
CHALLENGES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND WAY FORWARD IN NIGERIA

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Abstract: This paper discusses the challenges of rural development in Nigeria. Several studies were conducted to examine the factors inimical to rural transformation and development in Nigeria. Yet rural development and transformation efforts in Nigeria are still not effective to achieve success. This study observed that the protracted and deep-rooted state of socio-political, economic and infrastructural decay that has affected nearly all Local Government Areas in Nigeria for a decade has had a profoundly negative impact on the wellbeing of entire Nigerians. It is argued that unless state and federal governments address the lapses associated with rural development, the entire population and the Local Government Areas will continue to be under-developed and possibly the situation might be grave in the near future. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents upheld the paper hypotheses advanced. That lack of consideration of rural peoples' "need" and "wish" in developmental programmes or projects matter; poor leadership, mismanagement and corruption by key local government and programme or project officials; lack of patriotism and awareness on the benefits and importance of the programme/projects by the people of the communities; lack of competent and prudent mind chairmen or administrators to manage the local government resources; and inter and intra communal conflicts among others are some of the challenges responsible for present under-development of rural areas in Nigeria. Research survey method with aid of accidental and judgmental sampling technique was used to obtain information. A sample of (160) respondents spread across various Local Government Areas from the six geo-political zones of the country were selected to form the study samples. Chi-square statistics was applied to interpret and distinguish the respondents' opinion. Recommendations are made to correct the lapses for future progress to achieve developmental objectives.

Keywords: Challenges, Rural, Development.

INTRODUCTION;

There are myriads of definitions, conceptions and contentions as to what exactly rural development is all about. It is justifiable to say that there are no universally accepted approaches to rural development. It is a choice influenced by time, space and culture. Though, the fundamental notion surrounding rural development objectives most often remain similar as to what processes and strategies to be taken to alleviate the rural people's suffering and improve their socio-economic conditions, yet the rural areas in Nigeria are still considered underdeveloped. In an effort to find solution to the deplorable condition of rural people, the researcher in this paper considers Rural Development as judicial application of quality knowledge, skill, and method of investing cash and kind resources to improve rural poor conditions of living to attain appreciable life through provision of quality and sufficient agricultural inputs; creation of jobs for the jobless rural youth (entrepreneurship skills) and provision of all necessary basic amenities and including bridging the rural-urban socio-economic and political disparity. Failure to embrace this definition will negate doom to rural areas socio economic development (Survey, 2013). It is pertinent to note that the above definition serves as a supplement of the other existing meanings of the subject to improve social and economic well beings of rural people, if properly implemented. This definition should be

viewed as an ultimate panacea towards improving the lives of rural inhabitants in Nigeria, if the concerned agency or body could honor what it contained. Unfortunately, putting this definition into reality or practice is very difficult in Nigeria because of some inherent phenomena of self-aggrandizement of those leaders in power working at the expense of the rural areas and the people. This may not be unconnected with the corrupt local government officials with their conniving partners such as rural development programmes/projects staff. In view of that Johnson, (1997) describes corruption as “the AID’S of democracy” spreading relentlessly from official to official, agency to agency, undermining institutional development until the political system they represent collapses. He equally suggests stopping corruption before it gets started (see, Pleskovic and Stiglitz, 1993: 69). Another work by Ackerman, (1998: 44) viewed corruption as a deliberate act designed at the top management level to maximize monopoly at the expense of the majority. He further observes that corruption has been made to be inevitable but preventable, yet catastrophic to national development which expropriates the citizens. Pleskovic and Stiglitz, (1997) further argued that corruption could be minimal, if the management of various institutions employs effective strategies of transparency and accountability of management system that improves the system procedures and changing the attitudes of staff of local governments on the programme and projects. It is obvious that rural areas are grossly neglected from the ramifications of all the developmental angles. The relative poor state of rural development in Nigeria is linked to cost benefits analysis, project/programme cost inflation, restriction of local participation in the programme, leadership flaws and corruption as well as lack host community patriotism and concern towards the programmes among others. This paper identifies them as factors among others that undermine the development of rural areas in Nigeria. Moreover, the researcher is of the opinion that decades of abandoning agricultural sector, lack of transparency, sincerity and honesty in running the affairs of the rural development programmes, lack of effective awareness on the benefits of the programmes by the rural people as well as irrelevant and hasty adoption of development policy and strategy without prior consultation and consideration of the “needs” and “wishes” of the rural people as to what to do, how to do, where to do, when to do and poor implementation of the programme and financial constraints are most often aggravated to consider the rural areas as dumping ground occasioned by social, political and economic problems that encourage the planting the seed of under development of our rural environment in Nigeria, (see, Survey, 2013). The consequence of the rural development challenges as noted by Salawu (2010; P. 17) will continue to establish rural decay and play a central role in the future of rural dwellers. Pro-ruralist scholars argued that the rural population constitute to a larger proportion of the population and produce larger percentage of essential food and other related commodities essential to human existence; they should enjoy the end result of their labour by reciprocating them with basic social amenities to enhance a good quality of their life. It is against this backdrop that, the study intends to examine the key factors that undermine the delivery and implementation of rural development programmes in Nigeria. Identifying these factors and proffering appropriate suggestions on how to overcome the rural development challenges in future to achieve success is the concern of this paper.

OBJECTIVES:

- i. To examine the phenomena undermining the development of rural areas in Nigeria.
- ii. To proffer suggestions and recommendation on how to overcome the problems of under development in rural areas and improve their wellbeing and condition of living.

HYPOTHESIS

- i. That lack of giving proper attention and consideration for the rural people “needs” and “wishes” on the developmental programmes could generate failure.
- ii. That poor leadership and lack of sincerity on the side of government, programmes officials and project supervisors and contractors most often generate failure to rural development programmes.
- iii. That lack of rural people patriotism and awareness on the importance and benefits of rural developmental programmes generate failure.
- iv. That inter and intra communal conflicts and other related unrest challenges generate failure to all development programmes in the rural areas.

METHODOLOGY

The study purposely selected some Local Government Areas. A total of one hundred and sixty (160) respondents, mostly rural inhabitants from different communities of some local government areas of Nigeria and other people important to the study were selected as samples. Participant interaction and non participant observation were technically conducted to get the required information on the subject under study. A survey research coupled with accidental and judgmental sampling technique were applied and data gathered from the field was translated into statistical method of chi-square analysis to distinguish the responses of the respondents on why efforts to develop rural areas are always failures in Nigeria. The researcher declined figures to appear in the work but sufficiently discussed the result without bias.

DISCUSSION

The study hypotheses and questions advanced in conformity with the study objectives were statistically tested and interpreted the results using chi-square methods. The research hypotheses stated on rural development challenges were highly supported by majority of the respondents. The result of the study concludes that there are relationships between the four hypotheses advanced in this study and rural area development failure in Nigeria. The study revealed that inability of the Government and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOS) to consider rural people’s wishes, needs and aspirations in the rural development policy, programmes and projects were identified as fundamental issues that undermine progress and development of the rural areas in Nigeria. Other factors discovered in this paper as problems of rural development are lack of sincerity, honesty and prudent management of resources on the side of developmental programme officials, coordinators, supervisors and project contractors. Others areas this study confirmed include lack of sufficient rural people patriotism and awareness on the benefits and importance of the programmes and projects as well as inter and intra communal conflict in the rural areas. The findings of this study reflected the opinion of Idode, (1992) which described rural development as restructuring of the economy in order to satisfy the material needs and aspirations of the rural masses and promote individual and collective incentives to participate in the process of development. In this case, the Idode, (*op. cit.*) conception of rural development, equally harmonized with the opinion of the researcher in this paper on what exactly a rural development is all about. Supporting the study hypotheses, Eze (1998) opined that sustainable growth and development can only be achieved with active participation of rural farmers who produce substantial amount of food and industrial raw materials (see, Olumuyima, 2000). On the other hand, Ositimehin, (2000) reported that the rural people lacking sufficient income and suffer a lot in their quests for fruitful life. Though, he further admitted that if given the necessary facilities and credits, they would improve their living standard and their environment by purchasing necessary tools for their business activities.

Attahiru, (2011) argued that policies are fanatically made but implementation is worthless. That is the notion of socio-political and economic power system can be regarded as distorted and unproductive system that recycles underdevelopment and crises. In a related development, Ihonvbere, (2009) in Attahiru,(2011;104) observed that the leaders are recycling themselves, collecting money for contracts and abandoning them. Takeuchi (2007: 2) is of the view that rural development should be enhanced in order to promote an agricultural sector to reduce poverty and empower youths. He added that majority of African rural areas lack not only electricity, good roads and portable water, but also wells, health services and schools. In view of that, Harris,(1982: 15) argued that rural development policy should be reviewed or amended to reflect the needs of the rural people of the third world countries in order to tackle poverty, effect equal distribution of developmental result and resources, while bridging the disparity between the rural and urban dwellers in all sectors of human endeavors. (see, Escho, 1997; cited in Takeuchi, 2007). In an attempt to arrest the snail movement of rural development in the third world countries, Mizuno, (1999: 21) in Takeuchi, (2007: 6) advocated the use of Area Development Approach (ADA) to create an atmosphere of social and economic infrastructures for rural poor by investing considerable resources in a specific area. On one hand, Basic Need Approach (BNA) was supported by World Bank, (1991) as an alternative to provide the rural poor with a set of minimum standards of living; and all basic social services including employment and participation in all decision making processes of their areas. (see, Mizuno, 1999: 21; cited in Takeuchi, 2007: 6). as part of what stands as impediment to rural development in African countries. The World Bank's Operations Evaluation Development in its study conducted on an assessment of rural development programmes cited in World Bank, (1988b) reported that non coherence between rural development projects and macro-economic policy was identified often as factor not advantageous for the development of rural areas. On the other hand, World Bank, (*op cit*) criticized the leadership of those managing the development affairs of rural development projects, further stressed the significant of local inhabitant's participation in the process of planning and managing projects (see, IBRD). In another development, Muroi's (1989) reported that structural corruption of illegal marketing of subsidized fertilizers was noted as another factor that undermine the development of agricultural practice of rural area in Northern Nigeria. Similarly, the two Japanese Africans in Takeuchi (2007: 13) pointed out that government enforcement, bureaucratic corruption, inappropriate macro-economic policy and lack of local participation is some of the problems aligned with rural development in African community (see, World Bank, 1974; IBDR).

In a separate development, modernization approach argued that for African rural areas to develop and minimize their suffering and poverty, they have to follow the footsteps of the Western World; the path used by the Western Europe and America. It is a matter of choice to embrace western culture with their technology to develop or remain underdeveloped. Other group of modernization scholars with equal opinion postulated that for Africa society to move into modernity its traditional structures and values must totally be replaced with the Western World values. (see, Tipps, D. 1976; Levy, M. 1967; Semelser, N. (1964). Opposing the views of modernization the dependency scholars argued that the African under-development is far from being an "original or natural" condition of the poor societies. It is a condition imposed by the international expansion of capitalism and its inalienable partner, imperialism. In order to place African underdevelopment in its proper perspective, we must turn to the "Dependency Model" (see, Irving, L. *et al*, 1966; Offiong, D.A. 1980; Wilber, M.,1963). Supporting the dependency model views, an African renaissance approach advocates the use of African norms, values, culture and tradition to build up our community and eradicate poverty and other related

factors that stand as a stumbling block for African development. (see,Matunho, 2011). Similarly, Frank, (1970) sees the present underdevelopment of African society as inherent phenomena of colonialism. (see,Ogunika, 1997??). In an effort to address the problems of development, Alimi, (2013b) recommend an effective practice of prudent management of local government affairs and other related activities central to rural development. According to him, for any rural development project and programme to achieve its objectives, the resource persons for the programmes should be people of high integrity who are a role model in their previous assignments that were undertaken (see,Alimi, 2013b). Such people should be sagacious, right thinking who have the development and welfare of the rural dwellers at heart. NEEDS (2005: 49) observation also coincides with the opinion of the researcher on the development of rural areas, NEEDS (*op. cit.*) sees access to credit and land; participation in decision making; increased agricultural extension services and improved seeds, farm inputs, and implements; strengthening of traditional thrift savings and insurance schemes as basic impetus to rural development. NEEDS, further state's that access to clean drinking water, roads electricity, schools, health facilities and communications among other things are the essential instruments which government is expected to provide to achieve the goal of global rural development objective. Alimi (2013a: 1) observed that human beings can reach any level of development and become self-reliant, if given the desired opportunities and encouragement. (see,Alimi, 2013a; Anupshah, 2005). He further said that agricultural sector, if properly supported can serve as a tool for job creations and youth empowerment in both rural and urban areas. In contrast, UNIDO, (2013) noted that high youth unemployment rate has serious implications for national productivity and growth, societal cohesion, political stability and national security and development in general. (see, Alimi, 2013).It is observed that, something needs to be done to overhaul the situation.(Alimi, 2013: 7) reported that for any meaningful development to be realized, youths unemployed youth should be mentored and provided with the needed resources and enabling environment to boost theagricultural related business to become self-reliant (see,Alimi, 2013a). In reaction to the poor state of development in Africa, Chigunta,(2000) attributed it to lack of effective programme policy implementation mechanism (see, Alimi, 2013b: 17). In the same vein, some scholars see most of the developmental related programme of human empowerment as benefiting families of those who are already economically buoyant and political associates of those in power. (see,Alimi 2013: 14). Harande, (2009) believed that abandoning the rural communities to urban cities most often generates negative consequences to the development of the rural areas, while the urban areas would experience a challenge of increase in employment and poverty, diseases, crimes and other related insecurity and insufficiency of the required basic social amenities in the urban areas. Similarly, Bell (1974: 4) in Harande (2009) and Akpobasi ,(2004) maintained that, the development of countries globally cannot be achieved without the development of the rural community. While,Okiy (2003: 1) in Harande, (*op cit*) says that, "rural development is the basis for economic development and information is an important ingredient in development process. He added that people in rural areas whether literate or not should have equal access to all kind of information which would help them to be capable and productive in their social and political obligations. (see,Akpobasi, 2004). Harande(*op cit*) noted that effective information services in the rural community enhance socio economic and political development. Singh, (2008) on the other hand, opined that ability of rural people to learn how to read and write or learned would serve as a panacea to the development of their areas. He emphasized that quality education plays an important role in the progress of an individuals mind and country at large. Buttressing this opinion, Obasanjo and Mabogunye, (1991: 143) in Harande, (*op cit*) are of the view that for rural populace to be able to exercise its sovereignty and assume responsibility for development, they must be provided with necessary resources for development. In addition,

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Issah, (1998: 132) observed that rural populace suffers from acute low productivity, social and economic retrogression due to poor information communication and absence of indices of development (see, Akpobasi, 2004). Diso, (2005b: 287) added that the structured and infrastructural problems, official corruption, unstable political and economic policies, growing insecurity and unstable power supply hamper rural development. In a related development, Diso (1994: 142) holds the view that rural areas in Nigeria are generally characterized by poor living conditions - absolute poverty and absence of almost all amenities of life (see, Akpobasah, 2004; Harande, 2009).

In an effort to arrive at the solution to Nigeria rural development phenomena, Dike (2012b) emphasized without equivocation that the country will develop only when the problems facing the rural dwellers are resolved. In a related development, Christensen and Levinson, (2003) opined that effective rural or communities' development requires good governance and leadership to improve the living conditions of the people in rural communities. It is also reported that to escape the social and economic storm brewing on the horizon, the leaders of Nigeria must acquire the knack of driving innovation for future prosperity (see, Dike, 2012b). According to Dike (2009a) Nigeria local government areas lack the basic necessities of life while the leaders are flaunting their stolen public funds with reckless abandon. Most of the leaders are without moral purpose (see, Dike, 2012b). He further reported that the price of corruption is huge in Nigeria. The economy is poor and thus has prevented the country from moving forward. In view of that Dike, (*op cit*) suggested the use of strategy being forwarded by the economist as an alternative for rural development in Nigeria. (see, The Economist, 2012a: 23; see, The Economist, 2012b: 3-24). Abass, (1993: 5) is of the opinion that increased agricultural productivity by self would solve the problems of the rural communities. He said, for development to take place in our rural communities, there is the need to have a long range rural development goals which is synonymous with complete transformation of the entire social and economic institutions. (see, Abass, 1993: 6). It is observed that all rural development approaches and strategies scholarly suggested and currently working in various countries, including three basic strategies identified by Griffin (1974) such as technocratic reformist and radical approach are not achievable without situating them within their social, political and economic premise and context. In essence, rural people's wishes and cooperation towards every approach of development is paramount to the objectives intended. Adding to the position of various scholars for considering agricultural sector as a means of rural development and youth empowerment, Cochrane, (1993) argued that there can be no agricultural development without the services that flow from the acquired infrastructural elements (see, Machette, 2004: 8; Alimi, 2013a). With regards to whether persistent unrests contribute to rural development or not, Survey (2013) partially contradicts the study hypothesis statement which claims that ethnic, inter and intra communal crises are some of the factors that hinder rural development. The survey revealed that majority of rural people contacted refuted the position of the study hypothesis and said that persistent rural unrest and related crises have no direct link with under-development of the areas. The respondents further responded that there are many rural areas in Nigeria which have never experienced unrest since they were established as local government areas, yet the levels of the development remain the same with those said to be experiencing unrest. Why? (see, Survey, 2013). The implication of this responses implies that inter and intra communal clashes and other related crises are not threat for rural development as against some study which identified communal clashes as key phenomena that hamper development of rural areas in Nigeria. Other areas of the rural development problem as noted by the study is governments denial of their right to enjoy the basic social amenities for decades

lead to the decay of the rural areas that are characterized by social, economic and political problems. This forces the young rural people to abandon their farming activities and migrated out for new life at urban cities. The respondents further said that the exodus of the youth create serious problems to the overall development of their community, (see, Survey, 2013). Similarly, other group of youths contacted angrily expressed dismay on the leadership of the local government staff and attributed the developmental failure to the leaders and programmes/project officials who are responsible for rural development related schemes.. Therefore, the need for honest leader to handle the affairs of rural community and local government becomes inevitable so as to correct the abnormalities that bedevil the rural area underdevelopment (see, Survey, 2013). In supporting the study hypotheses, Aliyu (2002: 30) in Ekpe (2011) attributed the following factors as factors that architect the underdevelopment of rural areas. These are: globalization, poor governance, corruption, debt burden, low productivity, unfocussed government policies and capitalism among others. Similarly, the CBN, (1999: 12) observed that lack of competent people with requisite education training and honesty for performing public tasks are most often what lead to underdevelopment of rural communities. CBN, (*op. cit.*). Furthermore, taxes are collected in arbitrary fashion and public funds are spent aimlessly without benefiting the contributors (see, Ekpe, 2011: 7). As Alimi, (2013b: 14) noted that most of the developmental programmes and projects fail in Nigeria because it seemed to have only benefited those who are already economically buoyant and political associates of those in power. Added to this opinion, Ekpe, (2011: 8) reported that corruption has not only been institutionalized but also assumed a national dimension. He said the bulk of the nation's wealth have been distributed in favour of the few privileged to the detriment of the majority of Nigerians who continuously wallow in abject poverty. To buttress the above views, Nwakoby, (2007) in Gombo and Tallen, (2000) lamented that public funds made for rural projects are carted away into bank vaults in Europe and America, while an overwhelming proportion of the population live in abject poverty. Another support from Obot, (1989) reported that most of the rural development policies geared towards the improvement of the rural dwellers remained stagnant without corresponding success especially at the implementation stage. Chinsman, (1997) noted that a lot of rigours, bottlenecks and unnecessary bureaucratic red-tapism attached to rural development processes most often render the development programmes or projects abortive. Corruption poses threat to rural development. This is due to lack of integrity, accountability and transparency on the part of people who are supposed to implement the developmental projects in the rural areas, (see, Gombo& Allen, 2000). Another evident from Obot (*op. cit.*) says in relation to poor supervision and implementation of rural development projects and programmes. They reveal that water taps abound in so many rural communities but without water since their installation. Also, most of the low cost housing estates built by some state governments are yet to be completed and handed over to the intended beneficiaries. This may also be the reason why the Community and People's Bank system failed. (Cited in Gambo and Tallen, 2000). In contrary, Nunn, (2008) reported that the effects of colonialism and slave trades in African continent were the twin factors that prevent African rural development, which encouraged ethnic fractionalization and weakened the entire legal institutions at the expense of metropolitan economic development(see, Nunn, 2008). In related development, Bhattacharya, (2009) itemized the following as the principal causes of African underdevelopment of which the rural areas are part. These include hostile natural environment; archaic production technology; demographic factors; slave trade; colonialism and its extractive institutions; and political instability and the neo-colonialism currently practiced in Africa communities which the leaders must battle to solve (see, Bhattacharya, 2009). In the same vein, Coker, *et al* (2012) revealed that to achieve a sustainable socio-economic and political development in Nigeria, there is the

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need to empathetically transform the rural sector. He further identifies the following as problems that undermine the development of rural areas, such as lack of effective institutionalization and poor implementation of rural transformation objectives; Lack of requisite manpower to manage the agencies created for the implementing rural development projects and programmes; lack of adequate funds; poor topography of some rural communities which hinder project execution; failure of local government councils to act as pivot of rural transformation; spatial problems that constitutes delay in transporting projects goods to the target group; lack of sufficient feasibility studies before projects are undertaken; wrong choice of communication channel to reach the target population. (see, Coker *et al*, 2012. Pp. 29).

As regard to developmental disparity between rural and urban areas which in favour of urban cities, rural areas in Nigeria remain underdeveloped and full of human mysteries. It is observed that since independence the rural Nigeria has not witnessed any significant social change despite the abundant resources at her disposal that can be used to transform the rural areas, Salawu, (2012; 16) further noted that the prevalent inter and intra ethnic clashes between various rival groups and inequality in allocation of resources in Nigeria have been inimical or obstacles to all developmental plans and objectives of federal, state and Non-Governmental Organizations. According to him, the above identified factor could render the rural areas stagnant, under developed, full of human miseries, and abject poverty, unless something positive is done to correct abnormalities for better Nigeria (see, Salawu, 2010). Reacting to the Salawu (*op. cit.*) position, the researcher argues that it is not sound to link under development of rural areas specifically to the present unrest challenges of some parts of the country. He rather attributed the under-development of rural areas to massive corruption of the officials who are responsible for administration of the local government areas. The researcher upholds the Salawu, opinion for urgent government intervention to facilitate harmony and unity among Nigerians for an egalitarian Nigeria. (see, Survey, 2013). Yahaya, (1979) asserted that for rural developmental programmes and projects to be successful, the rural inhabitants must be mobilized. This is because such programmes require their support, commitment and initiative. (see, Charles and Chukwunonye, 2011: 24). Similarly, Onuoha (2010) emphasized the need for encouraging rural agricultural and agro enterprises to enhance rural development and standard of living. (see, Alimi B.G., 2013a: 60). On the other hand, Torado (1982: 25) believed that neglect of the rural communities may weigh down any developmental aspirations of federal government, and act as a major “brake”. It becomes imperative that the rural low-income segment of the society must be lifted up if the society as a whole is to undergo true economic transformation. (see, Charles and Chukwunonye, 2011: 25). The views of the above scholars also coincide with the remarks of NPC, (2004) that Nigeria has the potential to Africa’s largest economy and also an important player in the global economy, if the resources are effectively managed. (see, Ayodele and Balogun, 2011: 49). Supporting the study hypothesis, Lokoson, (2013) reported that lack of good leadership and poor financial management in most African countries has been the determinant cause to the present challenges in various countries and regions which serve as potential threat to the development of our societies. (see, *Nigeria Daily Trust*, of Thursday, May, 23: P. 7, 2013).

CONCLUSION

It is a fact that no nations can be considered developed without the development of the rural areas. This observation has been a clear message for governments at all levels in Nigeria. With out prioritizing the programme and projects meant for the development of the rural areas, success in the achievements of the goals and objectives of rural development would not be

achieved. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents who are from different local governments selected purposely for this study accused the leadership of most of their respective local government principal officers for conniving with the programmes or projects officials to divert the developmental funds entrusted to them for personal use (see, Survey, 2013). The study outcome vindicated that most rural areas are left without sufficient basic social amenities and physical infrastructures. It is obvious that corruption is the key factor that undermines the development of rural areas in Nigeria. It was reported in most of the local governments that projects are awarded conniving with contractors to compromise standard to gain profit at the expense of the innocent rural souls. To this end, state governments should be selective in appointing local government administrators and developmental programme officials in order to ensure transparency in managing the resources of the local government councils. The study also acknowledges the significance of awarding developmental contract to individuals or the construction firms/companies with sufficient trained manpower and quality tools with fast track records that can execute projects and programmes according to work specifications and time frame bargained. The study sees the need for peace and unity coexisting amongst the rural people and considers rural people's wishes in all developmental projects and programmes. The researcher temporarily concurs with the position of national assembly particularly the Senates for rejecting the proposed constitutional amendment section that will give local governments of the federation autonomy pending a promulgation of standard policy that guarantee transparent and accountability in the administration of local government areas in Nigeria. This is because most of those appointed by the state governments to manage the local government affairs are not competent enough to manage the local governments' resources effectively to achieve desired objectives. The researcher is equally calling on various state ministries of local government affairs to justify the local governments area funds entrusted into their care should be managed judiciously without fear or favour and maintain good rapport with the local populace. This would in no small measure build a trust; and whoever tracks on the path of truth shall reap his/her reward from the Al-mighty with bounty. (see, Survey, 2013).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations are made in order to improve development of rural areas in Nigeria.

- That the local government administrators and the key principal staff should judiciously spend the little resources disbursed from the (State and Local Government Joint Account) to improve the life of the rural people.
- That government at all levels should always consult the rural people as a policy on what to do, how to do, where to do and when to do, so as to establish trust and cordial relationships between government programme agency and the rural people.
- That government or Non-governmental organizations that are willing to embark on projects should endeavour to incorporate or hire the youths of the host community as labourers to carry out the programmes or project activities.
- Guidance and counseling office on rural development programmes and projects should be established to guide and counsel the rural youths on the benefits and importance of the programmes. Through this office, government should create an enabling environment for rural people to accept changes and embrace modern day condition of living that are appropriate to their environmental ethics, norms and values that guide their lives.
- That any programme or project government or non-governmental organizations plans to be carried out must be appropriate and suitable to the host community culture and mental ability to handle.

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- That government or nongovernmental organization should always sign treaty with prudent mind contractors, engineers and supervisors who are handling the projects.
- That the state governments at their levels should establish community advisory committee to give advice on what would improve the community and identify the peoples problems and needs. The committee also is expected to organize an interaction session seminar on regularly basis to create awareness on the significance of patriotism, peace, unity and sustainable development. Sensitization lectures should be made in local languages in order to favour those that do not understand the official language.
- That government should intensify efforts to minimize the rate of economic corruption among officials who are managing the affairs of local government and rural areas.
- That the State government should always endeavor where necessary to appoint local government administrators/chairmen that have sound prudent management and skills where necessary.
- That a guiding policy of appreciable financial rewards should be enacted into law to rewards the local government administrators or chairmen who have done well to better the lives of the people.
- That the State Governments should establish a livestock breeding center in all local governments with functional facilities and oversee by qualified veterinarians. This, if properly established

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