

SELF-RELIANCE AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE: FOCUS ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS IN IDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OYO STATE.

Ola, A. B.¹, Adewale, Y. Y.², Bako, A. I.¹, Issa, B.S³.

¹Department of Urban & Regional Planning, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin, Ilorin,

²Department of Urban & Regional Planning, School of Environmental Studies, Federal Polytechnic, Offa,

³Department of Surveying & Geoinformatics, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

Corresponding Author: Ola, A. B. olabayo22@yahoo.com

Abstract

The observed inadequacy in infrastructural facilities in the rural areas of Nigeria has triggered the formation of community development associations (CDAS) to engage in infrastructural development in their respective communities. The contribution of these (CDAS) to the provision of infrastructural facilities in the rural areas of Ido local government area of Oyo state was examined in this paper. Cross-sectional survey research design was adopted for the study. Structured questionnaire was used to obtain information from five purposively selected (CDAS) leaders. the study revealed that water projects and road rehabilitation were the major infrastructural projects executed by all (100%) and 60% of the (CDAS) respectively. The (CDAS) secured funds through compulsory levies paid by members (100%), financial assistance from members of the communities in diaspora (40%), philanthropists (40%) and voluntary donations by community members (20%). Infrastructural facilities provided by the associations enjoyed adequate patronage from community members (100%). There was positive perception of the existence and relevance of the (CDAS) in their respective communities by the residents. inadequate funds (60%); lack of financial assistance from government (100%); and non-payment of compulsory levies by some members (40%) were the challenges facing the (CDAS). the paper posits that for any rural infrastructural development efforts of the government to be successful and sustainable, involvement of the rural people (target users) through their (CDAS) is desirable

Keywords: *Community development; rural infrastructure; local participation; community development associations; perception.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The level of infrastructural deficit especially in the rural areas of Nigeria has assumed an alarming dimension. For instance, it has been reported that majority (90.0%) of the rural dwellers embarked on journey on untarred rural roads and 84.0% of them travelled on bad roads, which consumed more time than necessary (Akinola, 2007). Similarly, World Bank (2002) reported that over 60% of Nigerians do not have access to good health care delivery out of which 48% live in the rural area. About 46% of Nigerian rural dwellers do not have access to potable water supply (WHO/UNICEF, 2016).

This has led to low quality of life, declining economic activities and consequent massive rural depopulation and overcrowded urban centres (Abumere, 2002; Olayiwola and Adeleye, 2005; Ayeni and Audu, 2009; Chukwuemeka et.al., 2013). Moreover, with the spread effects of globalization enveloping the rural areas which has necessitated the increased demand for modern infrastructural facilities and the inability of the government to meet this rural infrastructural demand due largely to limited resources (partly caused by the current economic meltdown) and seemingly inadequate attention given to rural infrastructural development, the rural dwellers have decidedly taken up the responsibility of infrastructural development themselves. This has been through the formation of Community Development Associations (CDAs) to act as agents of infrastructural development in their respective communities (Akinsorotan and Olujide, 2006).

Adelesi (2014) conceptualised community development associations as a group of people within the same landed confines who agree to come together and work together in order to build the area in which they have found themselves so it can be easier and safer for all of them to live in. Community Development Associations can also be described as non-conventional Non-Governmental Organizations established with the sole purpose of seeing to the provision of infrastructural facilities and essential services in their geographical areas. Membership is usually compulsory for all property owners in the community. It has its root in the traditional self-help groups of the people of Nigeria. When people in the same community agree to work together, what usually happens is that they can always consolidate on and also benefit from each other's efforts. By the time they become established, they also become avenues for the government to reach the people at the grassroots (Afolayan, 2008; Abiona and Bello, 2013; Adesida and Okunlola, 2015). Thus, engagement in community development entails a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems, thereby improving the various aspects of communities with the sole aim of building stronger and more resilient local communities.

Although, successive administrations in Nigeria at the Federal, state and local levels have recognised the significant role of CDAs in facilitating rapid and sustainable rural infrastructural development, but they have shown little interest in tapping their potential for effective rural infrastructural planning and development. The reasons for the government reluctance in engaging CDAs for infrastructural development aside political consideration is that they are seen as uninformed and therefore incapable of effectively identifying, executing and managing viable rural infrastructural projects (Akinola, 2007). This study therefore seeks to address these issues by examining the activities of selected CDAs in the rural region of Ido Local Government Area in Oyo State, Nigeria, their organizational structure, their resource mobilization strategies as well as their effectiveness in rural infrastructural planning and development.

2.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The Locality Development Theory was adopted for this study. The choice of the theory was influenced by the need to provide a theoretical explanation on the imperativeness of community participation in rural development and to articulate certain issues relating to CDAs role in rural infrastructural planning and development. The theory is premised on the assumption that community change should be optimally pursued through broad participation of a wide spectrum of people at the community level in goal determination and the subsequent actions like resource mobilization and goal attainment (Rothman, 1977; Rothman et.al., 2001). It asserts that community change can best be brought about through broad participation of a wide spectrum of people at the local community level (Agbese, 1996; Yakubu and Aderonmu, 2010). It surmises that change efforts on the community level are most achievable with the cooperation of the local citizens, as they should be involved in the problem-solving process. Thus, individuals are stronger together than they are separately, and therefore collectively they may be able to resolve issues and challenges. The model emphasizes that leaders need to encourage community participation,

because residents should be responsible for obtaining, maintaining, or securing their own interest, rather than the organizer. In doing so, the outcome is greater cohesiveness, pride, confidence, and problem-solving capabilities within the community (Nwaru, 1997; Dizon, 2012). Thus the theory emphasizes the building of community capacity to deal with whatever needs or issues arising.

As observed by Boateng (1998) the local community has, or can develop, the capacity to solve many or most of its own problems, and to determine the direction that community development should take. Thus effective engagement of the local people in community development efforts will ensure the gaining of the people's loyalty, the local institutions, the local knowledge, the local intelligence, and the local political and economic know-how to tackle community development challenges particularly infrastructural facilities (Obialo, 1999; Saheed, 2010). Locality development seeks to engender positive action on the part of a community in order to gain economic stability, to improve social and/or political conditions, to protect the community against a threat, to develop its infrastructure or to preserve its historic, cultural, environmental character (Davids et. al., 2005). Whatever form it takes, the process is meant to build the community and make it stronger, to help its members see that they need to work together toward common purposes, and to motivate them to create ways to make that happen.

2.2 Literature Review

The use of CDAs for development is characterized as a process of social action in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning action, making groups and individual plans to meet their needs and solve their problems (Adenipekun, 2013). They execute these plans with maximum reliance upon community resources and supplement these resources, when necessary with services and materials from the government and philanthropists (Akinola, 2007, Osumgborogwu, 2016).

Manggat, I., Zain, R. and Jamaluddin, Z. (2018) have argued that CDAs approach to self-help involves the fullest participation of all the members in the decision making process. Thus, participation of local people in CDA activities is an act of involving residents in a project which requires a democratic approach. Wahab (2006) has therefore pointed out that people are more likely to be committed to a project, if they are involved in its planning and implementation because they are more likely to identify themselves with its use and regard it as their projects.

While analyzing the characteristics of CDAs in Nigeria, Akinola (2007), asserts that the CDAs develop their rules and regulations themselves, plan and execute their programmes with very little or no interference from external bodies. Specifically, their activities involve holding meetings to discuss their programmes and projects, identification of their felt needs, participation in their community development project activities through supplying of labour and contribution of money. They also accept donations to aid their project execution.

Hussain, Khattak and Khan (2008) have identified four key activity areas in which CDAs make their contributions to development in the rural areas i.e. natural resources management, rural infrastructure, human resources development and agricultural development. According to Ugboh, (2007), many of the rural poor are locked into a circle involving lack of money, inadequate equipment, time consuming and health-impairing methods of transport, lack of flexibility and

exploitation by transporters and middlemen all which are hinges on inadequate or outright lack of infrastructural facilities. By attempting to address these challenges, CDAs invariably initiate a social process by which rural dwellers can become more competent to live with and gain some control over local conditions and the changing world (Akinsorotan and Olujide, 2006; Laah, 2014).

VAW (2005) discovered that a CDA in Guatemala focused on enhancing community infrastructure through improved education, access to more advanced medical treatment, increased economic opportunities and myriads of small community development initiatives in order to improve the standard of living of the local people. Wahab (1996) found that a hometown association in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria, was able to provide electricity and pipe-borne water for its people. In addition, he reported that another CDA built palace, town-hall and a day-care centre in the town. Robinson (1992) in his study of four projects executed by a Community Based Organisation in South India, found that the projects registered a measure of success in achieving their overall objectives in terms of cost effectiveness, sustainability and distributional impact. He noted that the impact of the projects was generally positive as they reflected improvements in both economic and social status among the rural poor. Thus, through their activities, CDAs positively affects the process of rural change i.e. increase in income, improvement in health, nutrition and literacy status of the populations (Ozor and Nwankwo, 2008). An important factor influencing the vibrancy of CDAs in rural infrastructural development is the perception of the people which largely determine their participation in the activities of the CDAs. The question of perception has been explored by a number of researchers. Olojede et.al. (2018) in a study of women's perception on Community Development Organization activities in Imo State, Nigeria found that respondents' perception of the infrastructural development efforts of the CDAs was very high with a grand ($\bar{x} = 3.2$) which is very much above the benchmark of ($\bar{x} = 2.5$) for the decision making. Kobani and Nkpolu-Oroworukwo's (2014) study differed from Olojede's et.al. findings, because he reported low perception of CDAs activities among the respondents. This was however, attributed by poor community mobilization and proper engagement of the people in CDAs' activities.

3.0 Study Area and Methodology

3.1 Study Area

Ido Local Government Area with its headquarters at Ido town in Ibadan is one of the eleven Local Government Areas that constitute Ibadan region of Oyo State. Created in 1989, it has an area of 986 km² and a population of 136,511 as at 2016 (OYSG, 2018). Ido Local Government covers the area spanning Apata, Ijokodo, Omi-Adio, Akufo and Apete (Olatunji, 2016). It shares boundaries with Oluyole, Ibarapa East, Akinyele, Ibadan South-West and Ibadan North-West Local Governments in Oyo State and Odeda Local Government in Ogun State (Olatunji et.al., 2016). The council formerly has six wards, which had been increased to ten for easy exercise of franchise. Among the major towns within the local Government Area are Ijokodo, Ido, Omi-Adio, Apata, Apete, Akufo and Bakatari as well as about 612 villages which include Ogunweide, Dada, Olowofela, Apooyin, Oderemi, Odetola, Erinwusi, Tade, Alagbaa, Iku- senla among others (OYSG, 2018). On the account of extensive fertile soil, which is suitable for agriculture, the basic

occupation of the people is farming. There are large hectares of grassland which are suitable for animal rearing, vast forest reserves and rivers (Aweto, 1994). People in the area grow varieties of cash crops such as cocoa, kola nut, palm oil, timber and food crops such as maize and rice. The area is also suitable for a wide range of edible fruits. The area has also gained tremendously from industrialization process with the presence of industries such as the Nigerian Wire and Cable Ltd, Nigerian Mining Corporation and the NNPC among others (Fatokun, 2011). The Local Government area has 75 primary schools, 33 secondary schools- made up of 18 junior secondary schools and 15 senior secondary schools.

3.2 Methodology

Primary and secondary data of quantitative and qualitative types were used for this study. Primary and secondary data were collected in order to examine and understand the nature of the contributions of CDAs to infrastructural development in the rural communities of Ido LGA.

The research design used in collecting primary data was survey method. Survey method was chosen because of the validity of the findings it guarantees, and because of the fact that it is versatile enough to provide access to a variety of data. It is also relatively accurate and representative (Bernard, 2000). Structured questionnaire was the main instrument for primary data collection. Questionnaire was chosen because of its ability to yield adequate data to support generalization. On-site observation was also used to complement information supplied by respondents through questionnaire.

Available data from the department of community development of the Local Government Area indicated that 26 Community Development Associations were registered. However, preliminary investigations revealed that a number of CDAs were not registered with the government but actively engaged in rural infrastructural development in their respective communities. Consequently, efforts were made to identify and incorporate those Community Development Associations with the registered ones for the purpose of the study. The number of unregistered Community Development Associations in Ido LGA was 8. Thus, there were 34 active Community Development Associations in the study area. In order to minimize the cost of research and to be able to carry out an in-depth study of these Associations in their respective communities, 5 most active Community Development Associations comprising 4 registered and 1 unregistered Community Development Association were purposively selected for study. The most active CDAs were identified with the assistance of the Head of the Community Development Department of the Local Government. Structured questionnaire was administered on the members of the executive council of these associations. To obtain the perception of the residents of the communities where these CDAs operate, 20 residents were systematically selected in each of the five communities, making a total of 100 questionnaires administered in the communities. The 4 – points Likert scale, that is, from Strongly Agree = 4 points to strongly disagree = 1 point was used in analysing the data obtained from the residents while tables were used to synthesise the data obtained from the CDAs' leaders. Attempt to discourage any of the respondents from taking a neutral position on the issues on which their opinions were sought led to the adoption of the 4-point Likert scale instead of the 5-point scale often used. The profile of the sampled residents is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Respondents Profile

	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
Less than 20 years	1	1.0
20 – 39 years	14	14.0
40 – 59 years	57	57.0
60 – 79 years	23	23.0
80 – 99 years	4	4.0
>100 years	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0
Sex		
Male	78	78.0
Female	22	22.0
Total	100	100.0
Education		
Primary	35	35.0
Secondary	26	26.0
Tertiary	3	3.0
Quranic	5	5.0
Informal	31	31.0
Total	100	100.0
Occupation		
Farming	71	71.0
Artisan/craftsmanship	11	13.2
Trading	9	10.6
Clergy	4	4.0
Apprentice	2	2.0
Civil servants	2	2.0
Retirees	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0
Income		
Less than N20,000	27	27.0
N20,000 – N39,999	56	56.0
N40,000 – N59,999	12	12.0
N60,000 – N79,999	4	4.0
N80,000 – N99,999	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Authors' field survey, 2016.

4.0 Research Results

4.1 Summary of Activities of Community Development Associations in Ido LGA

The oldest association in the local government is Ogunweide Community Development Association (32 years) while the least old is Olowofela Community Development Association (25 years). Age however, did not exert much influence on the membership and performance of the associations as Erinwusi Community Development Association which is 26 years old had a membership strength of 123 while the oldest (Ogunweide Community Development Association) had 84 members. Also Erinwusi Community Development Association had executed 6 major projects while Ogunweide Community Development Association had executed only 4 major

infrastructural projects in its 32 years of existence. Deep well and borehole were the major infrastructural projects executed by most of the associations. This is followed by road rehabilitation and electricity projects. Two associations rehabilitated the primary schools in their communities while one association constructed bus stop in its communities (Table 2).

Table 2: Summary of Activities of Community Development Associations in Akinyele LGA

Profile of CDAs	Alagbaa	Tade	Erinwusi	Ogunweide	Olowofela
Year of establishment	1988	1998	1990	1984	1991
No. of years of existence	28	18	26	32	25
Membership	59	28	123	84	41
Male	49	24	85	75	40
Female	10	4	38	9	1
No. of Exco. Members	5	5	10	5	7
Male	5	5	7	5	7
Female	0	0	3	0	0
Modality of emergence of Exco.	EL	EL	EL	EL	EL
Facilities provided	3	2	6	4	3
*Deep well	1	-	1	1	1
*Borehole	1	1	1	1	-
*Road rehabilitation	1	-	1	-	1
*Culvert Construction	-	-	-	-	-
*Drainage Construction	-	-	-	-	1
*Construction of Market	-	-	-	1	-
*Rehabilitation of school	-	-	1	1	-
*Electricity	-	1	1	-	-
*Construction of bus stop	-	-	1	-	-
*Procurement of security equipment	-	-	-	-	-
*Rehabilitation of health centre	-	-	-	-	-
*Construction of town hall	-	-	-	-	-
Total Projects Costs	313,000	672,000	1,558,000	397,000	315,000

Source: Authors' Field Survey, 2016.

Note: EL denotes election

5.0 Residents' Perception of the Activities of the Community Development Associations

Table 3 shows the responses of the residents to the various items designed to measure the residents' perception of the activities of the CDAs. The mean scores in column 6 aptly summarises the consensus opinion of the residents. The scores were obtained by assigning weights to the 4 – points Likert scale, that is, from Strongly Agree = 4 points to strongly disagree = 1 point, then summing the scores for each item and then dividing by the number of respondents to each item. The mean score was then grouped as follows to arrive at consensus opinion about each item: 1.0 – 1.49 = Strongly Disagree (SD); 1.5 – 2.49 = Disagree (D); 2.5 – 3.49 = Agree (A); 3.5 – 4.0 = Strongly Agree (SA).

When asked about the desirability of CDA in their communities, responses to this question indicate that on the whole, the residents agreed that their CDAs have exerted positive impact in their communities particularly in infrastructural development. In two communities – Erinwusi and Ogunweide – with the mean weighted scores of greater than 3.5, the residents strongly agreed on this point. It has to be pointed out here that awareness programme should be launched in Olowofela with the mean score of 2.13 (Table 3).

The residents also agreed with the composition of their CDAs executive council. The consensus of opinion here is ‘Agree’ with Tade strongly agreeing on this point. Further observations in Table 3 show that the residents agreed that due process was followed in the emergence of their executive councils. It is only in Tade where the residents strongly disagreed with the process leading to the emergence of their executive councils. It is suggested that the Department of Community Development of the Local Government should embark on regular advisories visitation to the community to ensure that due process is followed in executive council emergence. To this assertion that all the projects executed by the CDAs are much needed in the communities, the opinion of the residents (3.59) suggests that they strongly agreed as shown in Table 3. This is an indication of the effectiveness of the CDAs in rural infrastructural development. Compared to the government’s top-bottom approach in infrastructural development where facilities are provided where they are not needed, the CDAs facilities as shown in this study readily got the approval of the community members. On whether the projects locations were appropriate, the residents agreed that the projects were properly located to serve the generality of the communities. However, Oguweide residents disagreed on this. They insisted that their projects were located primarily to serve the interest of executive council members. This response calls for the attention of the Department of Community Development of the Local Government to properly mediate in order to keep the activities of the CDA’s going. Many residents equally disagreed (2.43) with the assertion that the projects executed by the CDAs matched the money collected from the residents. They believed the money collected were far more than what the CDAs had provided.

A close look at Table 3 shows that the residents agreed the monthly levies they paid were moderate. However, the residents of Erinwusi and Olowofela communities with the mean weighted scores of 2.10 and 2.15 disagreed with this assertion. On whether the executive council can be trusted with prudent management of the CDAs finance, the mean score of 2.58 indicates that the residents agreed with this assertion. However, residents in three out of the five communities – Alagbaa, Tade and Olowofela with weighted scores of 2.06, 2.14 and 2.34 respectively disagreed with this assertion. There is the need to enforce transparency in the management of the CDAs finance. This can be achieved through periodic auditing of the associations’ accounts by the Department of Community Development of the Local Government. The residents generally agreed that the CDAs have effective mobilization strategies. In fact, residents of Erinwusi (3.60) and Ogunweide (3.58) strongly agreed with this assertion. This partly account for the moderate success recorded by the CDAs in infrastructural development.

Table 3: Measure of Perception of Residents from each Community

Opinion	Alagbaa	Tade	Erinwusi	Ogunweide	Olowofela	Mean	Interpretation
Desirability of CDA in the community	3.21(A)	3.00 (A)	3.63 (SA)	3.57 (SA)	2.13 (D)	3.11	Agree
Exco. composition is okay	3.04 (A)	3.65 (A)	2.84 (A)	3.16 (A)	3.20 (A)	3.18	Agree
Mode of emergence of Exco is okay	2.61 (A)	1.43 (SD)	3.62 (SA)	3.08 (A)	3.50 (SA)	2.85	Agree
Projects executed are much needed in the community	3.73 (SA)	3.56 (SA)	3.51 (SA)	3.64 (SA)	3.52 (SA)	3.59	Strongly Agree
Location of projects is okay	3.02 (A)	3.14 (A)	2.68 (A)	2.26 (D)	2.89 (A)	2.79	Agree
Projects executed commensurate with the money collected	2.01 (D)	2.32 (D)	2.72 (A)	3.02 (A)	2.10 (D)	2.43	Disagree
Monthly levies are moderate	3.11 (A)	3.23 (A)	2.10 (D)	2.51 (A)	2.15 (D)	2.62	Agree
Exco is trustworthy in the management of the CDA finance	2.06 (D)	2.14 (D)	3.15 (A)	3.21 (A)	2.34 (D)	2.58	Agree
The CDA has effective resource mobilization strategies	3.41 (A)	3.02 (A)	3.60 (SA)	3.58 (SA)	3.22 (A)	3.37	Agree

Source: Authors' Field Survey, 2016.

6.0 Discussion of Findings

6.1 Organisational Structure of the Community Development Associations

All the sampled community development associations have executive councils piloting the affairs of the associations and election was the means of emergence of the executive councils in all the associations. Adoption of participatory democracy in selecting leaders seems to have assisted the associations to have vibrant leadership that drive the much needed infrastructural development efforts of the community development associations. The democratic posture of the CDAs lends credence to the assertion of Manggat et.al. (2018) that participation of local people in CDA activities is an act of involving residents in a project which requires a democratic approach. None of the sampled community development associations had a written constitution guiding their affairs but unwritten rule which were well received, understood and strictly adhered to by the associations' members. The fact that these associations were established informally appears to influence their inability to have a constitution. This further explains why most of them were not registered the very year they were established. While majority of the community development associations drew their membership from the indigenes of their communities as well as landed property owners within their communities, a substantial number of the associations restricted membership to only male indigenes. Exclusion of female indigenes of the communities appears to affect the rates of infrastructural development and maintenance of infrastructure by those associations. This is because the much needed resources (finance, advice etc) that would have been made available to the associations' executives by these women were lost due to the policy of

exclusion. Membership requirements of the CDAs fit into Adelesi's (2014) conceptualization but the point of departure is the policy of exclusion adopted by some CDAs. All the community development associations sourced their finance for infrastructural development from compulsory levies paid by members only. Other means of projects' funding include financial assistance from members of the communities in diaspora and philanthropists as well as voluntary donations by community members. Only one of the associations ever received financial assistance from the local government. The pattern of project funding by these CDAs appears to confirm the assertion of Osumgborogwu,(2016) that CDAs usually rely heavily on the community resources for project execution but supplement it with assistance from government and philanthropists.

6.2 Inventory of Infrastructural Facilities Provided by Community Development Associations

All the sampled associations had executed water supply projects in their communities. This is followed by road rehabilitation projects. Other infrastructural facilities provided by the sampled community development associations in their communities are; markets, schools, healthcare facilities, bus terminal, drainage, culvert as well as provision of modern security gadgets to adequately equip the local vigilante group employed by one of the associations. The fact that water supply constituted the major projects executed by most of these associations indicates a gross inadequacy or outright non-provision of potable water by either the State Government or Local Government in the rural area of Ibadan. This is probably the case in most of the rural settlements in Nigeria.

In the ranking of the sampled community development associations' infrastructural development projects, road rehabilitation projects take the second place. This probably account for the availability of good access roads in all the communities studied as observed by the researchers. It is pertinent to note that, despite the fact that majority of the inhabitants of these communities engaged in farming, they possessed appreciable income status (see section 5.7). Availability of good access roads which invariably enables the people to convey their farm produces to urban markets for sale at higher prices as well as frequent patronage of the areas by urban middlemen which enables the farmers to sell their farm produces as quickly as possible instead of being rotten away appear to have influenced this relative high income status.

Another remarkable infrastructural project executed by some of the community development associations is market construction or rehabilitation. It appears the markets have assisted in improving and sustaining the economic life of the communities. Being an agrarian society, the communities' farm produce are now sold at higher prices without much stress as traders from far and near now transact business in the communities' markets. It is equally important to note that seven of the community development associations executed electricity projects despite its capital-intensive nature. Although, it was revealed during the focus group discussion sessions in these communities that the projects were facilitated by donation of electric transformers by some philanthropists to the communities on the condition that the communities was to shoulder the responsibility of installation of the transformers. The CDAs' activities reported in this paper follow the pattern reported by (Wahab, 1996; Deji, 2005; ASAP AFRICA, 2006; Akinola, 2007).

6.3 Patronage of the Facilities Provided by the Community Development Association

The facilities provided by the community development associations enjoyed considerable patronage from the people. This is because the facilities meet the immediate and future needs of the people. Also, the fact that the members of the communities had considerable influence in the determination of the type of infrastructural facilities to be provided, the location of the facilities and the cost of the projects influenced patronage of the facilities. Equally, the communities' members' cash contributions as well as physical participation in projects implementation influenced utilization of the facilities. Thus, the communities' dwellers' involvement in the infrastructural facilities projects planning, execution and management seems to have influenced their utilization of the facilities.

6.4 Perception of the Activities of the Community Associations

Perception plays a key role in the people's commitment to the infrastructural development programmes of the CDAs. There was generally positive perception of the effectiveness of the CDAs among the residents of the sampled communities. This invariably encouraged strong willingness to participate in the activities of the CDAs by the residents. The nature of perception exhibited by the respondents appears to be in conformity with pattern reported by Olojede et.al. (2018).

7.0 Implications of the Study

Government rural infrastructural development programmes in Nigeria have been largely characterized by top-down approach in which the rural inhabitants for which these infrastructural facilities are meant to serve are excluded in planning and execution. These have usually resulted in the facilities not meeting their purpose and thereby contributing less to easing the infrastructural deficit in the rural areas. This study has shown that effective rural infrastructural development can only be achieved through effective collaboration between the government and the CDAs in identifying, planning, executing and managing the infrastructural facilities. Given that the resources available to the governments at the state and local level for infrastructural development are limited, judicious use of these resources can only be effected through effective partnership with the local CDAs. This is due to the fact that there is the possibility of reduction in the cost of infrastructural provision as well as sustainability of the infrastructural facilities if the CDAs are allowed to drive the process of infrastructural development. The vast Knowledge of their local environment, knowledge of the immediate and future infrastructural needs of their communities, identification of appropriate location for these facilities, CDAs members' tendency to develop a sense of ownership of the facilities thereby resulting in proper management and adequate protection of the facilities as well as assured commitment of the CDAs members to the activities of the associations make collaboration between the government and the CDAs highly desirable. To this end, there is the need for the local government to identify all existing but unregistered CDAs in the rural areas and ensure their less cumbersome registration. This will facilitate effective monitoring of the activities of these associations for optimal performance. State and local governments should also encourage corporate organisations, philanthropic associations and

individuals, international development organisations as well as non-governmental organisations to effectively partner with local CDAs for rural infrastructural development. This can be done by providing the list of CDAs in the rural centres and their infrastructural needs in order of importance to these organisations. In addition, the estimated costs of providing these facilities can be sent to these organisations in order to assist them decide on when, where and how they would provide their support. There is the need for the local governments to ensure that they give maximum support and encouragement to any CDAs executing infrastructural projects by providing financial and technical assistance.

Also, the findings of this study have largely reinvigorated the postulates of locality development theory. The findings, however, contest the ideas that rural CDA members are largely uninformed and therefore incapable of effectively identifying, executing and managing viable rural infrastructural projects. The study has shown that the CDAs know what they want and how to go about it. The wide patronage and relative durability of their projects make them even more effective in infrastructural development.

While the study largely focused on the CDAs' efforts at achieving adequate and sustainable rural infrastructural development, other developmental activities of CDAs that have made them potent agents of rural development are: economic empowerment of rural dwellers, crime control as well as settlement of disputes to ensure community harmony. These areas require adequate research attention in order to identify the CDAs' strength and weakness in executing these responsibilities as well as factors influencing optimal performance or otherwise of these responsibilities.

agents of sustainable rural infrastructural development if their potentials are harnessed for that purpose. Thus, based on the findings of this study, the position of the authors is that for any rural infrastructural development efforts of the government to be successful and sustainable, involvement of the rural people (target users) through their CDAs is required. The paper noted some critical problems militating against effective and efficient performance of the community development associations in infrastructural development in the study area. These problems undoubtedly require urgent and concerted efforts of all stakeholders to address if the area and indeed the entire rural centres of Nigeria are to enjoy adequate access to infrastructural facilities.

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