Factors Influencing Sustainability of Community-Driven Development Approach of World Bank Assisted Projects in South Western Nigeria

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Abstract: *This study examined factors influencing sustainability of community-driven development approach beneficiaries of World Bank assisted projects in south western Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of two hundred and forty six participants each of Fadama and CSDP projects respectively making a pooled total of four hundred and ninety two (492) respondents for the study. Firstly, two States from the Southwest of Nigeria were purposively selected. These were Oyo and Osun States. Secondly, fifteen percent of Local government areas in each State were randomly selected. Finally, 25% of membership of each of the selected community associations was chosen. This resulted to 246 respondents each in respect of Fadama and CSDP and a pooled figure of four hundred and ninety two respondents were chosen for the purpose of this study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics and ordered logistic regression model. The average household size was 6 individuals. The cost of maintaining CSDP projects is far higher than that of Fadama projects. The coefficients of years of formal education, income and bottom-top approach were positive. It was concluded that, the beneficiaries of any intervention project should be given priorities in decision making. This is to ensure sustainability of such project.*

Keywords: Funding, bottom-top approach and sustainability.

1. Introduction

Countries and their development partners have been trying to involve communities in their own development since the end of World War II, when the first colonies gained independence in South Asia (IFAD, 2003). Pioneers in both India and Bangladesh (then a part of Pakistan) developed a clear vision- of how it would be done: Local development should be planned and managed by local citizens, their communities, and their local governments within a clearly defined decentralized framework that devolves real power and resources to local governments and communities.

This vision sets up a tension between central power and empowerment of communities and local governments (FAO, 2003). This tension has rarely been fully resolved and is still being grappled with in many countries as well as in many externally financed development projects. While the vision was often piloted successfully in individual projects, it was again and again lost in the process of scaling up and, ironically, replaced by centralized, top-down bureaucratic approaches that failed. In these approaches, local citizens were treated as passive recipients, and service delivery suffered because the service providers were not accountable to their clients (World Bank, 2002).

Several programmes, activities and projects are being executed at various levels including rural communities across the country; yet there is a lack of knowledge about how these services are sustained (Lerner, 1995). Funding providers and the professionals who receive their funds are obligated to work towards sustaining programmes. Series of reasons might have been attributed to the cause of such scenario. Amongst is whether such programmes originated from the benefiting community or not. If communities were not carried along in the identification and subsequent

implementation of such services to a significant stage, the likelihood of failure is imminent (World Bank, 1996).

The objectives are to;
- Examine the socio-economic characteristics of the Fadama and CSDP participants (respondents) in the study area.
- Identify the constraints against sustainability of projects in the study area.
- Determine the influencing factors for sustainability of community projects in the study area.

2. Methodology

The study was carried out in selected States (Oyo and Osun) of Southwest, Nigeria. Southwest Nigeria lies between latitude 5^0N and 9^0N of the Equator and longitudes 2.5^0 and 6^0 east of the Greenwich Meridian. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the south, Kwara and Kogi States in the north, Anambra State in the eastern Nigeria and Republic of Benin in the west. The study area has a land area of about 114,271 km^2 representing about 12 percent of the country's total land area. The nation's population is put at about 140,003,542 with about 65 percent of this population living in the rural areas (National Population Commission (NPC), 2006). The Southwest zone comprises six states namely: Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ondo, and Ekiti States (Shahib *et al.*, 1997). These States are situated mainly in the tropical rain forest zone with swamp forest in the coastal regions of Lagos, Delta, Ogun and Ondo States. The zone also covers the derived savannah in the extreme north of this region including Oyo, Osun, Edo and Ekiti States. The climate in southwestern Nigeria is predominantly humid with rainfall from 1500mm to 3000mm per annum. The mean monthly temperature ranges from 18^0C to 24^0C during the rainy season and 20^0C to 35^0C during the dry season (Shahib *et al.*, 1997).

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The populations of the study were beneficiaries of Fadama and CSDP projects in the selected states of southwestern Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of two hundred and forty six participants each of Fadama and CSDP projects respectively making a pooled total of four hundred and ninety two (492) respondents for the study. Firstly, two States from the Southwest of Nigeria were purposively selected. These were Oyo and Osun states. They were selected because of their participation in the two projects in southwest Nigeria. Secondly, fifteen percent of Local government areas in each state were randomly selected, making five Local Government Areas from each state and ten Local Government Areas altogether. In the third stage, 50% each of total Fadama Community Associations and Community Development Associations (for CSDP participants) were chosen from the number of community associations participating in the two projects within the selected Local Government Areas. Finally, 25% of membership of each of the selected community associations was chosen. This resulted to 246 respondents each in respect of Fadama and CSDP and a pooled figure of four hundred and ninety two respondents for the purpose of this study.

The tools and procedure that were employed elucidated the objectives of the study: this includes the following.

Descriptive statistics:

They are the mean, percentages and frequency distribution. These were used as tools to describe the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents and constraints against sustainability of projects.

Ordered Logistic Regression:

When a dependent variable has more than two categories and the values of each category have a meaningful sequential order where a value is indeed 'higher' than the previous one, then you can use ordinal logit (Hamilton, 2006)
The logit model is:

$$\Pr(Y=1 \mid X1, X2, \ldots X_k) = F(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X1 + \beta_2 X2 + \ldots + \beta_K X_K)$$

$$\Pr(Y=1 \mid X1, X2, \ldots X_k) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X1 + \beta_2 X2 + \ldots + \beta_K X_K)}}$$

$$\Pr(Y=1 \mid X1, X2, \ldots X_k) = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{1}{e^{(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X1 + \beta_2 X2 + \ldots + \beta_K X_K)}} \right)}$$

Where;
X_1 = age of respondents ;
x_2 = household size;
x_3 = years of formal education;
x_4 = distance to community meeting place ;
x_5 = income of respondents;
X_6 = nature of project design;
x_7 = gender consideration;
x_8 = funding provided by respondents;
x_9 = Bottom-top approach;
x_{10} = accountability of respondents' leaders;
x_{11} = types of benefits derived;
x_{12} = democratic choice of leadership;
x_{13} = integrity of respondents' field officers;
x_{14} = support provided by respondents' Local Government
Logit and probit models are basically the same; the difference is in the distribution.
Logit – Cumulative standard logistic distribution (F)
Probit – Cumulative standard normal distribution (Φ)
Both models provide similar results.

3. Results and Discussion

Gender is a major issue in every World Bank assisted projects. The result in table 1 shows that women were not left out in community development projects. Male respondents in this study were 68.7% and 63.0% for Fadama and CSDP participants respectively while female respondents were 31.3% for Fadama and 37.0% for CSDP. This result is acceptable because the World Bank only recommended at least 25% participation by women (NFDO, 2005).The pooled male and female respondents in this study were 65.9% and 34.1% respectively. The two projects under this study encouraged women participation of not less than 25%. Factors like cultural barriers, lack of respect for women, domestic engagements and entrenched gender stereotypes that were supposed to be responsible for lower participation of women were possibly not observed. This therefore negates the findings of Ajayi and Otuya (2006). One strong reason in favour of this result is that, in most rural communities, women constitute the greater majority in terms of population (Ozor,2008). Often, their husbands leave them at their villages in search of greener pastures in the urban areas. Women's voices and concerns in the community are especially important to community development and welfare as most women are involved in meeting needs in the areas of social education, health, and environmental projects, while men continue to pay more attention to economic, agricultural and infrastructural development (Ajayi and Otuya, 2006). It is therefore important that all stakeholders in any community- men and women, rich and poor, young and old, and other groups be fully involved in leading and designing community development programmes. It is only when this is done that enduring and sustaining programmes can be achieved in the local communities. This is an improvement on the position of Chukwudi (2002) who offered that more women should be encouraged to involve and equip themselves for participation in activities of community development within their neighborhood. However, this result also supports Jibowo (2000) who reported that men engaged more in community empowerment and development activities than women in South Western Nigeria.

Majority (75.4%) of pooled participants had family sizes ranging between 5 and 7. 7.3% and 6.5% of Fadama and CSDP participants respectively has household size of less than 4 while 12.6% and 22.8 % had household sizes of 8 and above. The mean, mode and median of pooled respondents' household size was 6. So, household size for this study is normally distributed as shown in figure 1. Ekong (2000) expressed the view that the larger the family size, the easier it is for community people to participate in developmental activities. The average of 6 also confirms the findings of Adeoti and Adenegan (2002) which stated that rural family

members provide supportive roles for the household head on various community activities in order to maintain rural economics. However, moderate household size may encourage better participation (Gladwin, Peterson and Uttaro, 2002). This finding also follows the observation of Dennery's (1995) who asserted that the larger the household size the more mouth to be fed, the more time is devoted for food production especially among relatively poor households.
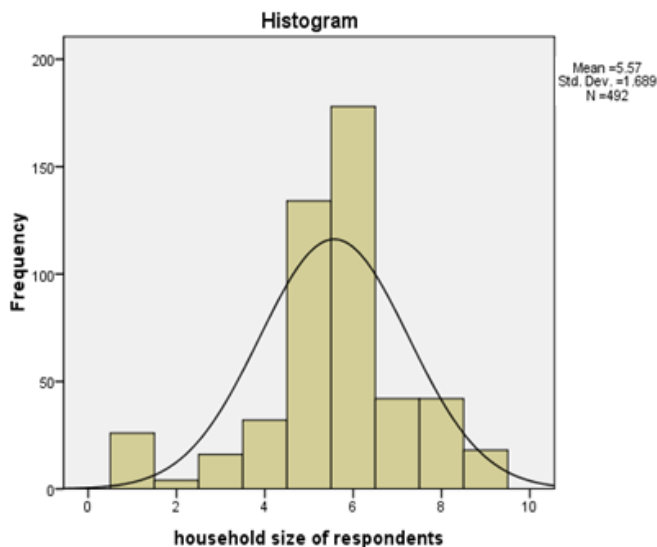
Figure 1: Histogram of pooled respondents according to classification of household size

The distribution of average cost of maintenance of projects per anuum within respondents' communities indicate that 94.7% of Fadama respondents' and 30.9% of CSDP respondents spent less than 20,000 respectively. Another 5.3% of Fadama and 17.1% of CSDP respondents spent between 21,000 and 30,000. However, no Fadama respondent mentioned spending more than 30,000 on project maintenance while 26.0% of CSDP respondents mentioned over 30,000. The mean cost of project maintenance per year for Fadama respondents was ₦ 8,320.00 while that of CSDP was ₦ 41,640.00. The pooled mean for annual project maintenance was ₦ 37,477.00. This result indicates that the cost implication of maintaining CSDP projects is far higher than that of Fadama projects. This might be as a result of the type of projects benefitted in CSDP which are described as gigantic than the ones in Fadama. This findings agrees with World Bank (2006) that bigger projects will definitely require more funds to maintain them than little ones.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents' gender and average cost of project maintenance per year

Characteristics	FADAMA		CSDP		POOLED PARTICIPANTS	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Gender						
Male	169	68.7	13	5.3	30	6.1
Female	77	31.3	91	37.0	168	34.1
Average cost of project maintenance						
Less than 20,000	50	20.3	46	18.7	96	19.5
21,000 – 30,000	37	15.0	41	16.7	78	15.9
31,000 – 40,000	45	18.3	44	17.9	89	18.1
41,000 & above	62	25.2	28	11.4	90	18.3
Mean = 8,320			41,640			

Field survey, 2013

Table 2 shows nine constraints to participation of Fadama farmers in project activities. Complex protocol (wms= 2.18) ranked 1st followed by slow decision making (wms = 2.17) which ranked 2nd. Delayed fund release and time constraint (wms=2.00) ranked 3rd while location of meeting points (wms = 1.24) ranked 4th. Payment of counterpart fund(wms=1.03) ranked 5th while possibility of elite capture (wms = 0.41) ranked 6th. Dishonesty of group officers (wms=0.39) ranked 7th while the least ranked was gender insensitivity (wms=0.09). This findings show that the design and methodology of the project appears complicated to farmers who might have probably expected a more simplified implementation processes (OYSFADO, 2007). There is the possibility that the slowliness in decision making and other steps to be undertaken might have contributed to delayed fund release which was considered one of the major constraints to participation in the Fadama project.

The same Table 2 shows the various constraints to participation in CSDP group activities by participants. Time constraint with the weighted mean score of 2.13 ranked 1st closely followed by complex protocol (wms=2.12) which ranked 2nd. Slow decision making process (wms= 2.11) ranked 3rd while delayed fund release (wms =2.09) ranked 4th. The constraint which ranked 5th was location of community meeting point (wms = 1.12) while Payment of counterpart fund (wms = 0.90) ranked 6th. Ranked 7th was Possibility of elite capture (wms= 0.56) while the least ranked was gender insensitivity (wms = 0.01). It could be deduced from this result that participation in CSDP takes more of the time of participants. Most of the itemized group activities require adequate time. Majority of participants in this project are farmers and civil servants and so might find it burdensome to satisfy the time consuming nature of the design of the CSDP project. It should also be emphasized that decision making process must be democratic and so it

was. This implies that every community group members as much as possible must endeavor to participate.

The first four constraints as shown in table 2 are interrelated. They revolve around chains of sequential activities (PIM, 2004). NFDO (2007) stated that community members have to be mobilized and sensitized, groups have to be formed and legally registered, group officers have to be elected and bank account have to be opened if not already in place. Additionally, Participatory Rural Appraisal has to be conducted for need assessment, Local Development Plans have to be drawn, submitted and approved. Counterpart fund of at least 10% also have to be paid before possible disbursement of funds for project implementation (PIM, 2004). This listed condition requires significant time. Surely, respondents under this study were right in the stated challenges (Adeyemo, 2010). It also agrees with the findings of Adeyemo (2010) that skills of community group members must be built and properly enhanced to carry out participatory planning as well as to implement, operate and maintain sub projects even from project inception. Community groups must be built to overcome constraints and challenges. The challenge of location of meeting places (wms= 1.18) which ranked 5th confirms the dispersed nature of communities under this study. It should be recalled that

the mean distance from respondents' houses to community meeting point was 3.2kms. This is a major constraint. A community group meeting is compulsory under World Bank assisted projects such as Fadama and CSDP (NFDO, 2005). No meeting, no dues and remote chances of paying counterpart fund (wms = 0.99). An OYSFADO (2007) finding confirms that Fadama is pro poor in outlook. Even, the fact that many of the respondents belonged to cooperative societies did not make it comfortable for them to take loans in their various cooperative societies for the purpose of undertaking this obligation and payback in good time. This probably informed the inclusion of in kind contribution as an alternative to financial contribution as envisaged by project handlers to reduce the burden of cash payment (LEEMP, 2008). Possibility of elite capture (wms = 0.49) ranked 7th.This might not have been a serious problem under this study but fewer respondents complained of some communities consisting of individual who acted as threat to hijack community project. Most of this elites capitalize on the perceived weaknesses of some community members to pay certain fees and thereafter act as lords over them (NFDO, 2007).The challenge which ranked least was gender insensitivity (wms=0.10). Definitely, Fadama and LEEMP are gender sensitive (World Bank, 2000).

Table 2: Rank order distribution of Fadama, CSDP and pooled respondents according to constraints to participation in community group activities

Constraints to participation in community group activities	FADAMA		CSDP		Pooled participants		
	Weighted mean score (WMS)	Rank	Weighted mean score (WMS)	Rank	Weighted mean score (WMS)	Rank	remark
Complex protocol	2.18	1	2.12	2	2.14	1	Serious
Slow decision making process	2.17	2	2.11	3	2.13	2	Serious
Delayed fund release	2.00	3	2.09	4	2.05	4	Serious
Time constraint	2.00	3	2.13	1	2.06	3	Serious
Location of meeting point	1.24	4	1.12	5	1.18	5	Not Serious
Payment of counterpart fund	1.03	5	0.90	6	0.99	6	Not Serious
Possibility of elite capture	0.41	6	0.56	7	0.49	7	Not serious
Dishonesty of group officers	0.39	7	0.48	8	0.43	8	Not serious
Gender insensitivity	0.09	8	0.01	9	0.10	9	Not serious

Cut off mean of constraints against Fadama and CSDP participants = 1.5

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

The estimates of the ordered logit analysis are presented in table 3. Out of all the fourteen selected variables regressed against sustainability of community projects, seven had significant coefficients at different levels of significance. Specifically, the following variables: household size (r=1.323;P<0.01),), income (r=0.043;P<0.01),), years of formal education (r=2.698; P<0.01),), bottom- top approach (r=0.289;P<0.05),), accountability of participants' leaders(r=0.341 P<0.05),) and type of benefits derived(r=0.522; P<0.00),) significantly increase the likelihood of sustainability of community projects within the study area because of the positive signs on their coefficients. Conversely, age (r=-2.641;P<0.00) has significant but negative coefficient with level of sustainability of community projects within the study area. It should be recalled that a negative sign on the coefficient implies that as age increases, perceived level of sustainability of community projects decreases. Similarly, a positive sign indicates that

with a unit increase in a particular variable there is also an increase in the perceived level of sustainability of community projects within the study area. The positive sign of the coefficient value show direct relationship between sustainability level and selected variables. This implies that for every unit increase in household size, income, years of formal education, bottom- top approach, accountability of participants' leaders and type of benefits derived, sustainability respectively increase. Vice visa, the negative sign of the coefficient value shows the inverse relationship between age and level of sustainability of community project.

These results agree with NFDO II (2005) which stated that the project adopted a demand-driven approach (bottom-top) whereby all participants were encouraged to develop participatory and socially inclusive local development plans to be coordinated by their respective Local Governments. OYSFADO (2007) also stated that project activities focused on financial contributions of community group members

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(accountability of participants' leaders) to enhance access to productive assets and services in a multifaceted dimension to achieve for poverty alleviation. This is also in agreement with NFDO (2007) which stated that active and productive project beneficiaries with minimal education (years of formal education) will be able to prepare maintenance, procurement and local development plans for the optimal management of small scale enterprises. Finally, the various

influencing factors highlighted support the findings of NFDP II (2005) which reaffirmed that, community people will only be ready to accept any form of Government intervention (type of potential benefit) provided it attracts economic advantage, physical advantage and social benefits to them and their immediate society with less cumbersome tasks.

Table 3: Ordered logit estimates of determinants of sustainability of community projects in Southwest Nigeria

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	z value	P value
Age	-2.641	0.710	-3.72*	0.000
Household size	1.323	0.428	3.09*	0.002
Years of formal education	2.698	0.023	4.26*	0.000
Distance	-0.046	0.033	-1.39	0.166
Average income	2.043	0.012	3.53	0.000
Nature of project design	-0.158	0.142	-1.11	0.266
Gender consideration	0.160	0.176	0.91	0.365
Funding provided by participants	-0.698E-02	0.137	-0.05	0.959
Bottom top approach	0.289	0.150	1.98**	0.044
Accountability of participants' leaders	0.341	0.168	2.33**	0.042
Types of benefit derived	0.522	0.164	3.18*	0.001
Democratic choice of leadership	-0.179	0.142	-1.26	0.206
Integrity of participants' field officers	0.109	0.148	0.74	0.459
Support provided by participants' Local govts	-0.024	0.149	-0.17	0.869

*Correlation significant at 0.01, **Correlation significant at 0.05

Source: Field survey, 2013

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The cost implication of maintaining CSDP projects is far higher than that of Fadama projects. Therefore, government should beat down the heavy cost of maintaining agricultural projects and specifically the CSDP projects. Educations positively influence the sustainability of the World Bank projects in the study area. Therefore, government should encourage uneducated farmers to engage in adult education. The rich beneficiaries had sustainability of community project than the poor ones. Thus, the income of farmers could be enhanced by allocating low interest rate credit facilities to them. Bottom-top approach enhances project sustainability. Therefore, the beneficiaries of any intervention project should be given priorities in decision making. This is to ensure sustainability of such project.

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