ASSESSING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CHIKAJI COMMUNITY, SABON GARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA.

Abdul Hamidu Abdullahi
Department of Local Government and Development Studies
Faculty of Administration
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
hamiduabdul07@gmail.com
08065298660

A Paper presented at the Meeting/Workshop/conference of the International Association For Community Development (IACD) held at Babcock University, Ilishan Remo, Ogun State from 4th-7th September, 2018.

ABSTRACT

The trend and rise of a robust national economy especially the Asian give weight to the notion that the capacity to solve the problems of low income areas lie within the communities. This implies the use by the community of its current human, socio-economic, institutional, allocated and physical resources to build a self-sustaining economic system at the local level. This study is to establish whether or not the activities of the youth have any effect on the community economic development of Chikaji Community, Sabon Gari, Kaduna State. The issue is to what extent do the youth community development associations in Chikaji understand the felt-needs of the community that have bearing on local community economic development? The study is anchored on the participatory development theory and Frischman's economic theory of infrastructure and commons management. The study employed both primary and secondary data. The data was analyzed using the highest mean score, Chi-Square and a decision ruled was used to test the hypothesis. The findings indicated that the youth community development associations have contributed to the development infrastructures that have impact local community economic development in spite of lack of counterpart funding. The study, recommends that the youth community development association have to embark on serious mobilization of the community members including those staying outside the community, towards the realization of the essence and relevance of developing infrastructures. The state and local government should be more proactive on the issue of counterpart funding towards infrastructural development in the Chikaji community development.

Key Words: **Youth, Community Economic Development, Infrastructure, Local Government**

1.1 Introduction

The trend and rise of a robust national economy especially the Asian countries give weight to the notion that the capacity to solve the problems of low income areas lie within these communities. All that is required is for the communities to harness and market their resources intelligently thereby gaining competitive advantages to create new employment opportunities for residents and maintain the communities existing economic base. This implies the use by the community of its current human, socio-economic, institutional, allocated and physical resources to build a self-sustaining economic system at the local level.

According to Robinson (1989) in Michael, N.B (2014), all institutions in a community: schools, hospitals, recycling centres, religious centres, youth programs, housing projects and ethnic organizations have stake in the economy at the local level; arguing that new insights of community economic development reveal that these organizations have the potentials through partnerships to identify their assets and use them to build a better local economy.

This paper then singled out to assess the youth and their involvement in community economic development, considering their role; programs; numeric size; physical ability and other potentials, therefore interrogating whether or not they are relevant in the scale of community economic development Chikaji Community of Sabon Gari, Zaria.

Nevertheless, it is believed that the only reasonable form of development is the development that comes from within, development that comes through the will and desires of the people. A Sustainable rural economic development looks inward and utilizes the local resources efficiently and effectively. Yet every local jurisdiction has its unique economic, social and physical characteristic and its historical tradition which is better understood by its people thus the centre on the youths in Chikaji community.

Studies in the area of local economic development clearly suggests that youths benefit in myriad ways from opportunities to be involved in community especially a developed or developing economy. (Catalano, Loeber, & McKinney, (1999), Evans, (2007)

But the issue is most at times youth are considered to be silent and invisible unless they are perceived to be causing trouble. Thus they are excluded from many of the decision making processes that affect their lives. In spite of the fact that they are developing the capacity and the need to contribute in the world, the opportunities to develop skills and play meaningful roles are less than plentiful (Evans (2007). Thus this paper seeks to interrogate youth involvement in community economic development in Chikaji Community. To what extent are

their activities individually and as a group having an effect on the local economic development of Chikaji?

In order to entrench community development and facilitate local economic development, Kaduna State Government enacts the Kaduna State Government Edict of 1995 indicating the ratio of contribution towards the execution of community project or programme. The ratio indicates that the Local Government will contribute Forty percent (40%), the State Government Twenty Percent (20%), and the Community Development Association (20%), towards funding any developmental projects or programme within the community. The issue is to what extent is the State and Local Government regular in releasing their part of the contribution to the various youth associations of Chikaji community?

1.2 Literature review

Walter Rodney (1972) defined development as a wholesome phenomenon encompassing economic and social development. He states that at the individual level it consist of increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, reactivity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being. But that all the above depend on the state of the community or society in terms of development as an individually is only developed within the context of the social group, wider community and even society.

At the level of social groups, development implies on increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships that have effect on local economic development. In the past, it embodied fighting for survival against natural hazards and against real and imagined human enemies. But today individuals harness their capacity to make and use tools to affect local economic development. Accordingly, the tools and organisation of labour of youth within this context are both important indices of local economic development.

Development can be considered as a process of unfolding change from a manifest, latent or previous condition of a community which is not desirable to a desirable one. During the process of these change qualities reveal possibilities, capabilities emerge and potentials are realized.

In manifest terms development include: (a) A general rise in standard of living. (b) Increase in the availability of basic needs such as food, shelter, health, clothing etc. (c) The provision of more employment opportunities. (d) Structural changes in agriculture leading to increase farm productivity and output. (e) Transformation of rigid institutions and changes in beliefs,

values and norms of the society that is inimical to development. (f) Creating more political space for good governance, accountability and service delivery (Jalingo, 2008).

The theoretical frame work of this study is anchored on the economic Theory of infrastructure and commons management. The theory was developed by Frischman in 2005 as a better option for understanding of societal demand for infrastructural facilities. The term infrastructure, generally conjures up the notion of physical resource systems made by humans and for public consumption.

The theory's four core components include: Public access to infrastructure; the value of infrastructure when used as input into a wide variety of productive processes; the management of infrastructure resources; and people's empowerment. Infrastructure resource according to Frischman, constitute an important class of resources on which society should place "a very high value on public access." In the views of Frischman, infrastructures are fundamental resources that generate value when used as input into a wide range of productive processes. Managing infrastructure resource is done in an openly accessible manner. People are therefore empowered to engage in the production of certain goods that are desirable.

In relation to this study, infrastructure resources schools and access roads, culverts, water point boreholes, market stall, etc when adequately provided or significantly promoted will serve as inputs that can generate value in the productive processes (human consumption and industrial activities), stimulate growth in agricultural and industrial sectors as well as improving the living conditions of individuals. This is in addition to generating positive externalities that benefits society as a whole thereby entrenching sustainable development in the economy and community as a whole.

1.3 Methodology

This study uses descriptive survey research that will facilitate the collection of both primary and secondary date. The population of the study comprises of the youth development associations and the people of Chikaji Community. The population exhibits degree of homogeneity been members of the community, a purposive non-probability sampling that is judgmental was use to obtain the representative sample. As Babbie, (2005) state that, it is appropriate to select a sample based on the purpose of the research, its elements and knowledge of a population. Therefore the sum of fifty people was chosen based on their knowledge of the community, and research instrument were administered to them.

In terms of data analysis simple percentage was used in some instances and the highest percentage is given as the accepted decision rule that will lead to either accepting or rejecting assumption. While other data collected was sorted, tabulated and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. While Computer SPSS statistical package 18.00 was used for the data analysis.

The data for this study is collected through Observation, and the administration of questionnaire, while analysis was done using descriptive and inferential statistics.

The self-designed questionnaire on 'the Effect of youth development association on local economic development in Chikaji Community is divided into two sections. Section A is on demographic of respondents, while section B contains Likert- type questions, in which respondents will be requested to indicate their preference on a 4-point scale ranging from Strongly Agreed (SA) (4); Agreed (A) (3), Disagreed (D) (2), to Strongly Disagreed (1) (SD), it is used to elicit data on the effect of the Community Development on Chikaji Community development.

In Chikaji community, there are four (4) formal and four (4) informal youth community development associations. The formal ones are those registered with the Community Development Unit at the Education and Social Development (ESD) of Sabon Gari Local Government while the informal are the unregistered ones. (See Appendix A).

The formal youth community development associations (YCDAs') have completed two (2) class room buildings at the Community Primary School and three (3) class room buildings at the Junior Neighborhood Secondary School.

The YCDAs' also have the following uncompleted projects (a) the renovation of Local Education Authority primary school Classes (b) the renovation of classes at the Junior Neighborhood Secondary School (c) the construction of one (1) Women's centre.

The informal youth community development associations are also involve in community development activities such as the organization of Extra- mural classes for its members and others and repairs of essential supply within the community such as drainages, electricity, and water supply.

In terms of the questionnaires distributed, as can be seen from Table 3.1 below, out of sixty (60) questionnaires, only fifty were returned which represent eighty three percent 83% of the responses. This is significant enough for researcher to continue the analysis.

Table 1.1 showing the number of questionnaire distributed and returned.

Response	Number	Percentage %
Number distributed	60	100
Number returned	50	83
Number not returned	10	17

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Also, in order to accept or reject the hypothesis that guides the paper, other issues were raised as discussed below:

Table 1.2 Adequacy of funding

	Frequency	**Percentage**
Very adequate	*5*	*10*
Adequate	*10*	*20*
Inadequate	*10*	*20*
Very inadequate	*25*	*50*
Total	***50***	***100***

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table above, about 70% of the respondents agree that the community development associations are not having adequate funds to meet with the challenges of development in Chikaji community and only about 30% disagree.

This is further collaborated by the some of the officials of the community development association as for almost ten years (10) now they have not received any fund from the State and Local Governments inspite of the number of projects that are uncompleted and new ones in the pipe line.

Table 1.3 Transformation of Chikaji Community

Responses	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly agree	20	40
Agree	10	20
Strongly disagree	5	10
Disagree	15	30
Total	**50**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The table above shows that about 60% of the respondents agree that there is transformation of Chikaji Community due to the activities of the community development Associations while 40% objected to this claim.

Table1.4 Rating of Infrastructural Development Activities of Youth

Variables	Mean	Remark
Road Maintenance.	2.92	Accept
Provision of Community Borehole.	2.11	Reject

Building of Community Town Halls.	2.35	Reject
Construction of Community Markets.	2.59	Accept
Provision of Agricultural Processing Machines in the Community.	1.59	Reject
Building of Community Recreational Centers.	2.01	Reject
Maintenance of Community Market Square.	3.34	Accept
Building of Community Sign Posts.	3.21	Accept
Renovation of School Buildings in the Community.	2.26	Reject
Construction of Drainages in the Community.	2.70	Accept
Establishment of Cottage Industries (Palm processing and Gari processing mills, Soap factories and the like) in the Community.	1.98	Reject

Source: researcher computation, 2017

Entries in Table 1.4 showed the infrastructural development activities in which youths participate in. The result indicate that the respondents participate more in the area of road maintenance (mean = 2.92). Youths in the study area may have considered this as essential since feeder roads eases off movement of persons, goods and services within the community. It also increases linkages between the rural and urban centers. The finding showed that youths participate in the maintenance of market square (mean = 3.34). This development activity is within the reach of rural youths since maintenance activity generally may not require huge sum of money but labour which the youths can provide through cooperative effort. From the findings, youths also participate in building of sign posts (mean = 3.21). Sign posts are essential to guide the movement of persons especially visitors to the community. It further provides timely information on monumental sites, imminent danger and locations in the community for both indigenes and guests. The result further revealed that youth participate in the construction of drainages in the community (mean = 2.70). The findings confirms the view of Nitzberg (2005) that youth associations are group of youths who come together for common interests to improve themselves and their environment.

Table 1.5: Youth participation in infrastructural development.

Variables	Mean	Remark
Serves as members of project planning committee.	2.81	Accept
Serves members of project implementation committee.	2.91	Accept
Deciding and selecting appropriate project.	3.21	Accept
Advisory roles.	3.14	Accept
Mobilizes community members for project support.	3.27	Accept
Organize fund raising forum.	3.80	Accept
Donate funds for project implementation.	3.24	Accept
Monitor project implementation.	3.31	Accept
Provide security at community project sites.	3.36	Accept
Provide labour for project execution.	2.59	Accept
Organize skill training, enlightenment and workshop for community members.	2.59	Accept

Source: researcher computation, 2017

It was also indicated that youth associations donate fund for project implementation (mean = 3.24). They often also organize fund raising forum (mean = 3.80). This was emphasized mainly by all respondents as is the only major way to raise funds; because such funds may be raised through group efforts since mobilization of resources in most communities is a collective action. As revealed in the study, the result show that youth associations monitor project implementation (Mean = 3.31). This appears to be an essential role in infrastructural development. Because project monitoring ensure that the project embarked upon are carried out to completion. Only a few of the members organizes skill training, enlightenment and workshop (mean = 2.59); advisory roles and decision making on appropriate project were equally mentioned at (mean = 3.14 and 3.21) respectively. Most of the members interviewed play a major role in providing security at community project sites.

Table 1.6: Factors constraining youth associations Participations in community development

Variables	Mean	Remark
Inadequate fund to youth associations	3.2	Accepted
Non recognition of youths as partners In rural development by power brokers	3.1	Accepted
Lack of good leadership	2.6	Accepted

Leadership tussle in the associations	2.6	Accepted
Lack of social amenities	3.1	Accepted
Community conflict /clashes	2.3	Rejected
Inability of the youths to establish Link with donor agency	3.0	Accepted
Inability of the youth to resolve conflicts And crisis with the associations	3.0	Accepted

Source: researcher computation, 2017

From table 1.6, constraints to effective involvement of youth associations in community development in the area of study were revealed to include inadequate fund available to the association (3.2), non-recognition of youths as partners in rural development by community power brokers (3.1), inability of the youth to resolve internal organizational conflict and crisis as well as inability of the associations to establish link with donor agencies (3.0), lack of good leadership / leadership tussle in the associations (2.6) and lack of social amenities (3.1) in the rural areas. This confirmed the observations made by Musa, (2014) that youths are trendy and socially active and therefore finds it difficult to adapt to the dull and drab existence in the rural areas. However, intra community conflicts/clashes (2.3) did not significantly affect the performance of the youth associations in the study area.

1.4 Test of Hypothesis

The following hypothesis is tested for the study:-

H_o The Youth Development Associations programmes and projects have not contributed significantly to the local economic development of Chikaji community.

H_i The Youth Development Associations programmes and projects have not contributed significantly to the local economic development of Chikaji community.

Using the Chi square test, the following output was also generated:

Table 3.5 Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	45.417(a)	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	61.376	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	27.241	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	50		

Spss output 2017

From the output above, the calculated value is 45.42 while the critical value at 0.05% level of significance and 9 degree of freedom from the chi square table is 16.91. These indicate that the calculated value is greater than the critical value. Thus we reject our null hypothesis and accept the alternate one. The decision is guided by the decision rule which state that if the calculated value is greater than the critical value we reject and if less than we accept.

1.5 Major Findings

i. The result indicates that the respondents participate more in the area of road maintenance. Youths in the study area may have considered this as essential since feeder roads eases off movement of persons, goods and services within the community. It also increases linkages between the rural and urban centers.

ii. The finding showed that youths participate in the maintenance of market square. This development activity is within the reach of rural youths since maintenance activity generally may not require huge sum of money but labour which the youths can provide through cooperative effort.

iii. From the findings, youths also participate in building of sign posts. Sign posts are essential to guide the movement of persons especially visitors to the community. It further provides timely information on monumental sites, imminent danger and locations in the community for both indigenes and guests.

iv. The result further revealed that youth participate in the construction of drainages in the community. The findings confirms the view of Nitzberg (2005) that youth associations are group of youths who come together for common interests to improve themselves and their environment.

v. It was also indicated that youth associations donate fund for project implementation. They often also organize fund raising forum. This was emphasized mainly by all respondents as is the only major way to raise funds; because such funds may be raised through group efforts since mobilization of resources in most communities is a collective action.

vi. As revealed in the study, the result show that youth associations monitor project implementation. This appears to be an essential role in infrastructural development. Because project monitoring ensure that the project embarked upon are carried out to completion.

vii. Only a few of the members organizes skill training, enlightenment and workshop; advisory roles and decision making on appropriate project were equally mentioned. Most of the members interviewed play a major role in providing security at community project sites.

viii. Constraints to effective involvement of youth associations in community development in the area of study were revealed to include inadequate fund available to the association, non-recognition of youths as partners in rural development by community power brokers , inability of the youth to resolve internal organizational conflict and crisis as well as inability of the associations to establish link with donor agencies , lack of good leadership / leadership tussle in the associations and lack of social amenities in the rural areas. This confirmed the observations made by Musa, (2014) that youths are trendy and socially active and therefore found it difficult to adapt to the dull and drab existence in the

rural areas. However, intra community conflicts/clashes did not significantly affect the performance of the youth associations in the study area.

1.6 Conclusion and Recommendations

The conclusion is that the youth community development associations' programmes have contributed significantly to the local economic development and transformation of Chikaji Community.

The recommendations of this paper include the following:

1. At a general level, to increase local community economic development in Nigeria, a comprehensive development policy of all tiers of government in Nigeria should include strategies focused on business attraction, business retention and new business start-ups; among the youths.
2. Funds provided to the local governments should be used to develop and train citizens in the communities to harness local natural resources, sustaining community economic development through the youth community development association.
3. Local economic development policies and programs of all tiers of governments should be co-ordinated towards achieving a singular economic development; community development policy initiatives should be developed for the country by the legislature and adhered to by all tiers of government; and community development initiatives should preserve the life quality of its citizens.
4. The Promotion of inter-Sectoral linkages between Agricultural, local law material, local skills and technology for local economic development through the youth development associations. This would lead to the emergence and development of Agro-Allied industries, Cottage and Local Manufacturing industries and the development of local and traditional skills (dying, traditional caps and clothes

making, local artisans) and technology. And in the long-run have a multiplier effect on Agricultural and rural development thereby reducing hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition intake of the local people and generate employment rate especially for the youths.

5. The youth development association should be engaged in capacity building especially in the area of organizing and managing fund raising and other issues that will enhance their capacity towards optimal performance.
6. Another recommendation is that the youth community development associations have to embark on serious mobilization of the community members including those staying outside the community, towards the realization of the essence and relevance of developing infrastructures that will generate economic development.
7. The state and local government should be more proactive on the issue of counterpart funding towards infrastructural development in the Chikaji community development.

References

Catalano, R.F., Loeber, R., & McKinney, K. (1999) 'School and community interventions to Prevent serious and violent offending' in Juvenile Justice Bulletin, Department of Justice,
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Washington, DC: U.S.

Evans, S. D (2007) 'Youth sense of community: Voice and Power in Community Contexts' Journal of Community Psychology, Vol. 35, No. 6, 693–709 (2007) Published online in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com). © 2007 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. DOI: 10.1002/jcop.20173

Frischman, B. M. (2005). An Economic theory of infrastructure and common Management. Minnesota Law Review, 89:917-976.

Giloth, R. P. (1998). *Jobs and Economic Development Strategies and Practice.* Sage Publications. Michigan.

Jalingo, U.A. (2008), "Social Mobilization and Popular Participation for Community Development in the Local Governments: the Way Forward". Being a paper presented at a 2 days' workshop on Strengthening Democracy through Accountability in the Local Government System Organized by Salsan Nigeria Limited in Collaboration with the Ministry for Local Government, Niger State.

Rodney, W. (1976) How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, London: Penguin.

Michael, N.B (2014) 'Community Economic Development Policies and Programmes in Nigeria' in Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development www.iiste.org ISSN 2222-1700 (Paper) ISSN 2222-2855 (Online)

APPENDIX 1. Youth Community Development Associations in Chikaji Community

S/N	Association	Membership	Source of income	Functions	Remarks
1.	Gaskiya youth association of Chikaji (GAYAC)	Students within Chikaji ward	Voluntary contribution/Levy/Donations	Conduct lessons and community development	Non-Registered
2.	Chikaji unity and Development Association (CUDA)	Most of the members are students	Voluntary contribution Levy/Donations	Conduct lessons and community development	Registered
3.	Rano Association	Indigenes of Rano Local Government Area resident in Chikaji	Contribution among them (members)	economic empowerment of members and community Development	Registered
4.	Sawun Giwa	Chikaji youth both employed and unemployed	Politics (from politicians)	Political campaign/ economic empowerment	Non- Registered
5.	Hawayen Zaki	Most of the members are unemployed youth of Chikaji.	They normally generate their income from politicians.	Political campaign and community Development	Non- Registered
6.	Kukan Kurciya	Youth (both students and non-students)	They get their income from politicians	Political campaign and community Development	Non- Registered
7.	Chikaji Residents Association	For all members in the community	Voluntary contribution/ Levy/Donations	General community development	Registered
8.	Chikaji Development Association	For all members in the community	Voluntary contribution/ Levy/Donations	General community development	Registered

Source: Field Survey. (2017)