

COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE WATER PROJECT IN IRASA, ADO- EKITI, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the impact of a community-driven development to water supply project on residents of Irasa, in Ado-Ekiti Local Government area of Ekiti State, Nigeria. The study determines the factors affecting the implementation of the project and its sustenance. Results revealed that the project did not impact positively on the socio-economic wellbeing of the inhabitants as the project which has been completed several months has not been put into use. The non-utilization of this project did not improve access to drinking water, have no effects on the incidences of diseases, did not improve the supply of water for domestic use and laundry. No difficulties were experienced in the mobilization of community members for the project and in monitoring the project. Similarly, personnel saddled with the project were dedicated and community members participated actively in the project. The difficulty was experienced in funding, especially in contributing money towards raising the 10% community counterpart funding. However, an Operations and Maintenance Sub-committee has been put in place and charged with the responsibilities of maintaining the project to enhance its sustainability. The commencement of utilization of the project will enable the objectives of the project to be fulfilled.

KEYWORDS: *Community-driven, Development, Motorized-borehole, Sustainable, Nigeria*

INTRODUCTION

The development of rural areas in Nigeria has constituted a fundamental problem over a long period. According to Eteng (2005), the Nigerian rural areas have been neglected and are regarded as abodes of diseases, superstition, poverty, lethargy, low income, and low productivity. Estimate revealed that most rural dwellers live below the poverty line. Anazodo (1982) identified the characteristics of rural dwellers in Nigeria to include having a static and declining standard of living, engagement in subsistence agriculture, using crude traditional hand tools thus generating only small marketable surpluses. They are mostly located in areas poorly served by almost all public utilities and their family incomes are extremely low. Indeed, the major problem of rural areas is poverty. The previous assertion by Agbebaku et. al. (2017) revealed that the income dimension of poverty defines poverty as a situation of low income or low consumption..Thus, people are regarded as poor when their standard of living in term of income or consumption is below poverty lines.

Irasa community is situated about 12 Kilometres from Ado-Ekiti, along Ado-Iworoko road, in Ado Local Government Area of the state. The inhabitants of the community were predominantly farmers. The community is essentially rural

and lacked essential infrastructures. Ekiti State was one of the states that received assistance from the World Bank to develop her rural areas in 2008. Hence the state set up the Ekiti State Community and Social Development Agency (EKCSDA) to sustainably increase access of poor people to social and natural resource infrastructure services. The goals of the Agency are to support the empowerment of communities and Local Government Areas for sustainable development and encourage increase percentage of Local Government budgets that incorporate Community Development Plans. The activity of EKCSDA is based on a new development paradigm shift whose concept is Community Driven Development (CDD) in design, implementation, and evaluation. Thus, this study intends to evaluate the impact of EKCSIDA-assisted water project in the area of rural infrastructure in Irasa Community of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

The inhabitants of Irasa Community, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria, depend solely on self-water supply (free source) from perennial streams, water ponds and unprotected wells for domestic purposes thus rendering them liable to water-borne diseases. The inadequate water supply affects not only the health status of the residents as the entire community looks dusty. School uniforms of most pupils of the Community Primary School appeared dirty. Women were observed scavenging for water by trekking considerable distances to fetch water with containers whose capacities were relatively inadequate to meet their water needs. Also, a considerable length of time is wasted in looking for water for domestic consumption in the community.

Consequent on the above, the impact of community-driven development project on rural water infrastructure to the socio-economic condition of inhabitants of Irasa Community is considered important and worthy of study. Thus this study sets out to verify if the community-driven development project on water infrastructure in Irasa community have improved the socio-economic status of inhabitants of the town. The specific objectives of this study are to assess the impact of the CDD project on water supply on the social-economic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the community, determine the factors affecting the implementation of the CDD project on water supply in the community and identify possible ways of sustaining the CDD project on water supply in the community.

Theoretical Framework

An economic theory that is rooted in capitalism, known as Modernization Theory is used in this study. The theory has been adapted to explain World Bank intervention projects in Nigeria. Modernization refers to a model of a progressive transition from a 'pre-modern' or 'traditional' to a 'modern' society. Modernization theory originated from the ideas of German sociologist Max Weber (1864–1920), which provided the basis for the modernization paradigm developed by Harvard sociologist Talcott Parsons (1902–1979) (Wikipedia 2019).

According to the theory, progress could only be attained if the rest of the world could adopt the western model of modernity and pattern their societies like that of the west. It is believed that internal factors in rural areas such as illiteracy, traditional agrarian structure, traditional attitude of the rural dwellers, the low division of labor, lack of communication and infrastructure, lack of ambition and so on are responsible for their underdevelopment. The apparent lack of basic infrastructures in Nigeria makes the theory suitable for the country..

METHODS

The instrument used for data collection was combined observation, questionnaire administration, and interviews. Visits were made to the community where the project and its utilization were observed. Questionnaires were administered on fifty purposely-selected respondents, each of whom has resided in the community for at least 10years. The data obtained from these set of respondents were analyzed by using Likert rating scale as follow:

SA.. - Strongly Agreed.. - 4 Points

A... - Agreed. - 3 Points

D... - Disagreed. - 2 Points

SD.. - Strongly Agreed.....1 Point

U... - Undecided.....- 0 Point..

The scores obtained above were weighted to get their means and the means interpreted as follows:

0.0 – 0.9 =.. U

1.0 – 1.49 =. SD

1.50 – 2.49 = D

2.50 – 3.49 = A

3.50 – 4.00 = SA

Key informants, including the Executive Members of Irasa Community Projects Management Committee, Officials of EKCSDA and community leaders, were interviewed. The interviews were conducted with a fairly open framework. They were focused, conversational with two-way communication.

The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics especially frequency, means, and percentages.

RESULTS

The results of the study were obtained from the questions answered. However, interview and observation reports from field study were also used to support or refute the questionnaire analysis.

Table 1 revealed that the newly completed motorized borehole did not impact positively on the socio-economic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the community. Field observation revealed that the borehole has been completed several months before the study. It was supplied with a standby power generating set to enhance pumping of water when such is desired. Thus, the non-utilization of this project does not improve access to drinking water, have no effects on the incidences of diseases, did not improve the supply of water for domestic use and laundry.

Similarly, the non-utilization of the water project made it difficult for residents to determine its impacts on time economy and child abuse. At presently considerable length of time is spent by women and children in fetching water from streams and ponds. Some pupils were observed fetching water when they were supposed to be in school.

Table 1: Mean Ratings of the Responses of Respondents on the Impact of a Motorized Borehole Water Project in Irasa, Ado- Ekiti, Nigeria

S/n	Statement	Frequency of Responses								
		SA	A	D	SD	U	N	Total	Mean	Interpretation
		4	3	2	1	0				
1	Improve access to drinking water	0	0	62	19	0	50	81	1.62	D
2	Reduce incidence of diseases	0	6	72	12	0	50	90	1.80	D
3	Improve supply of water for domestic uses	0	0	56	22	0	50	78	1.56	D
4	Improve water supply for laundry	0	0	42	29	0	50	71	1.42	SD
5	Economy of time	0	0	4	10	0	50	14	0.28	U
6	Less child abuse	0	0	0	45	0	50	55	0.90	U

The data obtained in Table 2 revealed that no difficulties were experienced in the mobilization of community members for the project, as well as in the monitoring of the project. Personnel saddled with responsibilities concerning the project were dedicated and the community members participated actively in every facet of the project. The difficulty was experienced in funding, especially in contributing money towards raising the 10% counterpart funding from the community. The community cost was ₦ 269,325.00k (\$740.49, as at January 25, 2019). The entire project cost was ₦ 2,693, 250.00k (\$7,404.90).

Field observation revealed that three sub-committee was set up for the project. They are Procurement Sub-committee; Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-committee; Operations and Maintenance Sub-committee. Each of the sub-committee was made up of four community members. Information from respondents revealed that members of these sub-committees demonstrated the immense commitment to the programme.

Table 2: Means Ratings of Factors Affecting the Implementation of the EKCSDA-Assisted Motorized Borehole Water Project in Irasa, Ado- Ekiti, Nigeria

S/n	Statement	Frequency of Responses								
		SA	A	D	SD	U	N	Total	Mean	Interpretation
		4	3	2	1	0				
1	Difficulty in mobilization experienced	4	6	16	1	0	12	27	2.25	D
2	Funding difficulties experienced	36	9	0	0	0	12	45	3.75	SA
3	Monitoring challenges experienced	4	3	20	0	0	12	27	2.25	D
4	Lack of dedicated personnel	0	3	18	2	0	12	23	1.92	D
5	Low level of community participation	0	6	16	2	0	12	34	2.00	D

The Operations and Maintenance Sub-committee put in place is charged with the responsibilities of pumping water to the storage tanks, buying of fuel to provide power for pumping and maintenance of all equipment on the project. The effectiveness of this strategy could only be determined when the project is in operation.

DISCUSSIONS

The motorized borehole water project in Irasa, Ado- Ekiti did not improve the socio-economic well-being of the inhabitants of the community. Residents still scavenged for water for domestic and laundry use from unhygienic streams and ponds. Also, the act of fetching water still consumed considerable proportions of women and children's time. The use of children for fetching water at the odd time constitutes child abuse.

The nonchalant attitude of policymakers to issues that affect rural dwellers is still prominent in Nigeria. Studies by Nnamani (2012), Nkwede and Samuel (2014) in the Ebonyi State of Nigeria also revealed that the World Bank multi-million Naira rural water supply projects failed to achieve the desired objectives. The Irasa project that was completed tested and finds functional with potentials to impact positively was left unused. The adequate supply of water is an important infrastructure in rural areas. For example, Nwakoby (2007) observed that the provision of boreholes in Okposhi Umuogbara community in Ezza south local government area of Ebonyi State, Nigeria, supplied water for domestic utilization and stamped out guinea worm infection in the area. Rural infrastructure, such as hygienic water, has been described as critical elements conducive to the optimum improvement of the socio-economic welfare of rural dwellers (Olayide et. al., 1981, Aderonmu 2007).

The 'down-top' approach of this project could be said to be responsible for effective mobilization, monitoring, dedication and high level of community members' involvement experienced in the project. Water is seen as an indispensable infrastructure. Estimate revealed that 35% of the Nigerian population lacked access to safe water while less than 9% of households drink safe water (Obinna 2018). Access to safe water supply has great influence on the health, economic productivity and quality of life of the people, little wonder the United Nations assembly recognized the right of every human being to have access to sufficient water for personal and domestic uses (between 50 and 100 litres of water per person per day), which must be safe, acceptable and affordable (water costs should not exceed 3% of the household's income), and physically accessible (the water source has to be within 1,000 meters of the home and collection time should not exceed 30 minutes) (UNDP 2006).

Similarly, water supply is now regarded as an important index of determining development. Obot (1987) opined that rural development achievement could be measured in the areas of roads, water supply, housing, electricity, the building of model communities, access to quality education, improved health care delivery and availability of food and agricultural products for the rural settlers.

CONCLUSIONS

The Irasa water supply project is a benign means of improving the wellbeing of the community's dwellers. The community-driven development concept utilized in this project made the project relevant to the immediate needs of the inhabitants of the community. However, the delay being experienced in the utilization of the project demonstrated the nonchalant attitude of the policymakers to issues concerning rural dwellers. This should be addressed urgently by all stakeholders of the project. Also, public enlightenment is still required to enhance rural dwellers' interest in infrastructural development of their areas.

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