

Assessment of Rural Development Strategy in Nigeria: Lessons from the Past

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Abstract Rural development is centrally focused on organizing human and natural resources designed to provide a solution to the perennial problems of poverty and deprivation of rural folks with a view of raising their living conditions. Nigeria since the past five decades has been in a continuous search for the solutions to virtually major development problems, this situation has posed serious challenges to the development strategies in Nigeria. The study assessed the rural development strategy in Nigeria and the lesson learnt from it. The specific objectives include evaluation of the extent to which rural development policies and programmes have been addressed and tackled in Nigeria and the challenges of its implementing rural development rural development.

The study was a review paper on past rural development strategies in Nigeria from 1960 to date. Secondary data were used. The paper showed that many developmental programmes such as National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFP), Operation Feed the Nation, Green revolution, Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), The National Directorate for Social Mobilization and Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (Sure-p) were implemented in Nigeria since independent but all these programmes have not been able to improve the standard of living of rural dwellers because of poor implementation of the programmes, top-down approach, inadequate community participation, lack of grassroots planning, inability to optimize local resources and neglect of community structural approach. The study recommends that the needs of the particular rural communities should be ascertained before executing intervention by the policy makers. Furthermore, rural dwellers should be made the starting point for any poverty reduction strategy. They are ready to act individually and collectively. They are hardworking and are prepared to struggle to stay afloat and to get ahead. They have a very realistic idea about their conditions and how to improve it; also they are ready to govern themselves.

Keywords: poverty, rural, development, strategy, population

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduce the Problem

A major characteristic of developing countries including Nigeria, is the increasing disparity in terms of standard of living between the urban and rural areas. A major characteristic of developing countries including Nigeria, is the increasing disparity in terms of standard of living between the urban and rural areas. Igboeli (1992) and Herman (2017) noted that the development is rooted in the neo-classical economic theories which presume that development can be accelerated by concentrating investment in the cities and that rural poverty can be ameliorated by the trickled down of benefit from urban industrial growth. With this Growth Centred Strategy, the developing countries have continued to witness imbalances in the living conditions between the urban and the rural dwellers. Indeed the concept of Rural Development (RD) as an alternative strategy to overall development, has become a worldwide concern in both the advanced and developing countries especially in the past three decades that where State's policy or programme has not touched or had direct bearing on the rural sector. The issue addressed in rural development is centrally focused on organizing human and natural resources designed to provide a solution to the perennial problems of poverty and deprivation of rural folks with a view of raising their living conditions. This is based on the assumption that since the rural population constitutes a larger proportion of the population and they produce larger percentage of essential food items, they should enjoy the end-result of their labour (Igboeli, 1992).

Nigeria since the past five decades has been in a continuous search for the solutions to virtually major development problems, this situation has posed serious challenges to the development strategies in Nigeria and

other developed countries that have been caught up in the orthodox western socio –economic and political trap of dependency. Ultimately, the conditions of the peasantry and rural communities in recent years ,have consistently worsened or deteriorated as more and more rural development programmes and strategies have been unfolded by successive Nigerian governments.

1.2 Objectives

The aim of this paper is to evaluate the extent to which rural development policies and programmes have been addressed and tackled in Nigeria. In essence; the paper will attempt to examine the extent to which RD policies and progrmmes have addressed the problems of rural development in Nigeria, the challenges of its implementing rural development rural development policies and programmes and the lessons for the future.

II. METHOD

The study was a review paper on past rural development strategies in Nigeria from 1960 to date. Secondary data were use.

III. RESULTS

3.1 Why rural development is imperative in Nigeria

Muoghalu(1992) contended that rural development has become a national imperative in Nigeria and gave the following reasons for his position. His first argument stems from the proportion of the national population resident in the rural areas of Nigeria. According to him in1963 census, 80.7% of the national population was resident in the rural areas. By 1985, this proportion has gone down to 70.13% and by 1990; it had further dropped to 50.6% in 2017(Index Mundi, 2018). This therefore show that despite Nigeria’s high level of urbanization, its population remains largely rural.

Second, is the realization that a dangerous gap exists in the development levels of both the urban and rural areas. This seems to be threatening the political and social stability of the country. Despite having the overwhelming proportion of the national population, the rural areas are characterized by pervasive and endemic poverty, manifested by hunger, malnutrition, poor health, inadequate access to formal education, livable housing and various forms of social amenities compared to their urban counterparts.

Third, it is being recognized that the problems of the urban centers cannot be solved unless those of the rural areas are solved, or at least contained. These problems emanated from the unprecedented rural-urban migration which in turn derives from rural stagnation or under development, poverty and unemployment. With Nigeria’s major cities growing at annual rates ranging from 5-17.5%, they suffer from severe pressures on available resources there by worsening already bad situations in urban employment, management, service delivery and livability. The rural areas on the other hand experience labour and capital flight to the cities. Therefore, rural development is directed at both getting the migrants back to the rural areas and preventing further streams of migrants from leaving the rural areas(Adedayo, 1998).

3.2 Conceptual classification

For the purpose of this discuss, the word development would be defined within the context of economic development. Economic development is conventionally defined as an adequate rate of growth of per capita income, (Abass 1993) and it has generally been assumed that if economic development so defined occurs, living conditions of all people will correspondingly improve, Thus, the concept of socio –economic well being is the substance of development. In this context, the term development refers to the process of the following;

The general improvement in the standard of living;

Decreasing inequalities of income distribution and the capacity of sustaining continuous improvements; though not inclusive but must include i) income and ii) to be discussed by academicians, administrators and politicians and social workers.

Seers(1969) in his theorized economic view of development emphasize on the poverty reduction,, inequality and unemployment as an important index of development. According to him, “The question to ask about a country’s development are therefore: what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to inequality, what has been happening to unemployment? if all three have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development in the country concerned if one or two of these central problems have been growing worse , especially if all three , it would be strange to call the result development even if per capita income has doubled. Seers (1969) sought to admonish countries to tie development goal to progressive reduction and elimination of malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, squalor, unemployment, inequalities and self reliance, tackle poverty rather than worry about GNP increase.

On the other hand, the term rural development has been of focal interest and is widely acclaimed in both developed and developing countries There is however no universally acclaimed definition of the concept , as the term is used in different ways and vastly in divergent contexts. As a concept, it connotes overall

development of rural areas with a view of improving the quality of life of rural people (Olatunbosun, 1975). In this sense, it is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept that encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities –village and cottage industries and crafts, socio – economic infrastructure, community services and facilities, and above all, the human resources in rural areas (Olatunbosun, 1975). As a phenomenon, it is the result of integration between various physical, technological, economic, social, institutional factors. This is brought about by the government or its agencies and must involve the people themselves to determine their needs and wants.

As strategy, it is designed to improve economic and social wellbeing of a specific group of people particularly the rural poor (World Bank. 1975). According to the World Bank, it involves the extension of the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. In another World Bank Publication 1990, defines rural development as “improving the living standards of masses of the low-income population residing in the rural areas making the process of rural development self –sustaining.” The United Nations Agency for Social and Economic Development (1971) posited that rural development is the quantitative change and upliftment in the standard of people in the rural areas, brought about through integrated approach, by both government and non- governmental agencies and the people themselves.

From the foregoing definition, it can be deduced that rural development essentially revolves around the rural people and giving them meaningful life as it occurs in the urban areas.

Micheal Todaro, (2008) asserted that rural development encompasses (1) improvement in level of living including employment, education, health and nutrition, housing and variety of social services; (2) decreasing inequalities in the distribution of rural incomes and in rural urban balances in income and economic opportunities and (3) the capacity of the rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of improvements. The critical element in rural development from this definition is improvement of living standards of the poor through opportunities for better utilization of their physical and human resources. Thus, all the above definitions are apt in our discuss of rural development strategies in Nigeria.

3.3 Overview of Rural Development Strategies in Nigeria

Rural development has been distorted in meaning and content in Nigeria. It has been perceived as a strategy mainly related to agricultural productivity and primarily tied to economic growth. The thinking here is that increased agricultural productivity by itself could solve the problems of rural communities and their inhabitants, (Obinne 2010). Another distortion of rural development is embedded in the promotion of investment ratio by setting up of import substitution industries, expansion of education and provision of basic infrastructure etc. However this has failed to realise that there are lots of countries that had attained rapid economic growth without a corresponding increase in the conditions of living of the majority of the people, (Abass 1993).

Furthermore, the distortion arises from the fact that the attainment of political independence in 1960 did not change pursuance of development in policies and strategies of the Nigeria state by those who inherited the political apparatus. Nigeria adopted the Rostowian theory of development that laid emphasise on growth and short –cut path to development with Gross Domestic Product or per capita income as the guiding principle an analysis that Dudley Seers had earlier debunked in the opening part of this paper. Essentially the general approach during the first five decades of Independence was to establish import –substitution industries in the urban centres so that profits realized would trickle –down to the rural areas. This was meant to raise the living standard of the small scale farmers, increase agricultural output and productivity, to increase raw agricultural materials for the utilization of local industries and for exports and finally to raise the needs of the population (Nigeria 1962) This Rostowian industrial and technological determinist theory has not served any useful purpose for the rural sectors or the state as a whole. The type of government action employed here included the distribution of seeds,

Introduction of more agricultural methods through farm settlements, cooperatives plantations, improved farm implements such as hydraulic hand presses for the expression of palm oil and a greatly expanded agricultural extension services, etc. The expansion of the railway length and tarring of roads gave credence to the wrong assumptions of the rural development policy is that rural population consist of only farmers whose problem is only agriculture whereas, there are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, fisherman, hunters traders etc whose skills in addition to farming need to be developed.

Another fallacy is that an agriculture improvement is synonymous with rural development. Consequently, Olatunbosun (1975) indictment of both the colonial and independent governments in his book Nigeria’s Neglected Rural majority is justified. He accused the duo of not only neglecting the majority who live in the rural areas but also milking them dry for the benefits of the British metropolis and the urban minority in Nigeria whilst Nigeria’s development financing has been derived mainly from direct and indirect taxation of rural people who have had little or no benefits from the economic development activities.

Nigeria government between 1973 and 2000 launched five national development programmes with more than eight supportive schemes. However, the low level of infrastructural and human capital development

of these rural areas is a clear sign of weakness and ineffectiveness of these programmes and schemes, (Akpomuvie 2010). At the first national development plan, 1962 to 1968, Nigeria's priority was in agriculture with about 14 % budgetary allocation. To this end agricultural productivity was likened to rural development. Subsequently, agriculture in the post colonial Nigeria was still attached to the colonial masters and it became an integral, connected and extended policy in which peasant farmers were made to produce only cash crops at the expense of subsistence crops for exports. This was meant to further enforce Nigeria dependency and neo colonial position at international level. More so the road and rail line built were meant to facilitate the movement of cash crop from the hinterland to the coastal cities where it would be ferried abroad for the industries of former colonial masters

The second development plan, 1970-1974 aimed at achieving a just and egalitarian society by placing high premium on reducing the degree of inequality among the social classes. However, this period witnessed an astronomical increase of foreign exchange through oil revenue. In essence, rentalism craved into Nigeria as the country became dependent on rents and royalties derived from the sale of oil. This also brought in its wake attendant social and economic problems especially the rural urban (peasant) migration leading to a high reduction of the numbers of agricultural produces and a simultaneous increase of the urban consumers'. Also, it should be emphasize that during the early years of the 1970, aftermath of the civil war, agricultural sector became characterised with crisis which was compounded and complicated by the drought that affected the northern part of the country. In the same vein, it was the period that ushered in the phenomenal oil boom that later spelt doom for the country as oil remarkably overtook agricultural productivity in foreign earnings. Thus, this was characterised by huge imports of food while agricultural activities, that use to be the main stay of the economy was relegated to the background.

Overall, the second development plan specifically stated the Nigeria's rural development objectives as (a) creating rural employment opportunities with a view of checking rural out migration and improving the level and quality of social services and infrastructure. It failed because rural communities embarked on physical and social projects based on the perception of what constitute their own development rather than engage in agricultural developments. The plan awaked the development consciousness of the rural communities.

Nigeria executed its third development plan between 1975 and 1980. During this period, Nigeria engaged in what it called integrated Rural development (IRD) which was funded by World bank and under the name Agricultural Development Projects. A colossal amount was expended on the projects but the conditions of the rural areas largely remained the same as they remained bound to poverty. The main objective of this government's rural development policy was the rising the level of economic activity with a view to increasing rural incomes and quality of life. The strategy of integrated rural development was to provide a basis for more even geographical spread of physical development throughout the country and helped to reverse the trend of rural out migration. The Integrated rural development approach was regarded as an entirely new dimensional, multi disciplinary and multi sectoral approach and was deeply rooted in the understanding of the realities of the rural life.

The fourth national development plan 1980 to 1985 enunciated that integrated rural development approach would be achieved through the Agricultural Developments Projects (ADPs) and the Accelerated Development Areas (ADA) both of which were concerned with the promotion of rural economic activities embedded in the assumption that economic growth and development with the central focus on the people and their social and physical environments. The IRD is aimed at identifying the rural poor with ranging objectives of equitable distribution of income to agrarian reforms, popular peoples' participation and employments, the holistic conceptualisation of development as well as the recognition of local initiatives to expand the scope of the programme. The ADPS began in 1975 at Funtua, Gombe and Gusau. In 1976, the Later on the River Basin authorities was established in 1976 and was later renamed River Basin and Rural Development Authorities (RBRDAS), (Adedayo, 1998). The impacts of the ADPS and RBRDAs in the Rural area were limited mainly to agriculture production as the programmes did not contain elements to curb the rural urban migration. Other strategies of rural development were

3.3.1 The National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFPP).

This project was launched in 1973 and it continued until 1976 when it was replaced by the Operation Feed the Nation Programme. It was an impact-making agricultural strategy to increase food production in specific areas and sub-sectors of the agricultural economy. NAFPP relied heavily on the cooperative approach as well as on technical assistance for its success. The scheme was a well-conceived and guided change programme for rural development, especially in the area of food production.

3.3.2 Operation Feed the Nation.

This programme was launched in 1976 by the then Head of State of Nigeria, Lt. Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo. It was designed to awaken in the generality of Nigerians the advantages of the agricultural occupation,

especially, those living in the rural areas. The objectives of the Operation Feed the Nation were as follows:

- i. to mobilize the nation towards self-sufficiency and self-reliance in food production.
- ii. to encourage the sector of the community relying heavily on food purchase to grow their own food.
- iii. to encourage general pride in agriculture.
- iv. to encourage balanced nutritional feeding and thereby produce a healthy nation.

The Operation Feed the Nation was not specifically a rural development strategy, but the rural areas benefited through inputs and professional advice. However, Osuntogun and Olufokunbi (1986) observed that the Operation Feed the Nation rather than solving food problems created opportunities for the ruling class to appropriate national funds. They were appointed Board members as well as given fat contracts.

3.3.3 Green Revolution.

It is a crash programme launched in 1980 by Alhaji Shehu Shagari's Administration. It was aimed at boosting food production in a bid to provide food to every Nigerian. The objectives of Green Revolution include :

To make the country self-sufficient in food production within 5 years. To return the country to its pre-eminent crop production stage within 7 years.

Unfortunately, it failed because the same government that instituted Green Revolution with the aim of making Nigeria self-sufficient as at 1985, embarked on a large-scale importation of rice from India and Latin America, and essential food items for survival and sustenance (Otoghagua, 1999). Again, the sole intention of the programme was food and crop production so that the physical hunger of urban areas and the impoverished foreign exchange account of the government might be replenished. The presumption was that once agriculture was improved, and the yields per acre were increased, the peasant farmers who constitute the major bulk of the producers would automatically have their economic and social standard improved. It is very clear that there was no mention of how to channel the money back, extracted from the rural areas to develop the area.

3.3.4 Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI). This was one of the numerous programmes that were instituted by the then President of Nigeria, Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida in 1985. It was a kind of home-grown social dimensions of Adjustment project for Nigeria. According to Ekpo and Olaniyi (1995), DFRRI has the following objectives:

i. to improve the quality of life and standard of living of the majority of the people in the rural areas by improving greatly the quality, value and nutritional balance of their food intake; raising the quality of rural housing, as well as the general living and working environment in the rural areas; improving the health condition of the rural people; creating greater opportunities for human development and employment; especially self-employment and invariably enhancing rural income levels; making it possible to have a progressively wider range and variety of goods and services to be produced and consumed by the rural people themselves as well as for exchange;

ii. to utilize the enormous resources of the rural areas to lay a solid foundation for the security, socio-cultural, political and economic growth and development activities of the rural areas;

iii. to ensure a deeply-rooted self-sustaining development process based on effectively mobilized mass participation, beginning from the grass roots and spreading thereafter to the wider economy .

The Nigeria's DFRRI can be perceived as a kind of integrated rural development strategy. Its activities can be grouped into the following broad areas: Provision of Economic and Social Infrastructures, Production of Agricultural Inputs, Development and Dissemination of Improved Technology to enhance agricultural and rural housing and Mobilization for Mass Participation in rural development.

Provision of Economic and Social Infrastructures

DFRRI developed rural access roads. Government surveys indicated that 60, 000km of rural feeder roads were either constructed or rehabilitated under the first phase which was completed in 1987. In 1990, a total of 30,724.34km of rural feeder roads were completed and accepted as having met the required specifications under the second phase of the project. Another 55,576.24km of rural road was constructed in 1991. However, in 1992, a total of 85,592.82km of rural feeder roads were completed, inspected and accepted as can be found on table I below. Another important infrastructure on which DFRRI's resources were concentrated was rural electrification. The first phase phase took off in 1987. Two model villages in each local government area of the country were selected for the project so as to serve as reference points in rural development in the country. By 1989, 142 electricity projects were completed in phase 1. In 1990, 114 communities in 11 states were provided with electricity. In 1991, 325 communities were supplied with electricity, and another 506 communities benefited in 1992. Also, on water supply to rural communities, 4, 000 wells/boreholes were reported to have been sunk by 1989. Another 1, 291; 11, 310 and 18, 680 wells and boreholes were sunk in 1990, 1991 and 1992, respectively (Ekpo&Olaniyi, 1995).

Table 1: DFERRI's Completed Projects on Economic and Social Infrastructures

Year	Amount Allocated (₦ Million)	Feeder Roads (km)	Rural Electricity (No. of communities)	Boreholes/wells
1986	500	—	—	—
1987	400	60,000	—	—
1988	500	30,000	—	—
1989	300	30,000	142	4,000
1990	300	30,728.34	114	1,291
1991	152.3	55,576.24	325	11,310
1992	250	85,592.82	506	18,680

Source: DFERRI Press Briefing (1992).

Production of Agricultural Inputs

With respect to DFERRI's production activities, two special programmes for cultivating 50 million fruit trees and producing improved seeds or mass distribution were launched in 1986. In 1987, various research institutes were engaged in the Directorate's seeds multiplication and distribution, livestock, horticulture and aquaculture development programmes. The end of 1987 marked a total production of 3,624 tonnes of assorted breeder/foundation seeds for livestock. In 1990, 1,633 tonnes of seeds of arable crops, 4,598 million oil palm seedlings and 294,072 tonnes of groundnut seeds were distributed to farmers. Aqua culture also increased through the production of 2,666 million fish fingerlings. In 1991, the achievements improved some 4,033.13 tonnes of improved seeds, 17,112 million seedlings, 2,666 million fingerlings and 14,529 tonnes of fodder seeds were produced and distributed to farmers. In 1992, 846,224 fruit seedlings for horticulture, 5,726.13 tonnes of arable crops seeds and 3,466 million fingerlings were produced and distributed to farmers as shown on table 2 below.

Table 2: DFERRI's Supply of Agricultural Inputs

Year	Arable crops (tonnes)	Oil palm (million)	Groundnuts (tonnes)	Fodder seeds (tonnes)	Horticulture (tonnes)	Fish (million)
1987	—	—	—	3,624	—	—
1988	—	—	—	—	—	—
1989	—	—	—	—	—	—
1990	1,633	4,598	294,072	—	—	2.67
1991	4,033.13	17,112	—	14,529	—	2.67
1992	5,726.13	—	—	—	846,224	3.47

Source: Adopted and modified from Ekpo and Olaniyi (1995).

Development and Dissemination of Improved Technology

Another important project embarked upon by DFERRI was its collaboration with Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NBRRI), Project Development Agency (PRODA) and Bida Polytechnic on research into the ways of using local raw materials, and improving local technology for constructing houses in rural areas, the rural housing unit of the Directorate trained about 250 technical personnel from all the states; on how to use locally available raw materials and technology for building houses. In 1992, a total of 8,024 technical extension workers were engaged in various communities to boost rural housing. The number of rural farmers who were able to go to farm in motorized vehicles increased by 23.6 per cent of the rural population between 1986 and 1993, and 31.4% of the rural dwellers had access to new health facilities built during the periods.

Mobilization for Mass Participation

DFERRI encouraged and assisted in the formation of community development associations (CDAs) and community banks (which have metamorphosed into microfinance banks). The CDAs became very significant in rural development. They identified projects, assisted DFERRI, and mobilized the rural dwellers to partake in modernizing their domain. Between 1989 and 1991, a total of 8,108 CDAs were registered. Also, community banks were established in almost all the local government areas of the country.

The above suggested tremendous quantitative achievement by DFERRI in all areas of the objectives. However, the quality of amenities provided posed a lot of problems, which reduced the impact of the Directorate on the rural communities. Furthermore, considering that there are more than 97,000 rural communities in Nigeria,

these achievements were far from being adequate to solve the problems of rural life in the country. Some other problems which DFRRRI faced was its inability to find a modus vivendi with other executive agencies of government, and ineffective grassroots monitoring and follow-up systems due to the large extent of the areas to be serviced, and the paucity of staff and logistic support.

3.3.5 National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

This programme came into being during Gen. Ibrahim Babandiga's regime. It was established to deal with the rising unemployment in the country. It was structured to offer job seekers an opportunity of finding employment or working on their own through agriculture, industry and handicrafts. Each participant in the scheme was empowered to find jobs or otherwise to benefit from loans guaranteed by the establishment. NDE had its attendant problems, which included low funding for all participants, poor preparation of job seekers and the application of bureaucratic systems.

3.3.6 The National Directorate for Social Mobilization

Gen. Ibrahim Babangida's Administration established the directorate in 1987. It was popularly called Mass Mobilization for Self-reliance and Economic Recovery (MAMSER). It pursued aggressive mobilization and enlightenment of the people towards their rights and duties. It covered the whole nation and appealing to the conscience and sense of responsibility of the people, which is considered a most important aspect of rural development. It also stepped up a virile campaign for food production through its Food First Programme.

3.3.7 The Better Life Programme: Following the outcome of Beijing Conference of 1985, Chief (Mrs.) Maryam Babangida initiated the Better Life Programme for Rural Women in September 1987. The objectives of the programme, according to Obasi and Oguche (1995), include:

To stimulate and motivate rural women towards achieving better living standards, and sensitize the rest of Nigerians to their problems;

To educate rural women on simple hygiene, family planning, the importance of child-care and increased literacy rates;

To mobilize women collectively in order to improve their general lot and for them to seek and achieve leadership roles in all spheres of society;

To raise consciousness about their rights, the availability of opportunities and facilities, their social, political and economic responsibilities;

To encourage recreation and enrich family life; and

To inculcate the spirit of self-development particularly in the fields of education, business, the arts, crafts and agriculture (pp.74 – 75).

The activities of the Belter Life Programme were remarkable to the extent that its impact was felt throughout the length and breadth of the country. Some of the achievements of Better Life Programme included that:

- i. It exposed the potentials of women in creativity and management.
- ii. Women became actively involved in all government programmes from the grassroots.
- iii. Credit and other inputs now flow to rural organizations more than ever before.
- iv. It had the establishment of ministries of women affairs in all the states of the federation (Ijere, 1990: 59).

Family Economic Advancement programme (FEAP) Better life programme and family support programme (FSP) this campaign target rural women and through the programmes rural women were socialized to participate in national affairs. Through the programme, rural women were co-opted to participate in national affairs. The programme also helped to diversify skill acquisition by rural women who were trained to manufacture several house hold items and also acquire skill to trade in their backyards. The skills so learnt were tailoring, hair dressing, basket weaving and poultry. However these skilled acquisition were not accomplished by investment or micro credit facilities to enable the women establish small scale enterprise (duru, 1999) as it was hijacked by urban women and wives of politician that had unfettered access to cash.

3.3.8 Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (Sure-p): This is a multi sectoral programme of the Federal Government designed to tackle poverty/unemployment as well as improve the country's infrastructure financed from the proceeds of the partial removal of fuel subsidy (National Planning Commission 2011). It is the latest empowerment programme of the Federal Government during President Goodluck Jonathan.

The objectives of the proposed Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme are:

1. To mitigate the immediate impact of the partial petroleum subsidy removal on the population by laying a foundation for the successful development of a national safety net programme that targets the poor and vulnerable on a continuous basis. This applies to both the direct and indirect effects of subsidy withdrawal.
2. To accelerate economic transformation through investments in critical infrastructural projects, so as to drive economic growth and achieve the Vision 2020.

3.To promote investment in the petroleum downstream sector.

In spite of all these strategies on rural development over the years, Nigeria has not been able to feed its population and the country over the years has witnessed a serious decline in grain production and proportion of malnourished population is ominously increasing and there is no pursuance of concrete food security policy. Yet widening gap of inequality and dwindling supply of reserve arable land as well as pressures on further increase of output through higher yields are compounded by the newly introduced technologies alien to the environment. However, the dwindling oil revenue has created a vista for Nigeria to energize its agricultural sector with clear cut policy that will match words with action.

This paper advocate for endogenous development. According to Rey (2000) this is the improvement in the socio economic well being of the disadvantaged areas brought about by recognising and animating the collective resources of the territory itself. Accordingly, this brings us back to Dudley's summation on development in the introduction. This was reiterated by Bassand(1986)who opined that the new meaning of development is qualitative and structural indicators and not just quantitative and monetary measures are used as criteria .

The basic characteristics of endogenous model of RD are :

Key principle- the specific resources of an area (natural, human and cultural) hold the key to its sustainable development;

Dynamic force –local initiative and enterprise;

Function of rural areas- diverse service economy;

Major rural development problems –the limited capacity of areas and social groups to participate in an economic activity;

Focus of rural development –capacity building (skills , institutions and infrastructure)and overcoming exclusions.

The main characteristics of endogenous or participatory development are three folds; viz

It set development activity within a territorial rather than sectoral framework, with the scale of the territory being smaller than the nation-states;

Economic and other development activities are re-oriented to maximise the retention of benefits within the local territory by valorising and exploiting local resources-physical and human;

Development is contextualised by focusing on the needs , capacities and perspective of local people, meaning that a local area should acquire capacity to assume some responsibility for bringing about its own socio economic development. A working partnership sort of a collaborative arrangements between public bodies or between the public, private and voluntary sectors where the partners pool their resources in the pursuit of a common policy objective, in this case the socio economic regeneration of a territory .

In endogenous development, development is not just about increasing goods and services provided and consumed by society . it also involves enabling communities to have greater control over their relationship with the environment and other communities this approach plays premium on empowerment, capacity building, carefully designed, social animation and the provision of suitable training and development institutions through the central policies are key to the system. Endogenous development means development strategy should be bottom up not top bottom. Hence, Mosher (1969) opined that a progressive rural structure is one having several elements including markets flow as outlets for farmers products where supplies may be purchased ,rural roads to aid flow of commodities ,local verification that determine best form purchase in the light of local conditions and extension through which farmers can learn about new technologies .also making a case for endogenous development. Batchelor, (1981) argued that rural development priority should not be based on the amount of crops that could be harvested or the profit that a person or group could make rather such priority should be based on the social, economic, political and material welfare of the greatest number of the people. This implies that the improvement of the living standards and welfare of rural people involves not only adequate food but also the provision of better occupational skills , health care delivery facilities , school , hygienic water, good communication facilities, market access and electricity and other physical and social infrastructures.

3.4 Problems Affecting Rural Development in Nigeria

Ijere (1990) remarked that rural development will continue to be a basic problem to developing countries including Nigeria, because of the following reasons:

.1.Lack of National Philosophical Base. The Nigerian rural development strategy lacked a philosophical, ideological and holistic foundation. It had a body (policy-makers and government functionaries) but had no soul to give it life and sense of direction. The usual practice has been to be in office propounding slogans and manifestations for the people below. That was instrumental to the failure of some rural development projects such as Farm Settlement Scheme, Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, etc. A philosophical base is typified by an internal motivating and compelling force or commitment stemming from faith and love of the

sapiens in the rural sector and determination to work for their upliftment. Without philosophical super structure, rural development remains an echo of good intentions from government and urban dwellers.

2. Lack of Integrated Pilot Demonstration. Before 1976, there was no national rural development programme in Nigeria. What was in vogue was segmented or unco-ordinated rural development where it is assumed that new programmes in one community will have ripple effects on other communities and institutions. According to Oyaide ((1988), the first Department of Rural Development at federal level was established in 1976 to mobilize people, initiate local projects with local leadership, promote agriculture, rural development and community projects. By 1978, the government was not so sure of what to do with rural development. As such, the term "rural development" was added to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, and later replaced with Water Resources. All these occur because it is not certain about the place of rural development in the overall development strategy.

3. Lack of Cohesive Identity. Failures have occurred in rural development as people regard the social and cultural aspects of development as subordinate to the economic development. Any innovation that does not guarantee the cohesiveness of the group and respect for their history and beliefs have little hope of survival.

4. Defective Local Economies. People tend to treat rural development projects as charity or welfare packages. Few people are interested in the costing, evaluating and ensuring that targets are met. As such, production is emphasized in rural development policy while marketing and marketing outlets are neglected. For example, Kano State Government in 1983 poured in a huge amount of money (about ₦ 895 million) into Kano River Basin Agricultural Project with little or nothing to show for them on the ground.

5. Lack of Core Project Leadership. The failure of project leadership to come from within to sustain the development projects has led to the falling apart of things in rural development. The tendency has been to rely on official leadership for carrying out rural projects. These official leaders are not prepared to motivate and sustain the enthusiasm of the people in the face of conflicts, depressions and unfulfilled expectations.

6. Inadequate Community Participation. The top-bottom approach to rural development employed by government functionaries whip up enthusiasm among the people, as there is absence of total community participation. Due to the approach adopted, people evoke unwilling response as they are regarded as being incapable of standing on their feet.

7. Lack of Grassroots Planning. There is little or no attempt to allow the rural communities to identify the problems and goals, analyze their own needs, and commit themselves to the achievement of targets. Local experts, Chiefs and community leaders, were taken for granted in deciding what projects to embark upon, and where and how to execute them. The planners do not consult even the interest groups, the co-operatives, and professional organizations.

8. Inability to Optimize Local Resources. Due to Nigeria's penchant for foreign-made goods, local resources are neglected for the imported goods. Local talents and manpower as well as other resources are also ignored, thereby loosing the opportunity of evolving appropriate technology.

9. Neglect of Community Structural Approach. The pattern in Rural Development Programmes in Nigeria centres on the imposition of imported schemes whether or not they are related to the cultural and sociological life of the people. Examples of these areas of neglect include: appointing new leaders where such leaders already exist, not making use of youth organizations, age grades and women's groups in the initiation and implementation of programmes.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion ,having considered the past efforts at rural development and its failures , it is imperative that a workable development strategy must be based on a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics that have shaped and are shaping the Nigeria Rural areas. For example, poverty, exclusiveness and social connections. Also, the needs of the particular rural communities should be ascertained before intervention.

Furthermore, the starting point for any poverty reduction strategy, are the rural dwellers. They are ready to act individually and collectively. They are hardworking and are prepared to struggle to stay afloat and to get ahead. They have a very realistic idea about their conditions and how to improve it; also they are ready to govern themselves responsibly by ensuring that any help that they receive is used for the benefits of the group

rather than it being pocketed by powerful individuals yet they are too poor to solve their problems on their own. So too are the government.

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