

Community Ownership Of Micro Projects And Sustainability Of Poverty Reduction Projects In Yobe State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT: Poverty is one of the leading menaces threatening the existence of humanity all over the world. This menace is more prevalent in the less developing nations Nigeria inclusive. Receiving global attention, there was rapid response from strategic stakeholders: global, continental, regional and locals including; the United Nations, International Development Financial Institutions, Development Partners, Non- Governmental Organizations and governments of the affected countries alike. These stakeholders have collectively expended huge resources in form of interventions. This resource notwithstanding the rate of poverty, specifically in Nigeria is not short of alarming. The common reason advanced for the failure in the global war against poverty is the adoption of top down approach which excludes the targeted beneficiaries from participation in poverty reduction, programme initiation, design and implementation. It was in response to this that community based poverty reduction programme (CPRP) a bottom up community driven poverty reduction strategy was introduced in yobe state. The idea behind this approach is to afford local communities participate and own micro projects with the view of sustaining such project in the future. It is against this background that this paper examines the relationship between micro project, ownership and sustainability of poverty reduction project in Yobe state, Nigeria. The study adopted multi stage mini survey approach, using survey instrument; questionnaire, focus group discussion and key informants interview complimented with observation. Data gathered were analyzed using descriptive and correlations statistical tools, specifically, frequency table, simple percentage, and spearman rank order correlation coefficient (RHO). The study reveals positive correlation between the ownership of the micro projects and the utilization and maintenance of project especially after the closure of the CPRP project. The study also establishes that the projects are durable and of high quality as meeting the required standard and effective project maintenance. The study conclude that the high level of positive correlation between micro project ownership and sustainability is as a result of willingness and commitment arising from the financial contribution and labour which gave the community members sense of ownership of the project and hence they need to maintain their own projects. The paper recommend that since it proofs difficult for poor community members to contribute their own quota, the state and local government should bear the responsibility of the large chunk of the financial burden since provision of such services is their statutory obligations.

KEY WORDS*community ownership* Micro project* sustainability* poverty*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The rampaging and devastating effects of poverty on mankind most especially in less developed countries including but not limited to Nigeria generally speaking and Yobe state in specific term has made war against poverty a focal point and global agenda among strategic stake holders including nation states, development partners international development financial institutions, Non-governmental organisations. The popularity of global front against poverty is evident in the central place it occupies in both the millenniums development goals (MDGs) as well as the current Sustainable development goals (SDGs). The first goal of the MDGs was to halve extreme poverty. The global currency won by war against poverty and related problems have attracted wide spectrum of interventions in form of resources, services and programmes from the states, development partners and other actors in the area. These interventions notwithstanding the menace of increasing poverty in north east Nigeria particularly yobe state has continue unabated. . Undoubtedly within the North-East of Nigeria, Yobe State was ranked not only as one of the poorest in the region, but in the whole country, with low scores on most aspects of human development indices, and with poverty rate standing at 71.9% in 1999 (CBN,1999)). Pate and Garba (2010:2) largely attributed the state of poverty in Yobe State to factors such as environment, uneven distribution of resources, failure of policies, absence of economically rewarding

ventures, dependence on subsistence agriculture and cultural restrictive issues that affect female participation in economic activities, among others

Yobe state is largely rural and the inhabitants are mainly agrarian with minimal viable commercial activities despite its economic potentials especially in agriculture and solid minerals. To this effect, only about five medium towns serve as hubs of commercial activities in the whole state: Damaturu the state capital, Potiskum, Nguru, Gashua and Geidam. The last three towns are situated in the Northern part of the State with sparse population and threatened by environmental problems especially desert encroachment. Except the Dofarga Spring Water, there is no functional factory that employs more than 50 people in Yobe state as reported by Gulani, Manu, Ngama, Jinjiri, and Maidugu(2008:16) In the same vein, Gulani, Manu, Ngama, Jinjiri and Maidugu(2008:19) revealed that Yobe state has the lowest literacy and enlightenment level, the lowest State population of about 2,321,591 people and a population density of 49 person, per kilometer square in the country according to the 2006 National Population Commission i.e. the last officially recognized population census.

The Yobe State government has indeed not rested (at least from the policy initiation point) on finding solutions to the problems of deep poverty conditions in the state. In fact the state has participated in its share of the poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria, even with high failure rates in the pro-poor policy/ programme implementation. Obadan (2001:166) enumerated the challenges to the achievements of the past poverty reduction programmes which indicates that most of the past poverty reduction policy designs and programmes failed to reduce poverty in Nigeria and Yobe State in particular due to lack of mechanism for sustainability of the poverty reduction programme). The Federal government of Nigeria Appraisal Report (2000:1) on Community –Based Poverty Reduction Projects also confirmed reasons for the failures of the past poverty reduction programmes and revealed that of the estimated 23 different poverty reduction projects carried out from 1985 to 1999, virtually all the programmes failed to meet their objectives mainly because of political instability and minimal participation by stakeholders in their design, management, implementation and evaluation. The past poverty reduction programmes were mostly adjudged to be top-bottom, supply-driven and non-participatory approach to poverty reduction (Bukar, 2002:5) Most of the poverty reduction programmes were designed and implemented without the active support of the primary targets of such poverty reduction interventions, which equally undermines the critical input of beneficiaries at policy formulation and implementation. It was indeed the seemingly persistent increase in poverty in Yobe State that prompted Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim upon assumption of office on 29th May, 1999 to declare that poverty reduction formed part of the cardinal objective of the state (Ibrahim, 2002:11). This declaration coincided with the Federal Government's introduction of the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Projects (CPRP) in six pilot states as part of Component 11 of the CPRP intervention, including Yobe State. Having been tested and found to be successful in various countries of the world including some countries in Africa, e.g. Egypt, The Gambia, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia, the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Projects strategy was adopted by the Federal government as pilots in six states in the six geo-political zones of the Federation: Yobe, Abia, Cross River, Kebbi, Ekiti, and Kogi. Upon consultations with experts from development partners, the World Bank, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), the Federal Government of Nigeria and benefiting aforementioned states, negotiated a credit to finance the CPRP in the first phase of the project expected to be completed within 5 years. The CPRP intervention was therefore embraced by Yobe state government who went on to establish a State Steering Committee in 2000 chaired by the Governor, Bukar Abba Ibrahim (Bukar, 2002:6)

The FGN Appraisal Report maintain that the CPRP has been designed as an umbrella programme supported by the Africa Development Bank and the World Bank , as a bottom-up , participatory and self-help approach known to be the most effective strategy available to tackle poverty, improve governance and increase gender sensitivity because beneficiaries are leaders in their development. To this end, the CPRP document listed some guiding principles of the poverty reduction strategy to include:

- i. Projects must be demand-driven by the respective communities
- ii. Projects must have community participation
- iii. Have decentralized decision-making,
- iv. Projects be implemented directly by communities
- v. Empower local communities through skill enhancement and
- vi. Have minimum of bureaucracy.

Therefore respective benefiting communities were expected to fully initiate and implement their demand-driven sub-project requests, while the World Bank and the Africa Development Bank provided the needed financial and technical assistance .The focus of the CPRP rested on providing beneficiary communities greater access to basic services, particularly with regard to access to education, health services, agricultural production and rural infrastructure, and ensuring that the capacity of the community members to deal with poverty is strengthened (FGN Appraisal Report, 2000: 10). The CPRP strategy thus covers multiple sectors determined by specific community needs (Gana, 2002:13).The CPRP would make available the provision of Feeder roads, Culverts, Small Bridges using labor intensive methods, Water supply, Electricity or Solar Energy

products e.g. Stand-alone Street Light to enhance safety and security, Schools, Health clinics, Community Centers and other Community facilities. The projects would further improve the environment through Erosion Control, Farm and Human Waste Management, construction of Storage Facilities to improve Agricultural production and productivity, support for Extension Services such as Pest Management, Market development, Earth Dams and Small- scale Irrigation. The CPRP was also expected to make provision for building new and rehabilitate existing Primary Health Care facilities like Maternity Clinics, Well-Baby Centers to focus on nutrition and illness prevention as well as family planning so as to reduce distances to the health centers and enhance sustainability. In addition, CPRP would facilitate the integration of education and prevention efforts about malaria and HIV/AIDS into all project activities as clearly stated in the FGN Appraisal Report (2000: 11). The CPRP intervention here indicates that poverty reduction efforts can be achieved not only through provision of nutritional food or increase in consumption level, but also through the provision of access to basic services, particularly primary healthcare, basic education, access to portable water, sanitation and so on.

Therefore, the CPRP Operational and Financial Manual and other Guidelines governing the operations of the facilitating Agency, i.e. Yobe State Agency for Poverty Reduction i.e. confirmed the eligibility of sub-projects approved for funding in beneficiary communities in Yobe State to be: Potable Water Supply, Health Services, Primary and Adult Education, Desertification Control, Job Creation, Feeder Roads, Culverts, Market Improvement, Rural Electricity Supply, Grain Bank Establishment, Earth Dam, Veterinary Clinic and Construction of Slaughter Slabs in (Gana, 2002:14). The Community-Based Poverty Reduction Projects began project implementation on 29th August 2002 and closed on 31st March, 2009, expending the sum of N1, 709,844,883.91, (about N1.7 billion) for all the projects in Yobe State (Gana, 2009:6). It is against this background that this paper examines the relationship between ownership of micro project and sustainability of poverty reduction projects in yobe state,

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of this research were to:

1. Examine the level of project sustainability in Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project?
2. Examine the extent to the mandatory funding contribution provided the community with mandate for project ownership?
3. Assess the relationship between ownership of the micro-projects and sustainability for poverty reduction

1.4 Research Questions

This paper is guided by the following questions:

1. What is the level of project sustainability in Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project?
3. To what extent has the mandatory funding contribution provided the community with mandate for project ownership?
4. What is the relationship between micro-project ownership and project sustainability

1.5 Research Hypothesis:

. Ho₃: There is no significant co-relation between community ownership of micro-projects and project sustainability.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Concept of Poverty

The concept poverty like every other social Science concept is fluid, complex and multidimensional in nature. This made it difficult to have a single universally accepted definition. The best way of understanding the meaning of poverty therefore is by situating it contextually or subject specific. This position was validated by study conducted by Kankwenda, Gregoire, Legros, and Ouedraogo (2000) argued that poverty is almost never defined by itself, but through concepts such as growth, well-being, exclusion or equity, thereby making the definition of poverty to depend on the specific context, such as global, regional or local or even personal. The approach to the concept and definition of poverty is widely accepted to be multidimensional especially since the challenges posed to the traditional approach that emphasized issues of income, nutrition, etc. has added more meaning to poverty. Many scholars have therefore defined poverty from its numerous dynamic properties, more so as poverty is shaped by various economic, social, political, cultural conditions, and even stand point of different international institutions such as World Bank and UNDP (Kankwenda, Gregoire, Legros, and Ouedraogo (2000).

The concept and meaning of poverty dates back to the pioneering studies conducted by Charles Booth in London and Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree in York who developed a poverty standard for individual families based on estimates of “nutritional” and other requirements like family incomes, housing and community lives

etc. which reflects poverty in terms of hunger as the household budget is needed and utilized to purchase a certain 'nutrition' in food and other standards. However poverty experts posit that to determine who is poor, a yardstick or measurement is required as a starting point. Poverty line then became the measure, which is the minimum level of income deemed adequate in a particular country. But poverty line or welfare indicator is also constantly debatable as it also varies geographically or even subjectively. The judgment as to what constitute poverty will depend on the degree of material comfort and civilization which a nation or community has been able to maintain (Stapleford, 1919). However, the World Bank (2001) looked at assets such as i. human assets, capacity for labour, skills, and good health, ii natural and social assets e.g. land iii physical assets and access to infrastructure, iv financial assets, savings and access to credit, and v social assets, network of contacts and reciprocal relations as the focus of determining poverty (Ebong and Ogwumike, 2013). Dollar per day was an adoption of World Bank in 2002 using the purchasing Power Parity (PPP) at US \$1 per day. In Nigeria, this was equivalent to N 46.2 in 2002, N59.2 in 2003, and N150.00 in 2010, and unofficially estimated at over N300.0 today.

The UNDP viewed poverty in the 1990's to include such aspects as "the denial of opportunities and choices" while well-being meant "to lead a long, healthy, creative life and to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, self – esteem, and respect for others. Today the term "social exclusion" is added to the vocabulary on poverty which means not only multiple deprivations of basic needs and social service but also the process by which multiple deprivations occur. In its efforts to combat poverty in most developing countries the UNDP views poverty in Nigeria principally to mean lack of capabilities in terms of income and fulfillment of basic needs. The National Human Development in this regard indicates that poverty in Nigeria is the inability to provide for physical subsistence to the extent of being incapable of protecting human dignity, which includes food, clothing, shelter, potable water, health services, basic education, public transport and work. The manifestation of poverty to the UNDP (1985) include lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods, hunger, and malnutrition, ill – health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion, as well as lack of participation in decision – making and in civil, social and cultural life. In fact the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report 2001 concluded that poverty is a form of oppression.

The United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) defines poverty as deprivation in the material requirements for minimally acceptable fulfillment of human needs which include food, basic health, education and other essential services. The United Nations (UN) however has extensively defined poverty as a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity; it is lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, no school or clinic to go to, nor is land to cultivate one's food, or a job to earn one's living, and also not having access to credit. It also means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It is susceptibility to violence, which often implies living in marginal or fragile environment without access to clean water or sanitation. Poverty is thus characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs (UN 1995). The European Union considers poverty to mean "the persons, families or groups of persons whose resources (material, cultural and social) are so limited as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life in their member state. The essential resources include food, water, shelter and social services like education, social status, political power or opportunity to develop connections with other people in the society.

Other indicators of the poor as reported in Giddens (1996) include the unemployed, part – time workers, casual or those in insecure jobs, older people, the sick, disabled, single parents and large families who lack support. Poverty has also been defined by Aluko (1975) as lack of command over basic consumption needs, which means lack of ability to obtain, leading to insufficient food, clothing, shelter, and inability to participate meaningfully within one's society. Baker (1995) refers to poverty as the state of being poor or deficient in money or means of subsistence like availability of infrastructure services like safe drinking water, sanitation and shelter. Osinubi (2003) characterized poverty by lack of purchasing power, exposure to risk, malnutrition, and high mortality rate, low life expectancy insufficient access to social and economic services and fair opportunities for income generation. Booth (1840 – 1916) also viewed the poor in terms of classes. He opined that the "poverty line" measure was not based on income, but "on the lowest wage rates available for a man within his society". To that extent, from an assessment of the various conceptions, poverty is an issue that involves the social class inequity and can simply be identified as an economic problem within any socio – economic status system. It could be concluded that poverty is one of the worst forms of violence that anybody could be subjected to. In this context, the perception of poverty should be likened to a modern form of slavery which requires the collective actions by all human beings to overcome.

The extensive studies on poverty are not exhaustible just as the concepts remain complex, and more pronounced in some societies than in others, as clearly observed in the developed and developing countries. However, the UN since 1995 determined a definition that is tried to encompass both the developed and the

developing countries, to include: lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods, hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environment and social discrimination and exclusion, as well as characterized by lack of participation in decision making and in civil, social and cultural life (Davis and Sanchez, 2014).

The description of poverty in Nigeria is apt to most of these concepts, where Aribisala (2008) paints a bleak picture of poverty in Nigeria as well. Aribisala pointed out that poverty is among the three most crucial problems that have contributed to human crisis hardships in the world, where deepening poverty, social disintegration and environmental degradation have remained issues that continue to dominate the global agenda. Poverty in Nigeria has deteriorated from a manageable stage to a worrisome stage since the onset of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986. SAP was an unmitigated disaster from whichever economic perspective it is analyzed (Ayo, 2012). SAP has been assessed by numerous studies to have various negative effects on most of the Nigerian population. Debie (2004) was of the opinion that "the general implementation of this economic policy was predicted on neo-liberal strategies, which lay emphasis on deregulation, devaluation, denationalization trade liberalization and technological development" (Ayo, 2012), to which Nigeria is still categorized to occupy disadvantaged position in this respect). Olukoshi 1993 and Oluyemi-kusa, 1994 reported that before the SAP era, the Nigerian government has been devastated by declining oil revenue from 10,915 million naira in 1985 to 8,107 million naira in 1986, with a debt burden of 20 billion that rose to 30 billion by the end of 1994, and a declining production level enhanced job loss, insecurity (Jega, 2000). This according to Jega brought about a major shift in the ability of the Nigerian state to cater for the socio-economic needs of the population and a catastrophic exclusion and acute marginalization of majority of the people from benefits of development projects and social provisioning.

Asselin (2001) summarized the three main schools of thoughts on approaches to poverty as thus: - (i) the Welferist' or Utilitarian school ii the Non- Welferist (Basic needs) school and iii the Capability school. All the three approaches agree that a person is adjudged to be poor whenever he or she is lacking in "something" with respect to the reasonable minimum of that "thing" in question. The contention here is the nature and level of what should not be lacking. The focus maintained by the Welferist school is economic "Well – being" or "standard of living". Here, poverty is said to exist in a given society when one or more persons do not attain a certain level of economic well – being deemed to constitute a reasonable minimum by the standards of that society. It is guided by the concept of growth and efficiency. Income here is what determines the utility level. Thus, poverty is defined as a socially unacceptable level of income, as such poverty alleviation policies will focus on the increase of productivity of the poor. While the Basic needs school which is considered to have a humanitarian stance holds that the "thing" that is lacking in the lives of the poor is a "small subset of goods and services specifically identified and deemed to meet the basic needs of all human beings. These include food, water and sanitation, shelter, clothing, basic education, health services and public transportation. The needs are considered "Basic" because their satisfaction is seen as a prerequisite to quality of life. To refute the welfarist approach, the Basic needs advocates maintain that you have to "be" before you can "well-be". In contrast, the Social contract theory or Social democracy or equity which formed the basis of Sen's capabilities and functioning approach defined poverty in reference to a subset of capabilities identified as "basic capabilities", and by unacceptable deficiencies in these capabilities. To these proponents the "thing" that is lacking therefore is neither utility nor the satisfaction of basic needs but to human abilities or capabilities that is minimally acceptable for one to function in a society. The proponents of this approach prescribed empowerment of the poor to alleviate poverty (Asselin, 2001).

2.7.2 Concept of Ownership

Ownership) connotes that something belongs to or is connected with somebody (Hornby: 2010:1051) Ownership to Lachapelle (2008) is a concept that defines characters whose voices are heard, who have influence over decisions and who are affected by the process and outcome of the project (Orwa:2015:8). Khawaja also emphasised that the "ownership" aspect of participation is also a means of exerting influence or bargaining power, and further explained from the stand point of the property rights literature in economics that, ownership includes not only physical assets in terms of residual control rights over the assets, but the less tangible assets such as the decisions undertaken in a development project or assets. This model Khawaja pointed out gives greater influence of decisions and ownership to the agent whose efforts/investment is more important in the decision, and thus high incentives to make the investment leading to greater benefit for all. Looking at this argument in relation to power relations in the operations of the CPRP in various communities, the donor agencies, particularly the World Bank certainly have more decision-cum ownership than the community members whose investment contribution is merely 10 percent of the total cost of the project thus selected. The World Bank is reported to have increased its lending for CDD projects from \$325 million in 1996, to \$ 2 billion in 2003. Khawaja therefore maintains that community participation is not realistically in tandem with sustainability of projects in the beneficiary communities. At best, increased community participation is

beneficial only in decisions that require relatively more local inputs/knowledge, but detrimental to project success in decisions requiring investments that the community is at disadvantage in providing.

However, ownership and sustainability of development projects has increasingly emerged as the yardstick for the success of the participatory approach. To sustain according to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary means to provide enough of what somebody/something needs in order to live or exist; which indicates adequacy and continuity of the thing in question. A third dimension to the concept of sustainability is continuation of the existing programme activities within the existing organizational structure or building the capacity of the beneficiary community to manage the programme (Orwa:1015:19). Orwa further reported that Finkenflu-gel (2006) and Boyce and Lysack (2000) contended that the involvement of community members in all aspects of project design and implementation is vital in developing a sense of ownership of the project, which can positively influence its sustainability. Thus linking involvement/active participation, ownership and sustainability of development projects has increasingly become paramount to the success of any participatory, community demand-driven or bottom-top approach to poverty reduction and or rural development. Thus the ability of poor communities involved in project initiation, design, and implementation to make meaningful contribution (including financial resources) enough to influential certain vital decisions that accords them ownership and sustainability are better seen in advanced countries as commonly reported by World Institutions like the World Health Organisation report (WHO, 2000). For example, programmes in Europe showed community participation to have increased democracy, improved mobilization of resources and energy, created better decisions and more effective services, which in turn ensured community empowerment, ownership and sustainability of programmes.

In spite of these arguments Torjman (1998:5) has advanced that the framework for community- based poverty reduction is based on the assumption that poverty can be reduced through four streams of intervention:

- i. Meeting basic needs: physical and health security e.g. food, shelter, water, sanitation and healthcare, mental and emotional support respectively
 - ii. Removing barriers: accessibility, affordability and availability of products and services
 - iii. Building skills: academic skills and skills acquisition, skills training
 - iv. Promoting economic development: e.g. job creation, retention, access to capital and technical.
- a. The CPRP intervention in Yobe state was concerned with meeting the basic needs through the provision of basic goods and services to the poor communities which was also intended to integrate and address both economic and social problems which was inadequately provided by the government.

Impact of the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Projects in Some Communities

As a mechanism for poverty reduction among poor communities, some studies of the CPRP indicated that it has impacted mostly in the social spheres sectors where it stimulated increased productivity, rising income, job creation, local institutional development, human resources development, strengthen civil society and improve local governance in some African countries (FGN, Appraisal Report, 2000).

Training of CPRP participants showed increase in awareness by communities to organize themselves towards solving community problems. Apart from direct and immediate relief provided by accessibility to basic social services like water, CPRP activities created awareness among communities on their ability to make decision directly on issues that affected their welfare. It is therefore known to strengthen the creation and development of Community Based Organization, NGOs and other voluntary/self-help organization.

The Quebec experience of the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project which began since early 1960s view such social development as a reconciliation between individual's and collective welfare, where the development of human potential, self-determination active participation and decision making which are key goals to development also help communities to respect cultural difference and eschew social inclusiveness (Ninacs, 2003:11). The Community-Based Poverty Reduction intervention in Quebec in Ninacs (2003:5) was shown to catalyze holistic development and poverty reduction since 1997 with over 8000 different community-based groups that provide multi-service outlets for their communities.

In South East Asia, Nepal where access to modern energy services is a major barrier to development for 90% of the population who live in rural areas, the Community-based micro-hydro project has been used successfully to enhance livelihood of people living in remotely, hilly villages. The UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok for example extended energy to more than 250 remote and isolated countries which provided energy to 23, 000 households in 2006 through the CPRP intervention (Adams, 2004). In addition to other sources of energy technologies and fuel such as solar home system, bio-gas and improved cooking stores were also used to meet a range of rural needs to reduce the consumption of traditional bio-mass fuels. Kiss (2004:1) also reported that the impact of the Community-based projects was vital in eco-tourism, which was used for supporting bio-diversity conservation particularly in developing countries in mid 1990s where USAID supported 105 projects worth US \$ 2 billion.

In the study conducted in seven countries using ten projects by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)@ (www.jica.go.jp) on the Thematic Evaluation on Poverty Reduction /Community Approach using multi-level approach to generate synergy in community development by building linkages between regional and central governments and community members, the study revealed improvement in community participation, knowledge and techniques as well as accessibility to projects. While Nkemdilim (2003:131-134) examined the implementation of CPRP in some Second Phase Pilot States in Nigeria where his findings also showed increase in the provision of micro-projects in remote benefiting communities. This study however will examine not only community involvement, but the ability of the poor community members to make the mandatory contribution, be able to participate actively including taking vital decisions, and how ownership of the projects determines its sustainability after project closure.

2.3 Nigeria Poverty Profile

Although poverty is experienced and seen both among urban and rural dwellers, numerous visits to most rural areas, villages, and communities all over Nigeria over the years indicate that poverty is most glaring in those rural areas. The common sites in our rural areas are deteriorated and dilapidated infrastructure, particularly healthcare services, education, information and communication, as well as transportation system, which are some of the causes for the lack of productive participation to improve the precarious living conditions of the rural dwellers (Chinsman 1998). Rural dwellers are said to be the most affected by poverty especially in Nigeria. Global Action (2008) and Aderonmu (2010) observed that rural communities are seriously marginalized. They are found to experience high birthrates, though with high infant and maternal mortality and low life expectancy. Their children are mostly rag-stricken, dirty and un-kempt with poor sanitary conditions and thus prone to diseases and epidemic outbreak.

The deprivation and inadequacies experienced in these areas rendered poverty to be pandemic, prevalent and precarious where studies have shown that such conditions aggravate civil unrest, violence, conflicts and criminal tendencies as recently experienced in the post-election (2011) disturbances in some parts of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi and Kaduna States. Campbell and Harwood (2011) observed that Nigeria's problem go beyond divisive post-election politics, there is ethnic and religious conflicts, deeply rooted poverty and corruption, which are all interconnected. They alleged that the *Boko Haram*, once an obscured radical Islamic cult in the north is evolving into an insurrection with support among the impoverished and alienated northern population. While Nigeria's pervasive poverty and underdevelopment are nationwide, much worse is found in the northern half of the country.

Poverty is reported to be more prevalent in the Northern parts of Nigeria, where reports by the Human development statistics (2009) indicate that the North east zone has the highest Human Poverty Index (HPI) rate of 48.90%. The North West is 44.15% North Central is 34.65%, South-South is 26.61%, South East is 26.07%, and South West has the least of 21.50%. Bauchi, Jigawa and Yobe states are the worst affected in the Northern part, while in the south, poverty is pronounced in Akwa-Ibom, Delta and Edo State, according to studies conducted by Aigbokhan (2000). A study also conducted by the Central Bank of Nigeria and the World Bank 1999, on Poverty Assessment and Alleviation in Nigeria showed that the living and environmental conditions of rural dwellers have worsened. The percentage of the core poor increased from 62 percent in 1980 to 93 percent in 1996, while the moderate poor went up from 28.9 percent in 1992 to 36.3 in 1996 (FOS 1999). These reports attributed increase in the number of the poor in the rural areas among others, to the neglect of the rural infrastructure needed for development and lack of information on how government operates.

In this regard, the following tables below show the poverty resilience using different measures, and shown to be more endemic in rural areas, in the north of Nigeria, the northeast region and Yobe state.

III. METHODS AND MATERIALS

This study adopted a Multi-Stage research design to conduct a mini-survey to assess the relationship between Micro project ownership and Sustainability of Poverty Reduction Projects in Yobe State. The study clustered the three Senatorial Districts in Yobe State and purposely selected three Local Government Areas from each Senatorial District based on population density, relative working class presence and rural set up. The study utilized Random sampling to select Community Associations and its members through which the CPRP intervention was implemented. Individuals or group respondents were conveniently selected in the administration of questionnaires, while Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Direct Observation were also adopted to validate findings of the study. Data was elicited using the primary and secondary sources. The sample size of the study was determined by the number of Associations who formed part of the participants of the CPRP in each of the three purposely selected Local Government Area using the Taro Yamani (1973) formula whose level of precision or sampling error is expressed in percentage points of plus (+) or minus (-) 5 percent (5%). Data collected during the study was analyzed using the descriptive and inferential statistical methods.

3.3 The Population of Study

The population of the study consisted of three main groups. The first group was the general public who are mostly affected by poverty conditions in Yobe state. The second group was the members of various community Associations that directly participated in the implementation of the CPRP intervention. While the third group consisted of officials of the facilitating agency i.e. YBAPR now replaced by the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) which is a scaled up project of the pilot CPRP and its counterpart ie. Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Projects (LEEMP)

TABLE .1 Representation of the Sampled Size

Senatorial District	Local Govt Areas	No of Associations		Sampled Associations		Breakdown of Respondents for Questionnaires, FGD and KII						Total Number of Respondents
						Association members		Members of the public		CPRP Agency officials(KII)		
Yobe East	Damaturu	6	4	2	0	1	4	0	2	0	(3)	1 6 3
Yobe North	J a k u s k o	3	7	1	0	7	0	1	0	(1)	8 1	
Yobe South	P o t i s k u m	6	0	2	0	1	4	0	2	(1)	1 6 1	
	T o t a l	1 6	1	5	0	3	5	0	5	(1)	4 0 5	

Source: Researcher’s Design, 2017

IV. METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The demographic background of respondents was therefore analyzed using the descriptive statistics such as frequency tables, simple percentage and Charts. Scaling of questions in the questionnaire was analyzed using 5 Likert scales (5 points rating) as follows: Very High/Strongly Agreed-5, High/Agreed-4, Average/Fair-3, Very low/Strongly Disagree-2, Low/ Disagree-1. To analyze the data collected for the objectives of the study, inferential statistical tool specifically Spearman Rank Ordered Correlation Coefficient (Rho) was utilized to assess the correlations between the variables of the hypothesis and their respective rankings:

$$Rho = 1 - \frac{6\sum DD^2}{N(tN^2 - 1)}$$

3.2 Area of Study

The focus of this study was on Yobe State which is named after the River Yobe also known as Kamadougou-Yobe (French), a river in West Africa that flows into Lake Chad through Nigeria and Niger with its tributaries in Hadejia River, the Jama’are River and KamauguGana River (www.britannica.com). Yobe state is located in the North East geographical zone of Nigeria. Yobe state was created out of the former Borno state on 27th August, 1991 by the Military Administration of Retired General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. Yobe state has seventeen (17) local government areas.

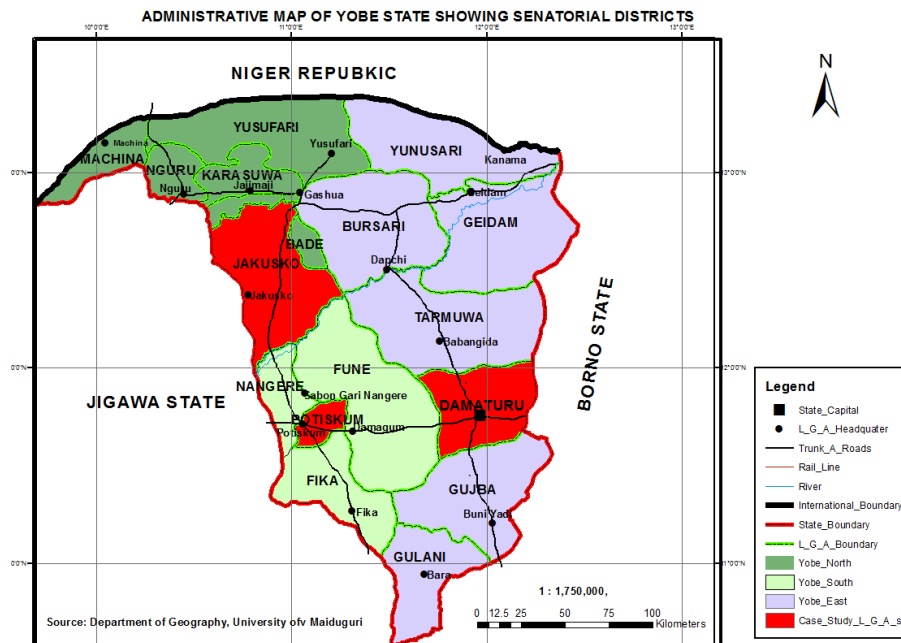


Figure .1 Map of Yobe State showing its Local Government Areas including the 3 Case Study Local Government Areas, clearly marked in red colour

The land area of Yobe state is estimated to be 47,153 square kilometers, with flat topography in most parts of Yobe state except in Southern parts of Gujba and Fika which are rocky, with the Southern part having undulating sand dunes. Yobe State shares borders with Jigawa and Bauchi States to the west, Gombe State to the

south and Borno State to the east and south. Internationally, it shares border to the north with the Republic of Niger. Yobe state is generally a rural state with no cosmopolitan city. Damaturu the State capital is strategically located and geographically central which serves as a point of convergence to the major towns of Potiskum, Gashua, Nguru, and Gaidam.

The estimated population of Yobe State according to the Population Census conducted in Nigeria, 2006 stood at 2, 321,591. Major ethnic groups are Manga, Fulani, Bolewa, Karekare, Hausa and Kanuri. Yobe State is endowed with diverse economic potentials, ranging from Chemical and Mineral deposits, Agricultural products, where a variety of Cereals and Livestock production are done in large quantity (Yobe state Diary, 2006). Yobe state is mainly agrarian, with fishing ground and livestock rearing having one of the largest cattle markets in West Africa located at Potiskum. These resources are estimated to provide a source of employment to about 80 percent of the population of people in Yobe state. The viability of these resources for the establishment of Agro-Allied industries such as meat and leather processing, adhesive and pharmaceutical industries, cement, flour, glass, soap, feeds Mills, Chalk industries and so on is also enormous. Agriculture is the main stay of the economy of people in Yobe state, with high dependence on subsistence agriculture. However, the state is hampered by desert encroachment as it lies mainly in the dry Savanna belt, where weather conditions are hot and dry for most of the year except in the Southern part of the State which has a milder weather condition.

The population of people in Yobe State consists of rich and diverse ethnic groups with various historical and cultural heritages. As further revealed in the 2006 Yobe State Diary, these features provide a source of tourist attraction, where Durbar is organized mostly during important religious occasions and Turbaning ceremonies, with historical sites such as Daniski hill old settlement, BirninNgazargamu, Doforga spring water, Dagona birds sanctuary, Gudi settlement, Tulo-tulowa marshy oasis, Grave Yard of Emirs of Fika, Potiskum Museum, Kadi (Goya) valley, and the 800 year old Dufuna canoe discovered in Dufuna village in 1987, kept in the Museum in Damaturu. The unique location and vast land found in Yobe State provide easy access and movement of goods and services, especially raw materials within and outside the country (Yobe state Diary, 2009).

The Federal Office of Statistics Report (2010) showed that unemployment rate in Yobe State was estimated to be 15.0 percent in 2002, which decreased to 8.0 percent by 2005 but sharply increase to 27.3 percent by 2009. Kale (2011) also reported that unemployment rate in Yobe state was estimated to be the highest in the country at 60.6 percent by 2011. Equally speaking, the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of Yobe state faired among the poorest at 36.6 percent, and was calculated to have dropped from N3.07 billion in 2014 to N2.74 billion in 2015(Enejeta, 2016) www.financialwachngr.com

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

PERSONAL DATA OF RESPONDENTS

The demographic data examined the characteristics of respondents based on sex, marital status, age and educational qualification involved in the study. The imperative for gathering the demographic data cannot be overemphasized as the sex of respondents for example determined the level of participation by males and females in the CPRP, recognizing that poverty is common phenomenon known to affect both genders. The age and marital status equally revealed some degree of social responsibility expected and accepted by cultural norms in Yobe State, as may affect family and community members. Participation in the CPRP undoubtedly requires certain formal educational qualification for obvious reasons.

Table .2.: Demographic Data of the Respondents

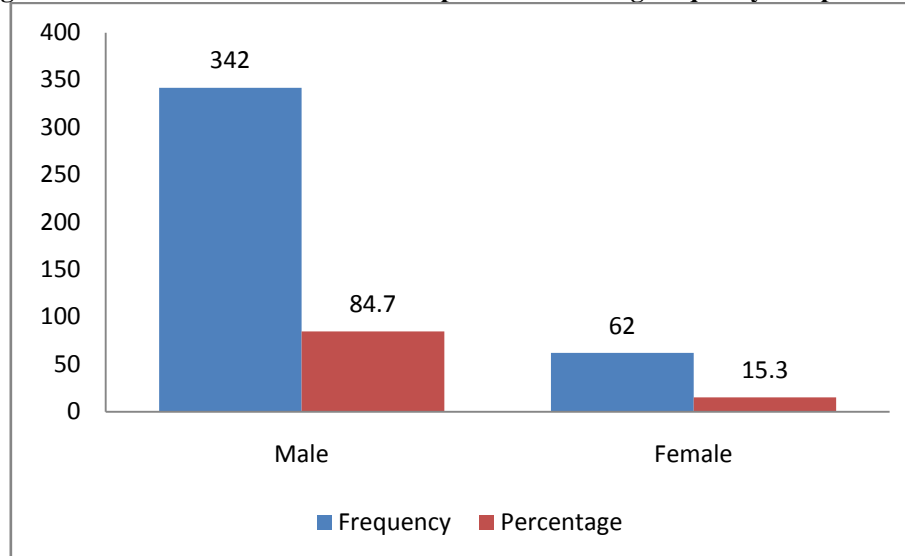
V a r i a b l e s	O p i n i o n	F r e q u e n c y	P e r c e n t a g e
S e x	M a l e	3 4 2	8 4 . 7 %
	Female	62	15.3%
M a r r i e d	M a r r i e d	3 0 0	7 4 . 3 %
	Unmarried	99	24.5%
	Others	5	1.2%
A g e R a n g e	1 8 – 2 4 y r s	3 6	8 . 9 %
	25 – 34yrs	67	16.6%
	35 – 44yrs	176	43.6%
	>45yrs	125	30.9%
E d u c a t i o n a l Q u a l i f i c a t i o n	P r i m a r y	5 8	1 4 . 4 %
	Secondary	59	14.6%
	Diploma/NCE	194	48.0%
	HND/Degree	42	10.4%
	Others	51	12.6%

Source: Field work, 2017

The demographic information of the respondents regarding sex, marital status, age range and educational qualification is presented using frequency and percentage. The result clearly shows that majority 84.7% of the respondents are males (342), with only 62 females representing 15.3%. Cultural factors which

often favor male participation especially in public life in the Northern part of the country remain an influencing factor that limit and affect female participation particularly in economic activities for empowerment and poverty reduction.

Figure .2.: Gender distribution of the respondents showing frequency and percentage.

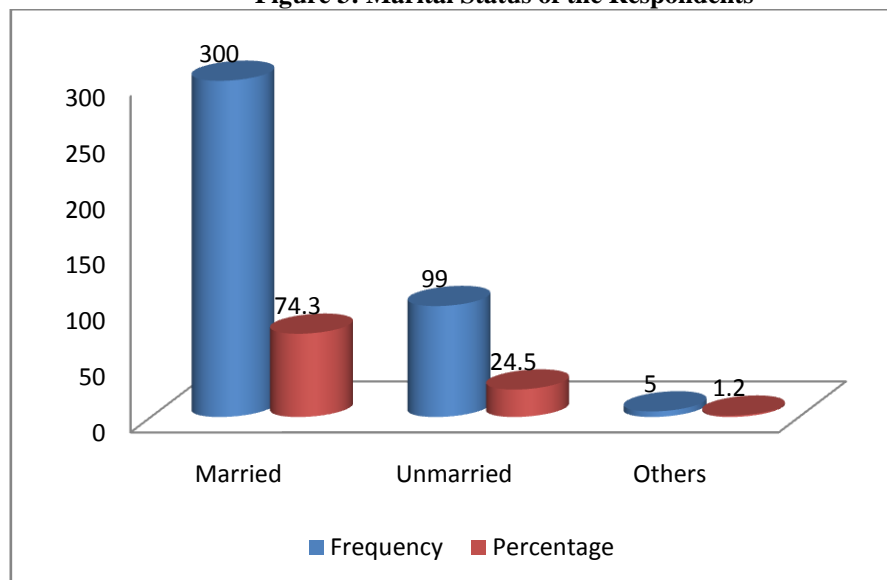


Source: Field Work, 2017

Consequently the inadequate female participation in the CPRP indicates common argument on lack of equal opportunities for female participation, even though females are known to constitute the population most affected by poverty. The lack of adequate participation by females during the CPRP informed the introduction of the Gender Vulnerable Group component in the subsequent poverty reduction intervention: Community Social Development Project (CSDP) as revealed during the Key Informant Interview.

Also, 74.3% of the total population of respondents is married while 24.5% and 1.2% are unmarried and others respectively (25.7 percent).

Figure 3: Marital Status of the Respondents



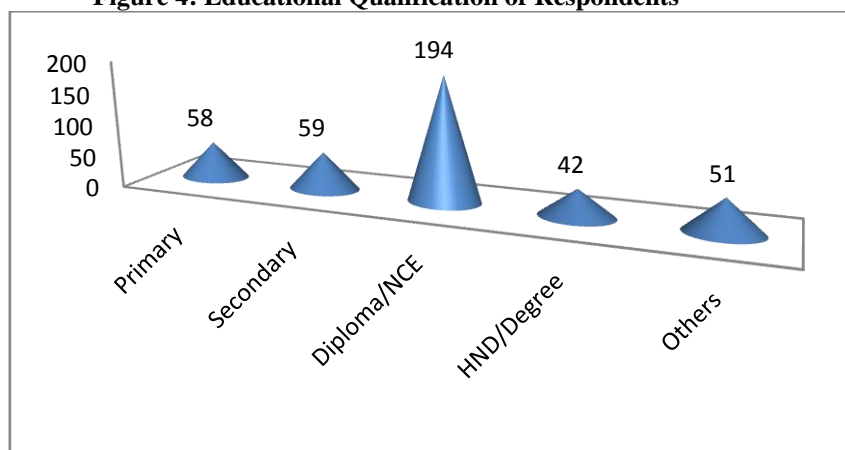
Source: Field Work, 2017

This also confirms that married people especially males are culturally considered as the heads and providers of the family. As such, poverty conditions that affected most married respondents invariably affects other family members as well, as responsibility for family up keep and well-being is largely attached to the head of the family who is expected to source for the means of livelihood. This suggests the need for active participation in the opportunities provided by the CPRP intervention by married respondents.

The result for age distribution indicates 43.6% of the respondents belong to 35 – 44 years of age, and 25 – 34 years constitute 16.6% and 18 – 24 years represent 8.9%, while respondents above 45 years of age represent

30.9%. The result revealed that most of the respondents are within the actively productive age of 18- 44 years, the total of which represents 69.1% as expected. More so youths are in dire need for means of livelihood and poverty reduction since youth unemployment is a disturbing trend all over the country. While it is common in Yobe state, to find most people within this age to have assumed family responsibility that requires active participation in opportunities for livelihood improvement.

Figure 4: Educational Qualification of Respondents



Source: Field Work, 2017

In terms of educational qualification, the result shows that only 10.4 percent have attained Tertiary education (Degree or Higher National Diploma), 48.0% of the total respondents have Diploma or NCE certificates, while 14.6% and 14.4% have attended secondary and primary schools respectively. Respondents with other educational qualification constitute only 12.6%. The CPRP implementation process requires implementers to have some basic educational qualification that will ensure compliance with the operational framework and implementation arrangements. This requires beneficiary communities to have duly registered Community Development Associations and Groups, with elected Executive Implementation Committee, User Groups, Works Committees responsible for identification, prioritization of needs, preparation of micro-project proposals, signing of project contract agreements, managing projects and so on, to meet all stages of the project cycle. This informed the obvious need for educated respondents or participants in the CPRP intervention. However, respondents with lower tertiary education constitute greater part of the total respondents at 48.0 percent, indicates that poverty is a common phenomenon which cut across all categories of people in Yobe state. Respondents' educational background has not provided the means to reduce poverty nor did the skills of less educated respondents avail them the means for a stable and sustained income or basic needs facilities to reduce their poverty conditions.

VI. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION AND CPRP OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

Table 3: Contribution of 10 percent on Individuals Resources

Mandatory 10% contribution for project has affected your;	R e s p o n s e s					
	Very high	High	Average	Very low	Low	
I n c o m e L e v e l	130 (32.2%)	80 (19.8%)	77 (19.1%)	49 (12.1%)	68 (16.8%)	
C a p i t a l L e v e l	159 (39.4%)	101 (25.0%)	76 (18.8%)	34 (8.4%)	34 (8.4%)	
L o c a l R e s o u r c e s L e v e l	88 (21.8%)	88 (21.8%)	139 (34.4%)	60 (14.9%)	29 (7.2%)	
P o v e r t y L e v e l	96 (23.8%)	123 (30.4%)	62 (15.3%)	46 (11.4%)	77 (19.1%)	
P h y s i c a l A b i l i t y (H e a l t h)	89 (22.0%)	127 (31.4%)	124 (30.7%)	32 (7.9%)	32 (7.9%)	
T i m e f o r y o u r l a b o u r	153 (37.9%)	97 (24.0%)	66 (16.3%)	62 (15.3%)	26 (6.4%)	

Source: Field work, 2017

The result in Table 3: revealed that 32.3% of the total respondents indicated that their contribution towards the mandatory 10 percent cost of project selected by their community has very highly affected their income level. 19.8% reported a high effect, while only 12.1% and 16.8% said the effect on their income was very low and low respectively. On the average effect, 19.1 % was recorded. This result is not farfetched as income generation among poor communities is not easy to come by. Invariably, the mandatory contribution has deflected majority of respondents' income level. The mandatory contribution has affected respondents' capital level as well, where 39.4 percent of respondents which constitute the majority acknowledged the effect of the 10 percent contribution to be very high on their capital level. This is followed by high effect level of contribution consisting of 25.0 percent of respondents. Respondents whose contribution had an average effect level were 18.8 percent and 8.4 percent of respondents both testified very low and low effect on their level of capital. In the same vein, financial contribution out of capital resource or *seed money* from poor communities may take great

deal of time and effort to replace due to lack of stable income and employments among poor communities. In terms of local resource level, 34.4 percent of respondents indicated the effect of the mandatory contribution to be on an average basis, while 21.8% showed the effect to be both very high and high on the local resource level. This may be attributed to collective efforts made by community members towards the 10 percent contribution. As such, majority of respondents experienced an average effect on mandatory contribution in terms of local resources of the communities.

Most respondents view on how the mandatory contribution affected their poverty level showed that 23.8 percent and 30.4percent of the respondents said the 10 percent mandatory contribution for the cost of CPRP has affected them on a very high and high level respectively. Only about 15.3 percent of respondents were averagely affected, while 11.4 percent and 19.1 percent of respondents were affected on a very low and low level respectively. This revealed that community members most have made a painstaking decision and concrete steps to make the mandatory contribution due to their poverty level, as well as dire need for the provision of some basic needs infrastructure facilities in their communities. In examining how the contribution affected respondents' physical or health status, 31.4 percent and 30.7 percent of respondents reported a very high and high effect respectively. 22.0 percent of respondents indicated an average response, while 7.9 percent each revealed its very low and low effect on their health status. This result could be attributed to the generally low poverty level of poor communities in Yobe state. Yobe State has been ranked according to the Central Bank of Nigeria Report (1999) as one of the poorest states in Nigeria with low scores on most aspects of the human development indices. The Human Development Index considers Health of individuals as key determinant for the growth of and development of any society. As such the community members' ability or inability to make the contribution particularly in terms of labour contributions only confirmed inadequate health care services among communities in Yobe State. The study also revealed that majority of respondents representing 37.9 percent concurred with the very high effect of the 10% mandatory contribution on their time for labour. With 24.0% percent response for respondents who showed that the contribution has affected their time for labour at a high level, 16.3% were affected on an average level, while 15.3% and 6.4% respondents' contributions had a very low and low effect on their time for labour.

Although community members had exerted various efforts to make the mandatory 10% contributions in cash or kind to make up their counterpart payments, it has no doubt affected their capacity in terms of resources which could have further worsened their poverty level or reduced the ability to deal with poverty conditions at least on an individual level. It is important to note as contained in the World Bank Country Partner Strategy agreement with the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy regarding community-driven projects, that it is not only crucial to empower poor people reduce their poverty conditions, but that such empowerment should promote increased access to basic social services and an environment that is sustainable. How sustainable the mandatory contribution is remains to be seen since so far results of the study regarding making the contribution seem to negatively affect crucial determinants for people's sustenance. The ownership of the CPRP by implementing communities will be determined from subsequent results of the study, which examined project ownership and sustainability.

Although sustainability for the CPRP depended on whether the state-level Social funds were able to reduce management costs, develop user fees and diversify funding sources (FGN Report, 200:27), it is equally important to establish ownership of projects by community members that will bring about the desire to sustain the project . Table 4.2.7 therefore assessed the ownership of projects implemented under the CPRP and its sustainability.

Table 4: Project Ownership and Sustainability

Assessing Ownership of Community Micro-project in terms of;	R e s p o n s e s				
	Very high	H i g h	Neutral	Very low	L o w
U t i l i z a t i o n	248(61.4%)	134(33.2%)	12(3.0%)	5(1.2%)	5(1.2%)
P r o j e c t A c c e s s i b i l i t y	187(46.3%)	193(47.8%)	20(5.0%)	4(1.0%)	0(0.0%)
P r o j e c t M a i n t e n a n c e	260(64.4%)	117(29.0%)	18(4.5%)	4(1.0%)	5(1.2%)
P r o j e c t D u r a b i l i t y	275(68.1%)	100(24.8%)	23(5.7%)	0(0.0%)	6(1.5%)
P r o j e c t S u s t a i n a b i l i t y	246(60.9%)	120(29.7%)	25(6.2%)	9(2.2%)	4(1.0%)

Source: Field work, 2017

Table 4.Revealed response from respondents with regards to relationship between ownership of micro project and prospects for project sustainability particularly after close of the CPRP intervention. The result revealed that 61.4 percent of the total respondents rated utilization of the micro-projects in their various communities as very high, 33.2 percent rated it high, while negligible 1.2 percent rated project utilization as very and low. This indicates that community members derive certain benefit from the basic needs provision made from the CPRP in respective communities. The ability to utilize the project is expected to make communities to ensure its sustenance in order to derive maximum benefit geared towards poverty reduction. Despite very high rating on project utilization, accessibility to the project is rated at 46.3 percent by respondents, while 47.8 percent rated accessibility of the project as high with insignificant rating for neutral, very low and

low accessibility to micro-projects. Lack of accessibility of the project may indicate inadequacy or availability of the micro-project to satisfy the needs of the community, even though community members utilize available projects at their disposal. In terms of maintenance of micro-projects, 64.4 percent of respondents maintained very high rating, with 29.0 percent rated as high. The high level of maintenance showed the willingness of communities to sustain the project even at their own cost, since the Social fund arrangement also expected community members to maintain the projects through various means such as user fees, project maintenance levy etc. as expected after the close of any project circle.

The study therefore further showed that 68.1 percent of respondents rated durability of the project as very high indicating the quality of the project as meeting the required standard and effective project maintenance. To that effect the result revealed that 60.9 percent respondents rated project sustainability as very high and 29.7 percent as high. Since the guiding principles of the CPRP strategy was to ensure community participation, such involvement was meant to empower and enhance the capacities of community members to implement, maintain and own the micro-projects so that projects can be sustained well after the close of the poverty reduction intervention. Effective maintenance of project ensures long term benefits derived from the project, as such it is expected to bring about its sustainability as well. Although the study has indicated good project maintenance, the Focus Group Discussion held with some community members indicated difficulties in collecting funds to maintain the projects as much as the project may require. However, the ability to access, utilize and maintain the micro-projects by respective community members has provided the need to ensure project durability for its sustainability.

Hence from these results, it is clear that there is a relationship between ownership of micro projects and sustainability.

Table 5 assessed the level of sustainability of the CPRP in selected communities in terms of its functionality years after its implementation. This criterion is expected to clearly indicate whether the CPRP still exists and has been sustained in various communities. The functionality of the various Community Organizations that spearheaded all relevant aspects of the CPRP intervention will equally be assessed to see its viability for sustained poverty reduction initiatives in the future.

Table 5: Assessing Project Sustainability

Rate Project sustainability through;	R e s p o n s e s				
	Very functional	Functional	Fairly functional	Not functional	Don't know
Existence/utilization of community micro - project today	250 (61.9%)	144 (35.6%)	8 (2.0%)	2 (0.5%)	0(0.0%)
Existence of Association for poverty reduction	157 (38.9%)	223 (55.2%)	24 (5.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0(0.0%)

Source: Field Work, 2017

The result in Table 5: describes responses on project sustainability where 61.9 percent of the respondents confirmed the existence/utilization of their community micro - project as still very functional. Equally 35.6 percent respondents reported the existence and utilization of micro-project to be functional. Only 2.0 percent indicated the existence and utilization of micro-project as fairly functional or not functional at 0.5 percent in their communities. This assertion corroborates information gathered from the Focus Group Discussion, Key Informant Interview as well as personal observation of some projects. Most of the projects implemented under the CPRP are functional and utilized by community members. In fact most respondents explained that although micro-projects in their communities have not reduced their income poverty level per se, it has substantially reduced stress brought by lack of or inadequacy in some basic needs projects in their communities. In the same vein, 55.2 percent of respondents showed their Community Association are functional with regards to the ability to partake in poverty reduction activities, with about 38.9 percent very optimistic respondents on ratings for very functional Association that could participate in poverty reduction activities. The negligible 5.9 % still asserted that their Associations are currently fairly functional for participation in poverty reduction interventions. In due fairness, the results showed that Community Associations are stilled poised to actively participate in poverty reduction interventions that affects them directly. That is not however to exempt the need for further strengthening of poverty reduction institutions, organizations and local initiatives to sustain the tempo in combating the poverty in our communities.

The strategic context of the CPRP aimed at political, economic and social dimension to reduce poverty in poor communities. The imperative for involvement and active participation, targeted reforms, social cohesion and inclusion come to bear in the bid to achieve the policy objectives of the CPRP. Table 4.2.8 therefore rates the efficacy of these strategic points as it directly relates to the respondents.

Table 6: Rating CPRP strategies

C P R P S t r a t e g y h a s ;	R e s p o n s e s				
	Strongly Agree	A g r e e	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Don't know
Enhanced your capacity building for poverty reduction	281(69.6%)	120(29.7%)	3 (0.7%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
Provided empowerment to deal with poverty	97(24.0%)	294(72.8%)	13(3.2%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
Resulted in ownership to sustain project	233(57.7%)	139(34.4%)	16(4.0%)	1(0.2%)	15(3.7%)

Source: Field Work, 2017

Table 6: result presents 69.6 percent of the respondents who strongly agree that their involvement in the process of CPRP strategy has enhanced their capacity to participate and engage in community social action towards poverty reduction. In addition, 29.7% of respondents also agree that there has been an increase of capacity building among the CPRP participants to carry out intervention activities pertaining to poverty reduction. Participation in the CPRP have enhanced the communities/Community-Based Organization's capacities to manage and take full responsibility for all aspects of the CPRP from identification, prioritization of needs, proposal making, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and subsequent maintenance for sustainability (Gana :2005:4). There is no respondent who disagreed or is unaware (don't know) of the capacity building acquired by community members who were directly involved in the implementation process of the CPRP, even though insignificant 0.7 percent respondents insist they strongly disagree to this assertion. In concordance with majority of respondents who acknowledged enhancement in building capacity to initiate actions for poverty reduction, 96.8% percent of respondents combined to agree and strongly agree (and 72.8% and 24.0%) that CPRP strategies has provided empowerment to deal with poverty in their communities. Some respondents revealed that they economically benefited from the manual work they engaged I during constructions of infrastructure facilities. While majority appreciated the various training and technical enlightenments they acquired as CPRP implementation process participants. This indicates a strong link with the enhanced capacity building respondents revealed they have acquired from the participatory process during the CPRP implementation. The CPRP mechanism rested the sole responsibility for decisions and actions regarding community poverty reduction needs and implementation on respective benefiting communities. This provided the necessary empowerment, coupled with basic training to manage the implementation process of the CPRP gave the final impetus for putting the communities at the *driver seat*. In relation to ownership of project by implementing community members which was aimed at ensuring project sustainability, 57.7 percent and 34.4% also combined to strongly agreed and agreed respectively to have a sense of ownership for the project. Community members were made to understand that the actualization or otherwise of the CPRP in their communities relied heavily on efforts made by respective communities to participate in all the implementation process as stipulated in the eligibility criteria for approval and subsequent implementation . While only 4.9% disagreed with a sense of ownership that could warrant project sustainability.

From these results, it is quite clear that CPRP strategy detailed in the six guiding principles has helped the participatory approach, in building the capacity of respondents as community members through skill enhancement training, sensitization and enlightenments which has influenced and empowered them to embark upon and ensure concrete self-help initiatives towards poverty reduction which equally provided the impetus for community project ownership and the need for project sustainability to obtain maximum benefit.

Hypothesis Testing:

Ho₁: There is no significant correlation between community ownership of micro-projects and Project Sustainability.

Table 7: Spearman's rho correlation between ownership and project sustainability

		OWNERSHIP	SUSTAINABILITY
Spearman's rho	Correlation Coefficient	.945	.945
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.001
	N	4	4
	Correlation Coefficient	.945	.945
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.001
	N	4	4

S o u r c e : S P S S O u t p u t

Table 7: similarly described the result of Spearman Ranked Ordered Correlation Coefficient (Rho) analysis between community ownership of micro projects and Project Sustainability. The hypothesis states that "there is no significant correlation between community ownership of micro-projects and Project Sustainability". The result revealed that the coefficient of Spearman rho correlation of; rho = 0.945 and p-value 0.001 shows that there is a strong significant relationship between community ownership of micro-projects and project sustainability.

Hence, since rho = .945 which is very strong at p<0.001<0.05, it then implies that the null hypothesis is thereby rejected and the alternate accepted. This study therefore states that there is significant correlation between community ownership of projects and project sustainability.

Table 8: Composite Summary of Spearman's rho and Rank order of variables

V a r i a b l e s	M e a n	Standard deviation	Spearman rho Correlation coefficient	Rank order
Participation	27.3985	5.56149	.909	3 ^r _d

M a n d a t o r y	19.2153	5 . 7 3 1 0 0	. 6 5 4	4 ^{t h}
O w n e r s h i p	22.5099	3 . 4 6 3 0 1	. 3 9 6	5 ^{t h}
S t r a t e g y	13.3168	1 . 6 0 4 4 6	. 9 1 6	2 ^{n d}
S u s t a i n a b i l i t y	8.9183	1 . 0 5 0 0 0	. 9 4 5	1 ^{s t}

Table 8: above describes the summary of Spearman’s rho and rank order of all the variables. The result reveals that Sustainability has the highest correlation coefficient of .945 and was ranked 1st, Strategy had rho = .916 and rank 2nd, Participation rho = .909 and ranked 3rd while Mandatory funding and Ownership has rho = .645 and .396 and were ranked 4th and 5th respectively. Subsequently, the result displayed the mean and standard deviation of the respective variables.

D e s c r i p t i v e		S t a t i s t i c s			
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
PARTICIPATION	4 0 4	6 . 0 0	3 0 . 0 0	27.3985	5 . 5 6 1 4 9
M A N D A T O R Y	4 0 4	6 . 0 0	3 0 . 0 0	19.2153	5 . 7 3 1 0 0
O W N E R S H I P	4 0 4	6 . 0 0	2 5 . 0 0	22.5099	3 . 4 6 3 0 1
S T R A T E G Y	4 0 4	7 . 0 0	1 5 . 0 0	13.3168	1 . 6 0 4 4 6
S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y	4 0 4	5 . 0 0	1 0 . 0 0	8.9183	1 . 0 5 0 0 0
Valid N (listwise)	4 0 4				

C o r r e l a t i o n s		OWNERSHIP	SUSTAINABILITY	PARTICIPATION	MANDATORY	STRATEGY
OWNERSHIP	Correlation Coefficient	1 . 0 0 0	. 9 4 5 **	. 3 9 6 * *	. 9 0 9 * *	.916**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	.000
SUSTAINABILITY	Correlation Coefficient	. 9 4 5 * *	1 . 0 0 0	. 3 4 7 * *	. 9 2 4 * *	.916**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	. 0 0 0	.	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	.000
PARTICIPATION	Correlation Coefficient	. 3 9 6 * *	. 3 4 7 * *	1 . 0 0 0	. 3 5 4 * *	.338**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	.	. 0 0 0	.000
MANDATORY	Correlation Coefficient	. 9 0 9 * *	. 9 2 4 * *	. 6 5 4 * *	1 . 0 0 0	.936**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	.	.000
STRATEGY	Correlation Coefficient	. 9 1 6 * *	. 9 1 6 * *	. 3 3 8 * *	. 9 3 6 * *	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	. 0 0 0	.
N		4 0 4	4 0 4	4 0 4	4 0 4	4 0 4

* *. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The study confirmed that participation by community members, including making the mandatory 10 percent financial contributions in the CPRP implementation process has provided the impetus to effectively utilize the basic needs projects in the communities since all members have a stake in the project in their communities. Consequently, it became imperative for community members to source not only for funding to meet up the funding requirement, but also to maintain the project to ensure maximum utilization and hope for sustainability since the CPRP was expected to end after its stipulated 5-year cycle. Community members were however quick to add that sometimes it was difficult to raise funds to maintain projects that require periodic servicing, sighting the example of fuelling of boreholes where they sought to charge token amount of money from community members to provide fuel or user charges for Hand Pump, as most communities lack electricity. To this end, most Community Associations have remained functional to ensure project sustainability and opportunity to participate in other poverty reduction arrangements or interventions while at the same time building on existing traditional capacity to reduce poverty at the community levels.

This study was able to confirm from the Key Informants Interview conducted with the then Yobe State Agency for Poverty Reduction officials that community members embraced the CPRP strategy with impressive zeal, especially after numerous sensitization, advocacy visits and enlightenments campaigns carried out in various communities on expected benefits to be derived from participation in the CPRP. These campaigns eliminated the initial skeptic attitude expressed by community members on the CPRP intervention, and also created the understanding that the CPRP intervention was not a Micro-credit facility where individuals or groups could access for poverty reduction. The focus of the CPRP was the provision of greater access to basic services especially basic education, health services, agricultural production and rural infrastructure (FGN Report: 2000:10) and thus poverty reduction was implemented in relation to multi-sectoral social and natural resources infrastructure provision (Gana: 2015:5), for community utilization, realizing that poverty in Nigeria is also expressed in terms of lack of access to basic needs facilities, To this end, community members and particularly

Community Association members as representatives of their various communities had to undergo various training to develop and improve their skills on processes of procurement, selection of contractors for the project, securing valid contract agreement, use of standard materials, supervision, monitoring and evaluation and so on. The frequent meetings held by the community members during the CPRP implementation period also encouraged socialization and increased communication for better understanding of how to approach issues of common interests.

The study revealed that the participatory approach to poverty reduction under the CPRP was carried out in Yobe State by benefiting communities in all the seventeen local government areas, and communities have acknowledged that the CPRP has greatly improved the provision of basic needs infrastructure in their communities, reduced the problems associated with lack of basic needs facilities such as time spent in search of water for human and animal consumptions, improved community members' skill and capacity to manage local development resources, and has even provided employment for some community members especially during the implementation period. The success of the CPRP what culminated into the scaled up Community Social Development Project (CSDP) which began from 2009 and extended to close in December, 2017 (Goni, 2017: 7).

VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the forgoing discussion and analysis the following conclusions became eminent: First there is positive correlation between micro project ownership and sustainability of poverty reduction projects in the various communities in Yobe state. This is because several years after the winding up of the CPRP programme are still in good shape and strong because their maintenance by the benefitting communities. This is a complete departure from the old practice when similar projects were neglected and abandoned by the benefitting community because of their awkward mind-set that the project is either a government property or that of the development partner and should therefore be of less concern to them

Similarly, the need to make the mandatory 10 percent financial contribution to cover the cost of project selected in respective communities was not only to ensure participation, but also to obtain the commitment of community members towards the CPRP and equally establish a sense of ownership of projects by community members. This expectation has been met, as expressed by some community members, officials of the YBAPR and corroborated through personal observations made during field work that the CPRP implemented in various communities in Yobe State are still effectively used and maintained by the communities.

The CPRP strategy which requires the active involvement of poor benefiting communities in most aspects of decision, planning, implementation and sustainability of projects has the potential to bring about increased public enlightenment and awareness, that encourages community actions among poor communities, provide opportunities for the development of existing capacities of community members to proffer solutions to common problems through mobilization and utilization of local resources in a sustainable manner. This has been demonstrated by poor communities in Yobe State who participated in the pilot CPRP introduced in 2001 in six poorest States in Nigeria. The CPRP strategy relies on existing capacities of poor communities to channel poverty reduction intervention in most developing countries as clearly stated in their policy documents and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) document...*"anchored on existing initiatives of the people"*.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the stipulation of the bench mark of 10 percent mandatory contribution for the cost of selected project under the CPRP is commended, it is recommended that this percentage should be reduced having found out that the 10 percent contribution has a deflecting effect on the income and capital resources of most people in the benefiting communities. Since the provision of some basic infrastructure is a constitutional responsibility of governments at various levels, such burden for mandatory payment contribution for cost of CPRP should be reviewed downwards in order not to destabilize an already dwindling resources affected by lack of basic needs infrastructure provision in the poor communities. Although the mandatory contribution also provides greater sense of project ownership, just as participation brings about experience and capacity building, stipulating a relatively high mandatory 10 percent has the tendency to affect the freedom for voluntary participation which form the basis for the community-based strategy

To ensure that the provision and sustenance of the basic needs infrastructure in poor communities translate to concrete poverty reduction mechanism, it is important to adopt the standardization of product or service, to ensure durability and to achieve value for money. This is expected to bring about effective and efficient resource mobilization and utilization which has the potential to provide stable basis for economic growth and development to tackle poverty among poor communities. However, it remains imperative that major funding for community –based projects is sustained by the Donor Agencies, respective government levels to enable poor communities to tackle their poverty problems in terms of basic needs provision bearing in mind the endemic state of poverty in Nigeria since the past decades.

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