

**TITLE PAGE**

**EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY OF EKITI STATE (2010 - 2014)**

**A LONG ESSAY SUBMITTED**

**BY**

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# CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that, this research project on the exploration of the rural development policy and rural development in Ekiti State (2010 - 2014), is written by Showemimo Aminat Oluwatoyin with Matriculation Number SOC/11/0239 under my supervision.



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## **DEDICATION**

This research project is dedicated to almighty God, for He reigneth forever and also to my darling parents, Engr. and Mrs. S.S.Showemimo, My wonderful siblings, Mr Oluwatosin Showemimo, Oluwaseun Showemimo and Oluwashola Showemimo

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## ABSTRACT

*The role of rural infrastructural developmental policy in improving the welfare of rural inhabitant cannot be over-emphasized. Rural areas provide the general populace with food and also agricultural activities are carried out there, which is one of the main sources of export for the economy. Agricultural produce in rural areas is one of the main sources of income for the farmer thereby providing them with source of income to make a living. Poor rural development policy can hamper the growth and development of basic infrastructural facilities in rural community which in turn can fuel rural- urban migration. Rural urban migration is a big problem to economic development. Ekiti-state rural development program has not been so really encouraging as many youth in rural areas migrate to urban cities for white collar job and other basic amenities which the rural areas lacks or is not sufficient. This necessitated the need to examine the impact of rural development policy of Ekiti –State from 2010-2014. The study was conducted in Ekiti state. Data were collected from 156 respondents with the use of questionnaire in selected local government areas in the three senatorial districts in the state. Data were analysed using SPSS and presented using frequency tables and percentage, discussions were made on the basis of the findings and results. The result shows that the rural development policies in the state have not really benefitted majority of the rural populace. This study discusses the level of rural development policies and its impact on the social life of the people. Finally, this study showed that rural developmental policy and strategy in Ekiti state does not represent expectations or desires of the rural dwellers in any way. The study suggests; Government should always review rural areas development policy and strategy, Government should set up monitoring and evaluation group for rural development in Ekiti state, Rural dwellers in any of those rural areas should be involved in any project meant for the rural areas, Government should provide infrastructural facilities that the rural dwellers need on time.*

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

The role of rural infrastructural developmental policy in improving the welfare of rural inhabitants cannot be over-emphasized. Rural areas provide the general populace with food and also agricultural activities is carried which is one of the main source of export for the economy. Agricultural produce in rural areas is one of the main sources of income for the farmers thereby providing them with source of income to make a living. Poor rural developmental policy hampers the growth and development of basic infrastructural facilities in rural community which in turn fuels rural urban migration. Rural urban migration is a big problem to economic development. Ekiti-state rural development program have not been so really encouraging as many youth in rural areas migrate to urban cities for white collar job, it is necessary to examine the impact of rural development policy of Ekiti –State from 2010 -2014.

Nigeria gained independence in 1960 from the British colonial government. Ever since then, rural or community development has been declared a priority by the successive governments, be it civilian or military. In this regard, several organizations, institutions and agencies have been set up to undertake and monitor the complicated process of nation-building, development and integration. This post colonial orientation is a deviation from the erstwhile colonial arrangement whereby development efforts in all spheres were concentrated in the urban areas to the neglect of rural areas. Hence, projects such as the construction of roads, bridges, schools, railway lines, air trip, ports and marketing boards, among others, were all aimed at opening the rural areas as a link for the easy exploitation of export raw materials.

However, the declared objectives and policy statements of various governments in Nigeria have been mere rhetoric and smoke-screens intended not only to diffuse criticisms but to

hide what the whole thing has been i.e. a systematic exploitation and dehumanization of the rural dwellers. In spite of this criticism, there is no doubt that the Nigerian government and its leaders have not only recognized the fact of the important roles which the rural sector plays in the generation of national wealth but also that over 70% of Nigerians live in rural areas. It is to be noted that Nigeria is not alone in the recognition of these facts. Leaders of the developing countries in Africa have also come to accept the development of rural areas as a sine qua non for national development.

In Nigeria, over the years the stated objectives and strategies of rural and community development have been pronounced by policy makers and those concerned with the issue of development. But there still exists enormous gap between policy formulation and implementation and the reality of the level of the development of the rural populace. For example, several approaches in terms of rural development planning and execution have been adopted. Some of these included the creation of states, local government areas, mobilization of people for local participation in planning and implementation of community development projects in order to create new centres of development, and thus stem the drift from rural to urban areas. A look at the National Development plans of Nigeria from 1975-1985 and other rural development programmes like Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution, River Basin Development Authorities, Agricultural Development Projects and many others have emphasized the need to tackle the problem of rural under-development. On the part of government therefore there is the realization that there is need to bring the neglected rural areas into the mainstream of national development. In an attempt to realize this laudable objective of rural development, various state government in Nigeria have resulted into various rural or community development projects. It is against this backdrop that this study intends to assess the impact of development policy of Ekiti state government on rural development in Ekiti State.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Between 2010-2014, Ekiti state government has embarked on various rural developmental projects such as building of schools, health centers and maternity centers, drainages, boreholes for portable water, markets and asphalt coated roads among others to facilitate development for rural communities in order to enhance good and comfortable living for all and sundry in rural areas. It is also expected to reduce the way and manner people leave rural areas for urban cities, this mar development in the rural areas even when all the necessary amenities are made available and there are no people to use them, those things become dilapidated within short time.

However, it was observed that despite various projects to make life comfortable and alleviate the suffering of the rural communities, many people still live in abject poverty as the benefits of these projects did not touch their life's as it ought to be or expected. This could be attributed to the poor policy implementation or implemented wrongly which is rooted in the lack of clear cut policy objectives at the formulation stages. Poor rural policy development has resulted to many problems among rural youth in Ekiti such as involvement in drugs and other risky uncultured social behaviour. Furthermore, there seems to be a prevalence of high rate of rural urban migration where the youth have to migrate to urban cities like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kaduna or West Africa neighboring nations such as Cotonou, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana etc to look for better employment opportunities going through illegal routes. This in turn creates urban over-crowding and increase in criminal related activities in the cities and countries as the case may be. Due to overpopulation in the urban cities, rural depletion then becomes order of the day; this engenders an increasing lacuna in the area of development between rural and urban places. This study intends to evaluate the impact of rural development policy of Ekiti State government.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

Some questions are germane in the course or carrying out this research, they include;

- i- Is there any rural development strategy in Ekiti state?
- ii- What are the components of this rural development strategy?
- iii- What is the impact of the rural development on the social life of the community?
- iv- Are the provided facilities sufficient?
- v- What are the problems militating rural development in the study area?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The overall objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of development policy of Ekiti state government on rural development in Ekiti state with reference to 2010-2014. The specific objectives of this study are to

- i- Examine the strategies of Rural Development in Ekiti state;
- ii- Identify the rural development strategy in the study area;
- iii- Evaluate the level of development in selected rural areas in Ekiti state;
- iv- Itemize the limitations or obstacles to rural development strategies and;
- v- Proffer solution and recommending for a more functional strategy for rural development.

### **1.5 Scope and limitation of the Study**

The scope of this study is primarily on the exploration of the rural of development policy and rural development in Ekiti state government on rural development in some selected rural areas in Ekiti state. The study is therefore limited to Ekiti state. Some rural areas will be selected for this study.

The study is limited to rural development project executed by Ekiti state government between 2010-2014. The study intends to emphasise the need for effective and function rural development strategy in the study area; an understanding of the present situation in terms of rural development will be made, the strategy in place, its efficiency, and possible limitation to it's progress and why the community has not be rejuvenated economically, finally a functional and sustainable rural development strategy for the success of the study area will be given at the end of this study.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is basically to emphasize and re-awake the attention of the government at all tiers, citizen of the study area and private individual as well as professionals to rural development which is only antidote to a crumbling economic situation in the study area. The rural area has always being acting as a feeder or supporter to the ever demanding urban area, even in present situation, the agricultural products, man-power, artisan and workers of all form of quack professions that serves the flamboyant life of the urban area are all from these neglected rural areas, medically, the whole body parts of a human being operates so as to achieve a healthy functionality of the body metabolism, so is the economic trends or progress of any society.

Our social and economic system is not effective which has led to so many problems like lack of jobs, even when there are no jobs, housing provisions, nor adequate facilities in these urban area, rural urban migration is still on a high rate, putting our society in a situation of the survival of the fittest! the rural area has large expense of land, untapped resources, better environmental condition and more people, therefore it is pertinent that a rural development strategy that can bring about an equilibrium in the socio-economic as well as political condition of our nation is initiated. The need for this should be not be negotiated if we must experience an accelerated economy in the nearest future.

## 1.7 Definition of Terms

**Rural:** The word “rural” connotes a place with agricultural orientation; the houses are farm houses, barns, sheds and other structures of similar purposes.

**Development:** Development must be conceived as a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structure, attitudes and institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty.

**Rural development:** rural development is concerned with the self-sustaining improvement of rural areas and implies a broad based re- organization and mobilization of the rural masses so as to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with the daily task of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this.



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Defining Development

The concept of development is very difficult to define because it is value loaded. It is often equated with economic growth or economic development. Indeed the two concepts are often used interchangeably, but they do not mean the same thing. Economic development is an essential component of development, yet it is not the only one. There are many other aspects of development.

Rodney (1972:9), he defines "development" as: "a many-side process. At the level of the individuals, it implies increased skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being". On the other hand Todaro (1977:96-98) says that:

*"Development must therefore be conceived as a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structure, attitudes and institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty. In essence, development must represent the entire gamut of changes by which the entire social system, turned to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within the system moves away from the conditions of life regarded as materially and spiritually "better".*

This means that development involves the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social system. This also involves, in addition to improvement of income and output, radical changes in institutions, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes, customs and beliefs. The implication of these two definitions is that "development" goes beyond economic indicators. It is both a physical process and a state of mind. The institutions or structures like construction of railways, schools, hospital etc are aspect of development. The second aspect of development is that the people must change their attitudes for

good. Also, Seers (1969:3 as cited in Egbe, 2014) asked certain questions regarding the concept of development. He says that:

*The questions to ask about a country's development are therefore, what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these problems has been growing worse, especially if all three have, it would be strange to call the result development even if per capita income doubled.*

It therefore means that development per se cannot be tied to economic advancement only but a general improvement in the living conditions of the people over time. Development is also aimed at improving the living conditions of the people through the effective management of both the human and materials resources. Thus, Gana (1986:2) noted that "Development concerns the capacity and creative capability of a people to effectively transform the natural resources of their environment into goods and services through the imaginative and practical application of their creative talent and productive power". This implies that the people must be empowered to be able to meet their basic needs of food, housing, health, transport, education, employment, reduction in poverty level and increased per capita income among others. This is what is lacking in the rural areas of Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa where about eighty percent of the population live in the rural areas.

A critical examination of the definition of "development" by the scholars quoted above means that "development" must necessarily include, the reduction or elimination of poverty, illiteracy, disease, malnutrition, joblessness, etc. It is a programme which has the objective and strategy aimed at transforming the citizens in the rural areas from being the victims of poverty, ignorance and disease into a contented human beings, able to earn an income capable of sustaining a reasonable standard of living for themselves and their families. It also means the

ability to provide the basic necessities of life such as food, jobs, affordable and accessible health care, good roads, water, electricity and education, among many other things for the people.

## **2.2 Various Perspectives on Development**

In this sub-heading, we shall discuss the meaning of development, from wide range of perspectives which exists in the literature. It would be an understatement to say that the definition of 'development' has been controversial and unstable over time. As Thomas (2004: 1) argues, development is 'contested, complex, and ambiguous'. Gore (2000: 794-5) notes that in the 1950s and 1960s a 'vision of the liberation of people and peoples' dominated, based on 'structural transformation'. This perception has tended to 'slip from view' for many contributors to the development literature. A second perspective is the definition embraced by international development donor agencies that Thomas notes. This is a definition of development which is directly related to the achievement of poverty reduction and of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There is a third perspective from a group of writers that Hickey and Mohan (2003: 38) broadly identify as 'post-modernists'. The 'post-modern' position is that 'development' is a 'discourse' (a set of ideas) that actually shapes and frames 'reality' and power relations. It does this because the 'discourse' values certain things over others. For example, those who do not have economic assets are viewed as 'inferior' from a materialistic viewpoint.

In terms of 'real development' there might be a new 'discourse' based on 'alternative value systems' which place a much higher value on spiritual or cultural assets, and within which those without significant economic assets would be regarded as having significant wealth. There is, not surprisingly, considerable confusion over the wide range of divergent conceptualizations, as Cowen and Shenton (1998: 50) argue. They differentiate between immanent (unintentional or underlying processes of) development such as the development of capitalism, and imminent (intentional or 'willed') development such as the deliberate process to 'develop' the 'Third

World' which began after World War II as much of it emerged from colonization. A common theme within most definitions is that 'development' encompasses 'change' in a variety of aspects of the human condition. Indeed, one of the simplest definitions of 'development' is probably Chambers' (2004: iii, 2-3) notion of 'good change', although this raises all sorts of questions about what is 'good' and what sort of 'change' matters (as Chambers acknowledges), about the role of values, and whether 'bad change' is also viewed as a form of development.

Although the theme of 'change' may be overriding, what constitutes 'good change's bound to be contested as Kanbur (2006: 5) states, because 'there is no uniform or unique answer'. Views that may be prevalent in one part of the development community are not necessarily shared by other parts of that community, or in society more widely.

### **2.2.1 Development as a long-term process of structural societal transformation**

The first conceptualization is that 'development' is a process of structural societal change. Thomas (2000, 2004) refers to this meaning of development as 'a process of historical change'. This view, of 'structural transformation' and 'long-term transformations of economies and societies', as Gore noted, is one that predominated in the 1950s and 1960s in particular. Today, one might argue that this definition of development is emphasized by the academic or research part of the development community but that there is less emphasis on this perspective in the practitioner part of the development community (as has already been broached in our Introduction).

The key characteristics of this perspective are that it is focused on processes of structural societal change, it is historical and it has a long-term outlook. This means that a major societal shift in one dimension, for example from a rural or agriculture based society to an urban or industrial-based society (what is sometimes called the shift from 'traditional' to 'modern'

characteristics), would also have radical implications in another dimension, such as societal structural changes in the respective positions of classes and groups within the relations of production for example (by which we mean the relationship between the owners of capital and labour). This means that development involves changes to socio-economic structures – including ownership, the organization of production, technology, the institutional structure and laws.

In this conceptualization development relates to a wide view of diverse socioeconomic changes. The process does not relate to any particular set of objectives and so is not necessarily prescriptive. Equally, it does not base its analysis on any expectations that all societies will follow approximately the same development process.

All countries change over time, and generally experience economic growth and societal change. This process has occurred over the centuries, and might be generally accepted as ‘development’ in the context of this discussion. This perspective on development is not necessarily related to intentional or ‘good’ change. Indeed, in some cases development involves decline, crisis and other problematical situations – but all of this can be accommodated within this wide perspective of socio-economic change. Despite its generally non-prescriptive nature this approach has a strong resonance with the ‘meta-narratives’ (meaning overriding theories of societal change that dominated DS during the Cold War.

These were grand visions of societal transformation – either desirable transformation as modernization, or desirable transformation as a process of emancipation from underdevelopment. These are different perspectives which, generally, sought to prescribe their own one common pathway to an industrial society for newly independent countries.

Although these meta-narratives have a strong resonance with the definition of development as structural societal change, they were deemed to be unsatisfactory in explanatory power in the late 1980s. Hickey and Mohan (2003: 4) argue that the failure of this approach to

development theory is one reason why there has been a shift away from defining development as being coterminous with structural change.

### **2.2.2 Development' as a short- to medium-term outcome of desirable targets**

A second perspective on 'development' can be seen in the light of some of the criticisms which have been outlined above. Thomas (2000, 2004) characterizes this second approach as 'a vision or measure of progressive change' and Gore (2000: 794) relates it to 'performance assessment'. This view is narrower in definition and is technocratic or instrumental – indeed, some might argue that it is too technocratic. At its most basic level it is simply concerned with development as occurring in terms of a set of short- to medium-term 'performance indicators' – goals or outcomes – which can be measured and compared with targets (for example changes in poverty or income levels).

It therefore has a much more instrumental element which is likely to be favoured by practitioners within the development community notably in international development agencies. Poverty reduction objectives in general, and the MDGs in particular, now play a major role in the thinking of the international agencies such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (2001), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank (2000) or the bilateral aid agencies.

The key feature of this second perspective is that it is focused on the *outcomes* of change so that it has a relatively short-term outlook, leading some commentators, such as Gore, to label it as 'ahistorical'. This is somewhat problematic to many of the more academic members of the development community because it presupposes a set of (essentially bureaucratic or government) goals or objectives which may not be shared by many of the people who are supposedly benefiting from development. This means that there is a paternalistic assumption as to what is good for people's wellbeing based on a set of universal values and characteristics. This raises the

question of 'ownership' not so much in the context of governments or of countries but more in the context of peoples, and the poor in particular.

In other words there is an issue over whose objectives and values are expressed within the context of this second approach to development, and whether the articulation of the objectives is in any sense democratic or involves the effective participation of civil society. There is a concern that this short-term and instrumental view of development loses the (grand) vision of societal transformation that Gore highlighted, and separates the conception of development from socio-economic structures, social relations and politics. Harriss, for example, argues that the separation of analysis from the social processes of the accumulation and distribution of wealth... (lead to)... depoliticisation....(What is required is a shift) ... explanation of individual deprivation to explanation of inequalities, the distribution of power, wealth and opportunity. (2006: 5)

This echoes concerns that research can act to depoliticize development by taking a technocratic approach (Ferguson, 1994: 19). There is also a major concern that a focus solely on poverty (or, in earlier time periods, on economic growth) will lead to neglect of other important and inter-related dimensions of development.

### **2.2.3 Development' as a dominant 'discourse' of Western modernity**

A third conceptualization of development takes a radically different approach so that direct comparison with the other two outlined in this chapter is difficult. For this reason we intend to give it more attention than the previous approaches. The first two of our characterizations of development are based, respectively, on visions of change and on outcomes. The third definition is based on the view that development has consisted of 'bad' change and 'bad' outcomes through the imposition of Western ethnocentric notions of development upon the Third World. This is the 'post-modern' conceptualization of development (one might also refer

to this as the 'post-development', 'post-colonial' or 'post-structuralist' position. This third perspective emerged as a reaction to the deliberate efforts at progress made in the name of development since World War II and was triggered in particular by the 1949 Declaration by the US President Truman that: we must embark on a bold new program for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of underdeveloped areas. (cited in Esteva, 1992: 6).

The 'post-modern' approach is not so much a conceptualization of development as a frontal onslaught onto the 'development industry' (including researchers, practitioners and aid institutions). The 'post-modern' approach draws upon, amongst others, Michel Foucault (1966, 1969). The key element of this approach is that, for post-modernists, development (and poverty) is social constructs that do not exist in an objective sense outside of the discourse (a body of ideas, concepts and theory) and that one can only 'know' reality through discourse. In this approach there is no such thing as 'objective reality'. Such a 'discourse' approach might be said to: examine how people use particular types of language and imagery to represent themselves and others in particular ways.

The focus is on how these images are underlain by, and reproduced through, power relations, and on what their social, political and economic effects are – rather than whether or not they are 'true'. The power to define reality is a crucial aspect of power and one of the major means by which certain groups are silenced and suppressed. (Booth et al., 2006:12–13).

### **2.3 Rural Development**

Understanding rural development will require a breakdown of what constitutes the term "rural" before rural development. The word "rural" connotes a place with agricultural orientation; the houses are farm houses, barns, sheds and other structures of similar purposes. In



the opinion of Olisa et al (1992:65) population is the main characteristic that differentiates rural from urban areas, especially in the developing countries. In this regard, in Nigeria an area with a population of 20,000 people and below is classified as a rural area. However, this is not adequate to explain a rural area. Therefore according to Olisa et al (1992:65):

*The main features of rural areas are depression, degradation and deprivation. Many rural villages are immersed in poverty so palpable that the people are the embodiment of it. In most rural area in Nigeria, basic infrastructure where they exist at all, are too inadequate for meaningful development.*

In other words, the rural areas lack virtually all the good things of life like roads, medical and health facilities, portable water, electricity etc. As pointed out above, these characteristics are not limited to rural areas alone but are also found in urban areas in Nigeria and other developing countries. The people engage in subsistence agriculture, their standard of living is very low, earning only a few thousands of naira annually, they are poorly served by almost all public amenities and they generally show considerable resistance to change in any form.

Having said this, the concept of rural development or community development will be used interchangeably to mean the same thing. The scope of the concept of rural or community development is very wide. It is a multi-dimensional process involving such areas as agriculture, health, education, provision of rural infrastructures, social life, political and economic issues, commerce and industry, among others, and their integration with the national economy.

Since the scope of the concept is wide it is the pivot on which a sound national development in all its ramifications can effectively be achieved. It is, however often assumed by policy makers and development planners that rural development is synonymous with agriculture. To correct this impression, it is very necessary to carry out a detailed conceptualization of the concept by scholar in the field of rural development. Since the concept of "rural development" is

very wide in scope, it is necessary to write about an integrated approach to the definition of the concept. Thus, according to the United Nations (1976:4):

*The concept of integrated rural development implies that it is a composite or comprehensive programme for rural development in which all relevant sectors such as agriculture, education, housing, health and employment are conceived as interlinking elements in a system having horizontal as well as vertical linkage in operational and spatial terms.*

Aziz, (1999), the concept of rural development should be viewed as a holistic concept, which recognizes the complexity and inter-relatedness of the many variables which influence the quality of life in rural areas. It is a complex process, which involves the interaction of economic, social, political, cultural, technological and other situational factors. Hence for the actualization of the concept, these factors have to be integrated with local government policies and plans with the objectives of improving the quality of life of the people in the rural sector.

Furthermore, Mabogunje, (1981), rural development is concerned with the self-sustaining improvement of rural areas and implies a broad based re- organization and mobilization of the rural masses so as to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with the daily task of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this. In the opinion of Gana, (1996), rural development is important not only for its impact on rural places and people but also for its contribution to the overall development of the nation. In the Nigerian experience where the bulk of the people and land are rural, and where the level of rural output is very low, rural mobilization provides the quickest and most direct route to national development. This would require the adoption of appropriate technology for raising rural productivity and efficient utilization of resources, creation of efficient transport network for rural and urban areas to ensure easy transportation of agricultural produce for massive food production and supply of industrial raw materials.

It is to be observed that the ambit of rural development is very wide indeed, and it requires a comprehensive approach.

It includes generation of new employment, more equitable access to arable land, equitable distribution of income, widespread improvement in health, nutrition and housing, creation of incentives and opportunities. It also involves the ability of the local government to create wider opportunities for individuals to realize their full potentials through education and sharing in the decisions and actions which affect their lives.

#### **2.4 Strategies for Rural Development in Nigeria**

It is imperative that we examine strategies that Nigeria has adapted over the years to tackle issues relating to rural development and their impacts on the society generally. It is often erroneously believed that rural development through the instrumentality of local government was considered almost synonymous with increased agricultural output of productivity. Thus, government policies and strategies towards the rural areas had always started with the premise that a forward thrust in agriculture is one of the essentials for initiating a broader rural development process. This misconception had led to a series of inappropriate policies and strategies such as agricultural extension approach, the community development programmes, notably among which were the River Basin Development Authorities and the Agricultural Development Projects. Experiments with the various agricultural development programmes showed that they could not improve even agricultural production, which was their main focus, let alone the living conditions of the rural sector.

It is therefore important at this point to review the institutions, agencies, policies and strategies of Nigeria's development planning from colonial era to the present time to see how they affect rural development. For more details of the various development plans, the works of

Ifeanyi (2006:144-149) and Enyi (2010:84-92) are pertaining Planning for rural development dates back to 1946 when the colonial administration formulated the Ten-Year Plan for Development and Welfare for Nigeria. This was presented in the National Paper No. 24 of 1945 which could accurately be constituted as amalgamation of projects but which were not related to any overall economic targets of the country. Under this plan, the colonial government contributed to the financing of various research institutions such as the West Africa Oil Palm Institute (Nigeria) in 1939, Nigeria Agricultural Project Mokwa in 1949, West African Research Institute (Nigeria) in 1951, Marketing Boards and Regional Development Boards in the 1950s – 1970s. These Institutes and Boards were set up with the primary motive of increasing the volume of export crops for British industries while less attention was given to the improvement of the problems of individual producers and the rural communities generally.

In 1955-1960 Development Plans, the emphasis was on increased agricultural and industrial production with a view to bringing about a rise in come and improvement in the standard of living of the people. Just like the previous plan there were no specific projects for the benefits of rural people of Nigeria. Various scholars have commented on this situation. Nnoli (1977:139):

*The British colonial bourgeoisie in Nigeria succeeded in establishing a colonial economy in the country as a framework for consolidating and maintaining underdevelopment. This involved systematic appropriation of economic surplus for Britain's development, discouragement of rural manufacturing, stagnation of agriculture as well as maintenance of mass illiteracy and sustained technological backwardness.*

The above view point was supported by Onimode (1982:122) when he said; "The plan's conception of rural development was up till 1949 the improvement of the colonial economy as a

version of the traditional mode of production such conception aggravated and perpetuated the basic features of underdevelopment”.

The role of the government during this period was merely the classical one of providing physical and social infrastructures on overhead capital as the foundation of the economy. In buttressing this point, Cannon (1982:24) said that:

*The private enterprise was rather entrusted with the major job of developing the economy. The government role was to create favourable conditions for this through loans, subsidiaries, and technical assistance. As the private enterprise was essentially British, this meant mobilizing Nigerian resources for British capital accumulation.*

The above views go to support the idea that the colonial plans and policies did not in any way contribute to rural development. We identify with these views and to add that these colonial legacies were carried forward to the post-colonial era. The era of rural development by the then regional governments was ushered in by the Western Nigeria Government when it formally launched the farm settlement scheme in 1960. They were encouraged by the lack of wide spread employment among primary schools leavers in the region and unused areas in the riverine providences, which could be put to use. They were desirous of pioneering a new system of farming, which involved new techniques and the use of government supervised credit.

The Eastern Nigerian Government operated similar schemes. The 1967 Civil War in the country and its aftermath paralyzed the operation of these schemes. The settlement schemes in the West failed to achieve their lofty goals. Reports indicated that the rates of return on investment were too low for the average farmer to endure. The demonstration effect on the neighbouring farmers was peripheral and its effect on alleviating the unemployment problems of the school leavers had been virtually insignificant. For instance one of the main grievances behind the Agbokoya up-rising in the Western state in 1969, was the “take it or leave it” low

prices fixed for their farm products by the Western Nigerian Marketing Board. Yet the situation never changed and the farmers had to accept them for lack of better sources of income. This picture was the same, if not worse, for other marketing Boards (Derrick 1986: 989-990).

The then Northern Regional Government joined the crusade and established farm training institutes, some of which formed the bedrock of the Schools/Colleges of Agriculture in the Northern States. The truly Nigeria's First Development Plan from 1962-1968 made greater financial allocations with the objective of enhancing the standard of living although there has been so far no coherent policy for rural development. The order of priority in the first plan in terms of allocation of fund was transport and communication, electricity, primary production and trade and industry.

The second National Development Plan, 1970-1974, stated its order of priorities to be agriculture, industry, transportation and manpower development. The plan further strengthened the continuation of the dichotomy between the rural and urban sectors, in spite of the lofty objectives of the plan, one of which was to build a just and egalitarian society. It is important to note that the concern of the federal government for rural development, received its first articulated expression in the guideline to the Third National Development Plan 1975-1980. It was envisaged that the development of the rural sector during the Third Plan would concentrate on raising productivity in agriculture, the predominant occupation of the rural areas, through increase in per capital income, more even distribution of income, reduction in the level of unemployment, diversification of the economy, etc. It would also ensure the provision of basic social amenities such as water and electricity. It was projected that under the National Youth Service Corps Scheme, all doctors must serve for a year or two in the rural areas before being registered. Increase in the supply of high level manpower, balanced development and indigenization of economic activity were also some of the objectives of the plan.

Other efforts made towards stimulating rural development were through research from the Badeku Project initiated by the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan, the Uboma Project, the socio medical project at Igbo-Ora in Oyo State. Ishoya Rural Development project by the University of Ife, the Guided Change Project by the Institute for Agricultural Research of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and the Rural Development Project of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. These projects served as models of what can be achieved in the rural areas. It was unfortunate that they also did not make any significant impact on the welfare of the rural people in the various areas. The break-through in rural development came in 1976 with the creation of the Department of Rural Development in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The department coordinated and monitored the progress of the integrated agricultural development projects under the package approach. It was the plan of the Federal Government to extend agricultural projects to all states with the objective of increasing agricultural productivity and incomes of the rural population and improving the living standards of the rural dwellers.

The government in launching the local government reforms of 1976, considered as an important milestone in the evolution of the Nigeria Local Government System, emphasized the need for the participation and mobilization of the people at the grassroots. The government stated that it was through an effective local government system that the human and material resources of this country could be mobilized for local development. It hoped that the reforms would further enshrine the principle of participatory democracy and political responsibility to every Nigerian. It stated that the reform would ensure that every stratum of the Nigerian society would benefit from the continued prosperity of the country. Owing to shortage of funds and personnel the local governments have also not lived up to the expectations of the rural populace.

The 1981–1985 Fourth National Development Plan did not make way departure from the position of the previous plans on rural development. The plan maintained that the over-riding aim of the development effort remained that of bringing about an improvement in the living conditions of the people. Some of the programmes like the Directorate of Foods, Roads, and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), etc. were meant to bring about rural development in Nigeria. They too did not bring about much success because they were elitistly conceived and implemented.

The first, second, third and fourth development plans in Nigeria, like its colonial predecessor, were neither national nor developmental. According to Eteng (1982:21):

*The orientation of post-colonial planning is probably the most decisive in its perpetuation of underdevelopment. First, the postcolonial environment, which essentially defines the problem of underdevelopment, is taken as the earlier colonial environment. No serious effort is made for example to terminate the stifling post (neo) colonial domination and exploitation that is the basic generating force of contemporary underdevelopment.*

Eteng further maintained that even in the 1970–1974 plan when indigenization was introduced, this was not addressed to changing the structure of the post (neo) colonial capitalist planning and economy. It is equally important to state that, in Nigeria today, policies and strategies to enhance rural development have enjoyed the general attention of foreign governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO) which collaborate with Nigeria in different areas of economic, political and social sectors, visible among these organizations are the UNDP, the World Bank, the IMF, DFID, USAID, the UNO, and NGOs. At the regional front we have the African Union (AU) propelled initiatives such as New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and African Peer Review Mechanism



(APRM). The cumulative impacts of the policies, programmes and activities of this institutions and organizations significantly affect the living conditions of the ordinary Nigerians and to large extent the development of the rural areas.

The NEPAD is a home grown African initiative to address the critical development challenges especially those that have to do with poverty and improving the living standards of Africans- including Nigerians. This became imperative when African leaders woke up to discover that over 340 million Africans or half of its population lived on less than \$ 1 per day. The mortality rate of children under five years of age is 140 per 1000, and life expectancy is only 54 year. Only 58 percent of the population has access to safe water (Olokun, 2002).

Furthermore, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) seek to attend to the development, and particularly poverty eradication goals and issues of 189 countries of the United Nations (UN). Nigeria as an active member of the UN is decisively involved in the implementation of the policy framework of the goals by putting in place her own plan and policy structure that would enhances the success of the MDGs in Nigeria. This policy framework is the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). NEEDS is aimed at eradicating poverty and brining about sustainable development through agencies such as the NAPEP.

The US and UK government have through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department for International Development respectively have collaborated using various schemes and programmes to reduce poverty in Africa and particularly in Nigeria. These agencies have various collaborative efforts and partnership with the Nigeria government in supporting poverty eradication through provision of health and others social services such as the Maternal Morality Support Programme where pregnant and nursing mothers and children under five years are targeted for free health care. As can be observed, most policies and initiatives

aimed at ameliorating poverty and enhance rural development in Africa and particularly Nigeria has largely failed.

Olokun, (in Orji 2005: 218): "The dream of great Africa renaissance after social, economic and political realities of the continent have defiled 37 development plans which were said to be alien to Africa or drafted by experts and institutions that failed to appreciate the peculiarities of the continent". In effect what is said here is that the post-colonial era was no different from the colonial era. In this regard, Enyi (2010) maintain that: like the colonial policies, the post-colonial Nigerian policies exhibited a basic lack of urgency in any programme or project. The patent lack of plan discipline is another problem of planning in Nigeria. Very often the bureaucratic bourgeoisie elevate their selfish class interests over and above national interests and objectives.

In the final analysis, it is not only that plans for rural development are faulty, there are never in the interest of the ruling class to implement. He maintains that, the ultimate objective of the national development planning effort should be the improvement of the welfare of the individual and society. This therefore presupposes the selection of appropriate means to meet the needs of the various communities. The meaningful formulation of a plan to meet the needs and aspirations of the Nigerian situation must inevitably be from bottom to top as opposed to the present approach of top to bottom.

In this way, the needs and problems of the people would be identified and appropriate measures for resolving them will be selected, after which targets will be set, followed by the formulation of the nation's plan. This approach allows for effective mobilization of the communities, the various interest groups, and the mass media for local participation. The present practice of conceiving planning as a purely technical process of aggregating projects and

programmes from the top will only benefit a few individuals at the expense of rural development (Enyi 2010:91- 92).

## **2.5 A Review of Past Government Efforts on Rural Development in Nigeria**

To start with, it must be stated that the rural development initiatives by the government have created a culture of dependence on the part of the people rather than the people themselves initiating development orientations. While it is the responsibility of government to create the enabling environment for community or rural development, the attendant corruption, greed and mismanagement associated with these institutions and agencies have not allowed them to achieve their desired objectives.

In this connection Okpaga (2004) asserted that "Rather than making these institutions vehicle for rural transformation, they become conduit pipes from where public funds are siphoned into private pockets". Added to the above is the fact that the British colonial administration did not concern itself with planning for the development of the rural areas. Indeed, development is the very antithesis of colonialism. The few amenities and infrastructures that were available were concentrated in the few urban towns particularly in the "European Quarters" or "White Reserved Areas". The rural popular that constituted over 70% of Nigerians and who produced the bulk of the colonial wealth only felt the impact of government in the form of tax drives, occasional visits by colonial officials and their agents and stories fed them by few urban dwellers or those who had been there. Thus, Onimode (1981:33) rightly observed that: "The rural dwellers who were impoverished by multiple taxation, broken by colonial police and court repression, and submerged in a culture of silence' through illiteracy, were undoubtedly among the most brutally exploited by the savage colonialism of Britain". This situation has not radically changed even after independence from British rule.

The exploitative and western oriented policies and programmes of the colonial era have continued since flag independence. One area that the western oriented policies and programmes have persisted since 1960 is in the area of agriculture. Emphasis was placed on the production of cash crops and the importation of foreign foods to the neglect of local staples. The continued pursuance of this policy with the resultant neglect of the rural areas and the exploitation of peasant farmers has proved disaster for the country. The urban-based nature of Nigeria's development process led to a gradual deterioration in the quality of life in the rural areas, thus stimulating rural-urban migration on a massive scale, especially when mineral oil over took agriculture as the mainstay of the national economy. The helpless situation of the rural communities was accentuated by the exploitative tendencies of the Nigerian Marketing Boards of the 1950s, lack of incentives to farmers, antiquated farming techniques, lack of storage facilities, poor transportation network etc. fastened the decline in agriculture generally (Nnadozie, 1986:11).

Another area in the Nigerian agricultural policies and programmes where rural dwellers and farmers are being marginalized is the area of big agricultural schemes in various parts of the country. The policy pursued by government since mid 1970s ostensibly to boost agriculture started with Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) lunched in 1976, the Green Revolution in the second Republic and various budgetary incentives in large-scale agriculture. Similarly the Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) and big irrigation dam schemes were ostensibly to improve rural development. All these projects scattered in different part of the country and jointly financed by the World Bank and Nigerian government did not help much in the improvement of the living standards of the rural populace. Rather it has worsened the plight of peasant by depriving them of their lands as happened in Bakolori project in Sokokto state. The beneficiaries of these capital intensive agricultural programmes and schemes were the big barons

who live in the urban area. The monies they get as loans never went to agriculture but to other businesses. The neglect of the peasant farmers has obviously led to faster decline in agricultural production with attendant negative consequences for rural development (Nnadozie, 1986).

It is also disheartening to note that in the area of investment and government provision of amenities, the urban areas are more favoured than the rural setting. Studies by Diejomaoh (1973:100-103) have shown that over the years: "The beneficiaries of government expenditure on education, health, water supply, electricity, industries and road construction are mainly urban dwellers and that less than 30% of total government development expenditure is designed for the benefit of rural communities".

In spite of the importance of and potentialities of the rural sector in terms of its workforce, and its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), of the estimated private sector investment amounting to about N1,632 million in the second national development plan period (1970-1974), only N246 million or 15% was spend in the rural areas. This pattern is basically the same in the Third and fourth Development plan periods, 1975-1985 (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1970-74). It is regrettable to also observe that the various aids and assistance to Nigeria by international organizations and institutions like UNO, USAID, DFID, WHO, and others have not been utilized to the benefit of rural development in Nigeria. This has been due to rampant corruption and gross mismanagement at all levels of governments in Nigeria. The net effect of the above analysis is that the rural areas of Nigerians are greatly neglected in various spheres of human endeavour. They lack the basic needs of life, they are deprived and exploited, and hence rural development in Nigeria has remained a mirage.

## **2.6 Rural Development Programme of Nigerian Government**

**1. Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), 1976:** The OFN was part of the Third National Development Plan (1975 – 80) which was voted N2, 050.738 million. Like the earlier plan, there was no categorical strategy for rural development, except some N500 million for rural regrouping (Olayiwola and Adeleye, 2005). However, it had objectives to mobilize the people to embrace agriculture, eliminate the traditional disdain for agriculture by the educated, enhance food production on a large scale, create jobs and income and utilize all available land resources in the country.

**2. National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP):** As a result of worsening poverty situation Nigeria, NAPEP was put in place in 2001 to eradicate absolute poverty in Nigeria. The programme was arranged into four schemes: First, the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), which was concerned with providing unemployed youth opportunities in skills acquisition, employment and wealth generation. Second were the Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS) to ensure that the provision and development of infrastructural needs in the areas of transport, energy, water and communication, quality primary and special education, strengthening the economic power of farmers, providing primary health care especially in rural areas. The third was the Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS) which aims at ensuring the provision of basic social services, quality primary and special education, strengthening the economic power of farmers and providing primary health care. The last was the Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS). The vision of this scheme was to bring about a participatory and sustainable development of agricultural, mineral and water resources (Elumilade, Asaolu and Adenreti, 2006).

However, NAPEP was to completely wipe out poverty from Nigeria by the year 2010 (Bindir, 2002) but many years after the implementation of NAPEP the poverty situation in Nigeria worsened. The poverty level in Nigeria has increase from 54.4% absolute poverty in 2004 to 60.9% in 2010. Ugoh, et al, (2009) identify factors that have contributed to the failure of NAPEP which include: poor targeting mechanisms, failure to focus on the poor, programme inconsistency, Poor implementation and corruption.

It is unfortunate that a programme such as NAPEP that is meant to harmonize all poverty reduction programmes in Nigeria did not have the input from the target beneficiaries and there was no legislative approval. The Nigerian National Assembly has alleged that NAPEP is an executive arrangement meant to serve the interest of the ruling party alone. As a result of this it has been difficult to perform oversight function. It is very clear why there have been high level of corruption and mismanagement of funds in NAPEP and alleged political patronage. The change of policy making and implementation from the top-down command structure to more consultative and participatory approach will definitely improve the quality of policy implementation in Nigeria and enhance transparency and accountability. Effective, efficient and people oriented policy making and implementation will reduce poverty and make lives more meaningful to Nigerians especially the teeming poor population in the rural areas.

**4. FADAMA:** National FADAMA Development programme aimed at increasing income of beneficiaries by at least 20%. The programme was designed in 1993 to promote simple and low cost improved irrigation technology under World Bank financing. FADAMA is a Hausa word for low lying flood plains usually with easily accessible shallow groundwater. It is a major instrument for achieving the government's poverty reduction objective in rural areas of Nigeria. The beneficiaries are meant to come as a group known as FADAMA Community Association to the National FADAMA Development Programme. The programme empowers the association

with resources, training, and technical assistance support to properly manage and control the resources for their own development .FADAMA adopts a socially inclusive and participatory process in which all FADAMA users will collectively identify their development goals and pursue it when assisted .The programme is in its third phase currently due to its success in the States that adopted it.

**5. Directorates of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), 1986 to 1993:** This agency adopted an integrated approach to rural development. The philosophy recognized that increased food production was tied to development of rural economic infrastructure. The basic objectives is to effectively promoting grass root social mobilization, and in close collaboration with the state government, mounted a vigorous programme of rural development in all the then 304 local government areas in the country (RSG, 1987). Such a vigorous programme of action was aimed at achieving integrated rural development, especially in improving the quality of life and standard of living of the rural population, laying a solid foundation for economic, political and social transformation of the rural areas and ensuring a deep rooted and self-sustaining development. DFRRI was decentralised into states and the states had the mandate to execute projects that were relevant to it, since each state was more likely to have peculiar challenges in its bid to rural development (Johnnary, 1987). To realise the above dreams, the Directorate earmarked on the implementation by the opening of rural feeder roads, provision of rural water and sanitation, food and agriculture; adult education, rural electrification, rural industrialization, rural housing, rural land use mapping among others. Based on these objectives and available means of achieving them, the programmes of the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures, should have enhanced and accelerated the development of the rural economy, and ipso facto, the overall development of the state and the nation. Budget allocation to DFRRI



was N433 million in 1986, N500 million in 1987 and N1 billion in 1988 respectively. However these objectives and aspirations were not met. DFRRRI is now defunct.

## **2.7 Why some of the government rural development programs failed in Nigeria**

From the analysis above, it is obvious that many of these projects did not succeed to deliver the pre-designed objectives at the right time in accordance with government plan. The following factors can largely be identified as problems hindering development programmes:

- 1. Poor Programme Implementation and Monitoring:** No doubt government rural development agencies have always come up with well worded and beautiful programmes that if properly implemented could actually assist in mitigating the drift to the urban areas and change the situation in the rural areas. However, many of these programmes were poorly implemented by people who may have different objectives from those of the chief executives. Thus most projects aimed at developing the rural areas remain very laudable projects at drawing boards and at pages of newspapers and radio broadcast but when the implementation starts the ground facts portrays something different. Even when monitoring officers visit the projects, the reports they bring back to the offices quite often may not be exact. These reports may also not be read.
- 2. Planning defects:** Planning is looking ahead, setting goals and considering ways of achieving the goals. A precondition for successful project execution is a proper and adequate planning. Proper preparations are part of the planning process. These ultimately help to identify a realistic cost of the projects, executing patterns and possible constraints including likely agents that will align themselves to the project. Preparation is very essential for its successful implementation. Project preparation must cover technical, institutional, economic and financial components necessary to deliver the project at the right time and right quality. However, either due to poor capacity of bureaucrats or lack

of will, the necessary planning is sometimes not adequate. This ultimately leads to failure at the time of implementation. Some of these programmes are politically motivated and government embarks on them without adequate planning and preparations. This usually led to their failure and the projects are abandoned half way through. For instance, the Odili rural housing scheme did not accurately forecast demand for the project before embarking on the project.

3. **Lack of Continuity of the Programmes:** Lack of continuity has also in no small measure acted as a setback in the operations of rural development projects. Each government often abandons the development projects or programmes of previous governments but rather sets up its own in most cases with different targets and direction of activity, for example, Better life for Rural Woman was replaced by Family Support Programme, the Community Banks were replaced by Micro Finance Banks. What it then means is that the implementations of the programmes of the previous administrations were abandoned when they are yet to have full effect on targets. This lack of continuity badly affects flow of rural development programmes. In most cases, no link exists between the old and new programmes.
4. **Weak Project Appraisals:** Times without number governments embark on projects without proper appraisal. Appraisal checks and compares the appropriateness for project preparation and helps to rank the *worthwhileness* of projects. The purpose of proper appraisal is to confirm that the project has a satisfactory economic rate of return, and if the project is to be financed by a third party such as banks, necessary arrangements concerning timely release of funds should be considered as well as ways of procuring materials. This major emphasis of project appraisal is to examine the feasibility of sensitive sections of the project especially financial projections. In civil construction,

appraisal ensures that appropriate technically acceptable standards are adequately provided for, and because of the frequency of rains in Rivers state, that an efficient critical path analysis had been done to forestall project delays and its consequent cost overruns. In other words, a wrong project scheduling pattern can cause pains on society as observed in many road projects in Rivers state, which reflects a bad image on the government and a drain on limited resources of the contractor and the state.

5. **Poor Funding:** As earlier noted, many of these rural development initiatives have political undertone, with the result that they may be embarked upon even when there is actually insufficient money for them. Thus, the project may be abandoned or allowed to die especially when the initiator is no longer in office. For instance, one of the reasons why the rural housing programmes failed is because of poor funding. There was no functional financial institution to service rural housing since individual savings could not cope. The result was that agencies engaged in rural development programmes became short lived or ineffective.
6. **Hijacking of Programme Benefits:** This problem of diverting the benefits of rural development programmes by urban dwellers remains a matter of great concern. Quite often rural development projects are processed by government functionaries. These people mainly live in urban areas but are better able to understand the workings of these projects including the processes, the potential benefits and how to access these benefits. Thus, for many construction projects, the contractors are urban based, the bankers or financiers are urban based and even projects such as Better Life for Rural Women, the key drivers were urban based. For instance, most of the activities of DFRRRI were felt in urban areas with just little presence in rural areas. This is why the Better Life for Rural Women could better be called better life for urban women because the actual rural

women were either too busy in fishing ports or farm sites or may not have been sufficiently exposed to tap the benefits of these programmes in a meaningful form. The same is applicable to Poverty Alleviation and Family Support Programmes. Records show that the actual beneficiaries were not the rural people they were meant for. The rural dwellers do not have sufficient access to the rural development agencies meant for the development of their rural areas.

7. **Corruption:** In many projects, field officers are sent out to monitor projects especially those being executed by contractors. Sometimes these contractors may not have executed their work in line with the volume of payments they had received or in line with their contractual schedule. The tendency at such times is to influence the monitoring officers to present positive reports about the execution status of the projects. There are cases where contractors have met the contractual obligations and actually done a good job but had neglected the 'public relations' role. The report on the projects of these agents may not be as good as the actual situation or better than the inefficient contractor who had not neglected public relations. Thus, it is difficult to get the true value of project monitoring from some reports usually submitted to the offices. Ogboru and Abimiku (2012) explain that corruption which has been seen as a way of life in Nigeria is largely responsible for the persistent poverty situation. Corruption weakens the state and its ability to promote development and social justice. Corruption and mismanagement of resources were obvious in the implementation of NAPEP. His study revealed that there has been abuse of office by NAPEP officials: It was discovered that NAPEP officials used their influence to approve for themselves directly or through their cronies funds which they used with no intention to repay. It is established that cases of funds approved for certain beneficiaries

were diverted to different beneficiaries, thus making it impossible for such funds to be recovered. (Adekoya, 2010).

8. **Political Patronage:** Lazarus (2010) explains that NAPEP funds were used for politicking as the monies were given out as succor to loyal party members with no plans for recovery. It was a clear case of politicized micro-financing. In fact, during the Key Informant Interview conducted at the local government council at Ota, the woman who is the Head of Communities Development Office of the local government council stated that the only one officer of NAPEP posted to the local government had left when the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party took charge of the local government as against the People Democratic Party (PDP) government that was previously in power. This is a clear case of political patronage. It is also discovered that NAPEP was not rectified by the legislature it was an executive council arrangement to serve the ruling party. This has made it difficult for the legislature to carry out an oversight function on the programme (Lazarus, 2010).

## **2.8 Rural Development in Ekiti State**

The Ekitis, whose ancestors migrated from Ile - ife as a people, form one of the largest ethnic groups in Yorubaland. The Ekitis are culturally homogeneous and they speak a dialect of the Yoruba language known as Ekiti. However, slight differences are noticeable in the Ekiti dialect of the Yoruba language spoken by the people. This is informed and influenced by their spatial locations especially the border communities to other states. For example, the people of Ado Local Government Area do not speak exactly the same dialect with the people of Ijero Local Government Area, while the people of Ikole area speak something a shade different from the people of Ikere area. The Ekiti communities influenced by their locations include Otun, (the

Moba land) that speaks a dialect close to the one spoken by the Igbominas in Kwara and Osun states. The people of Okeako, Irele and Ornuo oke speak a dialect similar to that of the Ijumas in Kogi State. The people of Ekiti West and Efon Alaaye LGAs speak a similar dialect to that of the Ijesas of Osun State. However, part of the uniqueness of the Ekitis is that wherever they may come from, they understand each other very well in conversation, in spite of dialectal variations.

In terms of arts and culture, Ekiti state is among the richest in the Federation in the variety and quality of its traditional arts, music, poetry and witty sayings. There are as many as fifty traditional festivals in the state. Egungun, Ijesu and Ogun festivals are celebrated in all parts of the state but the latter is associated, in particular, with IreEkiti. The Ekitis are good wood carvers, blacksmiths, and ornamental potters, mat weavers and basket makers. There are guilds established to control the operations of these crafts.

**Population Structure and Distribution:**As in all economies all over the world, human resources are of immense importance to the development of Ekiti State. Indeed, this state does not lack human resources. According to the population census of 1991, the state had 824,224 males and 804,538 females making a total of 1,628,762. The population structure and distribution in Ekiti state have been affected by the great incidence of migration of Ekiti people to other parts of the country, The Ekiti people are found in various services especially in education. They are found in many large cities of Nigeria. On the other hand, the state has many migrant farmers from all the south western states and from Kwara, Kogi and Benue states. Most of these farmers, especially from the Yoruba area, cultivate cocoa while others cultivate food crops such as the Igbira that cultivate yam. Some others serve as farm labourers and as tappers of palm wine.

The people of Ekiti State live mainly in towns, like most Yorubas. There are not less than 120 towns in Ekiti state. One important aspect of the Ekiti towns is the common suffix "Ekiti". Some of the towns include Ado, . the state capital, Aramoko, Ayedun, EfonAlaaye, it Emure, Ido,

Igede, Igogo, Ijero, Ijesalsu, Ikere, Ikole, Ikoro, Ilawe, Ilupeju, Ire, Ise, Iye, Ode, Omuo, Otun and Oye. It should be noted that the urbanisation process in this state, as in other states of the federation, has been on the increase. There have been consistent efforts to encourage urbanisation through the creation of more states and local government areas. Other factors that have aided urban development in Ekiti State are the establishment of tertiary institutions, location of industrial plants and many financial commercial institutions.

The main occupation of Ekiti people is farming; hence the state is an agricultural one and therefore has many rural settlements. Prior to 1985, there had been a conspicuous neglect of the rural areas of Ekiti State. In recent years, however, the state has been a beneficiary of concerted programmes to revitalise, develop and transform the rural areas. The programmes that have had significant impact on the development of the rural areas in the state include those of the now defunct Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Better Life Programme, Family Support Programme, Family Economic Advancement Programme and the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) particularly its Self Help Programme. DFRRI was instrumental to the opening up of rural areas by constructing many feeder roads (about 750km in length). It also contributed immensely to the overall development and well being of rural dwellers by sinking boreholes and deep wells in many villages and suburban areas. In addition, DFRRI assisted communities in the electrification of their areas. During the Abacha administration, these roles were partially performed by the defunct Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF). In terms of economic development, DFRRI also encouraged rural dwellers to establish their own banks in all the LGAs with many of the rural dwellers as shareholders. It is, however, disheartening that many of these banks have closed down. The Better Life Programme focused on rural women and got them actively involved in processing local food and fibre items such as cassava (gari), maize, rice and hemp for better prices. The NDE programme also helped

the rural dwellers in making available job training to the young school leavers, at both the secondary and tertiary levels, in modern farming, trades and industry. This assistance was usually in form of redeemable loans at very low interests with the repayments spread over a long period of time. All these programmes have helped to open up the rural areas in the state.

For a very long time, Ado Ekiti, the state capital, has been the focus and centre of activities for Ekiti people. Now, as the state capital and within a period of three years, it has started expanding over a large area. This expansion is due to the developmental projects and structures of a state capital. Not only these, Ado Ekiti has also become an attraction of many individuals, agencies, commercial houses, corporate bodies and even people from rural areas and smaller towns in the state. In this regard, Ado Ekiti is fast becoming a primate city. Except the Capital Territory Development Agency takes quick action, the known urbanisation problems such as slums, waste disposal, unemployment, traffic holdups and crimes may be on the increase. It is noteworthy to observe that the present civilian administration in the State has rural development and rural integration as a major focus of its policies and has therefore created an agency to address poverty.

## **2.9 Theoretical Framework**

This research shall examine some relevant theories underpinning this study. For the purpose of this research work, various approaches aimed at arresting the ugly under-development situation in rural areas have been put forward by so many scholars. Olayide (2002), enumerated the following approaches to rural development. These are basic need approach, infrastructure approach, the minimum package or sub-sartorial programme approach, the industrialization approach, and the integrated regional development approach. The application of any of these approaches depends on the peculiar social and economic circumstances of the state, region, village or community, these approaches can be explained as follow;



## **1. Basic Needs Approach**

The international Labour organisation (ILO) is the chief protagonist of this approach. The main concern of the ILO is employment and income, hence it defines basic need as the minimum standard of living which a society should provide for the poorest group of its people. The satisfaction of basic need means meeting the minimum requirement of a family for personal consumption, food, shelter and clothing. It implies access to essential services, such as safe drinking water, sanitation, transport, health and education.

It encourages the provision of job employment and remuneration for each person available and willing to work. It further implies that the satisfaction of needs of a more qualitative nature, a healthy, humane and satisfying environment and public participation in making decision that affects the lives and livelihoods of the people and individual freedom should be made available. The main aim of the basic need approach is to focus attention on priorities for action, e.g poverty. The usual characteristic of basic needs activities are small scale operations, low capital/labour ratios, less demanding skills, the emphases on the basic need approach are on; (1) Individual basic need;- food, shelter, clothing etc (2) Community basic need;- health care, education, safe drinking water, shelter and transport. The international labour organisation considers that the essential means of achieving the objective of the basic need approach is through the creation of more productive remunerative jobs. Thus, it is an employment based strategy of rural development.

However, the organisation acknowledges that the creation of more and better jobs on a large scale enough to make an impact on mass poverty requires difficult political and economic decisions. Again, although it's objects are clear but the organisation was not clear enough on the kind of institutions required for putting into effects a basic need strategy. These shortcoming of the basic need approach has made it difficult for adoption.

## **2. The Infrastructure Approach**

The development plans of most less developed, primary production nations according to Olayide (2002), are characterised by heavy expenditure on infrastructures. These infrastructures according to him include roads, water, electricity and irrigation. This approach is based on the fact that there is a direct relationship between the provision of adequate infrastructures and economic development. This was born out of the experience of the Rice institute in Philippines, the Mexican wheat, Research station and the Cocoa Research institute in Nigeria. The problems with this approach, are lack of economic evaluation of infrastructural investment, inadequacy of infrastructures, inappropriate location of infrastructures and poor maintenance. Despite these shortcomings, the infrastructure approach has remained a sound strategy for rural development all over the world because it provides the foundation for which a sound economic development is laid.

## **3. The Minimum Package or Sub-Sectoral Approach**

This approach as the name implies, involves the provision of all those components of single constraints like credits, improving the agricultural marketing network etc, it is considered to be critical for achieving rural development in minimum packaged form. For instance credit as a constraint is critical to increased agricultural productivity, which cannot grow anything for itself, therefore the objectives of the provision of credit will be to bring about expanded crop production. To achieve this, the farmer must be able to think of the procurement of physical productive inputs (fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, labour and land etc) from the credit provided, he must also have access to extension services to educate him on how best to apply the new technologies, there must exist adequate transportation arrangement (infrastructures) to enable him transport his goods to the market, and in addition, adequate

marketing arrangement (institutional frame-work) that will guarantee him fair prices for his produce.

The existence of all these in the package gives the farmer incentive to plan for expanded production, meanwhile the absence of one or more of the listed conditions would produce the reverse effects. The provision of the package can take two forms, one there could be a central authority which supplies the four interrelated components i.e. credit, the inputs, the extension services, and the purchase and marketing of the farmers produce.

On the other hand, there could be the handling of each the four components by separate agencies, centralized or decentralized. The advantage of the former includes easy coordination and supervision since everything comes under one umbrella, timely supply of the components, centralized administration, close monitoring, uniformity in operation and for formulation of policy guidelines, its disadvantage is that it is expensive in time and money considering the extensive nature of the rural area vis-a-vis the usual dearth of trained man-power, secondly it does not guarantee the rural citizenry participation nor deep rural penetration of the scheme and services.

The advantage of the later is that it is permissive of the participation of the rural masses and thus stimulates their self confidence in self sustaining basis. Its disadvantage is however, is that its success is depended on effective coordination which is difficult to come by. In other case, though success depends on coordination, consultation and supervision, it also requires intensive training and education of all participants in the art of keeping records, estimating inputs requirement, and understanding information on all unpredictable aspects of the programme.

#### **4. The New Technology Approach**

This approach according to Olayide (2002), is based on the belief that technological acquisition holds the key to development, technological advancement according to him, has led

to a phenomenal increase in agricultural production in Japan, Canada, and United State of America etc. There are certain features of the new technology approach to rural development. This asserts that it involves massive and standard public investment in the training of basic and applied scientists.

It also involves the building and equipping of research stations, hence the establishment of both organisational and institutional frame work to facilitate the rapid diffusion of the technological knowledge. One of the limitation of this approach is its lack of indigenious technologies in the developing countries, there is the need for a technology that is adapted to the prevailing conditions of the countries concerned. Nigeria for instances, lack the availability of adequate technology to exploit her abundant natural resources in the rural areas also the approach involves a lot of capital outlay and credit facilities as well as new pricing policy. The application of this model or approach in Ekiti environs will be inappropriate, considering the level of technological development attained, it will entail a huge reliance on borrowed technology which will not solve the problem.

##### **5. Functional or Sectorial Programme Approach**

While the integrated programme approach involves a multi-faceted approach to rural development, functional or sartorial programmes are undertaken to remove a single constraint- that is considered to be particularly critical for getting rural development underway, Uma Lele (2002). In this type of approach, investment are directed towards only a single programme at a time, e.g. to the development of natural network of adaptive agriculture like I.I.TA, Ibadan, N.R.C.R.I Umudike, Umuhia etc, to training of extension staffs, to the construction of feeder roads, provision of agricultural credits, e.g. which led to the creation of Nigeria Agricultural commercial Bank, government Agro-industrial loan scheme, construction of water project, the provision of ministries that can tackle the problem at hand, e.g. the ministry of Niger Delta

affairs, or the creation of Niger Delta Development Commission (NNDC), during president Obasanjo Regime, the provision of cooperative and industrial loan scheme, the provision of skill acquisition programmes for the youth in the rural area etc.

The functional programme approach has a lot of advantages attached to it, firstly it has relatively clear and limited objectives which can be easily achieved, secondly it has great potential for benefiting large number of rural people, the approach is also easy to implement, since it involves the development of a single aspect or institutional structure of the economy. Substantial investment in a particular sector or functional programme can as well be an effective means of highlighting the critical importance and or of stimulating a long-term national commitment to it.

This will also ensure that sufficient and significant national resources are allocated to it for its continuity. Functional programmes may also serve as a stimulating factor or catalyst to other productive development activities e.g. fertilizers demand may be triggered off by profitable technologies, while commercial production for the market may be a factor for feeder roads development. The first disadvantage of this approach is its solo nature which limits its effects and penetration.

In the absence of enabling services and infrastructure existing in symbiotic cycle, a functional programme approach can be effective but in a limited extent in bringing development to the rural area, such programmes, apart from being solo, are often ad hoc in nature. Their effects which are time-specific and spatially constricted, easily fade-out for lack of continuity often leave beneficiaries worse off than before their inception. For example the so many skill acquisition programmes organised by NNDC left all the participants without finance to set up their businesses, increase in the produce of farmer as a result of fertilizers subsidization (if ever) usually perish because of lack of access road for an organised market, making it difficult to repay

any loan that has been given to him. And if this happens over a long time, with the accumulated interest, he then becomes a chronic debtor.

Furthermore, the spread of functional programme approach is usually more greatly determined by political interest rather than rational economic consideration. This obviates its desired effects, resulting in duplication, gaps, poor hiring of inputs, which should be phased and complementary, and confusion for the people. Chambers, (1974). It was observed that in applying the functional or sectorial approach in East Africa, various ministries involved made exclusive claims for their respective programmes, leading to unwholesome competition for honour and some classes leading to misallocation of scarce resource, Danha, (1978). The above short-coming of the approach notwithstanding, however, it continues to be the conventional approach employed by most third world countries to effect rural development. This is because of its greatest advantages, such as, that the facilities are provided at the exact time the concerned community needs it most by the ministry responsible, that there are always specialized departments of the government and parastatals to handle the problem at hand.

## **6. Industrialisation Approach**

The industrialization approach to rural development advocates for the establishment of industries in the rural areas. This argument according to Olayide (2002), states that such industries will generate demands for agricultural and related products in the rural sector. It has also held the view that, it will generate increased demand for specialist processors, transporters, market for the workers of the industries and food distribution in the rural sector.

On the supply side, it provides agriculture with such implements and chemicals as hoes, machet, tractors, harvesters, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. In addition, it provides employment to the rural dwellers thereby improving their incomes and standard of living. This

Hence the policy of technological package to the peasantry (small-holder) and creating large scale units to achieve target increase in output of exportable crops. The idea behind commodity approach with its modernization underpinning, making it to metamorphous into large scale capital intensive agricultural projects has proven to be counter-productive, to a large extent, in bringing self-sustaining rural development.

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Henk Renting, Gianluca Brunori, KarlheinzKnickel, Joe Mannion, Terry Marsden, Kees de Roest, Eduardo Sevilla-Guzmán, Flaminia Ventura, (2000), many scientists are finding it difficult to come to grips with the new model of rural development that emerges slowly but persistently in both policy and practice. Nevertheless, they believed that a paradigm shift is also taking place at the level of associated theory. The modernization paradigm that once dominated policy, practice and theory of rural development is being replaced by a new rural development paradigm. What is this rural development paradigm? Why it emerging and what is makes it new? Any critical discussion of these issues must begin with the acknowledgement that, as yet, we have no comprehensive definition of rural development (Clark et al. 1997; Nooy 1997).

Moreover, at the moment, it would not be possible to construct any comprehensive and generally accepted definition. The notion of rural development has emerged through socio-political struggle and debate. Once it becomes an established part of the current discussions that surround agriculture and the countryside, it can be expected to trigger new controversies. A recent study amongst some of the main players in significant arenas has shown that while some see it as a process that will end with the final expropriation of farmers, others regard it as a force that will revitalize agriculture (Van Broekhuizen et al. 1997b). To some observers rural development is no more than an addition to the existing pattern of agriculture and rural life; others, however, anticipate that both will undergo major reconstruction.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

These study an exploratory and a descriptive. Research design according to Kellinger (1993) is the plan, structure and strategy of investigation conceived to obtain answers to research question and to control variance. Based on the description, the design adopted for this study is the descriptive survey design involving the use of questionnaire to extract information on all variables under study. This study aimed at exploration of the rural development policy and rural development in Ekiti State (2010 - 2014)

#### **3.2 Study Population**

The study population of this study consists of rural dwellers in selected rural areas in Ekiti state. The respondents were selected out of this population. It consisted of both male and female respondents in selected local Governments in Ekiti state.

#### **3.3 Sample Size**

As stipulated above, the study populations are the inhabitants of rural areas in Ekiti-State. Since the actual population of the rural dwellers in Ekiti State could not be ascertained, proportionate sample size could not be used. However, for a well-represented sample size for this population, a total of one hundred and fifty-six (156) questionnaires will be administered to rural dwellers that will be selected for this study by supplying the necessary information for the study. That is, thirteen (13) respondents were selected in the selected local government areas from the three senatorial districts in Ekiti State.



### **3.4 Sampling Technique**

The sampling techniques will be multi-stage because of the nature of the study. The three senatorial districts involved, are Ekiti North senatorial, Ekiti Central and Ekiti South senatorial districts, Two Local Governments Areas are selected from each senatorial district (Ekiti North senatorial: Ilejemeje and Oye; Ekiti Central senatorial: Irepodun and Ifelodun local governments and Gbonyin and Ise/orun represents Ekiti South senatorial district) will be purposively selected for this study. From each local government, two rural areas were purposively selected for this study. They include – from ILEJEMEJE, Eda/Oniyo Ekiti and Ewu Ekiti; in OYE, Ilemeso and Imojo. For IREPODUN/IFELODUN, Afao Ekiti and Igbemo Ekiti, for EKITI WEST, Ilasa and Omuo/Oke Ekiti and for the third senatorial district, in GBONYIN local government, we have Egbe Ekiti and Imesi Ekiti while in ISE/ORUN local government, Ise and Orun Ekiti communities. A total of thirteen (13) respondents were selected from each rural area using quota sampling technique.

### **3.5 Research Instrument**

Questionnaire was the research instrument used for this study. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. The first section comprised of items that seek information on respondent socio-demographic data such as sex, age, marital status etc. Items in the second section evaluation of rural development policy. They include items that measure respondents perception about rural development policy in Ekiti-State. Items in the second section of the instrument also involves the use of Likert scale close-ended five points continuum. The responses were coded as follows: Need much Improvement=1, Need some Improvement=2, Satisfactory=3, Good=4 and Excellent=5.

The instrument will be divided into groups or sections. Each section is primarily on the objectives of this study. The first section is on the socio-demographic data of the respondents. Other sections from B to F use the Likert Scale to measure the variables in of the set objectives for this study. This enabled the researcher to attain each objective because appropriate indicators were used in each objective.

### **3.6 Administration of the instrument**

The instruments were administered on all the respondents in various home in their local government. The questionnaire was personally collected from the respondents after they have filled it. Assurances of anonymity were given by the researcher so as encourage frank response.

### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

The quantitative data collected for this study were analysed using the version 16 of software called statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Data were presented using frequency table and percentage.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter analyses and interprets the quantitative information collected for this study among the people of Ekiti state. The chapter is divided into sections.

#### 4.1 Respondent's Socio-Demographic Data

**Table 4.1: Ages of the Respondents**

Age Range	Frequency	Percentage
20-24 years	11	7.1
25-29 years	08	5.1
30-34 years	21	13.4
35-39 years	16	10.3
40-44 years	100	64.1
Total	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.1 is on the age of the respondents. Majority of the respondents 64.1% were within the age range of 40-44 years, 13.5% respondents were between 30-34 years while 5.1% of the respondents were 25-29 years of age. This means those that took part in the study were relatively young people across selected communities in Ekiti state. It also shows that they have good understanding of the subject matter.

**Table 4.2: Sex of the Respondents**

Type of sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	84	53.8
Female	72	46.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.2 shows that 53.8% of the respondents were males while 46.2% of the respondents were females. This means the percentage of women and men that took part in this study were almost the same. It means also that women are allowed to take part in the activities of their communities.

**Table 4.3: Marital status of the Respondents**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	125	80.1
Single never married	19	12.2
Single separated	09	5.8
Single Divorced	03	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.3 reveals that 80.1% of the respondents were married, 12.2% of the respondents were single never married while 1.9% of the respondents were single divorced. It means most of the respondents were married and responsible people from different communities in Ekiti state.

**Table 4.4: Education of the Respondents**

<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No formal education	02	1.3
Secondary education	20	12.8
NCE/ND	60	38.5
B.Sc/HND	74	47.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.4 shows that 47.4% of the respondents were B.Sc or HND holders 38.5% were NCE/ND holders while only 1.3% of the respondents did not have formal education. It means virtually all the respondents were literate at different level of education except for just 1.3%.

#### **4.5: Respondents Religion**

<b>Religion of respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Christianity	129	82.7
Muslim	17	10.9
Traditional religion	08	5.1
Free thinkers	02	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.5 shows that 82.7% of the whole respondents were Christians, 10.9% were Muslims, 5.1% were traditional believers while only 1.3% of the respondents were free thinkers. This simply depict that most of the respondents were Christians because Ekiti state is in south west where the religion came into Nigeria. It also means some people still hold tenaciously to our culture.

#### 4.6: Ethnicity of the Respondents

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percentage
Yoruba	150	96.2
Igbo	06	3.8
Total	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.6 is on the ethnicity of the respondents. About 96.2% of the respondents were Yoruba while only 3.8% of the respondents were Igbo. It means the state accommodate people from other state or community to dwell among them in order to promote better understanding among them and peace through inter-ethnic marriage.

#### 4.7: Respondents Occupation

Type of Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Civil servant	97	62.2
Trader/Business	23	14.7
Unemployed	32	20.5
Self-employed/Artisan	02	1.3
Others	02	1.3
Total	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.7 looks at the occupation of the respondents. 62.2% of the respondents were civil servants, 14.7% were traders/business people, 20.5% were unemployed while 1.3% of the respondents were self-employed, artisans and others which constitutes retirees and corps members and students.

## 4.2 Identifying and Evaluating Rural Development Strategy

**Table 4.8: Evaluating Rural Development strategy**

Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
There is policy for rural development in Ekiti	44(28.2%)	87(55.8%)	7(4.5%)	16(10.3%)	2(1.3%)
The strategy for rural development is very poor in Ekiti	43(27.6%)	66(42.3%)	12(7.7%)	35(22.4%)	-
Rural areas developmental projects are poorly executed	44(28.2%)	67(42.9%)	6(3.8%)	35(22.4%)	4(2.6%)
Some basic infrastructures are not found in rural areas	57(36.5%)	59(37.8%)	8(5.1%)	30(19.2%)	2(1.3%)
No good plan in implementing rural developmental projects	45(28.8%)	69(44.2%)	11(7.1%)	23(14.7%)	8(5.1%)

Table 4.8 evaluates rural development strategy. From the above table, 55.8% of the respondents agree that there is policy for rural development in Ekiti, 42.3% agree that the strategy for rural development is very poor in Ekiti, 42.9% of the respondents agree that rural areas developmental projects are poorly executed, 37.8% likewise agree that some basic infrastructures are not found in rural areas and 44.2% of the respondents agree that no good plan in implementing rural developmental projects. Going by the statistics displayed above, the rural areas in Ekiti state are really suffering because they are not benefiting in anyway the dividend of democracy in terms of project execution in different forms as the case in urban areas. Therefore, the rural areas have bad and poor developmental strategies.

### 4.3 Level of rural development and its impact on the social life of People

**Table 4.9: Level of rural development and its impact on social life of rural dwellers**

Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
Rural development projects promotes standard of living	98(62.8%)	44(28.2%)	6(3.8%)	8(5.1%)	-
People in rural areas have unlimited access to basic infrastructural amenities	22(14.1%)	54(34.6%)	18(11.5%)	54(34.6%)	8(5.1%)
Rural dwellers feel positive impacts of governments through different rural projects	22(14.1%)	8(5.1%)	14(9.0%)	38(24.4%)	74(47.4%)
There are lots of governments sponsored projects in rural areas	14(9.0%)	52(33.3%)	20(12.8%)	55(35.3%)	15(9.6%)
The level of government's projects in the rural areas is high	10(6.4%)	28(17.9%)	7(4.5%)	64(41.0%)	47(30.1)
My community has more than enough basic and modern facilities for the comfort of the people	4(2.6%)	48(30.8%)	19(12.2%)	77(49.4%)	8(5.1%)

Table 4.9 center on the level rural development and its impact on the social life of rural dwellers. The table displayed that 62.8% of the respondents strongly agree that rural development projects promotes standard of living, 34.6% disagree that people in rural areas have unlimited access to basic infrastructural amenities, 47.4% strongly disagree that rural dwellers feel positive impacts of governments through different rural projects, 35.3% disagree that there are lots of governments sponsored projects in rural areas, 41.0% disagree that the level of government's projects in the rural areas is high and 49.4% of the respondents disagree that my community has more than enough basic and modern facilities for the comfort of the people. This simply implies that the rural areas in the Ekiti are at the receiving end. That is, the level of government project in the rural areas is nothing to write home about at all. Also, in terms of impact of rural



development projects on the life of rural dwellers, the study revealed that rural dwellers do not benefit anything less more enjoy. The rural areas and dwellers are totally alienated from the national cake of this country.

#### 4.4 Status of some Infrastructural Facilities in Rural Areas in Ekiti State

**Table 4.10: Status of some Infrastructural Facilities in Rural Areas in Ekiti State**

Items	Need much improvement	Need some improvement	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Quality health care infrastructural facilities	85(54.5%)	42(26.9%)	19(12.2%)	10(6.4%)	-
Quality and adequate electricity facilities	92(59.0%)	46(29.5%)	10(6.4%)	8(5.1%)	-
Good road facilities	86(55.1%)	49(31.4%)	12(7.7%)	8(5.1%)	1(0.6%)
Subsidized agricultural loan facilities	114(73.1)	29(18.6%)	8(5.1%)	5(3.2%)	-
Adequate and quality water supply	54(34.6%)	84(53.8%)	10(6.4%)	8(5.1%)	-

Table 10 is on the status of infrastructural facilities in rural areas of Ekiti state. About 54.5% of the respondents argued that health care facilities in rural areas of Ekiti state need much improvement, 59.0% said quality and adequate electricity also need much improvement, 55.1% said that good road need much improvement, 73.1% likewise said subsidized agricultural loan facilities need much improvement and 53.8% of the respondents said adequate and quality water supply need some improvement. It is really sad to see from the table that only 0.6% person said good road facilities in rural areas is excellent in Ekiti state. The status of facilities in rural areas is very poor, the status is very low a little above soil level. That is why the people are in serious abject poverty. Most rural areas if not all are poverty ridden areas in all ramifications.

#### 4.5 Limitations or obstacles to Rural Development Strategies

**Table 4.11: Limitations or obstacles to Rural Development Strategies**

Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
There are lots of problems that characterized rural development in Ekiti state	54(34.6%)	84(53.8%)	10(6.4%)	8(5.1%)	-
Contractors are not committed to the contracts meant to develop rural areas	61(39.1%)	54(34.6%)	15(9.6%)	18(11.5%)	8(5.1%)
No enough money to execute quality infrastructural projects for rural development	43(27.6%)	63(40.4%)	17(10.9%)	24(15.4%)	9(5.8%)
There is too much attention concentrated on urban than rural areas	79(50.6%)	61(39.1%)	4(2.6%)	8(5.1%)	4(2.6%)
No good representative from the rural areas to fight for their rights	48(30.8%)	36(23.1%)	6(3.8%)	41(26.3%)	25(16.0%)

Table 4.11 shows that in respect to limitations of rural development area, 53.8% of the respondents agree that there are lots of problems that characterized rural development in Ekiti state, 39.1% strongly agree that contractors are not committed to the contracts meant to develop rural areas, 40.4% of the respondents agree that no enough money to execute quality infrastructural projects for rural development, 50.6% strongly agree that there is too much attention concentrated on urban than rural areas and 30.8% of the respondents also strongly agree that no good representative from the rural areas to fight for their rights. From this, it can be concluded that rural development policy and strategy no doubt have lots of challenges. This is because corruption has found its way into all parts of sectors in the country. That is why people sidelined the rural and fully concentrate on the urban areas.

#### 4.6 Solution and Recommendation for a more functional strategy for rural development

**Table 4.12: Solution and Recommendation for a more functional strategy for rural development**

<b>Solutions for a more functional rural development</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Government needs to concentrate more on rural development than ever before	151(96.8%)	5(3.2%)	-
More modern infrastructural facilities should be channel to rural areas	150(96.2%)	6(3.8%)	-
Rural areas developmental projects should be thoroughly supervised	149(95.5%)	7(4.5%)	-
Honest and transparent people should handle developmental projects in rural areas	150(96.2%)	6(3.8%)	-
Projects that will address the needs of rural people should be executed	152(97.4%)	4(2.6%)	-
Rural development policy must always be reviewed and implemented adequately	140(89.7%)	14(9.0%)	2(1.3%)

Table 4.12 is on solution and recommendations to government on the re-designing a workable and functional strategy for rural areas development. 96.8% of the respondents said yes government need to concentrate more on rural development than ever before, 96.2% said yes more modern infrastructural facilities should be channel to rural areas, 95.5% said yes rural areas developmental projects should be thoroughly supervised, 96.2% also said yes, honest and transparent people should handle developmental projects in rural areas, 97.45 of the respondents said yes, projects that will address the needs of rural people should be executed and 89.7% of the respondents said yes, Rural development policy must always be reviewed and implemented adequately. From the table, it is real that at least 90.0% of the respondents agreed with the above measures as good solution to challenges of rural areas development in Ekiti state and they are recommended for government to re-strategize on the development of rural areas.

#### 4.7 Some Rural Developmental Projects and its availability in Ekiti State

4.13: Some Rural Developmental Projects and its availability in Ekiti State

Rural Developmental Projects and its Availability	Available		Not available		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Good Road	48	30.8	108	69.2	156	100.0
Electrification	42	26.9	114	73.1	156	100.0
Tap water / Bore Hole water	32	20.5	124	79.5	156	100.0
Street Light	30	19.2	126	80.8	156	100.0
Health center	116	74.4	40	25.6	156	100.0
Schools (primary and secondary)	127	81.4	29	18.6	156	100.0
Modern market	57	36.5	99	63.5	156	100.0
Women Empowerment	46	29.5	110	70.5	156	100.0
Community hall	64	41.0	92	59.0	156	100.0
Drainage system and bridges	44	28.2	112	71.8	156	100.0

Table 4.13 is on the inventory of infrastructural facilities for rural development in some selected rural areas in Ekiti state. 69.2% of the respondents said good road is not available, 73.1% said electrification is not available, 79.5% said tap water of bore hole are not available, looking at the table one will discover that health care centers and primary and secondary schools are available, while all other facilities are not available at all. Using this table to take inventory of facilities in rural areas in Ekiti state, it means there is nothing to show as government impact in those communities. It means the rural dwellers are on their own. They are living at the mercies of God and whatever they can do for their comfortability in each of those communities.

#### **4.8 Discussion of Findings**

The issue of development is not restricted to urban areas alone. In fact, in Western world, equal attention is given to both urban and rural areas but in developing nations most especially in Nigeria, government give little or no attention to rural areas. Development will not be holistic in any society where rural areas are neglected. Also, the neglect of rural areas in terms of development gives birth to multiplier effects on all stakes, government do not want to be associated with rural areas once they attain a political position.

The findings of this research project reveals that 55.8% of the respondents agree that there is policy for rural development in Ekiti, 42.3% agree that the strategy for rural development is very poor in Ekiti, then 42.9% of the respondents agree that rural areas developmental projects are poorly executed, 37.8% likewise agree that some basic infrastructures are not found in rural areas and 44.2% of the respondents agree that no good plan in implementing rural developmental projects. Almost 62.8% of the respondents strongly agree that rural development projects promotes standard of living, 34.6% disagree that people in rural areas have unlimited access to basic infrastructural amenities, 47.4% strongly disagree that rural dwellers feel positive impacts of governments through different rural projects, 35.3% disagree that there are lots of governments sponsored projects in rural areas, 41.0% disagree that the level of government's projects in the rural areas is high and 49.4% of the respondents disagree that my community has more than enough basic and modern facilities for the comfort of the people.

Furthermore, 54.5% of the respondents argued that health care facilities in rural areas of Ekiti state need much improvement, 59.0% said quality and adequate electricity also need much improvement, 55.1% said that good road need much improvement, 73.1% likewise said subsidized agricultural loan facilities need much improvement and 53.8% of the respondents said

adequate and quality water supply need some improvement. It is important to note that 53.8% of the respondents agree that there are lots of problems that characterized rural development in Ekiti state, 39.1% strongly agree that contractors are not committed to the contracts meant to develop rural areas, 40.4% of the respondents agree that no enough money to execute quality infrastructural projects for rural development, 50.6% strongly agree that there is too much attention concentrated on urban than rural areas and 30.8% of the respondents also strongly agree that no good representative from the rural areas to fight for their right.

. In Ekiti state, this empirical study showed that the conditions of rural areas in terms of development are very poor. The policy and strategy for rural development is totally faulty in the state. Even when government feels like doing one thing or the other in any rural area, those that will implement it and the contractors will not do anything to represent the government. For instance, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) water project in the whole of Ekiti state was just a monumental waste. There was no water coming out from anywhere. Therefore, it is not a gain saying that Ekiti state is the least developed state in the whole of southwest as a result of total neglect of rural areas. Not that those other states in southwest are like Lagos but their conditions are far better than what is obtainable in Ekiti state in spite of different and constant intervention <sup>of the</sup> ~~in each~~ state and country at large by different organisations within and outside the nation.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

These parts include the summary of the entire work, the conclusion of the work and the recommendations of the work.

#### 5.1 Summary

This section runs from chapter one to chapter four. In chapter one, issues such as background to the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, research questions and objectives of the study. Chapter two reviews current and relevant past empirical studies from different scholars in different fields. Some of the themes review are looking at the concept of development from the work of Walter Rodney (1972). Also, Todaro (1977:96-98) perception of development was considered. Development must therefore be conceived as a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structure, attitudes and institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty. The concept of development as the dominant academic discourse in western modernity was looked at and the characterization of development. The issue of rural development was examined in the work of Olisa et al (1992) and United Nation work on rural development dominate discussion. Rural development programme by different government in Nigeria was reviewed discussing those programme one after the other.

Theoretically, three main theories were explored in this study. That is, the basic need approach with ILO as the chief contributor, providing the necessary basic needs for both families and the communities. The infrastructural approach looked at the infrastructures provided for members of the communities for their use and lastly, industrialization approach is the process of making communities look like urban areas through the provision of basic amenities in those rural areas.

On findings of the study. About 55.8% of the respondents agree that there is policy for rural development in Ekiti, 42.3% agree that the strategy for rural development is very poor in Ekiti, 42.9% of the respondents agree that rural areas developmental projects are poorly executed, 37.8% likewise agree that some basic infrastructures are not found in rural areas and 44.2% of the respondents agree that no good plan in implementing rural developmental projects. Almost 62.8% of the respondents strongly agree that rural development projects promotes standard of living, 34.6% disagree that people in rural areas have unlimited access to basic infrastructural amenities, 47.4% strongly disagree that rural dwellers feel positive impacts of governments through different rural projects, 35.3% disagree that there are lots of governments sponsored projects in rural areas, 41.0% disagree that the level of government's projects in the rural areas is high and 49.4% of the respondents disagree that my community has more than enough basic and modern facilities for the comfort of the people.

Furthermore, 54.5% of the respondents argued that health care facilities in rural areas of Ekiti state need much improvement, 59.0% said quality and adequate electricity also need much improvement, 55.1% said that good road need much improvement, 73.1% likewise said subsidized agricultural loan facilities need much improvement and 53.8% of the respondents said adequate and quality water supply need some improvement. It is important to note that 53.8% of the respondents agree that there are lots of problems that characterized rural development in Ekiti state, 39.1% strongly agree that contractors are not committed to the contracts meant to develop rural areas, 40.4% of the respondents agree that no enough money to execute quality infrastructural projects for rural development, 50.6% strongly agree that there is too much attention concentrated on urban than rural areas and 30.8% of the respondents also strongly agree that no good representative from the rural areas to fight for their rights.



## **5.2 Conclusion**

Conclusively, this study showed that rural developmental policy and strategy in Ekiti state does not represent the rural dwellers. This is because poverty is just the order of the day in those rural areas. Government impact was not felt at all. The policy for rural areas development is faulty also, the implementation and impartation of the faulty policy is wrong because of corruption.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

The following recommendation is reach from the findings of the study. The recommendations are as follows:

- i. Government should always review rural areas development policy and strategy;
- ii. Government should set up monitoring and evaluation group for rural development in Ekiti state;
- iii. Rural dwellers in any of those rural areas should be involved in any project meant for the rural area;
- iv. Government should provide infrastructural facilities that the rural dwellers need per time.

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## APPENDIX

**Research Questionnaire  
Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Federal University Oye-Ekiti**

I am a final year student in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Federal University Oye-Ekiti. Presently, I am collecting quantitative data on the title, *“EXPLORATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN EKITI STATE (2010 - 2014)”*, I am using this opportunity to plead with you to attend to this questionnaire to the best of your knowledge of the subject matter for the success of this study. I wholeheartedly promised that all your responses will be treated confidentially.

Answer all questions as appropriate.

### **Section A: Respondent’s Socio-Demographic Characteristics**

1. How old are you as at your last birthday
  - (a) 20 – 24 Years ( )
  - (b) 25 – 29 Years ( )
  - (c) 30 – 34 Years ( )
  - (d) 35 – 39 Years ( )
  - (e) 40 – 44 Years and above ( )
2. Sex of the Respondents
  - (a) Male ( )
  - (b) Female ( )
3. Marital Status:
  - (a) Married ( )
  - (b) Single due to
    - (i) Never married ( )
    - (ii) Separated ( )
    - (iii) Divorced ( )
    - (iv) Widowed ( )

4. Highest Educational Qualification of Respondents

- (a) No formal education ( )
- (b) Primary Education ( )
- (c) Secondary Education ( )
- (d) NCE/ND Education ( )
- (e) B.SC/HND ( )

5. What is your Religious Affiliation?

- (a) Christianity ( )
- (b) Muslim ( )
- (c) Traditional Religion ( )
- (d) Free thinker ( )

6. You are from which Ethnic group please?

- (a) Yoruba ( )
- (b) Igbo ( )
- (c) Hausa ( )
- (d) Others (please specify)..... ( )

7. Occupation

- (a) Civil Servant ( )
- (b) Trader/Business ( )
- (c) Unemployed ( )
- (d) Self-employed/Artisan ( )
- (e) Others (please Specify)..... ( )

**Section B: Identifying and Evaluating Rural Development Strategies**

Tick the most applicable option to each question: SA-Strongly Agreed, A-Agreed, N-Neutral, D-Disagreed, SD-Strongly Disagreed

	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
1	There is policy for rural development in Ekiti					
2	The strategy for rural development is very poor in Ekiti					
3	Rural areas developmental projects are poorly executed					
4	Some basic infrastructures are not found in rural areas					
5	No good plan in implementing rural developmental projects					

**Section C: Level of rural development and its impact on the social life of People**

Tick the most applicable option to each question: SA-Strongly Agreed, A-Agreed, N-Neutral, D-Disagreed, SD-Strongly Disagreed

	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
1	Rural development projects promote standard of living					
2	People in rural areas have unlimited access to basic infrastructural amenities					
3	Rural dwellers feel positive impacts of government through different rural projects					
4	There are lots of government sponsored projects in rural areas					
5	My community has more than enough basic and modern facilities for the comfort of the people					

**Instructions:** This section seeks to know the availability and condition of the following infrastructural facilities in the rural areas. **Note: Need much Improvement=1, Need some Improvement=2, Satisfactory=3, Good=4 and Excellent=5**

S/N	Items	1	2	3	4	5
1	Quality health care infrastructural facilities					
2	Quality and adequate electricity facilities					
3	Good road facilities					
4	Agricultural loan facilities					
5	Adequate and quality water supply					

**Section D: Limitations or obstacles to Rural Development Strategies**

Tick the most applicable option to each question: SA-Strongly Agreed, A-Agreed, N-Neutral, D-Disagreed, SD-Strongly Disagreed

	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
1	There are lots of problems that characterize rural development in Ekiti state					
2	Contractors are not committed to the contracts meant to develop rural areas					
3	No enough money to execute quality infrastructural projects for rural development					
4	There is too much attention concentrated on urban than rural areas					
5	No good representative from the rural areas to fight for their rights					

**Section E: Solution and Recommendation for a more functional strategy for rural development**

	Solutions for a more functional rural development	Yes	No	Don't Know
1	Government needs to concentrate more on rural development than ever before			
2	More modern infrastructural facilities should be channel to rural areas			
3	Rural areas developmental projects should be thoroughly supervised			
4	Honest and transparent people should handle developmental projects in rural areas			
5	Projects that will address the needs of rural people should be executed			
6	Rural development policy must always be reviewed and implemented adequately			



**SECTION F: Some Rural Developmental Projects and its availability in Ekiti State**

Instruction: Tick as applicable to your community

	<b>Rural Developmental Projects and its Availability</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Not available</b>
1	Good Road in the rural areas		
2	Electrification in the rural areas		
3	Tap water / Bore Hole water		
4	Street Light		
5	Health center		
6	Schools (primary and secondary)		
7	Modern market		
8	Women Empowerment		
9	Community hall		
10	Drainage system and bridges		