

POOR PARTICIPATION AND ALIENATED CITIZENRY: THE PROBLEM WITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA.

*Sunny Nwachukwun
Nwachukwu Odunze Tobeckukwu
Emenonye Henry Nkem*

Department Of Political Science, School Of Social Science
Alvan Ikoku Federal College Of Education, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria

Abstract

Development is a programme, deliberate, concerted and sustained to free people from poverty, illiteracy, and disease and bring them into modern life. But citizen participation is a significant and necessary component of any attempt of improving the planning process of Development in Nigeria. This paper therefore investigates various approaches geared towards development and also their short comings. Among other causal factors; non participation of citizenry in developmental programme, planning, project choice is in a rarity hence a bane to development programme.

Keywords: Poor Participation, Governance, Citizenry, Development

Introduction

Development in human society according to Walter Rodney (1976) is a many-sided process. To him at the level of individual, it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creating, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing. At the level of society groups development implies an increase in capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships.

Mooguelt (1985) defines development as a process of induced economic growth and change. If development is a process of induced economic growth, one might ask what is the difference between growth and development. Growth refers to the increase in the quantity of goods and services produced in the economy (Osumah, 2000). When the goods and services produce each year increase above the quantity in the previous year we can say that growth occurred in the economy. In other words, if factories increase the volume of products they produce, farmer increase the quantity of food they produce and other people such as market women increase the

commodities they sell each year, we can say that growth is occurring in the economy. The growth of an organization is the increase in six of that organization. Growth is in short physical and quantitative.

The concept of development means more than growth. When we say economy is developing it means that birth growth and social changes for the better are occurring in the economy. Development means that in addition to growth people's attitude to work, changes resulting in a better attitude to work. New institution can also be introduced to give people a better life and growth in the economy can so be distributed that it is fairly and equitably and among the people in the country. More examples will help to illustrate the differences between growth and development. When schools are established where they did not exist before this may be regarded as development. When roads are built, electricity supplied, pipe borne water provided, where these amenities do not exist before we call it development but where they existed before and are merely extended we may call that growth although the elements of development is inbuilt (Osumah, 2000). This implies that development is psychological and qualitative in addition to being physical and quantitative.

Development could be conceived as a multidimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty. People often emphasis one aspect of development more than the other. Prett (1973) defines development as a change process characterized by increasing productivity, equalization in the distribution of the social product and emergence of indigenous institutions whose relations with the outside world and particularly with the developed centers of international economy, are characterized by equality rather than dependence and sub-ordination.

Anyanwu (1981) on his part highlighted few principal characteristics of development viz:

- a) Unlike random changes, development in society moves along a definite trend. This means that it moves from one point to another, maintaining definite direction e.g moving from low level of living to higher level of living. Related to this study non-governmental organization should be able to move the poor from low level of living to higher level of living.
- b) While obeying this directional movement, social changes remain cumulative. Thus what can be seen at any point in time in the result of what has gone before in the life of that society?
- c) Development in society is characterized by stages. Thus the changes, which emerge, have sequential relation to one another, following from one stage to the other. Within this frame, non-governmental

organization should be able to take the people within their constituency through stages that have sequential relation to one another. It must however be possible changes that would lead to development.

- d) Development in society has a purpose or goal considered as fulfilled. This is naturally logical, as any plan for development must have a purpose to be fulfilled or achieved that the plan may be said to have been attained:

Approaches to development in nigeria

In Nigeria the development of communities have a combination of a number of approaches or strategies. These strategies were aimed at improving agricultural productivity through farm settlement schemes, state owned plantations, provisions of subsidized infrastructure, farm inputs, extension services, credit, agricultural research and so on.

At independence, Nigeria's first development plant (1962-1968) focused on the attainment of economic growth through a dual strategy of import substitution and agricultural led industrialization (Iyoha, 1999:116). There was an emphasis on the provision of manufacturing plants and the construction of petroleum refineries, dams and bridges (Ogboghdo, 1989). Allied to that small scale industries, small industrial credit scheme (SIC), and industrial development centers (IDC) were established in 1962 (Mabugunle 1989:98). In addition to the plantations (Iyoha, 1999) to produce export commodities such as rubber, cocoa, oil palm and groundnut in order to enhance the country's foreign earning capacity and provide raw materials for foreign and budding local industries.

The emphasis on industries and cash crops had two identifiable effects. First, it meant that production of food was reflected as many people became employees of the large scale plantations, while others were encouraged to move into farm settlement. Secondly, the inhabitants of local communities did not benefit as much as they contributed to the development of the state. For example between 1960 and 1974 while the dwellers of local communities contributed above 50% of the State Government's revenue attracted only about 20% of Government expenditure (Olatunbuson, 1975)

The 1970s however witnessed a rethinking on Nigeria's development approach. The second National Development Plan (1970-1974) adopted a self reliant approach. Nigeria, the plan states "will accelerate it pace of development through the use of her own resources instead of relying unduly on external aid" (Iyoha, 1999). The guidelines for the fourth National Development plan (1981-1985) also stated that Africa and the third world, cannot develop until we absolutely resolved to be self reliant (Iyoha, 1999). The strategy emphasized the people's ability to initiate and sustain socio

economic and political development on their own through problem identification, problem learning, and resolution. One method through which Government sought to achieve self-reliance in the early 1970s was the indigenization of commercial and manufacturing firms. The success achieved was minimal as foreign companies continued to dominate the Nigerian economy, particularly in construction, trading, banking and the oil industry.

Another avenue for self-reliant development was the encouragement of self-sufficiency in food production. To achieve this national and State Governmental established food production companies; an Agricultural credit guarantee scheme, and River basin Development Authorities, and encouraged co-operation between Federal, States and Local authorities in the co-ordination of supporting services and primary production in a designated location. Improved seedlings and other equipment were made available to farmers through \national Accelerated Food production programme and Tractor Hiring Scheme. In order to attract foreign investment in agricultural production a land use decree was promulgated (Osumah, 2000)

Again, success was elusive as the drive for food self-sufficiency failed. This was due to reduced capital and recurrent expenditure on agriculture. The reality was alack of commitment on the part of government to real improvement in the food situation. Betonf limitations passed by leadership were other constraints: ethnic rivalry which resulted in the emphasis on sharing of resources rather than the mobilization of people for improved production of goods and services, the unavoidable reliance on foreign companies for equipment, parts, raw materials and technological know how, failure of government to explain how the society should be mobilized (Nwosu and Nwankwo, 1988:64)

It is instructive to state however that increased food production alone would not have meant development for the local communities. And even in spite of Government’s committeemen to increase food production the food import bill remained high. Operation Feed the Nation was designed to foster the production of food by individuals and institution through Government supply of necessary input and a guaranteed price. This programme was a dismal failure for many reasons. Operation Feed the Nation suffered from insufficient distribution, and misallocation of resources there was also corruption. Imported fertilizers could not be distributed properly because of inadequate transport. Consequently, individual enriched themselves to the detriment of the farmers and programmes objectives. As a result the importation of food continued and so did the escalation in prices.

The programme was eventually scrapped in 1979 under the Shagari administration and replaced by the green Revolution programme. The Green Revolution Programme offered nothing “green” for the people as it

experiences similar difficulties as did Operation Feed the Nation. Operation feed the Nation and the integrated Rural Development programmes emphasized agriculture to the detriment of other services leading to the unavoidable conclusion that improved agricultural production was synonymous with community development

In 1985 the Babangida Military Regime continued with the policy of self reliant and integrated rural development. The need for citizen participation in all decision making was repeated. The Government adopted programmes aimed at improving local community infrastructure, food, encouragement of local handicraft and employment. In pursuant of these ideals the administration created Directorate of Food, road and rural Infrastructure (DFRRI). The Directorate of Social Mobilization, the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and the Better Life for Rural Woman (BLRW). (Daily Times, June 27, 1990) of these agencies, the DFRRI and BLRW were the administration most powerful tool at least in their propaganda for local community development, the major functions of DFRRI include the provision of feeder roads, rural water supply production of programmes that encourage productive economic and agricultural activities in rural communities, and to encourage contribution of labour, time and interests by the communities (Complemented by grants from DFRRI, Local and State Government) (Iyoha 1999:119)

A key limitation of DFRRI, however, was the complexity arising from joint action of the principal actors. There were five main actors, the Ministries of Finance, national Planning, works and Housing, thirty State Governments and their relevant Ministries and 589 local authorities. The higher the number of actors on a programme the higher the number of decision path and participants with the attendants delay.

This era however show Government's commitment to the provision of basic needs interlaced with the need for improved agricultural production which in itself encourages food self-sufficiency. The directorate has also been in the forefront of encouraging the development of indigenous technology through the production of agricultural processing, road construction equipment, and drilling of working capital, scarcity and high cost of materials, and poor marketing strategies by manufacturers.

Furthermore, in 1989 the need to provide credit to those who usually lack adequate collateral was addressed through the establishment of people's bank. By 1993, the fortune of bank greatly declined. The bank found it difficult to meet its obligation to both borrowers and depositors. Repayment performance was low, that radical restricting became imperative in late 1996, as it was merged with other agencies.

Like the People's Bank, the better Life for Rural Women of Babangida's Government which worked through the state Governor's and

chairman of local authorities wives in hope that they would appeal to women and through them their families had very little to do with rural women as the system was poorly co-ordinated.

The better life for Rural Women of Babangida's Government eclipsed with the exit or escape of Babangida from the locus power. However, successive Governments adopted similar approaches. Under Abacha's Government family Support programme (FSPL), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) and Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) were put in place. These programmes of agencies appeared to encourage patronage and pacify opposition to the regime. The Family Support programme and Family Economic Advancement Programmes worked through the State Military Administrator's and chairmen of local authorities' wives in the anticipation that they would appeal to women and through then their families. These two programmes ended up supporting and advancing the families of the head of state, State Military administrators, other top Military brass and the band of praise singers in Abacha's Government with little or nothing to support and advance the families of these in rural communities.

The Petroleum Trust Fund on its own was adopted by Abacha's Government as an intervention force initially to rehabilitate roads that has suffered neglect lower the agency's activities were extended to the supply of drug to hospitals and rehabilitation of Government institutions. The revelations after the sudden demise of Abacha indicated that the \petroleum trust Fund was only an agency that entrusted Abacha and his Military cabals with public fund through looting and stashing away in foreign banks for private use.

Poor participation on development programme in nigeria

Derivable from various approaches geared toward development in Nigeria is the fact that development relates to the transformation of peoples theory temperament, affection, income, belongingness, health status and environment in order words development are Government projected programmes designed with anticipated revenue to free the citizenry from poverty, diseases and social insecurity, also to enhance the per capita income and living standard of people.

Development possesses and fosters facilities and infrastructure that could ensure contended living standard. Several Policy instruments obviously have been adopted, entrenched and utilized to make possible modernity and contended living among Nigerians. But complexities associated with development programmes have made development efforts statistical and most times ridiculous. In spite of numerous laudable political act and projected programmes Nigeria since independence is characterized

with inadequacies in the provision of infrastructures, sub standard living, insecurity, poor health facilities, Housing and indignity.

The viral situation is rather resistible and has informed the search for the causal factor. The world conference on Agrarian reforms and rural development held in Rome July 12-20, 1979 lamented on promotion of Economic growth, peoples participation, justice and equality, integration of women into development and transfer of resources to the rural sector. Uncommon to National planning, among these inherent primary and secondary conditions to development is poor participation of people in developmental projects. This problem although boasted by National Economic Empowerment Strategy (NEEDS) as a concerted instrument in response to the development challenges in Nigeria (Nwachukwu Sunny etal 2010) has not actually been implemented.

Therefore, the non-participation of non association, non support of non mobilization of and non involvement of individual stake holders, cooperatives, Academics, Trade Unions, Professional bodies and chamber of Commerce in planning, project choice, location, funding, implementation and sustenance of development programme has been identified as a causal factor to stagnate and recurring failure of development programmes in Nigeria. The pattern of adjustment to rapid socio-economic and political changes in development policies and projected programmes could be attributed or adduced to the level of popular awareness of changes in Nigeria and the pattern of adjustment to changes (Ekony 1980:184) in formulation and implementation of these political act and projected programmes . A large proportion of Nigerian are not aware of the changes, awareness and application of these recommended polices are therefore inevitable and should be primus if actualization is deemed necessary although studies have equally investigated that degree of inadequate awareness and participation could be lined to illiteracy and diverse aspirations towards separated development strategies, this should not satisfy lack of information and application knowledge, therefore citizen participation is a significant and necessary component of any attempt of improving the planning process. The participation process not only reflects the philosophy and methodology of overall societal development and guidance, but will improve attempted and methods of problems solving (Kolade and Colents: 1981: 119-129). Development therefore is the product of a series of quantitative and qualitative therefore changes occurring among a given population, the conveying effects of which produce in time, a rise in the standard of living and favourable changes in the way of life of the people (UN 1969: 13-14). Development is qualitative because it relates to education, political awareness and the demand of modern living. It is quantitative because it involves the citizenry since development is a programme, deliberate,

concerted and sustained to for people from poverty, illiteracy and disease and bring into modern life, in like manner enabling environment needs to be created for free participation of individual stakeholders and general citizenry because one cannot bite unless one gets closer to his enemy. The success of these aforementioned projected programmes becoming a success without forgetting people participation is a variety. Poor or non responsibility for the failure of some development programmes in Nigeria (Streten Bark etal 1981:191).

To ensure there is equal participation of the entire people of the country in all facet of the developmental process, there is the need to identify the people in various sets and where they can participate in development process. There is need for individual to be properly oriented. Participation in the development process is a life wire to a success driven developmental programmes. In fact some erudite scholars in their postulations regard participation as a basic political right (Okogie 1995), it is basic right to participate on anti-poverty programmes and development. Participation strengthens sensitivity to needs and empowerment to collective right. Poverty: it is the democratization of the development process. It improves implementation, management, maintenance and sustenance of projects. It enhances the utilization, benefits and impacts of projects and strengthens the commitment, support, contribution and co-operation of the people (Ikelegbe & Ikelegbe 2002).

Conclusion

The emphasis placed on participation and mobilization of the citizenry in project choice, planning and implementation as a step in the right direction, given the fact that citizens constitute the main stay of the country. Therefore attention should be given to the target population. However, it would be pertinent to point out that in the area of productive activities; development has suffered in most cases development programmes are not text run before implementation. Federal Government should adequately fund the institutions created and give them a relatively true hand in determining the needs of the people and what their priority should be. Above all the participation of citizenry in the development of recommended practices, planning of diffusing such practices; and more involvement in innovation, research and extension, should be our policy statement.

References :

- Anyanwu C. N. Principle and Practice of Adult Education and Community Development: Abia Priaf Publishers.
- Bretta A. 1973: Colonization and Undevelopment in East Africa, The Politics of Economic Change 1919-1931, New York Nola Limited.

- Ekony E. E. 1980: Realities pattern of Adjustment to rapid socio-economic and political changes in Nigeria under military rule. The Journal of Agriculture.
- Iyohah F. E 1999: Local Government and rural development city: Sylva Publishers Ltd.
- Kolade A. and Coblenz : 1981 Citizen Participation in urban and regional planning. Community development Journal London Vol 16 No 2
- Mobguelt A. A .M 1985: The Sociology of developing Society, London Macmillian
- Olatunboson J. 1975: Nigeria Neglects Rural Majority: Ibadan Oxford University Press for Nisek.
- Nwachukwu Sunny etal 2010: An analysis of Public Service reform in Nigeria 1999-2007 (A case study) international conference on sustainable development. University of Port Harcourt
- Nwosu H. N & Nwankwo G. O 1988: Self reliance as a strategy for National Development in Nigeria Jos centre for development studies
- Okosie C 1995: Democratization of the development press through community participation in rural Nigeria. Prospects for the DFRRI Benin. Journal of Social Science.