

## **Role of Local Organizations in Sustainable Rural Development in Hawul L.G.A Borno State, Nigeria.**

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**Abstract:** *The deteriorating condition of rural populace in developing countries challenges the traditional approaches of rural development. To this end, the paradigm shift from capital centered approach to people centered approach is increasingly focused. This paper examines the role of local organizations in rural development at three spatial level of administration, to ascertain the extent of collaboration, between Villages, Districts and Local Government Area. The spatial levels constituted the sample population. And the sample frame was drawn at random in fourteen villages of the two districts where local organizations are operating. Data were collected through questionnaires, informal interview and physical observations. The technique of the data analysis includes mean, percentage distribution and T-test. The result revealed that, collaboration among and between the local organizations at each of the three (3) spatial scales to an extent is good. A horizontal linkage that is necessary for cooperation in rural development is apparently significant. The local organizations at all the spatial scale collaborate with each other. and Linkage pattern between local organizations at the 3 spatial scale is predominantly bottom-up implying that rural dwellers are not largely passive participators and recipients of rural development packages from bureaucrats, administrators and rural development experts on their own development. Linkages at three spatial level and efforts at two spatial scales of operation on projects were made. The study recommends creation of more forum in which authority and local organization in the areas are to meet and discuss on an appropriate ways to be able to handle rural development matters at the three spatial levels. Unless it is done, local organizations will not be able to link rural development problems with authorities controlling resources. Also projects initiated should be supported by government in terms of little funds to enhance participation in planning, and implementation of the development projects and programs, this will better communication between Agencies with mandates of rural development programs and local organizations.*

**Keywords:** *Rural Development, local Organization, Sustainable development.*

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### **I. Introduction**

Asian Development Bank, (2000) defined rural development as "...a strategy designed to improve the economic and social lives of specific group of people "the rural poor". Fernando, (2008) pointed out that; rural development covers three different interrelated dimensions: economic, social and political aspect of lives. He reiterated that, these elements are necessary for empowerment which engages in growth, capacity enhancement, competency improvement and opportunity.

In recent times, rural development is seen from the perspective of sustainable development. Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987). The primary objective of sustainable development is to reduce the absolute poverty of the world's poor through providing lasting and secure livelihood that minimize resource depletion, environmental degradation, cultural disruption and social instability (Steve and Williams, 2012).

The rural areas of Nigeria are inhabited by the bulk of the nation's population and serve as the country's principal market for domestic manufactures. In general, the rural areas engage in primary activities that form the foundation for any economic development. In spite of the importance attached to the rural areas, they are not attractive to live in. There is the absence of infrastructure which improves quality of life. In terms of; potable drinking water, health services, education, access to good roads, electricity supply and the vagaries of environmental conditions.

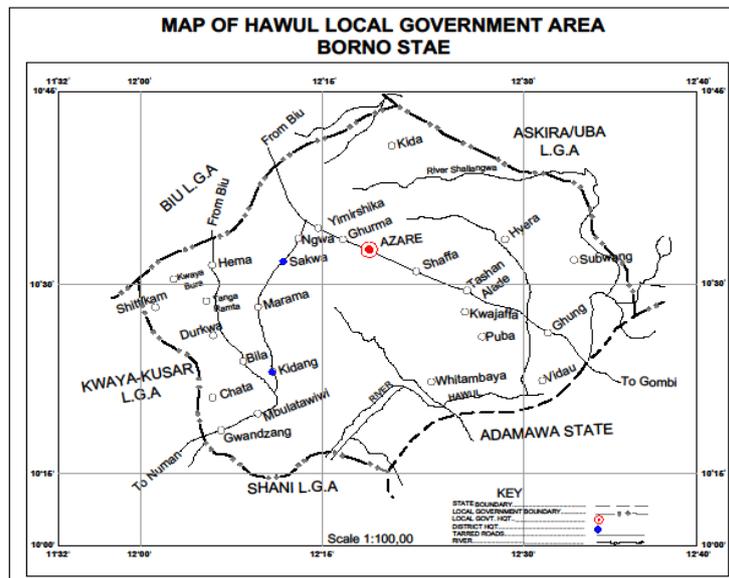
The pervasive poor living condition of the rural areas is a serious challenge, yet it is still accommodating and providing means of livelihoods to the rural dwellers. Several efforts made such as; Farm Settlement Scheme, National Accelerated Food Production Program (NAFPP) 1972; Operation Feed the Nation 1976, Agricultural Development Projects 1975 and host of others, the conditions of life in the rural areas are increasingly deteriorating.

The failure of the rural development strategies to deliver the desired outcomes, stimulate, a bottom-up approach rather than the top-down approach (Plan Afric, 1999; Mellors, 2002). According to Ivolga, (2010), the bottom-up approach, is aimed at improvement of the quality of life, and its successes depend in large extent on

form of organizational setup to handle complex and interrelating factors involved in its development. Lele, (1975) said this is critical for the achievement of self-reliance among the rural people thus, it is necessary if success is to be achieved.

Effectiveness of local organizations depends on government, which set policies and allocate resources that are essential in rural development. Uphoff and Esman, (1984), found out that the two operate in isolation and are likely to be impotent. Similarly, Esman (1978) found out that local organization with multiple channels of communication and interaction are more reliable in rural development than those with single channel that could be blocked easily.

It is in this light, that this study investigated the participation of local organization in Hawul Borno State toward sustainable rural development.



## II. Materials and Method

The role of local organizations in the rural development was assessed at three spatial levels of local administration in Hawul: village areas, districts and the local government. This local government is chosen because; it is predominantly rural and also provides a convenient spatial unit of administration for consideration, Figure 1 above.

The three spatial levels were used as sample frame. This is because the structure of local organizations in the study area is increasingly becoming visible as a point of attraction in terms of their activities. The idea in adopting the three spatial levels as the sample frame is to understand the extent of their collaboration in projects implementation that foster rural development between and among the local organizations at each of the three spatial levels, as well as in promoting rural development.

Questionnaires, personal interview and observation were used to collect primary data from sampled local organizations operating at the three spatial levels in Hawul. And the secondary data were gathered from relevant literature in journals, text books and other published sources and internet.

Hawul LGA comprises six Districts: Sakwa, Kidang, Kwajaffa, Kwaya-Bura, Shaffa and Huma in Fig

1. This sample was drawn in two Districts; Sakwa and Kidang where local organizations are found operating. In both the Districts, there are twenty four (24) villages. And five villages in each district were randomly selected without replacement, making ten (10) villages. And all the ten local organizations operating in the villages, their representatives were interviewed.

Both descriptive and inferential statistics are used to analyze the data collected in form of frequency and percentage distribution, while T-test was used in testing the hypothesis on the impact of the local organization in developing the area.

### III. Results and Discussion

**Table 1 shows local Organizations, Spatial distribution and their membership.**

Spatial levels	Type	Membership
<b>LGA Level</b>	1 Local Government Development Association	784
	2 Cooperative Religious Organization (Boys Brigade/JamatulNasru Islam)	679/442
<b>Sakwa District</b>	1 Sakwa Development Association	567
<b>Kidang District</b>	2 Marama Development Association	782
<b>Villages in Sakwa</b>		
1 Hema	A-WulTipchi Security Group	75
2 Malang	Kirtha Farmers Association	187
3 Ngwa	E.Y.N Women Association	523
4 Bargi	Hamtamya Association	49
5 Duraku	Yaharakari Women Empowerment Group	132
<b>Vilages in Kidang</b>		
1 Marama	Marama Community Development Asso.	76
2 Pakilama	Zoaka Women Association	34
3 Pirkisu	Pirkisu Youth Development Association.	45
4 Dikira	Muslim Women Association	28
5 Aga-Bura	Poultry Farmers Association	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4459</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The Villages identified in the study area, are the basic unit of production and primary unit of administration. And the Districts on the other hand are the larger territorial unit of administration that brings together discreet villages combines efforts in bringing the development. Their spatial distribution and membership are linked to every community effort as well as volunteering.

Table 2 below shows the level of linkage by correspondence and visit between village areas and the district areas. The average mean scores revealed the extent of the linkages by correspondence and visits between and among this spatial level. And bottom-up scores by correspondence is (0.7) while by visits is (1.2) and top-down by correspondence is (0.5) while by visits is also (0.5) respectively. This indicated that, to a large extent the linkage is good at this spatial level. And the strategy is Bottom-up, and is attributed to high level of literacy and awareness among the leaders of this spatial level. However, the table also revealed zero scores allotted in some villages either by correspondence or visit this indicated that, the activities are less visible in comparison to those with figures scores. Also revealed, Complex issues at this spatial level cannot be effectively handled due to some differences focused.

**Table 2: Linkage between Villages and Districts**

S/No.	Districts	Villages	Correspondence				Visits			
			Bottom-up		Top-down		Top-down		Bottom-up	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	<b>Sakwa</b>	Hema	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
		Ngwa	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
		Yimishika	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	3	75.0
		Barki	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
		Durkwa	1	100.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
2	<b>Kidang</b>	Marama	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
		Pakilama	1	100.0	1	100.0	2	40.0	3	75.0
		Pirkisu	1	100.0	2	40.0	2	40.0	4	66.6
		Dikira	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
		Kidang	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
		<b>MEAN</b>	<b>0.7</b>		<b>0.5</b>		<b>0.5</b>		<b>1.2</b>	

Source: Field Survey 2014

Table 3 shows linkage by correspondence and visits between village areas and local Government level. The average means score by correspondences and visits are (1.4) and (3.4) for bottom-up strategy, while top-down is (0.6) and (0.5) respectively. This indicated that the linkage is good and the strategy is bottom-up at this spatial level. The level of bottom-up correspondence could be attributed to educational attainment and cooperation by the officials of the LGA and in particular among the leaders of the local organizations. This indicated that people are organized and initiate their own development projects and forward to LGA.

The low intensity of the top-down by correspondence and visits could be linked to the bureaucracy of administration, inadequate funds or as well as locational accessibility. Although the direction of the linkage is appreciably bottom-up with a low dismal mean scores however, it is apparently suggesting that rural development problems are tackled by local organizations. This indicated that intensity of linkage by visit in the areas is relatively adequate in handling everyday problems arising frequently.

On the whole, both in terms of correspondence and visits, it is revealed that villages are linked to LGA level where resources for rural development are allocated. This indicated that cooperation between high level and lower level authority is appreciable, implying that projects at the village level are being taken care of.

**Table 3: Linkage between Villages and Local Government Area**

S/No.	Districts	Villages Strategies	Correspondence				Visits			
			Bottom-up		Top-down		Top-down		Bottom-up	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Sakwa	Hema	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
		Ngwa	1	100.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	4	8.7
		Yimirshika	2	50.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	3	76.1
		Barki	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	6.5
		Malang	3	37.5	1	100.0	1	100.0	3	6.5
2	Kidang	Marama	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
		Pakilama	2	28.6	1	100.0	1	100.0	4	20.0
		Pirkisu	2	28.6	1	100.0	1	100.0	5	25.0
		Dikira	1	100.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	7	35.0
		Kidang	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	3	15.0
		<b>MEAN</b>	<b>1.4</b>		<b>0.6</b>		<b>0.5</b>		<b>3.4</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table 4 below shows linkage between districts and LGA level. The average mean scores of correspondence and visits are (13.5) and (9.5) for Bottom-up strategy. While Top-down are (8.0) and (2.5) respectively, indicating that they are linked. The linkage revealed bottom-up has the high scores. This suggested that people at the district level often go to the LGA for consultation in terms of rural development projects.

The dominance of bottom-up linkage by visits and correspondence at district level also suggested that district level have realized that the strategy is good and effective in promoting their developments at the grassroots. However, the approach in promoting rural development may suffer lack support from the government due good leadership relationship, to cope with the provision of adequate social services and agricultural inputs.

**Table 4: Linkage between District and Local Government Area**

S/No.	District	Correspondence				Visit			
		Top-down		Bottom-up		Top-down		Bottom-up	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Sakwa	13	84	22	82	4	80	15	79
2	Kidang	3	16	5	18	1	20	4	21
	<b>MEAN</b>	8.0		13.5		2.5		9.5	

Source: Field Survey 2014

**Table 5 Local Organizations Effort on Projects at the three Spatial Levels**

Spatial levels	Local Organizations	Projects	Members
<b>LGA levels</b>	1 Local Government Development Asso. 2 Cooperative Religious Organizations (Boys Brigade/JamatulNasru Islam)	Security(vigilantes) Security(vigilantes)	784 679/442
<b>Sakwa District</b>	1 Sakwa Development Association	Road./health/water	567
<b>Kidang District</b>	2 Marama Development Association	Edu./health/water	782
<b>Villages in Sakwa</b>			
1 Hema	A-WulTipchi Security Groups	Security/roads	75
2 Malang	Kirtha Farmers Association	Agric inputs/roads	187
3 Ngwa	E.Y.N Women Association	Entrepreneurship	523
4 Bargi	Hamtamya Association	Roads rehabilitation	49
5 Nduraku	Yaharakari Women Empowerment Groups	Healthcare/roads	132
<b>Villages in Kidang</b>			
1 Marama	Marama Community Development Asso.	Road/water/security	76
2 Pakilama	Zoaka Women Association	Healthcare/water/agric	34
3 Pirkisu	Pirkisu Youth Development Association	Roads rehabilitation	45
4 Dikira	Muslim Women Association	Healthcare/edu.	28
5 Aga-Bura	Poultry Farmers Association	Agricultural training	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>4459</b>

Figure 1 below shows percentage response of efforts on rural development projects at village areas level in the two districts. The finding revealed difference exist in pattern of focus on projects priorities. This is indicated by water supply receiving greater attention in Kidang district while in Sakwa is roads rehabilitation. This may however be related to the priority need and spatial location or distribution of the people and the villages. Hence quest for water yielded high in in Kidang While in Sakwa is roads rehabilitation.

Efforts directed on agricultural development in both villages in the two districts, shows that people realized the importance of it in spite of locational and accessibility variation. Also roads rehabilitation is the major focus of local organization in villages of Sakwa district but its neglect in Kidang district have made some village areas in-accessible. Also efforts were made on health projects, education, and security in both the districts yet due to location and spatial distribution of local organizations effective collaboration is very difficult to coordinate.

Collective efforts on projects have enhanced collaboration between and among the local organizations operating in the villages however, Physical interaction revealed good leadership can improve the collaboration better. This is proven by the T-test where effective collaboration between village in Kidang and Sakwa district with T value of 1.75 at -2 degree of freedom at 0.05 confidence levels is greater than the critical value of 0.04, therefore, hypothesis  $H_0$ : which stated that, there is no significant difference in rural development effort between village areas in Kidang and Sakwa Districts is rejected.

**Figure 2: Shows Efforts on Rural Development Projects at Village Area Levels in the two Districts**

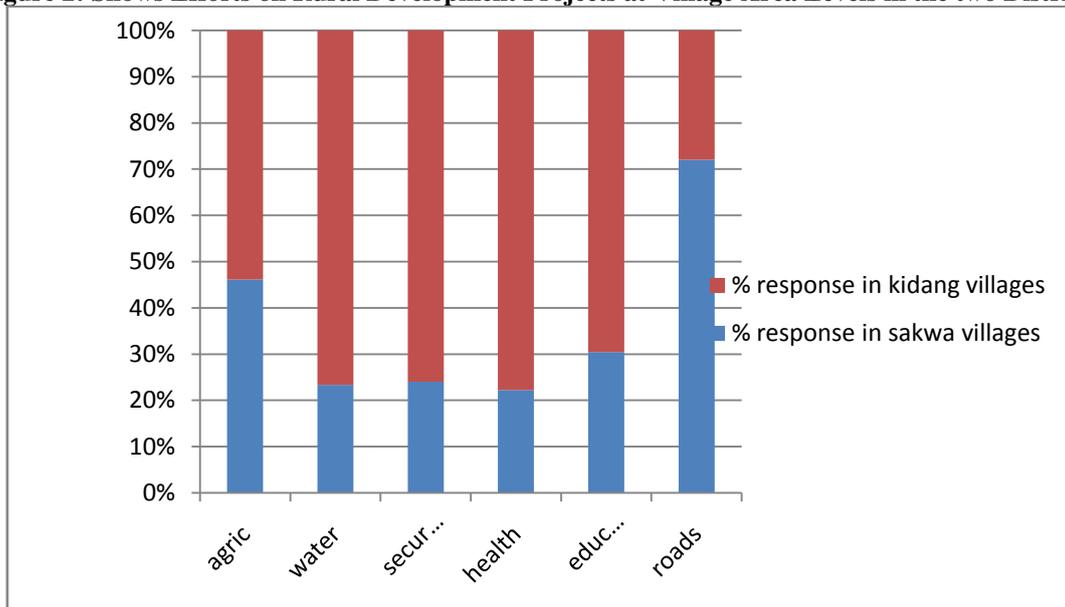
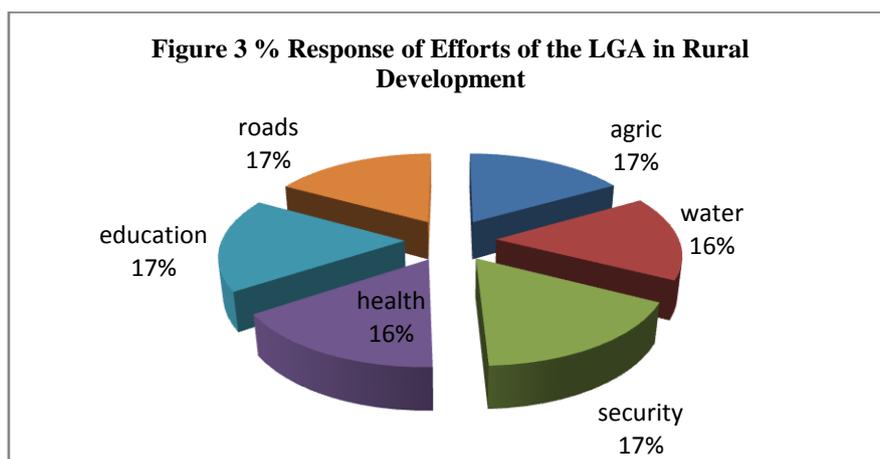


Figure 2 below shows percentage of responses of local government efforts on rural development projects. The finding revealed that, LGA have put more efforts on projects but due a lot of demand for more other areas only 17% and 16% are the highest figure that have been allotted to the outlined key critical areas for rural development. This indicated that LGA alone cannot be able to meet the demand of its people, rather collaborative efforts between and among the people have to compliment otherwise the grassroots development cannot be achieved easily. However being the highest level of linkage between the three spatial levels (village, district and the local government its self) it is clearly revealed that it is more linked to state who allocate resources.



#### **IV. Summary of Findings**

- There is collaboration among and between the local organizations at each of the three spatial scale to which an extent are good.
- A horizontal linkage that is necessary for cooperation in rural development is apparently significant.
- The local organizations at all the spatial scales collaborate with each other's.
- The linkage strategy is predominantly bottom-up.
- Linkage on the spatial scales also revealed efforts have been made on rural development projects

#### **V. Conclusion and Recommendations**

- Creation of more forum in which authority and local organizations in the area will meet and discuss on appropriate ways to resolve matters will enable them handle rural development problems with ease. Unless it is done, local organizations will not be able to link with authority controlling resources.
- Projects initiated should be supported by government in terms of little funding these will enhance participation in planning and implementation of the development projects and programs which will better communication between the government and the local organizations.

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