

Perceived Level of Sustainability of World Bank Assisted Projects in South Western Nigeria

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Abstract:

This study analyzed perceived level of sustainability of World Bank assisted projects in south western Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of two hundred and forty six participants each of Fadama and CSDP projects respectively making a pooled total of four hundred and ninety two (492) respondents for the study. Firstly, two States from the Southwest of Nigeria were purposively selected. These were Oyo and Osun states. Secondly, fifteen percent of Local government areas in each State were randomly selected. Finally, 25% of membership of each of the selected community associations was chosen. This resulted to 246 respondents each in respect of Fadama and CSDP and a pooled figure of four hundred and ninety two respondents were chosen for the purpose of this study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Collaborating local decision makers in community project activities enhance sustainability, project success made known to the community increases sustainability and staffs commitment to project mission and vision aids sustainability of the World Bank assisted projects rank first. Therefore, local decision makers should always be allowed to contribute significantly to the implementation and maintenance of World Bank assisted projects, in order to ensure the sustainability of such projects.

Key words: Community collaborators, staff commitment and sustainability.

Introduction

The World Bank struggle with the over centralized and top-down issues and used a variety of development approaches, including Area Development Programs (ADPs). These approaches failed to translate the empowerment vision into practice and therefore failed to have a significant impact. Subsequently, different sectors and projects tried community support , sectoral , and local government approaches, and their practitioners often competed with one another, creating confusion and reducing the impact. Each of the three approaches provided many valuable lessons that are applicable today (UNDP, 2004). However, evidence and a history of experience, in and outside the World Bank shows that different strands can and do converge. The Local Development Conference of 2004 started to build the consensus that a synthesis, known as local and community driven development (LCDD), was needed. Under this synthesis, local development is a co-production of communities, local governments, and supportive sector institutions, with collaboration from the private sector and non governmental organizations (see figure 1)

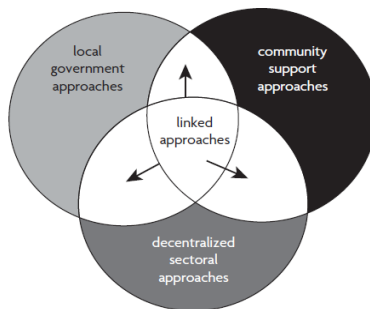


Fig 1: linked approaches

Source: Source: Helling, Serrano & Warren (2005).

Several programmes, activities and projects are being executed at various levels including rural communities across the country; yet there is a lack of knowledge about how these services are sustained (Lerner, 1995). Funding providers and the professionals who receive their funds are obligated to work towards sustaining programmes. Series of reasons might have been attributed to the cause of such scenario. Amongst is whether such programmes originated from the benefiting community or not. If communities were not carried along in the identification and subsequent implementation of such services to a significant stage, the likelihood of failure is imminent (World Bank, 1996).

Although, the demand-driven approaches may have many benefits for livelihood support as itemized, further necessary studies needed to be carried out to assess community-driven development approach in terms of practically localizing project sustainability. Confidence and trust of communities in a particular project may be instrumental to sustainability of community projects. But for how long?

The objectives are to;

- Examine the socio-economic characteristics of the Fadama and CSDP participants (respondents) in the study area.
- Analyze the perceived level of sustainability of World Bank assisted projects in the study area.

Methodology

The study was carried out in selected states (Oyo and Osun) of Southwest, Nigeria. Southwest Nigeria lies between latitude 5⁰N and 9⁰N of the Equator and longitudes 2.5⁰ and 6⁰ east of the Greenwich Meridian. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the south, Kwara and Kogi States in the north, Anambra state in the eastern Nigeria and Republic of Benin in the west. The

study area has a land area of about 114,271 km² representing about 12 percent of the country's total land area. The nation's population is put at about 140,003,542 with about 65 percent of this population living in the rural areas (National Population Commission (NPC), 2006). The Southwest zone comprises six states namely: Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ondo, and Ekiti States (Shahib *et al.*, 1997). These states are situated mainly in the tropical rain forest zone with swamp forest in the coastal regions of Lagos, Delta, Ogun and Ondo states. The zone also covers the derived savannah in the extreme north of this region including Oyo, Osun, Edo and Ekiti states. The climate in southwestern Nigeria is predominantly humid with rainfall from 1500mm to 3000mm per annum. The mean monthly temperature ranges from 18°C to 24°C during the rainy season and 20°C to 35°C during the dry season (Shahib *et al.*, 1997).

The population of the study were beneficiaries of Fadama and CSDP projects in the selected states of southwestern Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of two hundred and forty six participants each of Fadama and CSDP projects respectively making a pooled total of four hundred and ninety two (492) respondents for the study. Firstly, two States from the Southwest of Nigeria were purposively selected. These were Oyo and Osun states. They were selected because of their participation in the two projects in southwest Nigeria. Secondly, fifteen percent of Local government areas in each state were randomly selected, making five Local Government Areas from each state and ten Local Government Areas altogether. In the third stage, 50% each of total Fadama Community Associations and Community Development Associations (for CSDP participants) were chosen from the number of community associations participating in the two projects within the selected Local Government Areas. Finally, 25% of membership of each of the selected community associations was chosen. This resulted to 246 respondents each

in respect of Fadama and CSDP and a pooled figure of four hundred and ninety two respondents for the purpose of this study.

The tools and procedure that were employed elucidated the objectives of the study: this includes the following.

Descriptive statistics:

They are the mean, percentages and frequency distribution. These were used as tools to describe the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents and the perceived level of sustainability of World Bank assisted projects in the study area.

Results and Discussion

Majority (75.4%) of pooled participants had family sizes ranging between 5 and 7. 7.3% and 6.5% of Fadama and CSDP participants respectively has household size of less than 4 while 12.6% and 22.8 % had household sizes of 8 and above. The mean, mode and median of pooled respondents' household size was 6. So, household size for this study is normally distributed as shown in figure 3. Ekong (2000) expressed the view that the larger the family size, the easier it is for community people to participate in developmental activities. The average of 6 also confirms the findings of Adeoti & Adenegan (2002) which stated that rural family members provide supportive roles for the household head on various community activities in order to maintain rural economics. However, moderate household size may encourage better participation (Gladwin, Peterson & Uttaro, 2002). This finding also follows the observation of Dennerly's (1995) who asserted that the larger the household size the more mouth to be fed, the more time is devoted for food production especially among relatively poor households.

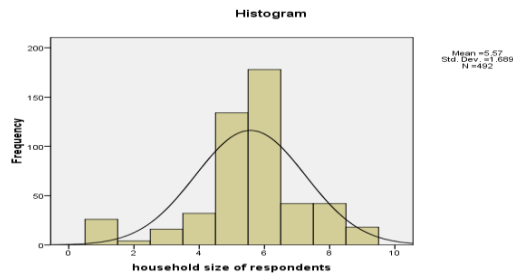


Figure 2: Histogram of pooled respondents according to classification of household size

The distribution of average cost of maintenance of projects per annum within respondents' communities indicate that 94.7% of Fadama respondents' and 30.9% of CSDP respondents spent less than 20,000 respectively. Another 5.3% of Fadama and 17.1% of CSDP respondents spent between 21,000 and 30,000. However, no Fadama respondent mentioned spending more than 30,000 on project maintenance while 26.0% of CSDP respondents mentioned over 30,000. The mean cost of project maintenance per year for Fadama respondents was N 8,320.00 while that of CSDP was N 41,640.00. The pooled mean for annual project maintenance was N 37,477.00. This result indicate that the cost implication of maintaining CSDP projects is far higher than that of Fadama projects. This might be as a result of the type of projects benefitted in CSDP which are described as gigantic than the ones in Fadama .This findings agrees with World Bank (2006) that bigger projects will definitely require more funds to maintain them than little ones.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to average cost of project maintenance per year

Characteristics	FADAMA		CSDP		POOLED PARTICIPANTS	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20,000	50	20.3	46	18.7	96	19.5
21,000 – 30,000	37	15.0	41	16.7	78	15.9
31,000 – 40,000	45	18.3	44	17.9	89	18.1
41,000 & above	62	25.2	28	11.4	90	18.3
Mean = 8,320				41,640		

Field survey, 2013.

Table 2 bothered on effective collaboration by community stakeholders. Result from the table shows local decision makers being project collaborators (wms=3.61) as 1st ranked. Collaborating local decision makers in community project activities enhance sustainability. Contribution of collaborators' resources to project (wms = 3.65) ranked 2nd .

Sustainable community development cannot take place through force or order, but is most likely to happen when all actors participate and share their ideas, visions and responsibilities equally and democratically in steering and implementing their community or village development projects (Ajayi & Otuya, 2006). According to Orapin (1996), one approach in creating sustainable rural development is through giving the main actors (villagers living in the community) an equal opportunity to think and plan their own future. This underpins the need for effective collaboration at the local community levels in order to harness the efforts of the rural people towards their own development. Effective collaboration involves identification of relevant stakeholders who actively support program goals and who have clearly identified responsibilities (Bamberger & Cheema, 1990). A community's most desired results usually are best accomplished by organizational collaboration (Altman *et al.*, 1991). It is important that the various organizations involved have a shared vision in order to sustain the community effort (Goodman & Steckler, 1998). Collaborative efforts build a broad base of support in the community and of key stakeholders for program implementation, program success, and program sustainability (Altman *et al.*, 1991).

Table 2: Rank order frequency of sustainability elements under effective community collaboration

Elements of effective collaboration	Weighted Mean Score	Rank
Collaborators contribute resources	3.65	1
Local decision makers are project collaborators	3.61	2
Mean = 3.63		

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Table 3 shows demonstrating program result comprising of five sustainability elements according to this study. Project success made known to the community (wms = 3.95) ranked 1st while project success made known to funder (wms = 3.88) ranked 2nd .Public relations strategies put in place (wms= 3.51) ranked 3rd while evaluation activities conducted on regular basis (wms = 3.35) ranked 4th .The least ranked was evaluation report used to modify project (wms = 3.28).

Demonstrating program results is the evaluation of program processes and outcomes using acceptable research methods and informing stakeholders of the results of those evaluations. Demonstrating program results often is difficult for community based programs; yet the outcomes of including evaluation of program activities can become important for program success (Mancini, Marek, Byrne & Huebner, 2004). To support sustainability, evaluation must assess the intervention and subsequent program modifications, focusing on measurable program results (The Finance Project, 2002; O'Loughlin *et al.*, 1998).Evaluation findings can then be used to leverage current successes for securing future funding and for establishing program professionals among experts in the community (Holder and Moore, 2000).

Table 3: Rank order frequency of sustainability elements under demonstrating project result

Demonstrating results	program	Weighted Score	Mean	Rank
Projects success made known to the community		3.95		1
Projects success made known to funder		3.88		2
Public relations strategies put in place		3.51		3
Evaluation activities conducted on regular basis		3.35		4
Evaluation report use to modify project		3.28		5
Mean = 3.59, S.D.= 0.31				

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Table 4 revealed the rank order frequency of sustainability indicator under staff involvement and integration. It was staff involvement and integration under six sustainability elements. Staff committed to project mission and vision (wms = 3.86) ranked 1st, staff were flexible and creative (wms = 3.85) ranked 2nd, staff were adequately trained (wms = 3.79) ranked 3rd, staff involved in project evaluation (wms = 3.63) ranked 4th, staff involved in project decision making (wms= 3.23) ranked 5th while the least ranked was staff were indigene of project community (wms = 2.08).

Staff involvement and integration is the inclusion of committed, qualified staff in program design, implementation, evaluation, and decision making. Staff involvement develops a culture that values broad-based participation in working toward program sustainability and success (Goodman & Steckler, 1998). Supporting program goals occurs more readily when staff are important components in the organization and make the organization their own. Having staff who are indigenous to the community being served strengthens the ties between staff and the environment (Holder and Moore, 2000). Further, program longevity is increased when staff education and training are matched with program goals and needs, and

when staff possess competent performance levels (O’Loughlin *et al.*, 1998).

Table 4: Rank order frequency of sustainability indicator under staff involvement and integration

Elements of staff involvement and integration	Weighted Score	Mean	Rank
Staff committed to project mission and vision	3.86		1
Staff are flexible and creative	3.85		2
Staff are adequately trained	3.79		3
Staff involved in project evaluation	3.63		4
Staff involved in project decision making	3.23		5
Staff are indigenes of project community	2.08		6
Mean = 3.41			

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Collaborating local decision makers in community project activities enhance sustainability of the World Bank assisted projects. Therefore, local decision makers should always be allowed to contribute significantly to the implementation and maintenance of agricultural projects, in order to ensure the sustainability of such projects. Project success made known to the community increases sustainability of the World Bank assisted projects. Thus, community should know success made in the projects. This will motivate beneficiaries and other stakeholder to continue to intensify efforts in making the project more successful. Staff commitment to project mission and vision aids sustainability of the World Bank assisted projects. Staffs should thus be motivated with vehicles (for mobility), good funding and robust salary.

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