



ENVIRONMENTAL SPECTRUM

Journal of Faculty of Environmental Sciences
University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria

Vol. 1 No. 1 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECTRUM

Journal of Faculty of Environmental Sciences
University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria



A Publication of the
Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin
Ilorin, Nigeria

ISSN NO:

Volume 1, No. 1 2015

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The Maiden Issue of the Journal

This is the maiden edition of the Environmental Spectrum Journal and comprises of 13 research articles. These articles cover the various spectrum of the professions in the built environment. The articles contained in this journal are listed in the table of contents.

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General information for preparing manuscripts

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The Environmental Spectrum Journal (ESJ) is a bi-annual journal published by the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Ilorin.

Title

The title should be written at the top of the page in title case, 16 point bold, Times New Roman and centered. The title should be brief without abbreviations and where possible, be a statement of the main result or conclusion presented in the manuscript.

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Tables should be located close to the first reference to table in the text and should be numbered in Arabic numerals in the order in which they appear in the article. Table heading should be left aligned single line spacing on top of the table, initial cap.

Rural transformation as a key to Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Rural Development has been a front-burner issue in Nigeria simply because the majority of Nigerian people is rural dwellers. The importance of rural areas and its people cannot therefore be overlooked in a bid to have sustainable development, due to the fact that it is bedrock of the nation's development. The development of rural areas as the bedrock of rural transformation has long been neglected in Nigeria with the ascendancy of crude oil as the mainstay of the nation's economy. Despite the pivotal role of rural areas in production, the productivity of the rural masses is still low because of lack of effective transformation which, if properly done will obviously stimulates rural development, encourages rural industrialization and checks rural-urban migration and promotes the national economy. It is believed that despite the potentials attached to the rural areas and rural dwellers, emphasis and major focus of people and government are in the urban areas. But the major emphasis supposed to be placed in rural areas and how it is to be transformed by allocation of resources between physical, economic and social services. If rural areas are developed through proper transformation, it can develop the rural areas where most nations' resources are tapped as well as promote the economy of Nigeria. This review work suggested that all hands must be on deck to ensure that Nigerian rural communities are effectively transformed.

Keywords: Rural areas, rural development, rural transformation, sustainable development

1.0 Introduction

The development of rural areas as the bedrock of rural transformation has long been neglected in Nigeria with the ascendancy of crude oil as the mainstay of the nation's economy. The rural dwellers produced the chunk of Nigeria's staple foodstuffs, using crude implement and technology. The task of transforming rural-

Nigeria has remained the focus of successive governments in recent years.

Urban bias in Nigerian development policy is reflected in prices, institutional opportunities, availability and access to markets, health, infrastructure, communication and transport linkage and many other structural characteristics of national economies. Policy

analysts, policy advocates, and other stakeholders in the socioeconomic and political development in developing rural societies have over the years placed more emphasis on rural transformation as the best policy option to develop the rural areas and promote the economy of Nigeria. Consequently, they have implemented numerous rural development programmes such as operation feed the nation (1976), green revolution (1979), a directorate of foods, roads and rural infrastructure (1986), the national directorate of employment (1986), better life programme (1989), family support programme, national poverty eradication programme etc. that have largely failed to achieve their set goals and objectives.

Rural Development has been a front-burner issue in Nigeria simply because the majority of Nigerian people are rural dwellers. Indeed, increase in rural productivity must encompass mass participation of the rural population by mobilizing and allocating resources in such a manner that a balance is achieved between economic and social services. According to Eves, (2014) in most countries, rural property makes up the greatest percentage of the total area of the country but is not always the most valuable property type in that country. The rural environment plays a significant role in the national economy through the rural economy. This would eventually result in a better standard of living for the rural population (Eli, 1986). The above assertion pointed out that this would necessarily involve a redistribution of personal income of rural dwellers through the provision of job opportunities other than land bound activities for a sizeable proportion of the rural inhabitants (Ani, 1997). However, quite germane to agricultural production is the provision of basic and functional infrastructure that is embedded in effective rural transformation. Rural transformation either in physical or social forms can be used to bridge rural-urban gap, can aid the rural dwellers in

their production activities and enhance the quality of rural life’.

Rural transformation in Nigeria has become imperative in view of the fact that rural-Nigeria constitutes the largest percentage of Nigerian society, the most depressed segments and the potential reservoir of national foodstuffs, wealth and energy. According to Olayide et al (1979), greater percentage (about 70 percent) of the Nigerian total population lives in rural areas, and to a large extent depend on agriculture for food and income. However the United Nations (2009) reviewed and estimated that 48.3% of Nigeria’s population lives in the urban areas while the majority of the people (51.7%) live in the rural areas and they are largely engaged in agricultural production. In fact, they have remained traditional in their culture and despite their rural character they have been increasingly affected by decisions and activities which occur in small but growing urban areas in the country.

According to Olayide et al (1981), most Nigerian rural areas have the following peculiar characteristics; Low income, Low savings, Low investment, Low capital formation, Poor infrastructural facilities, e.g. health, road, electricity, etc., either absent or in a poor state, High population density, Gross illiteracy, Low social interaction, Local politics, Disguise or under employment, Informal groups, High rural-urban migration, Low technological base – There is low rate of transformation and abundant untapped resources resulting from the lack of skilled manpower.

Despite all these, the majority of urban residents rely directly or indirectly on government employment, which has been the major stimulus for urban growth. Studies have revealed that government employees are purely overhead expenses and that they are non-productive; and that the rural production in Nigeria is what sustains the country. Despite this pivotal role of rural production, the productivity of the rural masses is low because

of lack of transformation of rural areas which, if done will obviously stimulate rural development, encourage rural industrialization and check rural-urban migration and promote the national economy.

However, in recent times, the productivity of the rural masses has continued to decline. Rural transformation is therefore of fundamental importance for the achievement of sustainable development and broad-based economic growth, directly linked to food security and poverty reduction in Nigeria. This is because Nigeria is one of the nations where rural poverty has been increasing and per capita food production has been declining in recent time. The next section of this paper is on rural development concept; follow by third section on rural transformation. Section 4 is on development and transformation, while the fifth section examined the elements and models of rural transformation. The sixth section discussed the sustainability concept as it applies to rural transformation before the recommendations while section 8 concluded the review.

2.0 Rural Development

The word 'rural' has spatial, demographic, social, cultural, economic occupational or even nutritional dimensions (Wahab, (2007). The most definitions of rural emphasize on size and location. In term of demography, different nations used different population figures to define rural areas. But all encompassing, Wahab (2007) expatiate that rural area is characterized by small population size, long distance from urban centres, isolation, relative homogenous cultures, economy based on natural resources, strong sense of local identity, singleness of purpose, dull life, few non-natives, low crime rate, absence of secondary and tertiary level activities, closeness to nature, freedom, intimacy, wide open spaces etc.

Howard (1965) added that fresh air and low rent, water abundance, bright sunshine, idle

lying land, abundance of wood, meadow and forest, long hours and low wages and lack of drainage are noted features of the rural areas. Rural areas include huts, farmsteads, nomadic and temporary grazing hamlets, villages, farm settlements, logging hamlets, mining communities, hunting villages railroad community and holiday resorts.

Considering rural housing, Bello (2006) ranked rural housing under 3 classes: first class rural settlement characterized by traditional houses purely constructed with indigenous building materials and technology, second class rural settlement characterized by traditional houses built with modified indigenous building materials and technology and third class rural settlement characterized by traditional houses constructed with modern building materials and technology.

As regards the development, it could be generally defined as a process of sustained increases in total and per capita income accompanied by structural transformation and modernization of socioeconomic environment. It could be economic development or growth. Economic growth does not present the sources of increase in per capita income or the character of factors of production and infrastructural facilities. Economic development implies not merely the growth of per capita or real income, but also its distribution, the sources of growth, the development of infrastructure, and administrative framework essential to sustain economic growth.

Rural development is therefore "the process whereby concerted efforts are made to facilitate increase in rural resources productivity with the overall objectives of enhancing rural income, and increase in employment opportunities" (Eli, 1986) Rural development entails host of multi-sectoral activities, including the improvement of agriculture, the promotion of rural justice, the creation of requisite

infrastructure and social overheads, as well as the establishment of appropriate decentralized structures in order to allow mass participation (Madu & Umebali, 1993). World Bank policy paper on rural development of February 1975 defines rural development as 'a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of those who live in rural areas and for development agencies, the target is usually the rural poor'. The nature of the rural environment, to a reasonable extent, influences economic activities. Rural environment ensures that food is provided; rural industries are sustained through the provision of raw materials, providing income, etc.

It is therefore the responsibility of the government to encourage the rural people to remain in the rural areas and be engaged with one economic activity or another. Meanwhile, to achieve this, government should provide the necessary, infrastructure for life to be meaningful. Some decades ago, rural development was taken as agricultural development. This was due to the fact that a greater percentage of the total labour force is involved in agriculture and they live in rural areas.

The implication, therefore, was to develop agriculture, and then the rural areas would have been developed. Specifically, rural development has been defined as a process whereby concerted efforts are made in order to facilitate significant increases in rural resource productivity with the central objective of enhancing rural income and increasing employment opportunities in rural communities for rural dwellers to remain in the area. It is an integrated approach to food production, provision of physical, social and institutional infrastructures with an ultimate goal of bringing about qualitative changes which culminate in an improved standard of living of rural population. Rural development also involves effecting improvement in living standards of farmers and the rural populace in general. It is also seen as

increased production and processing of export crops, especially trees with a view to broadening the revenue base of the state. Rural development, therefore, implies effecting improvement in living standards of farmers and the rural populace in general. The main concern in rural development is to bring about the modernization of rural society through a transition from traditional isolation to integration with the nation.

Other aspect in rural development is the community development which was defined by United Nation's Economic and Social Council as a process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of government authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities into the life of the nation and enable them contribute fully in national progress (cited in Ibekwe: 1989:5). However, a more comprehensive definition of community development has been expressed in the "Community Development" of the International Cooperation Administration of the United States.

According to the agency, community development is a process of social action in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning and action, define their common and individual needs and problems, make group and individual plans to meet their problems, execute these plans with a maximum reliance upon local/community resources, and supplement those from government and non-government agencies outside the community. From the above analysis, we can deduce that community development involves the totality of community life and needs.

3.0 Rural Transformation Concept

The concept of rural transformation according to Mabogunje (1980), implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses so as to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with changes consequent upon this. As stated elsewhere, rural

transformation is a process of mobilizing and harnessing human and material resources of all the rural populaces with a view to improving their socioeconomic situations through qualitative and quantitative changes (Ogunnowo, 1997). In essence, rural transformation is a planned change in the living standards of the rural population and making the process of their development self-sustaining.

Rural transformation is perceived as a design to improve the economic and social conditions of rural inhabitants, which must involve strategies for extending the benefits of the development of the rural majority Coker (1990). The objectives of rural transformation efforts include the elimination of poverty, creation of rural employment opportunities, the elimination of major inequalities, and ensuring adequate participation of the rural populace in the transformation process. No matter the level of a nation's socioeconomic, political and technological advancement, the rural sector still plays an important role in its total economy.

In supporting this view Williams (1978) is of the opinion that without sound rural transformation, there can be no balanced national economic development. This suffices to say that economic development of a nation requires the growth and modernization of both the rural and urban sectors. Furthermore, since a very large proportion of the total population lives in the rural areas, no national development effort can claim to be successful without improving the quality of life of the rural dwellers. Rogers and Whiting (1976) have defined rural transformation not only as providing jobs and increased incomes for rural people, but also improving the quality of rural living through increased and improved community services.

Olayide et al (1979), in their own contribution said that rural transformation is a process whereby concerted efforts are made in order to facilitate significant increases in rural resource

productivity with the overall objectives of enhancing rural incomes and increasing employment opportunities in rural communities. Indeed, the coverage of rural transformation is very wide; it connotes efforts to increase production, and to root out the fundamental causes of poverty, disease and ignorance. It constitutes a process of planned change for which the one approach or the other is adopted for improvement and or transformation of the lot of the rural populace. It is concerned with the improvement of the living in the rural areas on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities.

According to Obinne (1991), it also involves creating and widening opportunities for individuals to realize full potential through education and share in the decision and action which affects their lives. An effort to increase rural output creates employment opportunities and root out the fundamental causes of poverty, diseases and ignorance. Rural transformation is perceived as a design to improve the economic and social conditions of rural inhabitants, which must involve strategies for extending the benefits of the development of the rural majority Coker (1990).

A number of strategies have been adopted for this process and these include agricultural development, infrastructural development, industrialization, and integrated rural development and community development in Nigeria. It is important that we remember that it is not simply "rural development" - trying to improve the quality of life of rural residents - but it is a complete trans-formation. This transformation would embody how these residents do business, the types of business, and the general attitude of policymakers towards the rural communities, therefore rural transformation should be given priority by the Nigeria Government.

Rural transformation, therefore, refers to any package designed to assist the rural people to move forward. The problems have been identified and notably enough, most Nigerians live in rural areas where they derive their livelihood. Governments at various levels have developed programmes that could enhance rural transformation. The aim is to significantly uplift the well-being of rural people to such a level that there will be a general enhancement in the quality of the lives of the majority.

4.0 The Need for Rural Transformation in Nigeria

Effective transformation of rural communities is a necessary pre-requisite to the growth of agriculture. Thus, over the years, rural development in Nigeria had been driven by agricultural productivity, which in turn reflects greatly on the food security status of the nation. In other words, improvements in agricultural productivity form the cornerstone of rural transformation in Nigeria both in the past and recent times. This implies that intricate linkages exist between rural transformation, agricultural productivity, and national food security.

The sustainability of such linkages is critical to overall national development. A Greater proportion of the rural areas are yet to be connected to the national grid for electricity supply. Even, the whole country had been experiencing recurring problems of epileptic power supply for a long time. Also, ineffective agro-based cottage industries capable of preserving harvested farm products coupled with unfriendly environmental conditions often lead to crop wastage. Whereas, storage facilities serve to stabilize intra- seasonal food supplies and prices.

Market platforms in rural areas serve as exchange points for the farmers to trade their products profitably. Once the rural farmers are constrained health wise with dearth of health services, their productivity level will decline. In

the same vein, availability of safe and hygienic potable water in the rural areas will help to prevent communicable diseases. This in turn will increase farmers' output, raise the quality of life, transform rural communities, economic growth and empowerment for the rural populace, while improving farmers' level of productivity that in turn will boost national food security as well.

Rural transformation strategies have become imperative for the Third World countries desirous of abandoning their present state of underdevelopment. Coker & Obo (2012) were of opinion that it has become strategic considering the fact that more than 2.5 billion people on earth reside in the Third World countries, and of this number, a large percentage engage in agriculture. This is reflected in Nigeria when agriculture contributes not less than the 21.1% to the total GDP of Nigeria from 1971-2007 (see table 1). Also in the IMF (2012) database, Nigeria agriculture sector contribute 31.9% to Nigeria GDP.

Table 1: Contribution of Agriculture to Nigerian Gross Domestic Product (1971-2007)

Year	Total (Millions)	GDP Agriculture share of GDP	% Share of Agriculture in GDP
1971-1975	31.19	12.05	38.6
1976-1980	114.07	24.09	21.1
1981-1985	376.43	133.23	35.4
1986-1990	413.60	165.14	39.9
1991-1995	496.40	159.54	32.1
1996-2000	626.93	154.24	24.6
2001	431.78	182.66	42.30
2002	451.71	190.37	42.14
2003	495.01	203.01	41.01
2004	527.58	216.21	40.98
2005	561.83	231.46	41.19
2006	595.82	248.60	41.72
2007	632.86	267.06	42.20

Sources: Amalgamated from BOS & CBN (2008)

In the transformation agenda of the past government administration (2012-2015) the agriculture takes 6.96% of the proposed total budget of Nigeria to be the seventh sector with higher budgetary vote (see the appendix) Rural industries (small-scale) provide employment opportunities and subsequently income for the rural dwellers. However, it is instructive to note that the growth recorded in agricultural productions (crops, fish and livestock) in recent times have not reflected on the astronomical prices of staple foodstuffs. This is partly due to the weak production structure in the agricultural sector that could not meet national food demand of rapidly increasing population and high inflation rates.

For example, between December 2007 and March 2009, prices of palm oil, maize, corn, guinea corn, beans, and garri rose by 36,28,16,12 and 8 percent respectively (National Bureau of Statistics, 2009). The Agricultural production increment was propelled largely by the implementation of various agricultural policies/programmes by successive governments. Such policies/programmes include; Fadama projects, massive cassava production initiative, subsidized fertilizers and other inputs, zero-

tariff on imported Agrochemicals, temporary ban on the importation of some agricultural products (e.g. Rice and poultry products), Formulation of National Food Strategy (NFS) and establishment of National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA).

All these and others are to create a paradigm shift that would emphasize a holistic development of the agricultural sector towards transforming the rural areas. Most economies in the world have achieved sustainable socioeconomic and political development by embracing agriculture, especially in the rural areas as their major preoccupation. Agriculture in all societies has traditionally played a passive, but supportive role to economic development. In the Western societies, it provided the bedrock on which their industrialization took off Todaro & Smith (2004), hence, scholars, policy makers, and advocates emphasize the strategy of developing the rural communities by formulating and implementing rural transformation policies.

It is pertinent to note that it is one thing to formulate a development policy or programme, but it is quite a different thing to successfully implement it. In fact transformation of the rural communities will go a long way in reducing socioeconomic pressures engendered by rural

to urban migration, unemployment and crimes in the burgeoning urban sectors. Such hope has tended to be a misplaced one, as most Third World countries have fallen from being net exporters to net importers of not only cash crops but also food crops.

Over the years, political leaders, policy advocates and makers in Nigeria have placed more emphasis on rural transformation as one veritable way out of continued impoverishment, moral and social decay; precipitated partially by mass inequality, unemployment and poverty in the country. It is assumed that rural transformation is a prerequisite for the overall national development of Nigeria. The emphasis on rural development reflects an outward expression of disillusionment of the Third World countries political leadership (and masses) with the development strategies of the past: the apparent failure of Industrialization through the “big-push” spill-over syndrome Ossei-Bonsu (1983).

These strategies were simply a prescription of the high economic growth rates of the modern sector of the West for the developing countries to emulate. It was believed that the masses in the developing societies such as Nigeria would gain from the “crumbs” that may trickle down from the developed societies such as Britain or America. The hopes and aspiration of the people for economic advancement raised during the struggle for independence were considerably dashed. The emergent political leadership apparently suffering from acute and disjointed colonial mentality was unable to clearly define and delineate problems of rural development as they were not only busy entrenching exotic perceptions and value orientations, but also siphoning public funds from their countries in collaboration with foreigners.

They, however, initiated development programmes that were not appropriate to local

needs and aspirations. Most of such programmes have not substantially delivered the anticipated improvement in the standard of living of the vast majority of the rural dwellers and those programmes tended to add little economic growth rather than economic development that would be meaningful to the people. These programme failed to provide answers to burning-issues that raised the following questions: what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? Todaro & Smith (2004).

If all of these have declined drastically; it would mean that the society was undergoing development. That, if one or two of these central problems were deteriorating and if the three, “it would be strange to call the result ‘development’, even if per capita income doubled” (supra). Consequently, it is imperative that policies aimed at improving the level of employment, reducing poverty and inequality in the society are vigorously pursued. Policy makers and scholars as well as other stakeholders hold that such effort must start with rural development.

The apparent incongruence between policy outputs and outcomes are often highlighted at the programmes implementation stages. An Improper programme implementation may arise partially out of incorrect interpretation of programme packages, lack of communication network or husbanding of vital information by competing agencies, etc. Specifically, one of the reasons for economic policy failure in Nigeria includes lack of communication and understanding and communication gaps between the formulators of the policies and those implementing them.

Accordingly, “some officials did not understand the policies, with the result that each ministry was doing on its own without focusing on the particular objectives of government” Ollawa (1997). From the foregoing one can

safely infer that programmes failures may be either structural, institutional or both. The structural aspects are reflected in its content, while its institutional aspects are reflected in its contextual dimension.

4.0 Development and transformation

Development and transformation work hand in hand, the development of rural area will bring transformation to the rural area. The place of rural transformation in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized given the fact that the majority of the Nigerian people resides in the rural-Nigeria and its importance to the lives of rural dwellers and growth of the national economy. Thus, rural transformation is '**sine qua non**' to national development. Consequent upon this, both past and present administrations have mounted and are still evolving series of programmes and policies geared towards transforming rural-Nigeria.

But in spite of these arrays of rural development programmes, Nigerian rural communities are yet to attain the desired transformation. Expectedly, the main objectives of these rural development programmes as reviewed by Idachaba (1985) are: (a) to increase rural income (b) to diversify rural economy (c) to raise agricultural productivity; and (d) to enhance the quality of life in the rural areas. The indices of development include: Increase in per capita income measured as income per head, more even distribution of income not in the hands of a few, reduction in the level of unemployment, more employment opportunities, diversification of the economy, i.e. investment in different businesses, an increase in the supply of high level manpower, balanced development of both rural and urban centres.

However, it is essential to take certain steps to bring about development in rural areas; Carrying out an informal survey on fact finding, identifying small groups, leaders and interest groups, Identification of community problem,

sharing in the problems identified, securing citizens' commitment, Appraisal of available resources, Articulating the plan, carrying out and evaluation of the plan, and Making adjustments where necessary

5.0 Elements and models of rural transformation

The element of the integrated rural transformation includes an increase in rural incomes, reduction in rural poverty and unemployment, a more even distribution of rural wealth and incomes, provision of basic needs and the integration of rural people into the nation's political process. The paramount objective of rural development is to ensure improved conditions of life and opportunity to remain in rural areas.

However, the goals/objectives pursued through rural transformation programmes can be itemized as: Enhanced incomes of rural people engaged in agriculture and rural non-farm activities, including agro-based industries; a reduction in the level of rural poverty and rural unemployment; a reduction in inequalities in the distribution of wealth and personal income, including a more even distribution of resources; increase in rural value added products; enhanced good health for rural people and the reduction of ignorance through mass literacy and education; enhanced quality of life by provision of potable water, electricity and other basic needs; and Integration of rural people into the nation's political and economic process through enhanced political awareness and consciousness and the recognition of the rural resident first and foremost as an individual citizen is entitled, like his urban counterparts, to all good things of life.

A number of strategies have been adopted for this process and these include agricultural development, infrastructural development, industrialization, and integrated rural development and community development in Nigeria.

Transformation studies undergone by most researchers have culminated into a series of models for adoption. The following are the models that can be adopted for rural transformation:

Classical and Neo-Classical Model

According to the classical model, the growth of any economy whether rural or non-rural is a function of capital investment and employment of labour. However, capital tends to flow into sectors characterized by high rate of return and high marginal productivity to promote economic growth in the rural areas. It is necessary to undertake measures, which will raise the rate of the return without regulation and with no thought of conservation, a situation which intensifies the operation of diminishing returns. Another limitation is its abstraction from technological change.

In practice, the role of natural resources in promoting development is a function of technological change, for instance, the impact of agricultural technology. In such an economy, capital accumulation plays the classic role of being the engine of growth but for steady growth, agriculture must be commercial, a process which requires a considerable investment by the

Government in the agricultural sector as in Nigeria. It implies that resources concentrated in the dynamic, commercial modern sector and withdrawing resources from the substance sector for this purpose.

This model does not give an accurate representation of the structure and performance of a typical underdeveloped country. It was believed that this strategy would guarantee the cumulative growth of incomes, employment and rapid structural transformation of underdeveloped economies.

The weakness of this model is that; it may not be much skilled manpower to harness the resources, It does not sufficiently emphasize the operation of diminishing returns to labour or

capital in the face of rapid population growth and essentially static population and technology

Internal Combustion theory

Internal combustion theory attributes economic growth and development to forces within the region of the country. The internal sources of growth include: technology, specialisation, economies of scale and the existence of growth stimulating institutional, political and administrative arrangements. These can be deliberately created or modified.

The weakness of the model is that it ignores the importance of improved quality of labour as a factor in economic development; it ignores the role of community service and infrastructure, which by generating external economies account for high rate of return to capital investments. It also places an exaggerated emphasis on the factor and input prices as a determinant of investment and growth, thereby ignoring the role of institutional and organisational arrangements. It also ignores the crucial role of technology, which, by shifting the production function to the right tends to reduce costs and increase the rate of return to capital investments.

Basic Resource Theory

This theory states that economic growth depends on the presence, availability, good and reliable, magnitude of basic natural resources within a particular area or the economic regions. The development resources attract investment capital to these, areas, and increase income and

employment. The mere availability of resources in rural areas does not mean economic development, only when there is high technical manpower to harness them. It argues that the development of these resources attracts investment capital to these areas and increases income

and enhances employment. It would be wrong to assume that the mere availability of basic

natural resources in an area is a sufficient guarantee of rapid development.

The weakness of this model is that it does not sufficiently emphasise the operation of diminishing returns and most natural resources are characterised by diminishing returns to labour or capital in the face of rapid population growth and essentially static production technology.

Besides, in many countries, the exploitation of basic resources fully encounters a bottle-neck by way of labour scarcity and higher wages. To break this bottleneck will be by way of labour saving technology.

Dual Economy Model

This model distinguishes between modern and rural sectors. In the rural sector, there is an absence of savings and capital formation, no technology, use of family labour, produces for family consumption. The modern sector is market oriented and uses capital equipment and modern technology. Based on the foregoing, therefore, resources are concentrated on the dynamic commercial sector for this purpose. However, the implication is that all resources should be channeled to the modern sector.

The weakness of this model is that there are no savings and capital information and the idea that resources should be concentrated in already developed areas does not lead to development because it assigns the very restrictive role of agriculture.

Export-led Model

This explains economic development in term of emergence and expansion of markets for export production. This achieves cumulative growth in income, employment, etc. The opening of markets in other parts of the world expanded the demand for export of which production was intensive in the use of the abundant land and labour resources of the less developed economies. This led to a fuller utilisation of previously under-utilised land and labour. The

expansion of exports also increased investment in infrastructural facilities.

The weakness of this model is that it assumes a perfectly elastic export demand for agricultural exports, the model ignores the crucial question of demand and market access for the agricultural exports of less developed countries, there is no mention as to strategy for promoting agricultural production. This model has not offered guide in an increasingly industrialized economy where there is competition for agricultural raw material between export market and domestic agro-allied industries.

Urban Industrial Model

This model explains the fact that the nearer the location of agricultural production in urban areas, the greater the probability of increased agricultural output, employment and incomes. This is because nearness to urban area reduces transportation, the cost of both output and input and creates an expanded market for agricultural products; thus encouraging specialisation.

Diffusion Model

This explains why the substantial productivity difference among farmers in the same economic and geographic areas. Such differences are because of the differences in farmer adoption of new varieties of seeds and mechanical and chemical inputs.

Induced Model

Problems arise in the course of economic development. The contribution of models includes: identifying relevant, variables and carrying out research. They are also part of the government policy. The growth models explain the ways and means of developing the rural areas. The weakness of this model is that it encourages enhanced rural output, and employment and income of the rural people. The models demonstrate the various approaches to the rural development.

6.0 Sustainability Concept

According to Gyuse (2009) sustainability is the desire to protect the planet from irreversible damage that could portend negatively on the future of the human race. Sustainability is the long term availability of proper means that are necessary for a long term achievement of pre-specified goals. It is sufficient to mention that the management and sustainability of rural areas can be determined largely by the economic status and educational background of the rural dwellers. Given that there is the provision of basic infrastructural facilities in a community, there is the need to manage such infrastructure on a sustainable level.

For instance, a rural community with poor socioeconomic background cannot sustainably manage their infrastructure and may thus remain perpetually poor and underdeveloped for quite a long time. Generally, sustainable development in all definition focuses on judicious use of today resources not to affect the usage by future generation. According to Abumere (1997), the concept of sustainable development means that in an attempt to use environmental resources to satisfy current demands, we must not inflict irreversible damage on the environment in such a way as to jeopardize the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This in essence mean development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of unborn generations in meeting their own needs.

Sustainable development requires the availability of physical, social, and institutional infrastructural facilities that are essential for supporting economic production, and human welfare. Thus, rural sustainable development is that which meets the needs of the present rural dwellers without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, World commission on environment and development (1987). Whether the programmes of rural transformation are government or community sponsored, its sustainable

development requires the integration of economic development, social and cultural factors promote sustainability.

Sustainable management of the rural area is a process of decision making towards maintaining and adding value to rural areas and making them functional so as to meet broad economic, social, and cultural needs of rural ecosystem. Gyuse (2009) was of the view that sustainable development should extend beyond nature but cover total environment and economic development.

7.0 Recommendation

It is therefore suggested that in order to facilitate rapid, conscious and sustained efforts at rural transformation in Nigeria, the following steps should be taken:

- a. Rural development problems should be properly identified, demarcated and streamlined to enable the formulation and implementation of possible solutions. The uniqueness of demographic, economic, physical, political and psychological structures of the rural areas must be considered in programmes initiation and implementation stages.
- b. Enough funds should be made available, and effective monitoring of implementation process made part of the programme package.
- c. Trained personnel should be recruited and decent accommodations provided for them, to encourage their residing within developed areas.
- d. Requisite infrastructure such as roads, drainage, cottage industries, schools and health facilities, credit and banking institutions should be put in place in the rural communities. This will indeed check the rate of rural-urban migration as well as boost industrial and commercial activities in rural areas.
- e. The local government councils as agents of rural transformation in Nigeria should be adequately funded. As a corollary, they should be granted some levels of administrative discretion as well as legislative and financial

autonomy. These provisions should be as enshrined in the constitution and councils' power derivable there from.

f. Leadership tussle among programme delivering ministries, departments and agencies should be discouraged. This does not augur well for the development of any society. Rather, it generates conflicts, violence, loss of property and sometimes loss of lives.

g. The national leadership should show enough commitments to rural transformation as a pivot on which the overall nation socioeconomic development evolves.

h. Alongside the modern means of communication, the traditional mode, such as the use of the town-crier should also be adopted as a means of reaching out to the rural dwellers, and in a language that they understand. In other words, appropriate framework for the positive mobilization and education for all Nigerians towards rural development and a new social order must be pursued.

i. Companies operating in local government areas (if at all available) must endeavour to adapt their Corporate Social responsibility functions to the felt needs of the host communities, in other words, they must carry out a proper need assessment before embarking on the projects.

k. In order to improve the quality of life of the low-income population living in the rural communities on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structure of their productive activities, the need to set up more microfinance banks in such communities become an imperative.

Specifically, rural banking especially through the microfinance outlets provide financial supports through the extension of such facilities like micro credit, loan advances, overdrafts, and investment in rural based industries to rural dwellers; employment of community members and involvement in capacity building within the host communities; and direct involvement in rural transformation programmes such as

sponsoring and financing communal self-help projects within the rural environment.

8.0 Conclusion

It can be deduced from the foregoing that rural transformation will not only directly improve the physical well-being and quality of life of the rural people in Nigeria but can also indirectly enhance their productivity and their ability to contribute to the national economy. According to Coker & Obo (2012) to effectively transform the rural areas, there is need to clearly define problems of the rural societies in all its ramifications; assessing all possible options for handling the problems with minimum costs; effective monitoring of programmes, effective mobilization of rural human and material resources; and provision of rural infrastructure, they concluded that to achieve a sustainable socioeconomic and political development in Nigeria there is the need to emphatically transform the rural sectors.

Section 7.4.2(ii) of National Housing Policy 'empowers the rural dwellers by way of deliberately introducing economic activities in the rural areas' This can only be achieved by undertaking a conscious and systematic formulation of an integrated rural development programmes. Also, the problem of rural transformation in the country to a very large extent is not particularly that of policy formulation, rather, the problems lie in programme implementation and that eliminating these problems will assist a rapid rural transformation of the rural sectors in Nigeria with a view to contributing effectively to the overall national development of the country.

Developing the rural area will enhance the national income as most of the resources are tapped in the rural areas. Even oil, the major Nigerian product that yields the highest revenue, is derived from the rural areas. Entrepreneurs should start thinking of

establishing their businesses in rural areas. All hands must be on deck to ensure that Nigerian rural communities are transformed.

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Table 2: 2011-2015 THE TRANSFORMATION AGENDA Allocation by Sector & MDAs under KPPP (2012-2015)

	2012 (N'million)	2013 (N'million)	2014 (N'million)	2015 (N'million)	2012 -2015 (N'million)	Share of Total	
Real sector	228,519.80	251,450.73	267,722.37	272,562.17	89,420.73	186,141.51	225,641.17%
- Agriculture & rural Development	112,007.72	120,841.69	136,221.85	141,974.33	500,795.59	100,000.00	6.96%
-Water Resources	70,325.41	77,612.00	75,768.00	76,294.68	45,310.00	54,000.00	60,000.00
- Commerce & Industry	14,534.90	16,156.17	16,413.36	16,975.56	7,103.45	500,000.08	7,519.03
- Mines & Steel Development	12,901.77	14,340.87	14,569.16	15,068.20	11,833.61	10,270.42	6,285.14
Physical Infrastructure	419,550.00	479,680.00	540,310.00	588,980.00	15,323.69	14,351.06	14,996.11
-Transport	322,800.00	372,180.00	420,560.00	452,900.00	50,077.42	2,023,520.00	55,986.32
Roads & Bridges	150,000.00	170,000.00	185,000.00	190,500.00	1,568,520.00	1,430,678.44	1,477,769.72
FERMA (for Maintenance of Roads)	45,300.00	55,150.00	74,550.00	75,000.00	169,846.06	188,791.21	191,796.57
Ports	2,750.00	2,980.00	3,210.00	3,360.00	1,203,695.25	1,430,678.44	1,554,819.44%
Aviation (excluding BASA Funds)	35,000.00	45,850.00	17,500.00	14,320.00	2,860.00	11,800.00	0.16%
Railways	89,750.00	98,200.00	140,300.00	170,300.00	14,320.00	112,670.00	1.56%
- Oil & Gas	18,750.00	22,500.00	24,750.00	32,500.00	170,300.00	498,550.00	6.92%
-Power	78,000.00	85,000.00	95,000.00	98,500.00	32,500.00	98,500.00	1.37%
Regional Development	229,113.71	243,315.74	193,186.77	174,922.65	840,538.87	11.67%	
- Housing	41,647.71	47,615.74	54,183.24	59,537.65	202,984.34	2.82%	
- Federal Capital Territory	142,466.00	105,700.00	35,600.00	4,004.00	287,770.00	4.00%	
TOTAL							
GRAND TOTAL							
Funds for Other Priority Projects not Listed**							
TOTAL							
GRAND TOTAL							

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