
REVIEW OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN RURAL NIGERIA.**¹. Abubakar Mohammed Jibrin****&****². Aminu Mohammed Lawan**

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Abstract

The survival of most nations of the world depends mainly on the survival of their rural communities because the rural communities house about 75% of the population. These rural areas provides foods and raw materials for survival of the urban centers. Rural development plays a key role in meeting the goals of national development in any nation especially, the developing counties. In the case of Nigeria, Several administrations have tried various rural development approaches however, no significant success was achieved. Rural development relies on the effective coordination of human and natural resources to tackle the chronic challenges of rural communities' development and poverty to improve the quality of life of the rural populace. The study is a Review of Community Development Intervention Programmes and Poverty Alleviation in Rural Nigeria. The broad objective is to understand the performance of intervention programmes and poverty alleviations in rural Nigeria. The study relied on secondary data.

The paper show that many developmental programmes such as National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFP), Operation Feed the Nation, Green revolution, Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), and Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (Sure-p) were implemented in Nigeria since independent but have not significantly improve the standard of rural live. Poor implementation of the programmes, top-down approach, inadequate community participation, lack of grassroots planning, inability to optimize local resources and neglect of community structural approach constitute a stumbling block to the success of the intervention programmes. However, the study recommends that the needs of rural communities should be assessed adequately before embarking on implementing the programs. It also recommended that the Government should diversify to the agricultural sector to explore the potentials for job creation. The Government needs to consider a bottom-top approach, improve current poverty alleviation policies, enhance the provision of necessary socio-economic infrastructures through adequate funding, and emphasize accountability and transparency.

Keywords: development, Rural, poverty alleviation, Rural development

1. Introduction

Emerging events around the world have shown growing concern for 75% and more people living in rural areas. This is explained by the clear connection between rural living and poverty, with worsened situation in developing countries (Gill, Revenga, & Zeballos, 2016)

Since independence in 1960, rural community development has been deemed a priority by successive governments. In this regard, a host of approaches and programs through organizations, agencies, and institutions created to tackle challenges associated with the process to achieve integration, nation-building, and development. Increasing poverty, infrastructure decay, and inequality in terms of quality of living between the urban and rural areas are the key features of developing countries, including (Islam, Ghani, Abidin, & Rayaiappan, 2017).

According to Christiaensen, De Weerd, and Todo (2013) Developments focused on the urban centers based on the presumption by the neoclassical economic theorists who argue that focused development in metropolitan cities. Poverty can be talked by extending the benefit from urban industrial development down to the rural areas. Omar (2012) contend that the postcolonial perspective is a departure from the previous colonial system, where construction activities in all fields focused in urban areas to the detriment of the rural regions. This development centered approach has exposed developing countries to experience a perpetual inequity in the standard of living between urban and rural residents. Singh and Chudasama (2020) Rural community development and poverty alleviation concept, therefore, becomes the alternative Strategy to the national development. Rural community and poverty alleviation thus

become a universal concern in both the advanced and developing countries.

Anríquez and Stamoulis (2007) acknowledged that rural community development and poverty alleviation approaches and programs in Nigeria have the major focus on mobilizing natural and human resources to tackle the problems of inequality and poverty of rural communities to improve their living standards. Based on the belief that the rural community takes up a more significant percentage of the population and generates a higher number of vital food products, hence, the need to benefit developmental programs.

Concerted efforts have been on by the past administrations in Nigeria since independence to address the challenges of rural community development and poverty alleviation in Nigeria and other developing countries trapped in the Western Conservative socio-economic and political pit of dependency (Oshewolo, 2010).

Yeboah-Assiamah, Musah-Surugu, Bawole, and Nurudeen (2015) stated that There is no point in arguing that attempts to meet the declared objectives of world society on hunger and poverty alleviation in rural areas of developing countries. Poverty is a global problem that affects countries, nations, and cultures differently. It impacts individuals at various levels and rates at varying periods and stages of life (Gabriel, 2003). All nations of the world are affected by poverty. The main distinction is the severity and nature of the condition (Roser & Ortiz-Ospina, 2013). The countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America presently have the highest rates of inequality and, therefore, the lowest price of socio-economic growth, constant unrest, extreme instability, and poor living standards. . 75% of the world's 1.2 billion poor cohabit in rural areas, and most of them survive on petty farming, forestry, fisheries, and related activities.

However, poverty placed Nigeria in an undesirable rank as one of the poorest countries in the world . aver that Nigeria has not been known to lack in such efforts, yet ranked among the world's 25 most impoverished nations.

According to Several rural community developments and poverty alleviation approaches and programs such as Farm settlement option, Rural banking scheme (RBS), Operation feed the nation (OFN), the Green Revolution, Agricultural development projects (ADP), National fadama development program (NFDP), The National accelerated food production program (NAFPP), People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN), Community banks, National accelerated food production project (NAFP), Directorate For Food, Roads And Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), The National Directorate For Social Mobilization, the National Employment Directorate (NDE), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) and Previous Government attempted Subsidy reinvestment and empowerment program (Sure-p), etc. Both military and democratic in Nigeria tried to raise the standard of lives in rural communities, discourage the trend of rural-urban migrations as a mechanism to achieve national development.

2. Objectives

This paper aims to appraise the impact of the implementation of Community development intervention programs on poverty alleviation approaches in Nigeria. Specifically, the article will attempt to assess the degree to which community development intervention scheme impact on poverty alleviation as well as explore challenges of rural development and poverty programmes in Nigeria, the issues associated with implementing the rural community development and poverty alleviation programs respectively.

3. Methodology

The method of data collection for this study is secondary sources, such as data collected from National Bureau of Statistics, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), SURE-P Document, Library Archive, Journals and Nigerian Newspapers and documents from the reviewed interventions and programmes .

The study was a review of post-independent efforts and approaches by successive governments on **Community Development Intervention Programs and Poverty Alleviation in Rural Nigeria**. Data from the secondary such as documentary papers and publications were used

4. Literature Review

Despite all past government initiatives, policies, programs and strategies by (Federal, State, Local Government) and international non-governmental organizations in Nigeria to eradicate poverty, especially in rural areas, most Nigerians, particularly those living in rural areas, are still wallowing in poverty.

argued that rural community development had become a national affair in Nigeria based on the fact that the majority reside in rural areas. According to , the 1963 census, shows that 80.7% of the Nigerian

population lived in rural areas. By 1985, the percentage had fallen to 70.13 percent, and by 1990, to 50.6 percent. This indicates that given Nigeria's state of urbanization, its population remains predominantly rural.

affirms that rural development attract citizens back to rural areas and to deter more migratory movements from leaving rural areas. Understanding that there is a wide difference in terms of development in both urban and rural areas appears to pose a threat to national development. Regardless of the vast population, the rural areas are faced by prevalent and widespread poverty, resulting in a low level of literacy, insufficient access to housing and other necessary infrastructures, hunger, malnutrition, poor health, unlike the urban centers. Also, it was that the issues in urban centers not addressed until those in rural areas. These challenges are the effect of the strange rural-urban migration, which also caused by rural infrastructural deprivation, poverty, and idleness in rural areas exposed to the available facilities at the cities to pressures. The rural areas, on the other hand, became less attractive. Intensifying efforts and holistic approaches for rural community development and poverty alleviation, Therefore, is imperative and a panacea for national development.

The term development defined within the background of economic development. Economic development commonly defined as an adequate level of development and gross national product, and it has widely presumed that if economic development ensues, the quality of lives people will also advance. More so, the perception of socio-economic well-being is the element of growth. However, The term development refers to the mechanism by which; the general increase in the standard of living, the decline of income inequality, disparities, and the capacity to maintain continuous change are achieved.

, in his posited view of development, highlight poverty reduction“ inequality, and unemployment as an essential index of development. He argues the question to ask about a country's development is, therefore: what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to inequality, what has been happening to unemployment? If the three have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt, it is a period of development in the country. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, especially if all three, it would be strange to call the resulting development even if per capita income has doubled” tried to encourage nations to relate development objectives to a gradual reduction and elimination of hunger, illness, illiteracy, abject Poverty, Poverty, inequality and self-reliance, to tackle deprivation rather than to focus on GNP improvement.

On the other hand, the word rural development has been of crucial importance and commonly used in both developed and developing countries. However, there are several definitions of the concept of rural development as there are several scholars and the term used in diverse ways and different settings. It refers to the general transformation of rural areas intended to enhance the quality of life of the rural populace

According to development is a holistic and multifaceted term that includes the transformation of farming and other practices, rural and local manufacturing, skills, community infrastructure, socio-economic amenities, and, most of all, natural resources in rural areas. As a process, it is the product of the interaction of various technical, economic, social, and institutional influences

Development aimed at increasing the financial and social well-being of a particular segment of citizens, especially the rural poorest. From another World Bank Publication 1990, Rural development policies aim at enhancing living standards of the low-income community living in rural areas and a strategy to achieve sustainable development. According to the United Nations Agency for Social and Economic Development (1971), Rural development is a systematic transition and increase in the conditions of citizens in rural regions, brought on by an integrated strategy from both Government and non-government organizations and the citizens themselves.

Based on the above definition, rural development can be said to focus on the rural persons and providing them quality life as in the urban areas. the rural development represents: increasing living conditions, including literacy, health and wellness jobs, shelter and the diversity of welfare services; reducing gaps in the distribution of rural income and rural-urban ratios in wealth and opportunities, and the potential of the rural area to support and increase the speed of transformation.

An overview of approaches for rural development in Nigeria

Rural development misunderstood in terms of meaning and purpose in Nigeria. It has been perceived as a practice linked mainly to agricultural production and partly related to economic development. The idea here is that enhanced agricultural productivity might, by itself, address the problems of rural communities and their residents. Nigeria has embraced the Rostowian theory of progress, which

advocates growth and short-term prosperity with Gross Domestic Product or per capita income as the driving principle of the study that Dudley Seers had earlier refuted. The common objective over the first five years of independence was to create import-substituting factories in urban areas so that realized income would make its way to rural areas. Improving the standard of living of poor farmers, enhance agricultural production and sustainability, boost agricultural resources for local industries and exports, eventually increase the needs of the populace.

Rostowian industrial and technological deterministic principle has not done any practical function for the rural sectors or the state. The form of policy intervention employed here includes the provision of crops, the adoption of more farming technologies by farm settlements, cooperative plantations, enhanced farm equipment such as hydraulic palm oil presses, and a vastly expanded farming extension service. Etc..

argues that the extension of the distance of the rail and the tarring of the roads lent credibility to the erroneous assumptions in the rural development strategy. That the rural population consists of not only of farmers whose problem is agriculture. There are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, fishers, hunters, etc., whose skills, in addition to farming, need to be improved.

Another weakness is that the improvement of agriculture is associated with rural development. Therefore,, in his book Nigeria's Ignored Rural Population believes that, the accusation of both colonial and independent governments, is warranted. He accused the two of not only ignoring the majority residing in rural communities but also exploiting them at the detriment of the British city and the immigrant population of Nigeria. On the other hand, Nigeria's development financing was largely derived from direct and indirect taxes on poor residents who had next to no gain from economic development activities.

argues that successive Nigerian government has initiated various national development programmes with several supportive schemes. Nevertheless, The poor standard of infrastructure and human resources development in these rural areas is a clear example of the weakness and inefficiency of these programs and structures.. The first National Development Program from 1962 to 1968. Nigeria's focus was agriculture, with a budget allocation of about 14 percent. To this purpose, agricultural output was related to rural development.

More so, the construction of the road and rail lines planned to promote the transportation of cash crops from the hinterland to coastal cities, where it will be transported abroad for the factories of former colonial masters. The second development plan, 1970-1974, intended to achieve a just and equal society by putting a substantial value on the reduction of the level of disparity between the social groups. However, this time experienced an unprecedented rise in foreign exchange by oil revenues.

In short, Nigeria became a mono-economy when the nation became dependent on revenues generated from the export of oil. It is partly responsible for social and economic problems, especially the rural-urban migration resulting in a decline in the numbers of agricultural output and the concurrent rise of urban consumers.

Furthermore, in the late 1970s, after the civil war, the agriculture sector was affected by a depression complicated by the flood that plagued the northern part of the country. In the same way, it was the era that contributed to the tremendous oil boom that later sparked the country's downfall as oil had amazingly overtaken agricultural output in foreign earnings. Therefore, it was marked by significant food imports while agrarian practices, which used to be the mainstay of the economy, were relegated to the background.

The second development plan (1970) clearly defined the rural development priorities of Nigeria as the creation of rural job opportunities to manage rural migration and enhance the degree and standard of social services and infrastructure. It collapsed because rural communities focused on physical and social ventures centered on the understanding of what defines their development than on agricultural events. Nigeria adopted its third growth program between 1975 and 1980. During this time, Nigeria engaged in what it called Integrated Rural Development (IRD), which was funded by the World Bank and called Agricultural Development Projects. A tremendous sum expended on projects, but the problems in rural areas remained virtually the same as they are in poverty.

The main goal of the Government's rural development policy was to raise the level of economic activity to increase rural income and standard of living. The Strategy of integrated rural development was to provide the foundation for more balanced regional expansion of urban growth throughout the country and to help stem the pattern of rural migration. The Integrated Rural Development Strategy was a whole different holistic, multidisciplinary method, firmly grounded in recognizing the complexities of rural

existence.

The fourth national development plan 1980, targeted an integrated approach to rural development to be accomplished through the Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) and the Accelerated Development Areas (ADAs) both of whose objective is the development of rural economic activities, which target onimproving the quality of lives of the rural people andthe environment.

The National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFPP)

The effort was initiated in 1973 and lasted until 1976 when it was succeeded by the Operation feed the nation project. It was an agricultural policy aimed at raising food output areas and sub-sector of the farming economy. With its effectiveness, the NAFPP depended extensively on the supportive Strategy as well as on technological backing. The program was a robust one and steered reform program for rural transformation, particularly in the field of agricultural production.

Operation Feeds The Nation.

The program was launched by the then Head of State of Nigeria in 1976. Lieutenant-General Olusegun Obasanjo. It was meant to bring the advantages of agricultural work, in particular those in rural areas, to the generality of Nigerians. The primary goals of the program were to mobilize the country towards self-sufficiency in food production and security. Operation feeds the nation greatly assisted the rural areas through input and technical advice. Apartfrom fixing food issues, Operation feeds the nation has generated opportunities for the capitalist elite to access national funds.

Green Revolution

The policy was introduced by the Alhaji Shehu Shagari Administration in 1980. It planned to improve food production to ensure food security in Nigerian. The goals of the Green revolution include achieving food security in the country within five years. To restore the country to its track records of crop production within seven years. Regrettably, it failed because the same Government, which initiated the Green revolution intending to make Nigeria independent in food production, embarked on a large-scale import of rice from India and Latin America and essential food for sustainability.

Directorate For Food, Roads, And Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)

was one of the several schemes set upin 1985by President of Nigeria, Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida.DFRRI is a kind of integrated rural development policy.The scheme organized in the following broad categories: Economic and social services provision, agricultural inputsproduction, infrastructures, and dissemination of new technologies to promote agricultural and rural housing mobilization forwidespread involvement in rural development.DFRRI also facilitated the establishment of community development associations CDAs for active community participation and involvement in rural development activities, the introduction of community banks across communities in the country to provide credit facilities to the rural farmers across the country. Community development associations play significant roles in rural development. They identify priority projects, supported DFRRI, and mobilize rural dwellers to engage in the modernization of their areas. A total of 8,108 CDAs recorded between 1989 and 1991. .

Though DFRRI recorded overwhelming success in the coverage of its objective, there were several issues with the standard of the services offered, which affected her performance on rural community development. Furthermore, copple with the fact that Nigeria has more than 97 000 rural communities,such efforts were far from enough to tackle the challenges of rural development in the country.Other shortcomings encountered by DFRRI was its inability to align with other agencies of Government, unproductive community monitoring and reporting mechanisms owing to the vast scale of the places to serviced and the shortage of personnel and technical resources.

National Directorate of Employment (NDE)

The NDE was established by Decree No 24 of 19 October 1986 and, according to, the National Employment Directorate (NDE) was established on 19 October 1986 to tackle high unemployment and to formulate policies aimed at fostering skills acquisition, self-employment and intensive labor capacity. The NDE program focused not just on unemployment and vacancies but also on the creation of employment programs in the country such as the development of vocational skills, agriculture, small businesses and special public works. Nevertheless, the directorate struggles from inadequate funding and therefore has not been able to cope with the needs of the ever-growing number of job applicants in Nigeria.NDE has tremendous potential as an organization for promoting skills development and self-employment schemes, employment-generating programs, given all the problems mentioned above.

Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)

Poverty alleviation programme of Nigeria came as an interim measure introduced in 2000 following the new democratic dispensation to tackle the problems of increasing unemployment, the surge of crime among young people to raise productivity rates. The focus groups were the unemployed (young and old), and they supported some unemployed citizen with employment through the public work program. Uncoordinated activity and politicization characterized the program which stood on its success. The programme, however, could not bear the test of time and had to give way to a more rigorous programme. PAP's introduction triggered widespread uproar and was accused of shabbiness and corruption. The government then formed a panel committee headed by Prof. Ango Abdullahi to review the programme. Problems found with the system included centralization, politicization, fraudulent payment and uncoordinated operation, as well as corruption at high levels. The committee has come up with a blueprint proposing the National Program for the Eradication of Poverty (NAPEP), a central point of control for all anti-poverty programs, from local to national levels, to introduce initiatives exclusively to eliminate total poverty.

Recognizing this, the new democracy that has its origins since May 1999, poverty eradication has been listed as one of the central focus areas, as revealed in the approved blueprint for the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP)

Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (Sure-p)

SURE-P is a federal government initiative intended to counter unemployment and poverty, as well as to develop the country's infrastructure funded from the funds of the partial removal of fuel subsidies.) It was an empowerment program of the Federal Government during the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan. With the following objectives: Mitigation of the immediate impact of the partial petroleum subsidy removal on the people by laying a foundation for the successful development of a national safety net program that targets the poor and vulnerable continuously. SURE-P also seeks to accelerate economic transformation through investments in critical infrastructural projects to drive economic growth and achieve the Vision 2020.

Unfortunately, these interventions did little or nothing to address poverty problems in Nigeria, against the backdrop of failed government programmes to address the ravaging problems of poverty in Nigeria, the emerging governance considered it necessary to come up with community based poverty reduction strategy as a panacea to the menace of poverty, since the majority of the poor populace live in the rural areas hence, the focus of SURE-P on community based programmes and interventions through youths skills acquisition programmes, graduate internship, agricultural support, transportations and rural infrastructural provisions.

However, it is pertinent therefore, to acknowledge the impact made by these interventions on poverty reduction and rural infrastructural access.. In deed, the interventions have reflection on the lives of rural populace especially, in terms of increasing food production for rural dwellers and have also raising the income level of small-scale farmers by making provision for improved seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, credit facilities and infrastructure needs such as of transportation, electricity, water and communication in the rural areas. Furthermore, to address the menace of poverty in the rural areas, these interventions provided the unemployed youths the opportunities and supports in skills acquisition, employment and wealth generation. However, the interventions face enormous challenges in their operations which include inadequate funding, poor needs assessment, corruption and bureaucratic control.

Challenges of community development Intervention Program in Nigeria

All the interventions were introduced with the utmost intension of fighting poverty nationwide however, most of these interventions by their contents were very laudable, but their implementation strategies are not without challenges, especially as their impacts did not reduce the level of poverty in the country.

given all these rural development approaches over the years, Nigeria has not been able to feed its people. Over the years, the nation has seen a significant decline in grain output. The ratio of hungry people is growing, and there is no follow-up to any specific food security strategy. However, the increasing gap in inequalities and the diminishing supply of reserve arable land, as well as the demands to further raise production by higher yields, are exacerbated by newly introduced technology. However, the declining oil revenues have created an opportunity for Nigeria to energize its agricultural sector with a simple policy.

The rural community development objectives should focus on the number of crops that might be produced or the income that an individual or a community will be able to gain. Still, the focus should also center on the social, economic, political, and material needs of the more significant number of citizens. This implies that the improvement of the living standards and welfare of rural people involves not only

adequate food but also the provision of better occupational skills, health care delivery facilities, school, hygienic water, good communication facilities, market access, and electricity and other physical and social infrastructures.

Rural community development remain the major challenge of developing countries, Nigeria, inclusive. There was no clear-cut focus or ideology for the Nigerian rural development approaches. The rural development approaches not effectively implemented to meet the objectives. The approaches dominated by bureaucratic bottleneck and other challenges, which include political interference, inadequate funding, and misappropriation, which were responsible for the failure of some rural development projects such as Farm Settlement Scheme and Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, etc. Without a holistic approach and ideology and functional structure, rural community development efforts by the Nigeria Government will remain a mirage .

There was no any integrated national rural development program in Nigeria Before 1976, What was in place became uncoordinated rural development where it is believed that new approaches in one community would have downstream impacts on other communities and organizations. The first federal department in charge of rural development in Nigeria was formed in 1976 to mobilize communities, promote rural activities with local leadership, to encourage farming, rural community transformation, and infrastructural provision. There was not a clear-cut direction by the Government on rural community development. Consequently, rural community development responsibilities assigned to the federal ministry of agriculture

Government shortcomings have hindered rural community development, and people see the social and cultural facets of development as subordinate to economic prosperity. Any invention that will not guarantee the Group's unity and appreciation for its history and values has little hope of survival. Failure to attach priority to projects based on the pressing needs of the people. The tendency has been to rely on official leadership for carrying out rural projects. The leaders not equipped to motivate and sustain the interest of the people in the aspect of struggles and expectations. The top-down Strategy to rural development applied by government authorities is fueling people's excitement because there is no direct citizen participation. As a consequence of the Strategy embraced, people are witnessing a loss of reaction as they are deemed incapable of standing on their feet.

There were no attempts to allow the rural communities to identify their challenges and targets, assess their own needs, and commit themselves to the achievement of objectives. Community authorities, leaders, and community representatives were taken for granted in planning projects in line with their priorities, and how to implement them.

Due to Nigeria's preference for foreign and imported products, local resources are ignored. Local expertise, as well as other services, are often overlooked, thereby missing the ability to implement new technologies.

5. Theoretical Foundation

The study used approach to political economy as the theoretical basis. The theory of political economy has its origins in the classical works of, who derived his -intellectual stands from the works of great economists like, and . The theory of political economy is about the distribution of social wealth, class relations and conflicts as well as their effect on the advancement of society from one level to the next. The approach to political economy tries to understand the social relationships that exist between people in society in all processes of growth, trade and production of goods and services.

Each society has a unique economic structure rooted in the relationship to property. The approach to political economy lends credence to the material conditions, especially economic factors in all social lives. Without doubt, economic needs are the most fundamental needs of man, because he must eat before pursuing other things such as worship, culture, tourism, and other social things. Ake (2005:1-2) further posit that:

If we recognize what a society's material assets and limitations are, how the society creates goods to satisfy its material needs, how the products are distributed and what kind of social relationships emerge from the organization of production, we have come a long way to understand the society 's culture; its rules, its religious structure, its political system and even its ways of thinking.

The theory of political economy explores the connectivity of events, initiatives and policies with the sole aim of discovering the nature, character, structure and meaning of their life and future. This approach is thus used in analyzing the problem of poverty in Nigeria , particularly since the social ties emanating from productive forces make space for class division in society. While certain groups of people swim in extreme

wealth in society, others wallow in poverty

In summary, Despite efforts made to improve the standard of living of the rural populations in Nigeria by various interventions since and even after independence, it is disappointing to see the sad condition of the rural communities in Nigeria. In the similar opinion, argues that, the history of rural development and poverty Nigeria was that of incessant griefs and that,

Regardless of several vibrant policies, programmes, plans and improved funding as at the early 1990s. Also, Muoghalu(1991:93) held that, despite the numerous approaches adopted in Nigeria, the rural areas remain worse off with decay or non-infrastructures.

Omale (2005:160) believed, that if underdevelopment which may have been the challenge in rural Nigeria, is not because of a lack of plans and strategies and, at the same time, not because of a lack of enough funds then, rural development policies have experienced perpetual failure due to corruption and embezzlement of fund, adoption of Top-Bottom model instead of integrated or Bottom-Top model and lack of a reliable statistic.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Apparently, successive administrations in the country have at various times initiated some programmes aimed at addressing poverty problems and its concomitant effects on Nigerian State. Conclusively, having considered the past interventions at rural community development, and the challenges, a viable development strategy must be focused on a thorough understanding of the factors that have hindered the development and transformation of rural communities of Nigeria. For instance, rural infrastructural provisions, youth empowerment, education, mass mobilization social relations, rural agricultural support and other priorities of rural need must be recognized before actions, interventions and programmes are embarked.

The level of poverty in Nigeria requires effective interventions. Sadly, the interventions arrangement in Nigeria are grossly inadequate. The major challenges associated with social the community development interventions and poverty alleviation initiatives in Nigeria are the inadequate coverage of the existing programs, insufficient funds, poor social services delivery, lack of political commitment, and the non-involvement of the beneficiaries in planning the programmes and corruption. It is therefore very pertinent that efforts be directed towards scaling up the social protection arrangements in Nigeria and ameliorating the structural problems associated with social protection services delivery in Nigeria

Furthermore, rural community development through the provision of critical infrastructures should be the focal point for any rural community development strategy. More so, there should be a clear-cut direction for all the rural community development approaches that allow the community involvement and participation in the implementation of the programs. Further more, The need for adequate funding of the rural development and poverty alleviation programs is imperative. Lastly, unnecessary political interference needs to stop, and there is a need for accountability and transparency about the activities and expenditures for public scrutiny.

Based on the limitations of this study, we wish to recommend for the extension of the scope of this study and a conduct of empirical study as the current study is a conceptual study with focus on reviewing the **Community Development Intervention Programs and Poverty Alleviation in Rural Nigeria**.

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