youth causing frustration, dejection and dependency on family members and friends,

who also have their own problem to contend with. The high rate of unemployment among the youths in Nigeria has contributed to the rate of poverty and insecurity in the country. Unemployment is worldwide economic problem, causing poverty and rack. In recent times, there have been notable adverse social, economic and political developments in Nigeria, a consequence of youth unemployment and underemployment, particularly exemplified by increasing militancy, violent crimes, kidnapping, restiveness and political instability. The Nigeria situation is further compounded by the recent global financial crisis that has crippled businesses and the prospect of securing jobs for young people [2]. Akinwumi, (2006), [3], contended that unemployment has been identified as one of the major causes of social vices, including armed robbery, destitution, prostitution, political thuggery, kidnapping and many more. Mabel (2004), [4], corroborated this statement by saying that about 4.5 million enter the labour market every year without any hope of getting employment for

life sustenance. The precarious situation has left the youths in a vicious cycle of poverty that daily erodes their self-confidence and bright future. In bid to solve unemployment problems in Nigeria various programmes were put forward especially through the of co-operative society.

The government has intervened several times to inject credit into the cooperative sub-sector of the economy. One intervention was the change, in 1976, of the Nigeria Agricultural Bank Ltd to Nigeria Agricultural and Cooperative bank Ltd so as to give special attention to Cooperative activities (CBN Annual Report, 2005; Ukanya, 1997). Furthermore, in the year 2000, the government renamed the Nigeria Agricultural cooperative and rural Development Bank Ltd to reflect the rural nature of cooperative activities in Nigeria (FGN Budget, 2000). In the year 2005 the Federal Government domiciled the sum of ₦ 50 billion with the bank of agriculture (BOA) Ltd to lend to cooperative and other farmer organizations at concessionary interest rates. A recent study of the patterns of disbursement of the N50 billion intervention fund showed that more than 75% of the fund went to private farmers and other farmers' organizations that are not cooperative societies [5].

**Statement of the Problem:** Much as desirable as cooperative societies are in the development of a nation, there are problems and constraints that have militated against its effective performance of its roles on nation building [6]. This has made for poor performance, decline and death of some cooperatives. Onuoha (1986:13), [7], identified the leadership problems as a major setback to the performance of cooperative societies saying that group action is more difficult to coordinate than individual actions. Akinwuuni(2006:16), [2] affirmed that bad leadership is a critical element that affects efficiency of cooperative movements in Nigeria. Ayoola (2006:5), [8], identified the ambiguous role of government on cooperative societies as another major factor.

**Objectives of the Study:** The broad objective of the study was to examine the co-operative and youth development with reference to some selected co-operative societies in udi other specific objectives of the study are:

- To examine the role of co-operative in youth development in udi local government area.
- To ascertain the level of youth economic empowerment through co-operative in Udi LGA

- To investigate level of youth participation co-operative activities in Udi LGA
- To determine the contributions of government to the overall development of cooperative societies.

**Research Questions:** The following questions are to guide the researcher towards finding out the solutions related to the problems, objective and the question of research.

- What is the role of co-operative in youth development in Udi local government area?
- What is the level of youth economic empowerment through co-operative in UDI LGA
- What is the level of Youth participation co-operative activities in Udi L.G.A?
- What are the contributions of government to the overall development of cooperative?

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Research Design:** The aim of this section is to discuss the research methods and design used to obtain concrete information on the project, which helped to build up a sound basis for the application of the findings and subsequently produce data for such research. The choice of this design employed in this study were descriptive design. The choice of this design was chosen due to the fact that it enhances the data collection. Though the researcher is allowed to adopt any technique or combination of techniques most suitable for the study, but the research designs adopted on this study was carefully planned, so as to be able to obtain accurate and complete information about the research project being used.

**Area of Study:** This study centers on the role of government in cooperative society and youth development with a particular reference to Udi is a local Government area of Enugu State, Nigeria. Its headquarters is in the city of Udi on the A232 highway. It has an area of 897 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 234, 002 at the 2006 census.

**L.G.A IN UDI:** 1. Ezedike(new l.g.a): This l.g.a to be created. Akpankwume (Ugwuocha) Akpankume, Ibute Nze, Ezi Nze, Oghu. 2. Ojebogene (new l.g.a); This l.g.a to be created. Awhum Ebe, Abor, Umuavulu, Abor, Ukana, Awhum, Okatu-Ikeghe, Okpatu- Ibite, Umulumbge, Umuoka. 3. Ugwunye(new l.g.a): This l.g.a to be created.

Amaozalla Affa Egede, Affa, Amaozalla Affa, Amafia Affa, Amokwu Affa. 4. Udi is the First l.g.a before other. Udi, Obioma, Abia Agbudu, Obinagu, Umabi, Umuaga, Nachi, Oji Amokwe, Enugu Amokwe, Etiti Amokwe, Uwani Amokwe, Eke Ngwo Asaa, Imeama Ngwo Asaa, Ameke Ngwo, Nsude Uboji Ngwo, Amankwo Ngwo.

**Population of the Study:** Ezeani, (2004), [9], population is a makeup of all conceivable elements, subjects or observation relating to a particular phenomenon of interest to the researcher. The population of LGA amounted to 234, 002 at the 2006 census.

**Determination of Sample Size:** In order to reduce the population to a manageable size, the researcher adopted Taro Yamane for this.

Taro Yamane formular was employed thus;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(c)^2}$$

where,

N = Sample size

N = Total population

E = Level of significance (to be part at 5%)

1 = Constant

Applying the formula the sample size therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} N &= 243002 = 243002 \\ 1+243002(0.05)^2 &= 1+6075.05 \\ &= 243002 \\ 6075.05 &= 39.99 = 40 \end{aligned}$$

**Sample Size and Sampling Technique:** The researcher used simple random sampling which enable her choose 40 persons randomly among the five villages that make up the community. From the three villages the researcher selected six clans, families and finally the respondents to get the desired number. They were 20 males and 20 females.

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

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

**Research Analysis (Dicussion of Findings):** From the analysis of data collected from different respondents in question 2, the researcher gathered that, co-operative societies play vital or significant role in the development of rural area as the provision of economic, political, social and education aid to the people so to bring about development in the rural area [10]. The researcher has also in question 3 that financial problem or constrain hinder the activities of co-operative societies towards the development of rural area, from the analysis, the researcher also discovered that good financial management should be adopted to conquer this phenomenon as suggested by various respondents.

In addition, in question 4, the researcher also discovered that government and financial institutions are not helpful in enhancing the activities or role of co-operative societies. Lastly, the researcher discovered in question 6, that training of co-operative personnel in an essential instrument towards enhancing their performance in rural development.

Names of Selected Co-operative in Udi LGA  
Nneamaka Multipurpose Co-operative - Abia Town  
Oganiru Consumer Co-operative - Amokwe  
Ifeoma d' Niru Famers Co-operative - Affah  
Ubosi Thrift and Loan - Egede  
Ebe Palm wine Tapper Co-operative - Ebe

### Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

**Summary:** Based on the result of the data analyzed and findings both primary and second any data the following findings are made by the researcher.

A co-operative society is a voluntary asseveration of individuals having common needs that join hands for the achievement of common interest through mutual help. Membership of cooperative societies is voluntary and open to all. It is democratically managed and it has a separate legal existence.

The main motive is to provide service to the members as well as to protect the weaker section of the societies especially the financially hand capped people and to promote the economic interest of the people. It works on the principle of self- help through co-operation of members.

### CONCLUSION

The study also indicates that co-operative societies suffer some negligence from the government and other top functionaries such as. The worst of all is the lack of storage facilities for their perishable goods. Which of course discourages the rural people from producing enough for consumption and industries. On a final note, it is hereby suggested that much attention should be paid to the development of co-operatives irrespective of their nature so that their contribution to the development can be ultimately realized.

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