

Youth Participation in Rural Community Infrastructural Development in Gombi Local Government Area Adamawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract:- This research assessed the contributions of youth in rural community infrastructural development in Gombi Local Government Area of Adamawa State. For the purpose of this research, 200 questionnaires were administered to respondents in five (5) selected wards of the study area on the principle of stratified random sampling techniques. Descriptive statistics was used for analysis and presentation of data collected. The findings of the study indicate that youth participation in rural community infrastructural development played a significance role in the process of rural community infrastructural development. The findings further revealed that most of the projects undertaken in the communities are done through team work which shows that youth participation are playing great role in all aspect of life in rural areas. However, there are some problems hindering the full efforts of the youths in the area with regards to finance and assistance while trying to conduct any developmental project. The research recommends that there should be unity and mutual assistance among community members to encourage youth participation in rural community infrastructural development particularly in the study area. Members of rural communities should advise the youths of the various communities to join youth organizations so that development will take place rapidly.

Keywords: Rural, Youth, Development, Communities, Infrastructure

I. INTRODUCTION

Country's progress and development depends to some extent on the growth, modernization and development of some rural areas because without sound rural development, there will be no balance on national economic development. Any change must connote with progress and must result to the up liftmen of the quality of human life. However, rural community infrastructural development is also important in the direction of self-help (Akubuilu, 1990).

Farinde (1999) defined youth as the time a person's latent powers and attributes are developed to their highest potential, also when intellect is at its sharpest and energy is at its promising. Rural youths are both young male and female between the ages of 15-30, who own their existence and identity to the rural areas and whose family life depends directly on agriculture that is those who live and function in rural setting (Jibowo et. al, 1988).

Rural youths also constitute a strong and very important labuor force in development activities of rural

communities' infrastructure. Therefore, the youth participation in rural community project is geared towards bringing an improvement in the standard of living of the people and change in their attitudes, knowledge, behaviors and skills (Odebode, 2000).

Rural youth's participation in rural community infrastructural developmental projects can increase social responsibility and decrease risky behaviour. Farinde(1999). Rural youth participation in development projects has motivated the youth against the negative effects of social and economic hardship (Lissette, 2000). There is need for the youth to participate in development projects because their strength and receptiveness to new ideas through various social, educational and recreational purpose as means of improving standard of living in rural areas (FAO, 1988).

The word community is defined as a group of people living in the same region and occupation etc (Oxford Advanced Dictionary, 2000). United Nations Document (1981) defined community participation as the creation of opportunities to enable all members of a community to actively contribute to and influence the development process and to share equitably in the fruits of development. It could also be seen as an aggregation of families habitually living within a definite geographical location more or less rated in the area they occupy. The term community has equally been used to denote something both psychological and geographical development on the other hand could be defined or regarded as the process of improving on the communal quality of life. Infrastructure can be define as the basic facilities and installations that help a government or community run, including road, schools, phone line, sewage treatment plants and power generation. The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. building, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise Houghton Mifflin (2014).

Rural development as a strategy is designed to improve the economic and social well-being of a specific group of people, the rural poor. In other words rural development is a strategy designed to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need. It involves helping the poorest among those who seek a

livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development the group includes small scale farmers, tenant and landless” (Robert, 1983).

In many rural communities in Nigeria there is absence of infrastructure, which provides the quality of life such as portable water, electricity and good feeder roads. The inhabitants have low purchasing power and low standards of living (Olajiwola and Adeleye, 2005). The problems noticed in a typical rural area ranges from lack of electricity supply, lack of portable water, bad environment and building condition. These result in making some settlements not conducive for business establishment (Youth Development Report, 2007). In most of these environments’ youth are known to play important roles in all developmental activities especially where the impact of government is less felt. This study attempt an investigation of the efforts made by youth in the development of rural community infrastructural, and the benefit derived especially the socio-economic impact of their efforts in Gombi Local Government Area of Adamawa State Nigeria..

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Gombi is located in the North – Eastern part of Adamawa state, with its capital located at the heart of the town. It is one of the twenty-one (21) Local Government Area of Adamawa State. Gombi has ten (10) wards which include Boga/Dingai, Gabun, Tawa, Duwa, Yang, Guyaku, Garkida, Ganda, Gombi North, Gombi South. It is the fourth largest Local Government Area in the state. Gombi lies between latitude 10° 9 ' 44" North of equator and longitude 12° 44' 24 " East of the Green witch meridian (A.A. Adebayo etal 1999). It covers the total land area of about 2,093.3 square kilometer. It has total population of 147,787 people (NPC,2006). The distance of Gombi town from Yola the capital is about 115km while from Mubi town is about 72km Gombi town situated at a point called little Gombi which is curved by eastern highland and lowland area. Gombi Local Government Area is bounded in the north with Borno State to the south, with Song Local Government Area to the West, with Shelleng Local Government Area and to the North East, Hong Local Government Area.

The sources of data for the purposes of this study were rural youth drawn from five out of ten different wards namely: Boga/Dingai, Gabun, Tawa, Duwa, Yang, Guyaku, Garkida, Ganda, Gombi North, Gombi South. The study area has a total population of, 147,787s (Census projection, 2011).two hundred (200) questionnaires were administered in five (5) selected wards. The sampling technique that was employed for this study is stratified random Sampling

technique from which the research was use in selecting five (5) wards out of the ten wards in Gombi Local Government Area.. The researcher distributed the copies of questionnaire to the youth members both male and female who are among the target population 15 to 30 years.

These settlements were selected because of different particularities that allow for comparison. The purpose of such comparison was to determine if the same factors that contribute to the inactive participation of rural youth in development were almost the same in these settlements. The study of these settlements included their respective land patterns and other relevant characteristics.

The final study sample comprised 200 respondents (rural youth). The study interviewed total of 100% of respondents in different wards. The data was gathered using a non-probability sampling procedure. This method was used because of the lack of youth groups represented in these villages. Data collection basically involved traveling to the areas studied first, to familiarize with respondents for easy interactions as well as personal contact with them. Secondly, group discussions were organized by the researchers to facilitate an understanding of the whole study process. An easy designed questionnaire was used to collect data, and the filling in by respondents was carried out with the help of an interpreter, because most of the respondents could not read and write.

Interviews for this study were conducted at different levels. Firstly, among the different age groups of respondents (aged, middle-aged and young). This classification was necessary since at the different age groups, priorities and levels of participation in development process are also different, according to the needs, aspirations and expectations of individuals. The interviews dealt mostly with important issues of youth involvement in development initiatives, activities they are involved in, and why they believe they are left out of this process. The second level of the interviews was carried out with traditional healers, community leaders and chiefs. These interviews were centered on the issues affecting rural youth participation in development. They were attempting to discover various reasons for the disadvantaged position of rural youth, and their contributions as the custodians of rural values. These were closed ended interviews based on pre-made appointments with the respondents. The third level of interviews was carried out with the students in different schools across the study area. These interviews were aimed at seeking academic advice, knowledge, skills and their contributions in involving rural youth around the community into the on-going development processes and programmes in the areas of study.

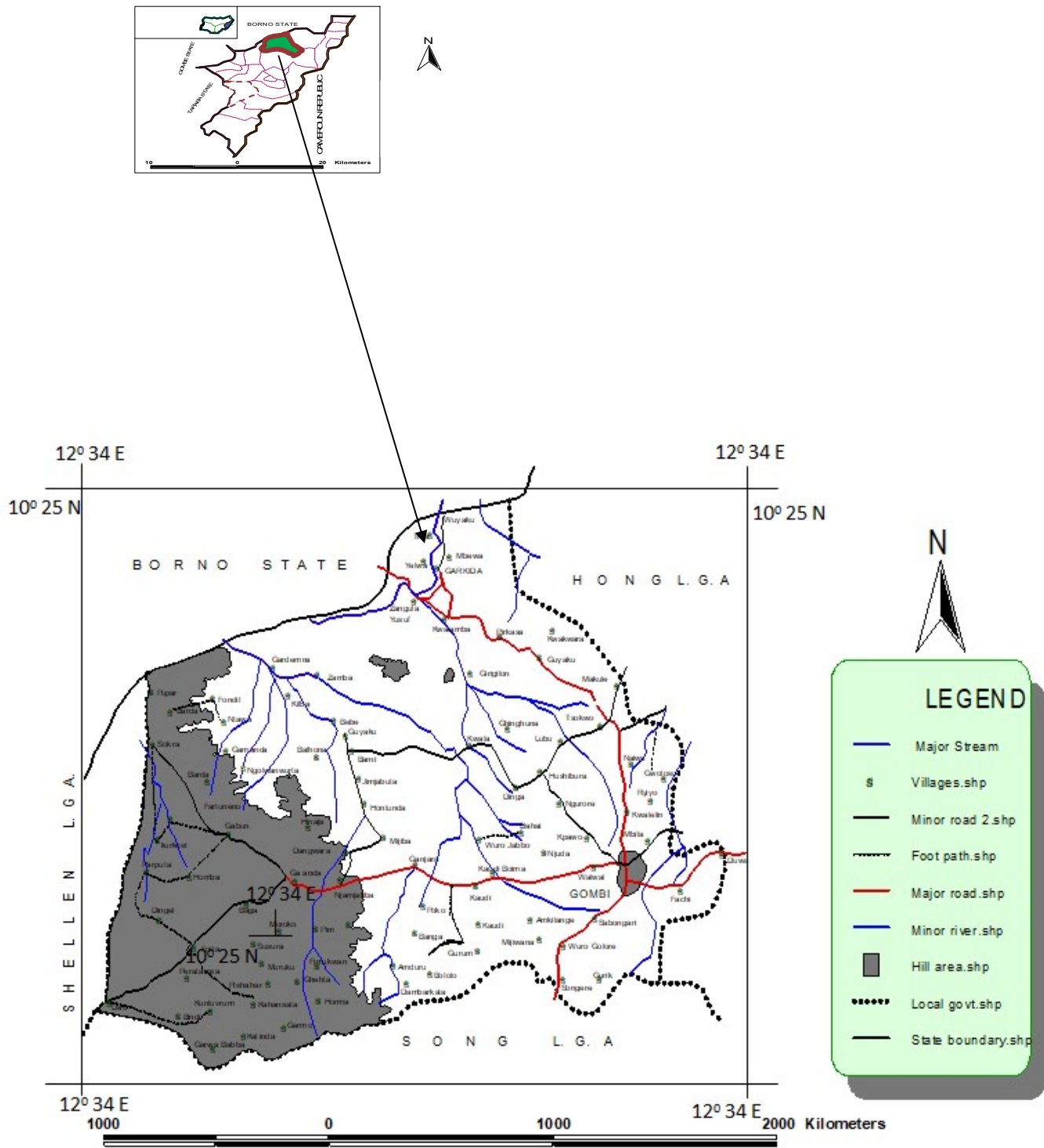


Fig 1 Study Area.

Source; GIS Lab ADSU

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Sex composition

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	140	70
Female	60	30
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 1 Indicate the sex composition of the respondents. From the table, 70% are males while females are 30%. This shows that majority of the respondents are males.

Table 2: age distribution of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
15-19	20	10
20-24	80	40
25-29	84	42
30-35	16	8
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 2 Shows that 10% of the respondents were in the age group of 15-19 years. 40% were between 20 – 24 years of age 42% fall between the age group of 25-29 and 8% were in the age group of 30-35. This indicates that most of the respondents are youths who have completed their post primary education and those that have not attended the post primary education but have deals on rural community development in the study area.

Table 3: Occupation of respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farming	80	40
Business / trading	60	30
Civil servant	24	12
Student	36	18
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents who made up 40% are into farming because they do not go out from the village or further their studies after receiving their school leaving certificate, those engaged in business/trading were 30%, civil servants made up 12%, and 18% were students. This indicate that majority are farmers who depend directly on agriculture

Table 4: Marital status

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	120	60
Married	40	20

Widow	20	10
Divorced	20	10
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

According to table 4 the respondents were mostly singles with 60%, married people make up 20%, the widow are 10% and 10% were divorced. This shows that most of the respondents were singles who have latent power and attributes, they constitute a strong and very important labour force in development activities of the rural communities infrastructure in the area.

Table 5: Educational background

Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No formal education	26	13
Primary school	60	30
Secondary school	80	40
Tertiary	34	17
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Education is one of the variable examined and it considered one of the most important in the study area. The impact of education on this research is that youth can have the knowledge of participating in any form of developmental projects. The information gathered on table 5 revealed that 26% of the respondents have no formal education, 30% have primary school certificate and secondary school were 40%. The tertiary education has 17%. 40% of the study has formal education. Member of the community would have the problem of running developmental project in the study area if they are not educated.

Table 6: type of projects under taken

Project (s)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Rural road construction /maintenance	44	22
Agriculture/commercial farming	76	38
Water	40	20
All of the above	30	15
Others	10	5
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 6 indicates that 38% of the respondent say that agriculture /commercial farming is mostly under taken by youths in the study area. A total of 22 % of the respondents engage in roads construction/ maintenance, 20% undertaken in the maintenance of water 15% all of the above, 5% others. From the information above the project mostly undertaken by youth in the community is agriculture this is to say that farming is very important in the study area. Because it involve

the majority of the youth who are permanently staying in the rural area and actively involve in the community development in the area.

Table 7: How projects are undertaken in the areas.

Project	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Individual	60	30
Team work	100	50
Family	40	20
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 7 shows that most of the youth participates in rural community development through teamwork with 50% respond, individual projects are 30% and project undertaken by family members made up 20%. This shows that youth participation is promoting much in rural community infrastructural development in Gombi local government area through team work.

Table 8: Development projects under taken by the youth in the rural communities.

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	160	80
No	25	20
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 8 indicated the respondents' level of ideas on development projects under taken by the youth in rural community. The table shows that 80% say yes while 20% agreed that they don't have any idea on the project undertaken by the youth. Form the above information it shows that the impact of youth participation on rural community in the study area is very important.

Table 9: Individual participation in community development project in the study area

Participation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	120	60
No	80	40
If no specify	0	0
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 9 indicates that 60% of the respondents participate in the community development project undertaken by youth in the area, 40% did not participate while 0% indicate that no respondents specified anything. This shows that some respondents do not know the importance of participation in rural community development project.

Table 10: Impact of the projects(s) on the community

Contribution	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Education	66	33
Health	54	27
Employment	50	25
Socialization	30	15
Total	200	200

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 10 shows that the project undertaken within the study area have contributed to the development of the rural community especially in education which has 33% of the respondents agreeing to that view, while 27% of the respondents mentioned health as the major beneficiary. Employment has 25% responses and socialization has 15%. Since education sector has the highest percentage, it is expected that many of the inhabitants of the community will be found educated.

Table 11: Impact of the community development

Participation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Positive change	140	70
Negative change	40	20
None of the above	20	10
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 11 shows that 70% of the responses are of the view that youth brought positive changes in the community, than 20% that response that youth brought negative changes to the community while 10% of the above brought changes in the community. United nation (2002), posited that more can be done to these nature, this productive behavior of the youth as they constitute crucial development when they positively empowered to be active participant. Therefore, including youth in development is important as youth make up the majority of the local population in many communities, hence their activities are crucial to all community need. They further stated that, youth are the custodian of the community.

Table 12: Outside assistance in carrying out developmental project

Assistance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	130	65
No	70	35
In no specify	0	0
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 12 indicate that participants who agreed that contribution are received when projects are carried out have the highest percentage of 65% and those who disagreed made up 35%. While others those who specify nothing at all made up of 0%. These indicate that the youth receive assistance

while carrying out developmental projects in the study area such assistance contribute in making it possible to accelerate the development in the community.

Table 13: Source of assistance in the community

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Government	34	17
Non- governmental organization	46	23
Individual	44	22
Community members	76	38
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 13 Shows that 38% of the respondents indicate that they are getting assistance through community members. This is followed by those who say that they received assistance from non –governmental organization with 23% and 22% from individual. From the responses received government is the least contributor with only 17%. This shows that majority of the youth in Gombi Local Government Area receive assistance from community members.

Table 14: Types of assistance received by the community

Assistance received	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Financial support	120	60
Technical support	50	25
Material support	30	15
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 14 shows the nature of assistance received to help the youth carryout the developmental projects in their communities. The table indicate that financial support has the high percentage of 60%, technical support has 25% and materials support has 15% the information indicates that the type of assistance mostly received to help the youth is financial percentage. The impact of financial support in this area is that finance will contribute a lot to the development of the community easily by assisting in buying the necessary materials needed to carry out the various projects.

Table 15: Major problems facing youth participation in rural community infrastructural development

Problem	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Non participation	40	20
Lack of funds	120	60
Lack of govt. support	40	20
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 15 shows the problems facing youth participation in rural community development. Most of the respondents

indicate that lack of funds is the major problem with 60%, while non-participation by some members of the community and lack of government support follow with 20% respectively. This reveals that youths are facing problem of fund in Gombi local government area. These problems will bring discouragement among youth in carrying out developmental projects in the rural community in the study area.

Table 16: Respondents suggestion to solve the problems

Problem	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Re-orientation and financial support about all the stakeholders in community	70	35
Training the youth in entrepreneurship	60	30
Improve moral value in the community	40	20
None of the above	30	15
Total	200	100

Source: Field Work, 2020

Table 16 indicate that, re-orientation, financial and moral support about the stakeholder has 35% majority of respondents than training the youth in entrepreneurship which is about 30% and improve moral value in the community has 20% while none of the above has 15% which address problems faced by the youth in community. Sherred (2002), posit that, civic engagement of the youth in community development such as civic education and an opportunity for involvement in school curriculum activities are an important element of community involve for youth to address some various problems faced by the youth. Lane (1992) posit that, in this contextual arena, we would allowed the youth and adult to have partner in addressing many social problems leading greater understanding and share norms and values in solving problems in community.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the sustainable development of rural area especially Gombi Local Government Area which is aspiring for even development so that the standard of living of the people can be vided. There is evidence that the youth play great role in speeding development in various communities especially the rural community as observed in the study. This is achieved through team work, government support, individual and the overall support received by the youth from the communities.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Base on the findings this study, below are the following recommendation which have been made in order to encourage the rural community groups:

- Cordial relationships between the rural community can be encourage in order to improved infrastructural development in the area.

- There should be cooperation, unity and mutual assistance among the youths participation in developmental project of the area in all aspect of life.
- There should be mutual understanding among the youth while participating in the rural community infrastructural development project in the study area.
- Government should create job opportunities for all the youths in the rural communities to enable them develop their area without waiting for government to do it for them.
- Government / non – governmental organization, community and individual should join hands together to provide adequate job opportunities for the youth in the rural communities.
- The elders and members of the rural communities should advice the youth to join youth organization so that they can develop their communities
- The youth should further their studies in order to add to knowledge about rural development.

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