The Impact of Construction of Drainage and Culvert Project on the Rural Dwellers of Irasa Community of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

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Abstract: The study examined the impact of a community driven development project involving the construction of roads and culvert in Irasa, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria. The objective of the study is to assess the project's impact on the social economic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the community, determine the factors affecting the implementation of the project and identify possible ways of sustaining the project. Three research questions guided the study. The instrument used for data collection was combined observation, questionnaire administration and interviews. Results obtained revealed that the construction of drainage and culvert impact positively on the conveyance of farm products from inhabitants' farms as well as on trading activities. Vehicular access to school, site of the maternity centre and the main road to the community were equally improved upon. No difficulties were experienced in the mobilization of community members for the project, as well as in monitoring of the project as personnel saddled with responsibilities concerning the project were dedicated and the community members participated actively in every facet of the project. Difficulties were experienced in funding of the project. Thus, the project is considered as important infrastructures that should be taken seriously especially by the policy makers.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2008, the Boards of Directors of the World Bank approved $200 Million to the Federal Government of Nigeria as intervention grant towards the development of rural areas. Ekiti State was one of the beneficial twenty six states that were selected for the programme. Consequent on this, the Ekiti State Government set up the Ekiti State Community and Social Development Agency (EKCSDA) to sustainably increase access of poor people to social and natural resource infrastructure services. The goals of this agency is to support empowerment of community and local government for sustainable development, and also to encourage increase percentage of local government budgets that incorporate community development plans. The activity of EKCSDA is based on new development paradigm shift whose concept is Community Driven Development (CDD) in design, implementation and evaluation.

Irasa is a rural community in Ado-Ekiti Local Government area. The major occupation of the inhabitants of the community is farming. Two roads transverse the community, a main road that runs through the community and another tributary road that link the community with her only primary school, an ongoing maternity centre and residents’ farms. Information revealed that few months ago, the culvert linking this tributary road to the main road was damaged and washed away by erosion. This made members of the community to put resources together and sought assistance from EKCSDA towards the construction of the damaged culvert and drainage around the culvert.

Consequent on the above, this study intends to evaluate the impact of EKCSDA-assisted project on the construction of the drainage and culvert on the socio economic condition of inhabitants of Irasa Community.

Theoretical Framework

An economic theory that is rooted in capitalism, known as Modernization Theory is used in this study. The theory has been adapted to explain World Bank intervention projects in Nigeria. According to the theory, progress could only be attained if the rest of the world could adopt the western model of modernity and pattern their societies like that of the west. It is believed that internal factors in rural areas such as illiteracy, traditional agrarian structure, traditional attitude of the rural dwellers, the low division of labour, lack of communication and infrastructure, lack of ambition and so on are responsible for their underdevelopment. The apparent lack of basic infrastructures in Nigeria makes the theory suitable for the country.

Statement of the Problem

The Irasa community have two roads, a main road that runs through the community and a tributary road that leads to the only primary school, an ongoing maternity centre and inhabitants’ farms. The culvert that link the tributary road to the main was damaged and washed away by erosion thus making it impossible for vehicles to cross over to the tributary roads thus affecting the conveyance of farm products from the farms. Teachers and other government officials could no longer access the school with vehicles. Teaching materials
could not be transported to the school. Erosion could no longer be controlled and have started washing away the main road. Transporters have started to avoid passing though Irasa hence the community is fast becoming inaccessible to traders thus affecting the socioeconomic condition of the community.

Consequent on the above, the impact of community driven development project on the construction of drainage and culvert on the socio economic condition of inhabitants of Irasa Community is considered important and worthy of study.

**Purpose of the Study**

This study sets out determine the impact of the community driven development project on the construction of drainage and culvert have on the socioeconomic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the town. The specific objectives of this study are

- To assess the impact of the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert have on the social economic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the community
- To determine the factors affecting the implementation of the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert in the community
- To identify possible ways of sustaining the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert in the community.

**Research Questions**

- What are the impacts of the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert on the socioeconomic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the community?
- What are the factors affecting the implementation of the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert in the community?
- How can the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert be sustained in the community?

**Research Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were formulated:

1. The construction of drainage and culvert does not improve the socio-economic well-being of the inhabitants of the community.
2. Rural people participation does not enhance the smooth implementation of CDD project on the construction of drainage and culvert in the community.
3. CDD project on drainage and culvert will be difficult to sustain in the community.

**II. METHODOLOGY**

Three research questions guided the study. The instrument used for data collection was combined observation, questionnaire administration and interviews. Visits were made to the community where the project and its utilization were observed. Questionnaires were administered on fifty purposely-selected respondents, each of whom has resided in the community for at least 10 years. The data obtained from these set of respondents was analysed by using Likert rating scale as follow:

- **SA** - Strongly Agreed: 4 Points
- **A** - Agreed: 3 Points
- **D** - Disagreed: 2 Points
- **SD** - Strongly Disagreed: 1 Point
- **U** - Undecided: 0 Point

The scores obtained above were weighted to get their means and the means interpreted as follows:

- $0.0 - 0.9 = U$
- $1.0 - 1.49 = SD$
- $1.50 - 2.49 = D$
- $2.50 - 3.49 = A$
- $3.50 - 4.00 = SA$

Key informants, including the Executive Members of Irasa Community Projects Management Committee, Officials of EKCSDA and community leaders, were interviewed. The interviews were conducted with fairly open framework. They were focused, conversational with two-way communication.

The data obtained were analysed using descriptive statistics especially frequency, means and percentages.

**III. RESULTS**

The results of the study were obtained from the questions answered. However, interview and observation reports from field study were also used to support or refute the questionnaire analysis.

**Research question 1**

What are the impacts of the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert on the socioeconomic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the community?
Results in table 1 revealed that the construction of drainage and culvert impact positively on the conveyance of farm products from inhabitants farms as well as on trading activities. Vehicular access to school, site of the maternity centre and the main road to the community were equally improved upon. Field observation revealed that materials were being moved easily to the site of the maternity centre (Fig. 1).

Research question 2

What are the factors affecting the implementation of the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert in the community?

The data obtained in Table 2 revealed that no difficulties were experienced in the mobilization of community members for the project, as well as in monitoring of the project. Personnel saddled with responsibilities concerning the project were dedicated and the community members participated actively in every facet of the project. Difficulties were experienced in funding, especially in contributing money towards raising the 10% counterpart funding from the community. The community cost was # 249,165.00k. The entire project cost was # 2,491,650.00k.

Field observation revealed that three sub-committee were set up for the project. They are Procurement Sub-committee; Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-committee; Operations and Maintenance Sub-committee. Each of the sub-committee was made up of four community members.

Research Question 3

How can the CDD project on construction of drainage and culvert be sustained in the community?
and drainage facilitates access to the community primary school, health facility and farms.

The ‘down-top’ approach of this project could be said to be responsible for effective mobilization, monitoring, dedication and high level of community members’ involvement experienced in this project. However, difficulties were still experienced in making financial contribution to the project. This tends to suggest that citizens still expects the government to be responsible for the provision of infrastructural facilities.

V. CONCLUSION

The construction of drainage and culvert in Irasa is means of improving the wellbeing of rural dweller. The community driven development concept utilized in this project made the project relevant to the immediate needs of the inhabitants of the community. This project has multiple effects as it has effects on education, health and economy of the inhabitants. It is being recommended that issues concerning rural roads should always be considered important and treated with dispatch, especially by the policy makers.

REFERENCES