
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ADULT BASIC LITERACY IN BORNO STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study look at community participation in adult basic literacy programme in Borno State. One objective and research question was generated and answered. The objective of the study is to determine the level of community participation in adult basic literacy programme in Borno state. The target population of the study is One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two (1852), three hundred (300) community development officers and one thousand five hundred and fifty-two (1552) Adult learners. The sample of the study covered three hundred and ten (310) Adult literacy learners and one hundred and sixty-nine (169) community development officers totaling to four hundred and seventy-nine (479) respondents. Two set of questionnaires were designed, first tagged "community participation in Adult literacy questionnaire (CPAL) and second tagged community development officers' quality questionnaire (CDDQ)" were administered on the sampled respondents. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistic. The result found out that there is a significant difference in the responses of the respondents showing high level of community participation in adult literacy programme in Borno state.

INTRODUCTION

The living standard of people in most developing countries such as Nigeria is a matter of concern to community development officers. According Rodney (2005) who said "from the earliest times, man found it convenient and necessary to come together in group to hunt for the sake of survival" To uplift the living standard of these groups, a deliberate effort and a planned programme should be made. As it has been the practice in the primitive time to date due to human desire to improve their standard of living (Rodney 2005). For such developmental projects to be achieved easily is through aided effort by the community development officers. If individuals were to make progress unaided it would have been so slow that it is doubtful if any society could have advanced by now. For developmental programme to gain participation there is the need for someone or a group of people to take the responsibility

of assisting the community. Such group is often made up of community development officers. Up to date many communities in Gombe State uphold the communal approach to agriculture by coming together to work on a member's farm and it rotates round the membership (Ali 2012). This group improves communication among the social actors of the development and they are referred to as community development officers/extension workers (Hagmann, 1993). Community is usually identified by peculiar interaction which is represented by a set of social relationships that may or may not be place based. Communities are characterized primarily by identities that represent their share sense of belonging. This is built on a share set of beliefs, values or experiences; however, such individuals need not to live within the same locality. (Neville and Mengue 2006; Unerman and Bennett, 2004).

Community as agreed by scholars that is characterized by three factors: geography, interaction and identity (Lee and Newby, 1983). Communities characterized primarily by geography represent people residing within the same geographic region, but with no reference to the interaction among them. Communities primarily identified by interaction that represent a set of social relationships that may or may not be place based. Quality of community development officer refers to the level of education and training, experience, motivation, commitment and personality traits found in the community development officers. Some of the community development officers are educated, trained, experienced, highly motivated and of good temperament while some might not be. Those with good qualities can always create good atmosphere for the people to participate while those with low qualities cannot do so. Foley 1997 in Omoruyi (2000) reported that a change agent in Sulabia, Tanzania saying "remember you farmers are the chickens and we are the mother hens. If you follow our examples, you will survive, but if you are not attentive, you will perish." This tells us that the attitude of change agent can determine the level of participation in a programme. The impact of an agent's effort has been demonstrated in a study carried out by Crombie (2001) on illiterate farmers in a grain industry in Australia. Initially the illiterate farmers' battle with poor soil, insect attacks, lack of improved farming practice, chemical fertilizer and pest control due to illiteracy. Also, their annual productivity growth was put at only 3% annually for twenty years. However, when the farmers were introduced to the "learning brokers" through agents who exposed them to a general agricultural literacy and training the yield and productivity of the grain industry increased. In a similar study carried out by Eckson, Carlson and Clark (2010) the research revealed that psychological well-being, health related quality of life, gender ethnicity, mental status, income and housing status were found to be

consistently and significantly associated with meaningful activities of participation. The researcher developed and used a 28-item questionnaire tagged the Meaningful Activity of Participation Assessment (MAPA). This was tested on 154 adults and it was found to have sufficient level of internal consistency and test-retest reliability of the 28 items using multiple regression analyses.

Gapani (1988), in his research work titled local organization as machinery for rural development in Biu local Government of Borno State; examined relevance of local organizations' participation as a means of promoting rural development. The result revealed that; "though there were various local organizations at various levels, local organizations in the area do not perform in a way that would promote rural development". The researcher opined that the poor performance could be due to low motivation capabilities of the local organizations especially their leaders. In a study conducted by Monguno (1997) conducted a study titled community based organizations and Urban Development in Maiduguri Metropolis of Borno State Nigeria and examined how best community based organization can contribute to Urban development of Maiduguri. It was found that their linkage shows a predominantly top down correspondence and bottom up visits all in a state of unbalance. Although efforts were related to urban development, there seems to be concentration of efforts on environmental sanitation at the expense of other aspects of urban development which might be due to in capability of the development agents in providing directions.

A study conducted by Sanda (2013) looked at the relationship among social, economic, andragogic factors and participation of women in basic literacy programme where the study is based on Darkenwald and Merriam (1982) Psychosocial interaction model. The researcher adopted survey design and has a population of 27,113 and uses a sample of 2,711 which was randomly selected from the target population. Questions were

used for data collection which was developed by the researcher and documents on female enrolment. The researcher distributed the questionnaire personally with assistance of one research assistant and mean, standard deviation and percentages were used for the data analysis but regression was used for the test of the hypotheses. The finding of the study revealed that social, economic and andragogical factors do contribute to women's enrolment and determine their participation rate in Basic Literacy programme but do not significantly relate to their completion.

The area under study which is Borno State has a population of 4,171,104 people having 2,163,358 males and 2,007,746 females (National population commission 2010) estimates. Government contribution in community development in the area of vocational activities, education, community projects and technical works are noticeable. Majority (70%) of this population are farmers. Crops cultivated by these people include maize, cassava, wheat, millet, groundnuts, gum arabic, rice, soya beans, cotton and guinea corn among others. There is a high rate of unemployment as the small and medium enterprise programme is weak however, under the present government the situation has improved due to the creation of Ministry for Poverty Alleviation which introduced skills such as brick molding, carpentry work, welding work and valkanizing. The state is prone to erosion, flood, waste management, deforestation, pollution, land degradation and desertification which make availability and access to arable land cumbersome. Majority of the people in Borno State live in rural areas and are exposed to health hazard (Borno State Government 2005). The example of such is the health sector which experiences maternal mortality ratio of 8/1000, infant mortality ratio of 91/1000, immunization coverage is 70%. The ratio of medical Doctor to the population is 1:16908; Nurse to population ratio is 1:2158.

As for the literacy centres in the State, there is indication that it is dwindling and this may be as a result

of the insecurity situation in the state. In 2012, the state has an enrolment of 9171 with break down as 5314 males and 3857 females, and in 2013 it has 1552 with break down as 857 males and 695 females in basic literacy (Agency for Mass Literacy 2013).

Based on 2006 census, the National Population Commission put the percentage of adult literacy level of Borno State at 32.59% in other languages and adult literacy in English is 25% which falls below the UNESCO declaration that for a country to have meaningful development, their literacy level must reach 40%. This implies that there is need to step up efforts concerning one of the development programmes such as literacy participation in Adult education.

The Borno State Agency for Mass Literacy enrolment is showing that participation in literacy programme is becoming too low to a level that it becomes unsatisfactory based on the Agency's enrolment as it is contained in paragraph below.

The enrolment of Borno State Agency for Mass Literacy is indicating decrease by year which shows that the enrolment of 2009 has a total enrolment of 23,085, 2010 has 22,296, 2011 has 9,171, 2012 has 10,213 and 2013 has 1,553. The enrolment is reducing as shown the table to an extent that it is worrisome and this could be either as a result of the insurgency issues, the propagators of the programme, inadequate infrastructure or lack of interest on the side of the participants. It could also be that those assigned with the responsibility of enlightening people to participate are either not doing their job or they are not competent in terms of either qualification or experience.

Statement of the Problem

Community development officers have role to play in making community members participate actively in development programmes. Participation comes to be when a group organizes itself and takes the responsibility of carrying out a task that attempts to

solve the community's problems. Taking such responsibility include identifying problems, developing actions, implementing them and this is true that literacy is accepted and considered to have raised quality of human existence in and before the 20th century. It is also disturbing that with the importance of adult basic literacy education to development, the level of participation in adult basic literacy programmes in Borno State is still low. The National Population Commission (2006) census and 2010 population projection put Borno State literacy level at 32.59 as against the UNESCO declaration level of 40% for meaningful development to take place. Participation in the Borno state agency for mass literacy as shown by their enrolment indicates low enrolment as indicated by this drop. In 2009, the enrolment was 23,085; 22,296 in 2010, 9,171 in 2011; 10,213 in 2012; and 1,553 in 2013 (Borno state Agency for mass literacy 2013). The level of participation of the community members in adult basic literacy puts a question mark on the quality of the community development officers in charge. This is because the Community development officers are expected to use the experiences, knowledge, awareness and their qualification to mobilize the community to participate in Adult Basic Literacy programmes in the state. This draws the attention of the researcher to examine the qualities of community development officers in terms of responsibility awareness, occupational experience and educational level. Therefore, the question is what is the level of community participation in Adult Basic literacy programmes in Borno State?

Objective of the Study

- I. To determine the level of community participation in adult basic literacy programme in Borno state

Research question

- I. What is the level of community participation in adult basic literacy in Borno state

METHODOLOGY

Design

A survey co-relational research design was adopted for the study. A survey research is a method of gathering data or information from a sample of individuals (American Statistical Association 1997) in: Sambo (2005). It is Co relational because the relationship between the variables of community development officers' quality and dependent variables of community participation is to be determined. According to Busha and Harter (1980) in: Fajonyomi and Fajonyomi (2003) "survey research allows the researcher to gather information without undertaking a complete enumeration".

Population and sample

The target population for this study comprised two categories of populations, first is the community development officers (300) who were employed by the Borno State government and the first two LGAs will be selected by lot from the Agency for mass literacy zonal area. Secondly, two villages from the list hosting a literacy centre were randomly selected from each district. Lastly, five house hold heads in each village were contacted using convenience sampling. For the first category, all the community development officers assigned to the district were used which the first two LGAs will be selected by lot from the Agency for mass literacy zonal area. Secondly, two villages from the list hosting a literacy centre were randomly selected from each district. Lastly, five house hold heads in each village were contacted using convenience sampling. For the first category, all the community development officers assigned to the district were used which their population stands at (1552).

According to Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table for determining sample size which this study base its determinant of sample size shows that for a population of 1600 its sample should 310 which is the closest to the

first population of this study which is 1552. Also, the second population which is 300 going by Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) for a population of this size its sample

should be 169. So, going by the above presentation of the two populations the sample size is 479. See table below

Table 1: Population and Sample based on Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample size.

| Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) | | Researchers' population and sample | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|
| population | sample | Population | Sample |
| 1600 | 310 | 1552 | 310 |
| 300 | 169 | 300 | 169 |
| | | 1852 | 479 |

The table 1 above was arrived at based on Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table for determining sample size. Going by the table, for a population of 300 the sample is 169 and for a population of 1552 the sample is 310. This study has two categories of populations totaling 1852 which gives a total sample of 479. For the second category of the sample, multi-stage sampling technique was used. The first two LGAs will be selected by lot from the Agency for mass literacy zonal area. Secondly, two villages from the list hosting a literacy centre were randomly selected from each district. Lastly, five house hold heads in each village were contacted using convenience sampling. For the first category, all the community development officers assigned to the district were used.

Research Instrument

one set of questionnaires was developed by the researcher tagged community participation in Adult literacy questionnaire (CPAL) designed to elicit information on the qualities of the community development officers towards literacy programme in Borno state. The CPAL contain information on socio-economic background of the respondents and statement to determine their attitudes towards literacy. The responses were coded by assigning values such as: strongly Agreed -5, Agreed-4, Partially Agreed -3 and Disagreed -2, Strongly Disagreed -1. After assigning the

said values variance and regression analyses were used to analyze the data. The researcher believes that quality of service is synonymous with the level of service delivery and is highly related to users' satisfaction. According to De Ruyter, Bloemer, & Peters, (1997), service quality should be treated as an antecedent of users' satisfaction. Similarly, Sureshchandar, Rajendram, & Kamalanabhan (2002) found that service quality and customer satisfaction were highly related. This is what informed the researcher to design questionnaire for the community development officers and participants.

Stan (1997) asserts that the advantage of using proxy variables is that it is possible to obtain data on a large population at a modest cost. The researchers in adult literacy as well have found that self-assessment measure of skills have produced results as good as in-depth skill test. Hence, questionnaire will be used as a major instrument appropriate for this study as it is capable of collecting the necessary data for analysis, easy and cheap to administer and done within a short-period of time.

The questionnaire was validated through pilot study involving representatives of the various community population categories and experts in the field of adult and community education. Level of reliability was also tested using Test re-test method. The instrument was administered on selected sample and after two weeks

the same was administered again on the same group of samples. Then the score obtained was correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation method and the reliability co-efficient was calculated at $p < 0.05$ so as to know the level of reliability of the instrument. The result obtained was 0.68 which shows that the instrument is reliable for use.

Procedure for Data Collection

The questionnaires were administered by the researcher and six research assistants who were trained before carrying out the work and each of the research assistant handle one Zone which make it possible for them to cover the six zones of the Agency for mass literacy Borno state in the shortest possible time. The research assistants were picked from the various zones and each handles the zone he/she come from which make the administration of the questionnaire easier. Some of the respondents were met in their camps because they were in the areas affected by the insurgency. The research assistants that were used are holders of Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE) and Diploma. In every village, the research assistants administered the questionnaire to the respondents; educate the people before they completed/fill it. In

addition to the questionnaire the researcher conduct interview on some respondents. The questionnaires were administered and retrieved immediately by the researcher to insure maximum retrieval however, two questionnaires were missed during the collection. The administration lasted for two weeks.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected for the study was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistic. Regression analysis was used because it has the ability to handle many number of independent variables; and one of the best methods of analysis of non-experimental data (Fred, and Elazar, 1973). It can also be used for two or more independent variables for which this study is one. It gives more information about the data and applicable to more kinds of data. It helps in understanding a phenomenon by indicating the nature and magnitude of the relationship between one phenomenon and the other.

Research question: What is the level of community participation in adult basic literacy in Borno state
The table II below is used to answer the research question

Table II: Community participation in Adult Basic Literacy in Borno State

| Variables | Option | | Mean difference | Sig. $p < 0.05$ | R | R ² |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|
| | Yes | No | | | | |
| Are you a Community development officer or participant of Adult basic literacy? | 366 (76.9%) | 110 (23.1%) | 2.500 | 0.041 | 0.651 | 0.590 |
| How do you rate participation into Adult basic literacy programmes by the community? | 290 (60.9%) | 186 (39.1%) | 1.641 | 0.038 | | |
| Is there any help rendered by the community to Adult basic literacy programme to make them participate? | 348 (73.1%) | 128 (26.9%) | 3.367 | 0.049 | | |
| | | | Weighted mean = 1.436 | | | |

Table II considers the three major variables which show us the level of community participation in adult basic literacy in Borno state. The first variable seeks to find out if the community development officer participates in Adult Basic Literacy programmes, from which 366(76.9%) of the total respondents agreed affirmatively that they do while only 110(23.1%) say they don't. The second variable tries to find out the rating of participation by community development officer, from which 290(60.9%) of the respondents rate their participation as high while 186(39.1%) rate participation as low. The last variable which seeks to find out if there is any help rendered by community development officer to adult basic literacy participants and, the result reveals that 348(73.1%) said "yes" there is help rendered by community development officer to adult literacy programmes while 128(26.9) said no it does not. From this result, it is clear that majority of the respondents agreed positively to all the questions regarding the level of participation in Adult Basic Literacy by community development officers in Borno state. The mean difference gotten from the difference between the "yes" and "no" option obtained indicates that community participation in Adult basic literacy programme in Borno state is on the high side. This is shown by the weighted mean of 1.44 gotten from the responses that shows the level of difference among the respondents' responses.

Deciding on the level of community participation in adult literacy in Borno state, three variables were subjected to further analysis (regression). And the results reveal that all the three variables have shown a significant difference between the responses (options) of respondents, having $p < 0.041$, $p < 0.038$ and $p < 0.049$ respectively which is less than $p < 0.05$. The r - square (R^2) = 0.590 which is equal to 59.0% is the level by which the response is explained by the model. This implies that since all the values obtained are less than $p < 0.05$, there is a significant difference in

the responses of the respondents showing high level of community participation in adult basic literacy in Borno state.

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