RIGERIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL

Volume 2 ISSN 2360-7432 June, 2014

	TABLE OF CONTENTS	
	TABLE OF CONTENTS Pages	
	Strategies for Ensuring Sustainable Participation of the Adults in Socio-Economic Development Programmes in Benin Municipality: Implications for Programme Planning and Implementation-Prince F.E.O. OMORUYI (Ph.D) and Sunday Eforma EHIANU	
2.	Poverty- Induced Environmental Degradation among Indigenous Women in Ondo State, Nigeria Oluwatoyin ALESE Ph.D	1
3.	Community Capacity Building Approach to Improving Good Governance and Developmental Programmes at Local Government Institutions in Nigeria-Waliu N. BELLO, Ph.D	27
4.	Effectiveness of Immunization Programme in Community Health Development in Selected Local Government Areas, Ogun State, Nigeria- E.A ADEWUYI, H.I KUYE & P.O.TITILOYE	37
5.	Community Development as A Strategy For Management Environmental Disaster in Rural Nigeria- Samir HALLIRU, Abdulkadir ADAMU and Mohammed S.B. HASSAN	19
6.	Road Infrastructure and Sustainable Community Development in Ajah- Lekki Area of Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria -Kofo ADEROGBA (Ph.D)	60
7.	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: Key Elements to Sustainable Rural Development in Nigeria -Dr. A. M. MOMOH and Uchechukwu Charles OSU	76
8.	Capacity Building in the Context of Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development - Jonathan E. OGHENEKOHWO, Ph.D	93
9.	Capacity Building and Skill Acquisition Programmes for Sustainable Community Development among the Corps Members in Ogun State - Abiodun Olufemi OLAWUNI, Ph.D	102
10.	Attaining Sustainable Livelihood through Community Education and Rural Development in Nigeria- Deborah Yetunde ADEBOGA	114
11.	Community Participation and Mobilization as Catalyst to Sustainable Environmental Disaster Management in Nigeria-Waliu N. BELLO, Ph.D	124
12.	Micro Credit Scheme as Correlate of Poverty Alleviation among Traders in Ibadan Metropolitan City, Oyo State, Nigeria-I.Adekeye ABIONA, Ph. D & Olufemi Onweazu OKOJI, Ph. D	134



CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAMMES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE CORPS MEMBERS IN OGUN STATE

Abiodun Olufemi OLAWUNI, Ph.D

Department of Adult Education, University of Ibadan, Ibadan

Abstract

Due to rapid turn-out of graduates from Nigerian Universities and Polytechnics yearly and the present situation of unemployment rates in Nigeria, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) headquarters in Abuja sees the needs to intensify skills acquisition programme on the scheme. The Department of Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) was a newly created department to formulate and implement policies on Corps Entrepreneurship development programmes and to develop and build partnerships with Stakeholders on entrepreneurship issues. The NYSC SAED project seeks to contribute meaningfully to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal The project is a nationwide initiative targeted at young Nigerian graduates mobilized and deployed in a one year mandatory service. The key activities of SAED are to sensitize and mobilised the corps members to enroll into the Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development programme. The corps members are to organise entrepreneurship and hands-on training inside and outside the orientation camp. Corps members are then attached to the various organizations for skill acquisition and entrepreneurship development. Capacity building as a strategy is basically about actions of improving organisational and project effectiveness and efficiency. In NYSC, capacity building prong will focus on the organisational capacity of NYSC SAED to fulfill her role as the coordinators and drivers of the project and prong the capacity of corps members to transit from employment seekers to employers of labour.

Key Words: capacity building, sustainable community development, Corps Members, skills acquisition

Introduction

Community capacity building is defined as the "process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organisations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in the fast-changing world."

Community capacity building is the elements that give fluidity, flexibility and functionality of a programme/organisation to adapt to changing needs of the population that is served (Obadan, M I & E.O Uga 1997). Community capacity

building often refers to strengthening the skills, competencies and abilities of people and communities in developing societies so they can overcome the causes of their exclusion and suffering. (World Bank, 2005). Organisational capacity building is used by NGOs to guide their internal development and activities. It also referred to capacity development as a conceptual approach to development that focuses on understanding the obstacles that inhibit international governments, people, non-governmental and organisations realising organisations from development goals while enhancing the abilities that will allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results. The building capacity community emerged in the lexicon of international development during the 1990s. Today, "community capacity building" is included in the programmes of most international organisations that work in the World Bank, the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) like Oxfam International. Wide use of the term has resulted in to controversy over its true meaning (Insaidoo, A.W.K, 2001)

The organisations interpret community capacity building in their own ways and focus on it rather than promoting one-way developing nations. development in Fundraising, training centers, exposure visit, office and documentation support, on the job training, learning centers and consultants are all some forms of capacity building. To prevent international aid for development from becoming perpetually are developing nations dependent,

adopting strategies provided by the organisations in the form of capacity building (World Bank, 2006).

Development **Nations** United The Programme (UNDP) was one of the developing in forerunners understanding of community capacity building or development. Since the early 70s, the UNDP offered guidance for its staff and governments on what was considered "institution building." In 1991, the term evolved to be "community capacity building." The UNDP defines capacity building as a long-term continual process of development that involves all stakeholders; including ministries, local non-governmental organiauthorities, community professionals, sations, members, academics and more (World Bank 2005). Capacity building uses a country's human, scientific, technological, organisational, institutional and resource capabilities. The goal of capacity building is to tackle problems related to policy and development, of methods considering the potential, limits and needs of the people of the country concerned. The UNDP outlines that capacity building takes place on an individual level, an institutional level and the societal level (World Bank, 2005).

Capacity Building and Skills Acquisition Development among the Corps Members

Rural transformation involves a highly political concept that centres not only on the redistribution of present wealth, but also, on a total re-location of political

power. The target of rural transformation culture of the people. Transformation in this context goes beyond infrastructural development to super-structural development. Therefore, the hard and core of rural transformation is political empowerment, restructuring of the power relations between the urban and the rural, as well as between the rural and the national interest to which the former (rural area) has always been perpetually sacrificed. The objectives of transformation include:

- * to improve the quality of life of the rural people so that they would enjoy desired wants, and would want to stay where they are;
- * to promote more equitable distribution of public investments between the rural and urban areas so as to instil in the rural people a sense of hope, confidence, and self-determination;
- * to make the rural environment so healthy and attractive as to trigger off a reverse the voluntary rural-urban migration among the present urban refugees;
- * to provide opportunity for the rural people to express their political awareness and restructure their traditional relationship and stereotypic mutual attitudes of urban and rural dwellers; and
- * to enhance the production of food and industrial raw materials for national development (Inspector Development Programme, 2012);

The strategies for sustainable rural development in Nigeria, according to Elliot (1999) include the following:

- * investing in human development to alleviate rural poverty, human misery and stabilize populations;
- * ensuring food security (not just foodsufficiency) through rural compensation measures like selective poverty-targeted relief;
- * creating incentives for rural growth and employment by improving access to production resources and institutional services;
- * empowering rural people via participatory and community-oriented development that is woven around local principles, skills and technologies, and
- * protecting the environment by generating and facilitating appropriate resource management systems (World Bank, 1998)

However, in an effort to address the numerous societal problems of the country before the birth of the NYSC, the Federal Military Government highlighted five national goals and objectives in the Second Development Plan (1970 - 74) which were as follows:

- a united, strong and self-reliant nation;
- a great and dynamic economy;
- a just and egalitarian society;
- a land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens; and
- a free and democratic society (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1970, Inspector development, 2012)

The objective of the NYSC which take root from the above national goals and objectives are as listed below:

-to inculcate discipline in the Nigerian youth by instilling in them a tradition of

industry at work, and of patriotic and loyal service to the nation in any situation they may find themselves;

-to improve morals among youths giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement, social and cultural improvement;

-to develop in the youth attitudes of the mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilisation in the national interest;

-to develop common ties among youths and promote national unity by ensuring that as far as possible they are assigned to jobs in states other than their states of origin, each group, assigned to work together, is as representative of the country as possible.

The youths are exposed to the mode of living of the people in different parts of the country with a view to removing prejudices, eliminating ignorance and confirming at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups.

- to encourage members of the service corps to seek at the end of their Corps service, career employment all over the country thus promoting the free movement of labour.
- to induce employers, party through their experiment (Inspectors Development Programme, with members of the service corps, to employ more readily qualified Nigerians irrespective of their states of origin.

- to enable Nigerian youths to acquire the spirit of self-reliance. (Inspectors Development Programme, 2012).

The stated objectives are in line with the first national goal which stated: a united, strong and self-reliance nation. When the youths have access to skill acquisitions, they will be independent and strong. They will not depend on anyone nor or looking unto government to provide white collar jobs for them. They will, therefore be self-employed. The idea of corps members leaving their geo-political zone to serve their fatherland for one year might have changed their orientation and see Nigeria as one and it would have produced a united, strong and self reliance nation (Inspector Development programme, 2012).

It is from the highlighted objectives of NYSC and the present situations in the country that make the scheme to inculcate the spirit of skills acquisition among the corps members. These enable the corps members to be self reliant and acquire one skill or the other to depend upon after the service year. The geometric increase in the number of corps members that Nigerian universities and Polytechnics were producing every year is alarming but the available vacancies at labour market are limited. This makes NYSC to have new dimension to skill acquisitions. Some Skills Acquisition Centres with their addresses in selected Local Government Areas are listed below.

Skills Acquisition

Centres with their Addresses in Ogun State

	Skill Acquisition Centres	Addresses of Skill Acquisition Centres	Names of Trainers
1.	Ogo Oluwa Fishery	No.3, Oluwakemi Street, Ilisan- Remo	Mrs. Akpaeze Angela A.
2.	Royal Unique Fashion & Computer School.	No.78, Abule Ogba, Imaje, Iperu-Remo	Mrs. Alabi. O.O
3.	Crown Computer/ Secretariat Institute.	No 11, Enigbokan Street, Off Aiyepe junction, Ikenne-Remo.	Mrs. Adeniran B.
4.	Adeolu Shoes and Bags Works	No.12. Awolowo Road, Ikenne-Remo	Mr. Adeolu Soji
5.	Blessed Wires Works	No.41, Ajagbe Street, Ikenne- Remo	Mrs. Adelowo Toyin
6.	Ope Interior Decoration Works	No. 2, Ilisan Road, Iperu-Remo	Miss Bariga Ope

Source: Olawuni A.O., Field Work, 2014.

However, there are several skills acquisition activities in the existing Local Government Areas within the State which include:

- 1. Fishing farming
- 2. Fashion design
- 3. Cream and soap making
- 4. Catering management
- 5. Hair dress
- 6. Embroidery and textile
- 7. Photocopying and video coverage
- 8. Computer training
- 9. Spiral binding
- 10. Shoes and Bag Works.
- 11. Interior Decoration
- 12. Bead Making & Wire works.
- 13. Soap & Dettol Production. Etc

Levels of Capacity Building

Capacity building in community is in levels. It depends on the rate and conditions that will allow the process of change to take place. The identified levels are listed and explained below.

Individual Level - Community capacity-building on an individual level requires the development of conditions that will allow individual participants to build and enhance knowledge and skills. It also calls for the establishment of conditions that will allow individuals to engage in the "process of learning and adapting to change." This happens among the corps members as they practice and train each other on skills like Beads and Wiring works. Some corps members have little ideas about these skills and they then learn more to be experts as they also train one another (Nigeria/ World Bank 2003).

Institutional Level - Community capacity building on an institutional level should involve aiding institutions in developing countries. It should not involve creating new institutions, rather modernizing existing institutions and supporting them in forming sound policies, organisational structures, and effective methods of management and revenue control (Nigeria/ World Bank, 203).

Societal Level - Community capacity building at the societal level should support the establishment of a more "interactive public administration that learns equally from its actions and from

feedback it receives from the population at large." Community capacity building must be used to develop public administrators that are responsive and accountable (Nigeria/ World Bank 2003).

Five- steps process for capacity building The UNDP promotes a capacity building approach to development in the 166 countries it is operating. It focuses on building capacity on an institutional level and offers a five-step process for systematic capacity building (World Bank 1998).

The steps include:

1. Engaging stakeholders on capacity development

An effective capacity building process must encourage participation by all those involved. If stakeholders are involved and share ownership in the process feel more development, they will responsible for the outcome sustainability development. of the Engaging stakeholder's who are directly affected by the situation allows for more effective decision-making and it also development work transparent. UNDP and its partners use advocacy and policy advisory to better engage stakeholders. That is why some industries and companies were invited to training these corps members and they make sure that they were established even after the trainings (Bolger, Jeo 2000).

2. Assess capacity needs and assets

Assessing preexisting capacities through engagement with stakeholders allows capacity builders to see what areas require

additional training, what areas should be prioritized and in what ways should capacity building be incorporated into institutional development local and strategies. The UNDP argues that capacity building that is not rooted in comprehensive study and assessment of the preexisting conditions restricted to training alone, and thus, will not facilitate sustained results. This encourages new ideas among the corps members and this will improvement on the local ways of acquiring skills to the modern way (World Bank (1996) and Olawuni (2012).

3. Formulate a capacity development response

The UNDP says that once an assessment has been completed, a capacity building response must be created based on four core issues:

Institutional arrangements assessments often find that institutions are inefficient because of bad or weak policies, procedures, resource management, organisation, poor leadership, frameworks, and communication. The UNDP and its networks work to fix problems associated with institutional arrangements by developing human resource frameworks "cover policies and procedures for recruitment, deployment and transfer, incentives systems, skills development, performance evaluation systems, and ethics and values" (Bolger Jeo 2000).

b. Leadership – The UNDP believes that leadership by either an individual or an organization can catalyze the achievement

of development objectives. Strong and efficient leadership allow for easier adaption to changes. Quality leaders can also influence people. The UNDP uses coaching and mentoring programmes to help encourage the development of leadership skills such as, priority setting communication and strategic planning (World Bank (1998).

c. **Knowledge** – The UNDP believes knowledge is the foundation of capacity. They believe greater investments should be made in establishing strong education systems and opportunities for continued learning and the development of professional skills. They support the engagement of post-secondary education reforms, continued learning and domestic knowledge services (World Bank (1998) & Friedenberg J (2003).

d. Accountability - the implementation of accountability measures facilitates better performance and efficiency. A lack of accountability measures in institutions allows for the proliferation of corruption. The UNDP promotes the strengthening of accountability frameworks that monitor and evaluate institutions. They promote independent organisations that oversee, monitor and evaluate institutions. They promote the development capacities such as literacy and language skills in civil societies that will allow for increased engagement in monitoring institutions (World Bank 1998).

4. Implement a capacity development response

Implementing a capacity building programme should involve the inclusion of

multiple systems such as national, local, should It programmes. institutional involve continual reassessment and expect change depending on changing situations. It should include evaluative indicators to measure the effectiveness of initiated programmes. This is been monitored and evaluated by the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurial Development (SAED), which is a department on its own. The department gives directives from the headquarters to the States secretariats and the SAED head give the same to Zonal Offices and Zonal offices, directs the Local Government Areas through their Local government Inspectors who work and monitor corps members at grass-root level. The same channel back to the headquarters is the route of writing and skill reports monthly giving (Inspector programme acquisitions Development Programme (2012).

5. Evaluate capacity development

Evaluation of capacity building promotes accountability. Measurements should be based on changes in an institution's performance. Evaluation should be based on changes in performance based around institutional main issues: four arrangements, leadership, knowledge, and accountability. The UNDP integrates this capacity building system into its work on reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The UNDP focuses on building capacity at the institutional level because it believes that "institutions are at the heart of human development, and that when they are able to perform better, sustain that performance over time, and

manage 'shocks' to the system, they can contribute more meaningfully to the national human of achievements development goals" (World Bank (1998). The capacity building approach is used at many levels including local, regional, national and international levels. Capacity building can be used to reorganize and capacitate governments or individuals. International donors like USAID often include capacity building as a form of assistance for developing governments or NGOs working in developing areas. Historically, this has been through a US contractor identifying an in-country NGO and supporting its financial, M&E and technical systems toward the goals of that USAID intervention (World Bank, 2006). The NGO's capacity is developed as a subimplementer of the donor. However, many NGOs participate in a form of capacity building that is aimed at individuals and the building of local capacity. In a recent report commissioned by UNAIDS and the Global Fund, individual NGOs voiced their needs and preference for broader capacity development inputs by donors and governments. For individuals and incountry NGOs, capacity building may development, leadership advocacy skills, training/speaking abilities, technical skills, organizing skills, and other areas of personal and professional development. One of the most difficult problems with building capacity on a local level is the lack of higher education in developing countries (World Bank (1998) & Inspector Development Programme (2012).

Community capacity building is much more than training and includes the following:

- 1. Human resource development the process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that will enable them to perform effectively. Many corps members have settled down and are self-sustaining without looking for jobs after their service year. They have acquired skills and developed themselves to be independent.
- 2. Organizational development the elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures, is not only within organisations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private and community). There is always improvement machinery aimed at making sure that programmes are more effective, especially, in the area of given shortterm loans to affected corps members to set-up their business.
- 3. Institutional and legal framework development making legal and regulatory changes to enable organisations, institutions and agencies at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities (NCEMA/ASCON 1999).

It also interfaces with some work by the New Institutional Economics association led notably by the 1994 Nobel Prize winner Douglass North. It tries to lay out the essential organisational and

institutional prerequisites for economic and social progress. Capacity has both human and institutional dimensions with the following components: skilled human resources, leadership and vision, viable institutions, financial and material resources and effective work practices, including systems, procedures appropriate incentives. Human capacity refers to the individuals capable of performing the tasks necessary for a country to achieve its developmental goals. Institutional capacity refers to the available organizational structure and processes that facilitate the achievement of developmental goals. Adequate capacity engenders self-reliance, and provides a country and its people the ability to make sound economic choices, sustainable policies, and solve problems. In Nigeria and other African countries, emphasis in the sphere of human capacitybuilding has been on formal education and training for building skills, attainment of political independence. Apart from the establishment of tertiary institutions with their functional libraries to provide academic training, there are also a number of post-experience and management development institutions to help further build capacity. Some of these institutions are the National Centre for Economic Management Administration (NCEMA), Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), Agricultural and Rural Management Institute (ARMTI), Centre for Management Development (CMD) and Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM).

The last two offer specialized training to officials (NCEMA/ sector private ASCON, (1999). According to World Bank (1998), local training and research institutions transmit the skills required for offering development by managing specialized training. The significance of research in capacity building is in the advancement of knowledge and creation of ways of doing things. Research institutions contribute to capacity building through their research outputs in various ways (Obadan and Uga, 1997).

In both government and private sectors, exist. Many constraints developing countries like Nigeria can boast of crop of educated personnel in different fields - science and technology, business law, accountancy, economics, librarianship and other engineering, disciplines - but there are still severe constraints as represented by shortages in a number of skills, especially, in science technology-related fields. The and situation has been compounded in recent years by the increasing trend of brain drain introduction of Structural since the Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986 and the virtual collapse of the educational system at all levels since the early 1980s in many developing countries, as revealed by the National Capacity Assessment Report (2000). Democracy is a critical development process. factor in the Corruption is at the basis of our lack of ability to build capacity, and ineffective use of local expertise. NGOs must train people, and should be encouraged to seek local input into whatever they are doing for a community (Olawuni A.O (2012) & NYSC Composite Policy Document (2013)).

In developing countries today, the capacity building challenges are quite daunting in economic overall relation to the performance and outlook. The building of adequate capacity is expected to be a priority challenge for Nigeria and other developing countries in view of the need to analyze problems, formulate, implement and monitor policies, strategies and programmes in the effective manner. The private sector also requires capacity to participate effectively in the development process and assist in the implementation of public policies. Finally, there is a need for a change of heart with respect to institutions. For some time now, not much attention has been paid to the survival of institutions. Agencies and institutions are created but somehow are neglected or allowed to decay such that not much attention is paid to the interrelationships and respective roles of the different institutions. It is, therefore, crucial that the government evolves an explicit strategy for institutional building in both the public and private sectors (World Bank, (1998) & Olawuni (2012).

From the foregoing, it is clear that the task of building and strengthening as well as effective utilisation of capacity in developing countries faces challenges which are very likely to be long-lived. Financial resources for intervention in the capacity building process are grossly inadequate, and the outlook of the overall revenue profiles of all the three tiers of

government continue to be precarious. The past capacity building efforts have not satisfactorily addressed the developing countries capacity needs on account of implementation, weak discipline. inadequate implementation experience, and resource constraints. Other notable factors include inappropriate modalities. substitution of technical assistance. and poor governance conditions, leading to inefficient use of available capacities. And so, a lot still needs to be done to strengthen capacity for development management in the various sectors. Indeed, in the public sector, serious capacity gaps (ratio of deviation between required and actual workforce to required workforce) exist in ministries, and agencies. There is need to encourage all sectors to build up the skills of the youth so as to be self-employed rather than looking up to the government, (Bolger, Jeo, 2000).

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusively, the future strategy and plans of the Nigerian Government for creating and improving capacity for sustainable development are to:

- a) developing a blueprint for environmental education and public awareness, especially, for Corps members; b) ensuring that environmental education is a core ingredient of the educational system at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education;
- c) making environment and development education available to people of all ages; involve school children in local studies on environmental health, including safe

- drinking water, sanitation, food and the environmental and economic impacts of resource use;
- d) encouraging all sectors of society, including industries, universities, governments, non-governmental organisations, and community organisations to train people in environmental management;
- e) working with the media, theatre groups, entertainment and advertising industries to promote a more active public debate on the environment;
- f) training decision-makers on the basic tenets of environment and sustainable programmes for different strata of the environment on a continuing basis;
- g) developing and implementing tailormade environmental education and awareness programmes for different strata of the environment on a continuing basis; and
- h) institutionalizing environmental responsibility through regular competitions and awards such as cleanest village in each local government, cleanest local government in each State and cleanest State in the federation, as well as the most environmentally-friendly industries on a sectoral basis.

References

Bolger, Joe (2000). "Capacity Development: Why, What and How in Capacity Development". *Occasional series*. Vol.1, no. 1, May 2000. CIDA, Policy Branch. Canadian International Development Agency.

- European Centre for Development Policy Management (2003). "Building Capacity: How it can be done?" *InfoCotonu*. No. 2 (September).
- Inasaidoo A.W.K (2001) "Human Resources development: The Key to sustainable Public Library Services in Ghana.
- Inspector Development Programmes (NYSC, NDHQ Publication (2012)
- NCEMA\ ASCON (1999) "National Capacity Assessment Survey in Nigerian Public Sector". Interim Report (April).
- Nigeria\World Bank (2003). National Capacity Assessment Report of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. (Abuja: Federal Ministry of Finance).

- National Youth Service Corps (2013). Composite Policy Document.
- Obadan, M. I. and E. O. Uga (1997) "The Contribution of Research Institutions to Capacity Building". *The Nigerian Journal of Economic and Management Studies*. Vol. 2, no. 1&2 pp 132-144.
- Olawuni A.O. (2012). Mobilization Strategies and Project Partnership as Predictors of Self-Help Projects in Southwestern Nigeria. (Unpublished Ph.D Thesis)
- World Bank (1998) "Knowledge Institutions, Capacity Building and the World Bank: Launching the Global Development Network" Draft Paper.