
Impacts of Good Governance and Community Development

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Abstract

The concept of governance and how good governance are intertwined for the achievement of results. It is often said that no country can develop beyond the level of its governance. The predicament of Nigeria in terms of underdevelopment and corruption can be addressed to the problem of governance. Nigeria needs committed leaders who will govern with integrity and doggedly influence its human and natural resources towards the actualization of sustainable community development. This paper is descriptive. It looks at the place of good governance in the actualization of overall community development in Nigeria. Transformational leadership viewpoints are examined vis-à-vis, diverse impediments to community development in Nigeria, as vital to feasible and substantial national development. The paper recommends that; the leader who govern should be made accountable by publicly declaring what they have been able to achieve in terms of performance as well as how much was expended in every sector on a yearly basis amongst others.

Introduction

Nigeria is one of the world's leading oil producers, it has a variety of mineral resources, the diversity of its vegetation and climate holds great potential for producing rich combinations of agricultural products and indeed, endowed human resources. However, at the heart of Nigeria multiple development problems are fundamental crises of leadership and governance that can be attributed to a history characterized by corruption, social injustice and political instability. The result has been the continued marginalization of the Nigerian people, intensification of poverty, underdevelopment of the economy and corruption. Nigeria has a huge natural resource base, and the potential to translate this to sustainable economy growth that would drastically reduce poverty and make the country a strong partner in the global community nations. Despite its potentials, the country has not been particularly successful, in using its resources for the general good and sustainable development.

Nigeria has seen a number of ineffective governments with various leaders, betraying the trust of the people and people have no say over how they are governed; and how accountable their government is to them. The military rule undermined development of democratic institutions, culture of accountability and transparency and is characterized by absence of citizen's influence and oversight. Unfortunately again, this democratic dispensation, the imperative of politics and administration of representation using the ballot box, is being compromised. Hence, people's wishes are overridden and desire with regards to electing their representatives and consequently revealing their preference for the character of governance is denied. Therefore, representatives become more engaged in patronage and self-serving activities, they are neither responsible to their oaths of the office nor responsive to the yearnings of the people. Thus, the absence of people in the political process incapacitated them from holding the political leaders accountable for their decisions and actions, hence, people are subjected to arbitrary rule. In those conditions, good governance becomes a rare commodity, the result has been diminished economic

development, reduced social cohesion, a heightened level of corruption and high state of insecurity, all of which undermined political stability.

Nigerians are living in very trying times, dissatisfied with the present where so much is going wrong. Poverty, corruption, indiscipline, greed and a glaring lack of accountability, unsure of the future. Why have this obnoxious trend characterized Nigeria communities? Answer to this, point to one direction. The quality of governance, according to Gen. Buhari (1998). There is manifestly the death of leadership everywhere in the world, not first Political leadership but also spiritual, social, organizational, national and international. The global, social, economic and political crises were derived from lack of capable and visionary governance that leads by percepts and work competence to sacrifice and self-denial.

Besides, good governance eludes Nigeria for other such reasons as the difference or peculiarities of our political history, socio-cultural differences as informed by tribalism, sectionalism and more recently, the sentimental use of religion bigotry. When society displays apparent docility against wrong policies and actions, then they have lost sense of responsibility for positive change and indeed social and moral conscience. Significant factor to this negative attitude is grinding poverty, which has incapacitated the citizens from concern for good governance and change conversely; this is caused by endemic corrupt practices that have cut across all fabric of our social, economic and political life and is indeed, a function of bad governance.

There is an agreement among policy makers, development scholars and institutions that the wealth a nation has as a strong relationship with its type of governance, leadership and social policy framework (Kaufmann, 2013; Bardhan 2005). Leadership is important to demonstrating better quality governance, which enhance social development

Concept of good governance

Recently, good governance has been an important subject in economic development discourse, because of its connection to dissemination which could improve resource allocation, enhance efficiency and increase the prospect of economic growth provided it is made available on time and without being distort .Iyaya and Iyaya (2004) asserted that good governance is a vital pre-requisite for the improvement of wellbeing of the citizen. A general agreement has been throughout Africa that good governance is indispensable for transforming its economy. Certain qualities such as protecting respect for human rights, justice and rule of law: strengthening democracy through participation and pluralism: encouraging transparency, accountability, anti-corruption-policies and practices, and capacity in public administration are connected to the good governance (UNDP 1998,World Bank 1989.) .Good governance is indispensable for institutional growth and development .

According to Akanba (2001), good governance is the capability of government to sustain social peace, guarantee law and order, promote conditions for generating economic growth and ascertain a minimum level of social security. Development will be a mirage where good government is lacking .Good governance hinge on the capacity to exercise power and to make sound decisions over a period of time in economic, social and environment areas (World Bank 2005) .Dickson (2011) posited that, if sectors (power education, Health, Manufacturing etc.) are expected to work, then Nigeria needs good governance so as to be able to actualize its potentials, and improve the wellbeing of the citizens and development in geo-political terms . He said that the word good governance has been perceived as the most significant factor in eradicating poverty, inequality as well as promoting development (Khan, 2007). Many Nigerians are of the opinion that good governance is the only assurance to peace, progress,

stability, free and fair elections; actually, it is seen as the only means to deliver the dividend of democracy.

Dickson (2011). Said that good governance in relation to a popular democracy ought to be hinged on to basic things. First is a constitution fit to be distinct in needs and circumstances of Nigeria as ethno religious, multi-dimensional and political economic structure. Secondly, a leadership fit not only to the pressing needs of Nigerians but the exact needs of its citizens. He further said that, generally, good governance does not call for ordinary type of leadership, but it requires tolerance, breadth of outlook, intellectual Comprehension, hard work selfless devotion statesmanship, a burning sense of mission person etc. to make a success of heading Nigeria as a nation. Gyimah-boadi (2015) opines that, democracy is not ever a furnished project, but it is constantly a work-in-progress that could progress, stagnate or retrogress, subject to the action as well as lapses of the government and governed.

The institution of government ensure people are sovereign, mandate to govern is a contract and the say of majority upheld. In this context therefore, good governance implies a situation where majority says is respected, where government strives in all its policies and action to provide better life for the majority, where social inequalities are minimized, where all stakeholders respect the rule of law, and where the conduct of government is transparent, and accountability is institutionalized (Abubakar, 2008).thus good governance is predicated in a society where leadership and followership adhere to due process, rule of law aid act responsible and responsive to set objective, (either at societal governance or corporate governance).

Transformational leadership theory

Transformation leadership is a leadership approach that causes change in individual and social system. In its ideal form, it creates valuable and positive change in the followers with the end goal of developing followers into leaders. Enacted in its authentic form, transformational leadership enhances the motivation, morale and performance of followers in a variety of mechanisms, such as connecting the follower's sense of identity and self to the mission and the collective identity of the organization, being a role model for followers that inspires them, challenging followers to take greater ownership for their work; and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of followers, so the leader can align followers with task that optimize their performance.

Transformational leadership theory believes that, the challenges facing the world in contemporary times requires leaders with two complementary role, that is, the mover and shaker and the gentle persuader. The mover and shaker is seen as one who achieves transformation in an organization's fortunes, while a gentle persuader transforming leader is viewed as someone who transforms followers to leaders by persuading them to see beyond their own self-centeredness for the good of the whole, he encourages followers to consider long term, rather that immediate need, and to become more of and accepting an organizational goals. Transformational leaders use charisma to provide and captivate followers, with a clear vision of an anticipated future state. Additionally, transformational leaders exhibit individualized consideration, by paying close attention to advise, and treating each follower as individual worthy of respect.

Transformational leadership approach could define an organization's success and failure. The followers under the leadership of transformational leaders are not only more satisfied but they also do better jobs (Yalokwu 2006).

Statement of the Problem

Underdevelopment is one of the major challenge that developing countries including Nigeria had been grappling with over the years. The possibilities for good governance depends on institutional structures and the economic resources available for ensuring governance. In some cases centralized governance structures are inefficient. In other cases decentralized structures turn out to be inadequate, for instance, in India decentralization of power to village level has not improved the efficiency of rural Development. Decentralization of power facilitates the empowerment of people in local communities. It can contribute to more community development.

Centralized and decentralized governance structure have both merits and demerits. Preservation of the environment which is essential for community development cannot be achieved unless the pressure on foreign and natural resource is reduced. This cannot happen in the absence of appropriate prosper rights of local communities. Good governance also depends on appropriate institutions but corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency inefficient and corrupt law enforcement agencies undermine the capacity of institutions to facilitate good governance for community development. Corruption and rent seeking activities can grow even in the economy which have tried to apply outward oriented economy polices if an appropriate institutional environment does not exist. A state which assumes predatory or semi predatory status can systematically incapacitate all institutions for good governance and implementation polices. Thus, formulation of policies cannot ensure effective implementation in the absence of good governance, which in turn cannot be achieved in the absence of appropriate institutions, hence community development require good policies and effective provision of institutions conducive to good governance. Good governance is a critical policy requirement for a successful community and human development, where governance is poor, it is difficult to imagine how equitable development can take place, and where there is inequality the chance that some sections of the community will be high. Indeed, evidence from the past decades since in 1980s show that exception of a few counties such as China, Malaysia and Singapore where some considerable economic progress was realized under autocratic regimes. In the majority of African countries, Asia and Latin America, poor governance has been a cause of continuous poverty and under development, many of these countries are endowed with rich resources, yet the majority of their citizens live in conditions of squalor. Good governance is credited to the needs of the wider population, especially the poor and the vulnerable sections who normally benefit from pro-poor policies and programmes. More importantly, governance should not be understood as the end result but means towards an end to promoting the quality of life for all. To this end necessitated the need for this research.

The objectives of the Study

1. To underscore the relevance of good governance on community development of Nigeria.
2. To examine and ascertain causes of bad governance
3. To examine and ascertain gains achievable for community development if the governance is good

Research questions

- Does good governance affect the performance of citizen in a community?
- Would participation of citizen in governance enhance the community development?
- Are there benefits of good governance to citizens and community?
- Would good governance enhance citizen's commitments to community developments?

Literature Review

Governance is the power of governing it is a specific system by which a political system is ruled. A group of people who make up an administrative body, the state of being governed, it is also accountability for consistent, cohesive policies, processes and decision Makers. Good governance, is governance that is more responsive to the needs of the population, good governance is a major policy. Consideration that makes a difference to development.

Community

The notion of community is largely considered a good thing conjuring up images of shared identity, cohesiveness and a sense of belonging (Gilchrist 2003). Paradoxically communities are also seen as places where social problems exist and where they can be resolved (Lynn 2006). People's sense of community stems from a sense of being linked into networks family, friends, social groups of community, organizations (Ennis and West 2010).

A well connected community is one which has strong internal connections but also has links with people and organizations outside of its boundaries, its edges are permeable allowing ideas, information and resources to flow both ways (Gilchrist 2000). A community is also considered a well-connected community if it tolerates difference, celebrates diversity, a homogenous community is one that has strong bonds but is closed to the outside world Newman and Dale 2005. These communities are often made of the same type of people in relation to areas such as views. A well connected community can provide an alternative to the individualism that is the product of our neo liberal economic system but the community's ability to provide assistance can be exploited by government and utilized to absolve them from having to provide social infrastructure Lynn 2006

Developed community

The policy concept of developed communities was further developed by Egan Review in 2004, which defined developed communities that meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents. The children and other users in the community contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunities and choice, they achieve this in ways that make effective use of natural resources, enhance the environment, promote social cohesion and strengthen economic prosperity. This figure below demonstrates the 8 aspirations essential for developed community.



(Egan, 2004)

2.1 Good governance and community

Governance is a key determinant growth, development and poverty reduction. Governance has been variously defined as “the management of society by the people” (Albrow, 2001), and “the exercise of authority or control to manage a country’s affairs and resources” (Schneider, 1999). Governance is a complex system of interaction among structures, traditions, function (responsibilities) and processes (practices) characterized by three key values of accountability, transparency and participation (USAID, 2002). Governance can also be seen as instrument of the effectiveness of a society’s institutions. If the institution is appropriate and effective, the outcome should be good governance (Duncan, 2003).

Community organization is unique institutions that balance and negotiate relationships between their members, communities traders, the stale and international commercial trader; social capital facilitates these relationship According to Folson (2002), having a business owned and controlled on a cooperative basis help farmers’ entire community. Evidence show that cooperative enable farmer to achieve economic of scale, bargaining power and capacity to invest more in advanced stage of the value chain including storage, processing, marketing and distribution. Besides as community institutions, cooperative devolve decision making to the community spirit and pride (1990).

Today, we live in a world driven by terrifying corporate power and globalization that render individual persons helpless. The most readily available opportunity by which the masses can enjoy, exercise corporate power is through vibrant cooperative that are well managed. It is therefore, of paramount importance that cooperative have governance and management structures together with a certain level of business ability for them to satisfy their shareholders. Good governance principle like transparency, integrity, accountability and fairness that are normally associated with investor owned firms (IOFSs) are also applicable to co-operatives.

In order to get communities owned by many individual persons properly governed and managed, these shareholders elect board of directors to whom they delegate most of their authority. The principle for cohesion of a community model is participation of members, monitoring the management and voicing their interest. Strengthening the importance of participation, feeling of belonging and property, representativeness is crucial for good governance in the deliberation of general assembly meeting looking for the application of the common principles like, participation, accountability, transparency and predictability in the deliberation of general assembly meeting looking for the application of the common principles, values, bye-laws, internal regulation and the community social formation proclamation of 147/1998 itself (Karthiyan, 2008, 2008).

The participation of community unions in the economic activities is affected by their management capacity, experience and access to credit. This is due to lack of good governance practices (Bezabili, 2009).

As a result, it is concluded that good governance emerges through honest application of the prevailing laws and respecting the spirit behind the law (Imran, 2009). Hence it is imperative to evaluate the impact of good governance on community development.

Methodology

An exploratory research design is used for the study. The questionnaire and interview methods were used as instrument to elicit information from the respondent Yamen Taro formula was used to select total population size, about eleven thousand staffs obtained from 18 L.G.A of 3 oil producing states. Edo, Delta and Akwa Ibom states.

The population of the study

The population of this study consists of Local Government administrative staff of 18 local government area of Edo state, 18 local government area of Delta state and 18 local government area of Akwa Ibom state. The population of this study is projected at eleven thousand people derived thus.

Akwa Ibom	Edo state	Delta state
Eastern Obolo – 84,300	Egor – 342,600	Aniocha North – 143,300
Eket – 242,900	Esan central – 137,900	Bomadi – 118,500
Esit eket – 89,000	Esan North East – 159,800	Burutu – 286,700
Essien udim – 271,500	Esan South East – 217,900	Ethiope West – 279,200
Etim Ekpo – 148,800	Esan West – 167,300	Ethiope west – 279,200
Etinan – 237,300	Etsako central – 123,400	Ika North East – 251,800
Ibeno – 105,100	Etsako east – 193,000	Ika South – 230,100
Ibesikpo Asutan – 192,700	Etsako West – 260,700	Isoko North- 197,700
Ibiono ibom – 265,000	Igueben – 92,100	Isoko south – 323,800
Ika – 102,200	Ikpoba-okha – 487,400	Ndokwa East – 142,200
Ikono – 185,00	Oredo - 490,600	Ndokwa West – 206,600
Ikot Abasi – 186,300	Orhionmwon – 241,000	Okpe – 176, 800
Ikot ekpene – 198,700	Oria North East – 180,900	Oshimili North – 163,200
Ini – 139,200	Oria South West – 180,900	Oshimili south 206,600
Itu – 179,600	Owan East – 202,600	Patani – 92,800
Mbo – 143,500	Owan West – 129,800	Sapele – 240,000
Mkpat Enin – 249,100	Uhunmwonde – 159,500	Udu – 196,200
3,215,600	4,235,500	3,727,500

Population of the study = 11,178,900

Sample Size / Sampling Technique

Using Taro Yamane's formula, the sample size of this study will be derived. The choice of this formula is informed by its reliability as it takes into consideration the large population size of the study and the level of error allowed.

The formula is given as

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where; n = Population of the Study

N = population size

e = Level of precision

Sample Size calculation

$$\frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{11,178,900}{1+11,178,900 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{11,178, 900}{11,178,900 \times 0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{11,178,900}{27,947.2525}$$

n = 399.99
n = 400

Sample Size of the Study is therefore 400

Results and Discussion

Base on the data collected using the interview and the questionnaire as instruments and the empirical analysis carried out, the following are the findings: that good governance affect the performance of citizens in the community, where governance has a direct relationship with the citizens, it brings the focus to the basic democratic and human right process such as respect for human rights, poverty reduction, responsiveness, equal treatment of citizens etc. That participations of citizens in governance would enhance community development, where due to good governance appropriate institutions are instituted in the society and the people in the society are involved in decision making. Thus the civil community with the governed, their communities development is enhanced.

The more good governance is, the more benefits the citizen and the community achieve, a good governance is a critical condition for community development, as the UNDP (2002) defined good governance as “democratic governance” where respect for human rights is enhanced, participation in decision making is upheld, accountability, poverty eradication, fairness etc. All these conditions are essential to benefits citizens and the community.

Good governance enhances citizen’s commitment to community development as indicated in question n0. 4 where more than 85% of the workers confirmed their good governance enhances citizen’s commitment to community development. Where governance has a direct relationship with the citizens in the community, the governance will therefore base his governing on basic democratic principles such as human rights principles, people’s participation in decision making, accountability, poverty reduction, responsiveness, equal treatment of citizens, impartiality, anti-corruption. Measure and distribution of resources and services to different section of the community of the governance is good and has good impact on the development of the nation at large.

Conclusion

Good governance is a comprehensive and better means of satisfying the diverse needs of citizens in the community. And the diverse ways to meet these needs are the involvement of citizens in decision making, adhering the democratic principles; good government for community development depend on appropriate institutions to facilitate good governance, so therefore if appropriate institutions together with democratic principles in an era of governance, then good governance will be achieved and the impact will be seen in the development of the communities which in turn enhance national development.

Recommendations

The level of corruption, and bad governances are antithetical to economic growth hence community development. Also, the paradox that Nigerian Situation exhibits is not only shameful but also embarrassing, majority of Nigerians are suffering with the midst of abundance resources in this correction.

- The leaders who govern should be made accountable by law to publicly declare what they have been able to achieve in terms of performance, an well as how much was expenses in every sector on a yearly basis.

- The leaders should be committed to due process, good governance, transparency, accountability and society responsibility.
- Implementation of policies should be people oriented and deeply orient.
- Government should have the courage to prosecute and punish most who sabotage her efforts at eradicating corruption.
- Political allegiance and continuity of programmes, project and services
- Broad base economic growth and equality.

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