

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PLATEAU AND
IMO STATES IN NIGERIA. A CASE STUDY OF
SOCIAL CAPITAL AND PEOPLE
EMPOWERMENT**

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OF SOCIAL CAPITAL AND PEOPLE
EMPOWERMENT**

by

ISHAKU BITRUS LERE

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my lovely parents; Rev Ishaku Dabak Lere (RTD) and Mrs. Afiniki Ishaku Dabak for their commitment, encouragement and good moral upbringing.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BECO	Berom Educational and Cultural Organization
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CD	Community Development
CDAs	Community Development Associations
CON	Commander of the Order of the Niger
CPA	Community Parliamentary Association
DFFRI	Directorate for Food Roads and Rural Infrastructures
DLA	Direct Labour Agency
HNLSS	Harmonized Nigerian Living Standard Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISCSDA	Imo State Community and Social Development Agency
LEEDS	Local Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
LGA	Local Government Area
NAPEP	National Poverty Eradication Programme
NDE	National Directorate of Employment
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSIP	National Social Investment Programme
OECD	Organisations of European Community Development
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PADP	Plateau Agricultural Development Programme
PSCSDA	Plateau State Community and Social Development Agency
PS-PVCSP	Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project
SEEDS	State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy

SURE-P	Subsidy Reinvestment Programme
UN	United Nations
USD	United State Dollars
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

**PERSATUAN PEMBANGUNAN KOMUNITY DAN PEMBANGUNAN LUAR
BANDAR DI NEGERI PLATEAU DAN IMO: SATU KAJIAN KES
MENGENAI MODEL SOSIAL DAN PEMBERDAYAAN MASYARAKAT**

ABSTRAK

Objektif utama penyelidikan ini adalah untuk meneroka sebab-sebab yang membenarkan Persatuan Pembangunan Komuniti (CDA) di selatan seperti Negeri Imo berprestasi lebih baik daripada CDA di Negeri Plateau walaupun mempunyai ciri ekonomi dan demografi yang serupa. Tesis ini berpendapat bahawa terdapat empat faktor yang dapat menjelaskan mengapa terdapat perbezaan dalam prestasi CDA di kedua wilayah ini: 1. Tesis mendapati bahawa pemerksaan masyarakat bermaksud melengkapkan orang dengan kemahiran yang diperlukan untuk membolehkan mereka memperbaiki keadaan hidup mereka. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa persatuan pembangunan masyarakat di negeri Plateau telah menyumbang kepada pemerksaan masyarakat tetapi memiliki kehidupan yang kurang bergaul. Di Negeri Imo, mereka tampil lebih baik daripada Negeri Plateau kerana adanya kehidupan bergaul. 2. Kajian ini menyatakan bahawa penggunaan sumber kewangan mendorong penyertaan yang lemah dalam penglibatan komunal. Ia mendapati bahawa rasuah dan kesalahan dalam pengurusan sumber oleh pemimpin dan pengikut persatuan pembangunan masyarakat di kedua-dua negeri. Perbezaannya adalah pada tahap rasuah dan salah urus sumber masyarakat. 3. Tesis ini mendapati bahawa tuntutan infrastruktur masyarakat dapat memperbaiki keadaan kehidupan masyarakat. Ini menunjukkan bahawa masyarakat di kedua-dua negara memerlukan infrastruktur masyarakat tetapi permintaannya berbeza-beza. Di Imo, mereka memerlukan kolam ikan, bilik sejuk, elektrik, dan antara lain. Manakala di Negeri Plateau, mereka memerlukan jalan raya, baja, air, elektrik,

dan antara lain. 4. Tesis ini juga menyatakan bahawa kerosakan rangkaian boleh menyebabkan kesalahan dan kekacauan. Kajian menunjukkan ketidakupayaan untuk menyokong kegiatan komunal oleh masyarakat dan pemerintah Negeri Plateau. Manakala di Negeri Imo, pemerintah, keluarga, individu, penguasa tradisional menyokong penglibatan bersama. Tesis berharap penemuannya dapat membantu meningkatkan prestasi CDA di Negeri Plateau.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PLATEAU AND IMO STATES IN NIGERIA.
A CASE STUDY OF SOCIAL CAPITAL AND PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT**

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research is to explore first, the factors that limit community development associations contributions to rural development in Plateau state and second, the reasons that allow Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Imo to perform better than CDAs in Plateau State despite their similar economic and demographic characteristics. The research was done using some selected community development associations in Plateau and Imo states as a case study. This purpose was achieved through the following methodology: The purposive sampling technique was used to select community development associations and the participants who responded to the interview scheduled administered. Information was collected from documents, audio/video interviews, pamphlets, and other related materials to the subject matter used for this research. The data collected were analyzed using the qualitative data analysis method, specifically thematic analysis. The work came out with the following: The thesis argues that four factors can explain why there is a disparity in the performance of CDAs in these two regions: 1. The thesis argues that community empowerment means equipping people with the needed skills to improve their living conditions. The study revealed that community development associations in Plateau state have contributed to community empowerment but possessed less associational life. In Imo state, they performed better than Plateau state because of the existence of associational life. 2. The study contents that consumption of financial resources prompted poor participation in communal engagements. The

study discovered that corruption and mismanagement of resources exist among the leadership and followership of community development associations in both states. The differences are in the gravity of the level of corruption and mismanagement of community resources. 3. The thesis argues that the demands for community infrastructures were to improve the condition of living of the people. It showed that communities in both states need infrastructure but vary in demand. In Imo, they need fish ponds, cold rooms, electricity, among others. In Plateau, they need roads, fertilizers, water, electricity, among others. 4. The thesis maintains that the breakdown of networks can prompt wrongdoing and chaos. The study showed the inability to support communal activities by the people and government of Plateau. In Imo, government, families, individuals, traditional rulers support collective engagements. The thesis hopes that its findings can ultimately help to improve the performance of CDAs in Plateau State.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

The existence of human society is a continued process and its survival at different levels of societal development in time and space. It is for this reason that the study is examining communities and their development. It is in the light of this that human beings on earth strive to advance through the activities of community development associations and rural development. In the course of survival as a human being, man faces challenges in trying to improve his standard of living. According to (Olatunde, 2016):

the history of the existence of human societies has continually strived to advance at different levels and varies at various locations. The issue of community development is a general phenomenon that is associated with human beings. In all ramifications, human beings faced the challenge of rising above problems by ensuring he provides for the necessity of life and improves the quality of life and equipment.

Therefore, a human being faces the challenge of living above his problems, which in the process culminated into the origin of the word community development associations and rural development. The source of the concept can be traced to 19 centuries in the United States of America. This was necessitated by the fact that there was a perceived problem of rural underdevelopment in the country. The government sets up reformers to investigate the issue which revealed that some areas were underdeveloped in rural areas. The study showed that people were living in crowded spaces as a result of industrial capitalism, especially the labourers that work in these industries. The overcrowded areas could lead to an outbreak of social vices. As noted that:

the concept of community development associations and rural development could be traced to the late 19th century, in which reformers in America discovered backwards areas. It was found that females and males in settlement households face the evils of industrial capitalism. That poorly paid wage immigrant and other racial minority wage labourers stayed in crowded accommodations, cottages, and huts in dirty regions close to waterfronts, and workplaces. In the early twentieth century, the reformers discovered that the problem could lead to breeding of poverty, overcrowding, crime, youth delinquency, and so many other social vices. The slums and ghettos where the wage labourers and other indigent resides (Alexander, 2012).

The challenge of community development associations and rural development became pronounced after the 2nd World War. The problems were not limited to United States of America alone but a universal phenomenon among the developed nations. That there were perceived symptoms of specific pervasive effects of economic underdevelopment among the developed countries. It revealed that some rural and urban areas experienced an exodus of people because of neglect in terms of community development after the war. A solution was advanced to address the situation, which was a community development association. The above statement was aptly captured as stated:

this was about social inequalities in the area of wealth generation, territorial disparities. The study showed that many rural areas and semi-industrialised urban areas had been neglected in the process. These areas suffered depression, rural exodus and severe environmental decay. Then there was the need for new goals and plans which metamorphosed into different community development models and paradigms. This was to address the issue of territorial inequality in which one of the ideas was community development associations and rural development with emphasis on the advancement of the rural areas (Javier, 2016).

Therefore, the challenge of community development is not a European affair. Still, the continent of Africa is having a similar issue. Apart from the devastating effect of colonialism, the 2nd World War on the continent of Africa made community development associations and rural development activities complicated. The various

governments on the continent have failed to address the challenges of rural development. A prominent characteristic was blowing across the African continent has a devastating effect on the majority of the rural populace, and which has placed them in a position of unpalatable economic and social dislocation. In most of the rural areas, it was discovered that people find it challenging to strive in such a condition. The rural situation has worsened. This was because the state has failed to address the rural crisis squarely. As noted by Njoh (2002):

the scarcity of resources which has worsened the conditions in sub-Saharan Africa. It shows that governments cannot, in any way, depend on conventional methods to address the fundamental needs of their populations squarely. The issue of community development association has been employed and applied as a procedure that can be viable in supplementing the work to meet the necessities of the rural areas.

The inability of the states on the continent of Africa to address the challenge of community development associations and rural development. The level of poverty at the continent continued unabated. Consequently, the people opted for an alternative instead of relying on the government to address the challenges of rural development, which was known as community development associations. The stagnation and under a diminished level of poverty has produced numerous strategies and initiatives at the grass-root level to cope with the economic recession. Gooneratne and Mbilinyi (1992) asserted that:

faced with increasing poverty and economic stagnation in the 1980s and early 1990s, community development associations have been seen as a dependable alternative by donor-led "structural adjustment in undeveloped nations. They further that numerous nations within the continent in Central Africa, specifically Cameroon, had witnessed the upsurge of community development associations. To facilitate social, economic development of the entire country, which have made some achievements to include roads, water, health, among others. These have been affected by some predicaments in maintaining such self-independent development projects.

Therefore, community development associations became greatly affected by some dilemmas in the course of their activities. This is particularly noted by some authors who identified the plethora of problems to include misappropriation, division, selfish interests, and primitive accumulation of capital (Nkwi, 1997; Jua, 2002). In the same vein, Njoh (2002) identifies predicaments to include the authoritarian nature of the authorities, selective participation, and inter/intragroup conflicts, among others.

Community development associations and rural development have been in existence for a long period. Throughout the communal era in Nigeria, people were engaged in a communal mode of living before the coming of the colonial government. The colonial period marked the continuation of collective activities which were tailored towards the construction of roads, estates, rail lines for the selfish benefit of the colonial government. The above scenario as noted by Chukwuemeka and Charity (2013) who asserted that:

during the British time, roads plus rail lines were built up and across the nation for the sake of and apparently for the development of rural regions. Maybe, they are done to create more areas in the hinterland for development. In any case, the official explanation behind such events was to empower the colonialists and the imperialist to tap and made away with our agricultural produce, for example, groundnuts, cocoa, cotton, and palm produce. They further stressed that, in the rural areas within this time, farming mechanisation was established to increase the hectares of land for food production and export. Furthermore, to boost agricultural production and exploitation of the rural areas. The target of development of rural regions during this era was optional and not of essential goal. Despite the happening, the British government didn't utilise the town, village and clan associations for rural development due to the reason that they may constitute breeding ground for political propaganda. So, they were useful instrument for the collection of taxes and rally support for the British government.

The rural development policies of the colonial government were discriminatory in nature. As such, it was able to classify the settlements of the indigenous people and

the foreigners. The expatriates in their settlements were provided with necessary community infrastructures, whereas the indigenous settlements were not given adequate attention in terms of provision of community infrastructures. According to Olayiwola and Adeleye (2005);

the British government township Act decreed in 1917, directed the developmental course of the rural regions. When it ordered settlements into first, second and third class with the reason for the provision of community infrastructures.

The first-class settlements were reserved for foreigners by the white Europeans and their labourers. Subsequently, such settlements remained the center of substantial infrastructural concentration. So, Lagos served as an example of the sphere of discriminatory infrastructural focus. Then again, the second- and third-class settlements were not given sufficient attention in community infrastructural provisions.

The introduction of local administration councils in the western part of the country was primarily seen as a medium for increasing infrastructural facilities to the local centers. The local councils could not address the question of need as a result of inadequate financial allocations (Olayiwola & Adeleye, 2005).

Therefore, Nigeria gained independence in 1960 from the British government. The British government left and went back to United Kingdom, they handed over the mantle of leadership to the indigenous bureaucratic bourgeoisie to continue from where they stopped. The bureaucratic bourgeoisie discovered that they were not as rich as their counterpart in Europe. Consequently, they lost concentration on the activities of community development associations and rural development. Their attention was towards primitive accumulation so that they would be rich just as their counterparts in Europe. As a result, all communities and rural developmental activities were scuttled

and the funds allocated were diverted to private purse. According to Dupe (1975) who argues that:

after political independence from the colonial government, which was over fifty years, the rural communities remained in shambles. For example, bad roads, poor rural water supply, inadequate electricity supply, bad schools, mass poverty, inequality in income, malnutrition, illiteracy, diseases. The government couldn't provide these social infrastructures for the people in rural areas.

In the past after the Nigerian independence, the objectives and strategies of community development and rural development activities have been recognised by those that make policies on the issues of community development. It revealed that there was a gap between policy making and execution. According to Enyi (2014):

many methods of the rural development strategy have been implemented. These methods included the state creations, local government areas, bringing people together for involvement in strategising and execution of communal projects. To create development centers to stop rural-urban migration. A review of the country's development and other rural change strategies, namely; Agricultural Development Projects, Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), River Basin Development Authorities, and Green Revolution among others, have emphasised on the need to solve the predicament of rural under-development.

The summary of the few rural development policies of the Federal Government include;

- a. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE):** The programme was set up in 1987 to handle the issue of mass joblessness including all classes of work (talented and incompetent). Including the hidden unemployment both in rural and urban areas. The directorate concentrated on farming, little scale endeavours, exceptional open works, and professional skills advancement.

- b. National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP):** The programme was propelled by the former President of Nigeria Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in January 2001. Not at all like the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP) which was a stop-hole to the NAPEP and was seen as a lasting system intended to annihilate poverty in Nigeria through various procedures.
- c. National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS):** This programme was established in 2003. The programme was comprehensive and driven as copied at all levels of governments. State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS); and Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS). The programme consolidated the private segment non-administrative association and the overall population in the quest for its formative objectives. By endeavouring to engage the rural people, the programme had a substantive vision of eradicating rural poverty and advancing the improvement of the rural space (NEEDS 2003-2007).
- d. Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowering Programme (SURE-P):** The programme was initiated on February 13, 2012 by the past government of President Good Luck Ebele Jonathan. As noted by Raheem (1997), the programme focused on guaranteeing that the Federal Government's piece of the reserve funds from fuel appropriation removal or decrease was connected to mitigating the spate of youth joblessness in the nation through the re-investment of the subsidy finance. The primary destinations of the programme as noted by (Nwosu, & Ugwuera, 2014) was to encourage the creation of wealth and deal with the scourge of youth joblessness in the nation.

- e. National Social Investment Programme (NSIP):** The current poverty alleviation programme of the central administration of Nigeria is the National Social Investment Programme. The programme was part of the effort to address the prevailing scale of poverty and hunger in Nigeria. The programme was established in 2016 by the present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari to focus more on ensuring equitable distribution of assets to vulnerable populations including children, youth and women.

Therefore, with the above policies pursued by the government in community and rural development, it revealed that the main problem associated with the policies was the implementation. This was essentially done by the ruling class because the neocolonial policies were used by the ruling class to enrich themselves instead of embarking on national development that will impact the majority of the people. As noted by Ukole (2001):

there was the need to bring those rural areas that have been marginalised in terms of national development. It contended that the curse of Nigeria's developmental process is the neo-colonial reliant economic structure operative in the nation. It stated that all these programmes implemented by the government could not address the primary needs of the rural populace. The programmes implemented by the government only enriched few people at the expenses of the majority of the rural masses.

As a consequence, the attitude of the ruling class in the country showed their inability to implement community and rural development policies. It showed that rural

development policies were imposed on the people. The strategies were not rural people-driven. According to Enyi (2014):

this practice produces mass hardship and poverty, social unrest and administrative instability. In the form of what the country is passing through today, especially the raising of Boko Haram, tribal militias, armed robberies, among others. The scholar further that the conditions of rural areas in Nigeria are very pathetic. For example, increase in illiteracy rate, diseases, poverty, unemployment, increase in mortality rate, high cost of agricultural facilities without a corresponding increase in farm products, prostitution, kidnapping, fraud, among others.

Thus, with the series of administrations in Nigeria, from civilian to military administrations, none has implemented any community and rural development policy that would be able to address the problems of rural development in the country. As observed by Olu (1989) who stated that:

after the independence of Nigeria, no administration had pursuit and implemented a changing community development plan. As a consequence, there are some crisis indicators which include; poor governance characterised by corruption, social injustice, political instability, gross mismanagement, inadequate infrastructural facilities in the rural areas.

In a country with abundant mineral resources, especially crude oil which is one among the major producers in the world, the country could not address rural development issues as a result of bad governance by the ruling class. That is why Felix (2008) argues that with the abundance of oil wealth, Nigeria remains underdeveloped. Mismanagement has severely affected community structural development, provision of social amenities, hindering economic development with the maximum number of the population wallowing in miserable hardship.

Plateau State is found in the middle belt of Nigeria, which is among the 36 states that made up the country. The state has adopted some community and rural

development policies derived from the community and rural development policies of the federal government in trying to solve the challenges of rural underdevelopment.

Some of the selected community and rural development policies include;

- a. **National Directorate of Employment (NDE):** Plateau state government introduced the programme to empower the local communities; for example, the programme was established in 1986. It had the mandate to: - mitigate mass unemployment, skill acquisition, serve as an information bank for unemployment and vacancies for the Federal Government.
- b. **Plateau Direct Labour Agency (PDLA):** The agency was a creation of the Plateau State government to enhance its rural transformation efforts. The agency has the primary goal of designing, constructing and maintaining rural roads and the provision of general community infrastructures.
- c. **National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP):** Chief Olusegun Obasanjo established the programme in January 2001. The programme was seen as a lasting system intended to annihilate poverty in Nigeria through various procedures.
- d. **Plateau State Community and Social Development Agency (PSCSDA):** The Plateau State Government established this agency in April 2009 to implement the World Bank assisted Community and Social Development Project (PSCSDA, 2019). The agency has the following mandate; (i) empower communities with micro-projects, (ii) enhance community-local government on human development projects, (ii) local governments to collaborate with state agencies to monitor projects, (iv) a collaborative effort by the state and local governments in handling resources for community intervention.

- e. **Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project (PSPVCSP):** The programme was established in Plateau state in June 2017, which was to cover the entire 17 local government regions of the state, "among the benefits of the programme apart from storage, processing and advertising potato. Those that don't produce potato will benefit from other community infrastructures, for example, electricity, construction of dams, among others" (Yelman 2017:1).

Plateau State is bedeviled by some challenges in rural development policies as experienced by the Federal Government, which affected almost all the sectors of the state. The above statement explains the condition of the rural areas in Plateau state. As adequately captured by Anyanwu (2004); that most of the community and rural development programmes in Plateau state could not be sustained as most of them failed. The programmes failed because of diversion from the real focus, absence of political will, instability in policy and inability to incorporate the beneficiaries into these programmes. As attested by Mallo and Anigbogu (2010) cited in UN HABITAT (1992) that:

insufficiency in the provision of community infrastructure and essential services causes poor health conditions, decrease in employment opportunities and degraded settlement environment. That such conditions are not suitable for a reasonable quality of living and provide few incentives for residents to improve their housing and neighbourhoods.

Thus, community development associations and rural development policies in Plateau state could not address the issues. This was because the programmes pursued by the government was the top-down approach to the study of community and rural development. As noted in the words of Adejugbe (2004), the state and local governments were by-passed in the usage of the projects. The rural regions were not recipients of these programmes as they were concentrated at the center (state capitals).

In support of the above assertion, according to Dankyes and Mundi (2013), none of these projects had critical beneficial outcomes in Plateau state or any place in Nigeria. That the execution of most of the programmes was centralised and the implementation of the goals was not practical as observed to be "top-down" in approach.

Imo state is found in the south eastern part of Nigeria, which is among the 36 states that made up the country. The state has adopted some community and rural development policies derived from the community and rural development policies of the Federal Government in trying to solve the challenges of rural underdevelopment. Some of the selected community and rural development policies are similar with that of Plateau state government. This is because all the states derived their rural development policies from the Federal Government.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

The major predicaments of community development associations and rural development in most developing nations across the world are perhaps poor understanding of the word "community development". The conceptualisation of the term "community" is also confusing among scholars. The general lack of agreement on the understanding of community has made some scholars to perceive it as simply "rural". In the context of the Nigerian government, it sees community development as essential rural development (Larry, Udu, & Sunday, 2015). From the perspective of an individual according to Nkwede (2009), community is the coming together of the members of the locality who share a common territory as the place to carry out their daily routines. Therefore, in conceptualising the word community, it can be viewed as either rural or urban since an individual can belong to many associations. Still, it invariably cannot belong to all societies within the same period.

It is worthy to note that in most countries that are developing, about 80 % of their population are residing in rural areas. As a consequence, the target of community development associations in local advancement should be towards improving the conditions of the rural populace, where the majority of the people stay and ensure the continuity of the process. That is why the target of various successful administrations in Nigeria towards community development was focusing on the rural areas. The major challenge of addressing rural development could be attributed to a lack of understanding of the background, social, cultural, political, demographic characteristics of the target areas. The result of this misunderstanding led to the manifestation of diseases, poverty, hunger, unemployment, among others. As noted in the word of Uma Lele (1975) who compiled what is popularly called the World Bank `Bible` for developing countries. In a forward to that book, Robert Mc Namara the then president of the World Bank spelt out the rationale for the book to raise productivity among the rural poor in the developing countries. This task is urgent because according to him that:

about 80 % of the population of underdeveloped nations reside in the rural community. As a result of this, community development should be gear towards raising the condition of living of the majority of low-income people staying in rural centers and ensure the sustainability of the process of development.

The understanding of the process made community development efforts of various administrations in Nigeria centered on local communities as their target. However, most of the community development efforts couldn't succeed. It has some indicators like the inability to study the background, which is aim at comprehending the social and demographic features of their target communities and groups. So, hunger, literacy level, pervasive poverty manifesting in these communities, diseases, among others.

As a consequence of this misunderstanding among authors on community development associations and rural development. It has given birth to a misunderstanding between the pattern of community development and the type of projects to embark upon either by the government or community development associations. In the case of Nigeria, many community development policies were executed without success. As argued by Udu (2014):

as a consequence, this has created a visible mismatch between the community pattern and the kind of empowerment projects that target the people. He posited that various administrations in Nigeria have at various periods initiated projects aimed at addressing rural hardship. The rural change, food safety and their associated effects on the nation. The strategies adopted involved Agricultural Bank, National Directorate of Employment, Family Support Programme, among others. The most recent was the Subsidy Reinvestment Programme and National Social Investment Programme. The programmes had wonderful aims and objectives, but the execution plan can be described as "a mere window dressing and cosmetic", this was because their impacts were not felt. The programmes cannot address the challenge of hardship in the country, nor improve the standard of living of the people at the grassroots.

In community development associations and rural development activities, Nigeria as a country has both human and material resources that is capable of tackling the problems of the community and rural underdevelopment. The leadership is corrupt; the ruling class hijacked resources that are to be used for these projects for their personal use. As a consequence, there is no community infrastructural development. It is further captured in Dankwa's (2002) assertion that:

politics and administration have been perceived as a zero-sum game, which national resources of a country are being sacrificed on the altar of endemic or systemic corruption. Indeed, the Weberian injunction to public office holders to separate the resources of the office from those of private resources of the public office holders is known in several African countries. Individuals are diverting the resources of a country. To fight elections, build luxurious mansions, purchase expensive limousines, aircraft, establish ranches and educate their children in high schools and universities abroad.

This situation has consistently led to the failure of government at all levels in Nigeria in terms of community development policies to be responsive and accountable in performing their statutory obligations of providing basic amenities to the citizens.

The situation as observed by Kuka (1999) is because:

our country lacks a vibrant civil society to maintain and sustain the gains of democracy. That it is these civil societies and other democratic intuitions that can hold those in governance accountable. He stated that the inability to have a vibrant civil society has made democracy opened to manipulations by the ruling elites. The aim of these manipulative political elites, therefore, is continuously enriching themselves at the detriment of the poor people in society.

It has become an epidemic at the local government areas to the point that individuals refer to it as the seat of gross mismanagement and corruption in the country (Danjibo 2004). It was because of the deteriorating state of local governments in Nigeria that Kyar (1994) observes that at various levels of administration, the experience revealed that the process, so far is anti-people. As a result of this reason, we have all failed. All the programmes executed have proved abortive and anti-people who are the very reason for the existence of the rural centers.

To further explain the issue of corrupt practices at the local government level, which affected community development associations and rural development activities in Plateau state. According to Odedire (2014) who argued that:

the main predicament affecting most of the local governments, which in turn affect community development associations and rural development activities is an inadequate fund to execute several development projects. That in the 1990s, there was a tremendous increase in funds disbursed to the local administration in the country. The reasons for inadequate finance at the local government could be traced to the point that, state governors are hijacking the allocations to various local governments. They used the monies for electioneering campaigns, divide it among political godfathers and members of the parliament at the state level. He further stated that this fact showed in the financial report of the apex Bank of the nation for the third quarter

of 2011. An announcement was made about the total amount disbursed to the 774 local government councils from the federation and Value Added Tax fund accounts for the following months July, August and September was N493.77 billion. The situation revealed in the media report on Monday, December 26, 2011, showed how allocations to local government councils where been hijacked by state governors and at times out rightly diverted to imaginary projects. Moreover, the governors of various states have utilised the joint account to misappropriate local administration allocation from the federation account.

Corrupt practices perpetuated by state governors has invariably affected community development associations and rural development. Adedire (2014) indicated that the act of criminality was supported by the state governors redistributed allotments to the lower arm of government from the federation purse. They gave less than N20 million to every local government council to take care of salaries and other costs. All these corruptive tendencies have contributed immensely to the problem of lack of funds, which made ineffective the services they are supposed to provide for the rural areas.

Apart from corrupt practices by government officials, the leadership has been problematic. This was because it has not been accountable to the people. That is why Matanmi (2007) asserted that the people have noticed that the government at local, state or federal levels was reluctant to provide social amenities. It has compelled the coming together of inhabitants to form community development associations that will address some of the socio-economic wants of the community. As noted by (Udensi et al., 2012), who argues that common to the problems of community development associations and rural development is the challenge of leadership (Governance). This has been a serious predicament to successful community development, peoples' involvement, mobilisation in decision making as regards community development programmes.

Therefore, from all the literature that has been reviewed, Imo state as part of the south has community development associations that performed better than the community development associations in Plateau state. It has created a gap between community development associations in Imo and Plateau states.

The gap created has a lot of effects on rural development in Plateau state. As rightly observed:

that the conditions of rural areas in Plateau state, the various sectors of the economy have been grossly affected as a result of leadership problem. In providing potable drinking water, boreholes, wells cannot take care of the population; the people use to drink the same water with animals which can cause diseases (Davou, 2002).

Furthermore, the inability of the institutions in community development projects within the state to curb the crises of rural development has continued unabated. As asserted by Abonyi and Nnamani (2011) besides:

that rural hardship continues in Plateau state. Notwithstanding the success created by the nation's oil wealth's as revealed by the struggle experienced in getting essential daily needs like shelter, food, and water. The lack of these relevant amenities in local communities has forced some people to move to cities with the belief that their standard of living will improve.

In line with this assertion, Abah (2010) stated that the terrible condition of the local communities is evident. And more annoying is that with the small number of plans and agendas put in place and executed by the government. In the past years have not yielded any relevant improvement in the development of the local villages in the state (Ezeah, 2005).

However, the existing literature shows that the local communities in Plateau state have not received the attention they deserve in terms of various rural and

community development policies and programmes. As a consequence, the local communities are severely affected in terms of the provision of social infrastructural facilities. It was because the rural development policies in Plateau state were a top-down approach.

This situation was noted by (Blackman, 2003; Akpomunje, 2010) that despite the outcry for a bottom-up approach to rural development. The project recipients have been denied of taking part in the monitoring and assessment of the programmes, identification, planning, implementation of the projects that are to develop their well-being. The statement was further confirmed in the words of (APO, 2002; Thwala, 2010), even when a component of involvement is built into projects. It is often mainly incorporating the use of local investment of labour and not necessarily taking part in decision-making. The recipients' communities are only informed after plans have been executed. It is done through formal meetings, where the officers justify their policies. Still, changes by communities are not put into consideration.

To further elucidate the point, the conditions of rural areas in Nigeria and Plateau state inclusive:

that the backward conditions of local communities in the country are visible rather than a mere appearance. It stated that most of the states and local administrations are lacking in high-tech substructure or all the necessities of life. The supply of electricity has reduced; the supply of pipe-borne water doesn't exist; the schools have inadequate equipment. In contrast, other infrastructures have severely deteriorated with so many hospitals as a death trap rather than health care centers. While some of the existing roads are now in a lamentable situation. That a preponderance increase in the number of street beggars and its attendant general restlessness has become a grave threat to socio-economic advancement (Obanigwe, 1991; Abiodun, 1998; Maureen, 2005).

1.3 Research Questions

The main research question examines community-based organizations within the social capital concept that drives society to rely on this third force for continuous improvement in society's livelihood. The holistic idea of community-based development and social capital works within the assumption that collective actions will improve the wellbeing of the needy community. However, outcomes vary despite similar demographic and economic characteristic. The following research questions are designed to test community development associations in Plateau state with Imo state as the benchmark to measure the advantages and disadvantages.

1. What are the factors that limit the contributions of community development associations in Plateau state?
2. Why Community Development Associations in Imo state are better than Plateau state?

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objectives of this research are;

1. To investigate the factors that limit community development associations' contributions to rural development in Plateau state.
2. To investigate the factors that made community development associations in the south like Imo and Osun perform better than community development associations in Plateau State despite similar economic and demographic characteristics.

1.5 Significance of The Study

The study of community development associations and rural development is very imperative among men, women and children in Plateau State. This is because if implemented, it will improve the standard of living of the people.

The research work will proffer solutions to solve the numerous problems that are facing community development associations and rural development at the local level. Also, the study will serve equally as reference material for scholars in the field of community development associations and rural development projects at the local level. Moreover, the study will educate the general public, especially the people at the grass-root level about the need to participate in rural development activities rather than depending on the government for everything.

Besides, the study will be relevant to policymakers to enable them to realise the importance of involving people in rural development programmes. That is by adopting a bottom-up approach rather than the top-down approach in solving rural problems. It re-orientates and educates civil society organisations as a whole to reorganise themselves and make them relevant as the vanguard of rural development in Nigeria. The research work will serve as a roadmap for sub-Saharan Africa to follow a part of rural development as the panacea for their overall development as a continent.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research work covers the activities of community development associations and rural development in Imo and Plateau states in Nigeria.

Nigeria as a country is operating a federal system of government. The country adopted a quasi-federalism, which made up of the following levels: Central

government, the States and the Local Governments. The country is made up of 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. So, Plateau State is one of the 36 States in Nigeria, and it has 17 local governments that made up the state. The research work covered three community development associations for each of the local governments making a total of 51 community development associations. In a similar manner, Imo state is one of the 36 states, and has about 27 local governments. The research work covered one community development association from 20 local governments. The reason for the selection was because, these community development associations are exceptional in terms of performance in communal engagements. Also, they are homogeneous in terms of characteristics.

The study tried to find out about the contributions of community development associations and rural development in Plateau state. The general problems facing community development associations. The factors limiting the operations of community development associations and rural development activities in Plateau state, whether the people are satisfied with the provision of social amenities by both the government and community development associations. To identify the areas of need according to the scale of preference and try to find out why community development associations in Imo state performed better than those on the Plateau.

Therefore, Plateau state has over 100 community development associations. Still, about 51 community development associations are carefully selected as the representative of all community development associations in the state. The justification for the selection is that these community development associations are the most active and prominent in terms of community and rural development activities in the state. So, the period covered by the research work on community development

associations and rural development in Plateau state and southern states in Nigeria is 2000 to 2019.

The outcome of this research was limited by;

1. The research covered only sampled community development associations in Plateau State. As a result, one must be cautious of making general statements as regards their activities. This is because it does not cover all the community development associations in Plateau State and community development associations in Imo State
2. The researcher faced with the problem of funds, which limited the scope of the research work.
3. In the process of the research, the researcher used the interview scheduled to obtain the views of the respondents. In this regard, the researcher and research assistants made an effort to interpret the items in the interview scheduled to the respondents. The respondents were assured of the confidentiality of their responses. As a consequence, there may be bias responses or reservations; this is because of the social status of an individual involved in the interview.

1.7 Operational Definition of Terms

1.7.1 Community

The concept "community" is defined in various ways by different authors as stated by (Ferrinho, 1980; Tefera, 2004) describes the community as a political system that emerged when people of a given locality settle in a given area. These people shared common features and interests and build an associational life for common benefits.

However, (Garcia, Giuliani & Wiesenfeld, 1999; Tefera, 2004) note that individuals and community are inseparable with features that are both special and diverse. For (De Beer, Swanepoel & Hennie, 1998; Tefera, 2004), a community is seen as a particular geographic entity with common interests and needs of its members. A common characteristic running through these definitions and considered relevant to the above concept of community is that it deals with the gathering of people who reside in a particular geographical locality who have varieties of daily needs.

Therefore, a community is a socially, culturally and ecologically bounded group of inhabitants who have the resources, right to make a decision on any type of developmental activities for the benefits of the members of their community. In other words, the community is viewed as a clique of an organised set of people who occupy a particular territory. Who have economic, social, and cultural needs affecting the area which they occupy. It is a social setting in which members have common characteristics, shared interest and good social capital.

1.7.2 Community Development

Community development can be viewed as a process whereby people of the community unite to take a joint decision and find solutions to their common predicaments. The product of this community wellbeing includes socio-economic, cultural and environmental, which most at times emanates from this type of joint decision that are being undertaken at the communal level. Community development could have to do with an initiative from a minute group to an action that will involve the whole community (Flo & Anne, 2016). They further stated that for efficient community development to take place. There should be a long-term plan, well-planned, encompassing, holistic and integrated into the bigger picture. Started and

supported by the people of the locality, for the betterment of the community based on experience that leads to best practices. Community development is a social process by which communities become more responsive. They mobilise and have a collective strategy, develop healthy lifestyle opportunities, empower the people, eradicate poverty and suffering, create employment and economic opportunities, among others.

Community development deals with the ability to organise people of a community to be aware of their needs by sourcing resources within their environment to utilise these resources for the satisfaction of their needs.

1.7.3 Community Development Association

This could be seen as a registered nonprofit, nonpolitical, local nongovernmental humanitarian organisation established with the main task of complementing the effort of government towards the provision of public goods and services.

According to Daniel (2015: 1), ``Community development associations are usually a group of people within the same landed confines who then 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. 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 grassroot``.