

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Udeuhele Godwin Ikechukwu & Offor, E. Ogbonnaya

Department of Political Science, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki

Abstract

Essentially speaking, rural development has been a recurring topic of discourse as a road to national development and economic advancement. It is well known that rural areas in Nigeria lack basic amenities such as piped water, good road networks, schools, health facilities, and markets, to name a few, resulting in rural areas being severely undeveloped. As a result, there is a significant difference in development levels between urban and rural areas, owing to political actors' neglect of rural areas; consequently, the significance of community-based organizations (CBOs) as a viable option for rural development. The essence of this study is to objectively assess the role of community-based organizations (CBOs) in Nigerian rural development. The study is based on collaborative governance theory, explanatory research design, and secondary data inquiry as its research methods. The study finds that CBOs' efforts and collaborations with the government, on occasions, play a significant role in rural development. The study concludes and suggests that community-based organizations (CBOs) are vital but underappreciated actors in rural development which should be encouraged and supported to do more by the government and donor agencies.

Keywords: Community-based organisations (CBOs), Rural, Development, Collaborative governance, and Non-governmental organisation (NGOs).

1. Introduction

One of the reasons for the formation of community-based organisations (CBOs) in the new millennium has been recognised as the government's failure to address residents' socioeconomic requirements. Until recently, citizens in underdeveloped countries relied on their governments to meet their basic socioeconomic demands, according to Wahab (2000). African governments have created both top-down and bottom-up techniques to achieve sustainable development for their people. These include establishing leading industries in large cities to create jobs, provide basic infrastructure, and make use of local natural and man-made resources to drive growth and economic development that will extend to other regions (Abegunde, 2003).

In light of the aforementioned, decentralisation policies allowed non-governmental organisations (NGOs) like FBOs, CBOs, CSOs, non-profit organisations, and other international players to become more active in development efforts in addition to giving local governments responsibility for development issues. For instance, the elimination of statist approaches to development in Nigeria led to a rapid increase in the number of NGOs operating there and a rise in their significance for rural, community, and urban development. In order to address the needs of emerging nations, non-profits and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are becoming more active. As a result, they are becoming more crucial to the promotion of rural development in Nigeria.

Agbola (2002) also claims that various or subsequent Nigerian administrations have implemented poverty-alleviation programmes to simultaneously support grassroots growth in response to both rural and urban concerns. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Community Banks, Directorate of

Food and Rural Road Infrastructure, Better Life for Rural Women, and National Poverty Alleviation Programme (NAPEP) are a few of the programmes that fall under this category. Public trust in central and intermediate authorities has been harmed by the failure of top-down government initiatives and a lack of grassroots involvement in the bottom-up plan. As a result, communities seek consolation in indigenous institutions, which pressurize the government to address development issues in their areas and/or implement development programs and projects that they regard as being urgently needed in their immediate communities. Self-help is related with indigenous groups (Ogundipe, 2003).

CBOs act as conduits for the mobilisation of resources to address regional issues. These include the funding and execution of projects, lobbying and the nomination of representatives to government positions to express their opinions and fight for their requirements, and the development of human resources in response to upcoming developmental demands of their surrounding communities. As a result, they have an effect on infrastructure, health, policy, economic development, and physical and environmental development (Akinola, 2000; Agbola, 2002). Despite these successes, many CBOs have risen and fallen like ancient empires, and some have not had a significant impact since their beginning because of poor organisational and financial management. This is especially true in African communities, where CBOs are micro-systems inside a macro context plagued by economic stagnation, poverty, and a low standard of living. As a result, it's critical to assess the socioeconomic situation of current CBOs in developing countries like Nigeria, as well as the degree of impact they've had on their physical environs.

CBOs typically work at the grass-roots level, assisting the government in providing basic services to their communities. The necessity to bridge the poverty gap generated by low levels of development in communities prompted the founding of CBOs. One of the strategies used by CBOs is the self-help approach to developing and implementing developmental projects. Community-based organizations (CBOs) have been found to be an integral part of every Nigerian community, according to studies. This is based on the principles of 'self-help, self-reliance', and 'citizen participation,' which require active participation and cooperation of people in activities that will improve their communities' quality of life.

Because they are more flexible in their approach to service provision, CBOs appear to be better positioned to provide adequate services to members. As a way of livelihood diversification, CBOs improve self-reliance by boosting educational levels, supporting women's development, expanding credit opportunities, and carrying out community development activities (Othman, 2006). Surprisingly, the distinction between community development and rural development is blurry. Community development encompasses activity in cities, towns, and villages, whereas rural development is limited to grassroots activities in hamlets, farm settlements, and other very underdeveloped areas with few or no basic amenities.

As a result, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are both urban and grassroots organizations run by members for members (Ohakweh & Ezirim, 2006; UN Habitat, 2011). CBOs conduct a wide range of important and diverse tasks, including labor mobilization, infrastructure development, cultural activities, conflict mediation, and disaster assistance (Narayan & Shah, 2000). Community-based organizations (CBOs) are the only groups that the poor own, trust, and can rely on over time, according to the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and development agencies. Regardless of the CBOs' high and massive developmental advances, as documented by existing community development studies, little or nothing has been written on CBOs and rural development in recent years. Most research used the community action theoretical model, which has been overused and does not effectively explain community members' collective efforts towards rural development. This study investigates the efforts of CBOs in rural development in Nigeria in order to add to the current information.

In achieving the essence of this paper, we structured the study ranging from the background issues, conceptual clarifications, theoretical framework/methodology, discussions and recommendations.

2. Conceptual Clarifications

Community Based Organisations (CBOs)

Community-based organizations (CBOs) are private self-help, village-level organizations that operate outside of government, according to the World Bank (1990). They are created by organizations, communities, or people to address basic needs that the government does not address.

A community-based organization is a locally established body tasked with planning, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating grassroots community development activities. The primary goal is to ensure that citizens participate in community development programs. Leadership is critical to the success of community-based development efforts. Community-based organizations are civil society non-profits that work within a specific local community. They are a subgroup of the larger category of non-profits. They are frequently run on a volunteer basis and are self-funded, just like other non-profits. There are many different sizes and organizational structures among community groups. Some are properly formed with a written constitution and a board of directors (sometimes referred to as a committee), while others are much smaller and less formal (Wikipedia, 2021).

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Non-governmental organizations, according to Offor and Itumo (2018), are a heterogeneous group within or outside the state with a lengthy list of humanitarian objectives functioning in various areas with a wide spectrum of operations. In addition to "NGOs," additional terminology used include civil society, independent sector, self-help groups, grassroots organizations, volunteer sector, transnational social movement organizations, and non-state actors.

Types of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Accordingly, Cousins (1991), enunciated and/or classified types of NGOs based on their level of operation and level of orientations.

1. Community-based Organisations (CBOs) are created by people working independently. These kinds of organisations include sports clubs, women's organisations, neighbourhood associations, and religious or educational institutions. There are numerous varieties of these, some of which are supported by NGOs, national or international NGOs, or bilateral or international organisations, while others are self-sustaining. Others are tasked with providing these services, while others are committed to educating the urban poor about their rights to receive such services or helping them to do so.
2. Citywide Organisations: Examples of citywide organisations are the Rotary or Lion's Club, chambers of commerce and industry, alliances of business, ethnic, or educational groups, and coalitions of local nonprofits. While some organisations are created explicitly to help the poor, others are established for purposes unrelated to helping the poor.

3. The Red Cross, Man 'O' War, Boy Scouts, Girls' Guides, and professional associations are a few examples of national NGOs. Some of these groups collaborate with nearby non-profits and have state and city chapters.
4. International NGOs range from secular groups like Amnesty International, Transparency International, and Save the Children to ones with a strong religious foundation like the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations, and Bush and Melinda Foundations. Their activities include everything from providing support to neighbourhood NGOs, institutions, and projects to actually carrying them out (Cousins, 1991).

Classification of NGOs based on Orientation

1. A charitable orientation usually involves a top-down, paternalistic approach with limited participation from the "beneficiaries." It includes non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that aim to meet the needs of the underprivileged, including providing them with housing, transportation, and educational opportunities as well as food, clothing, and medicine. Such NGOs might be asked for assistance in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.
2. Service Orientation: This describes NGOs that offer services like family planning, education, or health care, and whose programmes are created by the NGOs with the participation of the public.
3. Participatory Orientation: self-help programmes in which community members contribute money, tools, land, materials, labour, and other resources to the project's implementation. Participation in a typical community development project begins with the identification of a need and continues through the planning and implementation stages. Cooperatives are characterised by a participatory mindset.
4. Empowering Orientation: The purpose here is to assist impoverished people in gaining a better understanding of the social, political, and economic forces that affect their lives, as well as a greater knowledge of their own potential power to control their lives. These groups may form organically in reaction to a problem or issue, or they may be encouraged by NGOs. In every instance, people are involved to the fullest extent possible, with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) serving as facilitators (Cousins, 1991).

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBO) have been recognised. However, both experts agreed that CBOs and NGOs have identical qualities, with the sole difference being "size and location." They define a CBO as a simple institution with a local identity that covers a relatively small territory, whereas an NGO has a sophisticated and complex structure that covers a bigger area and mission. For example, Rotary International is a non-governmental organisation (NGO), whereas a local rotary club is a community-based organisation (CBO).

Rural Development

The process of increasing the quality of life and economic well-being of individuals who live in relatively isolated and sparsely inhabited places is known as rural development. Traditionally, rural development has focused on the extraction of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. Rural communities benefit from education, business, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure. The emphasis on locally created economic development initiatives is another aspect of rural development. In contrast to metropolitan areas, which have many commonalities, rural areas are drastically different (Van, & Hornidge, 2015).

CBOs, for example, are one of many distinct types of rural development initiatives that are used around the world. The term rural development refers to a variety of activities. It is primarily concerned with developing areas outside of the big urban economic system.

3. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

The study employed Collaborative Governance theory as espoused by Ansell & Gash (2008). Emerson, Nabatchi, & Balogh (2012); Morse and Stephens (2012); Bradley (2015), and others are proponents of the theory. Ansell & Gash (2008) defined collaborative governance as a governing arrangement in which one or more public agencies directly engage non-state stakeholders in a formal, consensus-oriented, and deliberative collective decision-making process with the goal of developing or implementing public policy or managing public programmes or assets. In essence, it consists of the government, community, and commercial sectors talking and cooperating to achieve more than any single sector could achieve alone.

Ansell and Gash (2008) define collaborative governance as including both informal and formal problem-solving and decision-making partnerships. By promoting cooperation across the public, commercial, and community sectors, traditional government policy processes can be merged into larger policy processes. Support, leadership, and a venue are all necessary components of collaborative governance. The customer service representative pinpoints the policy issue that has to be addressed. The leaders convene a meeting of the various sectors. After that, the forum members work together to produce policies, solutions, and responses.

The above definition is based on six criteria and/or propositions: (1) the forum includes non-state actors; (2) participants participate in decision-making rather than simply being "consulted"; (3) the focus of collaboration is on public policy or public management; (4) the forum is formally organised; (5) the forum is initiated by public agencies; and (6) the forum seeks consensus on decisions (Ansell & Gash, 2008).

Emerson, Nabatchi, and Balogh (2012) define collaborative governance as the processes and structures of public policy decision-making and management that constructively engage individuals across the boundaries of public agencies, levels of government, and/or the public, private, and civic spheres in order to accomplish a public goal that cannot be solely achieved by the formal government.

This paradigm, which is a broader analytical idea, does not confine collaborative governance to state-led initiatives or public-private sector collaboration. It cuts across government collaboration at various levels and amalgamates relationships formed by the corporate or community sector and/or non-governmental organizations, for example.

Application of the Theory to the Study

The theory is appropriate for the study because it explains how participants and institutions such as NGOs (Community-Based Organizations CBOs) collaborate in rural development. Both governmental and non-governmental organizations are considered as collaborators in the delivery of developmental services. On a number of fronts, the nation state (government) is considered as insufficient. It simply cannot cope as the initiator and implementer of national and even regional policy based on local circumstances and international interdependence. Without the assistance and mediation of non-state actors and/or organisations, the state simply cannot deliver all of the goods. This is where CBO participation is required to further increase and consolidate socio-political development in the majority of areas, sectors, and locations where the state/government cannot reach.

For instance, collaborative governance has been used in Australia to address a variety of complex social, environmental, and urban planning issues, such as managing the flood crisis and urban growth, involving the public in the redesign of the Ground Zero site in New York, and community visioning and planning in New Zealand (Emerson, Nabatchi, & Balogh, 2012).

Methodology

This study is harped on Explanatory research design, which entails a strategy used for collecting data for the purpose of explaining a phenomenon. Explanatory research is to help understand a given phenomenon better. This can be done through basic or applied research. In line with the research design, secondary sources of data were used through documentary method of data collection like journal materials, internet sources, textbooks, etc. The study was analysed, using qualitative method of data analysis.

4. Analytical Discourse

CBOs as Bastion of Rural Development in Nigeria

From the colonial period to the present, the government devised all rural development programs and disseminated them to the people. The government also assumes that it understands both the needs and desires of rural people, and that the problems that all rural people in different parts of the country face are similar. This concept was to blame for the failure of various programs in rural areas, as well as the rejection of some communities to embrace them. Nigeria's governments have launched a number of development programs to help the country's citizens escape poverty. According to Amans (2011), the government's early effort to alleviate poverty was focused on providing fundamental needs, but it was later understood that poverty alleviation is best addressed by addressing the unique characteristics of the situation at hand. Several development programs, despite not being conceived or implemented as poverty reduction programs, indicated that the benefits were not felt by the poor, and their situation deteriorated. That is where community-based organizations (CBOs) come in as a viable alternative or solution to rural development shortfalls.

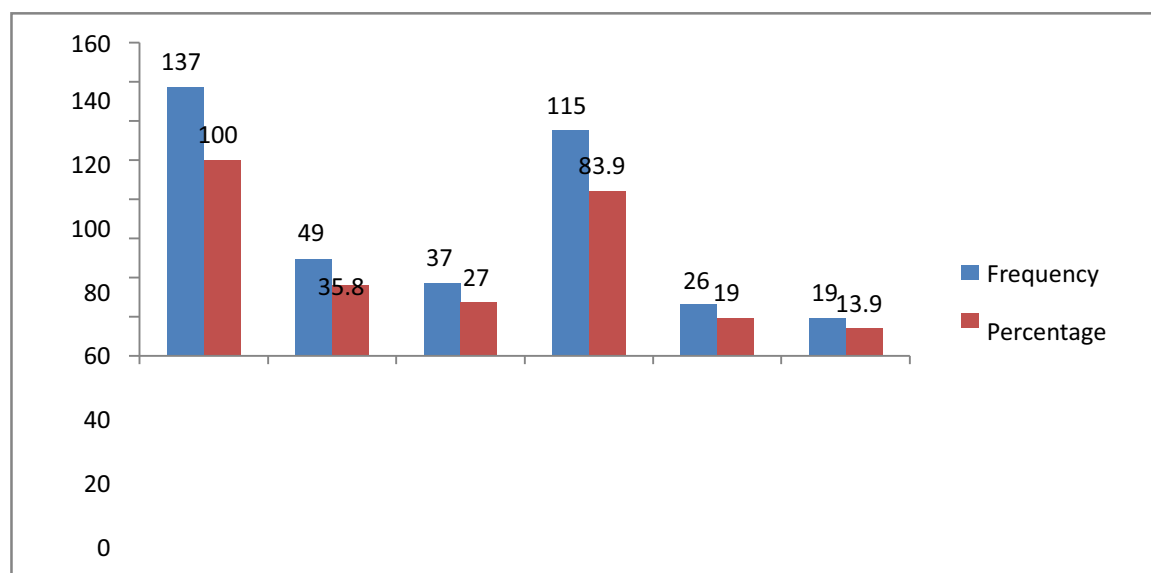
Meanwhile, CBOs in Nigeria handle a wide range of issues, including all aspects of rural life. There are both single-purpose and multi-purpose CBOs working in rural areas. For example, in a study of CBOs in Benue State done by Akpehe (2006), CBOs were classified into ten categories, which included:

1. A community development organisation (which is concerned with the mobilisation and use of community-based resources for rural communities' sustainable development).

2. Charitable organisations established for humanitarian causes.
3. Self-improvement (focused on community growth and general well-being).
4. Producers' organisations, which take part in a variety of agricultural tasks.
5. Groups that support young people's development (and encourage young people to get involved in community development).
6. Institutions that support capacity-building (to aid the extremely poor in better comprehending the social, political, and economic variables that influence their life).
7. Women's organisations (created by women with the intention of enhancing both their own and the general socioeconomic conditions of the communities in which they work).
8. Service-oriented organisations (founded to supply crucial development services that would be challenging if left to the government or individuals alone). Microcredit organisations (promote community savings and small-scale loaning scheme) and
9. market/enterprise organisations (engage in a variety of economic activities).

CBOs are diverse in their nature and focus, as they address all elements of rural needs.

Figure 1: Sources of Income in CB



Source: Yakubu (2015).

The above figure shows the frequencies and percentages of CBOs sources of income.

CBOs and the provision of Basic Infrastructures in Nigeria

An essential component in grassroots socio-political and economic development is a self-help project carried out via voluntary efforts and active engagement of individuals and corporate groups in communities. This method entails gathering community people to identify their needs, develop a strategy, and take action to satisfy those needs, with or without the help of government or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It is also common knowledge that during the colonial and early post-colonial periods, organized community members pooled their resources to sponsor their bright sons and daughters to study overseas. Similar habits and/or gestures have persisted in various forms to this day.

During the colonial and post-colonial periods, most rural/community schools (primary and secondary) were created by community initiatives.

Ikwuba (2010) claims that some rural communities in South-Western Nigeria planned and carried out N26,204,000.00 worth of public goods and services that had a direct influence on the lives of their residents through self-organized agreements, mutual consent, and shared understanding. The communities of Famia and Elerole each contributed to the construction of a road in 1995, and Oriokuta invested N70,000 on road upkeep and N50,000 on road construction. Culvert construction cost N1.4 million in the Aponmode, Isale-Amoro, and Alabata settlements of the Akinyele local government area between 1996 and 2000. The local government of Oorelope invested N85,000.00 to build new roads on the outskirts of the Igbope village. The Ara Joshua community in Ife South Local Government Area similarly adopted self-help initiatives for road maintenance (Akinola, 2007).

In terms of health facilities, the Ife region provided nine health clinics, however the clinics lacked staff and drug supplies. Similarly, the villages of Alabata, Ile-ogbo, and Igbope each contributed N250,000.00, N410,000.00, and N2.5 million to the development of a maternity centre in 1983-1987, 1992, and 2000, respectively (Akinola, 2007).

Nine health clinics were established in the Ife region, but they were plagued by a lack of staff and an insufficient supply of drugs. Similarly, in 1983-1987, 1992, and 2000, the villages of Alabata, Ile-ogbo, and Igbope each contributed N250,000.00, N410,000.00, and N2.5 million to the construction of a maternity centre (Akinola, 2007). These communities did not spare the educational sector. In the years 2001-2005, the Emure community paid N1.8 million to construct a model secondary school. In 1985, the residents of Iwo-Ate in the Ogo-Oluwa Local Government built a six-classroom building with a staff room and one workshop. In 1995, the Aseri and Akarakum villages in Badagry local government area restored a primary school for N300,000.00, while the Igare community distributed money to students in various tertiary schools as bursary awards worth N10,000.00 per student. In 1995, all of the villages in the Ife region paid N190,000.00 on electricity.

Akinsorotan and Olujide conducted a study on community-based organisations' contributions to community development in Lagos State in 2005. They discovered that CBOs exist in Lagos State under numerous names and in varying sizes. They donated money and labour to carry out their felt-needs projects with little or no outside influence. As a result of their efforts, the grantees were able to escape the cycle of poverty. Among the projects completed were health facilities (health centres, maternity homes, and dispensaries), market stalls, roads, schools, post offices, wells, bore holes, piped water, and electricity.

CBOs in Benue State were not left out of Nigeria's North-Central Zone. For example, Shangev-Ya Development Association established Shangev-Ya Community Secondary School in Kwande Local

Government Area to aid in capacity building and skill training. The same organisation opened a health care centre to assist community members in improving their health. Two milling machines were also purchased, as were 23 kilometres of road and eight culverts. It also provided small-scale funding (Akpehe, 2006). Her accomplishments are attributed to the Gbatse Youth Association in Vandeikya Local Government, Benue State. In 1992, it rebuilt a 37-kilometer road, constructed local bridges over the Ugungu, uavande, and Ukyagu streams, constructed a public well in the Ahilejime market area, and formed a vigilante organisation for community policing and dispute resolution. (2006) (Akpehe).

In 2006, a similar tragedy occurred in Bayelsa State, Nigeria's South-South Zone. The Kolo Creek Local Government Area's fourteen villages formed the Kolo Creek Foundation. Some of the foundation's participants joined forces to develop significant self-help initiatives. The Amorokeni community, for example, built restrooms; the Kolo one, two, and three communities united to build a weekly market to stimulate commercial activity in their area; and the Yiba-Ama community rewired their area's electrical project (Ebeleke, 2007).

In the South Eastern zone, the Ihiagwa community-based organisation in Imo State established a maternity home, a postal office, a Baptist Secondary School and a Catholic Mission residential complex. It offered scholarships to qualified students. One of the scholarship recipients, Dr. Kennedy Okeke, founded Horizon International Medical Mission (HIMM) in the United States in 1991. This organisation arrived in Nigeria in the year 2000 on a medical mission to help the less fortunate (World Bank, 1996).

Nigeria's Farmers Development Union (FADU) was established in 1989 as a neighborhood-based organisation to assist low-income rural and suburban peasants. FADU offers training in areas including equipment upkeep, marketing, company development, environmental preservation, the diffusion of new and pertinent technology, and the provision of subsidised inputs to farmers. It also conducts a credit and savings programme. By conducting community-based programmes in adult literacy, the environment, health, and water supply, it aims to improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities (Akinola, 2007).

In his study, Abegunde (2009) found that CBOs are participating in rural development projects in their areas. These include, among other things, the construction of roads, community halls, courthouses, and palaces, as well as the provision of potable water and flood control. Between 1976 and 2003, six roads were built, two community centres and market stalls were built in 2001 and 2003, and two public restrooms were finished. Other community initiatives implemented by CBOs in the study region include the donation of land for the construction of schools and a health center, as well as the effective flood control in 2003.

In a similar spirit, in their study on town unions as a CBO, Nwobashi & Itumo (2017, p. 447) claimed that:

...existence of good rural road network is a panacea for rapid socio-economic development of the rural communities in Nigeria. When there are deplorable roads, the transportation of people and evacuations of agricultural produce from rural to urban areas and movement of goods, fertilizer etc. from urban to rural areas to ease commerce, entrepreneurial activities and agricultural production suffer serious setbacks. Against this backdrop, the town unions are expected to provide and maintain the rural roads to ensure quick and easy access and the movement of goods and people from within and across the rural communities and from the rural communities to urban areas.

Agboola, Ifesanya, & Akanmu (2012) explored the influence of town unions on rural road project supply in the Oyo State LGAs of Akinyele and Kajola. They discovered that town unions in the Kajola LGA

performed more road maintenance projects between 1996 and 2011. It was discovered that town unions made major contributions to the restoration of rural roads in Oyo State throughout the time period under study.

Rural settlements in Ebonyi State, Nigeria, are in a similar situation, with town unions providing and maintaining feeder highways. According to the statistics, democratic government has improved community members' participation in town unions' development of new rural roads in the rural villages examined for the study. The people-cantered feature of democratic administration allowed for more contact between community members and the executive of the town unions. This always reawakened community members' enthusiasm in participating in the mandatory labour needed to remove, repair, and fill potholes in rural roadways (Nwobashi & Itumo, 2017).

Furthermore, democratic government reawakened rural people's willingness to collaborate with town unions (CBO) on the construction and maintenance of bridges and culverts in the villages of Ebonyi State. The findings also suggested that rural citizens were getting more involved in policymaking and implementation through town hall meetings. Through this medium, rural people are given the opportunity to engage in decision-making, and many have been motivated to cooperate with municipal unions on rural road development (Nwobashi & Itumo, 2017).

Surprisingly, this is consistent with the study of Onyeozu (2010), which looked at the contributions of town unions to the development of social amenities in Rivers State, Nigeria. According to a study, Rivers State town unions played an important part in the development and renovation of community roadways. Ugwu (2013), who researched the contributions of town unions to the construction of social services such as roads in rural villages in Enugu State, Nigeria, backs up this claim. According to the report, town unions in Nsukka LGA began road reconstruction in 2010, reaching 46.5 miles. The majority of respondents (81%) thought that town unions helped favourably to road reconstruction in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu state.

Challenges to Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Nigeria

There are numerous instances of CBOs in Nigeria making significant progress, but due to problems with funding, resource mismanagement, illiteracy, cultural beliefs, partisanship, and dishonest leaders, their successes have not been able to significantly affect rural areas (Famoriyo, 1995; Akpehe, 2006; Akinsorotan, & Olujide, 2007).

- i. Vested interest of eminent personalities and groups/factions in the community;
- ii. Corruption amongst leaders of the organisations;
- iii. State/political interference;
- iv. Lack of funds;
- v. Illiteracy and ignorance amongst community/organisational members;
- vi. Leadership tussle and leadership ineptitude;
- vii. Brain-drain and/or rural-urban migrations.

The above list on the challenges of CBOs in Nigeria are in-exhaustive but hinges on the fundamental or core areas of concern, existence and activities of CBOs in Nigeria.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The government's failure to provide basic economic goods, infrastructure, and services, as well as to conduct effective, people-centered development, has made Community Based Organizations a force to be reckoned with in the development process in Nigeria. As a result, this study looked into the function of CBOs as agents of and in poverty reduction.

The impact of CBOs' development activities on rural development, the relationship between CBO characteristics and their levels of involvement in poverty alleviation processes, and the differences in CBOs' involvement in poverty reduction processes, were the key issues investigated. The extent to which restrictions exacerbated poverty have been addressed with relation to projects performed was of importance to this study.

The findings of this study have actually provided us with proof of development projects that CBOs in Nigeria have undertaken and implemented. The focus of these CBOs in their various areas on infrastructure development programs was a sign of government incompetence in providing basic infrastructure and services that would have alleviated poverty.

The core mission of CBO is community development. In order to fully integrate communities into rural life and give residents the opportunity to contribute fully to national progress, people's efforts are combined with government efforts to improve communities' economic, social, and cultural situations (United Nations, 1963 in Akpahe, 2006). By defining their collective and individual needs and problems, creating group and individual plans to address those needs and solve problems, executing these plans with a maximum reliance on community resources, and supplementing these resources with services and goods from government and non-governmental organisations outside of their communities when necessary, people can organise themselves for action. In a similar vein, it is a process by which both urban and rural communities are helped in establishing for themselves the services and amenities that they require but that neither the state government nor the local government can supply, with conscious and conscientious speed.

Community development is first and foremost a group effort of the people who would be the immediate beneficiaries, before government and non-governmental organisations, which may be regarded as initiators and supporters, are involved and absorbed. As a result, the degree to which the former is involved determines the level of growth in any given location. In another sense, community development is incomplete without individual involvement.

As a result, everyone involved in any given development endeavour is considered to be participating. Participation, in the words of Ebeleke (2007), is the open, popular, and widespread involvement of community members in decisions that have an impact on their lives. So, being involved means choosing goals and objectives as well as what needs to be done, how, and by whom. A long-term development strategy must include participatory development.

The study recommends in line with what the theory preaches, that:

1. The government's role should be to create a favourable legislative environment for civil society organizations to function in, as well as to collaborate with CBOs in providing important human needs and development services.
2. In general, it is advised that CBOs should build capacity to support a more holistic view of development that recognizes material contribution in human development.

3. A well-structured institutional mechanism for collaboration between CBOs, government, and her agencies is required.
4. CBOs and other citizen-based organizations should find it simple to collaborate with the government on policy creation, implementation, and monitoring, with the ultimate goal of fostering transparency and accountability. Examples can be learnt from the accomplishments of CBOs in the fields of health, environment, education, etc. in the past.

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