



## ABSTRACT

This study focused on how sustainable development can be achieved through the use of community resources. The study made some clarification on the concept of sustainable development pointing out its goals. The paper further discussed the concept of community development alongside with the concept of community resources. The paper discussed community resources pointing out its position as a mean of achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria. The study concludes that effective partnership with the people would equally assist to increase the possibility and potential for sustainability and create a more balanced and equitable participation where capacity building is competitive for

## USE OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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## Introduction

The concept “community” was derived from the French word „communité”, which also originated from the Latin word “communitas” (cum “with/together” + munus “gift”) meaning fellowship of the organized society (Arbor, 2013). According to Knight in Olabode(2013) community has two distinctive communicative meanings, community as a small unit that share common values, and community as a national or international entity sharing common boundaries and locations, secondly, community is a group of interacting living organisms sharing a populated environment. Therefore, a community is a group of people who live or occupy a particular area, share common identity and value. According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, Community is defined as “all the people who live in a particular area, country e.t.c hence, and community are all about a group in a geographical area.

The concept of utilization is not new. Utilization means the relationship between actual output (i.e. actually produced items with the installed equipment), and the potential output which could be produced with it, if capacity was fully used. According to Hornby (2006), utilization is the use of something for a practical purpose. Progressive utilization motivated by consumption and based on human values will ensure social security of resources. However, Proutist Universal Global Office (2011) stated that resources are generally defined as society’s stock of capital, labor, land, mineral wealth, the level of education, knowledge and technology. Resource implies a proper environment conducive to the physical, mental and spiritual development of individuals and society. Here, resources encompass subtle human properties psychic and spiritual potentialities. There are resources that are available to an individual and those available to the society. The resources that are available to an individual may be



harnessing community resources. Therefore, public awareness creation among community members on the importance of community resources is the key to achieving sustainable development goals.

**Keywords:** Achieving, Community, Resources, Sustainable Development Goals

categorized into physical, mental and spiritual resources. The meaning of physical resources is obvious—it derives from the human body its health, strength and stamina.

According to Proutist Universal Global Office (2011), there is tremendous loss of human power due to defective planning in the present-day world. The capitalist profit-motivated economy and the state monopoly in former communist countries have subjugated human physical potentialities, thereby preventing the formation of a sound social structure. Care should be taken that these potentialities do not get exhausted in the pursuit of consumer goods only. These potentialities should be utilized to promote human progress. Intellectual and spiritual knowledge should not be the monopoly of any person, family or group.

Proper utilization means maximum utilization, balanced utilization and progressive utilization of each and everything. Mundane potentialities, which are latent in land, water, sunlight, air and ether, should be utilized maximally and properly. There has not been so much effort to explore the maximum utilization of natural resources. Yet, there is ample scope in nature's resources to provide a congenial living environment for each living being. For example, there are vast resources of food in the sea, and tremendous amounts of unharnessed energy and vitality in the air, sunlight and water. Only the concept of proper utilization can give all living beings their existential due and secure the proper utilization of all natural, individual and collective resources.

Resource utilization according to Wikipedia (2013) is the use of a resource in such a way that increases through output. The aim is to use assets efficiently so as to maximize customers' service levels. A supply chain network uses resources of various kinds: manufacturing resources (machines, material handlers, tools, etc.); storage resources (warehouses, automated storage and retrieval systems); logistics resources (trucks, rail transport, air-cargo carriers, among others); human resources (labor, scientific and technical personnel); and financial (working capital, stocks, among others) (Shantanu, 2000). The objective is to utilize these assets or resources efficiently so as to maximize customer service levels, minimize lead times, and optimize inventory levels. In the context of this study, the concept of utilization refers to the use of all the community resources (physical, human and institutional) in the implementation of development projects in the communities within the study area.

### **Community Resources**

This is referred to all the things found in the community that are valuable. Resources can be natural and man-made as well as tangible and intangible, but it is used to meet the needs of people in the area by providing them with assistance, ideas and solutions. Fadeyi in Parua (2019) sees resources as a stimulus, an object, a person; which helps the learners in their pursuit of knowledge. It includes a wide range of services and information with specialized assistance.

### **Community Development**

Santosa (2014) defines development as a change of spontaneous and disjointed in the stationary state of the ever-changing and replacing the previously existing balance situation while growth as changes long term is slowly and steadily going through savings and increase in population. Borne in Adisasmita (2013) explained that the development need and involves some sort of steering, arrangements and guidelines in order to



create forces for expansion and the elections (which many occur in underdeveloped countries), are the characteristics of spontaneous growth is characteristic of the economy forward with freedom of trying.

According to the Adisasmita (2013) community development is defined as a movement designed to enhance the overall welfare of society through active participatory and initiatives from the community. The opinion of Padangaran (2016) states that community development is an attempt to achieve six goals, namely: (1) Meet the basic necessities of the community comprising the needs of consumption and productive business needs, (2) Increase awareness, knowledge and community participation in various development activities, (3) Enhance the sense of responsibility toward the community development outcomes, (4) Cultivate a community's ability to establish itself, (5) Establish and maintain physical infrastructure and facilities in are, (6) Increase the incomes and welfare of society.

Community empowerment, according to Santoso and Iqbal (2014) is defines a process of community empowerment is a deliberate effort to facilitate local communities in planning, deciding and managing local resources are owned through collective action and networking so that in the end they have the abilities and independence in economic, ecological and social. According to Huraerah, (2011) basic goal is the empowerment of social justice by giving peace to the greater community as well as learning through the development of small steps in order to achieve a larger goal.

Community empowerment is closely related to sustainable development, where society is expected to have the ability to use resources to optimal production mechanisms, economic, social and environmental sustainable. In the mechanisms of production, community empowerment trying to accommodate the use of production resources which include livestock, land, capital and business tools that belongs to the community so that it is able to produce effectively and efficiently. According to Mardikanto and Soebiato (2012) the community generally have good local institutions set up by the local government as well as growing naturally based on the agreement of its own citizens associated with productive cooperation efforts.

Ultimately therefore, the over-riding goal of community development is to secure for the community people acceptable standards of nutrition, clothing, shelter, public health, and medical care and education. In other words, a minimum standard of living consistent with human dignity and worth is the target (Eze, 1999). An emerging notion from the goal of community development so far showed that community development is strictly concerned with the efforts aimed at promoting, sustaining, supporting and maintaining community actions. Community development should be concerned with the real development for the purpose of moving forward towards defined goal; with purposeful activity aimed at real achievement of the felt-needs of the participants.

In a related development, the characteristics of community development, according to Chukwuezi (2000) include the following that:

- 1) community development is a movement that promotes better living for the whole community,
- 2) it embraces the active participation of the entire members of the community,
- 3) it is a process of education by which people of all ages and interest work together so as to identify and solve their community problems,
- 4) it makes use of the community resources,
- 5) it also makes use of services and materials from government and non- governmental agencies outside the community,
- 6) it is a process of social action among the people of a particular community,
- 7) it has core local leadership as the primary instrument of change, and
- 8) it is a programme designed for the well-being of the people and community at large.

Chukwuezi also maintained that the basic ingredients of community development include:

- 1) The principle of agreement by community members.
- 2) The principle of needs or felt-needs within the community.
- 3) Involvement of people in local participation.



- 4) Co-operation within the community and with other bodies like the local authority, the state and national government or other concerned bodies.

From the fore-going, therefore, it implies that there should be active participation of all community components in this process of capacity building in order to favor the creation of the conditions required for an increase in necessary resources. Community development denotes various strategies through which people co-ordinate actions of the members in order to usher in for the people social and economic developments. In this study, community development refers to all efforts of the rural people towards their socio-economic development in the society. Community development involves the efforts of the members of community development associations in Niger State towards improving their standard of living in their communities and contributing for the progress of the society.

### **Community Resources**

These covers varieties of human, materials and services (things) found within the community that are very essential in the life of the people. It can be provided to the people of the community either for free or at low price. According to Olabode (2013) community resources are a group of services and/or assisted programme that are provided for the members of a community for free or at an affordable price. Therefore, community resources include all those things (resource) found in a community both human and materials as well as services and information which are found valuable by the community members. Ezimah (2014) observes community resources for educating learners to refer as those things within the community outside the school which can be used to promote the teaching and learning. Therefore, community resources for educating learners include the totality of human, materials, institutional and services as well as information that are of assistance to the promotion of teaching learning. It could be everything at all within the community as long as it assists the promotion of teaching and learning.

Community Resources development is all about quality of life and engagement by building stronger communities through civil engagement and using resources in the best manner for desirable organisations or individuals Knight (2012). Community resources vary from community to community.

As we contemplate the many sources of information that are open to investigation, we must no longer overlook those which lie within “walking distance” the local factory, retail shop, business office are real facts school children can see, hear, ask questions about them and examine them minutely. Dada (2017) opined that it is the responsibility of the teacher to investigate the community, particularly those resources which seem to identify themselves with clear-cut full understanding of social experience is of the opinion that the importance of community resources to the development of the community can't be over emphasized (Kochhar, 2012). Resources which include factories, health institutions, culture, infrastructure business office religion institution, to mention a little are a veritable source of experiences.

The meaning of resources has been applied in diverse realms, including with respect to economics, biology, computer science, land management, and human resources, and is linked to the concepts of competition, sustainability, conservation, and stewardship (Wikipedia, 2009). In application within human society, commercial or non-commercial factors require resource allocation through resource management. A resource is a source or supply from which benefit is produced. Typically, resources are materials, money, services, staff, or other assets that are transformed to produce benefit and in the process may be consumed or made unavailable. Thea (2013) stated that community resources offer assistance during times when the government can't help. When a community has resources, it is able to provide material goods, information and emotional support to the residents there. Community resources do not always have to come from the government in order to help the residents in a particular city. For example, a local mentoring agency can be responsible for improving test scores for students through tutors who offer assistance to students who need help. Local churches that sponsor health fairs or job training seminars benefit the community by helping



residents understand good health practices and find decent jobs. Benefits of resource utilization may include increased wealth, meeting needs or wants, proper functioning of a system, or enhanced well-being.

According to Thea (2013), it enables self-sufficiency. Community resources often promote self-sufficiency to residents in various cities. When a neighborhood group visits homes in the community and counsels' residents on how to leave welfare, find work and search for affordable apartments, they're teaching the residents how to live independently and not rely on government benefits.

Community resources also provide alternatives to self-destructive lifestyles. In neighborhoods where crime is a major issue and where there are not many positive outlets for the youth, community resources can provide alternatives to this trend. For example, a resident who owns a dance studio in his neighborhood is offering the youth a chance to try new activities and learn other ways to cope with life's stresses. Also, the neighborhood bakery who hires teenagers during the summer is offering youth an honest way to earn extra money as well as mentoring on life issues in the process. Community resource is a source of activism. When residents in a city put their resources together, this could help them advocate for their community's needs in the form of activism. If one resident provides a bus while another resident provides researched information about the community's needs, these two would be able to gather more residents to take a trip to their state capitol to hold a rally. For example, a group leader who advocates for the rights of single fathers would use a fellow group member to testify before the city council regarding the need for single fathers to have more input in child-custody cases.

From a human perspective, a natural resource is anything obtained from the environment to satisfy human needs and wants. From a broader biological or ecological perspective, a resource satisfies the needs of a living organism (Wikipedia, 2013). Resources have three main characteristics: utility, limited availability, and potential for depletion or consumption.

#### **Forms of Community Resources**

Community resources for educating learners may be of different forms though related in types as they include people, places, services and information. Every community is blessed with abundant human and material resources which when used effectively will promote better living condition of the people living in the community. These resources help in one way or the other in the implementation of community development projects. According to Ezimah (2014) they may be natural, human, material or institutional.

#### **Natural Community Resources**

These are referred to those things (resources) that are not man-made that are found in the community. They vary from community to community. In some parts of the country, some communities are blessed with vegetation's, highland in the form of mountains and hills, bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, streams and trees in the bush as well as animals in various kinds. Natural resources are sometimes referred to as the physical resources which refer to those resources that are found within the environment and can facilitate or enhance community development. Examples of natural resources include forest resources, energy resources and water resources, while examples of material resources are artworks from indigenes, resources from communal land, and materials from handwork.

#### **Material Community Resources**

These are those things that are man-made which are found within the community. They are practical application of science and technology, which includes television set, radio, the types and patterns of houses built in the communities, it is the material product of art and crafts etc.

#### **Institutional Community Resources**

These could be seen as some large important organs that serve a particular purpose in the community. Ezimah (2014) refers to institution as a practice or pattern of behaviour which have serve the need of a people for





such a long time that the community has cultivated a strong faith in it as a desirable component of the lifestyle of the people. These may include religion, age grade, political economics, social and environmental health institution.

According to Ezimah (2014), institutional resources involve the use of behavior patterns that meet needs and in which the community has grown to have a strong sense of faith as desirable ways to live. Institutions come in a variety of shapes and sizes. They are institutions for the economy, society, and religion. Economic institutions are places where financial transactions like factory tributes, bank loans, market tolls, payment for land use, and lease take place. Examples of these places include markets, factories, and banks. Institutional resources have a significant role in the execution of community development initiatives. In the case of a bank, members of the community borrow money from the bank and use it to invest in businesses that would profit them financially, so addressing both their own needs and those of the community. One of the main sources of funding for local development projects is market tolls, which the community successfully generates a lot of money from. Akudolu (2012) defines a social institution as anything like marriage, kingship, age classifications, nonprofit organisations, and town unions. Self-help institutions like age grade, religious organisations, and market associations are among the social institutions that are crucial to community development.

These organisations play a significant role in carrying out community development initiatives, as evidenced by the fact that some social associations have worked alone to complete a number of tasks in the neighborhood. These initiatives include, among others, the construction of hospitals, schools, boreholes, maternity homes, and electricity. They assist in preserving law and order in the neighborhood. Communities receive income through the rental of their communal seats, canopies, and civic facilities under social institutions. Additionally, contributions from locals who reside overseas are crucial for community development initiatives. According to Akudolu, religious organisations can help a community grow. They are organisations whose main focus is on spiritual or religious requirements. Social services like welfare services provided by churches and donations from church groups are only a few of the ways that religious organisations support the implementation of community development initiatives.

#### **Community Resources Personnel**

This is a fellow community member(s) with a wealth of knowledge and experience in their field of endeavour. Akudolu (2012) sees a resource person as one who is an expert in a particular subject or type of study. Human intellect is the most significant component of communal resources, according to Nneka, (2021). Human resources are the ultimate source of resources, according to Nneka, (2021). A key production component is the human resource. Humans are the active actors responsible for capital accumulation, resource exploitation, the establishment of social, political, and economic institutions, as well as the accomplishment of national development. Human resources are grouped into formal leaders and informal leaders. The formal leaders in the community are families, health workers, school teachers, agricultural extension officers, social workers. Also, informal leaders include voluntary youth leaders, reputed farmers in the community, experienced opinion leaders as well as skilled people or professionals in the community.

#### **Concept of Sustainable Development Goals**

Sustainable Development Goals are set of internationally accepted goals adopted at the United Nations sustainable development summit in September 2015, it succeeded the Millennium Development Goals. It is a 15 years development programme. According to Emeka (2008) the goals equally enjoys global appeal as a valuable instrument and yardstick to measure progress in different nations of the world. It identified four major areas of interest as a part of the global agenda to address issue of sustainability. They include:

1. Social Development
2. Inclusive Economic Growth



3. Environmental Sustainability
4. Peace and Security.

Sustainable development is often used interchangeably with sustainability to mean continuous, renewable and lasting use of resources in a manner that preserved them for future development purpose. It also implies the process of maintaining human needs while attempting the preservation of natural resources. The Brundtland Report of the World Commission on Environment, therefore defined sustainable development as development that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland, 1987). Development is also sustainable when the output there from is commensurate to the care of the present needs or the future.

Thus, it is reasonable to describe sustainable development as a judicious and prudential use of resources in such a way that does not endanger the existence of people tomorrow. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) regarded sustainable development as a development process for the well-being of the environment, economic and social system of today and tomorrow. Abraham (2012) maintains that sustainable development is development mantra that enjoins current generation to take systematic approach to growth and development and to manage natural resources and produced a social capital for the welfare of people now and the next generations. It therefore implies that people must act concernedly and responsibly to conserve, reserve and manage resources for the betterment of all. Contributing to this definition, Glenn & Daniel (2005) opined that it is a development efforts which includes those aimed at protecting the health and environment, and is undertaken in a manner that will not frustrate the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It is also the rate at which development can be attained without depleting the resources. Sustainability requires continuous renewal of available resources. However, Erhun (2015) supports that if sustainable development cannot be continued then it is not sustainable. According to her, it is a development model that seeks to balance environmental protection against economic prosperity. Sustainable development goals as gazetted by the United Nations Development Programmes in (2015) comprised seventeen development goals meant to ensure:

1. End to poverty in all its forms every where
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages,
4. Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all
8. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- 11 Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements
- 12 Sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Urgent action to combat climate change and its impact
14. Conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of life on land
16. Peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

In view of the goals, Nigeria as a member nation of the United Nation Organisation requires urgent and concrete steps in areas such as: needs assessment, planning, policy framework in line with the goals, strategies of achieving them, allocating scarce resources and working out modalities for evaluating progress among others within the time frame of the programme. Besides, Nigeria also needs social education, enlightenment and reconstruction to drive home the necessary attitude, behaviour, change, knowledge and values among others for sustainable development. More so, educating the people to utilise the available community resources will assist in developing a social capital that is cordial and germane to the realization of the goals. Awareness remains an invaluable tool for development. To this end, Adekola & Abanum (2010)



assert that no development is possible without education towards harnessing available community resources. Hence, education is an instrument per excellence. It is a vital instrument for liberating people from shackles of ignorance, poverty, and underdevelopment and for combating diseases. Therefore, sustainable development is not possible without the utilization of the available community resources. Accordingly, the beauty of any development plan is the strategies of implementation. In line with this contribution, effective partnership with the people would equally assist to increase the possibility and potential for sustainability and create a more balanced and equitable participation where capacity building is competitive for harnessing community resources (Amirize, 2004).

### **Conclusion**

Sustainable development is therefore concerned with the creation and sustenance of the conditions for current and future generations of human to live an improved life. Therefore, the concept of sustainable development was discussed. Furthermore, the concept of community resources was also captured in line with the various types of the human community resources available. The paper further highlighted the relevance of community resources in achieving sustainable development. It was concluded that public awareness creation among community members on the importance of community resources, is the key to achieving sustainable development goals.

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