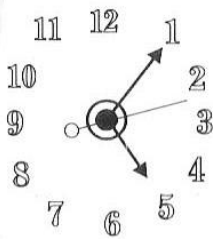




International Journal of Continuing and Non-Formal Education

Volume 5, No. 1, January – June, 2008

ISSN: 0795-1389



Published by
Department of Adult Education
University of Ibadan, Ibadan

Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Community Development in Southwestern Nigeria

T. A. Akanji Ph.D

Department of Adult Education, University of Ibadan

and

A. O. Olawuni

Department of Adult Education, UI

Abstract

This paper examined the influence of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for sustainable community development. The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The target population consisted of both public and private organizations, government officials, Change-agent officers, community development officials, NGOs, and other development stakeholders in six purposively selected local government areas in Oyo and Ogun states. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select 240 public and private community development partners in the selected local governments. Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) for government officers, NGOs, community development agents, and other stakeholders in community development were used to obtain data. Findings showed that there were influence of partnership on project initiation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and funding of PPP for sustainable community development. There are joint project initiation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and funding with the knowledge of both public and private organisations

who were the direct beneficiaries of the projects. The spirits of team work, social networking and adequate enlightening programme for public and private organizations to partner and develop their community were endowed on the community partners.

Key words: Partnership, Public-Private, Sustainable, Community Development.

Introduction

Nigeria is the largest country in the continent of Africa with her complex political background. It is divided into six geo-political zones namely: North East, North-Central, North West, South-West, South East and South-South. The Northern part of Nigeria is dominated by Hausa and Fulani tribes; the Southern part is occupied by the Ibos tribe; while the Southwestern is mainly occupied by the Yorubas. Southwestern Nigeria is comprised of six states namely: Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, Ogun and Lagos states. This research work was carried out in Oyo and Ogun states in Southwestern Nigeria.

In Nigeria, and other developing countries, sustainable access to healthcare and other socio-economic services and products can be accomplished through public-private Partnerships if the government delivers the minimum standard of services, products, and care, and the private sector brings skills, core competencies, funding, and other resources. Such collaborations will be, especially, productive in promoting poverty alleviation through micro-finance, and effective partnerships on health issues, as demonstrated in the companies towards polio eradication and child immunization. In the efforts to achieve sustainable Public Private Partnership (PPP), the objectives would be to highlight developmental perspectives from leaders in civil society, government, business, and the media, sharing of information on development alternatives, providing fora for informed debate on related issues, seeking to accomplish better understanding of the nature of relationships between governmental and non-governmental organisations, and introducing conceptual frameworks for understanding such relationships, bridging the information gap between the public and private sector organisations, analysing capacities and opportunities, and suggesting mechanisms

for improving the relationships between the government and the governed.

Intrinsic in the aforementioned objectives of public-private partnerships is the mission to contribute to the economic integration of a country or region, accelerate its economic growth and sustainable development engender and sustain private sector participation in traditionally public sector projects, and expands local access to International markets so as to ensure the country's deeper integration into the global economy. In Nigeria, this could be done within the NEPAD structure, ECOWAS, other regional economic communities in Africa, governments, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders. The overall objective would also include the mobilisation of private investment for infrastructural development, socio-economic growth, and poverty elimination. It would also include increasing the effectiveness of public-private collaboration, such as helping those seeking to develop and provide healthcare products and services, and improving access the several local products that are targeted towards achieving disease eradication, controlling other health problems and accomplishing adequate standard of living within the country.

In order to achieve a sustainable public-private partnership for ensuring the most effective, productive, compassionate, result-oriented and efficient use of resources, it is imperative that the members or subscribers to the public-private partnership must adopt a single framework of action in projects initiation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and funding that provides the basis for co-ordinating the work of all partners; put in place and maximally utilising a single national or community coordinating body with a single national monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ascertain and maintain accepted standards. Such an arrangement will enhance the coming together of several stakeholders such as federal, state, and local governments, profit-oriented businesses, non-profit organisations, community development associations, United Nations and other transnational agencies, civil society groups and faith-based organisations in other to ensure sustainable development and poverty reduction within the communities and the country as a whole. This way, the partnership could support member-

organisations that build capacities within citizen organizations through management training and advice, conducting researches, collecting data on health development issues, applying policy analysis through dialogue, and promoting enabling environments.

A potential outcome of this engagement is a private sector-led initiative, which could serve as catalyst for investment in community and national development projects, leading to more collaboration among the wide array of stakeholders in tackling the social, political, financial, technical, and other obstacles that affect the implementation of the projects. It will also empower the public-private partnership with a brokering role between prospective investors and other stakeholders including government and local communities. This will, ultimately, eliminate or reduce, to the barest minimum, the social, economic, political, financial, and capacity constraints that impede the infrastructural development of the community or country. Several commentators, community people, NGOs, government officials including this writer, hold a strong view that public and private sectors are complementary and that effective public-private partnership is only possible through mutually designed, analysed and accepted instruments of cooperation and collaboration. It is believed that such instruments are effective in all sectors of human endeavour including health, profit, and non-profit organisations, education, housing, micro-finance, community-based development projects among others. In Nigeria, achieving the public-private partnership paradigm would mean deliberate and sincere effort to understand the nature of prevailing efforts, identify their key challenges and opportunities, and seek to know how they can contribute to stronger national and family health, economic and social systems.

For rural and poor urban communities in particular, public-private partnership projects of interest would include interest in transportation by rail, road, and waterways, electricity and energy, telecommunications, agriculture and food preservation/processing, housing, and water. In accepting such projects for the public-private partnership arrangement, it must be noted that most of them would be expected to have predictable cash flows and provide investors in the partnership with an acceptable return on their investments.

Therefore, care must be taken to ensure that projects so selected have undergone rigorous and diligent processes from the relevant organs of the stakeholders, and have must been chosen as the best projects with well-conceived business plans, realistic financial plans, and anticipated investment returns that is favourably disposed to the purchasing powers of the poorest of the poor. Costly services and products will, ultimately, become unaffordable to the majority of the people, and projected patronage and income will definitely remain mere dreams.

In undertaking any public-private partnership project, it must be understood that partnerships rarely occur without external impetus. Public-private partnerships must, therefore, be facilitated through processes aimed at translating the desires of stakeholders into the form of partnerships so desired. Even after formation, the continued existence of any public-private partnership needs to be deliberately institutionalised, using various mediating processes or programmes deemed necessary for the implementation of the partnership agreements. Such processes or programmes need to be rooted in local circumstances and comprehensively understood by representatives of all stakeholders. These factors, therefore account for why this survey was carried out to assess the public private partnership for sustainable community development in Southwestern Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The sustainability of any community-based development programme depends on effective public and private partnership, especially in the provision of basic infrastructures. Community development projects in Nigeria usually take the top-down approach where most of the projects were imposed on the community. The community is usually not involved from the project initiation to the last stage of evaluation. And most of these projects are abandoned at the stage of planning. Thus, community people believe that it is the government responsibility to provide infrastructures and develop their communities. It is becoming increasingly clear that government cannot meet the ever-growing demand for water, waste management, road, energy and other infrastructural services of the

communities. Hence, public-private partnership should be adopted in order to have sustainable community development in Southwestern Nigeria. It is, therefore, the objective of this study to examine the influence of Public-private partnership (PPP) on sustainable community development.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following questions:

1. What influence does public-private partnership sponsored project initiation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation have on sustainable community development?
2. What are the relative effects of public-private partnership sponsored project initiation; implementation, monitoring, and evaluation have on sustainable community development?

The Literature Review

Components of Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Community Development

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) take many forms but, generally, they can be defined as concessions or other types of contractual arrangement whereby the public sector agrees to give the private sector the right to inter alia operate, build, manage and/or deliver a service for the general public. Public-private partnership provide many benefits in the sense that governments can use them to mobilize private capital, which increases their capacity to deliver services to their citizens and lead to transfers of know-how, management skills and new technology. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) began early on to analyse public-private partnerships. It observed that some projects were failing not because of a lack of funding, but because of weak legal and regulatory structures, the absence of a social strategy accompanying the project and the lack of public involvement in the project and the lack of public involvement in the project itself. These projects tended to be carried out by the private sector and the international financial institutions and the lacked significant public sector involvement. Lacking too was any attempt to consult with citizens to determine whether the project was either desirable or acceptable. The UNECE

thus called for a new way of designing and promoting public-private partnerships and recommended that attention be given to improving the capacity of government to promote that protected the public interest and contributed to social development.

Globalization has created a world revolution of teamwork in the process of development. This partnership movement has led to cooperation and alliances involving people and cultures from different parts of the world. There are two main levels of spheres of partnership contemporary community development. The first is the indigenous notions and practices in which individuals and institutions as distinct components collaborate to develop and sustain their collectivities as corporate units in most Nigerian and other African societies. Categories of people including age grades of men and women perform duties under the wards, town councils of elders, and modern associations. Members of each town or village community carry out complementary assignments on behalf of their local societies. In this sense, partnership refers to a large measure of functional unity. Each part or section contributed its specialized duty and expectation to promote the interest and welfare of the whole community (World Bank, 2005).

The second sphere of partnership refers to the relationship between a community and an outside agent or agents, such as UNDP, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Government (local government), community development officials, voluntary organizations and other stakeholders. This level of partnership involves mutual gain. For example, there is governmental investment in electricity, roads, water etc in the communities in return for political support and peace. Community based organizations and NGOs similarly develop their communities in order to promote peace and mutual understanding and support. In both types and spheres of partnership, there is an element of inequality. For example the community societies are internally differentiated in such a way that status, privilege, power and prestige are related to ones position such as chief and town crier in the society. Similarly, local communities and outside agents are naturally unequal in many ways including to financial resources and new technology (Oтите 2003).

Partnership is a new thrust in contemporary community development. It is especially important in the task of accelerating sustainable community development. Partnership involves the continuous interaction of both internal and external factors engaged in the common task of developing a community. In addition to the above, within every partnership, the various actors may have different reasons for collaboration. For example, when government and community people work together, each side has a different reason for doing so. The World Conference on Education for all Frameworks for Action (WCEFA, 1990) identifies a cluster of important rationales for engaging in partnership, such as;

- shared experienced and expertise: each partner can bring knowledge and skills to the task at hand;
- mutual support: when circumstances are difficult, partnership provides mutual support to persist in effort to achieve goals;
- division of labour: collaboration can allow partnership to concentrate on the tasks that they do best;
- increased resources: when each partner brings resources to the common forum, the total availability of resources is increased;
- increased sense of ownership: when people work together on a task, they are more likely to feel a sense of ownership than if someone else performs the task for them;
- extended reach different partners may have voices in different places. This can extend the reach of initiatives;
- increased effectiveness: when partners come together, they each bring their own perspectives and this may help each other to identify obstacles to effective implementation of programmes and ways around those obstacles; and
- evaluation and monitoring: when partners have links to different sectors of society, they can complement each other's effort in assessing the impact of the programme. (WCEFA, 1990).

This information can be used to make necessary adjustment and improve impact of Public-private partnership on sustainable community development in Southwestern Nigeria.

Methodology

Research design: A descriptive survey research was adopted for the study.

Participants: The target audience comprises officials of public and private organisations; government officials in community development departments, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community based organizations and other stakeholders in the field of community development in both Oyo and Ogun states. The total population was 240.

Sample and Sampling Techniques: Multi-stage sampling technique comprising simple random, cluster and purposive was adopted.

Instrumentation: Questionnaire was the major instrument used, though it was complemented with Key Informant Interview (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussion (FGDs).

Procedure: The instruments were personally administered with the help of three experienced research assistants.

Data Analysis: Data were analysed using multiple regression for the quantitative aspect and content analysis for the qualitative aspect.

Results:

Influence of Public-private partnership sponsored project initiation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation on sustainable community development.

Table 1: Summary of multiple regression analysis of Joint influence of public-private partnership sponsored project initiation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation on sustainable community development.

$R = 0.341$ * R^2 adjusted = 0.116 Coefficient of determination ($R^2 \times 100\%$) = 11.6 Standard error of estimation = 1.1030

Analysis of Variance

Source of variation	Sum of square (SS)	Df	Mean square (MS)	F-ratio	Sig	P
Regression	501.676	4	100.335	36.119 *	.000	Sig
Residual	3811.277	235	2.778			
Total	4312.952	239				

* Significant at $P < 0.05$

The result in Table 1 above shows that the four independent variables when taken together made a significant joint contribution of 11.6% (adjusted $R^2 = 0.116$) to the prediction of sustainable community development. Also, the table reveals that Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the multiple regression data produced F-ratio value of 36.119 which is significant at 0.05 level.

Table 2: Relative effects of the independent variables on the prediction of sustainable community development.

Variables	Unstandardised Coefficient		Standardised Coefficient	T	Sig.	Rank
		B	SE(β)	Beta		
Project Initiation	2.622E-.02	.023	.035	1.123	.262	NS
Project Implementation	.114	.017	.208	6.536	.000	Sig
Project Monitoring	-.167	.023	-.271	-7.330	.000	Sig
Project Evaluation	3.387E-02	.024	.052	1.418	.156	NS
CONSTANT	8.366	.591		14.155	.000	

Significant at $P < 0.05$

The result on Table 2 shows that two of the independent variables (implementation and monitoring) made significant separate contribution to the prediction of sustainable community development: Implementation ($\hat{\alpha}$) = 0.208; $t = 6.536$, $P < 0.05$) and monitoring ($B = -0.271$; $t = -7.330$, $P < 0.05$). ✕

Discussions of findings

RQ 1: What influence does public-private partnership have on project initiation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and funding for sustainable community development?

One would had that the success of the project would depend finally on getting the different stakeholder rallying for it, which requires a high level of awareness and a genuine effort for a consensus. The emphasis on this point is because the relationship is for long where it is possible that government change, ideologies change and market dynamics may change but the lone-term policies should remain and the commitment given to private and public sectors should be honored. (Kerala Calling 2004).

Partnership needs to be encouraged between the governments, non-government organizations (NGOs) and community people for many reasons because government, NGOs, and community people cannot single handedly provided all the need of the people. FGD also agreed with the finding that all the independent variables made a significant joint contribution to sustainable community development. Some reasons why PPP must be encouraged according to respondents through FGD include: effective purpose, empowerment purpose, capacity building purpose, efficiency purpose, and cost sharing purpose. One of the respondents in Oyo responded that:

Government and NGOs may want to involve the community so as to ensure that the project achieves the set objectives and that benefits go to the intended groups. By involving the community people will make such projects to be more effective and it will be sustainable

Female FGD Participant in Oyo State/46years (April, 2009)

Another respondent in Ogun said that PPP is a way of empowering the developers and he said:

This seeks to increase the local control over resource since the local people were involved and there is a kind of integration of knowledge. Decision and outcome will affect the life of community people that participate in the community programmes and projects

Male FGD Participant in Ogun State/51years (April, 2009)

The implication of this is that when the public and private partners together, it will definitely result to empowering the developers. This is in line with Otite (2003) as she said both types and spheres of partnership, there is an element of inequality. For example the community societies are internally differentiated in such a way that status, privilege, power and prestige are related to ones position such as chief and town crier in the society. Similarly, local communities and outside agents are naturally unequal in many ways including to financial resources and new technology.

Public-private partnership also resulted to capacity building which involves ensuring active involvement in project planning and implementation especially through self-help or formal or informal training and consciousness raising activities. The public and private partners when they partner together resulted to efficiency among the developers. The development process is easy and they were with perfect touch from the both ends. This aims at reducing cost and wastes as well as maximizing project benefits. It is believed that beneficiary consultation during planning will ensure that needs of people are met while beneficiary involvement during implementation will reduce wastes and costs. Cost sharing is among the beneficiaries who are the community people who may be asked to contribute money or labour or goods during the implementation of the projects. This will allow the cost to spread over and it will reduce the burden on the people and the government as well.

One of the FGD respondents in Ogun responded that:

The facility provides technical assistance and advisory support for the establishment of partnerships between government, business and civil society organizations at the municipal level for the delivery of basic infrastructure services to the urban poor

Female FGD Participant in Ogun State/42years (April, 2009)

This implies that public-private partnership is essential for technical assistance and advisory support for the developers which help them to be empowered and be more efficiency in their dispositions. This will encourage both the developers to actually demonstrate their will and fully support the development process, since they are going to benefit from such community development projects in their communities.

RQ 2: What are the effects of Public Private Partnership on project initiation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and funding of projects for sustainable community development?

Through Public-private partnerships, the advantages of the private sector-innovation, access to finance, knowledge of the public sector in an effort to solve problems is real. In cities throughout the world, private firms have demonstrated their ability to improve the operation of infrastructure services. However, it is important to bear in mind that private involvement does not provide an automatic solution to urban infrastructure problems. There is a definite process to be followed for private sector participation in infrastructure development. This involves many systematic steps, but to put in general, it is four phases. They are: project preparation, selecting an appropriate public-private partnership option, soliciting private sector participation and establishment of a durable partnership.

One of the respondent used for KII in Oyo state responded on project preparation when he said:

The process conceives the idea to identify the potentiality of the project and finding out the financial and economical feasibility of the same would come under this phase. They are conceiving the idea or problem definition, demand assessment, financial feasibility, economic feasibility and project feasibility.

Male KII Participant in Oyo State/38years (May, 2009)

This gives both the public and private developers to have access to contribute to project planning at all ramifications. This will definitely result to effective and sustainable community development. Another respondent used for FGD in Ogun also responded on soliciting for private sector participation when he responded that:

Though, we are clear that private sector participation is necessary and it could bring definite advantages into the system. it would be worthwhile to look into those critical factors which do or undo the partnership or the successful running of it. The key factors that could be highlighted are clear, government commitment, legal and regulatory capacity, stakeholder involvement, intelligent transaction design, cost recovery tariffs, the right option and a systematic approach.

Male FGD Participant in Ogun State/48years (May, 2009)

This involves the process of inviting private sector to participate in the project/venture and the subsequent steps of identifying the most appropriate partner in terms of technical and financial parameters. It also gives room for establishing a durable partnership. This is in line with Seya (2005) when he opined that in the context of partnership, development is seen as achieving the whole of the 8 points MDGs which is a process of economic, social, political and cultural change engineered in a given society by the efforts of all stakeholders, both internal and external – including the local

communities, the government, the private sector, the NGOs and the technical and financial development partners with a view to improving the conditions of life of the population in a sustainable way (Seya 2005:97).

Conclusion and Recommendations

It must be noted, however, that greater output shall be realized if public-private partnership agreements or contracts are structured in ways that do not place the poor majority in any socio-economic and or political disadvantage in Southwestern Nigeria. Also, combining the partnership with credible and group-accepted innovative approaches to funding and mobilization has the potentiality of increasing the overall access to essential services based on public-private partnership structures already in place. For trail blazers and champions of community participation and human development evangelism, a deficiency of clearly stated mechanisms of action and or the absence of credible avenues for monitoring and informing interested parties on the progress and status of approved public-private partnership projects should be seen as an avoidable anathema. In order for government to deliver the minimum standard of services, products and or care required for a public-private partnership to thrive, it must put in place, laws, regulations and institutions or enhance existing ones, as well as improve the enabling environment for private sector participation in the provision and development of infrastructure to occur in Southwestern Nigeria and in Nigeria as a whole.

Stakeholders' commitment to the public-private partnership would be accomplished by focusing on micro, small and medium-sized operations, involve community leaderships like community development associations, town unions, non-governmental organizations, local, state and/or regional governmental authorities including private company operators in Southwestern Nigeria. Included among these potential partners are municipalities, government agencies and ministries, public and private companies, and trade associations as potential partners. It is incumbent on all stakeholders to orient public-private partnership activities around orientation, match-making, implementation and institutionalization for effective and sustainable outcomes.

References

- Akanji (2005). *Perspective on Workplace Conflict Management and New Approaches for the Twenty-first century*, In Albert, I.O (Ed) *Perspective on Peace and Conflicts in Africa*. Ibadan: John Archers Publication
- Allen, T and Thoman, A (2000) (Eds) *Poverty and Development in the 21st Century*. Open University, Oxford University Press, 2000. Pg 97-98.
- Anyanwu C. N. (1981). *Principle and Practice of Adult Education and Community Development* Ibadan Abiprint Publishing Company. P164.
- (1999) *Introduction to Community Development*. Gabesther Educational Publishers. Ibadan
- Hall's (1998) "The Global and the Local Globalization and Ethnicity" in AD king (ed) *cultural, globalization and world system: contemporary conditions for the representation of identity*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- National Planning Commissions (2004). *National Economic Empowerment Development strategies, NEEDS*, Abuja.
- Akanji, T.A. 2002. *An Exploration of New Approaches of Conflict Resolution in Community Development*. The African Journal of Labour Studies. Vol.5: 1 No 1&2
- Friedenberg, Judith (2003) "Participatory Research and Grassroots Development: A case study from Harlem". *City and Society*.
- Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure: a brief overview of DFID programmes of support.
- World Bank. 2005. *The Effectiveness of World Bank Support for Community-Driven Development Report 29824*.
- World Bank. 2006. *Community-Driven Development in the Context of Conflict-Affected Countries: Challenges and Opportunities* 36425-GLB

Oite (2003) Partnering in Community development: A study of three rural communities in Delta State, Nigeria. An Unpublished PhD Thesis at Adult Education Dept. UI

Web: <http://afrihealthoptonet.kabissa.org>

<http://uk.geocities.com/afrihealthoptonetassociation/AfrihealthOptonet.html>