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Relationship Between Infrastructural Facilities And Rural Development In Qua'An-Pan Local Government Area Of Plateau State, Nigeria

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Abstract
The study examines the relationship between infrastructural facilities and rural development in Qua'anpan local government area of Plateau State, Nigeria with aim of identifies the infrastructural facilities such as roads, schools, health, electricity and water supply with a view to ascertain their adequacy or absence as they affect the socio-economic development and standard of living of the rural communities in the study area. The methodology used in the study was descriptive approach method where the facilities are critically examined and described in terms of adequacy, or absence in the area. However, questionnaires were administered to the twenty three sampled villages in the eight districts. Consequently, descriptive analysis approach was used for the analysis of the findings using frequency distribution table, ven diagrams and pictures to arrive at conclusion and appropriate recommendation mentioned.

Keywords: Infrastructure, Facilities, Rural Communities, Economic, Development, Standard of Living

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INTRODUCTION

Rural development has been a front burner issue in Nigeria simply because majority of Nigerian people are rural dwellers. Also, these rural dwellers produce the chunk of Nigeria's staple food crops using crude implements and technology. However, the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas cannot be achieved without the provision of basic infrastructural facilities. The basic objectives of rural development strategy are to improve economic and social conditions of rural communities in an integrated approach, with a view of eradicating poverty. Therefore, provision and sustenance of rural infrastructural facilities are crucial in realizing the objectives of rural development.

Infrastructural facilities according to Hirschman (1958) refer to those basic services without which primary, secondary and tertiary productive activities cannot function. In other words, infrastructural facilities refer to the essential or basic amenities necessary to make modern human settlements habitable and economically viable and productive. Infrastructural facilities represent one of the several subsets of activities that form essential elements for rural development. Therefore, the provision of infrastructural facilities will no doubt make life worthy of living and work worthy of doing for the rural people because of the relationship between infrastructure and rural development. Developing countries of the world today are faced with serious problems of finding the most and effective means of improving the living standard of the rural population. The task of transforming rural – Nigeria has remained the focus of successive governments in recent years. The focus on rural development in Nigeria has become imperative in view of the fact that rural – Nigeria constitute the larger of 80 percent of Nigeria society, the most highly depressed segment but with great potential reservoir of national food stuffs, wealth and energy.

The United Nations (2009) estimated that 48.3 percent of Nigeria's population live in urban areas while the 51.7 percent of the people live in the rural areas and are largely engaged in subsistence agricultural production. They are also the major sources of capital formation for the country, and a principal market for domestic manufactures (Olatunbosun, 1975). In general terms, the rural areas engage in primary activities that form the foundation for economic development. However, quite germane to agricultural production is the provision of basic and functional infrastructure because it is important for achieving rural development. The development of rural – Nigeria, requires the availability of infrastructural facilities to promote the development of socio- economic activities and improvement of human welfare. Perhaps, that was what informed the establishment of the then Directorate of food, Roads

and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI) created in 1985 by Gen. Ibrahim Badamasi Babagida's regime. The organization seems to have made ephemeral impacts in providing feeder roads and other basic infrastructures for the rural areas.

Statement of problem

The development of rural infrastructure as the bedrock of rural transformation has long been neglected in Nigeria with the ascendancy of crude oil as the main stay of the nation's economy. The place of rural development in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized given the fact that majority of Nigerians reside there. Its importance to the lives of rural dwellers and growth of the national economy can be closed to available infrastructural facilities. However, Qua'an-pan Local Government Area suffers from the absence/inadequacy of social and economic infrastructural facilities coupled with poor accessibility. The area has restricted access to basic infrastructures such as roads, water, electricity and education.

Furthermore, potable water supply across the area remains deplorable. The inadequacy or absence of good water supply has been found to have direct bearing on the spread of certain water-borne diseases such as Bilharzias, cholera, Typhoid. Rural people in most parts of the area obtain water from a variety of sources. For example, wells, rain water, streams, rivers and lakes. By and large, the quality of water from these sources can not be certified as clean and safe for human consumption. Generally, the area lack electricity power supply and for this reason, there is low commercial or industrial activities. Life style in the area is dominated by the use of gasoline generators. The social activities in the area is poor or dull because of the absence of electricity which could have provided opportunities for economic activities and thus help check in rural exodus towards urban centres in search of greener pastures. Thus, because of the absence of electricity in the area, it is not possible on the economic front to set up small agro- processing and manufacturing industries thereby raising rural productivity, employment, income and standard of living. This has significant effect on lack of development of agro – allied industries for agricultural products such as tomatoes, mango, orange, cassava, palm fruits and kernel in the area that are now being under processed and wasted. The absence of infrastructural facilities in the area has therefore made life and economic activities unattractive, thereby encouraging in rural- urban migration and low agricultural production in the area.

Aim and objectives of the study

The general aim of the study is to investigate the relationship between infrastructural facilities and rural development in Qua'an-pan towards the improvement of socio-economic activities so as to ensure the achievement of sustainable rural development. In order to achieve the aim, the following objectives will be used:

i. To do an inventory of infrastructural facilities in the study area.
ii. To determine the availability and accessibility of these facilities to the rural people.
iii. To assess the magnitude of the absence and presence of infrastructural facilities.
iv. To suggest appropriate approach to the provision of infrastructural facilities to promote sustainable rural development.

Scope of the Study

The study is centered on establishing the relationship between infrastructural facilities such as roads, electricity, health and water vis-à-vis rural development in Qua'an pan Local Government Area, in essence, the merits and demerits of infrastructure in relation to sustainable rural development. he study covers only twenty-three selected villages.

Significance of the Study

Rural infrastructures constitute a significant position in rural dwellers welfare and socio – economic activities. The need for adequate provision of these facilities cannot be over emphasized considering the important role it plays in promoting well –being and socio – economic activities of the people in the area. Sequel to this, the study will help the government, policy – makers and implementators to transcend budgetary allocation of resources for infrastructural development in the rural areas which has limited the quality of life and socio-economic activities of the rural sector. Finally, the study is necessitated by the concern of the researcher about the focus on rural development in view of the fact that rural –Nigeria constitute about 80 percent of the Nigeria society. This, the most highly depressed segment but with great potential reservoir of national foodstuffs, wealth and energy and so must not be neglected in the provision of basic infrastructural facilities.

Theoretical and Conceptual background

The relationship between infrastructural facilities and rural development is of central interest to rural sociologists, geographers, economists and others interested in rural society. An important element of this relationship is the nature and distribution of rural services provision. Infrastructural facilities according to Hirschman (1958) refer to those basic services without which primary, secondary and tertiary productive activities can not function. Olatunbosun (1975) states that the provision of infrastructural facilities not only narrow disparities between rural and urban area sectors, but also increase the efficiency of production in rural areas. This is because the rural sector constitutes a reservoir for the generation of

surplus due to untapped resources that abound there and so a substantial room for efficiency is guaranteed if these facilities are provided. Based on the above facts, infrastructural facilities are indispensable tool for rural development programmes, designed to put the rural dwellers off the shores of poverty and in the path of prosperity. Mabogunje (1974); Kahn (1979) opined that infrastructural facilities embrace all public services from law and order through education and public health to transportation, communication and water supply.

According to him, a central place has a central function that extends over a large region in which other central places of less importance exist. These various central places, he argued, will perform varied and even dissimilar functions. He identified central places of different orders based on functions. Thus, the hierarchical organization of central places is expressed in two ways: higher-order centres are evenly spaced out but more widely spaced than lower-order centres and an orderly nesting of market places ensure that every low-order place is served by every level of higher order place. Christaller's model assumed that number of settlements at each level is fixed according to organized principles. Central place is built on the premises of homogeneity and even distribution within an area. Weidner, (1975) sees rural development approach as a "process of guiding rural communities towards the achievement of progressive political, economical and social objectives that are authoritatively determined in one manner or the other." Makings (2002) observed that rural development approach best involve participatory learning and action based on the assumption that community members are the best experts about their own wealth and social situation. Esman (1972) has placed much confidence on balanced growth theory as key success in rural development projects. He emphasized that development projects are to be provided both in rural areas and urban centres, that is provision of infrastructural facilities both in rural areas and urban areas for economic growth.

In the World Bank assisted programme (1989) impressive food production gains have been realized because large tracts of land were opened up through an intensive network of feeder roads, served by an equally impressive network of farm service centres that served as input-out put distribution points. Idachaba (1985) asserted that areas already served with road network have a built-ability to attract new government projects, while poorly served areas tend to be continuously neglected in the location and provision of government projects. According to Salau (1986) the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in the United States of America was setup in 1933 for the development of the available resources within a 40,000 square metres areas extending across seven states. President Franklin Roosevelt envisaged that the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority offered the prospect of assisting the lagging region of the United States to increase its income levels and improve its standard of living. One of its first targets was to provide electricity to all the communities.

STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

The study area

Qua'an- pan Local Government Area was created out of the former Shendam Local Government Area on the 9th of November, 1989 with its Headquarters at Baap during General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida regime. It comprises of eight districts namely: Kwalla, Kwande, Kwa, Kwang, Bwall, Doemak, Doka and Namu districts. However, it shares boundaries with Pankshin Local Government Area in the north, Shendam Local Government Area to the east, Mangu and Bokkos Local Government Areas to the north – west and Nassarawa state to the west and south respectively. (See figure 1)

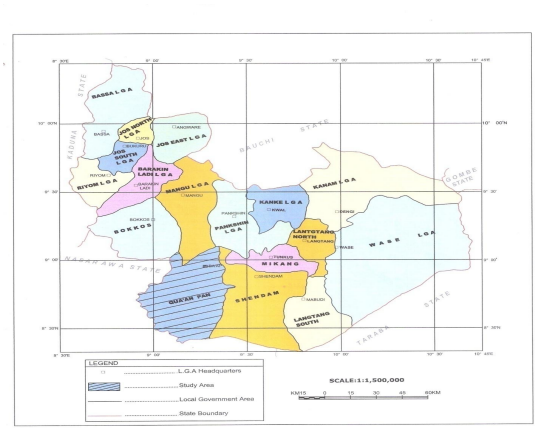

Figure 1: Plateau State, Nigeria.

SOURCE: CARTOGRAPHIC SECTION MINISTRY OF LAND SURVEY AND TOWN PLANNING JOS

Figure 1: Map of study area

Qua'an- Pan Local Government Area has an estimated land area of about 3,549 square kilometers. It is situated at the southern fringe of the state about 296km away from the state capital via Shendam – Kurgwi road. It is located on Longitude $8^{O}54^{1}$ to $9^{O}24^{1}$E and Latitude $8^{O}25^{1}$ to $9^{O}08^{1}$N. Qua'an- pan Local Government Area is inhabited by five major ethnic groups: These are Kwalgalak, Mernyang, Doemak, Goemai, and Jagatnoeng which are indigenous to the area. Qua'an – Pan Local Government Area has an estimated population of 197, 276 people with a breakdown of 96,800 male and 100, 476 female (National Population Commission, 2006). The soil types range from sandy loamy, sandy clay and clay. These soil types encourage good agricultural practice.. Qua'an- pan Local

Government Area is characterized by Guinea Savanna. Some of the trees and grass species include; sheabutter, locust bean tree, mahogany, neem, and malena while grass species are elephant grass, spear grass and shrubs. However, most of the natural vegetation has been cleared as a result of farming activities. Consequently, it leaves the area to be described as derived savanna. Climatically, Qua'an – pan Local Government Area can be considered a hot area. The area experiences two climatic seasons (rainy and dry seasons). The rainy season is experienced from April to October and the dry season from November to March each year. During the day temperature rise to about $27^{O}C$ to $30^{O}C$ while at night time(s) experience a significant drop in temperature to about $26^{O}C$. Agriculture is the main stay of the economy as the people's major occupation is farming. The predominant crops grown in the area include: yam, maize, rice, sorghum, cassava, beans, millet, groundnut and soya-beans. The major cash crops grown in large commercial quantities are yam, groundnut, rice, beniseed and bambara nut.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to carry out this study two types of data have been used for this study. They are: primary and secondary data. The first type are primary data is from the field covering the following variables: infrastructural facilities such as schools, roads, health centres, electricity, water projects, the adequacy of the infrastructural facilities provided in the area, the uses/benefits of the infrastructural facilities provided to the rural population in the study area.

Method(s) used for Data Collection

The population of this study shall include the eight administrative districts of the area and these are: Kwalla, Kwande, Kwang, Kwa, Namu, Doemak, Bwall and Jagatnoeng districts. These districts comprise of eighty one (81) villages which constitute population of 100,276 people in the study area. However, from this list twenty three (23) villages were randomly selected representing twenty five percent (25%) of the sample proportion of the total number in each district. On selecting the villages, a stratified random sampling technique was used. In this technique, the districts and villages were stratified because the number villages in the 8 districts of the study area are not equal.

The questionnaire was the main instrument employed in field data collection. The instrument of data collection comprises of structured and unstructured questions and is divided into three broad sections: section one (1) covers socio-economic and demographic data, section two (2) deals with the types of infrastructural facilities provided and unprovided, the providers and custodian of the facilities while the third (3) section is designed to measure provision of adequate infrastructural facilities in the area.

Data collection, Processing and Analysis

Information and data collected from the respondents in the field using the questionnaire was collated, coded and entered into computer for analysis. The data was analyzed using statistical package for social science (SPSS version 17). Descriptive statistics including tables, percentage, charts and pictures were used to represent the data gathered from the field investigation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Types of Infrastructures Facilities in the Study area

The type of infrastructural facilities available is essential for the enhancement of quality of life, transformation of rural communities, economic growth and empowerment for the rural populace, while improving farmer's level of productivity that in turn will boost national food security. Therefore, the types of infrastructural facilities available are significant indices or determinants of development. Some of these facilities such as roads, health, education and water supply infrastructures will be discussed.

Table 1: Infrastructural facilities available

S/NO	FACILITY	RESPONDENTS	%
1.	Roads	40	35
2.	Electricity	0	0
3.	Health service	10	9
4.	Water supply	5	4
5.	Schools	60	52
TOTAL		**115**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2015

Table 1 show that 52% of the respondents are of the view that schools are available in the area but most of them are in deplorable conditions because the structures are in a state of decay and dilapidation. While 35% of the respondents indicate that roads are available. However, most of these roads are untarred and seasonal in use; therefore, the cost of transportation of goods and services in the area is very high as a result of poor road network services.

Health and water supply represent 9% and 4% respectively. This is a clear indication of the inadequacy of health and water supply facilities. Much more disturbing is the absence of electricity. Electricity supply is the life –wire for economic development. It can promote the processing and manufacturing of goods and services..

Types of Roads Constructed in the Area

Roads are the bedrocks of development because they determine the ease of transportation of goods and services. Thus, where there are no good roads, or an area is poorly connected to wider world, it will affect economic and social development of the area. The

quality of the types of roads constructed is reflected by figure 2.

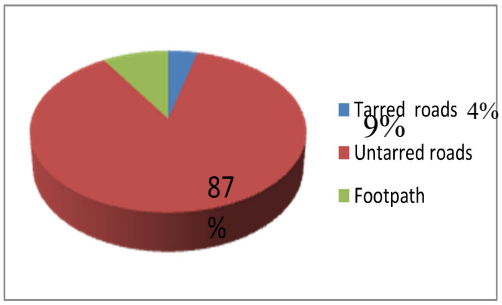

Fig 2: Quality of Roads Constructed in the area
Source: fieldwork, 2015

Figure 2 shows that untarred roads constitute 87% as reported by respondents; footpath represents 9% while tarred roads is just 4%. To this end, most of the roads constructed in the area are untarred and by implication, it is a major problem for the transportation of goods and services because of the poor road networks. Often times, it takes the farmers (people) in the area several hours or days before their farm produce and people themselves are brought to the main road for transportation to the market. These produce sometimes end up being damaged or spoiled on the road especially perishable goods such as tomatoes, vegetables, fruits and eggs, consequently, it resulted in low price values and lost of income to the farmers.

Apart from the types of roads constructed in the area, it is also important to know the mode of transportation system. This is very important as it helps in providing information about transportation of goods and services in the study area. Field responses as reflected by figure 3. indicate that only road services are available.

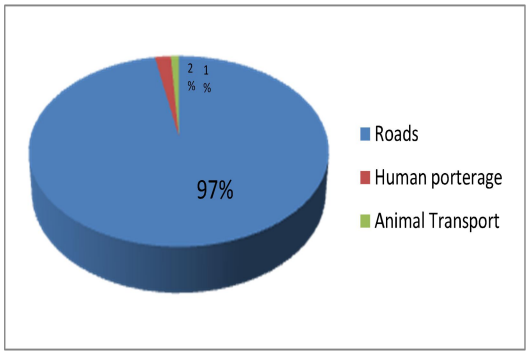

Figure 3: Mode of transportation of good and services
Source: Field work, 2015

Figure 3 shows that 97% of the respondents indicated that road is the major mode of transportation of goods and services in the study area, while human porterage and animal transport account for only 2% and 1% respectively. Rail transport is not available in the area. Although roads are available as the major means of transportation, these roads are untarred, in deplorable conditions, seasonal and in bad shape during rainy season. Therefore, transportation of goods and services during rainy season is problematic.

Health Infrastructural Facilities

Health is wealth. A healthy society is a wealthy one and it is very relevant. Proper health care system is also an important infrastructure that improves the health status of individuals. The improvement of the physical well-being and quality of life of the rural people of the study area is greatly influenced by the type, quality and number of health facilities placed there with adequate staff, services and regular maintenance. However, in Qua'an-Pan Local Government Area, health facilities/services are inadequate and the few available ones are far not very accessible and wide apart.

Base on this research indicates that there are more clinics and primary Health care centres in the area than dispensaries and General Hospital. For example, 52% of the respondents are for clinics, 43% for the primary Health Care Centres while Dispensaries and General Hospital indicate 3% and 2% respectively. There are health facilities such as General Hospitals, Primary Health Care, Clinic and dispensaries but services offered, drugs and manpower are grossly inadequate and insufficient to meet health needs of the people in the area.

Educational Infrastructures (Institutions)

Education is the bedrock for human development. Educational institutions in Qua'an-pan area are inadequate. Most primary and secondary schools are government-owned are dilapidating (see plate 6) and lack man – power. Qua'an-pan Local Government Area has only one tertiary institution which is College of Arts, Science and Remedial Studies (CASRS) Kurgwi. The institution cannot admit most of the graduates of quite a number of secondary schools in the Local Government, because the numbers of students that pass out from these secondary schools annually out-number the percentage of students the institution can admit.

Base on the data collected reveals that 52% of educational institutions available in the area are mostly primary schools, while secondary schools constitute 43%. There are other educational institutions such as nursery schools and tertiary institution. However, most of the nursery schools in the area are privately-owned schools and even substandard. There is only one tertiary institution in the area which is College of Arts, Science and Remedial Studies (CASRS) Kurgwi. The institution admits students across the seventeen Local

Government Area of the state on the basis of quarter system policy.

Plate 1: Dilapidated structure of LEA Primary School Bakin-Ciyawa and GSS Kwalla

Water Supply

Water is necessary for the sustenance of life. All living creatures depend on water for survival. The source(s) and quality of water in the area is of great concern because it guarantees the quality of life and well-being of the people. Good sources of drinking water can reduce the outbreak of for example, water-borne diseases such as typhoid, schistosomiasis and cholera. Medical records/ statistics show the prevalence of water borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera and schistosomiasis in some settlements like Kwalla, Namu, Kurgwi, Kwa, Bakin- ciyawa, Kwari, Bwall, Kwang, Sabon- Gida, Gamji and Jirim of the study area from 2009-2014

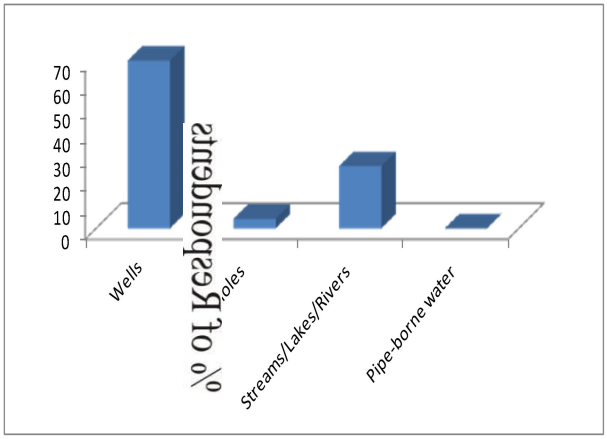

Figure 4: Sources of water supply in the area
Source: Fieldwork, 2015

Figure 10 shows that 70% of the major sources of water supply in the area is from the well, While 26% is from streams /ponds/lakes/rivers, only 4% is from boreholes and there is no pipe-borne water. Most of these wells dry up during dry season and the people in the area are compelled to use streams/lakes/rivers as their major source of water for domestic consumption. By and large, the quality of water from these sources proves to be grossly poor and inadequate for consumption. This have a direct bearing on the spread of certain water borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, Bilhaziasis and some skin diseases because the water is contaminated by cow dungs and other contaminants. The absence of pipe-borne water is really unfortunate because it leaves the people to depend on unclean sources of water that makes them to be highly vulnerable to disease infection.

Plate 2: Children fetching water from a well at Bakin-Ciyawa and borehole in Kwa and woman fetching water from river Guagal, Kwalla

Availability and Accessibility of Infrastructural Facilities in the Study area

Rural development is a multi-dimensional process by which the productivity, income and welfare in terms of health, education, water supply, electricity, road networks and other features of satisfactory life of rural people can be improved upon or transformed depend on availability and accessibility of infrastructural facilities in the area. Roads form the basis for transportation and communication. It accelerates delivery of goods and services, and by extension development drive of the area. Roads enhance the transportation and marketing of farm produce such as yam, maize, rice and vegetables to the larger market such as Lagos, Portharcourt, Jos and Maiduguri markets. It also helps in transportation of sick people in the area to the hospitals as well as the people themselves from one place to another. It encourages non-indigenes like the Igbo, Hausa to trade with the indigenous people. Furthermore, availability and accessibility to clean and sufficient drinking water improves the health and well being of people, because it reduces the direct bearing on people the spread of certain water-borne epidemics such as typhoid and cholera.

13%

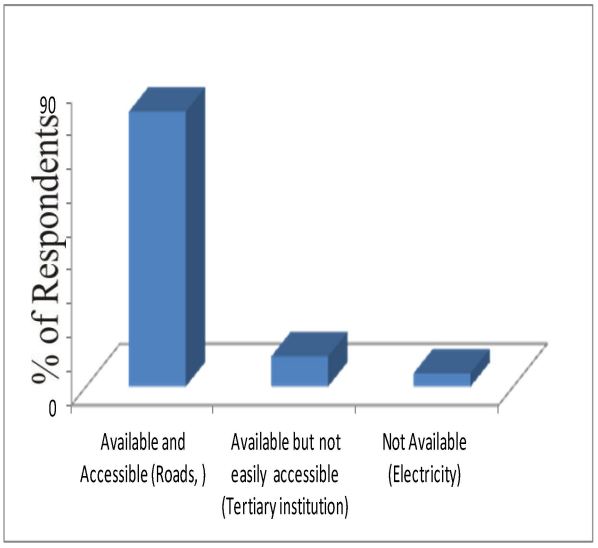

Figure 5: Availability and accessibility of infrastructural facilities in the area
Source: Fieldwork, 2015

Figure 11 illustrates that 87% of infrastructural facilities available are roads, health facilities, and schools but these facilities are not adequate. However, some of the infrastructural facilities that are available but not easily accessible to the people represent 9%, for example, only few students gain admission into college of Arts, Science and Remedial Studies (CASRS) Kurgwi. While only 4% of the respondents mentioned that electricity supply is not available in the area.

Magnitude of the Absence of the infrastructure Facilities in the Study area

Qua'an –Pan Local Government Area is characterized by inadequacy/ absence of social and physical infrastructures like all- season roads, potable water, electricity, good health centres. The absence or inadequacy of these infrastructural facilities greatly influenced the enhancement of socio-economic activities of the people in the area. Indeed these facilities constitute the substance of the people's welfare and progress. The absence of the infrastructural facilities mentioned above has contributed greatly to the under development of the Local Government Area and even low productivity in agriculture and other economic act

Data collected indicate that 39% of the respondents indicated that the absence or inadequacy of infrastructural facilities has contributed to rural-urban exodus and this in turn affects the socio- economic activities in the area. The young able-bodied men and women tend to migrate to the cities so as to enjoy much more comfortable social life vis-a-vis social amenities available. Furthermore, 26% of the respondents mentioned youth restiveness. The Youths become very idle instead of engaging in some gainful activities such as small- scale enterprises that would have earned them income for their self-sustenance.

Appropriate Approach to the Provision of Infrastructure in the Study Area

Infrastructural facilities are indices for development and their provision for sustainable development cannot be overemphasized considering its roles in improving the quality of rural life. Qua'an-pan Local Government is characterized by dispersed settlements, coupled with poor road network. Lack of provision of adequate infrastructural facilities such as health, roads schools, water supply and electricity has affected the quality of life and social well-being of the people. To ensure that rural people benefit from access to infrastructural facilities, appropriate or alternative approach has to be adopted so that rural communities in the area are catered for adequately. Strategies to adopt may include;

i. The policy of re-grouping of villages for the provision of infrastructural facilities could be used. Government should work in partnership with the people by bringing villages together through re-grouping to ease the provision of infrastructural facilities to dispersed settlements in the area.
ii. There must be synergy or combined efforts by the Local, State, Federal Government, Non – governmental Organization (NGO's), and the rural communities themselves. This is to say that the three tiers of governments (Local state and federal); Non – governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the rural populace

must combine their efforts together in ensuring the provision and sustenance of the infrastructures for sustainable rural development.

iii. Furthermore, there should be reform in the policy of rural development to contain rehabilitation and maintenance of existing facilities. This will help in facilitating the improvement of rural environment, especially the emergence of a diverse rural economy.

CONCLUSION

The study area is characterized by inadequacy/absence of infrastructural facilities such as good road network, health services, potable drinking water, schools and electricity supply. These have contributed greatly to the underdevelopment of the area. The level of infrastructural development is a significant determinant of the ability of the rural communities in Qua'an-pan to improve their productivity and standard of living. The present poor conditions of the infrastructural facilities therefore constitute a major constrain for the achievement of sustainable rural development.

RECOMMENDATION

The study area consists basically of dispersed rural settlements with poor communication networks, inadequate social and economic infrastructures and low literacy level. In view of these and for effective and efficient infrastructural facility provision, the following recommendations are made:

i. The state government through the state Ministry of Works and Rural development and the local government should construct all-season roads connecting the rural settlements.

ii. There should be well equipped and functional health care services provided for the people at affordable cost. The only cottage hospital in the area should be upgraded to General Hospital so as to meet the emerging health challenges in the area.

iii. boost water supply for domestic consumption and irrigation farming.

iv. There is need for government and non – governmental organization to recognize the need for sustainable infrastructural development programmes that will not change as government changes.

v. There should be reform in the policy of rural development to contain rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructures provided.

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