

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN NIGERIA: THE EFFECT OF INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES INTO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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Abstract: Practicing sustainability or responsible use of earth's resources is a current focus in development issues, especially using the Community Development method as a platform. This survey observed elements of sustainable community development (SCD) in the South Western States in Nigeria and the extent of its incorporation into community development efforts. This is because any serious development effort that does not incorporate sustainability is not likely to succeed long term. 250 respondents in five States were stratified purposefully, using urban and rural areas, and polled about their opinion on the level of adherence to SCD principles with the use of a 61 item Likert-type instrument with five predictors in all for qualitative and quantitative data collection, along with direct observation schedule. The results, using Pearson Correlation Coefficient and Regression Analysis revealed that with $r = .030$, which is less than the critical r -value of 0.195 at 0.05 level of significance, given 98 degrees of freedom for the economic factor in urban areas. The level of incorporation of sustainability principles is rather low and this is repeated in both the rural and urban areas as there was little or no correlation between the independent variable (sustainability principles) and all other predictors. A major challenge was the perceived low level of provision of infrastructure and amenities by the government and the most popular community development strategy was participative collaboration with the government by the communities, followed by self-help. The implication is that the future of the nation will be compromised and the rates of development slow if sustainability is not interwoven into CD efforts. It was therefore advocated that sustainability be more consciously integrated into community development efforts in Nigeria.

Keywords: community development, method, sustainable community development (SCD), sustainability

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Community Development (SDC), which combines elements of Community Development (CD) with economic, social and environmental sustainability, is fast becoming a better alternative to the traditional mode of community development as a more holistic method. 'Sustainability' is almost becoming a cliché – as found in the eponymous 'sustainable environment, sustainable economies, sustainable development, etc; yet it is a mantra that must be upheld today if we will be just and fair to future generations. Sustainability is a concept that must be adopted in all aspects of human lives; in effect, Goal 7 of the MDGs upholds the ideal of environmental sustainability as it becomes an increasingly global phenomenon. The Brundtland Commission had summarized the essence of sustainable development of any kind as the 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs' (Brundtland Commission - UN, 1987). The process of handling community development efforts itself involves a method of developing human capacity in a manner that the resources available will be used in a way that will ensure that nature and the environment are duly factored in and considered. This should be done in a manner that the beneficiaries will, not only meet their present requirements, but will also do it in a way that will not jeopardize the chances of their upcoming generations, by simultaneously addressing environmental concerns.

SCD is a relatively new method of developing a community and many countries in the developed nations are becoming more committed to the spirit of SCD (Canada, USA and Great Britain, among others). There have also been efforts in Africa as seen in the cases of some countries. Examples are found in the Zimbabwe's national strategy to combat poverty as a root cause and outlined in their policy framework document, adopted in 1994, entitled the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP). This encourages an investment in people as the country's key resource, and is undertaken in a responsible manner, which echoes Bakare's (2012) admonition. Goals are to be achieved through a combination of decentralized decision-making process, active participation and empowerment of the populace in a sustained manner. In Nigeria, earlier efforts to examine the social aspects of SCD considered issues of poverty, demography, health, education and human settlements. The term sustainability has also been used with several other projects like the sustainable cities program fronted by organs of the United Nations (UNCHS, UNDP, World Bank etc) and adopted in Oyo, Kano and Enugu states of Nigeria, among others, in addition to other sustainable programs sponsored by them. All the aforementioned countries focus on using environmentally friendly resources in the process of development. Paradoxically, it is the developing nations that need to imbibe the spirit of SCD the more who might find it to be more of a challenge.

The Blacksmith Institute (2013) has noted worldwide reported incidences of environmental pollution in Kabwe, Zimbabwe through unregulated lead mining activities, causing increased blood lead levels in local children; toxic cancer-causing waste dumped in the local river in Hazaribarg, Bangladesh; Agbogbloshie in Ghana is ravaged by the dumping of e-waste; Chernobyl, in the Ukraine remains the world's worst example of nuclear disaster episode in 1986 (Chernobyl); Matanza, Riachuelo in Argentina, where numerous industries are releasing pollutants into the local river, not to mention the oil spills in the Delta region of Nigeria. All these point to the fact that the world needs, more than ever, to address issues of pollution which can decimate the world and its inhabitants and embrace sustainable development practices.

The Economics aspect of sustainable development deals with the production, use, and management of resources, while human Ecology or the link between humans and their natural, social and built environments emphasizes the connection between community development and sustainability. All these are tied into the four components of sustainable development consisting of environmental, economic, socio-political and cultural sustainability.

Community development has elements of the four indices embedded in it because developing a community involves the environment, the people's economic and socio-political well-being as well as good governance.

Socio-culturally, many communities need basic infrastructural facilities that can help improve their standard of living while the social welfare aspect is also important. Cultural heritage needs to be preserved and the family as a basic unit maintained and all these form the basis for sustainability. The government is understandably expected to provide basic education and health care in the different States of the Federation.

Other background related but negative issues include vast exposure to environmental toxicity, especially in disadvantaged rural areas. The poor are usually the more exposed to environmental hazards and threats (polluted water and air etc). There is no doubt that poverty and pollution are inextricably interwoven. Poverty exposes communities to bigger environmental threats and many preventable diseases are often caused by environmental factors that education and good health care provision can help reduce. It is therefore necessary to address these root causes of poverty and pollution simultaneously with the practice of SCD. In Nigeria, the execution of government and other projects resulting in negative environmental consequences are often a common occurrence. Often times, community dwellers are forced to help themselves when projects are not completed speedily. Many people become landlocked in their communities due to unnavigatable roads, especially when it rains. Sacred sites and other natural resources are often desecrated (like in the Niger Delta area) through mining and other resource extraction processes. All these paint a picture of the level of attention currently given to sustainability in the process of developing the community as a unit.

Social welfare is another factor at the core of community development efforts, as any form of development has human beings firmly situated at the center (Bakare, 2012). The welfare of the people is essentially what community development is about, as the communities cannot be developed devoid of its human capital. Social welfare is supposed to be largely government's responsibility while the community development process can be shared through collaborative efforts. It is therefore plausible that the level of SCD will rest squarely on the method used. If requisite principles are utilized in the approach to community development, it will strengthen the chances of engendering a sustainable community development process in the bid to achieve overall development and globalization. Since communities form one basic unit of human lives and its development is always beneficial, it is important

to pay serious attention to the nature of and approach to development.

PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

Oyeleke (2013) opines that the Nigerian government has not done enough in ensuring sustainability, and that there is still a lot more to be done in the face of decay, lack of provision of road, security, education, etc. Economic and other types of growth often cause burdens when not adequately monitored and checked. Though Nigeria seems to have embraced the idea of sustainable development generally, it has not yet seemed to zero in on the SCD aspect of it. It is however necessary to integrate elements of sustainability into the conventional community development efforts. The question then is, are community development efforts in Nigeria integrating elements of sustainability into the process of development?

Furthermore, the elevation in the standard of living in Nigeria as a result of the improved economic status from the oil boom era led to greater waste generation, pollution and environmental degradation at different levels. It therefore becomes even more relevant to consider sustainability at the level of community development. Even though community development has been adopted over the years as impetus and approach to overall development, the achievement of an acceptable level of SCD has hardly been in focus and this study is to explore the level of integration of sustainability into CD efforts.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study is to examine the incorporation of sustainability elements into the adopted method of community development and its link with sustainable community development practices. Specifically, the study is to: (a) document the current popular CD methods (b) work out requisite sustainability principles (c) measure the extent of SD incorporation into CD efforts (d) explore challenges and suggest solutions

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

(a) Which are the popular community development methods used in the nation? (b) Which are the elements of sustainable community development? (c) Are sustainable principles being integrated into CD efforts? (d) What is the level of adoption of SCD? (e) What are the factors militating against incorporation of sustainability elements into CD efforts, and how can CD be practiced more sustainably? (f) What strategies can be used to improve quality of life of the community dwellers with a consideration for the future?

HYPOTHESES

The following four null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study: (a) There will be no correlation between economic activities and sustainability principles. (b) There will be no correlation between socio-cultural processes and sustainability principles. (c) There will be no correlation between environmental activities and sustainability principles. (d) There will be no correlation between community development strategies and sustainability principles.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

SCD involves a judicious use of resources and the 3Rs (reuse, reduce, recycle), while improving community self-reliance. According to the Quebec Sustainable Development Act, several things are germane – health and quality of life, social equity, environmental protection, economic efficiency, participation and commitment, access to knowledge, intergovernmental cooperation and partnership, protection of cultural heritage, responsible production and consumption, and harsh laws against pollution, among others, (Granda and Bourret (2006). These originally sixteen listed items are reduced to a composite relationship diagram. This is indicated in figure 1.

Figure1 lists elements that are important in sustainable development processes, but they are also all obviously related to community development practices. The most important of the elements is the awareness and adoption of the principles. They are further broken down into sustainability principles.

According to Peck and Dauncey (2013), SCD features include qualitative and quantitative socio-economic and environmental benefits. While acknowledging that there were numerous approaches to SCD, they acceded that it was more in terms of ‘green environment’. They therefore proposed a twelve-point framework that will help enhance SCD. These are Ecological protection, density and urban design, urban infill, village centres, local economy, sustainable transport, affordable housing, livable community, sewage & storm water, potable water, energy and the 3Rs. Their Case Study of two areas resulted in a narrowing of these down to three levels – building, development site and the planning and infrastructure level for a more holistic approach. Figure 2 shows the inter-link between community development and sustainability.

Figure 2 drawing shows the elements that contribute to SCD practices. Within the concept of SCD, the physical environment element is to help attain an environment that is habitable through appropriate attention to the conduct of agriculture, waste

disposal, pollution etc. The economic element is to engender a viable economy that will consider poverty alleviation, job creation, skill acquisition, responsible production and earning power, among others, while the third circle, the socio-cultural is to ensure a society that is just, with equitable provision and distribution of resources through good governance, management and leadership; while being mindful of the community dwellers' welfare, collective decision making and access to ample information. Thus, it is obvious that all the elements of sustainability can be practiced within the confines of community development. The central overlap indicates the extent of sustainability of community development practices.

Methodology

The research is a survey of the level of incorporation of SCD principles into community development practices in Nigeria. Population of study consists of community dwellers in urban and rural areas of five States in the southern region of Nigeria. Sampling technique involved the selection of respondents purposively and randomly after clustering and stratification. Five South Western states were used for the study. They were Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo and Lagos states. From each state, 3 Local Government Areas (LGA) were randomly selected from the towns, consisting of one urban LGA (from the capital of the state) and LGAs from two rural communities from different towns.



Figure 1: Principles of Sustainable Community Development (Bakare, 2013).
Adapted from the principles of Quebec's Sustainable Development Act (Granda & Bourret, 2006)

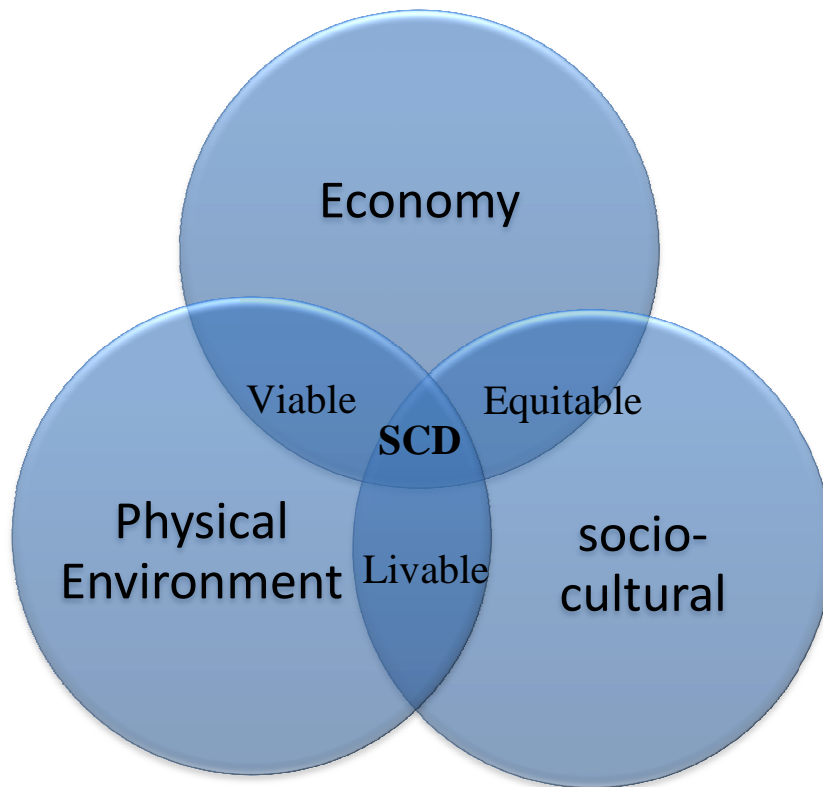


Figure 2: Elements of SCD (Tripartite Venn diagram) - Bakare (2013)
Adapted from the sustainable development diagram (2009)

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Table 1: Sample Size

s/n	State	No of LGAs	Local Government Areas (LGAs) and towns selected			
			Urban (capital of the state)	No of resp.	Rural (Town and LGA)	No of resp.
1	Oyo	33	Ibadan Bodija Ibadan North LGA	20	Ogbomoso - Ogbomoso North LGA – Kinira Ajaawa - Ogo-Oluwa LGA	15 15
2	Ogun	20	Abeokuta Abeokuta North LGA	20	Ota – Ado Odo LGA Shagamu – Shagamu North LGA	15 15
3	Ondo	18	Akure Akure North LGA	20	Ilara Mokin – Ifedore LGA Ondo - Ondo East LGA	15 15
4	Osun	30	Oshogbo Oshogbo North LGA	20	Ejigbo – Ejigbo North LGA Ilesha - Ilesha West LGA	15 15
5	Lagos	20	Ikeja Ikeja LGA	20	Ikorodu – Isele Epe - Papa LGA	15 15
			TOTAL	100	TOTAL	150

Source: State Records

GRAND TOTAL = 250

A sample size of 250 respondents in total was randomly selected at the ratio of 20 from the urban area, and 15 people each from the two rural locations. This is to give a balanced opinion in terms of the spread. This makes 50 respondents from each state as shown in table 1.

The instrument was a self developed and validated set of questions (based on the principles of sustainability). It had the background information section as well as Likert-Scale structured questions, rated high (3), medium (2) and low (1). The instrument was deemed reliable at 72.5%, using the test re-test method after five weeks interval. The research also used direct observation and recording of data in pictures. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected over a period of three months across the different States with the assistance of Graduate Fellows from the Departments of Education in the

Federal Universities of each state. Data were analyzed using frequencies and the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient tool as well as Regression Analysis.

Results

The combined results from the five states - Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun and Ondo are presented below in table 2.

According to the respondents, the popular type of community development method used were: Government's sole provision 60 (24%), Self help participation 93 (37.2%), Government and community collaboration 97 (38.8%).

The ratings of some of the responses are hereby reported in table 2.

Table 2: Responses from the questionnaire

Items	Low		Medium		High	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Economic						
1. Government's encouraging environment for job creation	133	53.3	98	39.2	19	7.6
2. The standard of living is comfortable for people	164	65.6	66	26.4	20	8.0
3. Conducive environment for economic activities	135	54.0	83	33.2	32	12.8
4. Government sponsored skill acquisition programs readily available	69	27.6	147	58.8	34	13.6
5. Employment level rating	115	46.0	135	54.0	0	
Environmental						
6. Provision of bicycle lanes	146	58.4	79	31.6	25	10.0
7. Availability of pedestrian walkways	162	64.8	81	32.4	7	2.8
8. Noticeable air pollution from traffic, factories, generators	60	24.0	72	28.8	118	47.2
9. Provision of parks and green areas in the locale	125	50.0	76	30.4	49	19.6
Socio-cultural						
10. Level of provision of infrastructure	131	52.4	86	34.4	33	13.2
11. Level of participation in a local self help project	54	21.6	130	52.0	66	26.4
12. Belonging to a local associations	51	20.4	150	60.0	49	19.6
13. Handicapped enabled access in public areas	203	81.2	47	18.8	0	
14. Good public transportation system	70	28.0	155	62.0	25	10.0
15. Adequate supply of potable water	79	31.6	154	61.6	17	6.8
16. Adequate provision of electricity	153	61.2	85	34.0	12	4.8
17. Public conveniences (toilets)	109	43.6	135	54.0	6	2.4
18. Provision of basic education	42	16.8	81	32.4	127	50.8
19. Provision of public garbage disposal						

20. Waiting for government to provide amenities	153	61.2	71	28.4	26	10.4
	73	29.2	70	28.0	107	42.8
Community development						
21. Participation and commitment in local development projects	44	17.6	94	37.6	112	44.8
22. Government provision of basic infrastructure and other amenities	69	27.6	125	50.0	56	22.4
23. People willingly participate in community development efforts	61	24.4	115	46.0	74	29.6
24. Government taking responsibility for basic infrastructure provision	140	56.0	67	26.8	43	17.2
25. More than half of our community projects have been done through self-help efforts	52	20.8	153	61.2	45	18.0
Sustainability principles						
26. Tax is used for government's provision of amenities	130	52.0	71	28.8	48	19.2
27. People cooperate to develop their communities	44	17.6	78	31.2	128	51.2
28. People observe responsible behavior during production.	77	30.8	145	58.0	28	11.2
29. Strict pollution laws	126	50.4	93	37.2	31	12.4
30. Conscious effort to recycle materials	77	30.8	130	52.0	43	17.2
31. Conscious effort to reuse items	61	24.4	142	56.8	47	18.8
32. Concerted effort to maintain the family structure	63	25.2	74	29.6	113	45.2
33. Provision for basic Education and information dissemination	45	18.0	74	29.6	131	52.4
34. Mandatory tree planting	57	22.8	130	52.0	63	25.2
35. Encouraging house gardening to produce organic food	99	39.6	101	40.4	50	20.0
36. Willingness to ride bicycle to work and to get around encouraged	170	68.0	57	22.8	23	9.2

37. Adequate provision of pedestrian and bicycle lanes	171	68.4	58	23.2	21	8.4
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DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Excerpts from the instrument yielded the following results to the research questions. Majority of the respondents 97 (38.8%) say that development in their community has been through the collaboration between the people and the government, followed by 93 (37.2%) who claim that community development strategy used in their locale was largely through self help participation, only 60 (24%) believe it was through government provision alone. The observation schedule revealed that the self help strategy was practiced more in the rural communities; however development generally seems to be largely politically driven. Elements of sustainability principles include those responsible practices within the sustainability Venn diagram (fig. 2) that will ensure harmony between earth's resources and the community dwellers in a manner that can be successfully handed down to coming generations. Sustainability principles are those elements of community development that encourage responsible behavior - like consumption reduction, pollution reduction, frugal and knowledgeable use of resources, awareness of consequences of our action on earth's resources and a more conscious effort not to contribute to its decimation. Sustainability principles can be summarized thus: (a) Responsible production and consumption as well as embracing the 3Rs (b) Practices that reduce environmental pollution (c) Environmental protection, preservation and conservation (d) Cooperation, collaboration and participation (e) Maintenance of the family structure and cultural heritage (f) Encouragement of healthy living and lifestyle

All these must be capped with government's provision of essential amenities and infrastructure to give impetus to SCD.

Overall, Economically, 133 (53.20%) of the respondents do not believe that the government created an encouraging enough environment for job creation and other economic activities as well as earning potentials; though 126 (50.40%) rate entrepreneurship encouragement for economic efficiency as average and 147 (58.80%) acknowledge readily available government sponsorship of skill acquisition programs also as medium. The consensus was that the government was certainly not

doing enough to create opportunities for businesses to thrive and survive, and this obviously affects people's livelihood and standard of living, among others. The unemployment level is still rather high and majority of the respondents were not convinced that the tax payers money was used effectively.

Environmentally, 118 respondents (47.20%) perceived a noticeable level of air pollution from traffic fumes, factory emissions and generator output. Incidentally, an overwhelming number of respondents 146 (58.40%) noted the lack of provision of bicycle lanes on the roads or even pedestrian walkways, not to talk of parks and green areas in the communities. 87 (34.80%) have not participated in deliberately planting of trees, and provision of parks and green areas were low, many feel there should be stricter pollution laws. Incidentally, 23 respondents (9.20%) see themselves as willing to ride a bicycle to work or get around, especially in the urban areas, and especially if there were adequate provision of bicycle lanes. These responses reflect some examples of how sustainability principles can be interwoven into the body polity of the nation.

Socio-culturally, the general consensus was that, at 140 (56.00%), more than half of the respondents rate the level of provision of basic infrastructure as low. 100 (40.00%) note a high density of living areas, 153 (61.20%) pointed out inadequate supply of electricity and the majority also noted lack of provision of public conveniences, potable water and public waste disposal facilities - like strategically positioned garbage disposal facilities, both in the urban and rural areas. 150 (60.00%) rate the level of belonging to one local association or the other as medium, while 66 (26.40%) claim they participated in local self-help projects. 155 (62.00%) rated the provision of transportation as medium at best and 203 (81.20%) noted the absence of handicapped-enabled access to public areas generally. The respondents acknowledged government's efforts to provide basic education and health care as well as access to information. They believe that most of the previously discussed issues affected the fabric of the family as a unit, even though there was a concerted effort to maintain the family structure. The general consensus was that tax payers' money was not being

used to maximum effect, as indicated by the low level of infrastructure provision generally.

Further excerpts from the results yielded that in community development, 107 (42.80%) agree that they still wait on the government to provide infrastructure generally, while 74 (29.60%) belong to organizations for social welfare, although most of the pressing issues were usually resolved through self-help efforts in the community. 112 (44.80%) however believe that people may not necessarily

willingly participate in community development efforts, maybe because they were waiting on the government to take responsibility for the provision of basic amenities. The observation schedule also revealed quite a number of government-initiated abandoned projects, as well as others in different stages of completion. As a background to sustainability, the respondents' efforts to reduce, reuse or recycle materials were low as shown in the table. This supports Bakare (2012) findings.



Figure 3: Access road under construction



Figure 4: Installation of transformer, Omole phase II

Both projects were undertaken by community efforts alone (Lagos State)



Figure 5: Community hall with borehole and solar-powered light in Oke Ese, Ilesha West LG, Ilesha



Figure 6: Rural electrification

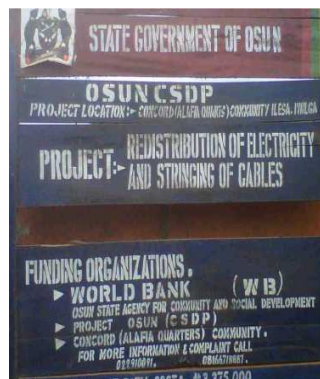


Figure 7: Signpost

Other items that will also indicate the integration of sustainability principles in practice, like mandatory tree planting, organic farming and the riding of bicycles all rated low, although people indicated willingness to ride if proper pedestrian and bicycle lanes were provided. Planting of house gardens for

organic food was also a challenge in the face of space in the urban areas as well as people not owning their own premises; otherwise it was accepted as a good idea.

The direct observation is thus reported. The government, through the different LGAs is constantly

working on roads, water and electricity provision etc, but in many cases, the communities were impelled to hasten the process, either by building link roads to government-constructed roads, as well as small bridges and supply potable water from borehole, or through the supply of transformers for local electricity, etc. This is in lieu of waiting for the government provision of amenities to reach the rural communities. Community development initiatives were usually achieved by levying the community members and help may be added through

collaborations with government or international bodies, for example, who may either match their grant or through outright loans to the communities for development. Many projects were also undertaken by different Community Associations. The figures show some pictures of self-help initiatives in different communities in the towns visited.

The electrical installation was in collaboration with World Bank (sign-posted projects are to show transparency of purpose, analysis of project cost, duration, location etc) – (**Osun State**)



Figure 8: The local police station



Figure 9: Court house



Figure 10: Community Health Centre

Community executed projects – all built by the local indigenes association – Egbe Omo Ilara-Mokin (Ondo State)



Figure 11: Water tank and solar-powered rural water scheme, Ita-Oshin



Figure 12: Electrification project



Figure 13: Community security gate (self-help)

The project in figure 11 was jointly constructed by the Ogun State Government and the Federal Government of Nigeria through the MDGs' Conditional Grants Scheme for the use of humanity. (**Ogun State**)

Figure 14 and figure 15 were all taken during the observation schedule in the different states. They are all examples of the self-help projects undertaken by the different communities. Some were solely financed by the communities themselves or local groups, while others were done either in collaboration with the Local, State or Federal

Government, NGO, philanthropists or international organizations.

Adhering to sustainability principles, more than half of the respondents were willing to consciously make efforts to reduce consumption and recycle materials, although there were scant facilities, for example, by the government to promote this. 101 (40.40%) were willing to do house gardening and produce organic food, but for lack of space, especially in the urban areas.

Analysis of results using the Pearson Correlation Coefficient yielded the results in table 3.



Figure 14: Community constructed link bridge, Ogbomoso (**Oyo State**)



Figure 15: Bore-hole for water supply

Urban Location**Table 3:** Correlation matrix of sustainability principles (independent) on the predictors

		Economic	Environmental	Socio-cultural	Community development	Sustainability principles
Economic	Pearson Corr	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental	Pearson Corr	.071	-	-	-	-
Socio-cultural	Pearson Corr	.099	-.072	-	-	-
Community development	Pearson Corr	-.008	-.172	.081	-	-
Sustainability principles	Pearson Corr	.060	.120	.009	-.129	100

Location: Urban

For the urban locations, there was no correlation between the economic predictor and sustainability principles as $r = .060$ is less than the critical r -value of 0.195 at 0.05 level of significance, given 98 degrees of freedom. There was also a positive but weak correlation between the environmental predictors and sustainability principles because $r = .120$ was less than the critical value. For the socio-cultural predictor, $r = .009$ also showed weak correlation with sustainability principles while community development, with $r = -.129$ again showed a weak and negative correlation to sustainability principles.

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Rural Location

Table 4: Correlation matrix of sustainability principles (dependent) on the predictors

		Economic	Environmental	Socio-cultural	Community development	Sustainability principles
Economic	Pearson Corr	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental	Pearson Corr	.063	-	-	-	-
Socio-cultural	Pearson Corr	.036	-.015	-	-	-
Community development	Pearson Corr	-.001	-.054	-.069	-	-
Sustainability principles	Pearson Corr	.030	-.013	-.034	.043	150
	Pearson Corr					

Location: rural

For the rural locations, there was again either no or very weak correlation between the economic predictor and sustainability principles as $r = .030$ was less than the critical r -value of 0.195 at 0.05 level of significance, given 148 degrees of freedom. There was also no correlation between the environmental predictors and sustainability principles because $r = -.013$ which was less than the critical value. For the socio-cultural predictor, $r = -.034$ showed a weak and negative correlation with sustainability principles while community development, with $r = .043$ showed

a weak but positive correlation to sustainability principles. Within states, Lagos was more significant than others and as the earth's while nation's capital seems to be the one practicing SCD the most. Also the more rural areas with less infrastructural facilities seemed to practice it the least.

Further analysis through Regression indicated the same pattern of no relationship between the dependent variable and the predictors as shown in the table 5 below.

Table 5: Regression Analysis

LocationModel	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
Urban	1	.179 ^a	.032	3.428	2.032
Rural	1	.063 ^a	.004	2.847	2.240

a. Predictors: (constant). Socio-cultural, Environmental, Economic, Community Dev.

b. Dependent variable: sustainability principle

Results from the Regression Model for the urban area indicated that all the predictor variables only accounted for about 1% which was not statistically significant. Also for the rural areas the Adjusted R value of -.024 was not significant. Therefore it can be deduced that the predictor variables of economic, environmental, socio-cultural and community development do not significantly contribute to sustainability principles. This suggested that the integration level of sustainability principles into the three pillars (the tripartite Venn diagram of sustainability – fig. 2) was low, whether in rural or urban areas. This supports Bakare's (2012) finding on sustainable development generally. It was also noted that there was a variance within the variables. Sustainability principles were adhered to more in certain activities than in others. Nevertheless, it can be inferred that the practice of SCD generally was still rather low, considering.

Even though many of the social amenities were supposed to be provided by the government to the communities, there was rampant evidence that quite a number of projects in the communities were still undertaken by the people in the various communities who were tired of waiting for government largesse, especially in the rural areas, hence the self-help projects. Observation schedule further showed that development efforts by the government also seemed to be politically driven, and were usually concentrated in the urban areas where the vociferous and politically active people can be found, which makes the development process mercurial and rather dependent on the whims of the incumbent government. There were the usual government development efforts, it however looked like people do not unduly wait for the government to perform its duties (maybe because of history and inability to deliver over a period of time on the part of the government) and there were therefore a lot of self development efforts in all the communities. There also currently seems to be an overdependence on the largesse of NGOs, CBOs, philanthropists and Associations as well as the government to boost community development initiatives by the different

communities. In spite of available policies and laws to the effect, government seems to be lagging behind in its duties to the populace in the provision of electricity, water etc. Typical community projects often include provision of transformers for electricity, borehole for water, the building of link roads and small bridges to access government roads, among others (see figs. 3 - 15). Presently, an inordinate amount of development seems to be at the onus of the communities, especially in the rural areas. Government needs to improve on performing its duties to the populace through provision of roads, electricity, health, education and other social amenities. The government has tried economic empowerment strategies to alleviate poverty, and has also tried to provide education and Primary health care services etc. However, the practice of integrating sustainability into CD efforts is still a work in progress. Lack of participation may be due in part to the tax payers not clearly seeing a provision of basic amenities. Therefore, while the spirit of self-help may arise from necessity, full participation of citizens in CD efforts remains a struggle.

To answer the question of how responsibly community development is being practiced in communities, it was found that development lacked impetus – the lack of basic infrastructural provision by the authorities, affect the way people comport themselves in a bid to make ends meet (like when people throw trash indiscriminately for lack of provision of public bins) and environmentally, the issue of air pollution occurring from generator fumes, or the cutting down of trees for cooking and warmth for lack of electricity supply, all form a vicious cycle that must be broken. Where there appeared to be an effort to practice sustainability, even though the terminology is not focused on as much, it is possible that they were practicing it subconsciously without labeling.

Altogether, it can be surmised from the data presented that the level of incorporation of sustainability into CD efforts is still rather low. Some states seemed to be doing better than others and urban areas seem to fare slightly better. For

example Lagos state is now one of the cleanest states, whereas an un-updated site (Factspy.com) still lists Lagos among one of the ten most polluted cities in the world. It is imperative to tackle the issue from the root cause. If basic infrastructure is available, reinforced with pertinent adult education, then SCD will become more successful in Nigeria. All hands must be on deck in the business of maintaining and preserving the earth's resources in a responsible manner in order to have more positive impact of earth's degradation, while maintaining a more symbiotic relationship between the earth and its inhabitants, and this must be done in the manner of a generational relay or baton exchange. The provision of basic amenities will serve as a launching pad for the practice of SCD.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

As the findings of the study reveal a less than stellar adherence to SCD principles in all the states observed, the development process will be sorely affected. If we only practice community development, devoid of the sustainability element, the future will be jeopardized and development will not be rapid. The implication of the study for Nigeria is that there is a need to re-invest in the elements of SCD for rapid development and in order to move up within the international rankings of developing nations. The repercussions of not practicing SCD invite a grim future for development. This is why the government is admonished to re-apply itself to the provision of basic amenities, focusing on adult education with human being at the core of all activities and also to refrain from using politics as a basis for development which only encourages lopsidedness.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has helped to highlight the development of the nation in terms of sustainability. Findings reveal that it is not yet *uhuru* for Nigeria in terms of inculcating the spirit of sustainability into the development process. SCD helps to promote a healthy social community and enabling environment to meet people's needs while favouring responsible rapid development. It encourages a reduction of consumption of non-reusable resources, of waste and pollution and helps to enhance the health of the people and the environment both locally and globally in a holistic manner. In the face of lack of provision of basic amenities for communities, surely it will be difficult to factor in the sustainability element unless efforts are redirected towards the provision of basic infrastructure and amenities, especially in the rural areas.

Since poverty and environmental degradation are inextricably interwoven, ameliorating issues of

poverty could serve as a double edged sword to also help battle environmental challenges. It is necessary to ensure that tactful and strategic methods are used to integrate principles of sustainability into the psyche of the community members in a manner that will, not only allow for immediate positive change, but also ensure its continued relevance and adoption in the community development process so that SCD can be attained and retained. This is achievable through appropriate adult education programs and methods like Case Study, Fundamental Educ, CD, etc. It is however imperative that the government does not initially try to enforce too many sanctions of environmental sustainability on the communities that are still struggling to achieve the basic human needs, where provision is lacking. For example, it will be counter-productive for the government and involved agents to ban people from cutting down trees that they use for warmth and cooking in the face of non-provision of alternative sources of energy. Again, issue of renewable energy becomes a mute point where basic electricity provision is yet to be fully achieved. Commitment to the 3Rs is not easy in the face of poverty and lack of full provision of basic amenities. It is also difficult to battle toxic emission into the atmosphere from factory, traffic and generator fumes in the face of the lack of ready alternatives. In the area of conservation, traditional means would still work and can be encouraged in the interim.

Community Development is a viable method for ensuring sustainability in a holistic manner - when it is practiced consciously and judiciously with sustainability principles in mind. The variables within SCD, which include the economic, socio-cultural and environmental, all need to incorporate sustainability principles. Again, community development burdens should not be disproportionately borne by rural communities so that justice will be served in the course of ensuring SCD. There is also the need for environmental laws to be rigorously pursued, though enforced with precaution. Where the government has ongoing projects in communities, rapid completion must be adhered to against the current practice where communities are riddled with government's abandoned projects, some of which create hazards to the communities. No one group should bear the burden of environmental disadvantage occasioned by government operation or execution of projects. There is the urgent need to put in place enough economic infrastructures to battle poverty, unemployment, lack of education and poor health care, among other social ills, and to do it consciously in harmony with nature. Development cannot be at the expense of community dwellers' health or the environment. There should also be equal sharing of power and resources, thus, power

arrangements that are unequal should be eschewed. People deserve to live in safe and healthy environments. There is the urgent need to focus on how to meet the basic needs of the populace in a manner that will not put undue stress on or deplete natural resources as at the present alarming rate. Economically, it is also necessary to focus on producing environmentally friendly goods.

Adult education is of paramount importance in the process of SCD. In fact, it is arguably the most important element, as human development is at the heart of any meaningful development efforts. This is achieved through information dissemination, level of use of technology, fundamental education and literacy, among others. Another approach is targeting social work as a method of achieving SCD. This means to target the vulnerable and disadvantaged of the society, rendering various social services to women, children, the disabled etc, through health, feeding, calamity contingency provision and education, among others. Provision of public amenities like bicycle lanes may also encourage less dependence on the present pollution-laden transportation system, just like private home gardens will encourage healthy living through the production and consumption of more organic and healthy food. It is necessary to infuse community development methods, right from the planning and implementation stages with adequate amounts of sustainability.

Results of this study revealed that sustainable principles were not being integrated into community development efforts and the level of adoption of SCD was low overall. The factors militating against the incorporation of sustainability principles into CD was largely a result of government's low provision of infrastructure and amenities. Integration of sustainability principles into community development process will surely go a long way in improving the quality of life of community dwellers with due consideration for the future. SCD is not impossible, but enough energy is yet to be directed towards this viable option for overall development. SCD incorporates the elements of sustainability into community development. It is therefore a viable alternative to the traditional approach to development, because it encourages self-help, participation, education etc, in an integrated manner that results in positive and solid changes along environmentally sustainable lines with the human element firmly embedded, encouraging increased community hands-on activities, control and self reliance. SCD forces innovative approach to existing problems within the environment, economy and the community, which is but a minor deviation from the currently popular self-help and often disjointed method of community development that has been hitherto adopted. This means using a more

integrated approach where the government fulfils its basic obligation and uses a combination of adult education and reward incentives for performing Local Government Areas as encouragement for development. Community participation and contribution from the populace will then not be stunted. There is no doubt about the benefits accruing from practicing SCD as it is desirable and has tremendous benefits to all. It is necessary for Nigeria to re-examine her traditional approach to community development with a renewed drive towards sustainability.

It is therefore advocated that sustainability principles be taken more seriously and considered right from policy formulation to implementation stages for development to last. Community development is currently no longer only concerned with people living in healthy surroundings with adequate standard of living, but also having a lifestyle that is physically, intellectually and morally satisfying, along with good governance, optimization and management of human and material resources. People are thus encouraged to practice CD in a more sustainable manner. Nigeria is already on the right track with pledges to support the UN Habitat program on Urban Agenda at both Federal and State levels. This is along with other noticeable efforts at sustainable development, especially in the urban areas. It is imperative that Nigeria continues to forge ahead in the effort to introduce elements of sustainability into all its development programs to infuse depth, commitment, accountability and consistency for more prolonged and effective CD. There is always a lot to be done and in order for the government not to be overwhelmed, it is essential to take things one step at a time and gradually introduce the sustainability component - we are already moving in the right direction. There is always aid and collaboration outpouring from local and international organizations, especially from the different organs of the United Nations (UNCHR, WHO, World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP and UNESCO) which we can take advantage of.

Ultimately, the idea is that all the SCD elements should be balanced in a manner that one will not destroy the other but work complementarily in tandem for the benefit of humankind. Adult education will help people to be more aware and take responsibility for their actions for a better quality of life, especially with the incorporation of responsible use of technology and earth's resources. Education would make people more aware of their environment and their duty to leave it better than they found it as people should no longer be unconcerned and subjective consumers of earth resources. Sustainability itself is a process - a work in progress, it could be seen as a point in a continuum and the aim

is to continually progress towards the higher end. Conscientization can help the populace wake up to the reality of their environment and use the socio-cultural values to ensure that the environment is treated with the deserved respect. At the level of social welfare, the government should pay more attention to human consumption aspects like housing, income maintenance and health etc to enhance sustainability. Government should definitely improve provision of basic amenities, support basic functions of the social system while providing adequate information and education.

The educational opportunities in this research include bringing awareness to the necessity of imbibing the spirit of sustainability in community development processes through adult education. Community development can be used as a method to promote sustainability when it is properly integrated to perpetuate an intergenerational relay of symbiotic relationship between the earth and humans. The research also developed a matrix for the principle of sustainable community development and reiterates the importance of focusing more on issues of SCD, an area that has hitherto not been given the deserved attention. It is hoped that the research findings will also help reawaken the government to its duty to the communities which should be undertaken consistently, justly and in a manner that will favour future generations. The practice of SCD is what can ultimately make the economy viable, the physical environment livable and the socio-cultural life equitable.

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