

CONSTRAINTS TO COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (CSDP) IMPLEMENTATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study on Constraints to Community and Social Development Projects (CSDP) Implementation in Rural Communities was conducted in North Central Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of all beneficiaries of CSDP in North Central states of Nigeria which include Niger, Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kwara and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. A sampling frame was developed for each of the rural communities selected and using proportional allocation of 20 % (0.2) across board, a total sample size of 459 respondents was obtained. Data for the study were collected from primary sources using a questionnaire. Data gathered were analyzed using frequency distribution, percentages and mean scores for socioeconomic characteristics of the participants and factor analysis were used to analyze the constraints facing successful implementation of CSDP project in the study area. The result unveiled many problems that confronted the implementation of CSDP in North Central Nigeria to include; corrupt attitudes of both development officials and the community elites, rural elite super-heading projects as an avenue for self-enrichment and political gains, community development officials in like manner fall victim to the same offence by receiving gratification to render service which are supposed to be given free of charge, time frame, poor maintenance of project facility among others.

Keywords: Constraints, Community, Social, Development, Projects, Implementation, Rural and Communities

1. INTRODUCTION

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 the Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP) which came to effect in 2004 (CSDP, 2011). The areas of linkages between the current Nigeria's development focus and CSDP are those which address Community Driven Developments (CDD) which are socially inclined, engendering social inclusion through gender equality and people's participation, creation of job opportunities and wealth 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 utilization as well as participatory budgeting and financial management in key development sectors (CSDP, 2011). 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 frameworks. The principles of CSDP are geared towards enhancing accelerated community and social development at grass root levels where developments have been limited over the years by absence of resources, lack of accountability and transparency in governance among others (CSDP, 2011).

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Several government development programmes and policies have evolved over the years and were targeted at rural transformation. Despite all these developmental efforts, Bello (2007), reported that the North Central Nigeria is still generally under developed due to lack of modern infrastructural facilities such as pipe borne water, electricity, hospitals, all season roads, communication services, organized markets, among others. Therefore, rural and agricultural underdevelopment looms in North Central Nigeria. This trend is worrisome and could probably be responsible for mass exodus of young people from the rural areas to urban areas. The objective of this study was to identify constraints to the implementation of the Community and Social Development Project on rural communities in North Central Nigeria.

2. Methodology

This study was carried out in North Central Nigeria. The North Central or Middle Belt is a human geographical term designating the region of central Nigeria which comprise of Benue, Plateau, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa and Niger states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) populated largely by minority ethnic groups and stretching across the country longitudinally. North Central Nigeria lies between latitude $4^{\circ} 30'N$ and $11^{\circ} 20'N$ of the equator and longitude $3^{\circ}E$ and $14^{\circ}E$ of the Greenwich Meridian (FAO, 2004). The area occupies a land mass of about 296,898 Km² and a population of 21,566,993 million people (National population commission) (NPC, 2006) representing 15.35 % of Nigeria's population.

The population of this study consisted of all beneficiaries of CSDP in North Central states of Nigeria which include Niger, Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kwara and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Fifty percent of the states were selected randomly to give three states out of the six states in the North Central. Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau states were selected randomly Multi-stage

sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 458 respondents. The first stage involved the random selection of fifty percent of the six states in the north central to ensure effective coverage and representation of communities. The second stage was the selection of ten percent of the local government area from each of the three states using simple random sampling technique. This led to the selection of two Local Governments areas each from Plateau and Benue States and one Local Government Areas from Nasarawa States. The third stage involved the purposive sampling of two communities from each of the selected local government areas participating in CSDP giving a total of ten (10) communities. Finally, a sampling frame was developed for each of the rural communities selected and using proportional allocation of 20 % (0.2) across board, a total sample size of 459 respondents was obtained.

Data for this study were collected from primary sources. Primary data were collected through a well-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of sections A and B. Section A dealt with the socioeconomic characteristics of the participants and section B focused on constraints to effective implementation of CSDP projects. The research instrument was validated by pilot testing and passing it through erudite scholars in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi to ensure that it possessed both face and content validity. To ensure the reliability of the research instrument questionnaires were administered twice to the same group of twenty respondents in different occasions at the interval of two weeks to ensure that it is reliable that is using test and retest this is done to reduce error within a short time and ensure consistency. The scores obtained were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient for scores obtained at interval level, while Spearman's Rank (rho) Correlation Coefficient was used for scores obtained at the ordinal level. The Correlation Coefficient value of 0.6 was obtained thus confirming the reliability of the research instrument.

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis of data. Descriptive statistics, such as frequency distribution, percentages and mean scores were used to analyze socioeconomic characteristic of the participants and factor analysis were used to analyze the constraints facing successful implementation of CSDP project in the study area.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of the analyzed data are as presented below.

3.1. Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

The result on respondent's sex distribution is as shown in Table 1. This shows that most (56.6%) of the respondents in Benue State were males and 43.3% were females, in Nasarawa state most (56.1%) were males and 43.9% were females while 67.3% were males and 32.7% were female in Plateau State. The pooled result shows that 58.70% of the respondents were males whereas 41.3% were females. This shows that both sexes were adequately represented in the CSDP with slight variation in favour of the male respondents. The dominance of male in the project could be as a result of cultural, religious and social factors which limit female participation in social activities. This could increase the level of involvement of the community members because most of the male members as household heads could influence the participation of their members in

community projects. This was expected as males dominate most of the activities in rural communities in Nigeria (Attah and Ejembi, 2015). Similar results have been obtained by Singh *et al.*, (2015) who reported 57.8 % and 42.2 %, male and female respectively similarly, Okereke-Ejiogu *et al.* (2015) reported that majority of the respondents (68.1%) as male while 31.9 were female. This could be as a result of local customs that deny women participation in most social organization, local customs that relegate women or forbid their participation in public activities can limit their contributions to community development, more so, some women in rural communities are not engaged in substantial income generating activities and may thus be discouraged from participating in community development projects that involve the payment of money. Results in Table 1 also reveal that greater percentages (41.5 %) of the respondents in Benue State were aged between 41 and 60 years, 39.0 % were aged 21 – 40 years. Another 13 % were above 60 years among others. In Nasarawa state, a greater percentage (43.2 %) were aged between 21 - 40 years, 36.2 % were within the age bracket of 41 – 60 years . while 17.1 % were above 60 years old. The majority (61.4 %) of the respondents in Plateau were within the age bracket of 21 to 40 years, while 26.7 % of the respondents were within the age bracket of 41 – 60 among others. The pooled result revealed that about 44.2 percent fell within the age group of 21- 40 years. This was followed by the 41-60 years age group, which represented 36 percent. The result shows that the project participants were still in their economically active ages. Young people are less conservative and could easily engage in any thing that could bring about positive changes in their communities. Also, their physical strength could promote their involvement in community development projects. The results of an average age of 38 years is lower than average age of 45 years reported by Othman (2006) on the impact of community Based Organizations on rural development. The mean age of 38 years in this result is also slightly lower than the 41 years which was reported by Oghenekohwo (2014) meaning that the men were in their productive age and women in their active reproductive years. This is a clear indication that they could handle the rigorous activities involved in community development work. Age is considered an important variable in rural community development because of its influence on people's attitude, skills and aspiration.

Greater percentages (71.1%) of the respondents in Benue state were married, among others. Also, about 57 % were married in Nasarawa while 58.5 % were married in Plateau state among others. These results are not unexpected because, marriage is considered important for matured individuals in the North Central. The pooled result shows that majority of the respondents (60.5 %) were married compared to 30.5 percent who were single and 3.0 percent who were divorced. This indicates the importance attached to marriage institution in the study area which necessitates the need for more infrastructures such as the maternity centres and educational facilities to cater for the expected increasing number of every child. This shows that most of the respondents who are married have greater responsibility, which may encourage them to be committed towards their participation in CSDP-Project, as the major beneficiaries of the projects. This finding is similar to the findings of Mbam and Nwibo (2013) and Oghenekohwo (2014) who reported that 64.2 and 67.9 percent of the respondents respectively were married.

Entries in Table 1 indicate that 47.5% of the respondents in Benue state had farming as a major occupation while 40.5% were self-employed among others. Similarly in Nasarawa state 35.2% were engaged in farming among others. In Plateau State, majority of the respondents (38.6%)

were farmers, another 32.7% were self-employed, another 25.7% were civil servants, and the least was 2.0% who were engaged in petty trading. The pooled results show that majority (42.2%) are farmers. The project members being mainly farmers imply that the communities are rural. According to Ekong(2008), agriculture is the major occupation of rural people, considering the deplorable conditions of social amenities in most rural communities in Nigeria, there is a need for concerted effort among the people and collaboration with external agencies to bring about development. This result is similar to the findings of Okereke-Ejiogu *et al.*, (2015) who reported that farming is the predominant occupation in rural communities although people engaged in other activities. The 40.3 percent reported in this study is slightly lower than that of Singh *et al.*, (2015) who reported that more than (50%) of the respondents were farmers. These findings are supported by reports of Singh (2009), that agriculture is the pre dominant activity occurring in the rural communities and considered the village economy.

Entries in Table 1 indicate that 39.9% of the respondents in Benue state had secondary education, while 31.6% had primary education among others. In Nasarawa state, 54.8% had secondary education, followed by 16.6% who had primary education, 14.1% had tertiary education, while 12.5% had non-formal education. Similarly, in Plateau state 53.5% had tertiary education, 31.7% had secondary education, and 9.9% had non- formal education among others. Analysis of the educational qualification of respondents in the pooled results shows that majority of the respondents (44.5%) had Secondary School Certificates, (23.4%) had various Tertiary Certificates, while (19.2%) had Primary School Leaving Certificates, and (12.9%) had non-formal education. This implies that about 87.1percent of the respondents had formal education. The dominance of people that acquired formal education in the project could enhance understanding and decision making.Acquisition of formal education could promote cohesion and synergy among people.Theron (2005) argues that illiteracy is an inhibiting factor to participation in community development projects.According to him illiterate people could be marginalized during professional and technical community communication during the community participation process. This result is similar to that of Onumadu and Udemgba, (2012)who recorded that (82.1 %) of the respondents had one form of formal education or the other. The result also corroborates that of Okereke-Ejiogu *et al* (2015) who reported that majority (97.2%) of the respondents had one form of formal education or another. The acquisition of formal education will afford community members the opportunity to participate in developmental projects as educated people are more likely to access information from print and electronic media about projects that can add value to quality of living and poverty reduction.

The results in Table 1 further show that 58.5% were members of one form of association or the other in Benue State, while 41.5% did not belong to any association. Relatively high percentages (90 %) of the respondents were members of one form of association or the other in Nasarawa, while 10% of /the respondents did not belong to any association. Also, in Plateau state, 53.4% belong to one form of association or the other, while 56.5% did not belong to any association. It could be said that majority of the respondents belonged to one form of organization or the other which can facilitate understanding of the program due to interaction among them. The pooled results shows that majority of the respondents (71.2%) belonged to one form of social organization or another whereas (28.8%) did not belong to any social organization. This result is similar to that of Okereke-Ejiogu (2015) who reported that majority (91.2%) of respondents were

members of social organizations. Membership of a social organization offers members the opportunity to engage in collective action. Social organizations provide platforms for collective identification of needs and pooling of resources to meet them.

The Results show that 42.1% of the respondents in Benue state had a household size between 6 and 10 persons while 37.7% had a household size of 1 - 5 among others. In Nasarawa state, a greater percentage(48.7%) had a household size of 1 – 5 persons, 42.7% had household size of between 8 – 10 persons among others. Furthermore, most of the respondents in Plateau state most (48.5%) had a household size of 6 – 10 persons, 38.6% had a household size of between 1 and 6 persons, followed by 10.9% having a household size of 11 – 15 persons and 2.0% had a household size of 10 -20 persons.

Table1: Distribution of Respondents Based on socio-Economic characteristics

Characteristics	Benue		Nasarawa		Plateau		NorthCentral		— X
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F		
Sex									
Male	90	56.6	111	56.1	68	67.3	269	58.70	
Female	68	43.3	88	43.9	33	32.7	189	41.3	
Age(years)									
1-20	10	6.3	34	17.1	9	8.9	53	11.5	
21-40	62	39.0	86	43.2	62	61.4	210	45.7	
41-60	66	41.5	72	36.2	27	26.7	165	36.0	38
>60	20	13.2	7	3.5	3	3.0	30	6.8	
MaritalStatus									
Single	30	18.9	63	31.8	40	39.5	140	36.5	
Married	112	71.1	112	56.5	59	58.5	277	60.5	
Divorced	16	10.1	23	11.6	2	2.0	41	3.0	
Educational Attainment									
Non-formal	20	12.7	29	14.6	10	9.9	59	12.9	
Primary	50	31.6	33	16.6	5	5.0	88	19.2	
Secondary	63	39.9	109	54.8	32	31.7	204	44.5	
Tertiary	25	15.8	28	14.1	54	53.5	107	23.4	
	158		199		101		458		
HouseholdSize									
1-5	59	37.7	97	48.7	39	38.6	195	42.6	
6-10	67	42.1	85	42.7	49	48.5	200	43.9	
11-15	27	17.0	12	6.0	11	10.9	50	10.9	
16-20	5	3.1	5	2.5	2	2.0	12	2.6	
	158		199		101		458		
MajorOccupation									
Farming	75	47.5	71	35.2	39	38.6	184	42.2	
Civilservice	18	11.4	26	13.1	26	25.7	72	15.7	
SelfEmployed	64	40.5	70	35.2	33	32.7	169	36.9	
PetyTrading	1	0.6	32	16.1	2	2.0	33	7.2	
AnnualIncome									
<200,000	64	40.51	80	40.20	67	66.34	211	46.07	
200,001 –	55	34.81	45	22.61	12	11.88	112	24.45	

400,000	21	13.29	16	8.04	11	10.89	48	10.48
400,001-600,000	18	11.39	58	29.15	11	10.89	87	18.60
>600,000								
Membership of Organizations								
No	66	41.5	20	10	47	46.5	132	28.8
Yes	92	58.5	179	90	54	53.5	326	71.2

The pooled results also showed that a greater percentage (43.9%) had a household size of 6 to 10. This result is similar to Agbo (2014) and Ajah and Ajah (2014) who reported an average household size of 8 persons in their various studies. The findings were also in agreement with that of Ayoola *et al.* (2011) and Alexander (2002) which reported that large household size characterize typical African societies with large blood relations. The large family size is justified in the role of increased hands on the farm in a manually or traditionally driven agricultural sector. Ejembi (2004) posited that a large household size enable such household to have sufficient workforce to enhance effective management of resources which invariably can guarantee steady income flow and consequently improve standard of living.

Result of annual income presented in Table 1 show that in Benue state 40.51% had annual income of ₦200,000.00 or less than ₦200,000.00, while 34.81% had annual income of ₦200,000 to 400,000 among others. In Nasarawa state, 40.2 % had an annual income of ₦200,000.00 or less than ₦200,000.00, while 29.15 % had annual income greater than ₦600,000.00 among others.

The result also indicate that a greater proportion (66.34 %) of respondents in Plateau state had an average annual income of ₦200,000 or less than ₦200,000 and 11.88 % had annual income of ₦200,001. 00 to ₦400,000.00 among others. The pooled result shows that 46.07 % had annual income of ₦200,000.00 or less among others. Earning of income by the people could enable them participate actively in the projects. Sometimes, beneficiary communities are mandated to contribute certain amount of money for projects. However, people's participation and perception of projects tend to be high when they contribute financially; they begin to see the projects as theirs. Thangata *et al.*; (2002) argue that households with higher income are more likely to participate in projects than those with lower income.

3.2 Constraints to the Implementation of CSDP Project

The results in Table 2 show that eleven (11) out of the twenty one (21) listed constraints were serious in the implementation of CSDP in Benue state and they include, poor project implementation (M=2.91), poor planning (M=2.40), poor maintenance of project facility (M=2.37), lack of sustainability (M=2.33), poor supervision (M=2.00), low participation of women (M=2.00), community politics (M=2.00), elite capture (M=2.00) and poor leadership skills of CPMC (M=2.00).

Similarly, respondents indicated seventeen (17) out of the twenty one (21) listed constraints were regarded as serious constraints in Plateau and these include poor project implementation (M=2.26), conflicts among leaders (M=2.19), elite capture (M=2.18), community politics

(M=2.17), poor leadership skills of CPMC (M=2.13), embezzlement and diversion of funds (M=2.12), poor supervision of projects (M=2.10), inadequate training of project participants (M=2.09), untimely release of funds (M=2.06), poor targeting of projects due to poor leadership (M=2.06), unwillingness of the community members to participate in the project (M=2.06), lack of sustainability (M=2.05), lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects by project staff (M=2.04), poor planning (M=2.04), high illiteracy of project participants (M=2.03), non-involvement of community members in the design and implementation of projects (M=2.02) and cultural barriers hindering participation (M=2.01).

In contrast, only one (1) constraint which was poor maintenance of project facility (M=2.82) was reported by the respondents in Nasarawa state and one as well as North Central Nigeria which was poor maintenance of project facility (M=2.47).

The many problems that confronted the implementation of the project in Plateau and Benue state could be attributed to the corrupt attitudes of both development officials and the community elites. It is a common feature to hear of various situations where rural elite super-head projects as an avenue for self-enrichment and political gains. Community development officials in like manner, fall victim to the same offence by receiving graft to render service which are supposed to be given free of charge. Time frame stipulated by donor agents must have led to the poor planning and subsequently poor maintenance of project facility.

This impeded sustainability of the project. These findings are similar to that of Shaibu (2014) who reported that many constraints such as inadequate funding, mismanagement of projects funds, social political problems and lack of co-operation among stakeholders affected the provision of community projects. This was further corroborated by Othman (2006) who reported major constraints to the effective implementation of projects as inadequate funding, politics, and lack of capacity building/training. Tomoriet *al.* (2005) also reported that poor planning was a major constraint of most past policies, strategies and interventions.

Othman (2006) also reported that lack of education among women, problem of leadership, politics, funding and awareness of the activities, capacity building and training were among the constraints that limit the impact of community based organizations on rural development. According to Verhelst (1990), rural development is meaningful when applied with the traditional knowledge and cultural values of the community.

A study by Magano (2008) emphasized human element as a contributing factor to the success of every project. Pietrese (2001) observed that lack of management and leadership is the major contributing factor to failure of projects. He went further to state that poor people management by the project manager, both in terms of managing the project team and in terms of communication to the project customer was a main factor contributing to the failure of projects. Mansuri and Rao (2004) observed that the success of participatory projects may also be affected by how well heterogeneity is managed, by what resource and strategies are used to bring communities together and how effectively differences are debated.

These authors also reported that the quality and sustainability of projects is improved by community cohesion and social capital. Nzau-Muteta (2005) also reported that project

sustainability essentially depend on the process initiated to ensure effective ownership of project beneficiaries. Pietrese (2001) further indicated that lack of management and leadership is the major contributing factor to failure of projects.

Table 2: Constraints to the Implementation of CSDP Project

Activities	BenueState		Nasarawa State		PlateauState		NorthCentral	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
<i>LowlevelofawarenessofCSDP</i>								
<i>Inadequatefunding</i>	1.27	0.52	1.00	0.00	1.84	.69	1.28	.65
<i>Untimelyreleaseoffunds</i>	1.41	0.69	1.02	0.16	1.96	.76	1.36	.76
<i>Non-involvementofcommunity membersinthedesignand implementationofprojects</i>	1.17	0.54	1.02	0.16	2.06	.72	1.30	.65
<i>Conflictsamongleaders</i>								
<i>Poortargetingofprojectsdueto poorleadership</i>	1.29	0.76	1.01	0.14	2.02	.78	1.34	.66
<i>Unwillingnessofthecomunity memberstoparticipateinthe projects</i>	1.00	.00	1.01	.07	2.06	.72	1.35	.65
<i>Embezzlementanddiversionof projectfunds</i>	1.00	.00	1.00	.00	2.06	.78	1.35	.67
<i>Culturalbarriershindering participation</i>	1.33	.58	1.33	.58	2.13	.77	1.37	.69
<i>Highliteracyofprojects participants</i>	1.00	.00	1.00	.00	2.01	.73	1.34	.63
<i>Lackoftrainingofprojects participants</i>	1.03	.17	1.01	.10	2.03	.75	1.31	.62
<i>Lackofmonitoringandevaluation ofprojectsbyprojectsstaff</i>								
<i>Poorsupervisionofprojects</i>								
<i>Poorplanning</i>								
<i>Lowparticipationofwomen</i>								
<i>Communitypolitics</i>								
<i>Lackofcounterpartfund</i>								
<i>Poorprojectimplementation</i>								
<i>Poorleadershipskills ofCPMC</i>								
<i>Lackofsustainability</i>								
<i>Poormaintenanceofproject facility</i>								

Mean cut-off \geq 2.0

3.3 Factor Analysis of Constraints to the Implementation of CSDP Projects

Table 3 shows the results of rotated component matrix indicating constraints associated with the implementation of CSDP Projects in the study area namely; factor 1 and factor 2. Despite the fact that the effects of the CSDP were high showing that the projects significantly affected the lives of the participants, they are still constraints militating the implementation of the CSDP. This may imply that more are still required to be done to help the staff, donor agents and beneficiaries overcome such problems.

Factor 1 is simply described as project participants' related constraint with the following factors loading high, low participation of women (0.808), high illiteracy level of project participants (0.858), community politics (0.753) and poor maintenance of project facility (0.826). Others are conflict among leaders (0.811), counterpart funding (0.810), lack of sustainability (0.675) and poor planning (0.693). High illiteracy level of participants loaded high even though it has been reported that majority of the respondents in the study area had former education they do not have technical skills to handle some of the technical projects.

These may have limited their ability to effectively participate in planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of projects such as ICT centres, rural roads, electricity, boreholes etc in the study area. This result is similar to that of Shamiyulla and Rama (2010) who reported that community member's literacy level, living standard and economic factors contribute to the success of participation in projects that require some level of technicality. This is further corroborated by Chifamba (2013) finding that levels of participation in social and civic community life are significantly influenced by individuals' socioeconomic status and other demographic characteristics.

Poor maintenance of project facility loading high could be attributed to the cost of operating and maintaining them. A great proportion of the respondents are low income earners and the user fees normally charged are quite small so the cost of maintaining these projects are higher than what the community members can afford thus limiting the community participation. This concurs with Gleitsman (2005) report that community ability to operate, maintain and repair projects is influenced by the cost and level of technology.

Factor 2 is described as project institutional and funding factor and they include, inadequate funding (0.885), poor project implementation (0.883), low awareness of CSDP (0.687) and lack of training of project participants. Inadequate funding could be attributed to the project financial budget ceiling for each community and most times financiers determine decisions as to which project is to be funded. This is similar to the study by Mutegi (2015) who reported those budget envelopes are determined by the donor agents who are also in charge of monitoring and evaluation.

Untimely release of counterpart funds could delay project kick-off which might weaken the credibility of the people on the service provided. It may also discourage the continued participation of partnering agencies especially the foreign ones, thus jeopardizing the sustainability of the projects. On the other hand respondents reported serious low awareness of

CSDP. This low level of awareness of the CSDP, more efforts needs to be put into mobilizing a greater percentage of the community for greater success in the programme.

Table 3: Factor Analyses of Constraints for the Implementation of CSDP Projects

Variables	Component	
	Factor 1	Factor 2
Low awareness of CSDP	0.330	0.687
Inadequate funding	0.231	0.885
Untimely release of funds	0.222	0.426
Non-involvement of community members in design and implementation	0.344	0.398
Conflicts among leaders	0.811	0.365
Poor targeting of projects due to poor leadership	0.328	0.331
Unwillingness of community members in the project	0.265	0.199
Embezzlement and diversion of project funds	0.321	0.357
Cultural barriers hindering participation	0.421	0.282
High illiteracy of project participants	0.858	0.239
Lack of training of project participants	0.442	0.859
Lack of monitoring and evaluation of projects by project staff	0.399	0.353
Poor supervision of projects	0.227	0.312
Poor planning	0.693	0.322
Low participation of women	0.808	0.196
Community politics	0.753	0.357
Counterpart funding	0.810	0.330
Poor project implementation	0.310	0.883
Poor leadership skills of the CPMC	0.549	0.741
Lack of sustainability	0.675	0.425
Poor maintenance of project facility	0.826	0.310

Extraction method: Principal component analysis

Rotation method: Varimax with Kaiser Nominalization

4. Conclusion

The study concluded that most of the respondents were male but they were more male participants in Plateau when compared to Benue and Nasarawa. Also participants in Nasarawa and Plateau were younger than those of Benue state, with most of them being married. Educationally, most participants in Plateau state had tertiary institution as compared to participants in Benue and Nasarawa who had secondary education. Furthermore a great number of participants across the three states have many people in their household while majority in Benue and Plateau states were farmers, a good number of participants in Nasarawa were either farmers or self-employed with majority belonging to one social organization or another. Overall, it is concluded that CSDP project has significantly affected the rural communities in North Central; Nigeria and community members were satisfied with the project.

The many problems that confronted the implementation of the project in Plateau and Benue state could be attributed to the corrupt attitudes of both development officials and the community elites. It is a common feature to hear of various situations where rural elite supers-head projects as an avenue for self enrichment and political gains. Community development officials in like manner, fall victim to the same offence by receiving graft to render service which are supposed to be given free of charge. Time frame stipulated by donor agents must have led to the poor planning and subsequently poor maintenance of project facility. This impeded sustainability of the project.

A great proportion of the respondents are low income earners and the user fees normally charged are quite small so the cost of maintaining these projects are higher than what the community members can afford thus limiting the community participation. Untimely release of counterpart funds could delay project kick-off which might weaken the credibility of the people on the service provided. It may also discourage the continued participation of partnering agencies especially the foreign ones, thus jeopardizing the sustainability of the projects. Low level of awareness of the CSDP was also a major constraint to implementation of CSDP projects in rural communities in North Central Nigeria.

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