

Assessment of Community Participation in Rural Development Projects in Nangere Local Government Area of Yobe State

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ABSTRACT

The rural poor are non-beneficiaries of the enormous development efforts of the past three decades. This study is aimed at assessing community participation in rural development projects in Nangere LGA, Yobe State. Data were generated from both primary and secondary sources. The study adopted a multi-stage sampling technique, of which 10 among 11 wards were purposively selected in which they are divided into 5 wards each in the first and second stage. The study made use of 383 samples which were proportionately distributed according to population size among the 10 wards selected. The study made use of descriptive statistical techniques which involved the use of mean, percentages, and frequency distribution for the summarization of the data. The findings revealed that electricity, health facilities, and road networks in Nangere ward are functional while that of wards like Watinani and Darin health center is barely functional, the study concluded that none of the geopolitical wards had a functional financial institution. Furthermore, the findings concluded that supply of manual labor and provision of security are the major forms of community participation, it's also clear that Pakarau and Nangere wards (62% and 60%) had the highest level of community participation while Dadiso and Watinani (23%) recorded the least in all ramifications. It's recommended therefore that beneficiaries of any rural development project should be mobilized and sensitized on the benefit of community participation in Nangere LGA and rural development projects generally and selflessness and service to humanity should be fostered by traditional authorities.

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KEYWORDS: Nangere, Rural, Development, Project, Community

INTRODUCTION

Rural development from a general point of view is the process of improving the quality of life and economic wellbeing of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas (Moseley, 2003) which are also known as rural areas. However, despite strategies put in place in form of projects provided for rural people, many do not benefit because of their non-involvement in the project planning process and implementation, hence, the emphasis on community participation in rural development projects. Rural development is more realistic when people participate in the process of infrastructure provision because at the heart of rural development projects are infrastructures and for the overall goals and

objectives to be met, the principle for effective community participation must be adapted (Bankole, 2006).

Community participation as a development approach for rural socioeconomic development is an alternative to the top-down approach which has failed to yield the desired result because rural dwellers who are target beneficiaries were not carried along initially (Bankole, 2006). The term has been conceptualized in different ways in the literature as public, people, or citizen participation; however, they all have the same focus, which is rural development (Oakley, 1991 & Afolayan, 2008). Participation is all about

inclusiveness, social justice, and the common good which shows that rural development is community-based when people in communities determine their needs and aspiration. This is because it is realized that by so doing large numbers of marginalized rural people can be reached effectively by the government and other types of developmental projects supported by international agencies like the Food and Agricultural Organization and World Health Organization (WHO, 1991&FAO, 1991).

The improvement in the living standard of people through popular participation is thus central to the concept of rural development (Adedayo et al., 1991). Therefore, community participation serves as a pivot for whatever successful process rural development is trying to achieve in rural communities. Rural infrastructures are indeed the pivot of rural development because they increase rural productivity and income, improve rural living conditions and facilitate spatial integration of rural settlements into the national development landscape (Bankole, 2006). Rural development is achieved through tangible projects and resource distribution.

The low level of rural development in the study area is leading to illiteracy and inaccessibility to minimum basic facilities and services. Nangere Local Government is one of the local governments in Yobe State that has a lot of rural areas of which a lot of projects are done without their participation which leads to poor functionality of such projects. Improving rural development projects is one of the greatest challenges facing many rural dwellers at

present. Nhlakanipho(2010) also opined that the rural poor have not participated in sharing the benefits from the enormous development efforts of the last three decades in proportion to their needs. Unless the rural communities are given opportunities to participate in rural development interventions designed to improve their condition of living, the level of spatial inequalities among regions will tend to increase. It, therefore, becomes of research interest to analyze the processes involved in the provision of rural projects in the Nangere Local Government area to see the level of community participation, perhaps the absence of community participation may be a factor affecting the achievement of the desired objectives and this calls for the present study.

METHODOLOGY

The Study Area

Nangere Local Government Area in Yobe State, North-east geopolitical zone of Nigeria and has its headquarters in the town of SabonGariNangere located between $11^{\circ}51'50''\text{N}$ $11^{\circ}04'11''\text{E}$ / 11.86389°N 11.06972°E as can be seen in figure 1 below. It is bounded by the following Local Government Areas; to the north by Jakusko, to the east Fune, to the west Dambam Local Government Area of Bauchi State, to the south Potiskum, to the south/east Fika. It has an area of 980 km². The study area has a total of 11 electoral wards namely: Chilariye, Dadiso/Chukuriwa, Dawasa/Garinbaba, Dazigau, Degubi, Kukuri/Chiromari, Langawa/Darin, Nangere, Pakarau, Tikau, and Watinani wards.

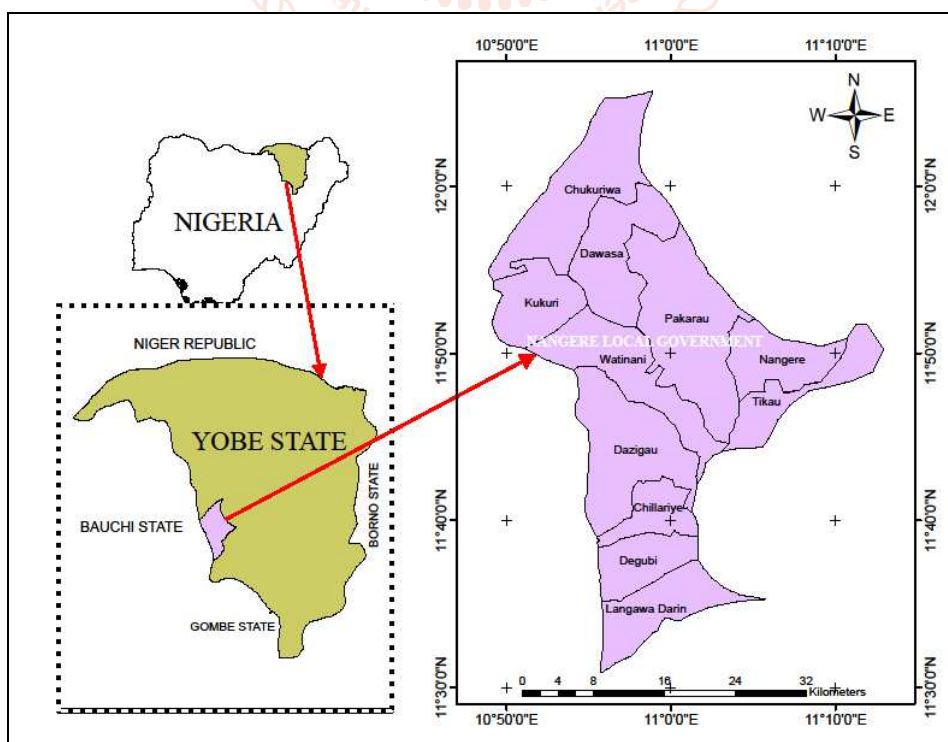


Figure 1: The Study Area

Source: Adapted from Administrative Map of Yobe State (2021)

Research design

The study focused on quantitative methods in a form of questionnaires as this will give the researcher more responses from the participants; information was collected using a structured questionnaire. Moreover, a reconnaissance survey was carried out to familiarize oneself with the community projects. The visit assisted the researcher to make a spot assessment of the community projects and acquired relevant information about the activities of the community concerning development projects. Moreover, the survey has helped in determining the sampling technique most appropriate for the study. It also guided the construction of the research instrument for data acquisition. Some field observations were conducted about the projects.

Sources of Data

Primary Sources: The primary source of data collection included a structured questionnaire administered in the selected rural settlements of the study area which generated the necessary data for the study.

Secondary Sources: The secondary information includes published and unpublished works generated from existing material, internet-based documents, journals, books, and conference proceedings.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The study area has 11 geo-political wards. The study adopted a multi-stage sampling technique. First, among the 11 wards, 10 were purposively selected namely, Chukuriwa, Dawasa, Dazigau, Degubi, Kukuri, Darin, Nangere, Pakarau, Tikau, and Watinani ward. In the first stage, among the 11 wards, 5 were purposively selected namely, Chukuriwa, Dawasa, Dazigau, Degubi, Kukuri, in the second stage another 5 were purposively selected namely Darin, Nangere, Pakarau, Tikau, and Watinani ward. The administered sample size was based on the projected population of the rural communities in the ward of the study area. Also, the sample size was obtained from Krejcie & Morgan(1970) sample table in which the population sample size is determined to be 383. The household constitutes a unit of observation for the study. As such household heads or any adult members of the household were selected as respondents.

Table 1: Distribution of Sample Size in the Study Area

Selected Ward	Communities	Projected	Sample
		Population (2006)	Size
Chukuriwa	Dadiso	9,216	31
	Gada		
	JauroBaki		
	FarinDutse		
Dawasa	Bagaldi	12,782	43
	Garin Baba		
	Tarajim		
	Dorawa		
	Azara		
Dazigau	Kakawa	9,229	31
	KukarAwu		
	GarinShera		
	Yaru		
	Gudi		
Degubi	Daniski	5,958	20
	Lariski		
	Dangwara		
	Mbela		
	Gwasko		
Kukuri	GarinAlhaji	9,224	30
	Gurabeli		
	Fallidishi		
	Godogo		
	GwalaTsofuwa		

Darin	Kata Riya	6,836	23
	Dorawa Ma madi		
	TashanKurege		
	Darin		
	Langawa		
Nangere	Kanda	10,247	34
	GarinJata		
	Gamarun		
	BornoMoude		
	Shudingel		
Pakarau	Biriri	22,297	74
	Pakarau		
	Garin Keri		
	Katsira		
	Zinzano		
Tikau	Jakade	19,721	66
	GarinKadowa		
	Kwakuri		
	TikauGanuwa		
	Shebuwa		
Watinani	Jigawa	9,262	31
	Garin Baba Riko		
	Mandagai		
	GarinBaye		
	Gawa		
Total		114,772	383

Source: (NPC, 2021)

Method of Data Analysis

The analysis and presentation of data acquired from the questionnaire administered were descriptive statistics. The descriptive statistical technique involves the use of mean, percentages, and frequency distribution for the summarization of the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are different types of the project participated in by rural people. This is based on the peculiar need and the capacities of different communities in the study area. These include skill Acquisition, schools, roads, electricity, health care facilities, and banks. These projects vary in their characteristics, size, functionality, and contribution to the different rural areas. The major concern for these various types of rural development projects available in the wards revealed is premised on the fact that functional infrastructure provided has a positive impact on the development of the rural community. This section is thus a representation of functional community development projects available in Nangere LGA as indicated in Table 2, but for this study, only a subset of these projects will be elaborated.

Table 2: Identified projects available in the rural communities

Project	Dadiso		Dawasa		Dazigau		Degubi		Kukuri		Darin		Nangere		Pakarau		Tikau		Watinani	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Electricity	19	5	27	7	34	9	38	10	46	12	15	4	77	20	61	16	42	11	23	6
Health Facilities	23	6	42	11	45	12	38	10	30	8	19	5	77	20	65	17	27	7	15	4
Schools	15	4	30	8	38	10	42	11	46	12	28	7	38	10	73	19	50	13	23	6
Road	0	0	19	5	8	2	15	4	57	15	19	5	100	26	57	15	69	18	38	10
Skill Acquisition	38	10	27	7	34	9	38	10	46	12	15	4	61	16	77	20	42	11	23	6
Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

F= Frequency, %= Percentage

Source: Authors Field Work 2021

The total responses of the respondents on the available projects in the rural communities in Nangere LGA shows that for Rural Electricity, Dadiso covers (5%), Dawasa (7%), Dazigau (9%), Degubi (10%), Kukuri (12%), Darin (4%), Nangere (20%), Pakarau (16%), Tikau (11%) and Watinani (6%); the distribution of Health Care, Dadiso covers (6%), Dawasa (11%), Dazigau (12%), Degubi (10%), Kukuri (8%), Darin (5%), Nangere (20%), Pakarau (17%), Tikau (7%) and Watinani (4%); the distribution of schools, Dadiso covers (4%), Dawasa (8%), Dazigau (10%), Degubi (11%), Kukuri (12%), Darin (7%), Nangere (10%), Pakarau (19%), Tikau (13%) and Watinani (6%); the distribution of roads, Dadiso covers (0%), Dawasa (5%), Dazigau (2%), Degubi (4%), Kukuri (15%), Darin (5%), Nangere (26%), Pakarau (15%), Tikau (18%) and Watinani (10%); the skills acquisition programs Dadiso covers (10%), Dawasa (7%), Dazigau (9%), Degubi (10%), Kukuri (12%), Darin (4%), Nangere (16%), Pakarau (20%), Tikau (11%) and Watinani (6%) and lastly the distribution of banks, Dadiso covers (0%), Dawasa (0%), Dazigau (0%), Degubi (0%), Kukuri (0%), Darin (0%), Nangere (0%), Pakarau (0%), Tikau (0%) and Watinani (0%).

The study revealed that none of the geopolitical wards had a functional financial institution. Also, the findings revealed that electricity, health facilities, and road networks in the Nangere ward are functional while that of wards like Watinani and Darin are barely functional. The skills acquisition programs are distributed based on the population of each geo-political ward.

In other words, the level of accessibility to these amenities varies and is not consistent because some rural communities enjoy maximum and consistency of supply while others are barely due to infrequency and this was expected to be one of the tools that would help to boost productivity level and welfare of the rural dwellers in the rural communities.

The results of this inconsistency when related to the assertion of Afolayan(2008) states that no rural community can develop in the poor health condition of its rural dwellers. It's therefore noteworthy to state that despite the dispersed nature of facilities in the study area, their availability cannot be denied. For rural community projects non-functional or performing below capacity, restoration is required just as noted by Ofuoku(2011) that rural communities in Nigeria have a lot of dysfunctional infrastructural facilities which need to be revamped.

Forms of Community Participation

The success of community participation in rural development projects requires the active contribution of beneficiaries in various forms. This is important because it gives a sense of belonging to development initiatives. Forms of community participation revealed from the interviews conducted include manual labor, security, little funds, etc. contributed by the rural dwellers.

Table 3: Forms of Community participation

Forms of Participation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Supply of Manual labour	250	65	65.00	65.00
Fund Raising	13	4	4.00	69.00
Provision of Security	100	26	26.00	95.00
Others	20	5	5.00	100.00
Total	383	100	100.00	

Source: Authors Field Work 2020.

From Table 3, the highest form of community participation revealed in the study area is the supply of manual labor which covers 65%, while the provision of security covered 26%. The findings concluded that supply of manual labor and provision of security are the major forms of community participation. Various Rural development projects have been embarked upon by lots of rural communities based on self-help informed by the realization that no government can meet all the needs of the rural communities (Adesope et al., 2000). Nonetheless, the government should make provision of these projects because the fact remains that there can be no meaningful or successful development without the effective harnessing of the potentials of the rural communities, rural communities normally influence the development of the rural areas, the government should redirect its rural development towards capital and development projects in the rural areas and make rural dwellers be the focus.

Level of Community Participation

In this study, most of the respondents who answered the affirmative were rural dwellers aware of rural development projects in the study area. For achievement of rural development projects to be recorded is dependent on rural dwellers' change of attitude and values (Afolayan, 2008). The desire to take part in the

decision-making of rural development projects where e.g. a project should be located could be attributed to the need of having easy accessibility to facilities provided. This study, therefore, revealed some level of community participation in rural development projects of Nangere LGA.

Table 4: Stages of Community Participation

Levels of participation	Dadiso		Dawasa		Dazigau		Degubi		Kukuri		Darin		Nangere		Pakarau		Tikau		Watinani	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Planning process	13	3	20	5	30	9	40	10	54	14	36	9	60	16	70	18	35	9	25	7
Decision-making	15	3	25	7	50	13	60	16	54	14	14	4	45	12	63	16	34	9	23	6
Project funding	12	3	42	11	18	5	40	10	45	12	64	17	67	17	38	10	33	9	24	6
Project Implementation	54	14	33	9	65	17	20	5	24	6	33	9	56	15	68	18	13	3	17	4

F= Frequency, %= Percentage

Source: Authors field work 2021.

From Table 4, it can be deduced that Pakarau and Nangere wards (62% and 60%) had the highest level of community participation while Dadiso and Watinani (23%) recorded the least in all ramification. This is not surprising considering the differences in their population. The findings also show the disparities in the implementation of projects. The result shows that rural dwellers suffer high levels of illiteracy which has become a cankerworm affecting the ability of rural people in Nangere LGA and the nation at large to participate in programs capable of improving their economies. Kakumba & Nsingo(2008) had earlier remarked that lack of participation in development projects occurs as a result of a low level of education. Again it could be said that lack of political will, low group formation, and poor governance continue to affect meaningful participation in rural development projects.

Constraints to Community Participation

To assess community participation in rural development projects in Nangere LGA, the question of constraints to effective community participation raised was investigated. The responses which include Greed/Selfishness, Lack of Sensitization and Lack of Unity, etc. were indicated and represented in table 5.

Table 5: Constraints to Community Participation

Constraints to Participation	Dadiso		Dawasa		Dazigau		Degubi		Kukuri		Darin		Nangere		Pakarau		Tikau		Watinani	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Poor Funding	46	12	33	9	30	8	43	11	18	5	23	6	41	11	70	18	35	9	44	11
Greed/ selfishness	35	9	46	12	35	9	41	12	23	7	17	4	51	13	67	17	40	10	28	7
Lack of unity	57	15	27	7	43	11	34	9	23	6	33	9	45	12	59	15	45	12	17	4
Lack of sensitization	67	17	46	12	33	9	24	6	28	7	23	6	58	15	50	13	29	8	25	7

F= Frequency, %= Percentage

Source: Authors Field Work 2021.

The constraints as revealed in this study are interrelated. In table 4, it was observed that Greed/Selfishness accounted for by the respondents of Pakarau ward had the highest percentage which is (63%) out of the whole lot and this led to poor funding 70 (18%) in the wards. This perhaps could be explained by the high level of mistrust and mutual suspicion among community members when it comes to the decision-making of communal projects, while lack of sensitization recorded the least percentage (6%). These issues can lead to improper begetting, planning, and implementation because of the minimal resources that require proper utilization that would have been derived when they unite in pursuit of a common purpose or goal and will bring benefits to the communities that had been significantly affected.

Conclusion

In determining effective community participation in rural development projects, a survey was carried out to achieve it and previous studies reviewed. The findings revealed by respondents identified problems encountered by community members that hinder their participation in rural development projects during the planning and implementation stage. Furthermore, the study discovered that the Paradigm Shift Approach

that involves a bottom-up approach to community development is strongly being adhered to in the study area. This indicates that there is a need to strengthen the concept and practice of community participation in rural development projects and sensitize rural dwellers to key into it.

This study, therefore, appreciate rural people as major stakeholder in their development since the previous

top-down approach has failed in achieving many of its goals due to several bottlenecks. The provision of functional infrastructural facilities and services has a great impact on the growth and socio-economic development of the rural community. Thus this work puts forward the following recommendations for all stakeholders in rural development, Consultation with the rural dwellers, sensitizing, and creating of awareness should be duly carried out because the collective effort is what provision and execution of a successful rural development project require.

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