

Full Length Research

Developing rural community: Involvement of community based youth organisations (CBYOs) in southwest, Nigeria

Ayinde Julius Olatunde

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.
E-mail: tundeyjoy@yahoo.com or tundeyjoy@gmail.com

Accepted 18 November, 2013

The study analysed the activities of Community Based Youth Organisations (CBYOs) involved in rural development projects in Southwest, Nigeria and identified their level of involvement in the execution of rural development projects. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select 431 different CBYOs members from 12 Local Government Areas in the area. Frequency count and percentage were used to summarize the nominal and ordinal data collected. Results revealed that majority (91.9%) of the CBYOs were non-religious based organizations and larger percentage (31.7%), had mean membership strength of 22.73. Majority (63.3%) sourced fund through membership due for project execution. In addition, the average age of members was 23 years with 8.51 years average schooling years and mean income of N5, 000.00k per month. The groups were averagely involved in rural development activities through contribution of money (64.5%), and supply of personal labours (48.5%) among others. Moreover, the results of inferential statistics showed that years of existence ($b = 0.030$, $P \leq 0.05$) and membership size/strength ($b = 0.070$, $P \leq 0.01$) promote CBYOs involvement in rural development activities. This finding indicated that CBYOs are involved in rural development projects which covered all aspects of human needs, desires and aspirations in Southwest, Nigeria; which eventually promote their productivity, maturity and worth within their communities.

Key words: Youth organizations', involvement, rural development activities.

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural sector in Nigeria has witnessed a considerable high level of evolution within the last three decades. This was occasioned primarily by the desire to increase food production in order to enhance self-sufficiency and empower the rural youth economically. Nigeria as a developing country has to develop its agriculture if it is to be reckoned within the committee of nations. There is a decline in agricultural production because there is apparent shift of interest from agriculture to the white-collar jobs such as medical practices, pharmacy, teaching, accountancy and engineering, especially among the youths (Otumara, 2000 and Torimiro *et al.*, 2008).

Youth in Nigeria may be categorized as young men and

women between the ages of 13 and 30 years. This is based on the fact that in Nigeria, the expected age of entry into secondary education or vocation apprenticeship training is 13 years and this generally serves as the entry age into the youthful fold. Also, based on the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) that was established in 1975 in Nigeria with the aim of promoting cultural integration by enlisting graduates from higher institutions to undergo a compulsory one year of service to the fatherland. One of the regulations of the scheme stipulated that anybody above the age 30 years is not eligible to participate in the scheme. In addition, National Youth Entrepreneurship Summit (NAYES, 2008) defines youth from the age of 14 to 30 with an extension of up to

35 years. World Bank (2006) estimates that about 55 percent of youth reside in rural areas but this figure is as high as 70 percent in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Youth organizations or groups are a movement formed to promote better living conditions for the individuals and household as well as the entire community through their participation and cooperation. According to Jibowo (2000), group is a plurality of interacting individuals who have a sense of solidarity or cohesion and a mission to accomplish. Members are involved in mutual awareness, interaction, stimulation, orientation, evaluation and responses. Youth organizations provide social and economic network as opportunities for youths especially at the grassroots to participate in the development process. According to Valk (1999), organization is any group of individuals, who on a voluntary basis or for professional reasons organise themselves to share knowledge and other resources, exchange information or undertake joint activities around specific interest areas so that they empower themselves, individually or collectively to reach their social objectives or meet their professional goals.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The social systems theory of group dynamic is adopted for this study. Group dynamics is the scientific study of behaviour in groups to advance our knowledge about the nature of groups, group development and the interrelations between groups and individuals, other groups and larger entities (Johnson and Johnson, 2000).

Group dynamics key theorists (Tuckman, 1965; Forsyth, 2006) opine that, as group members interact and influence each other; groups develop a number of dynamic processes that separate them from a random collection of individuals. These processes include norms, roles, relations, development, need to belong, social influence, and effects on behaviour.

In the process of interaction and involvement of individual within the group, Beal *et al.* (1967) and Maunder (1982) emphasized that certain new forces arise as a result of individual interaction with another and within the group as a whole. This is called the internal dynamics of group behaviour. Therefore, internal dynamics of a group is the summation, integration and resolution of all the forces involved during interactions of group members. Also, Beal *et al.* (1967), Chamala and Shingi (1997) define external dynamics of group as forces influencing group activities such as community values, community expectations, institutional values, parent group affiliations and control, inter-group competitions, and prestige and status.

The group dynamic theory is applicable to this study in that, the interaction between the CBYOs group members (internal dynamics), the group and their host communities (external dynamic) in Osun State would suggest whether

the level of involvement of CBYOs that involved in rural development activities is high, medium and low which show their productivity, maturity and worth within their communities. This was based on the consideration of the results of youth organisations involvement in development projects that are executed using development categories which are agricultural development, social development, economic development, health development, education development and political development program.

Recently, despite the fact that youths constitute themselves into various groups and embark on various agricultural, social and developmental activities; poverty and crime as well as other social vices are in alarming rate among the youths in the country (Otumara, 2000; Torimiro and Dionco-Adetayo, 2005; ILO, 2005; Giwa, 2008; Torimiro, *et al.*, 2008). In spite of their involvement in rural development projects, however, there has been little or no known empirical documentation of their performances and the extent of their involvement. Against this background, this study was designed to assess the involvement of the community based youth organisations (CBYOs) in rural development activities and its implication for reduction of rural poverty among youths in Osun State, Nigeria. Specifically, it characterised, identified the types of CBYOs that were involved in rural development activities and determine their level of involvement. Empirically, association between the level of involvement of CBYO members in rural development activities and some selected organisations characteristics were determined.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the rural area of Southwest, Nigeria. The study area lies within longitude 2.75° and 6.75° Greenwich meridian and Latitude 7° and 9° (Ministry of Information, Osun State, 2009). According to analytical report of the National Population Commission (NPC) (2006), Osun State has 3,423,535 people with thirty (30) Local Government Areas and one area office.

A multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select members of youth organisations (CBYOs) that were involved in rural development activities in selected community areas of Osun state who were aged between 13 years and about 50 years. Firstly, Osun state was purposively selected for the study because of rural nature and the presence of numerous CBYOs in the state.

Secondly, three agricultural zones and Local Government Areas (LGAs) in each zone were identified in the state namely: Osogbo, Ife-Ijesha, and Iwo zones comprising thirteen (13), ten (10) and seven (7) LGAs respectively. In the third stage, proportionate sampling technique was used to randomly select five (5) LGAs, four (4) LGAs and three (3) LGAs from LGAs respectively from the zones. In all, twelve (12) LGAs representing about 40 percent of total LGAs in the state were selected.

Community Development department and opinion leaders in each of the selected LGAs were contacted to get the list of CBYOs under their jurisdiction. A purposive sampling technique was used to select three rural communities in each LGA selected. In all, thirty-six (36) rural communities were selected. Proportionate sampling technique was used to select at least 20 percent of CBYOs that can be found in each selected rural community. Systematic sampling technique with a random start was used to select respondents for the study using group registers as sampling frame at interval of 3. In all, 431 respondents were selected for the study.

The dependent variable for this study was level of involvement of youth organisations in community development activities aided or not aided by the government (Local, State or Federal), NGOs or a combination of these institutions in Osun State, Nigeria. Attention was focused on level of involvement of CBYOs in community projects development steps suggested by Pearson (1966) and quoted by Adisa (2001). These are level of involvement in problem identification, decision making, planning (plan of action), implementation (execution of plan) and evaluation of community development projects. Six indices were used to measure level of involvement on each of these steps and respondents total scores were determined from the summation of values obtained from each separate score.

Every positive response received a score of one while negative response received a score of zero. Thus, an organisation (through member's response) that did not involve in steps toward her community development activities was scored zero. While an organisation who fully involved in the steps of community development activities identified were scored a maximum score of 30. The organisations then were categorised into three categories depending on their scores, to determine their level of involvement in community development activities. However, their level of involvement was categorised into three levels using their mean scores and standard deviation; based on the assumption that the level of involvement scores assumed a normal distribution. This was operationalised as follows: High level was perceived by organisations with mean level of involvement score plus one standard deviation and above. Low level was perceived by organisations with level of involvement score below mean level of involvement score minus one standard deviation scores. Medium level of involvement was perceived by organisations with mean scores in between the high and low level of involvement.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of youth organisations that are involved in rural development activities

Results in Table 1 showed that majority (91.9%) of the CBYOs in the study were non-religious based

organizations, larger percentage (31.7%) of the selected CBYOs were established from years 2006 to date with mean membership strength of 22.73. Detailed analysis showed that majority (96.6%) of the CBYOs in the study area did not register their organisations with any agency of government while 50.9 percent were primarily established for social development.

Also, majority (83.0%) of the CBYOs claimed that they considered certain criteria such as age, social status, educational attainment, moral uprightness, technical competences of members and others which they specified before admitting and assigning responsibilities to members. The classification based on these showed that the average membership criteria used was 4.53. These findings in line with internal group dynamics theory support the findings of Otunmara (2000), Adisa (2001), Deji (2002) and Akpomovia (2010) who identified year of establishment and membership strength as part of determinants to level of involvement of an organisation in rural development activities.

Other characteristics of youth organisations that are involved in rural development activities

Data in Table 2 showed that majority (89.5%) of the CBYOs embraced consensus while very few (5.0%) respondents embraced executive decision making before embarking on rural development projects. Also, detailed analysis showed that majority (94.3%) of the CBYOs engaged in one or more rural development projects in the last five years while majority (63.3%) sourced fund through membership dues. These findings in line with internal group dynamics theory supported by the findings of Otunmara (2000), Adisa (2001), Deji (2002) and Akpomovia (2010) who also identified some other group characteristics as part of determinants to rate of involvement of an organisation in rural development activities.

Selected demographic characteristics of CBYOs members (the respondents)

Data in Table 3 showed that the average age of CBYOs members was 24.32 years, majorities (81.4%) of the respondents were male and 53.8 percent were singled with average household size of 5.57 people; and 8.51 average years of schooling. Business/trading, was one of the major occupations of members and accounted for the larger percentage (33.6%) with average income of N5,000.00k per month. This finding is in agreement with Torimiro *et al.* (2000); Torimiro and Dionco-Adetayo (2005) and Akpomovia (2010) submission that involvement of community organizations in rural development is determined by socio-economic characteristics of their members. For instance, members who are younger with

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to CBYOs characteristics.

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	S.D
Types				
Non-religiuos (examples are: Alaja Youth Club, Progressive Youth Club, Lasinmi Youth development Club to mention few)	57	91.9		
Religious (examples are: Baptist Youth Fellowship, Ansar-ur-deen Youth, Anglican Youth Fellowship, to mention few)	5	8.1		
Total	62	100.0		
Year of existence				
Le3ss than 1995	75	17.5		
1996 to 2000	94	21.7		
2001 to 2005	125	29.1		
2006 to date	137	31.7		
Total	431	100.0		
Membership size/strength				
Less than 20	154	35.7		
21 to 40	120	27.8		
41 to 60	24	5.5	22.73	3.31
61 to 80	65	15.0		
More than 80	69	16.0		
Total	431	100.0		
Registration with Government				
Registered	17	3.4		
Not register	416	96.6		
Total	431	100.0		
Group category based on their function				
Social development	219	50.9		
Educational development	111	25.7		
Religious development	54	12.5		
Agricultural development	34	7.8		
Political development	13	3.1		
Total	431	100.0		
Criteria for membership /assigning responsibilities				
Below 4	292	67.8		
5-8	101	23.5	4.53	1.64
Above 9	37	8.7		
Total	431	100.0		

low income might have limitation to the number of activities they can involve in.

CBYOs' involvement in rural development project execution

Multiple response data in Table 4 showed that CBYOs

were averagely involved in community development activities through the contribution of needed money (64.5%), supply of personal labours (48.5%) and attendance at meeting (45.7%) percent among others. This finding indicated that CBYOs are involved in rural development projects which covered all aspects of human needs, desires and aspirations and supported the

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to decision making process and involvement in rural development in the last 5 years in their group (n = 431).

Other characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Criteria*		
Consensus	385	89.5
Committee meetings	169	39.1
Executive meetings	120	27.8
Adhoc committee	40	9.2
Voting	105	24.4
Opinion poll	89	20.7
President alone	22	5.0
Involvement in development activities in last 5 years		
Yes	406	94.3
No	25	5.7
Total	431	100.0
Sources of income*		
Membership dues	273	63.3
Membership levy	251	58.3
Launching/Fund raising	222	51.4
Membership fine	124	28.7
Assistance from NGOs/ Government	74	17.1
Through carnival	141	32.7

*Multiple responses
Source: Field survey, 2011.

group dynamic theory that, the interaction between the CBYOs group members (internal dynamics), the group and their host communities (external dynamic) in Southwest, Nigeria; promote their involvement rural development activities and show their productivity, maturity and worth within their communities.

Part B: Testing of hypotheses

In order to establish relationship between the characteristics of CBYOs and level of involvement of CBYOs in rural development activities, data were subjected to correlation (r) and regression (b) analyses. Results in Table 5 showed that at $P \leq 0.01$ years of existence ($r = 0.020$) and membership size/strength ($r = 0.036$) were significant and positively correlated with level of involvement of CBYOs in rural development activities. This implies that these CBYOs characteristics promote their involvement in rural development activities. Also, these findings in line with theory of group dynamics supported by the findings of Otunmara (2000), Adisa (2001), Deji (2002) and Akpomovia (2010) who identified year of establishment and membership strength as part of determinants to level of involvement of an organisation in rural development activities.

Also, data were subjected to regression analysis in order to further explain the direction and the strength of

influence of independence variables on dependence variable. In view of this, results in Table 6 showed that at $P \leq 0.05$, there was positive regression coefficient of membership size/strength ($b = 0.070$), criteria used for membership admission and assigning duties ($b = 0.164$) and years of existence ($b = 0.030$). This implies that each of these variables would increase level of involvement of CBYOs in community development activities by their corresponding values when their values are varied by one unit. The T-values show that only two of these explanatory variables contribute significantly to the level of involvement of CBYOs in rural development activities. At 0.05 level of significance ($P \leq 0.05$), the null hypothesis should be rejected because some independent variables influence dependent variable. R^2 value of 0.311 shows that the selected CBYOs characteristics considered as regression inputs in this study can only explain 31.1 percent of the variations found on level of involvement of CBYOs in rural development.

Summary and conclusions

The study revealed that CBYOs contributed immensely towards their community development, particularly, in area of provision of social infrastructures coupled with their involvement in agricultural, economic, health,

Table 3. Distribution of respondents by their selected demographic characteristics

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	S.D
Age				
Below 15	2	0.3		
16 – 25	176	41.0		
26 – 35	211	49.0	24.32	2.46
36 – 45	39	9.0		
Above 46	3	0.7		
Total	431	100		
Sex				
Male	351	81.4		
Female	80	18.6		
Total	431	100.0		
Marital status				
Single	232	53.8		
Married	198	45.9		
Widowed	1	0.3		
Total	431	100.0		
Household size				
Household (People)				
Below 3	10	2.4		
3-6	277	64.3		
7-10	105	24.4		
11-14	26	6.1		
14 above	12	2.8		
Total	431	100.0	5.57	2.72
Occupation				
Farming	85	19.7		
Business/Trading	145	33.6		
Civil servant	72	16.8		
Schooling	129	29.9		
Total	431	100.0		
Income(₦)				
Below 10,000.00	294	68.3		
10,001.00-15,000.00	75	17.3		
15,001.00-20,000.00	44	10.2		
20,0001-25,000.00	4	1.0		
Above 25,000	14	3.2		
Total	431	100.0	₦4,869.32	2,164.13

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to CBYOs involvement in projects execution (n = 431).

Involvement*	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Contribution of needed money	278	64.5
Supply of personal labours	209	48.5
Attendance at community meeting	166	38.5
Contact of relevant agencies	106	24.7
Supply of hired labour	74	17.2
Site location/budgeting	32	7.5

Multiple responses*

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Table 5. Summary of linear correlation analysis of level of involvement in rural development activities and some organisation (CBYOs) characteristics (n = 431).

Characteristics	Correlation (r)	Co-efficient determination (r ²)
Years of existence	0.020*	0.001
Membership size/strength	0.036*	0.001
No of Criteria used admission into group	0.040	0.012

Number of independent variables = 03

Number of respondents = 431

Degree of freedom = 429

Level of significance = 0.01 (P<0.01)

S = Significant

N/S = Not significant

** = correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

* = correlation is significance at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Source: computed from field survey, 2011.

Table 5. Summary of regression analysis of level of involvement in rural development activities and some organisation (CBYOs) characteristics(n = 431).

Characteristics	Regression (b)	t-value	P-value
Constant	10.505	6.621	0.000
Years of existence	0.030*	2.324	0.004
Membership size/strength	0.070**	1.437	0.001
No of Criteria used	0.164	0.606	0.021

*Significant at P<0.01)

** Significant at P<0.05

Model summary: F-value = 10.605 at 0.05, R² = 0.311

Source: computed from field survey, 2011

education and political development programmes. Therefore, in support of group dynamic theory, self-help and a bottom-up approach, as a strategy for rural development enhances CBYOs technical efficiency in development activities which infer that they are productive, mature, worthy and blessing to their communities in Southwest, Nigeria

In order to enhance the potential of rural youth organisations' towards the development of rural community, development stakeholders (Non-Governmental Organisations, Governmental agencies, private organizations and others) should embrace the concept of group dynamics with particular reference to rural development as essential instrument that can be used by development experts to analyze the wants, desires and wishes of individuals, and how they act and react. These might include provision of sustainable extension services to facilitate regular enlightenment programmes on crucial areas of projects development and how to facilitate group development through the training on group dynamic.

REFERENCES

Adisa, B.O. (2001). "Participation of Community Based Organisations in Rural Development Projects in Osun

State of Nigeria". An unpublished Ph.D. Thesis. Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State. Pp. 74 – 90.

Akpomuvia, O.B. (2010). "Self-Help as a Strategy for Rural Development in Nigeria: A Bottom-Up Approach" Akpomuvie, Orhioghene Benedict, Delta State University (Abraka, Nigeria). *J. Alternative Perspectives Soc. Sci.* 2(1): 88-111.

Beal, G.M., Bohlem, J.M, and Raudabaugh, J.N. (1967). Leadership and Dynamic Group Action, the Iowa state University press, Ames, Iowa state University press, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A. pp. 21-60.

Chamala, S., Shingi, P.M. (1997). Establishing and Strengthening Farmer Organisation. In: Swanson, B.E., R.P. Bentz and A.J. Sofranko (Eds.). Improving Agricultural Extension: A References Manual, Rome, Food and Agriculture Organisation. Pp. 193 – 201.

Deji, O.F. (2002). "Participation of Women Organisations in Rural Development Projects in Osun State of Nigeria". An unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State. Pp. 96 – 134.

Forsyth, D.R. (2006). Reading guide for group dynamics (4th ed.) University of Wisconsin, USA, Esau Claire. Available: www.vwec.edu/sampsow/307/. 27/5/2008

Giwa, S. (2008). Nigeria: Youth Development and

- Challenges Ahead.
Available: www.allafrica.com/stories/200802191120.htm
1.27/5/2009.
- ILO, (2005). Global employment trends for youth, Geneva, ILO. www.vwec.ILO/sampsowreports. 30/5/2008.
- Jibowo, A. A. (2000). *Essential Rural Sociology*. Gbemi Sodipo Press Ltd. Pp 1-5.
- Johnson, D. W., Johnson, R. (2000). Human relations: Valuing diversity. Edina, MN: Interaction Book Company Pp. 21-36.
- Maunder, A.H. (1982). *Agricultural Extension: A Reference Manual* (Abridge Edition) Rome, Food and Agricultural Organisation.
- Ministry of Information, Osun State. (2009): File: Osun State, Nigeria. Available: www.osunstateorg/Ministries/MinInfowmen.htm 22/6/2009
- National Population Commission (NPC) (2006). Population Census of Federal Republic of Nigeria: Analytical Report at the National Level, Pp. 22-54.
- National Youth Entrepreneur Summit (NAYES) (2008): Second Annual Signature Fundraising Event Social entrepreneur. <http://www.digitawide.net/events/vie>. 30/7/2007.
- Okorie, V.O., Torimiro, D. O. Ojo, T.F., Kazim, O.K. (2009). Youth's Involvement in Car Wash Activities: A Potential Pull of Agricultural Labour in Osun State, Nigeria. African Educational Research Network, *Afr. Symp.*, 9(1): 83-94.
- Otumara, J. (2000). "Youth harassment. Paper presented in Seminar on Awareness and Re-orientation seminar for youths of oil producing communities of *Delta States*" organised by Shell Petroleum Development of Nigeria, 26th June, 2000.
- Torimiro, D.O. (1999). "Factors Associated with Youth Participation in Rural Leadership Development Activities in Ogun State, Nigeria). An unpublished Ph.D. Thesis. Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State. Pp. 11- 46.
- Torimiro, D.O., Dionco-Adetayo, E. (2005). "Children involvement in entrepreneurship in rural communities: an attitudinal analysis". Available online at www.sciencedirect.com. 10/4/2011.
- Torimiro, D. O.; Okorie, V.O., Ojubanire, M.O. (2008). "Push-and Pull correlates of Nigerian Farm Youths' involvement in the Transportation Business: A Bane for Food Security in Africa". *J. Youth Stud.* 11(2-Serial No.22): 125-138.
- Tuckman, B. (1965). *Developmental sequence in small groups psychological Bulletin*, 63. Pp. 384-399.
- United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (2005). Rural Youth Building a World without hunger. Available: www.fao.org/rural youth. 23/5/2009.
- Valk, M. (1999). Workshop on Financial Micro Initiatives as tools for Sustainable Development. 2nd International Conference of the Environment Forum, De Port, the Netherlands. 6-8 November, 1998. Available: <http://www.bcca.org/ief/dValk9> 24/5/2010
- World Bank (2006). "Executive summary" in World Bank. Rural Development: From Vision to action, the next generation, World Bank, Washington, D. C.
- Youth Jeunesse Forum (YJF), (2006). Policy paper on sustainable Development. Adopted 28-29 April, 2006. <http://www.johannesburgsumit.org>. 23/2/2010