

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF KANO STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME, 2015-2023

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Abstract

Kano State Nigeria, has implemented rural development policies and poverty eradication programmes over the years to improve the living standards of rural population. However, these policies and programme remained challenging to implement due to a variety of reasons. The paper aims to explore the issues and challenges of Kano state rural development and poverty eradication programmes between 2015 and 2023. The paper adopts the Human Development and Capacity Approach (HDCA) developed by Amartya Sen as its theoretical framework of analysis. It also used the secondary source of data collection to gather relevant information on the issues and challenges of rural development and poverty eradication in Kano state. The paper discusses the lack of political will, corruption, insufficient funding, inadequate human capacity, poor infrastructure, and security issues as major hindrance to the success of these policies and programmes. The paper also recommends solutions to address these challenges, including promoting transparency and accountability. Increasing funding, building the capacity of personnel involved, improving infrastructure, and addressing security issues. Overall, the paper emphasizes the necessity of addressing these challenges to achieve sustainable rural development and poverty eradication in Kano state. This policy and programme initiative aligns with sustainable development goals purported to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable economic growth and reducing inequality.

Keywords: Rural Development, Poverty Eradication, Human Capacity, Infrastructure, policy inertia

Introduction

Nigeria is one of the largest countries in Africa with a population of over 200 million people and it is believed that more than half of the population reside in rural areas. Rural communities in Nigeria are characterized by poor infrastructure, limited access to essential social services such as healthcare, education, low level of income due to prevalence of underemployment and unemployment (NBS, 2019). The Nigeria government through various policies and programme, has attempted to address these issues and improve the standard of living in the rural communities (NBS, 2019 Ogunbameru, 2019). One of such programme is the rural development and poverty eradication programme which was hindered in Kano State in 2015. The programme aim to reduce poverty and undevelopment in the state by providing basic infrastructure, promoting agriculture and improving access to education, healthcare services and clean water supply (NBS, 2019). Despite these efforts poverty and underdevelopment, persist in many rural communities. Therefore, a critical assessment of the rural development policy and poverty eradication programmes is needed to identify the militing function for the polices and programme implementation with a view to finding sustainable solutions. This also involved identification of issues and challenges of the programmes and the need for sustainable solution which create knowledge gap. This paper aim to fill in this gap by providing policy recommendation and suggestion to policy makers and development planner as well as researcher interested in rural development and poverty eradication initiatives in Nigeria in general and Kano state in particular (Adeniran W et al 2011).

Conceptual clarification

Before delving into the issues and challenges of Kano state rural development and poverty eradication programmes. It is essential to provide some conceptual clarifications to aid understanding. Rural development: According to Microsoft Encata, (2009) rural development refers to the process of improving living conditions economic and social wellbeing of people living in rural areas. It involves developing infrastructure improving access to basic amenities, increasing agricultural productivity and promoting economic development.

Poverty Eradication: As per this research, it refers to the process of reducing and eventually eliminating extreme poverty in all its forms. Poverty eradication include improving access to quality education, healthcare and employment opportunities(Encata,2009).

Human Capacity: As per this paper it refers to the knowledge skills and expertise required to effectively implement policies and programmes(Microsoft, Encata, 2009)

Infrastructure: As per this paper it refers to physical structure and facilities such as roads water supply system and Telecommunications networks that support economic and social development(Encata,2009).

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used in this paper is the human development and capability approach (HDCA) development by Amartya Sen which emphasizes the importance of developing human capabilities as a means of promoting development

The HDCA approach argues that poverty is not just lack of income or resources but also the lack of capacities through education, healthcare and skills development to increase the well-being of individuals (Sen, A 1999, Khan, M. H 2009). Additionally, the HDCA approach aligns with the sustainable development goals (SDGS) which provide framework for global development efforts. The SDGS aim to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable economic growth and reduce inequality. Therefore, using the HDCA approach in paper provides a theoretical framework that is relevant and align with global development efforts. The approach therefore, highlights the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the need to invest in education, healthcare, the skills development to build human capabilities and promote sustainable development (Dare MA, Olatunji, R. O & Kola Olusinya, B.O 2018).

Empirical Studies

Some of the Empirical studies conducted by scholars on Kano state rural development policy and Poverty eradication programme are presented below:

In his writings Edole (2003:71) identified the following as some of the causes of poverty in Kano state and Nigeria as:

- a. Corruption and embezzlement.
- b. Poor leadership.
- c. Lack of comprehensive national policy on poverty eradication programme.
- d. Lack of sound agricultural policy and protracted neglect of the sector.
- e. Lack of basic infrastructure.
- f. Rapid population growth and
- g. Excessive internal and external debt burden.

These are some of the challenges of poverty eradication and rural development commonly shared by many scholars. Abubakar (2002:108-116) also identified the causes of poverty which include macro-economic distortion, bad governance, the environmental issues like in the case of Niger Delta, socio economic factors like 419 syndrome, unemployment and high population growth. These view supported the ones held by Edoh as the major causes of poverty in rural and urban communities in Nigeria including Kano State. Yahie (1993) cited in Ijarya (2007::473) equally identified the factors that cause poverty as structural and transitional condotions. He listed the structural causes as more or less permanent and depends on the most factors as limited resources, lack of skills, locationl disadvantages.Falling within this group are the disabled poor and landless farmers and households headed by females. The transitional conditions, according to him, is due to structural adjustment reforms, changes in domestic economic policies that may result in price change, unemployment, natural calamities such as war, environmental degradation etc. There is seem to be collaboration and agreement among these scholar on attributes or factors that cause poverty in Kano state.

Discussion of Findings:

The findings of this paper indicate that, the Kano state rural development poverty and poverty eradication programming face various challenges and issues that hinders their implementation and success. The following are the key issues and challenges identified in the study (Kwanashie, HM2017).

1. **Lack of Political will:** The paper found that political will is a crucial factor for implementing rural development policies and poverty eradication programmes. However, in Kano state, there is a lack of political will to implement. These policies, which has hindered theirs success.
2. **Corruption:** The paper identifies corruption as one of the significant, challenges of rural development policies in Kano state. Corruption leads to the misappropriation and diversion of fund meant for development programme, which undermones the impact of these programmes.
3. **Insufficient Funding:** The paper found that rural development, policies and poverty eradication programme in Kano state suffer from inadequate funding. This lack of funding has limited the implementation of the programme activities and negatively affected the impact of the programme.
4. **Inadequate Human Capacity:** The paper found that limited human capacity as a significant challenge facing rural development policies and poverty eradication programmes in Kano state. The lack of expertise limites the implementation of programme activities and negatively affect the impact of the programmes.
5. **Poor Infrastructure:** The paper identified poor infrastructure as a significant challenge facing rural development policies and poverty eradication programmes in Kano state. This involve limited access to basic amenities and clean water, good road electricity, which negatively undermine the impact of development, programme.
6. **Security Issues:** The paper found that security issues such as incidence of banditry and communal clashes have negatively affected the implementation of rural development programme in Kano state. This recurrent security issues have cause significant disruption in the implementation of the programme leading to reduced impact (Kranashes H.M 2017).

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion the implementation of rural development policies and poverty eradication programmes in Kano state has faced numerous challenges and issues, which have limited the success and impact of the programmes. The study idenfies a lack of political will corruption, insufficient funding, inadequate human capability. Poor infrastructure and security issues as the primary challenges. The recommendation provided which include promoting transparency and accountability, improving infrastructure and addressing security issues, could help address these challenges and improve the success of the programmes.

Based on the finding of the paper the following recommendation are made:

1. The government of Kano state should prioritize the implementation of rural development policies and poverty eradication programmes to improve living condition of the rural populace.
2. The government should increase funding for the programme and ensure effective utilization of resources.
3. The government should promote transparency and accountability to reduced corruption, which is a significant challenge facing the implementation of the programme.
4. The government should build the capacity of personnel involved in implementing rural development policies and poverty eradication programme.
5. Provision of basic infrastructure such as road, water supply system and electricity should be prioritized in rural communities.
6. The government should address security issues to create an enabling environment for the implementation of rural development policies and poverty eradication programme.

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