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IMPACT OF SELF –HELP INITIATIVES ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN OGUN STATE: A STUDY OF IWOYE TOWN

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of self-help initiatives on community development in Ogun State, using Iwoye Town in Yewa South Local Government Area as the study area. The research was motivated by the need to assess how community-driven development efforts contribute to improving the socioeconomic well-being of residents in the face of inadequate government provision of basic infrastructure and social services. Specifically, the study examined the development programmes initiated through self-help, assessed the impact of self-help initiatives on community development, and identified the constraints affecting the implementation of self-help projects in Iwoye Town. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to residents of the community, while secondary data were obtained from books, journal articles, and official publications. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and the chi-square test at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that self-help initiatives have significantly contributed to community development through the provision of drainage systems, improved security, environmental sanitation, free medical services, and other community-based projects. The study further established a statistically significant relationship between community development programmes and the effectiveness of the self-help system ($p < 0.05$). However, inadequate funding, poor collaboration among community members, and external interference were identified as major constraints limiting the effectiveness of self-help initiatives. The study concluded that self-help initiatives remain an effective mechanism for promoting sustainable community development by enabling communities to identify and address their priority needs through collective action. It recommended greater community participation in project identification and implementation, improved transparency and accountability in the management of community resources, stronger collaboration between communities and government agencies, and the establishment of sustainable funding mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of self-help initiatives in Ogun State. These findings support existing evidence that community-driven development complements government efforts in improving rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable development.

Keywords; Self-help. Rural Development, Community development and community participation

1. Background to the Study

Self-initiated community development and programs are essential to the social, political, and economic advancement of developing countries, including Nigeria, according to the majority of arguments. Providing for community needs, creating programs, and carrying out essential tasks that are thought to be lacking in the community are all part of community development

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practices. According to the United Nations (2016), cited by Onyenemezu and Olumati (2022), community development is a process that combines the efforts of the people and government officials to enhance the economic, social, and cultural circumstances of communities, integrate them into the national life, and allow them to fully contribute to the advancement of the country. Since the family was the primary focus of all activities, community development has existed for as long as humanity. Even before colonialism, many communities were practicing community development, which is a long-standing movement. Prior to colonization, decision-making was an integral part of rural development, and leadership was ingrained in the customs and cultures of diverse groups. Since the beginning of time, rural development and community development have been used interchangeably. Chukwuezi (2019) and Cavaye (2019) supported this idea when they stated that all rural development is equivalent to community development. The mobilization of people for developmental activities was greatly aided by this.

In Nigeria, community development has gained national significance. According to Emeh, Eluwa, and Ukah (2021), Flora and Flora contend that community development blends the concepts of "community" and "development," so it depends more on interpersonal interaction and group efforts than on individual endeavors. what sociologists refer to as "collective agency." According to Christenson (2019), development entails change, improvement, and vitality; it is an explicit effort to enhance participation flexibility, equity, attitude, institutional function, and quality of life. It results in a net increase in community resources. The aforementioned illustrates how crucial community work is to its growth as well as to the development of the country. These serve as more evidence that citizens must work together to support community development in order to advance sustainable development. Regardless of its definition—process, movement, program, or method—community development always aims to improve the welfare of individuals and their communities while promoting sustainability. According to Adekola & Oyebamiji (2020), community development has been acknowledged as a key tactic for quick development, particularly at the local level. They added that economic and social growth and development depend on community development processes and programs, and that a project or program's success is largely determined by its ability to follow the community development framework.

As a result, people ought to recognize the need for community development initiatives. This concept, which emerges from the lack of something or the desire to have something that is essential in the eyes of community members, is known as the felt-need principle in community development. In community development, felt-need arises when people realize they have the capacity to face and overcome their limitations and find a solution through individual initiative and teamwork. It is believed that those programs or development actions will address the gaps and meet the needs of the local population.

Notwithstanding this brilliant concept, the majority of community development initiatives are implemented based on orders from outside the community, including politicians, philanthropists, non-governmental organizations, and the government and its agencies, without adequate citizen consultation to determine the most urgent needs (felt needs).

The majority of those projects, which are implemented by the government toward the end of a regime or by candidates during electioneering, lead to inadequate consultation regarding the most urgent needs of the target community. Therefore, by examining the constraints affecting self-help programs in Iwoye Community and the impact of felt need in Iwoye Community, the study aimed to identify those residents who felt need and the self-help programs they implemented in order to develop their community. The purpose of the study is to look into how self-help affects community development in the Iwoye community. Ogun State's Yewa South



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Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to investigate impact of self –help initiatives on community development in Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- i. To examine the development programs initiated by community through self-help system in Iwoye Community.
- ii. To investigate the impact of self-help Project on community development in Iwoye Community.
- iii. To analyze the constrains affecting Community self-help programs in Iwoye Community.

2. Concept of Felt Need

Problem identification is the first step in any community development project. The most urgent need can be identified by community members (a process known as "Felt-Need") or by outsiders who visit the area. In any event, both sought to raise the community's standard of living, but they offered unique benefits for achieving the community's declared goals.

According to Oyekunle, who was quoted in Akande (2019), the felt-need principle emphasizes that in order for people to reach their intended development, they must be able to recognize what they want to do. When people are willing to eliminate the development barrier, which is commonly referred to as the community problem, such identification is made possible. It goes without saying that different communities have different felt needs. One community might require clean water, while another might require good roads, hospitals, market stalls, or elementary school buildings. Every community will have unique needs that must be addressed immediately or that need to be met right away.

Concept of Community

A community is an abstract idea without a clear definition. The user's perspective, which can range from political to social to economic, determines how it is used. In general, a community is a collection of individuals who interact with one another in a geographically defined area and share certain cultural characteristics, such as norms, values, beliefs, and systems, among others. Onyeozu (2018).

Types of Community

The concept of community in the social sciences has been significantly influenced by Tonnies' original dichotomy of *Gemeinschaft* and *Gesellschaft* (Tonnies 2019, 2016). When used unqualifiedly, the term "community" still conjures up images of close-knit, if not fundamental, groups with strong emotional bonds. Additionally, it evokes geography, bounded space, physical proximity, and local connectedness. Because of this, the idea of community frequently finds itself in an awkward position when studying modern, individualist, and differentiated societies. As a result, communities can be roughly divided into the following categories:

- The term "geographic community" can refer to a town, city, suburb, village, local neighbourhood, or even the entire planet.
- Community of Culture: This can include ethnic groups, local cliques, subcultures, religions, multicultural or pluralistic civilizations, or today's global communities.
- Identity-based community: A collection of individuals with a community identity that differs from location, members frequently work together, for example.
- Professional communities are groups of people who work in the same or related fields, such as health professionals, which includes doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and others.
- A virtual community is a collection of individuals who primarily or initially communicate or interact with one another through information technologies, such as the Internet.



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Concept of Development

For different groups of people, development means different things. According to economic definitions, development is the enhancement of a country's economic circumstances, including a rise in GDP, per capita income, and standard of living, among other indicators. On the other hand, Kilani (2020) believed that development was the process of a steady rise in both total and per capita income, along with the modernization of the socioeconomic environment and structural change.

According to state affairs, development is the process by which a whole social system shifts from a situation or state of life that is generally viewed as unsatisfactory to one that is thought to be materially and socially better by turning to the various basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within that system. Onyeozu (2019), however, defines development as an ongoing process of improvement in an individual's or a group's quality of life and lifespan. According to Akande (2019), development is a multifaceted process that includes accelerating economic growth, reducing inequality, and eliminating poverty in addition to changes in structure, attitude, and institutions.

Concept of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development, according to the World Commission on Environment and Development Report cited in Mulu (2020), is development that satisfies current needs without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own. In order to ensure socially responsible economic growth and preserve the environment and resource base for the benefit of future generations, sustainable development is advocated.

According to the 2020 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), sustainable development entails combining the social, economic, and environmental goals of society to optimize human well-being in the here and now without endangering the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. While endorsing this, Oyeshola (2018) distinguished three key elements: social sustainability, which includes the proper provision of social services like health and education as well as political accountability; environmental sustainability, which refers to a stable resource base and the avoidance of overexploitation of renewable resources; and economic sustainability, which is the capacity to produce goods and services continuously without endangering the nation's sectoral balance.

Community Participation Towards Development

One development strategy that has been accepted as a helpful tool is participation, which would help a group of people not only identify priority needs but also take part in the planning, execution, and assessment of community projects that are anticipated to enhance the quality of life in such communities.

In theory, this means that any community development project needs to get the full support and cooperation of all parties involved. The concept suggests that a community project's level of participation, regardless of how sincere, is what determines its success. It is a basic method of communicating thoughts and feelings as well as a process of exchanging ideas. It is a way to demonstrate one's freedom of choice in living and responsibility.

The focus of current development discourse is on participation and its related ideas of empowerment and sustainability (Michener, 1998). Development, according to Freire, can only occur when people are "beings for themselves," have the ability to make their own decisions, and are not subjected to oppressive or dehumanizing conditions. This is the fight to become more fully human (Freire, 2020). According to Chambers (2022), participation is the process by which various, local, and individual realities are acknowledged, accepted, improved, and



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celebrated while rejecting positivist, reductionist, mechanistic, standardized-package, top-down models and development blueprints.

Raymond (2020) asserts that participation is associated with the identification of needs, the disclosure of systemic flaws, and the mobilization of additional resources. Subsequent investigations verify that involvement extends well beyond the mere exchange of information between council representatives and the recipients of their programs. It entails encouraging the populace and their leaders to participate in initiatives that will advance the growth of their local communities.

3. Impact of Felt-Need in Community Development and Sustainable Development

It is impossible to overstate the significance of the perceived need for sustainable development and community development. Social service delivery is the scourge of community development. The community's standard of living will rise if amenities like market stalls, electricity, portable water, education, and good roads are provided. Since addressing needs is the community's answer to wants, it is vital to identify the most urgent needs. For example, a community where the majority of homes have water from a borehole won't require piped water if it is available. This will only result in the project being abandoned both during and after implementation. Certain communities in Nigeria have pipe-borne water supplies, which the residents of those communities abandon due to the quality of the water supply. If the most urgent need (felt-need) is determined, the funds spent on the project would have been directed toward another project.

4. Challenges of Community development for Sustainable development in Nigeria.

Every level of government and community wants to see progress in all facets of human endeavor. Regardless of how development is defined, community development projects—whether they involve the construction and upkeep of infrastructure, education, or other areas—are regarded as the most practical approach because their outcomes are observable and quantifiable. This allows them to continue serving both current and future beneficiaries. Additionally, it offers a practical approach to planning and execution that guarantees the participation and involvement of the people and ensures that programs are in line with indigenous society norms. This kind of planning improves the balance between socio-economic and human resource development, which forms the basis of evaluating a nation's sustainable development.

It would seem that national policy that addresses the issue of development has not been explicitly stated in the national development plans, and even if it is, it is not sustainable, despite the fact that community development has long been widely accepted in Nigeria as the foundation for socioeconomic development in many communities. The reason for this is that they are not actively sought after. The stated objectives of development and the actual outcomes of implementation efforts have diverged significantly (Idode 1998). As a result, even though the various plans were brilliantly conceived on paper, they fall far short in their various stages of implementation.

According to Makinde and Olabode's (2019) *Prioritizing Felt-Need Principle in Community Development for Sustainable Development in Nigeria*, sustainable development requires extensive consultation with those who are expected to benefit from the project or program and unifies people's efforts with the government's efforts to improve the standard of living for national development. The theoretical paper essentially prioritizes the felt-need principle in community development for Nigeria's sustainable development. This discussion was conducted within the theoretical framework of humanistic theory. The source of information was aided by the use of observation for primary data, the internet, journals, theses, and a wide range of literature.



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Because the felt-need principle was not applied in some of the communities on the project, the paper discovered evidence of abandonment, improper usage, and a lack of after-care. Among other things, the paper came to the conclusion that community members ought to be consulted when identifying, initiating, and carrying out projects for sustainable development and community development in Nigeria.

In 2019, Obiwaru, Okwu, Akpa, and Nwankwere The impact of leadership style on organizational performance in small businesses has been examined in this study. Determining the impact of leadership styles on small business performance was the main goal. This study took into account both transformational and transactional leadership styles. The study found that charisma, inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation/individual consideration and effectiveness, extra effort, and satisfaction were transformational leadership behaviors and performance outcomes that were relevant. Constructive, contingent reward, and corrective management by exception and effort, productivity, and loyalty, commitment were the transactional leadership behaviors and performance outcome variables, respectively.

The study used evaluative quantitative analysis and had a survey design. Primary data from a structured Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLO) given to respondents served as the basis for the analysis. In order to separate the data responses into dependent and independent variables based on leadership behaviors and related performance variables, the research statement responses were scaled and transformed into quantitative data using a code manual created specifically for the study. Multiple regression models using OLS were defined, estimated, and assessed. The findings indicated that transformational leadership had a positive but negligible impact on performance, whereas transactional leadership had a significant positive impact.

According to the study's findings, small businesses performed better under transactional leadership than under transformational leadership. As a result, small businesses were advised to adopt transactional leadership, with built-in plans to switch to transformational leadership as the businesses grew, matured, and developed.

According to Hancock and Oyeshola (2018), sustainable development is a process that describes how every facet of human life that affects sustenance has evolved. It entails resolving the conflict between the many conflicting objectives and entails pursuing social justice, environmental quality, and economic prosperity—the three dimensions, or triple bottom line—all at the same time. According to him, the idea of sustainable development also addresses "the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, while living within the limits of supporting ecosystems."

According to Agyemanin Abegunde (2020), the idea of sustainable development should be equally focused on four factors: enhancing our well-being and quality of life; addressing the needs of current and future generations (intra and intergenerational equity); and giving them recognition.

Olutubosun (2019) It has been noted that community development frequently succeeds in tying government and citizen efforts to enhance the social and economic circumstances of local communities. This motivates the local population to make greater contributions to the advancement of the country.

Theoretical Framework (Development Theory)

This research is based on Development Theory. This theory argues that local governments, especially in developing countries, play a crucial role in enhancing social and economic living conditions (Adeyemo, 2019). Additionally, local governments offer a dependable foundation for local or grassroots individuals to receive a fair portion of the country's wealth. More specifically, the local government's roles include nation building and the development of social,



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economic, and manpower resources. One way the local government uses the revenue given to them from the central government is to invest in infrastructure development. These structures will help to motivate local residents to take action for themselves and their communities. This means that local governments are important partners with state and national governments in national development, acting as vehicles for bringing development efforts, resources, and benefits to the local level (Olowu et al, 2019).

Once more, local or grassroots people have the chance to participate in the development process when governmental powers are decentralized or devolved to the local government. The creative energy of the populace can be tapped into through decentralization. Once more, decentralization gives subnational units the chance to innovate and try new things (Nico, 2008). A local government's innovative policies and practices can be adopted by the state or federal government, as well as copied and replicated in other local governments. Decentralized decision-making, according to Nico (2008), gives various entities the freedom to try out novel concepts without being constrained by a single, one-size-fits-all strategy.

Once more, the presence of local government aids in the decongestion of central government, relieving national leaders of burdensome details and needless engagement in local matters (Ola, 1988). Consequently, this theory offers sufficient backing for comprehending the self-help concept that forms the foundation of this study.

5. Data Analysis

Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis

H₀: Development programs have no significant impact on self-help system in Iwoye Community

H₁: Self-help initiatives has no significant impact on community development in Iwoye Community

Level of significance: 0.05

Decision rule: reject the null hypothesis H₀ if the p value is less than the level of significance. Accept the null hypothesis if otherwise.

Table 4.1.24 Test Statistics

	Development programs have no significant impact on self-help system in iwoye ommunity
Chi-Square	102.320 ^a
Df	33
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 25.0.

Conclusions based on decision rule:

Since the p-value= 0.000 is less than the level of significance (0.05), we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Development programs has significant impact on self-help system in Iwoye Community

Findings from table 4.1.7 revealed Community policing is important factor in enhancing self-help programs. Table 4.1.8 showed that there is significant level of acceptance on their ground that construction of drainages channel for the rural dwellers. Table 4.1.9 showed that Organizing free medical consultation for the aged and others. However, table 4.1.10 showed a minimal acceptance level on the ground that Empowerment programs are being established in the rural areas.



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The second objective of the study investigate the impact of self-help initiatives on community development in Iwoye Community. Findings from table 4.1.13 and 4.1.14 suggests that there is a significant level of acceptance on the ground that Through self-help programs, security of the community has been enhanced and the intervention of self-help programs has reduced the incident of flooding in the community. This notion was also supported by table 4.1.16 which showed that community has received more free medical services through self-help initiatives However, table 4.1.18 suggested that there is a significant level of acceptance on the ground that Through the intervention of self-help programs, the community has been open to clean environment.

The third objective for this study revealed the analyze the constrains affecting Community self-help initiatives in Iwoye Community. Findings from table 4.1.19 and table 4.1.20 Financial constrains hinder self-help programs and Inadequate collaboration among the household dwellers in the community obstruct self-help programs. On the contrary table 4.1.23 revealed that there is a minimal level of acceptance on the ground that high rate poverty affect the delivery of self-help initiatives in the community.

6. Conclusion

The study concluded that the Self-help initiatives has huge potentials to achieve community development as a result of identifying the immediate needs of the people by the people in the community. The self-help principle is a powerful catalyst for community development, enabling communities to drive their own progress and address local challenges. By embracing self-help initiatives, communities can unlock their full potential, build capacity, and create positive change. However, it is crucial to recognize that self-help efforts should be complemented by external support and resources to ensure equitable access to opportunities and address systemic barriers.

7. Recommendations

In order to ensure a proper and influencing self-help initiatives in Iwoye, Yewa South Ogun State the following recommendations are:

- i. The community system should adopt a proper democratic principles among the dwellers of the community to ensure proper consultation of the people and carry out the most popular opinion as recommended by the dwellers.
- ii. The community self-help project must not be enforced or generated by an external influence or outsiders in order to ensure that what is provided is what is needed.
- iii. The community system must not be used as an instrument or political patronage by politicians in the community.
- iv. The management of the community self-help system must established a legal means of obtaining funds from both internal and external sources to finance the project.
- v. Accountability must be ensured in community to ascertain that finance are directed towards the planned project and not misappropriated.

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