

## Chapter 16

# RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Introduction

**D**evelopment could mean different things to different people. It could be seen as an improvement, an advancement, a change or progress. It could also be defined in relation to modernization or westernization. In this light, Oni & Ohiani, (1987); Onyeozu, (2007); and Onyenemezu & Olumati, (2013) defined development as “a continuous process of positive change in the quality and span of life of a person or group of persons”. Todaro (1977; 1979) and Onerkerhoraye (1985) also defined development as a multi-dimensional process, which involves the reorganization and reorientation of the economic and social system. Development is thus both man centered and multidimensional in nature and leads to a cumulative increase in the standard of living for an increasing proportion of people in the society (Usman et al., 2015). On the one hand, improving human well-being is the main objective of socio-economic development which is closely linked to environmental goods and services. On the other hand, the level of well-being affects the ability of the human population to effectively manage their resources. Development transforms the economy, society and permit self-actualization of human potentials (Mabogunje, 1980; Hodder, 2000; Madu, 2007; Usman et al., 2015).

Thus the growth and development of any community is dependent on the type, nature and amount of resources at its disposal. The distribution of national economic activities over the landscape though determined by the resource endowment of a particular nation is also highly associated with its technological knowhow. The term 'resource' has no single universal definition, but as used here, refers to the function which a thing or a substance may be put to achieve a result. For example, the function or operation of satisfying a want (Zimmerman, 1964; Sharma, 1989).

Resources are expressions or reflections of human appraisal, hence could be defined as: that upon which one relies for aid, support or supply; means to attain a given end; capacity to take advantage of opportunities or to extricate oneself from difficulties. Resources are not beneficial unless they can be used to meet the basic needs of man. Zimmerman (1951) supports the fact that resources are nothing unless they become. The identification of available beneficial resources does not in itself bring about development. Development is therefore a product of effective resource mobilization, allocation, utilization and management.

Resource mobilization in logistic term, implies the bringing together of all available resources in an appropriate 'mix in order to speed up successful 'take off' of the development impetus. It means knowledge of what resources are needed, in what order of priority and how they are to be organized in the development process.

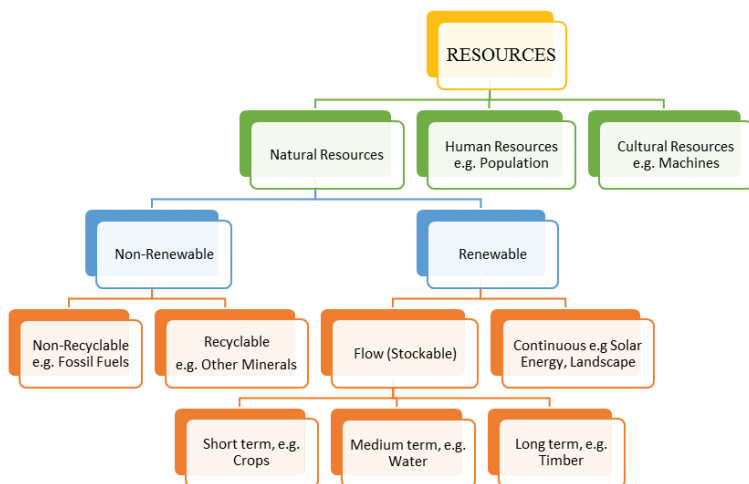
## **Classification of Resources**

Resources according to Goodall (1987) and Sharma (1989), can broadly be put into three groups, viz: natural, human and cultural (Figure 1).

**Natural Resources:** are those elements of the biophysical environment that are necessary for the production of certain basic commodities. Natural resources can appropriately be defined as the features and products of nature amenable to use

as factors of production to deliver consumable goods. These include physical features, such as climate, water, soil, mineral and biological features such as vegetation, wildlife and fisheries.

**Human Resources:** are the energies, skills, talent, and knowledge of the people, which is applicable to production of goods and services. This can be examined from the perspectives of – (i) number, (ii) physical abilities, and (iii) mental capabilities.



**Figure 1:** Classification of Resources.

**Source:** Adapted from Brian Goodall (1987), as cited in Sharma, (1989).

**Cultural Concept:** are the attributes of society that are most active in the realm of resource appraisal and development. Resources expand and contract in response to human wants and abilities. These wants and capabilities are influenced by their culture. It is no wonder therefore that Zimmermann (1951) sees culture as the sum total of all the devices produced by man to assist him in the attainment of his objectives. The relationship of natural resources with the attributes of society, particularly with the technology, shows how conditions of abundance and scarcity, both relative and absolute, are the consequences of human culture”.

## Resource Utilization

*Productive resources may be classified into natural and human:*

*Natural resource* as a concept can only be understood within the context of human needs. In other words, it is man who by finding a use for a material that confers on it a value to make it become a resource. Mitchell (1979 and 2002) says the environment or its part do not become resources until they are considered capable of satisfying human needs. Thus, the basic determinant of natural resources is technological development and necessity. A resource may be a potential and indeed unknown depending on the exposure of the people living in such an environment.

The basic needs of man in the world over, are materials of the environment (resources) used to satisfy their needs and this varies among different cultures and do not remain static over time even in the same cultural group. These differences are usually due to greater advances in technological development by a group which has helped them to identify, develop and use more resources than others. Furthermore, while technological development can lead to new uses being found for some new materials for development, thus converting them into resources, some materials that were once useful may become obsolete as resources. Some resources may remain potential rather than latent or reality unless and until, it is identified as a useable material. Thus, necessity leads to the creation of resources. In other words, necessity may force a group of people to look into the possibility of converting a onetime useless material into a resource. For example in 1984 when toilet soap and detergent disappeared from the Nigerian market due to shortages of raw materials, Nigerians began to turn to local materials for making soap. Hence, Zimmerman (1933); Bradley Jr., (2007) noted that man's desire to meet these needs (necessity) constitutes the "starting point" of the economic process and consequently, of resource appraisal.

Natural resources already identified are tangible substances that include land, water, mineral etc., consisting not only these tangible materials, but also features of the natural environment which have consequences on economic decision (Perloff &

Wingo, 1961). They comprise of land, climate, coastline, etc., which affect living conditions which in turn exert a strong pull of migrants from less favorably situated regions to more favourably positioned locations.

*Human resources* refer to the people, their education, skills organization and management (Meir, 1970). Indeed, Todaro (2007) is of the opinion that human resources constitute the ultimate basis for the wealth of a nation, in which capital and natural resources are passive factors of production. In other words, human beings are the active agents who accumulate capital, exploit natural resources, build socio-economic and political organization, as well as carrying forward and continuous change in the environment termed development.

## **The Concept of Rural Development**

The concept of rural development has witnessed noticeable shifts with time, especially in relation to where emphasis is placed between growth and welfare. The word rural gives spatial as well as territorial dimension to the meaning of development. Rural development can therefore be seen as improving the living standards of the low income population in rural areas, on a self-sustaining basis. This can be achieved through the transformation of the socio-spatial structures of their productive activities (Mabogunje, 1980; Arugu & Bassey, 2014). This implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses, in order to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and to cope with change that normally accompanies such re-organizations.

Rural development in the view of Jasman et al. (1981); Titilola & Ogundele (2013); and Behera (2013) is “an overall improvement in the economies and social wellbeing of rural residents and the institutional and physical environments in which they live”. The Rockefeller Foundation in a wider dimension defined rural development as a process of increasing welfare and productivity of lower income rural people, both in farms and in towns. To further expand this concept, the factor of equity or equal opportunity can be added as a major

ingredient of wellbeing. The definition of rural development by UNESCO (1970) is a process whereby a series of quantitative and qualitative changes, introduced into an area, results in improvements in the living conditions of the inhabitants through increased production becomes relevant. In other words, rural development can be viewed as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people such as the rural poor, the small-scale peasant farmers, sharecroppers, landless labourers and their families (Aliy, 1999; Adejuwon, 2015). This requires extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas (McNamara, 1975; Hubbard & Gorton, 2011; Simukoko, 2012). Rural development should however not be taken as the same as agricultural development. Any programme of agricultural development in the rural sector is only a component of rural development activity. In essence, rural development helps to modify the physical and social environment of the rural poor and also maintain sustained progress towards desired goals which they help to establish and implement over time.

## **Community Participation in Rural Development**

The Oxford Dictionary (2014), posited that human communities may share intent, belief, resources, preferences, needs, and risks in common, affecting the identity of the participants and their degree of cohesiveness. A community is seen as a small, but definite part of the earth's surface that is indelibly stamped upon the minds of the local inhabitants who live together, who belong together, so that they share, not this nor that particular interest, but a whole set of interests, wide enough and complete enough to improve their lives. No wonder, the Budapest Declaration (2004), viewed community development as a way of strengthening civil society by prioritizing the actions of communities, and their perspectives in the development of social, economic and environmental policy.

If rural development is a determined and conscious attempt to focus on the general upliftment of man's living conditions in the rural areas. It is necessary to involve the local communities. It is in this vein that Ogidefa (2010) sees rural development concept

as "involving the creation and widening of opportunities for rural individuals to realize full potential through education and share in decision and action which affect their lives". Community development is therefore a vehicle for achieving this, through the principle of self-help. "Self-help is the best help" and community development works effectively on this principle. In the past, it was very unpopular since it relied on forced labour (Manghezi, 1976). Now it can be viewed as spontaneous reaction by a group of people to their development plight. It comes from the perception of a common need and a desire by all, to satisfy this need. It's ability to usher in development consistent with the principles of basic needs and self-reliance. The government should see such efforts by communities as a supplementary effort while grants in-aid to communities undertaking such projects ought to be taken for granted.

In India, community participation in local initiative programme is employed to mobilize resources in urban and rural settings to extend health services to low income families (Carr, 2004). Part of this agenda included the training of 2000 community health volunteers to monitor the community services delivery and to map out community needs through the use of pictorial maps. In another instance, households in Madras, India contributed 10 Rupees per month towards salary of street beautifier, in a project handled by Excellent Novel and Radical (EXNORA) International. This NGO focused on different methods of disposing, recycling, re-using and composting of wastes. A good number of success stories have been linked to the involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The World Bank in particular has a good experience with NGO's involvement in urban development projects (World Bank, 1989). The instance of Zambia and El Salvador intermediary comes into focus here, where NGOs promoted community participation in the development of housing. In Nigeria, studies such as those by Adedayo (1988 and 2000) revealed considerable success of development projects such as construction of, and expansion of primary schools, roads, provision of primary health facility, electricity, telephone services, construction of ring road, post offices, expansion of police station facilities and provision of markets, through participation of Home Town Voluntary Associations in Western Nigeria.

Community participation provides an impetus to development assistance. One of the fastest mechanism for

channeling development assistance would appear to be through community based development and community driven development (Mansuri & Rao, 2004). Community development may equally involve organizing people and groups for social or political action to improve various aspects of their living. The gains from community-driven development encourages sustainability and in addition causes the reversal of power relations, creating a voice for the poor; and allowing more control over development assistance, etc. Whichever way these theoretical concepts are perceived, community participation should be seen as desirable and should be encouraged especially in situations where government alone cannot possibly provide all the required socio-economic infrastructures.

## **Conclusion**

A country's development can most appropriately be assessed by the level of its rural development. Ignoring rural communities by not providing them with basic needs and access to information, infrastructure encourages them to migrate from rural communities. It is therefore inappropriate to concentrate development in the urban areas. To sustain the process of positive change in the quality and life span of a person, citizen or of communities, every hand must surely be on deck to provide and attract developmental aids and grants to communities for their development. Despite this viewpoint, all resources, in whatever form must be identified, developed and utilized equitably and fairly, especially across spatial and economic divides in the society. Notwithstanding the above recommendation, it is pertinent to emphasize that development is a multi-dimensional process, which usually involves the re-organization and re-orientation of the economic and social system of such communities (Todaro, 1977 and 1979; Onerkerhoraye, 1985). Partnership and cooperation between citizens, private bodies, NGOs and public authorities becomes necessary if not imperative for the wellbeing and development of all.



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