



THE IMPACT OF EKITI STATE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EKCSDA) ON THE POOR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL POPULATION IN EKITI STATE.

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ABSTRACT :

This research work evaluates the impact of Ekiti State Community and Social Development Agency (EKCSDA) on the poor and development of the rural population with reference to Ekiti State. More so, it tries to ascertain whether EKCSDA has positively or negatively affected the lives of the poor and rural dwellers who constitute the majority in the State. The study has its methodology rooted in the survey research design and Community-Driven Development Approach as its theoretical framework. Six hundred (600) were used. Thereafter, the data collected from the field were analyzed through the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The research findings from the study revealed that EKCSDA has neither reduced the poverty level in Ekiti State nor increase the living condition of the rural dwellers. However, there is significant impact of the policy framework on poverty reduction among the people of Ekiti State. Also, there is significant influence in the usage of Community-Driven Development Approach on poverty reduction in Ekiti State. The study further indicated that there is no significant effect of financial and other forms of support given to EKCSDA in Ekiti State. Also, there is significant influence of alternative policy option on improving the operation of EKCSDA in Ekiti State. Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that; government policy on poverty should be well articulated and domesticated as this will help in engendering both economic and political emancipation of the poor and rural dwellers. People's oriented approach should be constantly encouraged in EKCSDA's design and implementation of projects in order to enhance better performance. Government should intensify more efforts by increasing budgetary allocation to EKCSDA on yearly basis as the population increases in order to alleviate the rate of poverty prevalence in Ekiti State. In addition, EKCSDA should align with the previous and subsequent government intervention policies so as to enhance better performance of the scheme.

Keywords: Poverty, Development, Rural Dwellers, Policy and Participation.

Introduction :

Poverty is a global phenomenon. However, poverty in Nigeria context remains a recurring decimal and paradox as the level of poverty appears as a contradiction considering the country's immense wealth and the huge human and material resources that have been committed to its eradication and/or reduction by successive governments in the past and present, with little or no significant success achievable from such efforts as it has manifested in the lives of the vast majority of the population having no access to; shelter, food, clothing, security, safe water, job opportunity, health facilities, electricity, education, among others. Thus, poverty means a condition in which a person is deprived of or lack the essentials for minimum standard of living (World Bank Report, 1999). In other words, it is a state of deprivation and inability to satisfy the basic requirements and/or infrastructures for human survival. These are; food, cloth, shelter, health, education, safe water and other benefits associated thereto. Since poverty remains one of the development issues in the global village, it has continue to capture the attention of both national government and international development agencies across the globe for many years. As a matter of fact, since the colonial era till date, poverty eradication has always been a major policy concern for various governments (military and civilian) in Nigeria but unfortunately, the Nigerian State is seen as 'personal estate' by the few powerful political elite who are found of using our 'commonwealth' to enrich themselves and their accomplices instead of promoting the general welfare of the populace. Record shows that seven (07) out of every Nigerians live on less than \$1 per day which happen to be one of the highest poverty rates in Sub-Sahara Africa and this has make it extremely difficult for an average Nigerian to contribute meaningfully to the society and ultimately become liability to the nation (UNICEF, 2001; NEEDS,2004;and USAID,2006).

The poverty profile of Ekiti State as being succinctly captured by the report of the Core- Welfare Indicator Questionnaire Survey of 2002 is as follows; about three- quarter – 74.8 per cent of the population had access to water while only 46.9 per cent had access to safe water in spite of the fact that the State is blessed with abundant water resources located in the three senatorial districts. Almost, 79.4 per cent of the house used firewood as a source of fuel for cooking while kerosene accounted for 20.6 percent of the usage in the State. About 53 per cent of the households used toilets, uncovered latrines, 30.1 percent while the rest had no toilet facilities. The adult literacy rate was 69.7 per cent which disaggregated into 71.7 per cent and 64.7 per cent for urban and rural areas respectively (FOS, 2002). Ironically, after over two decades of this evaluation exercise, our research findings pointed to the fact that the living standard of an average Ekiti indigene has not improved significantly but continued to worsen, hence, poverty has become a major concern in the State in spite of her rich potentials.

The region constituting Ekiti State evidently lack the basic and necessary infrastructure that can adequately promote the growth and development of the State. This is clearly manifested in the absence of reliable supply of electricity, good roads networks, pipe-borne water, adequate and health care delivery, amongst others. One major factor responsible for this glaring under-development in the State is due to persistent neglect of the State by the successive government. The attendant consequences of this long period of neglect has contributed negatively to the living standard of the people, hence, poverty is unabated in the State (Ajumobi, 2004). More worrisome is the fact that Ekiti State has the resources to tackle poverty in all its ramifications, yet she has not been able to effectively transform the lives of her people to an acceptable standard. Therefore, as part of the developmental agenda to promote the general well-being of her citizenry, Ekiti State government established Ekiti State Community- Based Poverty Reduction Agency (EKCPRA) now known as Ekiti State Community Social and Development Agency (EKCSDA) in 1999 which aimed at alleviating the suffering of the people through the provision of essential services. However, after two decades of the existence of this programme, there is still evidences of mass poverty and under-development in Ekiti State. Hence, this led to the following questions:

- i. has EKCSDA successfully reduced poverty in Ekiti State?
- ii. does EKCSDA engaged in Community Driven Development Approach in a bid to reduce poverty and/or development?
- iii. is government committed to EKCSDA in terms of adequate funding and other supports?
- iv. what are the major challenges facing EKCSDA and how could such challenges be dealt with?

Therefore, this research work examined the impact of Ekiti State Community and Social Development Agency (EKCSDA) on the poor and the development of the rural population in Ekiti State by providing answer to the questions raised.

Literature Review :

Concept of Poverty

An attempt to arrive at a universally acceptable definition of poverty has always been very contentious among the scholars. However, World Bank (1995) sees poverty as an acceptable human deprivation in terms of economic opportunity, education, health and nutrition as well as lack of empowerment and security. In another perspective, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) equally introduces two relevant concepts. One is on Human Development – It is defined as a process that enlarges people’s choices including freedom, dignity, self-respect and social status. The second one is on Human Poverty which refers to the deprivation of essential capabilities such as long and healthy life, knowledge, economic resources and popular participation (UNDP, 1996). The civil society in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) conceives poverty as lack of means to satisfy basic materials and social needs as well as a “feeling of powerlessness” (PRSPs, 2003). By and large, we shall align with the view of Nnonyelu who perceives poverty as ‘a state of denial of or lack of access to the basic amenities (socio-economic, political and psychological) which are necessary for the sustenance of life. It is a condition whereby an individual, a group or community finds it extremely excruciating to meet the demands and challenges of day-to-day existence (Nnonyelu, 2015).

Concept of Development

The concept of development is one of the dominant factors in the dictionary of political economy. It features prominently in the analysis of the relations between the global North and global South in the discourse on global economic relations. Writing specifically on development, Duffield asserts that development is a normative process of becoming; a series of inter connecting movement leading from poverty and vulnerability to security and well-being (Duffield, 1994). Anderson and Woodrow also defines development as a process through which people’s physical or material; social or organizational; motivational or attitudinal vulnerabilities are reduced and capacities are increased (Anderson and Woodrow,1989). To Seer, development is the creation of conditions for the realization of human personality and this means a reduction in poverty, unemployment and inequality. It is all about change in social, economic and political structures within and among countries. Its evaluations, he maintains should take into account three linked economic criteria, that is, whether there has been a reduction in poverty, unemployment and inequality (Seer, 1972).

The extensive review of the various definitions of development is purposive so as to enable us to ascertain the real meaning of development. Be that as it may, there is a common arrangement among all the scholars that development is self-reliance in which people of a given society are mobilized in order to transform economic and social environment for their personal well-being and those other humanity. It is a development strategy which relies mainly on people’s ability to bring about self-generating and self-sustaining socio-economic and political system which is problem-searching, problem-learning and problem-solving. Development, therefore is a dialectical phenomenon which is far from being static, rather dynamic and it assumes a continuous transformation process and a movement towards better and improved conditions, locally and in relation to the international economic order (Baster as quoted in Akinlade, Aderibigbe and Odewusi, 2013).

From the above definitions, it is very easy to deduce that the concept of development depicts constant and general improvement in human living conditions socially, politically, economically and environmentally. Therefore, development in its genuine sense must focus on the people to whom development is meant for. It is for this reason that Efemini (2010) supported the position of Ake as thus:

Development is a human-centered concept. It has little or no meaning when it is situated outside the content of human beings. In their words, development unlike growth is all about human welfare. Development is not only about production but also about how production impacts on people's living conditions (Efemini, 2010 : 38)

The Concept of Rural Development

There seems to be no consensus on the definition of rural development. All the same, we shall consider few of them for better understanding of the subject- matter. Diejomoah [1973] defines rural development as a process of not only increasing the level of per capita income in the rural areas but also the standard of living of rural population measured by food and nutrition level, health, education, housing, recreation and security. World Bank [1975] also describes rural development as a process through which rural poverty is alleviated by sustained increase in the productivity and income instead of redistributing current income and assets. To Olayide [1979] rural development is the process whereby concerted efforts are made in order to facilitate significant increase in rural resources and productivity in rural communities. This definition is embedded in the concept of Integrated Rural Development [IRD] which is facilitated by linkages in rural activities which involves the goals of increasing opportunities, progressive adjustment in rural well-being and optimal balance between opportunities and corporate needs of the culture such that present and potential resources are brought into the most effective and efficient use for the rural dwellers. Summarily, rural development is seen as the social, political, economic and educational motivation of rural dwellers in order to enable them to rationally exploit and harness the resources of their environment for the general well-being of the entire society members.

It is in the realization of the above that the issue of rural development has gained popular attention and significance in recent times in Nigeria as indeed in most of the Third World countries. In spite of the focus, attention and resources committed to rural development, there has remained a large divide between the ideal and the manifest. In view of this, there is need for total over-hauling of rural development strategies as well as the modus operandi of prosecuting rural development, otherwise rural development will continue to be a mirage.

Despite several attempts by successive governments at all levels in the past towards alleviating poverty in Nigeria, the efforts have been largely ineffective. Extensive study of the past approaches at poverty alleviation indicated that the dismissal impacts of these interventions were essentially due to inadequacies in their method of execution and mode of delivery. The following inadequacies were observed;

- i. Projects were poorly targeted as they were mostly supply-driven as a result of little or no involvement of the targeted beneficiaries in the identification of their basic needs.
- ii. Lack of community participation in the design, implementation and maintenance of projects which led to misdirected funds, lack of maintenance and sustainability.
- iii. Programmes were sectoral in nature and did not consider the cross cutting or multi-sectoral nature of poverty.

Several development programmes in Nigeria have been managed with 'top down' approach both at the design and implementation stages. The people at the grassroots who are the beneficiaries of these programmes are not duly partnered with. Often, there is lack of awareness among the stakeholders on the rationale for development. Programme is either mid-way or poorly implemented due to lack of support from the community. The search for service delivery mechanisms that are demand-driven, covering multiple sectors and depending on specific community-determined needs, therefore, became increasingly necessary. This led to an advocacy and search for a better strategy that would address the problems of past programs and effectively contribute to poverty reduction in the country. The result of this search was the conception of the Community-Driven Development [CCD] and/or Participatory Development [PD] approach.

The Community-Driven Development /Participatory Development approach is an important element of an effective poverty reduction strategy. Poor people are often viewed as the target of poverty reduction efforts. By contrasts, it treats poor people and their institutions as initiators, collaborators and as resources on which to build. This approach broadly defined as giving control of decisions and resources to community groups. Community-Driven Development/ Participatory Development frameworks often link participation, community management of resources, good governance and decentralization. It is directly relevant across sectors for provision of goods and services that are within the management of community organizations.

Flowing from the above, the importance of Community-Driven Development approach to generate practical economic development is remarkable as over the years, a good number of studies have identified the importance of the involvement of the people in the successful implementation of development projects. It is against this background that Ijaiya [2002] listed countries like China, Uganda, Philippines, Brazil, India and Kenya who had success stories of project performance because of the involvement of the people who are meant to benefit from them. Kwakwa [2002], Jega, 2003 and Bello [2006] equally identified with this approach and they termed it political empowerment of the poor people and partnership for change.

The strength of this approach lies on the fact that it measures people's involvement in developmental programmes and poverty alleviation policies. One major reason advanced and behind every limited success of poverty alleviation policies is the non-involvement of the people in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and projects they are supposed to embark on. As a poverty alleviation mechanism, Holt [1991] states that participation is a necessary component of effective and sustainable poverty reduction programme since it enhances project effectiveness because poor people's input helps to identify needs and local constraints, it increases project targeting by reducing leakage to elite, it allows for local resources mobilization that plays very important role in generating local commitment to programme goals, it enhances people's involvement, thus, reducing the financial and administrative processes on government when local resources mobilization and human resources development components are involved and contributes substantially to programmes financial and institutional sustainability.

No doubt, a number of countries had shown that Community-Driven Development approach is an important tool for economic development in the areas of project performances and in alleviating poverty. For instance, Uganda, an urban pilot project in Kampala has effectively built partnerships between civil communities and local government focusing on the improvement of the welfare of the urban poor. In addition, the Kampala City Council in partnership with the World Bank and United Nations Development Programmes initiated a demand-driven community-based approach to address the problem of providing basic services to the poor. A key element of the theory has been strong community support which focuses on specific technological interventions and training [Ijaiya, 2006].

In the light of the foregoing, the organizational structure of communities in Ekiti State and coupled with the manner in which decisions are made within the communities, the findings of the assessment survey indicated that a Community-Driven Development Approach for community-based poverty reduction is the best and most suitable for this research work.

Theories of Poverty

The causes of poverty are multi-dimensional in nature and this explains why the causes cannot be easily exhausted within the limit of this research work. Nevertheless, we shall succinctly highlight some of the causes as it relates to Nigeria and Ekiti State in particular. Notable theoretical approaches woven around the reasons and/or causes of poverty were given by Akeredolu-Ale (1975) and Sheriffdeen (1997) and these are; individual attribute theory of poverty, power theory of poverty, capitalist entrepreneurial theory of poverty and corruption theory of poverty.

The individual attribute theory of poverty argues that the poor in our society are the architect of their own calamities and misfortunes. The central argument of this theory is that individual's location in the society hierarchy of income and wealth is assumed to be largely determined by that individual's motivations, attitudes, capacities and abilities. Hence, it is believed that an individual who found himself/herself in poverty may likely be as a result of low or lack of motivation, initiative and inability to think deeply and reasonably. To a large, this theory attributed poverty to individual weaknesses and strengths. In other words, those who are diligent and hardworking are bound to succeed while the lazy ones are equally bound to be poor thereby giving rise to the non-poor and poor respectively. However, this may not be the truth in all cases as there are forces outside the scope of an individual and these forces are usually determined by the prevailing property system such as property, class relations and power and it varies from one nation to another.

The power theory of poverty holds the view that the structure of political power in a given society determines the level of poverty being experienced by the citizens. In this regard, the powerful few political elite usually established and legitimizes an exploitative property system through which resources, opportunities, income, power, wealth, e .t .c., are allocated in their favour and State machineries are constantly used to maintain the status-quo to their own advantage. Consequently, political power is organized in such a manner that will force the economic system to suit their selfish interest alone, hence, a vast number of disadvantaged citizens remain poor; a vicious cycle of poverty is entrenched and the poor continues to be poor while the rich becoming richer. The extent of the success of the exploiting class will definitely depend on the political consciousness and organizational capacity of the oppressed class to resist exploitation and overthrow the oppressive class system. This theory specifically fits into Nigeria situation whereby the majority are political naïve and gullible and the ruling political elite often capitalized on this in order to keep them in poverty.

The capitalist entrepreneurial theory of poverty asserts that the crude exploitation of the workers constitute a major factor in the emergence of the poor class in the society. This is made possible through low wages/salaries. Furthermore, poor conditions of service often lead to pauperization of the working class. In this theory, it can equally be argued that capitalism brings about fundamental social problems including income-inequality which leads to poverty as wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few minority who are always bent on pursuing profit through the exploitation of labour at the expense of the poor. This theory of exploitation clearly explain what has been happening to the poor masses who are frequently being subjected to poverty by the bourgeoisie so as to glean profits and capital via exploitation of the proletariat.

The corruption theory of poverty as observed by the then Prime-minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is highly relevant to Nigeria. In 1950, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa said that the 'twin causes of bribery and corruption pervade every rank and department of government'. At that time, the word 'awoof' was already being used to describe how civil servants used their positions to enrich themselves. In a similar episode, in 1968, a Polish-British Sociologist named Stanislav Andreski coined the term 'kleptocracy' to describe the system of government he found in Nigeria. He said that Nigeria is the most perfect example of kleptocracy since power itself rests on the ability to bribe. The above theory as explained by Sheriffdeen (1997) is also related to Nigeria. In this case, a two-way causation between poverty and corruption is established. Unarguably, the Nigeria 'national poverty' is a combination of individual 'ill being' which is directly or indirectly a function of personal and collective corruption which has remained the trouble with Nigeria till date. The pervasive corruption in Nigeria has no doubt hinder development with the result that the vast majority of the people now live below poverty line.

Empirical Review :

A study conducted by Opafunso and Okhankhuele (2014), assesses the impact of Ekiti State government's intervention projects on poverty alleviation programme in six local government areas covering the three senatorial districts of the State between 2007 and 2011. The study attempts to find answers to questions like – what were the intervention programmes executed in six local Government Areas? Who were the providers of these projects and to what extent did the government's intervention projects impact on the lives of the people? The finding reveals that development projects were implemented by the government especially in the area of health, education, provision of water, electricity supply and distribution, construction and rehabilitation of rural roads and bridges as well as provision of micro-credit to farmers, traders and artisans but the impact were insignificant. It holds that despite all the plans, policies, programmes and strategies carried out by the previous governments, international and non-governmental agencies in the country, much could not be achieved. It further established that those who live in rural areas still wallow in abject poverty. The study therefore recommends that there must be well-planned programmes as well as ensure adequate financing of the initiatives.

Ogundele (2013), in a research on the performance of State subsidized housing scheme in Ogun State, evaluates the building performance of State subsidized house scheme and ascertained that the public housing estate has not fulfilled the initial design/goal of government and the needs of the users with regards to the occupants' satisfaction. The objectives of the study are to examine housing delivery process, evaluate the physical characteristics and conditions of the housing units, in addition, to examine the socio-economic characteristics of the residents, ascertain factors which influence levels of residents' expectations and satisfaction with the housing estates and compare the occupants' expectations of the housing units. The findings shows that there is need for more government participation in the provision of housing. The study also discovered that lack of basic infrastructures such as pipe-borne water, good roads, hospital, schools, police stations, shopping centres and recreational facilities, among others, are factors causing

dissatisfaction amongst residents of the estate visited. The study therefore advocates for more governmental intervention in effective and efficient services provision.

Ugwu and Kanu (2011), evaluates the effect of reforms in Nigeria's agricultural sector undertaken by government over a period of about three decades to cover the exploitative strategy, agricultural project strategy ,direct production strategy and integrated rural development strategy. It emphasizes that the purpose of the reform strategies were to achieve food self-sufficiency and ultimately, food security to attain generation of gainfully employed, increased production of raw materials for industries, increased production and processing of export crops and rational utilization of agricultural technologies for the improvement of lives of the citizens. The study established that during the period under review, agricultural contributed minimally in terms of output market, foreign exchange and capital formation or transfer as a result of policy instability, poor coordination of policies, poor implementation and mismanagement of policy instrument and lack of transparency. It , however, recommends that an enduring genuine democracy and good governance should be allowed to thrive in Nigeria in order to achieve poverty reduction , sustainable livelihood and food security.

Methodology :

The researcher adopted the descriptive research design of survey to obtain data from six hundred (600) respondents. The study specifically targeted the beneficiaries of EKCSDA, artisans, market women, unemployed youths and the general public in Ekiti State. The respondents were selected using simple random sampling method believed to be a representative of the entire population. The quantitative data collected for the study was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics of mean scores and Standard Deviation was used. While Chi square, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis and One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) are the inferential statistics adopted in the study.

Result and Interpretation :

Descriptive Analysis

Table 1: Respondents' demographic characteristics.

Demographic Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	272	45.3
	Female	328	54.7
	Total	600	100.0
Marital Status	Married	350	58.3
	Widowed	142	23.7
	Divorced/Separated	63	10.5
	Never Married	45	7.5
	Total	600	100.0
Age	18 – 40	183	30.5
	41 – 60	363	60.5
	61 and Above	54	9.0
	Total	600	100.0
Education	No formal Education	98	16.3
	Primary/Secondary	164	27.3
	NCE/OND	189	31.5
	Others	149	24.8
	Total	600	100.0
Employment Status	Employed or on salary	306	51.0
	Engaged but unemployed	201	33.5
	Unemployed and not engaged	93	15.5
	Total	600	100.0
Job Categories	Trader/Entrepreneur	139	23.2
	Artisan/Farmer/Driver	165	27.5
	Civil servant	234	39.0
	Corporate Employee	24	4.0
	Large scale Business	21	3.5
	International Employee	17	2.8
	Total	600	100.0
Income (₦)	Below 20,000	125	20.8
	20,000 – 40,000	174	29.0
	40,000 – 60,000	105	17.5

60,000 – 80,000	69	11.5
80,000 – 100,000	56	9.3
Above 100,000	71	11.8
Total	600	100.0

Source: Researcher's field survey (2024)

Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of the respondents sampled in this study. Based on the result, majority of the respondents were female respondents. It was shown that with respect to the respondents' marital status, 350 respondents representing (58.3%) were married, 142 respondents representing (23.7%) were either divorced or separated, while 45 respondents representing (7.5%) were never married. Also, In relation to the age of the respondents, the majority of the respondents were between 41 and 60 years of age, which is **60.5%**. In relation to the educational qualifications of the respondents, it was shown that 98 (16.3%) of the respondents had no formal education, 164 (27.3%) of the respondents had primary/secondary education, 189 (31.5%) of the respondents had NCE/OND or equivalent qualification while the remaining 149 (24.8%) of the respondents had other higher qualifications. On employment status, it was revealed that most of the respondents 306 representing (51.0%) were either employed or on monthly salary. In relation to the class of job of the respondents, most of the respondents 234 (39.0%) were civil servants. On the monthly income of the respondents, majority of the respondents [174 (29.0%)] merely earn between ₦20,000 and ₦40,000 monthly.

Research Question 1:

Has EKCSDA successfully reduced poverty in Ekiti state?

Table 2: Analysis of whether EKCSDA had successfully reduced poverty in Ekiti State

S/N	Items	N	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	The establishment of EKCSDA has brought a change in the lives of the people in Ekiti State	600	2.92	1.027	Yes
2.	EKCSDA rural community projects like electrifications, borehole-waters, road construction, among others, has boosted economic development of rural communities in Ekiti State.	600	3.76	.765	Yes
3.	The intervention of EKCSDA in the provision of infrastructural facilities in the rural areas of Ekiti State has helped to reduce mass movement of the people from rural to urban centres	600	1.85	.752	No
4.	The creation of EKCSDA by Ekiti State government has reduced poverty level in Ekiti State	600	1.88	.749	No
5.	The establishment of EKCSDA has generally increase the living conditions to an acceptable standard in Ekiti State	600	1.86	.755	No

The result in Table 2 indicated that the establishment of EKCSDA has brought a change in the lives of the people in Ekiti State, such as electrifications, borehole-waters, road construction, among others and has boosted economic development of rural communities in the State. However, the intervention of EKCSDA in the provision of infrastructural facilities in the rural areas of Ekiti State has not really helped to reduce mass movement of the people from rural to urban centres, neither reduced the poverty level in the state, nor generally increase the living conditions to an acceptable standard in Ekiti State.

Research Question 2:

Does EKCSDA engaged in Community- Driven Development approach in a bid to reduce poverty and/or under-development in Ekiti state?

Table 3: Analysis of the approach of EKCSDA interventions in Ekiti State

S/N	Items	N	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	The people of Ekiti State were involved and participated in the design and implementation of EKCSDA projects	600	3.71	.743	Yes
2.	The poor ones are included among the personnel that designs and implements various EKCSDA interventions	600	2.74	.751	Yes
3.	EKCSDA projects are more citizen friendly and does not appear artificial construct to siphon resources	600	3.73	.771	Yes
4.	EKCSDA programmes are gender biased and favour a particular sex	600	1.81	.668	No
5.	Less privilege people were carried along in the programmes and areas of intervention of EKCSDA activities	600	2.79	.770	Yes

The result in Table 3 indicated that the people of Ekiti State were involved and participated in the design and implementation of EKCSDA projects, as the poor ones were included among the personnel that designs and implements various EKCSDA interventions. EKCSDA programmes and projects were more citizen friendly and does not appear artificial construct to siphon resources, not gender biased in favour of a particular sex, and that the less

privilege people were carried along in the programmes and areas of intervention of EKCSDA activities.

Research Question 3:

Has EKCSDA been given adequate financial and other supports by the State government in order to succeed?

Table 4: Analysis of the performance of EKCSDA with regards to her financial allocation

S/N	Items	N	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	Government / donors have adequately financed EKCSDA projects through budgetary allocation	600	1.83	.649	No
2.	There is possibility of achieving better results if EKCSDA projects are adequately funded	600	3.55	.708	Yes
3.	Funds allocated to finance EKCSDA programmes or projects are sometime mismanaged	600	2.68	.762	Yes
4.	The exigency of growing responsibilities of Ekiti State affects the proper funding of EKCSDA	600	2.69	.770	Yes
5.	The achievements of EKCSDA so far do correlate with the financial allocations from Ekiti State government	600	3.78	.789	Yes

The result in Table 4 indicated that Government / donors does not adequately financed EKCSDA projects through budgetary allocation, which gave indication that achieving better results is only possible if EKCSDA projects are adequately funded. Though, funds allocated to finance EKCSDA programmes or projects was believed to be sometime mismanaged, and that the exigency of growing responsibilities of Ekiti State affects the proper funding of EKCSDA, it was generally believed that the achievements of EKCSDA so far do correlate with the financial allocations from Ekiti State government.

Research Question 4:

What are the major challenges facing EKCSDA and how could such challenges be dealt with?

Table 5: Analysis of the deficiencies of EKCSDA and recommendations

S/N	Items	N	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	Lack of adequate data bank for the poor has hindered proper planning for the poor ones.	600	2.77	.774	Yes
2.	Inadequate public enlightenment/awareness on issues relating to the development of the poor is a major constraint.	600	3.54	.730	Yes
3.	Neglect of similar initiatives by the successive administration has promoted poverty in Ekiti State	600	3.61	.728	Yes
4.	The negative attitude of the beneficiaries brought about the lapses of EKCSDA interventions	600	2.61	.727	Yes
5.	EKCSDA should be aligned with previous and subsequent government intervention to enhance better performance	600	2.62	.775	Yes

The result in Table 5 indicated that there is lack of adequate data bank for the poor which hindered proper planning for the poor ones. Also, inadequate public enlightenment/awareness on issues relating to the development of the poor is a major constraint, hence, EKCSDA should continue to adopt people participatory approach to design and implementation projects to enhance better performance, as neglect of similar initiatives by the successive administration has promoted poverty in Ekiti State, and that the negative attitude of the beneficiaries brought about the lapses of EKCSDA interventions, therefore EKCSDA should be aligned with previous and subsequent government intervention to enhance better performance.

Hypotheses Testing :

Hypothesis 1:

There is no significant impact of the policy framework of EKCSDA on poverty reduction among the people of Ekiti state.

Table 6: Chi square analysis of the impact of the policy framework of EKCSDA on poverty reduction among the people of Ekiti state

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)	Point Probability
Pearson Chi-Square	185.016 ^a	15	.000	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	188.472	15	.000	.000		

Fisher's Exact Test	22.069			.000		
Linear-by-Linear Association	81.866	1	.817	.898	.457	.099
N of Valid Cases	600					

a. 2 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.28.

The result of the analyses in table 6 showed the impact of the policy framework of EKCSDA on poverty reduction among the people of Ekiti state. The chi-square test revealed that calculated χ^2 (.000) was lesser than the significant level at the 0.05 with a point probability value of (.099). This implies that there is significant impact of the policy framework of EKCSDA on poverty reduction among the people of Ekiti state; hence the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is significant impact of the policy framework of EKCSDA on poverty reduction among the people of Ekiti state.

Hypothesis 2:

There is no significant influence of using Community- Driven Developmental approach on poverty reduction in Ekiti state.

Table 7: Correlation between using Community-Driven Developmental approach and poverty reduction in Ekiti state.
Correlations

		Community driven approach	Poverty reduction
Community driven approach	Pearson Correlation	1	.357**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	337.918	123.507
	Covariance	.564	.206
	N	600	600
Poverty reduction	Pearson Correlation	.357**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	123.507	354.693
	Covariance	.206	.592
	N	600	600

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 7 showed the correlation between using community driven developmental approach and poverty reduction in Ekiti state. The table revealed that the calculated Pearson Correlation Sig. value (0.357) which was less than the table value 3.84 (at the 95% level of confidence) obtained for responses on using community driven developmental approach and poverty reduction in Ekiti state. The covariance however was (.564) and (.592) respectively. This indicated that community driven developmental approach has a positive correlation on the poverty reduction in Ekiti State. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there was significant positive influence of using community driven developmental approach on poverty reduction in Ekiti state.

Hypothesis 3:

There is no significant effect of financial and other forms of support given to EKCSDA on poverty reduction in Ekiti state.

Table 8: One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the effect of financial and other forms of support given to EKCSDA on poverty reduction in Ekiti state.
ANOVA

Source	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	18.097	4	4.524	1.539	.140
Within Groups	282.197	595	.474		
Total	300.293	599			

P<0.05

The result in Table 8 shows the one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the effect of financial and other forms of support given to EKCSDA on poverty reduction in Ekiti state. It was revealed that F= 1.539, P= 0.140 which is greater than 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. This implies that there is no significant effect of financial and other forms of support given to EKCSDA on poverty reduction in Ekiti state.

Hypothesis 4:

There is no significant influence of alternative policy option on improving the operation of EKCSDA in Ekiti state.

Table 9: Correlation between alternative policy option and improving the operation of EKCSDA in Ekiti state.
Correlations

		Alternative policy option	Operation improvement
Alternative policy option	Pearson Correlation	1	.294**

	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	319.040	99.660
	Covariance	.533	.166
	N	600	600
	Pearson Correlation	.294**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
Operation improvement	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	99.660	359.598
	Covariance	.166	.600
	N	600	600

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 9 showed the correlation between alternative policy option and improving the operation of EKCSDA in Ekiti state. The table revealed that the calculated Pearson Correlation Sig. value (0.294) which was less than the table value 3.84 (at the 95% level of confidence) obtained for responses on using alternative policy option and improving the operation of EKCSDA in Ekiti state. The covariance however was (.533) and (.600) respectively. This indicated that alternative policy option has a positive correlation on the operational improvement of EKCSDA in Ekiti State. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is significant positive influence of alternative policy option on improving the operation of EKCSDA in Ekiti state.

Conclusion :

This study has confirmed the inability of the previous development plans and various poverty alleviation strategies in Nigeria since the colonial era to date, to make any appreciable impact on the lives of average Nigerians. This is inspite of the fact that each successive plan has harped on the need to raise the standard of living of the people to a reasonable extent. EKCSDA as an agency established for the purpose of eradicating poverty in Ekiti State is not an exception in this case as it has failed to significantly reduce poverty in Ekiti State. No doubt, EKCSDA has failed to address the underlying issues in poverty eradication due to paucity of fund, inadequate level of awareness, attitudinal problem, among others. To say the least, our continued existence as a united and conflict-free nation is hinged on the ability of the present generation of leaders to reduce the level of poverty to the barest minimum. It is hereby envisaged that if the menace of poverty is properly addressed, Nigeria will soon emerge as a free and democratic society; a society where respect for the worth and dignity of the individual is accorded to all irrespective of tribal and religious inclinations. Indeed, if all hands will be on deck to root out the menace from the social system, then there is hope for Nigeria to be a better place to live.

The study therefore recommends that the Government policy on poverty should be well articulated and domesticated as this will help in engendering both economic and political emancipation of the poor and rural dwellers. Government should intensify efforts by increasing budgetary allocation to EKCSDA on yearly basis as the population increases in order to alleviate the rate of poverty prevalence in Ekiti State. Also, People's oriented approach should constantly be incorporated into EKCSDA design and implementation of projects in order to enhance better performance. In addition, EKCSDA should try as much as possible to pay more attention to the level of awareness among the people with respect to the concrete and symbolic benefits of such programmes. Such awareness will in turn increase the level of support for the programme[s]. EKCSDA should align with the previous and subsequent government intervention policies so as to enhance better performance of the scheme. Finally, there should be a comprehensive and reliable data to capture all categories of the citizens so as to aid and facilitate planning for the future policies. This is because the use of biased data generally affects planning which eventually leads to failure of such a programme.

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