

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMO STATE AGENCY FOR
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ORLU LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA, IMO STATE NIGERIA (2010 - 2020)**

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ABSTRACT: This research was carried out to determine the extent Imo State Agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) contributes to socio-economic development in the study area. The researcher used structural functional theory as the framework of analysis. A descriptive survey was applied and data were collected through primary sources. The population of the study consisted of 350 town union representatives from 35 autonomous communities in Orlu LGA. The population was also used as the sample since the census enumeration method was used. Data analysis was done using percentages, means and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient at 0.05 level of significance with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences. The study revealed a significant relationship between the CSDP interventions and key indicators in Orlu. Specifically, there was a significant positive association between CSDP – supported school rehabilitation efforts and school enrolment rates. Additionally, a significant relationship was observed between CSDP health interventions and life expectancy. It was recommended that the CSDP should intensify efforts on schools' rehabilitations by maintaining existing primary and secondary schools and building more classroom blocks. Furthermore, the government through CSDP should help in constructing and maintaining primary health Centres so that people in Orlu LGA will have access to affordable and quality healthcare services.

Keywords: Schools Rehabilitation, School Enrolment Rate, Health Intervention and Life Expectancy

INTRODUCTION

The people of Orlu local government are now faced with lack of critical infrastructure that are needed for rural development and well being of the people such as lack of functional Primary Health Centres, dilapidated primary and secondary schools, lack of access to portable safe drinking water, poor road network resulting to perennial flood, ravaging the houses and farms of the people.

Therefore, the need for community and social development project (CSDP) intervention in the socio-economic activities of the rural communities in Orlu local government area by provision of portable water schemes, provision of electricity, health care, rehabilitation of schools, provision of Agro-based industries, construction of market shops and civic centres to stimulate

socio-economic development of rural communities in Orlu local government area becomes imperative. This is because Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) is a conceived development intervention that is built on two existing poverty reduction-oriented programmes namely: Community-based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP) and Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP) which came into effect in 2004. The areas of linkage between the current Nigeria development focus and CSDP are those which address Community-Driven Development (CDP) which are socially inclined engendering social inclusion through the people's participation creation of job opportunities and health through the provision of support for various income-generating activities.

Statement of the Problem

Orlu local government area is generally underdeveloped due to lack of modern infrastructural facilities such as pipe borne water, electricity, good primary health care, lack of qualitative primary education, good road network, organised markets, dilapidated school infrastructure and so on (Ajayi, 2013). Farmers find it difficult to bring their produce to the market. Some markets constructed years ago are not being maintained. The educational sector is not left out of this neglect, as government owned public institutions (mainly primary and secondary schools) suffer neglect and set back which led to the infrastructural decay (Iheanyi, 2016). In some public schools, there is absence of chairs and tables for normal teaching and learning process. Some schools operate without roof and other modern infrastructural equipment. The health care sector (more especially the primary health care) has also witnessed total neglect as it concerns provision of basic health care facilities and deployment of the needed manpower. Based on the above issues, the following research questions were posed for the study:

- 1 What is the relationship between CSDP schools' rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA?
- 2 What is the relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA?

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to assess Imo State agency for community and social development project and sustainable rural development in Orlu local government area. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. find out the relationship between CSDP schools' rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA.
2. determine the relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA.

Research Hypotheses

Based on the research questions and research objectives, the following research hypotheses will guide the study:

Ho1: There is a significant relationship between CSDP schools rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA.

Ho2: There is a significant relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA.

Conceptual Review

The Concept of Development

Egbe (2014) defined development as rapid increase in per capita output, attendant shift in technology and demographic character (composition) of the society. This definition portrays societal growth as a prerequisite for the society to become better. However, one could see a major flaw in this definition emanating from the fact that some countries like Nigeria for instance, have witnessed growth in per capita output and technology but yet poverty malnutrition, unemployment, poor health care services, acute shortage and dilapidated infrastructure, and unequal distribution of national wealth between the rural and Urban areas still persists. For other scholars, development is both a quantitative and qualitative change. According to Sen (1988) in Society for International Development, Israel (2021) development is defined as a tool enabling people to attain the highest level of their ability through granting freedom of action that is freedom of social family and economic actions. Hence this approach become the basis for the measurement of development by the human development index (HDI) or simply put the capability approach as advanced by United Nation Development Program (UNDP) in 1990.

Akin in Dudley (2008) conceived development as involving not only economic growth but also conditions in which people in a country have adequate food, jobs, and the income inequality among them is greatly reduced. Development is one that is people oriented, involves the people at all stages of the planning and execution process and is committed to bringing about significant qualitative changes in the lives of all the people. For Okpata (2014), development is a societal phenomenon is all encompassing and demands the involvement of all sections of the society simultaneously. He further stated that factors in development can simple be, how government increases her capacity to legitimise herself, innovate changes, respond to demands from pressure groups, diffuse social conflicts through agency of system maintenance, regulation and adaptation. The capacities of the government, manifest itself in either the rate or level of literacy/illiteracy, poverty or wealth, employment/unemployment rate of skill, manpower/ professionals, infant mortality rate, adequate medical care, provision of social infrastructures (road, electricity, hospital, good water etc) environmental sanitation better living condition, accommodation and pension scheme for retied workers (Okpata, 2014). Pearce and Austin (2016) held that development is a value word, implying change that is desirable. They added that what constitutes development depends on what social goals are being advocated by the development agency, government, analyst or advisers.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a process of social advancement that gives premium to the needs of present and future generations and that successfully infuses socio-economic and environmental considerations in decision making. According to Edeh, Nwakamma and Ugbala (2017), sustainable development defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their needs”. For Wilnesky and Labeaux (2015), sustainable development as being formally organised and socially

sponsored institutions, agencies, programmes, which function to maintain or improve economic conditions, health or inter-personal competence for a part or all of a population. Here, national development is sustainable in nature. Akintoye and Awosika (2010) described sustainable development as a construct, which envisions development as meeting the needs of a present generation without compromising the needs of the present, it does not compromise the ability of a future generation without compromising the needs of the present, it does not compromise the ability of a future generation in order to meet their own need.

Development can only be sustained in an environment where basic social infrastructural facilities like access road, health care facilities, electricity, education, transport etc. are provided. We therefore define sustainable rural economy to mean the process of enhancing the capacity of rural economy to mobilise and utilise available human and material resources through provision of social infrastructural facilities to efficiently produce goods and services that can meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. When the future is considered, and when there is reasonable progressive change from the previous state of things/low development status, we say that the country is in sustainable development process (that is developing nation). According to Sands (2015), sustainable development entails normative and organisation changes in society which results in:

- 1 Improvement and expansion of the mental horizon of the population arising from functional education, and
- 2 Sustenance of positive and highly functional values, customs and practices of positive all aspects of life and living.

Rural Development

One of the essential roles of a society is the ability to reconstruct and build its own capacities, capabilities and harness the human and material resources available in order to fast-track development that would improve quality of life of the population residing in both Urban and rural areas. The need for rural development policies have become imperative in addressing developmental issues giving the fact that three quarters of the global impoverished people live in the rural areas. Rural development is a process that leads to series of changes within the rural setting and eventually result in the improvement of the overall conditions of the rural inhabitants. Rural development entails improving the living standard of the mass of low-income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining (Lele, 2015). This entails community participation to improve their social well being.

Rural development resources mobilisation and efficient utilisation of financial and material resources to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the rural dwellers deriving from our understanding of what development generally is, rural development is then that part of development that seeks to enhance the quality of life in the rural areas by providing basic infrastructural facilities (Ezeah, 2009). Indeed, the basic objective of rural development is reduction in poverty and improvement of the quality of life of the rural people. Bello-Imam (2008) in this vein defined rural development as reduction in poverty and improvement of the quality of life of the rural development as spatially sectional but determined and conscious attempt to focus on the general upliftment of the living conditions of men in the rural areas. So,

rural development in Nigeria entails the process of making life more satisfying and fulfilling to the millions of Nigeria who live in the rural areas. Ajagbe (2009) defined rural development as a social action process in which people of community organise themselves for planning and action. They identify their common and individual needs, execute these plans with a maximum reliance upon community resources.

Battern (2015) opines that rural development is “any action taken by any agency and primarily designed to benefit the community”. In line with this view, rural development as “a movement designed to promote better living for the whole community with the active participation and initiative of the community”. Rural development is a many-sided process or a multi-dimensional process involving the totality of the rural man and his environment. In essence, development in this context entails developing the rural human person and as well as his environment. Emphasising the aspect of human development as an essential part of rural development, Mustapha (2009) noted that rural development implies a broad-based re-organisation and mobilisation of the rural masses so as to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with daily tasks of their lives and with changes consequent upon it. It is perhaps, in this direction, that Ele (2016) posits that it is not enough to provide for the rural people; they should be enabled to develop themselves and their environment.

The foregoing entails that development can only be meaningful achieved when the population becomes agents of their own development. One is the basic infrastructure which entails the availability of food roads, water (pipe borne water), rural electricity, storage, and processing facilities etc. Two is the social infrastructure which is concerned with health and educational facilities, community centres, fire and security services etc. Three is the institutionalised infrastructure which is concerned with credit and financial institutions and agricultural research institutions to aid or enhance the economic activities and income of the rural population. The provision of these infrastructures will ensure integrated rural development that entails the promotion of rural productive activities, supportive human resource development and enlargement of enabling

Community and Social Development Project (CSDP)

Community and social development project were established in 2004 based on the need to enhance sustainable rural development in developing countries like Nigeria. Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) is a conceived development intervention that is built on two existing poverty reduction-oriented programmes namely: Community based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP) and Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP) which came into effect in 2004. The areas of linkage between the current Nigeria development focus and CSDP are those which address community driven development (CDP) which are socially inclined engendering social inclusion through the people's participation creation of job opportunities and health through the provision of support for various income generating activities. CSDP is to ensure improved service delivery to all rural dwellers through training in capacity and utilisation as well as participation in budget and financial management in key development sectors. The focus of CSDP and the linkages with the National development expectation is however targeted at the rural dwellers where community and social development needs are to be guided by basic underlying principles of CSDP development frame works.

The principles of CSDP are geared towards at enhancing accelerated community and social development at grass root levels where development have been limited over the years by absence of resources, lack of accountability and transparency in governance among others. Improving living standards, educational levels and well being for the entire population are major focus of CSDP. It is based on perception that no modern settlement can survive on its own without adequate provision of community infrastructural facilities such as modern markets, water facilities, adequate roads network system, health facilities, communication network facilities to mention a few. To achieve its goal and enhance sustainable offices across Imo State. The Imo state agency for community and social development project has community development officers in the twenty-seven local government areas. There are community development committee members who are elected or nominated by the community members and they are supervised by the CSDP local government community development officers in identifying and selecting community interest projects for proper execution.

When any project is selected, the communities are required to pay 25% counterpart funding before the project commences the counterpart comes in form of land donated by the community which CSDP uses to identify the community commitment and seriousness towards the project implementation of which the remaining 75% will be funded by CSDP. In Orlu local government area the intervention of CSDP to some extent may have made some impact in achieving sustainable rural development. Some of the achievements as established in 2021 newsletter of Imo State Agency for community and social development projects, Orlu local government area has witnessed construction of town Hall in Umueze community, construction of health centres in Umuzike, Eziachi and Umudioka communities, construction of lockup shops in Umuna, provision of solar powered water borehole in Umuna, rehabilitation and reconstruction of primary school in Umuzike. It is against the forgoing that this study focused on Imo State Agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) and sustainability of rural development projects intervention in Orlu local government area. In other to determine the extent the executed projects by CSDP in Orlu have contributed towards achieving the sustainable rural development in Orlu local government area.

Achieving Social Development in Rural Areas in Nigeria Through State Agency for Community and Social Development Project

There are many ways through which social development could be achieved in rural areas through the activities of state agency for community and social development project. The strategies of such rural development could be discussed this:

1. Rural development through provision of educational services

There is a strong link between availability of education facilities and the development of rural economy. Unfortunately, less attention has been paid to this all-important sector (Chukwuemeka, 2018). Education is now accepted as the means of meeting other needs and also means of accelerating development and improving productivity by promoting economic growth. Development in this sector would tantamount to rehabilitation of the infrastructure so as enhance the quality and facilitate raising standard. It will also involve provision of equipment for workshops, laboratories, modern science and technological gadgets and ensuring their sustained operations, the provision of textbooks, exercise books and adequate building of educational institution in order to be able to engage in effective teaching and learning. It should

encompass mass literacy and making education affordable to majority of members of the society (Edeh, Nwakamma & Ugbala, 2017).

Education promotes rural productivity by making the members to be able to decide agronomic and other information so as to carry out other desirable modern production practices, basic education also promotes feeding quality, dignity, self-respect, sense of belonging as well as political integration of rural people. The above positions of some scholars clearly show that education is a major foundation of any meaningful development effort. However, what obtains in most rural areas is a near total neglect of this sector. There is too, very apparently poor quality education in most rural areas in Nigeria (Ele, 2016). Ijere (2012) notes in this respect too that rural education is characterised by limited functional or work oriented education and disdain for handicraft and technical subjects. Okoli and Onah (2012:159) make similar observation as they note thus: the privilege of education which, for instance, is supposed to be a birth right of every Nigeria child is an illusion to many rural dwellers. In some places, there are no schools at all while in some others the schools are shabby, ill-equipped and poorly staffed.

2. Rural development through adequate healthcare provision

A robust healthcare system is the capacity of improving the rural economy and living standard of rural people (Edeh, Nwakamma & Ugbala, 2017). Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Development in this sector would mean removal of all biological, environmental and social, cultural, psychological factors that could cause health hazard in the society (Ajayi, 2013). Unfortunately, the reverse is the case in the rural areas. Health-related environmental problems in Nigeria vary with the social and economic development achieved by different states and even different towns and villages within individual's states. They are linked to poverty, absence of adequate water supply, lack of sanitation services, and poor housing problems associated with poor environmental sanitation, exposure to communicable disease and poor personal hygiene predominate and are often compounded by malnutrition which reduces resistance to diseases especially among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant and lactating mothers and the aged.

Malaria, cholera, diarrhoea, and other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and other vectors such as filariasis and parasitic infections like guinea worm and onchocerciasis are still major public health problems. Onah and Okoli (2011) observed similarly that in most rural areas of Nigeria, no medical institution of any sort exists at all and that where they do, the people have to travel very long distances to get them. The revelation of the National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP) 2010-2015 summarised the health status in Nigeria thus: the health indicators for Nigeria are among the worst in the world. Nigeria shoulders 10% of the global disease burden and is making slow health indicators in Nigeria have largely remained below country targets and internationally set benchmarks due to weaknesses inherent in its health system. The life expectancy at birth has been reported to be 47 years according to the 2018 NDHS report. This disability adjusted life expectancy at birth is 38.3 years (Nwuke, 2014). Nigeria has the highest number of HIV infected persons on African continent and the fourth highest to burden in the world.

One out of every 7 to 8 children die before his first birthday and one out of 6 before his fifth birthday. These poor outcomes are not only due to the high increase in the poverty level but also to the weaknesses in the health sector, especially in the delivery of primary health care services for immunisation diseases. Ogunnowo and Oderinde (2012), maintain that the health status of rural dwellers is a proxy for measuring their ability and agility to effectively participate in agricultural production. Once the rural farmers are constrained health wise with dearth of health services, their productivity level will surely drop. The rural dwellers are the worst hit of this negative trend in the Nigeria health care system. This has not only affected their daily life but has worsened the economy of the rural people (Edeh, Nwakamma & Ugbala, 2017). Undoubtedly, productive activities in the rural areas are affected by the poor health care condition in the area, and more so, farming requires physical energy and rural farmers must be in good health before they can contribute meaningfully in the development their immediate family and the society at large.

Empirical Studies

Iheanyi (2016) determined the poverty reduction and sustainable development in Nigeria using millennium development goals as the focal point. The study covered only Nkanu LGA of Enugu State. Three research objectives, three research questions and three research hypotheses guided the study. Survey research design was employed and a questionnaire served as the instrument of data collection. The study population is made up of the entire 280 community leaders (comprising representatives of women's group, elder in council, town union executive, youth groups, kindred representatives and few existing NGOs, like church etc), from where 80 people were sampled using purposive sampling technique. The data collected were represented in tables and analysed simple percentages while the hypotheses were tested using chi-square. The findings include that there is significant impact of MDGs on poverty reduction programmes adopted by government during MDGs 2000-2015, and corruption and poor policy implementation are the challenges affecting the achievement of poverty reduction programmes during the MDGs 2000-2015. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the present Buhari administration should avoid corruption, nepotism and tribalism in the implementation of the n-power programme so as to alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment in Nigeria. Furthermore, government should make and implement laws that will reduce the number of children a couple can have to check rapid population growth.

Chukwuemeka (2018) analysed the impact of sustainable development in Nigeria. The study was carried out to determine the contributions of good governance to the stability and growth of Nigeria democracy. In line with the above three research objectives and three research questions guided the study. The research utilised only secondary source of data; hence data were collected through textbooks, journal articles and online sources. The data were analysed and discussed qualitatively. The researcher used structural functional theory and elite theory to analyse the subject matter. The study discovered that good governance is an instrument that promotes sustainable developments including Boko Haran activities, Niger Delta Militancy activities, corruption in the country, economic underdevelopment, high level of inflation, high level of ethnic politics and activities of indigenous people of Biafra etc. based on the findings, the researchers recommends that the Nigerian leadership and all the Nigeria leaders should work positively to enhance development in the country.

Agwu (2017) researched on rural development and community participation in agriculture in Umunneochi LGA of Abia State. The study used descriptive survey and primary data was collected through the interview method. The study population covered the entire 8,200 registered farmers (under the banner of All Farmers Association of Nigeria AFAN), from where 220 respondents were sampled using accidental sampling technique. The data collected were analysed using bar chart, pie chart and correlation statistics. It was discovered that the extent of community participation in rural agricultural development in the local government project and policies on agriculture, and that has made it possible that they are neglected. The study recommends for agricultural extension workers involvement of local farmers on agricultural policy formulation and implementation.

Theoretical Framework

In this study, the researcher employed the structural functional theory as the basic theoretical framework of the study as developed by Talcott Parsons in 1951 and his associates. The structural functional framework of analysis as an aspect of general system theory was originally developed by the work of Talcott Parsons, Almond Gabriel, Emile Durkheim and Radcliffe-Brown. It is employed in the study of sociology and other relevant social phenomenon in the society. Essentially, the theory as a framework of analysis focuses attention on two primary issues. Namely: "(functions)" and "(structure)". Structural functionalism as it is simply called raises two analytical questions, namely:

- What functions are prerequisite and which must be performed in order to ensure the survival and maintenance of the political system?
- What structures are needed to ensure the proper and adequate performances of such function?

The structural functional theory concerns itself essentially with identifying those important functions that must be performed in order to guarantee the survival, maintenance and persistence of the political system. In the bid to ensure proper and adequate performance of such functions, appropriate and suitable structures are created and established to perform them in a manner and to the degree necessary to ensure the political system, survival, maintenances and persistence (Ofoeze, 2015). This means that there is a structure instituted or established, there is a function attached to it. The adoption of structural-functional theory as a framework of analysis for the research is based on its explanatory capacity especially as it enabled us properly arrange our variable in acceptable manner. This theory was employed because state agency for community and social development is a structure established by the government to perform development functions for rural human capital and infrastructural development. If such agency in Imo State and other places must perform their functions well, there must be effective empowerment, supervision, financing and directives from the government to the organisation. The structure cannot perform its functions if there is no enabling ground in the system

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Area of the Study

The study was carried out in Orlu LGA which is one of the 27 LGAs in Imo State, Nigeria. Orlu LGA is a local government created in 1976; its headquarters is in Orlu. The communities that make up Orlu LGA include Umuzike, Umunna, Eziachi, Umudioka, Obor, Umutanze, Owerri Umudioka, Umudioka Ukwu, Amike, Umueze, Owerre Ebeiri, Alaoma, Orlu, Okporo, Isiala Okporo, Udogadi Okporo, Amaifeke, Ofeahia Amaifeke, Isiala Amaifeke, Obibiochasi, Okwuabala and Mgbée. Also, the local government is bounded in the North by Ideato South, in the West by Nnewi in Anambra, in the East by Nkwere LGA and in the South by Njaba/Oru East.

The people of Orlu LGA are predominantly Christians. The people are in different occupation including farming, trading, civil/public service and sports. Few government institutions within Orlu LGA include Imo State Teaching Hospital Umuna, Imo State Polytechnic Orlu Campus, Imo State College of Nursing Sciences, Orlu Unit Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Nigeria Immigration Training School Umuowa, Orlu Area Command of the Nigerian Police Force, Imo State Judiciary High Court Complex and Imo International Market.

Research Design

The research adopted descriptive survey design for this study. This enabled collection of information from community members through the use of questionnaire and interview. It also provided the opportunity for the participants to give details of the situations in study area. Put differently, it provided the opportunity for the researcher to elicit detailed information about the conclusions of life in the area from the study participants.

Population of the Study

The population of this study is made up of the entire town union executive in Orlu LGA of Imo State. There are 35 autonomous communities in Orlu LGA of Imo State. Each autonomous community has 10 town union executive each, making a total of 350 in all as our study population. Also, the same 350 is used as sample size. The researcher used town union executives as the population/ sample because the town union representatives are informed about the existence and activities of CSDP. Not only that, they are the people that are involved in the execution of CSDP projects in the study area.

Sampling Technique

For the sampling technique, the researcher adopted census enumeration method. All the 350 town union executives in the study population are included in the sample so as to achieve the study objective. This is a result of the fact that the population was not too large and was accessible.

Method of Data Collection

The data collected for this study were analysed using mean statistics and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) at 0.05 level of significance through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 21.0).

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The hypotheses for the research were also tested. Out of the 350 copies of the questionnaire distributed by the researcher, only 315 copies were properly filled and returned.

Research question 1: What is the relationship between CSDP schools’ rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA?

Table 1: The relationship between CSDP schools’ rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA.

S/N	CSDP schools’ rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA	SA	A	SD	D	N	EX	X	Dec
1	CSDP has many roles to play in renovation of primary and secondary schools in Orlu LGA.	222	90	1	2	315	1162	3.7	P
2	CSDP has helped in renovation of some secondary schools in the study area	205	105	-	5	315	1140	3.6	P
3	CSDP has actually constructed some class room block in Orlu LGA	209	99	4	3	315	1144	3.6	P
4	CSDP has added positive values in infrastructural development in education sector in Orlu LGA	185	125	2	3	315	1122	3.6	P
5	Some infrastructural projects of CSDP in primary and secondary schools in Orlu have quality and standard	131	180	4	-	315	1072	3.4	P
	Grand mean							3.6	P

The data analysed in table 4.6 shows that all the items were positive. This is because item 1 has a mean of 3.7, item 2 has a mean of 3.6, item 3 has a mean of 3.6, item 4 has a mean of 3.6 and item 5 has a mean of 3.4; hence all the items have mean score above 2.5. It is therefore concluded that there is significant relationship between CSDP schools’ rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA.

Research questions two: What is the relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA?

Table 2: The relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA.

S/N	CSDP health intervention life expectancy development in Orlu LGA	SA	A	SD	D	N	EX	X	Dec
1	CSDP has helped in providing health infrastructure in Orlu	217	96	-	2	315	1158	3.7	P
2	CSDP has contributed in renovation of health centres in Orlu LGA	98	214	3	-	315	1040	3.3	P
3	CSDP has constructed some health centres in some communities in Orlu	111	201	1	2	315	1051	3.3	P
4	CSDP has been active in providing equipments for health centres in Orlu LGA	41	70	100	104	315	678	2.2	N
5	The role of CSDP in health centres project has been beneficial the communities in Orlu LGA	179	130	3	3	315	1115	3.5	P
	Grand mean							3.2	P

The data analysed in table 4.7 shows that not all the items were positive. This is because item 1 has a mean of 3.7, item 2 has a mean of 3.3, item 3 has a mean of 3.3, item 4 has a mean of 2.2 and item 5 has a mean of 3.5; hence not all the items have mean score above 2.5. It is therefore concluded that there is significant relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA.

Testing of Research Hypotheses

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between CSDP schools' rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA.

H _{i1}	There is significant relationship between CSDP schools' rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA	Pearson Correlation = 0.89 Sig = 0.05 N = 315 Grand mean - 3.6 Decision: very strong	VALID
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The table above shows that the Pearson product moment correlation is 0.89 which indicates that there is significant relationship between CSDP schools rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA. This is because the result is very strong. Hence, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA.

H _{i2}	There is significant relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA	Pearson Correlation = 0.84 Sig = 0.05 N = 315 Grand mean = 3.2 Decision: very strong	VALID
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The above table indicates that the Pearson product moment correlation is also 0.84 which reveals there is significant relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA. The above result is very strong. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected.

DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

The major findings of this study are discussed thus:

1. CSDP schools' rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA.

Based on hypothesis one, this work revealed that there is significant relationship between CSDP schools' rehabilitation and school enrolment rate in Orlu LGA. According to Abba (2019), many primary schools in south east Nigeria have benefited from CSDP rehabilitations through construction of new classroom block, maintaining of existing classroom block and provision of school equipment. The rural development effort (for primary and secondary schools) has been in existence in Nigeria since colonial period. However, the introduction of CSDP as facilitator of rural development aimed at enhancing sustainable development at the rural community level has impact positively in the school system (Nosiri & Nwachukwu, 2018). This is as a result of the fact that sustainability in educational system does not just only aim at a generation but aims across generations, and educational growth and sustainability is the basic approach for development.

Sustainable educational development in Nigeria in recent times has become a contending concept in the world of development discourse (Eminue, 2015). This is true because of the neglect of the educational institutions which has affected all round development. However, the introduction of CSDP has not only helped to improve educational infrastructure, but have helped to restore hope for Nigeria educational development. The implication of the above for sustainable development is that there will be increase in enrolment of students in both primary and secondary schools, improved level of literacy and improved level of educational standard. Such will add positive impact on poverty reduction, citizens engagement and self-reliance in Orlu LGA in particular and Imo State in general.

2. CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA.

For our research questions two, it was discovered that there is significant relationship between CSDP health intervention and life expectancy in Orlu LGA. The provision of adequate primary health care is paramount to the overall development of rural communities, and CSDP has been very effective in provision of primary health care services and infrastructure (Olasisi, 2022). In Imo State rural communities, before the advent of CSDP, adequate rural health care was not assessable to the people in terms of health infrastructure, availability or access to doctors, provision of drugs, adequate maternal health care. Most rural dwellers sought for medical treatment in the cities because of lack of adequate medical provisions in the rural communities (Uzoma, 2021).

Many doctors who work in the rural areas live in cities and could not answer emergencies in the night due to insecurity. Onwujiariri, Nwachi & Nkwocha (2017) strongly assert that the goal of the National Health Policy which necessitated effective participation of CSDP in health sector program was to provide a comprehensive health care system based on primary health care that is promotive, protective, restorative and rehabilitative to all citizens, within available resources so that individuals and communities can be assured of productivity, social well-being and enjoyment of living. Sanni (2010) cited in Onwujiariri (2017) write that the essence of health care to the local government is to make the management of primary health care serious, more effective, affordable and closer to the grassroots.

Before the advent of the CSDP, some rural communities had no health centres and therefore had no timely access to quality health care. However, the situation has changed through the provision of health centre infrastructure, facilities and personnel (Olatunbosun, 2018). Such achievement cannot be effectively discussed without emphasis on the roles of the CSDP in Nigeria in general and Orlu, Imo State in particular. The implication of the above findings for sustainable development is that there will be significant reduction in maternal and child mortality, access to primary and secondary health care, improved life expectancy, healthy living and reduced ill health amongst the citizens in Orlu in particular and Imo State in general.

Conclusion

This study has examined Imo State agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) and sustainable rural development in Orlu LGA of Imo State. The study was carried out to determine the extent Imo State agency for community and social development project contributes to socio-economic development in the study area. Therefore, there is need for community and social Development Project (CSDP) Intervention in the socio-economic activities of the rural communities in Orlu Local government Area by provision of portable water scheme, provision of electricity, health care, rehabilitation of schools, provision of Agro-based Industries, Construction of market shops and civic centres to stimulate development of rural communities in Orlu Local government Area becomes imperative. Based on that, this study discovered that CSDP has played positive roles in schools' rehabilitation, health intervention and road rehabilitation. However, market rehabilitation has not gotten any positive attention. Based on the foregoing, this study concludes that the extent of sustainable development goals achievement in the areas of schools' rehabilitation, health intervention, road rehabilitation and market rehabilitation depends on the effectiveness of Imo State agency for community and social development project.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made.

1. The CSDP should intensify efforts for schools' rehabilitation by maintaining existing primary and secondary schools and putting in more class room blocks.
2. The government through CSDP should help in constructing and maintaining rural health (primary health) centres so that people in Orlu LGA will have access to affordable and quality health care services.

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