

WORLD BANK ASSISTED COMMUNITY DRIVEN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA: IMPLICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

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Abstract

The issue of Community Driven Development is presented as a tool for effective community development at the grassroots in Kwara State. This paper draws on field research on conservation based field observation in which the authors had to visit some of the project locations to ascertain the availability of the project. Apart from this, the study relies heavily on secondary data obtained from the Kwara State Community Based Poverty Reduction Project's publications and the recently inaugurated Kwara State Community and Social Development Agency. The study reveals that in the last seven years in the state, over 403,110,342.76 Naira has been expended on executions of community driven projects in the state. In all, over 140 communities have benefited from the developmental impacts of the 127 community projects supported across the state through the World Bank Assisted Community Driven initiatives. Appropriate recommendations are given to enhance sustainable participatory development in the state.

Key Words: Community, Participatory, Management, Evaluation, Implementation, Rural

Introduction

In the last two decades, rural development planners world wide have been clamoring for a combination of 'bottom up approaches' to effect a sort of sustainable development. This has also been developed through the process of Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques to bring about Participatory development among the rural communities. Participatory

development has been defined as development efforts or strategies that involve methods in which people whose livelihoods are directly affected are actively involved in the development process (Overseas Development Administration (1996). Babatola (1997) also indicated that such participatory development involves all efforts which acknowledge that

development has also socio-cultural as well as technological dimensions; and that communities everywhere have developed overtime, advanced institutions, technologies, and development patterns peculiar to their development. Such process will also take recipients of the development efforts as planners, such people will participate in decision making about their development whether directly or indirectly.

Similarly, a lot of works on community self-helps for rural development has been accepted in the literatures (Okafor, 1982, Adedayo 1983, Olawepo, 1998), but most of the works of these and other scholars however lie in their focus on the important roles of grassroots participation in policy formulation and implementation of such projects. In the light of the above, all tiers of government in Nigeria have over the years been laying emphases on enduring and sustainable rural community development through the provision of basic social infrastructure such as potable water supply, sanitation, education, roads, rural electrification, health care facilities and erosion control to mention a few. The importance of these projects in developing rural communities cannot be over emphasized. This is because they are regarded as building blocks for development by the rural dwellers themselves.

Over the years, Community development projects have been conceived and implemented for the purpose of enhancing the socio-economic transformation of the Nigerian rural populace. The concept of community driven development (CDD) appears significant to be defined as having dwelt with the word, community development connotes the gradual growth, which becomes more advanced and stronger when we plan, which is something one intend to do or achieve over a period of time through the now conceived idea 'Participatory

Learning and Action' (PLA). This is based on the assumption that community members are the best experts about their own development, health and social institutions (Olawepo, 2010, Kuranga, 2011).

In Nigeria, successive governments have come forth with various rural development strategies for examples, the establishment of the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperation and Rural Development Bank (NARCB), River Basin Development Authority and Directorate of Foods, Rural Roads and Infrastructures (DFRRI) to mention a few. These are among similar rural development initiatives embarked upon by the government to facilitate the development of the rural economy. Most recent of these, is the foreign loan secured by the Federal Government for the rural/agrarian economy of the country, the dividends of which are still being awaited. The funds are expected to be particularly used for the down stream value addition activities of processing, storage and marketing. Sadly, the pre 80s approaches were short lived and development in the rural areas no longer be in the priority list of the government until recently.

The poor conditions of the rural dwellers that resulted in the degraded quality of life of the majority of the people in the rural areas of most developing countries have triggered the ambitions of the United Nations Organization to formulate the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the year 2000. The first agenda of the Millennium Development Goals is the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger especially in the rural areas. In order to achieve this, The UN collaborates with other International Agencies and the partnership is committed to half the population of people living with absolute poverty by 2015.

Literature indicates that funding from the World Bank to support the partnership to achieve this aim of reducing poverty is more than \$7 billion dollars by 2003. The issue of participation by rural communities in deciding their own development is based upon the felt need approach to rural development, and this is further strengthened by Public Private Initiatives (PPP) through Non Governmental Organizations in many places. The issues of infrastructure provision through self help projects have also been given recognition by the various levels of government. This path to development according to Atte (1995) is not to ignore these systems (as we have done in the past) but to recognize them through injections that will trigger a self defining, self sustaining and self reliant development. This type of support is the one introduced by the World Bank as a form of partnership with the Federal, State and Local Government as well as the local communities in financing micro projects identified and contributed to by the communities according to their needs and abilities.

Recently, the World Bank has initiated a change in the positive direction to effect a form of participatory development especially in Africa South of Sahara. This is a development strategy which is aimed at yielding the desired results under the community-Based Poverty reduction Project (CPRP). In the last ten years, Nigeria has been a strong partner with the World Bank and Kwara State has also been benefiting in various ways. This project became effective in September 2001 in seven States with an additional six states joining the second phase, Kwara State inclusive.

The design and implementation of the World Bank Assisted Community projects in the state is taken as a pilot bottom up

scheme which demonstrate the joint commitment of the Federal Government, some States and the World Bank at addressing the problems of poverty through the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach. This strategy is being pursued to improve the quality of rural lives by integrating development goals with development objectives through provision of community driven infrastructure with the communities as partners. Since its launch in Kwara State in 2005, the scheme has empowered some Community Based Organizations to identify, implement and maintain priority micro-projects which positively impact on the living conditions and quality of lives of the people in the rural and semi-urban areas of the state.

The aim of this study is two fold. First, it is to appraise the levels of community driven World Bank Assisted programmes in Kwara state. Second, it is to identify the extent of the projects and implication of the initiative and procedure on future development of rural communities in the State. According to Nyerere (cited in Okafor 1983) people can not be developed; they can only develop themselves by participating in decision making and cooperative activities which affect their wellbeing. In the light of the dwindling resources of the various government and reduction in the attention on rural development by successive administration in the country, the emergence of World Bank Assisted Community Projects in the states could be the panacea for effective rural participatory development in our nation in the 21st century.

Theoretical Orientation and Methodology

Rural development has been defined severally in literature over the years and has been facing various paradigm shifts in

accordance with various options of development in the last three decades. The works of Adedayo (1985), Akinbode, (1986), and Umebali (2008) and other scholars have readily addressed the issue of definition. According to Fisk (1992), rural development is a set of policies with main ends: the promotion of wellbeing of the rural majority and the production of surplus of a size and nature that will enable the fulfillment of a reasonable part of that national development that are not exclusively rural. According to him, the ambit of rural development is very wide, and includes solving economic problems, questions of population, employment and wage policies, provision of road and communications and improved accessibility to public goods and services. These and others have been encapsulated by Todaro (1977) to comprise improvement in levels of living, income, employment, education, health and nutrition as well as decreasing in equality in the distribution of rural incomes and the capacity of rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of these improvement.

Rural development strategies in the past have always been 'top to down' approaches but the incessant problems accruing from these policies have gradually brought in a series of strategies now tagged 'bottom up' approaches, which consider the rural people themselves as the initiators of their programmes. They also partake in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes initiated by them. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and other related approaches see the rural people as the main 'owner' of the programme and as the 'voice of the nobles' hidden in what is termed participatory development. We should then realize that, local populations can also bring about endogenous initiatives for development. A

meaningful rural development in the 21st century should therefore aim at finding the ways to improve the rural lives with participation of the rural people themselves so as to meet the required needs of their communities. Unlike earlier strategies of rural development, participatory methodologies recognize that indigenous people are capable of identifying and expressing their needs and their aspirations themselves. A selection of the more useful participatory approaches include Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Participatory Learning and Action (PLA), Participatory Action Research (PAR), and Community Driven Development (CDD) approach to mention a few.

Past studies have shown that Community Driven Development (CDD) approach has become a popular strategy especially in the area of infrastructural provision at the grassroots. This is because of its potential to develop projects and programs that are sustainable and responsive to the priorities of the local communities, empower local communities to manage their own development programmes, and it is more effectively targeting poor and vulnerable groups (Gillespie, 2004) In developing country like Nigeria, rural development is a big issue because a large proportion of the populace live in rural areas. Musa (2010) opined that with CDD, we need to involve communities in development projects in a bottom up which approach has now become paramount by empowering the communities to initiate projects based on their felt needs and priorities, plan by themselves, implement by themselves, monitor and conduct evaluation themselves with outsiders as facilitators and not as dictators as being done in the past.

International Development Association (IDA) (2009) explains that Community Driven Development is an approach that gives control

of development decisions and resources to community groups. Poor communities receive funds, decide on their use, and plan, execute chosen local projects. The procedures and workability of Community Driven Development involves a multi stage dimension involving: the community associations setting up committees who will decide what project the community needs, the committee would then approach the World Bank agency through the state government. Fund would then be provided by the agency after the projects have been scrutinized with the community providing 10% of the total cost within a time frame. Another implementation committee from the community will then be set up to monitor the project. Such project is however seen as the community's projects and it is under the control of such community, from planning, execution, monitoring to evaluation of the project after completion.

IDA (2009) further explains that CDD approach was established due to the failure of the earlier approaches to properly target poverty reduction. It has been able to show a better understanding of the communities and it allows for proper organization of the community to ensure proper monitoring and sustainability of the projects.

Kwara State is one of the thirty six States in Nigeria, created in 1967 with its headquarters in Ilorin, in the middle belt region of the country. It is located between Latitudes 8° and $10^{\circ} 04' N$ of the Equator and Longitudes $2^{\circ} 45' E$ and $6^{\circ} 12' E$ of the Greenwich Meridian. The State comprises of sixteen local Government Areas with a 2006 population estimate of about 2,371,089 people (NPC, 2006). Kwara State covers a total area of about 36,825 square kilometers with about 75% of her people living in the rural environment. Some of the Local government areas are Ilorin West, Ilorin

East, Ilorin South, Irepodun, Offa, Oyun and Ifelodun. Others are Oke-Ero, Moro Asa and Ekiti among others. The mainstay of the economy of the state is agriculture. More than 90 percent of the state's rural population who form the bulk of the state's total population are engaged in farming and a large proportion of them belong to one Community Association or the other.

This paper draws on field research on conservation based field observation in which the authors had to visit some of the project locations to ascertain the availability of the project. Apart from this, the study relies heavily on secondary data obtained from the Kwara State Community Based Poverty Reduction Project's publications and the recently inaugurated Kwara State Community and Social Development Agency; this is the Agency that supervises the World Bank Assisted Community Driven Development in the State.

The World Bank Social Development Project (CSDP) is housed by the Kwara State Community Based Poverty Reduction Project (KWCPRP) since its inception but now being managed by Kwara State Community and Social Development Agency (KWCSDA) based in Ilorin, the State capital. This is a follow up-on, scaled up community driven initiative to the community-Based Poverty Reduction Project and Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project as a new National Community Driven Development project. The project development objective is to sustainably increase access of the poor to social and natural resource infrastructure through:

- Empowering communities to plan, part finance, implement, monitor and maintain sustainable and socially inclusive multi-sectoral micro projects;

- Facilitate and increase community-LGA partnership on Human development (HD) related projects; and,
- Increase the capacity of LGAs, State and Federal Agencies to implement and monitor community Driven Development (CDD) policies and inventions.

As a bottom-up, demand driven project, communities would prepare basket of project prioritization and community plans in a participatory manner, receive technical and financial support to implement their approved plans and projects by their Community Implementation Committees and State Supervisory Agency. Community Development Plans prepared by communities are to be funded, and such Community Plans will contain eligible micro-projects which include physical Social-Economic infrastructures, Environmental and Natural Resources Management and Safety Net Support for the vulnerable (KWCSDA, 2011).

The project is funded through a credit negotiated between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank as a credit to the Federal Government and un-lending subsidiary credit to participating state governments. While the World gives a sum of 200 million dollars, the FGN contributes a counterpart fund of 5 million dollars, the state government 100 Million Naira per annum, the local communities would have to contribute only 10% of their project total cost. The whole

credit would be paid back to the World Bank within a period of 35 years at 1% interest after a moratorium period of ten years.

Project Implementation and Community Development Perspectives

It is interesting to note that the World Bank Assisted Community Driven Development Project was flagged off in Kwara State on 6th October, 2005 by the Bukola Saraki's Administration, and by 31st March 2009, a total of 127 community micro projects were supported by this scheme. These projects are multi sectoral in nature covering infrastructures for education, health, water and sanitation, electricity and skill acquisition. Others are IT Centers as well as small bridges, culverts and drainage construction among others (KWCPRP, 2009). Between 2005 and 2009 records have shown that over 140 rural communities in the state have benefited from the developmental impact of the World Bank Assisted Community Driven Development. These benefit ranges from provision of conducive teaching and learning in schools to provision of potable water supply and provision of electricity. Table 1 shows that a sum of 403,110,342.72 was expended on the provision of such facilities while a total of ₦68,184,000 was expended on these projects sectors from the State counter part Fund for the same period.

Table 1: Sectoral and Financial Distribution of Community Supported Projects in Kwara State 2005-2009

S/N	Sector	Numbers	Financial commitment (₦)	%
(i)	Education	63	202,911,128.14	50.34
(ii)	Water	41	111,588,954:30	27.68
(iii)	Health	7	26,369,647:20	6.54
(iv)	Roads	8	31,852,951:20	7.9
(v)	Power (Electricity)	5	19,005,528:42	4.72
(vi)	Social	3	11,382,133:50	2.82
	Total	127	403,110,342:76	100

Source: KWCPRP, 2009.

(a) Education Projects

During the reporting period (2005-2009) the World Bank Assisted program in the state fares well in the production of education projects as initiated by the rural communities themselves. Projects embarked on included construction of 50 New classrooms, 32 staff rooms, 44 new science Laboratories and construction of 17 staff Quarters among others. Others are provision of 950 classroom furniture in 19 schools across the state. Some of the communities that benefited from this partnership include Baraka, Kaiama, Ijagbo, Ojoku and Aboto Oja. Others are Ijara Isin, Share, Esie and Koro among others. Table 2 shows a break down of some of the

Educational facilities provided through Community Driven Development in the State. Similarly, Table 3 shows the samples of communities that benefited from renovation and equipping of Science laboratories. In all, about 80 community projects (educational) were implemented through out the state under auspices of the World Bank Community Driven Development in the last seven years. It is observed that some communities were able to access the fund more than one time for different community based projects. Investigation also showed that all the Partners in the project fulfilled their funding allocations accordingly.

Table 2. Construction and Furnishing of Classrooms

S/N	Beneficiary	LGA	No of Classroom	No of Office	No of Furniture	Status
1	Barakat	Ilorin West	5	2	-	100%
2	Banni	Ilorin West	5	2	40	100%
3	Kugiji	Kaiama	2	-	-	100%
4.	Gwedebereru	Baruten	4	-	80	100%
5.	Okin, Offa	Offa	2	2	-	100%
6.	Agunjin	Ifelodun	4	-	40	100%
7.	Ijagbo	Oyun	3	2	60	100%
8.	Lafiagi	Edu	3	2	60	100%
9.	Kanko	Edu	2	-	40	100%
10.	Kaiama	Kaiama	4	2	-	100%

11	Ojoku	Oyun	3	2	60	100%
12	Isapa	Ekiti	4	2	60	100%
13	Omu-Aran	Irepodun	2	8	60	100%
14	Foko	Asa	2	-	40	100%
15	Aboto –Oja	Asa	2	-	40	100%
16	Oke-Ode	Ifelodun	3	2	60	100%
17	Arandun	Irepodun	4	2	60	100%
18	Lumoh	Moro	2	2	60	100%
19	Fate	Ilorin East	2	2	40	100%

Source: KWCPRP, 2009.

Table 3 Renovation and Equipping of Science Laboratory

S/N	Beneficiary	LGA	No of Rooms	No of Offices/Stores	Furniture/Lab Equipment	Completion Status
1.	Ilala	Irepodun	4	8	-	100%
2.	Esie	Irepodun	2	1	Provided	100%
3.	Owu Isin	Isin	3	-	Provided	100%
4.	Osi	Ekiti	1	1	Provided	100%
5.	Ijara-Isin	Isin	4	2	-	100%
6.	Igbaja	Ifelodun	2	1	-	100%
7.	Maloko	Ifelodun	2	1	-	100%
8.	Alla	Isin	2	1	-	100%
TOTAL			20	15	-	-

Source KWCPRP, 2009

(b) Water Projects

Provision of potable water supply ranks high in the felt need of a large proportion of the people of Kwara State. This has been a major problem to the people and successive governments from times have been involved in large scale construction of reservoirs at different locations. While some of these laudable projects have been successful the impacts have not been widely seen in the rural areas. However, when the Community Driven Approach was introduced, it was widely accepted at the grassroots. Under the

Table 4 Samples of New Motorized Boreholes Provided through World Bank Assisted Projects

S/N	Benefiting Community	LGA	No of Boreholes	No of Fetching Points	No of Tap Heads	Overhead Tanks Capacity	Reticulation Distance (Metres)	Completion Status
1.	Ago-Oja	Asa	1	7	28	30,000	500	100%
2.	Laduba	Asa	2	4	12	45,000	500	100%
3.	Ori-Okoh	I/West	1	4	14	40,000	150	100%
4.	Aiyedun	O/Ero	2	3	12	45,000	500	100%
5.	Idofian	Ifelodun	2	2	10	45,000	200	100%

6.	Okekere	I/West	1	3	20	20,000	250	100%
7.	Tsaragi	Edu	1	6	24	45,000	800	100%
8.	Bokungi	Edu	2	3	18	22,500	300	100%
9.	Oro	Irepodun	2	6	24	22,500	800	100%
10.	Okeapomu	I/West	1	3	12	20,000	500	100%

Source KWCPRP, 2009.

World Bank Assisted programme, different projects were implemented. Out of these, 32 communities benefited under the provision of new motorized Bore holes, 10 Communities benefited in the provision of new hand-pump operated boreholes, 5 communities partook in the rehabilitation of motorized boreholes with overhead tanks, while 5 deep wells were converted to motorized boreholes in 4 rural areas. In the same vein, improvement of earth storage tanks were implemented in 7 other communities. Examples of benefiting communities in water projects are shown in Tables 4 and 5 respectively. This is one area where community driven projects can be said to be successful through out the state. When

the researchers visited Laduba, Obbo-ile, Oreke and Eggi-Oyopo the new motorized boreholes were functioning effectively while those in Amule, Olori and Agbeku were also producing clean water for the use of people from those communities. When asked to comment on the satisfaction of the water project in Ago-Oja, the spokesman of the community indicated that:

This is one of the areas where we felt the government presence in our community, we thought it was a joke when they asked us to give small token for provision of water, but it is a reality now, Our people can drink free water we can call our own.

Table 5: Samples of New Hand Pump Operated Boreholes Provided through World Bank Assisted Projects in Kwara State

S/N	Benefiting Community	LGA	No of Boreholes	No of Fetching Points	No of Tap Heads	Overhead Tanks Capacity	Reticulation Distance (Metres)	Completion Status
1.	Idofian	Ifelodun	3	3	3	-	-	100%
2.	Igbotele	Oyun	2	2	2	-	-	100%
3.	Oloje	I/West	3	3	3	-	-	100%
4.	Ode Giwa	Asa	1	1	1	-	-	100%
5.	Olori	Asa	1	1	1	-	-	100%
6.	Alapa Koro	Asa	1	1	1	-	-	100%
7.	Amule	I/East	2	2	2	-	-	100%
8.	Agaka	I/west	1	1	1	-	-	100%
9.	Adabata	I/West	1	1	1	-	-	100%
10.	Alanamu	I/West	1	1	1	-	-	100%

Source KWCPRP, 2009.

(c) Health Care Facilities

Generally, health care facilities provision is poor in most of the rural areas of Kwara State. In terms of Primary Health care facilities, out of the fifteen General Hospitals in the state, only two are located in the rural areas. As a result of this poor state of affairs, the emergence of the World Assisted Community Driven Development Initiatives is an opportunity for the state government to popularize its secondary health care programmes in the rural areas. Hence communities which could not have boasted of health centres in their communities are now beneficiaries of what could now be termed the dividends of democracy. This is because the state government made proper utilization of the programme through the local government committee on CDD. For example through this programme, an ultra modern Health center was built in a remote community of Imosokan (this group of community consists

of Alasoro, Yee, Kunmi, Budoloke, Olaokun, Ayireke, Obada, Tongolo, Ayoreke-Olola, and Ajia) in Ifelodun Local Government area of the state.

During the reporting years (2005-2009) the World Bank Assisted community Driven Development initiatives involved in the completion of 6 main health centers in collaboration with different rural communities. Most of these projects were initially started by the various communities as self help projects under the supervision of their local Community development associations. This means they were initiated by the various communities. Such communities include Igosun, Olla, Koro and Iji Isin. Others include Irapa and Kudu-Owode communities. Table 6 shows the break down of the projects. These Health centers were not only completed, they were equipped with the state of the art instruments and drugs.

Table 6: Completion and Upgrading of Health Centres through Community Driven Development Initiatives

S/N	Benefiting Community	LGA	No of Rooms	No of Offices	Furniture & Equipment	Completion Status
1.	Igosun	Oyun	5	3	Provided	100%
2.	Olla	Isin	7	2	Provided	100%
3.	Koro	Ekiti	4	2	Provided	100%
4.	Iji-Isin	Isin	4	2	Provided	100%
5	Irapa	Ifelodun	8	2	Provided	100%
6.	Kudu-Owode	Isin	5	1	Provided	100%

Source: KWCPRP, 2009

Other projects embarked upon in the health sector in the rural communities include the construction of New Health Staff quarters in two communities (Koro and Iji Isin), while 2 health Staff Quarters were renovated at Igosun and Olla communities. Table 7 shows

detail information of these projects. In all, about 26.4million Naira was spent generally in the provision of health care delivery in the rural communities under the programme in Kwara State.

Table 7 Construction and Renovation of Health Staff Quarters

S/N	Benefiting Community	LGA	No of Bedrooms	No of Toilets	Electrical /Plumbing Fittings	Completion Status
1.	*Koro	Ekiti	4	2	Provided	100%
2.	*Iji Isin	Isin	3	2	Provided	100%
3.	+Igosun	Oyun	4	2	Provided	100%
4.	+Olla	Isin	4	1	Provided	100%

Source: KWCPRP, 2009. * New Construction + Renovation

(d) Provision of Rural Electricity.

Prior to the emergence of the World Bank Assisted project in the state, the issue of rural electrification was being handled by the defunct Rural Electricity Board. Also, the state government had been supporting rural communities in the provision of rural electricity. However, a giant stride was taken by the communities in utilizing the support that came through the World Bank Assisted projects. About 19 million Naira was expended on the provision of rural electricity in different parts of the state through this laudable project between 2005

and 2009. Some of the rural communities that benefited in the CDD initiatives include Abayawo, Sentu and Igbo-Aran. Others are Odo-Ode group of communities (comprising of Odo-Ode, Igbo Igbin and Aiyekale) and Mako group of communities (comprising of Aga Maliki, Aga Alangua, Adigun Alangua, Oke Ayo, Olayemi, Kajola, Araromi Oja and Monasara) all in Asa Local Government Area. Table 8 shows the detail information on electricity completion through Community Driven Project of the World Bank Assisted programme and in partnership with the state government.

Table 8 Completion and Extension of Rural Electricity through CDD

S/N	Beneficiary	LGA	No of Communities	Reticulation Distance(M)	No of Transformer	Completion Status
1.	Abayawo	Asa	1	800	1	100%
2.	Odo Ode	Asa	3	1,800	1	100%
3.	Mako	Ifelodun	8	3,000	1	100%
4.	Sentu	Ilorin East	1	1,000	1	100%
5.	Igbo Aran	Asa	1	1,300	1	100%
Total	5		14	7,900	5	

Source: KWCPRP, 2009

One good thing about this project initiative is that it has made possible, the bringing together of rural communities (which would have been difficult) to enjoy rural infrastructure provision. Some of the rural communities are remotely located and small to be able to avoid such provision on their

own. Apart from this, 2 communities, Agunjin and Owu, in Isin Local Government Area had their schools connected to National grid during the reporting years.

(e) Rural Roads, Erosion Control and Skills Acquisition Centres

In as much as the state government is interested in construction of urban roads, efforts are also made to extend same to the rural areas through the Community Driven Development projects. After the mobilization move by the state government agency and the local government, various communities showed interests. The issue of drainage and erosion along various rural roads were also tackled. In all, 8

communities as shown on Table 9 benefited from this initiative.

Apart from this, 2 skill acquisition centres equipped with state of the art furniture were built at Babanla and Iwo, while 2 other computer workshops were built at Erin Ile (Oyun) and Odo Owa (Oke-Ero) respectively through the World Bank Assisted Community Driven Development initiatives between 2005 and 2009 accordingly.

Table 9 Road and Drainage control Project under CDD initiatives

S/N	Beneficiary	LGA	No of Bridges	No of culvert	Total Length of graded Road (KM)	Total length of Drainage (KM)	Completion Status
1.	Gago Jalala & Balogun	Ilorin South	—	8	1.30	1.20	100%
2.	Rogun	Patigi	2	1	11.00	0.40	100%
3.	Oke Adinni	Ilorin South	-	8	0.80	0.80	100%
4.	Alalubosa	Ilorin East	-	7	0.60	1.00	100%
5.	Erin Ile	Oyun	-	3	1.40	2.00	100%
6.	Iludun Oro	Irepodun	1	-	0.60	0.50	100%
7.	Koro	Patigi	1	-	-	-	90%
8.	Isare Opin	Ekiti	1	-	1.40	1.50	100%
Total			5	27	17.10	7.40	

Source: KWCPRP, 2009

Community Driven Development Project Implementation: Implications on Participatory Development and Community Initiatives

An evaluation of the implementation of CDD in Kwara State over the last seven years could be a pointer to a new era of rural development in the state. This is because the system has brought hope to the future of development at the grassroots, in contrast to the erstwhile 'top down' rural development of the 80s. The basic question remains: what are the implications of this rural development procedure on participatory development and community initiatives?

The issue of Community Driven Development in Kwara has come to stay and

the whole idea can be of effective importance to the development of new community system in Nigeria. The programme is laudable, infact if the Kwara case is used as a measure of dividends of democracy, then it is a success. If constructively implemented as being done in Kwara in other states in Nigeria, this could uplift the status of our rural communities and promote sustainable participatory development as well as upliftment of standards of living of the rural poor. Other implications include:

(a) the World Bank Assisted Community Driven Development initiative has given room for funds that would make development continuous and reliable over

the years. This is because the system has guaranteed continuous flow of fund for community driven development. For example the project in Kwara state during the 2011 financial year has earmarked about 460,636,040.00 Naira for implementation under the initiative for community development.

- (b) the scheme has allowed for community mobilization right to the grassroots. This has enlarged participatory development among the people. The implication of this is that projects are no longer to be imposed on the people, but would be based on felt need and initiative coming from the grassroots. For example, in the first quarter of the year in 2011, a total of 44 communities have been facilitated to formulate their Community Development Plans (CDPs). Out of this, 24 CDPs have been formulated by communities while 18 have been approved by the World Bank and Government Agency for funding. This also means the initiative has allowed more involvement in participatory development and community initiatives.
- (c) the rural communities would be more sensitized about community projects and they will continue to see such projects as theirs, thus creating further, a sense of belonging and thus promoting more community initiatives in development. The communities would see themselves in partnership with the government agencies; this will accelerate the pace of community development in our communities.
- (d) Community Driven Development approach offers opportunities for mobilizing rural people for joint actions and sharing of knowledge of development by the local people, in collaboration with the government agencies, with development initiatives originating from them. This will

also make the government to be more involved in grassroots development. The system sees the community people and their institutions as assets and partners in the search for sustainable development.

- (e) when the community provides impetus for any development efforts, the members can identify proudly with it and can say "this is our own" thus it is a way of providing wide ranged community development over the years.
- (f) One good thing about this project initiative is that it has made possible, the bringing together of rural communities (which would have been difficult) to enjoy rural infrastructure provision. Some of the rural communities are remotely located and small to be able to avoid such provisions on their own. This means that through this form of partnership, more rural communities from remote locations can be brought together to enjoy joint development in which they would willingly implement their own counter part funding.
- (g) this is a form of participatory planning which can involve rural communities in decision making process and helps to reduce difficulties when stakeholders have differing opinions. These measures can fill the gap between information gained from rural people and requirement of planning on a larger scale leading to better quality planning. The outcome of this is wide knowledge sharing that will enhance sustainable participatory development. More community driven initiatives will thus encourage more community involvement as well as continuous community development.

Conclusion

This paper has examined the implementation of World Bank Assisted Community Driven Development in Kwara State over the last seven years. In recent years, the government has been deeply concerned with the wide spread nature of poverty and underdevelopment and its alleviation through community Driven Development initiatives. This is a form of partnership involving the World Bank, The state government and the community, each of who will fund a percentage share in the cost of community projects.

Over the years in the state, it has been widely accepted that more and more rural communities are being mobilized to be parts of agents of development, using their initiatives to plan and execute projects with them. It has been observed that more than 99.9% of the projects are being implemented and none thus far has been abandoned. This is because the scheme focused on bottom up

approach of development whose outcome is participatory development.

In the last seven years in the state, over 403,110,342.76 Naira has been expended on executions of community driven projects in the state. In all, over 140 communities have benefited from the developmental impacts of the 127 community projects supported across the state. With this, more rural communities over the state are now having improved accessibility to public goods and services, and the procedure of development in the scheme makes rural development more participatory and would be sustainable over the years. However, in order to have continuity and sustainability of the scheme in the state, the development strategy could be made as a baseline policy for rural development in the state and proper monitoring committees including members of the communities could be established for more mobilization. This would allow for proper evaluation and sustainability of the projects through out the state.

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