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## Role of Community Development on Marginalized Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria

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### Abstract

The paper examines the role of collective effort towards reducing the plight of the marginalized internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Borno state, Northeast Nigeria, with a focus on community development, and the challenges of community development. The lofty goals embedded in community development especially in providing the needs of IDPs who are subjected to all forms of marginalization which the paper examines. Data was obtained from secondary sources, such as related literature, textbooks, periodicals, and official records, and examined using qualitative content analysis tools. The paper found that efforts of community development towards the IDPs are being hindered by ravaging poverty and illiteracy, lack of information, economic challenges, social inclusion as well as some cultural factors in the country. This paper shows that measures such as learning about the community, listening to community members, access to information, developing an action plan, and implementing an action plan as well as evaluating results of actions that can ensure effective community development in the face of marginalized IDPs. The paper, therefore, concludes that rapid community development should be considered crucial to national development. Hence, it is necessary to encourage community initiatives for self-determination and development because the federal and the state government cannot adequately provide enough for community needs.

**Keywords:** Internally Displaced Persons, Marginalized, Community Development, Poverty, Nigeria

### Introduction

The challenges faced by the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Borno state, Northeast Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. The IDPs are considered marginalized groups in Borno state because of the various challenges faced by them and the seemingly neglect of the group. The need for all hands and all stakeholders to be involved in solving the problems of the IDPs prompted the role of community development. Although, the community development began during the reforms in the social movements in North America and Britain in the latter

half of the 18th century were the principles of community development was formulated and applied in the decolonization process of the third world countries.

Community development was additionally improved on account of its value and based qualities and its ability to convey and assist most individuals who are in need, however not all voices are heard by and large, but the community development as the voice of the internally displaced persons are sure to be heard. The IDPs are absolutely diverse set of people with differences in age, neediness, identity, and race, which are liable for the lethargic speed of community development rehearses. In any case, the acknowledgment of the variety of characteristic locally and the admiration of the principal right of every part to take an interest in the conversation of issues that worry them makes community development role in IDPs area interesting. A circumstance where individuals from the local area or different areas accumulate to proffer answer for issues that worry a set of people, subsequent to considering arrangement of choices and prior to coming to an end result that supports cooperation and advance sound improvement, activity plan, for the accomplishment of local goals, the role of community development in IDPs apart.

Community development in Nigeria can be traced to 1946 during the provincial standard. It can likewise be traced to the exercises of Non-administrative associations that jumped up following political freedom in 1960 and the dissent against military systems by common society association from 1966 to 1999. Truth be told, the Center for Constitutional Governance the activity of late Dr. Beko Ramsom Kuti was among the first lively Nongovernmental associations that crusaded against the military, unlawful government and the requirement for local area improvement in Nigeria.

The partnership and investment role of community development advance the frequent fills in as successful alleviation of issues, in this case of the IDPs. The nonappearance of partners' support of local area advancement influences local area improvement in view of absence of standard partners' investment that gives room to incapability and productivity, absence of correspondence and documentation of activities points adversely influences the journey for local area advancement (Wawira and Susan, 2019; Egbe, 2014). Despite this mission, there is no uncertainty that the political pioneers and the Nigerian government have not just perceived the significance and dynamic role of community development in the management of issues that concerns the IDPs. If the potential inherent in community development is properly harnessed most of the people in the IDPs would have left the camp by now. Hence, this paper attempts to examine the potential inherent in community development in Nigeria, with a focus on its potential when applied to the plight of the IDPs and the challenges faced by the community development.

The article is divided into five main sections. The first part talks about community development and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The second section focuses on community development and the marginalized IDPs in Nigeria. The third part centers on setback on community development initiatives in Nigeria. The fourth emphasizes on community development assistance to the IDPs. And the fifth discusses on the way forward and conclusion.

### **Methodology**

The data obtained in most content analysis research is unstructured (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008; Neuendorf, 2002; Sandelowski, 1995b), and it is gathered using techniques such as interviews, investigations, journals, other historical sources, or a mix of approaches. This study used the qualitative case study method taken in to account of the dependability which represented the consistency of data collection and the data was analyzed employing the content analysis technique.

### **Findings**

The research discovered that severe poverty can significantly impact on cognitive development of the IDPs. The data also showed that the longer the extreme poverty amongst the IDPs, the greater the risk for cognitive delay and developmental problems later in life. The second major finding on this research are lack of knowledge, economic problems, social integration, and societal factors which are the main barriers to achieving life goals among the IDPs. Overall, it's important to understand the role of societal factors on community development effort if we are to eliminate the barriers that prevent the IDPs from accessing programs and services that can improve their lives, communities, and the society as a whole.

### **Community Development and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS)**

Sometimes a community development-based initiative can be used to help people in IDP camps improve their lives. Community development intervention programs can be of great benefits to the IDPs and the entire community at large. According to Adedokun, Adeyemo, and Olorunsola, (2010:101), community development can help to improve and assist a local community and the IDPs inclusive by providing their needs and creating maximum capacity building for them. Additionally, Adedokun (2008) considers community development as the social event of an individual or gathering of individuals locally to plan and act mutually for the fulfillment of their goals and for the general benefit of the people to make a significant change to the lives of the people and that of their local area through their helpful endeavor. Thus, community development can help to improve the works of local government and foreign organizations towards cultivating on the lives of the people. Community development efforts can help to advance the lives of the people living in the IDPs camps through its qualities and majority rule standards, comprehensiveness, and local area self-assurance. The United Nations (UN) considers community development as an exertion made by individuals related to the public authority specialists pointed toward improving the social and financial states of their being just as to empower them to contribute genuinely to their nearby climate and the country at large. Community development can help to improve and coordinate as well as arrange the lives of the IDPs toward helping them to gather at their place of origin or homes again. Through community development the required mentalities and abilities of the IDPs can be improved.

Community development can engage the IDPs in assembling of individuals toward refining their abilities needed to improve prosperity and be self-reliance. Along these lines, community development can engineers quickly and meet the needs of the IDPs through their collective efforts and influence as well as through the networks of social establishment which they have (Sung 2014). Biddle and Biddle (1965) sees community development as that interaction of social activity which the resident or individuals of a specific local area arrange themselves for activity and program required for the benefit of everyone and gatherings

locally with most extreme dependence on local area supplement assets. This incorporates exchanging the connections among individuals and expert in the field community development to bring together everybody to participate in the issues that worry or influence their lives. This will empower those with abundance of involvement to channel it into aggregate activity to accomplish the ideal objectives of community development especially as it regards the IDPs.

Community development in Nigeria has helped in lessening ignorance and disorder especially among the IDPs and those living around the IDPs camps in Borno state. It has likewise facilitated in improving the ways of life of individuals in the camps. Through the exercises of community development, social, monetary and social status of the IDPs is improved. Consequently empowering individuals through community development initiative contribute definitively to the development and growth as well as improving on the fundamental necessities of life of the IDPs through the arrangement of things like food, shelter, wellbeing, administration and schooling.

### **Community Development and the Marginalized IDPs in Nigeria**

Community development activities in Nigeria can be traced to 1946 during the colonialist organization with the definition of the Ten-Year Plan for Development and Welfare for Nigeria as introduced in No. 24 National Paper of 1945 with the point of combination of the early blend of 1914 just as advancing improvement among the provincial networks (Egbe, 2014). The challenges faced by the IDPs makes community development relevant. Thus, community development plan can improve the monetary prosperity of the IDPs and create networks generally. In the light of the fact that, the issue related with community development singular creation remains a projects such as the 1950s-1970s Marketing Boards and Regional Development Boards, the 1939 West Africa Oil Palm Institute (Nigeria), the 1951 West African Research Institute (Nigeria), the 1949 Nigeria Agricultural Project Mokwa needed boundless standpoint, while the Development Plans of 1955-1960 accentuations the consistent expansion in modern and agrarian creation determined to improve the way of life of Nigerians (Egbe, 2014). After the country's freedom in 1960 Western Nigeria Government started the local area advancement program with the dispatched of Farm Settlement Scheme due the high pace of joblessness around there, while the local area improvement of Eastern Nigeria reached a conclusion promptly the common conflict started in Nigeria, in 1967 while the Northern district concocted Agricultural Institute to work with advancement of the local area (Egbe, 2014). The post-autonomous community development plans were not exactly not quite the same as the provincial period in light of the fact that the administrative arrangements showed by the political pioneers and office holders neglected to focus on it, while arranging for a particularly elevated venture of local area improvement was not viewing appropriately, and individual interest of these elites were considered preposterous (Eny, 2010; Egbe, 2014).

### **Setback Of Community Development Initiative in Nigeria**

**Absence of Planning:** One core challenge of community development in the Northeast Nigeria is the absence of planning as well as poverty and illiteracy. Strategic planning is required across board, especially those involve in catering for the IDPs in Borno state. Harande (2009) opined that, since the IDPs didn't get to camp out of their own volition, the government and critical stakeholders should take the blame and ensure that the resources



and wealth of the nation is enjoyed by all. Although the protection of infrastructures provided by the government is the responsibility of the people for their own benefit. This is because according to Obasanjo and Mabogunje (1991:143):

*For the rural populace to be able to exercise their sovereignty and assume responsibility for development, they must have necessary resources adequate revenue allocation from federal and state source and internal capacity to generate their own revenue locally as well as access to relevant and desirable information for development.*

The degenerating condition of the various communities in the country despite the existence of policies and plans, such as Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI), People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Community Bank (CB), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and Poverty Eradication Programme (PEP) these programs have not met the requested expectation because absence of planning in the IDPs camps Borno state Nigeria, which has unfortunately affected the effort of sincere community development (Aminu & Onimisi, 2014; Harande, 2009). Absence of planning largely inhibits the efforts of community development and social progress in the IDPs, because it affects the opportunities of good investment within their communities which invariably would have driven the development agenda of the government.

**Absence of Information:** The diverse nature of Nigeria indicates that the information needs are many and multi-dimensional. Hence, it is imperative to determine the measure of information needs in the country. In Nigeria, there is no comprehensive document on the information needs of the community. The information needs of the Nigerian community according to Harande (2009), include, neighborhood information about the problems of electricity supply, water availability, road maintenance, and environmental sanitation refuse disposal and flood. This is to enable them to prepare for the situation that may arise. Health information need. Information on how an individual can prevent various kinds of diseases that affect the people, thus creating an awareness of available healthcare delivery service and what it costs is another major challenge fronting community development in Nigeria (Harande, 2009). Information on policies of government is another aspect of challenge hindering effective community development in Nigeria. Information is needed by the people on their political rights and obligations and how they can exercise such obligations. This can rarely be found in the communities and rural areas of Nigeria. They also need to protect their franchise and importantly, the need to know the action and inaction of the government, unfortunately, this is also lacking in Nigeria's community development quest. Information on employment is another major challenge of community development of Nigeria. The local communities across the country need information on employment opportunities by the government and corporate bodies, investment, on taxation banks, opportunities, and other financial activities, however, the reality on the ground shows that this vital information can rarely be found in Nigeria (Harande, 2009). Information on transportation is near absent in Nigeria. The local community in Nigeria needs basic information on the cost of transportation such as motorcycles, bicycles, and vehicles and importantly where they can obtain such information. They need information about road construction and maintenance, which invariably remains absence in the country. The challenges of information received by the communities are often distorted in the process of transmission in the country, this unhealthy

situation remains an impediment, which has kept the local communities in Nigeria far away from development indicators (Harande, 2009).

**Social Exclusion:** Social connectedness, union, and the incorporation of the local area individuals have an immediate relationship to social and actual turn of events, which can perpetually energize municipal cooperation in the general local area advancement project. Tragically, rejection stays one of the huge difficulties for local area improvement in Nigeria. Local area improvement is more significant when individuals effectively take part as specialist and not simply detached recipients in light of the fact that individuals themselves should screen the formative undertakings in the neighborhood networks. The disappointment of most improvement projects in Nigerian people is inferable from prohibition of the nearby networks in the origination, plan and obviously execution of such tasks (Odo, 2012). Most people group improvement approaches and projects in Nigeria which reject the principle recipients, particularly in the rustic networks could barely gain critical headway and in this way of supportability of such tasks is regularly not ensured in the country. Tragically, the individuals who endure avoidances in their everyday locally in Nigeria due to disregards will in general be discouraged, regularly feel dissatisfaction and hostility, in this way taken to wrongdoing and viciousness and start to doubt the general public (Adah and Abasilim 2015; Onimisi, 2014).

**Cultural Hindrance:** Social convictions survives from the difficulties to community development in the country which have a heading on effectiveness, social incorporation, and pay imbalance in Nigeria. This cultural factors additionally incorporate, some customary convictions, religion and gender particularly on account of Nigeria. The jobs gender orientation plays in Nigeria can't be overemphasized. The exercises of different cultural factors may prompt the renouncing of chances for individuals, particularly women and kids. These, tragically assisted with enlarging the degree of incongruities in abundance creation, instructive achievement, work openings and life openings for their youngsters. Furthermore, religion can have a significant impact on both improvement issues and wellbeing, which, shockingly, turns out to run its course in Nigeria. Social factor has influenced the community development activities in the IDPs camps in Borno state, Nigeria since its impact in transit the country individuals comprehend and carry out their monetary/metro undertakings just as their connections to different people, and the standards of improvement. Along these lines, comprehension of the social part of a general public is vital to advancement of those local area since it is the essential methods for endurance and transformation of man, the general shortfall of this influences local area advancement in Nigeria (Erhun, 2015; Onimisi, 2018).

**Political Interference of IDPs:** It is imperative to take note of that most community development issues have some component of political hint, particularly in Nigeria. The journey to fulfill individual political interest over the aggregate IDPs interest formative plan adds to the mishap for complete and powerful local area improvement in Nigeria. The Nigerian political class like most political tip top are frequently egotistical, does not have the political will to form or start community development projects and strategies, this political tip top will in general advance individual interests instead of the public interests, the exercises, just as inordinate politicking at the local area level, has delivered the mission for local area improvement incapable in view of governmental issues of division and isolation which

regularly will in general be embraced to the detriment of aggregate of the local area (Udo, 2014; Bappi, Singh and Dahiru, 2017).

**Insecurity Issues:** Insecurity is one of the greatest threats to community development (Onimisi, 2014). The insecurity can wreck the formative flourishes of any community development program for the IDPs. Increased instability in Nigeria as a result of insecurity the community development goals towards the IDPs. This endeavor by different networks in the country utilizes self-improvement to relieve a portion of the difficulties they face in their day to day exercises which has become a tough undertaking as a result of the increased frailty in the land. One of the best sacred commands of the public authority is to secure the lives and properties of the residents, in any case, throughout the long term, this protected commitment of the public authority has remained unachieved in Nigeria. The failure of the public authority to meet its protected order of giving security to its residents has enormously affected adversely on local area improvement in Nigeria. Perpetually, weakness thwarts the journey for local area improvement.

### **Community Development Assistance To The IDPs**

**Understanding the IDPs Plight:** Constant contact with the IDPs by the number of community development groups through learning and familiarity with the IDPs with the mindset of helping to build trust among IDPs, institutions and non-governmental organizations and these marginalized groups, which is mostly needed and it can be meaningful uplighter of the IDPs.

**Listening to the Marginalized IDPs:** Community development can assist the marginalized IDPs groups through learning and listening to these groups, as this will provide meaningful insight into the challenges faced by the groups. Listening to the marginalized group through the community leaders and the familiarization with the needs of the IDPs and providing concrete steps towards solving and mitigating their challenges.

**Providing access to information:** Through community development access to vital information can be made possible and easy to build between the community leaders and the IDPs. Through the assistance of community development relationship and trust can be built. And gathering of information for the overall development of the marginalized IDPs in Borno state is made easy and the government agencies and institutions working in the IDPs camps are provided accurate and concrete information about the IDPs. Community development is a basic necessity for development of the IDPs through which vital and useful information is provided. Thus, information is a basic resource that the community leaders can provide for the development of the IDPs in Borno state. Information needed for the development of the members of the IDPs and based on information dissemination the potential for the liberation and “freedom” of the marginalized IDPs is guaranteed and assured (Adedokun, et al., 2010; Okiy, 2003).

**Action Plan for the IDPs:** Community development can as well develop an action plan for the marginalized IDPs. The mobilization of both material and human resources of the community, and with the inclusion of prominent members of the community and volunteers achieving a comprehensive action programs for the IDPs is achievable. Hence, the Nigeria government should work with community development persons towards providing an implementable guidelines for the IDPs, with a concrete implementation of action plan.



**Evaluate Results of Actions for the Marginalized IDPs:** It is important to note that evaluation of any action plan towards reducing the plight of the IDPs is necessary for the overall repositioning of the IDPs in Borno state Northeast Nigeria. Constant evaluation of action plan towards mitigating the plight of the IDPs in Borno state, Northeast Nigeria. In the quest to mitigate the challenges faced by the IDPs in Borno state, community development action plan comes to play in Nigeria. And the evaluation of the programs and plans of the government institutions towards IDPs can ensure that the targeted goals towards the IDPs are met and their suffering is reduced.

**Sustained Government Intervention:** The challenges faced by the IDPs can be reduced through sustained government intervention with a particular focus on the IDPs in Borno state. And the role of community development can be sustained through articulated action plan and government support. However, sustainable government support and intervention would include providing social justice, security, as well as environmental protection and economic issues and the overall welfare of the IDPs must be taking seriously. Sustainable community development would lead to sustained protection and economic growth for the IDPs. According to Uche, Uzoma & Uche (2014) sustainable community development compels an alternative considered for the government and those concern, and based on the relationships between the social and economic factors, sustainable development in the area of education, housing, and access to health, helps to inclusion the IDPs for concrete and positive changes in communities. Also, Raheem & Bako (2014) opined that sustainable community development assist government in solving social, political or economic problems of the IDPs in camp. Sustained poverty eradication can be done through the promotion of skills, and raising standard of living of the people, and employment creation. Sustainable development is a requirement of relief for the IDPs who may have been marginalized. And the capacity to solve this problem lies on deliberate and negotiation as well as agreement of the stakeholders.

### **Conclusion**

Community development has a crucial role to play in reducing the plight of the marginalized internally displaced persons in Borno state, Northeast Nigeria. This is why it is necessary to encourage all stakeholders to contribute their quote to reducing the overall challenges faced by the IDPs especially the marginalized once among them. Community development initiatives for self-reliance and development of the IDPs becomes necessary as the federal and the state government cannot adequately provide enough or meet the needs of what the community needs. It is obvious from the above-analysis that adequate and genuine information can positively impact the lives of the marginalized IDPs, which unfortunately has been seriously affected by the activities of insurgents. Thus, the paper opined that community leaders and the institution of government can adequately help the IDPs in their steady quest for self-development and self-reliance through community development. The paper further recommends that the future development plan of the Nigerian government should be tied toward the international standard needs of each of the marginalized IDPs in Borno state, Northeast Nigeria as this will certify them to fully get in involved in the development programs of issues that concerns them. Community development role for the marginalized IDPs can enlightened and educate the IDPs, while modern technology can be deployed to promoted skills acquisitions and craft business in the IDPs camp.

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