MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FUND

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ABSTRACT
This Article is a continuous study on the Management of Funds in Community executed Projects. The purpose of this article is to highlight the need for community development self help projects, the sources of funds or funding, and management or control of the funds. Funding is important in all establishments in order to achieve set goals or objectives. Attempt has been made to explore various avenues of funding Community Projects. Mismanagement of this fund can be averted through proper management, effective and efficient engagement or development of the funds. The concept of planning is also included: that is the systematic way of developing a feasible programme, and emphasizing lay down principles of fund raising and the management of fund, execution and project management and maintenance. The article is very important as the act of contributing resources to community development is very important in achieving vision 2020 of the present administration and the millennium development goal (MDG).

Keyword: Management, Fund, Community, Resources, Development, MDG.

INTRODUCTION
THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Community development as a concept consist a compound word ‘Community’ and ‘development,’ and therefore have to be defined separately.

(A) **Conceptualizing Community:** Literature is replete with multi-vocal and varied definitions of the concept of a community. A careful review of the contemporary literature on the subject has shown that the term is not static but evolving and dynamic; and this is the problem involved in pulling down to one universally accepted definition. The reason for the different and varied definitions of community could be attributed to the differences in scholar’s orientation and the purpose of defining the term including the social economic and political prevailing situations of the society in which the term is being defined. For the purpose of this write-up, a community is viewed in terms of all the people or a group of people living within a specific geographical setting. Community therefore, is depicted in the light of the following: a population living within established area or a group of people in a given geographical environment; and such people communication has common interest, basic necessity of life, common goal and a sense of belonging. As social group, the people are expected to create a sense of belonging and share responsibility for the improvement of the well being of the group. The people must, therefore work together to identify their common felt needs.

(B) **Conceptualizing Development:** Development is relative and almost always or generally seen as growth or improvement. Development has been used differently connoting economic, Political and even cultural dimensions. In the 1950s and 60s, development was purely used in the economic sense to mean the capacity of a National economy, which initial economic condition has been more or less static for along time, to generate and sustain an annual increase of it’s gross national product rate of five to seven percent or more. The emphasis here is on growth in economic and tangible sense, without a corresponding improvement in the living standard of the majority of the people; further consideration of stimulation forces for growth and implied change, development has been in literature as growth per capita gross national product (GNP). Beyond, development is the planned change of the production and employment structure in such away that the contribution of agriculture declines, while manufacturing and service industries grows. In this content, development is seen as improvement in the overall per capita gross national product passed down to people in the form of employment and other economic opportunity, the condition necessary for wider distribution of economic and social dividends of development. Real development must be depending on the balanced growth of the person both as an economic and social person. As expressed by Harbison (1975) that the wealth of a country is dependent upon more than his natural resources and material capita; it is determine in significant degrees by knowledge, skills and the motivation of it people. This understanding or situation led to the alternative approach to definition of development. The concept of development now embraces multi-dimensional process, which includes changes in structure, growth, the reduction of inequalities, eradication of poverty, ignorance, apathy, illiteracy, sustainable improvement in social,
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economic, political and cultural well being of the people. Real development must be measured in and have relevance with human development index (HDI). Man is center of development. According to Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, development is embedded in mans ability to expand his own consciousness, and therefore power over himself, his environment and his society.

(C) Conceptualizing Community Development: The community development concept is derived from combining the two words, community and development. The concept has become more popular since 1948 at the Cambridge conference on Africa Administration organized by the British colonial office, and there it was taken as mass education, and then taken as a movement to promote better living. Community development therefore has it primary purpose as introducing changes with the co-operation, participation, self-effort, democratic principles, self-commitment in identification of and harnessing of their resources for their improved standard of living. According to United Nations, community development is the process by which the effort of the people themselves are united with those of Governmental authorities in order to improve the economic social and cultural conditions of communities; integrate these communities into the life of the nation, to enable them contribute fully to national progress.

FUNDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Funding generally refers to the application of money, men, and materials and other relevant inputs to the efforts aimed at achieving community development. There are two principal sources of funding; internal and external.

Internal Sources: This is the funding that is generated locally from various sources such as:
1. Levies on the community members
2. Voluntary donations by members of the community and other philanthropist.
3. Sales of community resources
4. Contribution from children abroad
5. Voluntary given of time and energy
6. Proceed from the community income-generating projects
7. Support of wealthy community members
8. Royalties

A community may seek to fund its community development project by levying members. This is one of the most common and simplest means of funding community development project. Those who fail to pay are often sanctioned. The fear of being sanctioned make members to comply. However, the amount of money generated through this source is often very meager; as it is depended on the earning power of the members of the community. Some communities choose to encourage voluntary contributions from their members. Therefore, some members of the community deny themselves of some pleasure and donate voluntarily physical cash or in kind such as Labor in support of community development Projects. Members are encouraged to make voluntary contribution as means of identifying with the community. In some cases some communities may decide to sell community landed properties and other resources. In most communities, Community indigenes ("their children") living abroad send their contributions to support community development projects. Such children who reside abroad are known to form formidable unions and associations aimed at helping themselves and their communities by way of making significant, physical and non-physical contributions to the growth of their home community. Sometimes, funds are generated by the community through rent and grant given to community by company that reside in the community; for example, the health center project that was embarked on in OKO community in Edo state Nigeria. Majority of the funds needed was provided by companies resided in that community.

The external sources: This source of fund is generated externally from various means such as:
1. Support from government development agencies on the field.
2. Support from voluntary organizations/Agencies
3. Support from donor agencies/international government and non-government.

Government agencies in the field are always out to assist community development efforts. Government assistance may be in the form of award of prices to the best communities, which have been found to have effectively mobilized their resources for development. It may also be in the form of making grant to communities, which have been found or known to be always initiating and completing viable projects in their area. It may also take the form of making available technical advice and equipments to the communities to facilitate execution of projects initiated. Voluntary agencies are also partners in funding of
community development projects. Some of these agencies have been known to have donated physical cash and equipment or may choose to single-handedly initiate and complete projects that have been collectively or jointly agreed on or identified by the people. In Nigeria, voluntary agencies/clubs like Rotary, Lions, among others, have rendered valuable assistance to community development programmes in different communities. International government and non-governmental agencies or donor agencies are known to have offered various assistance in sourcing for fund for community development project. Some of these agencies however, develop more interest in projects that are aimed at projecting their objectives. International donor like W.H.O, UNICEF, UNDP, C.I.D.A, I.M.F, C.U.S.O, IFESH, DVV, over the years, have helped in funding community base project. Using OKO COMMUNITY as an example, UNICEF constructed 6 block classrooms in the community. This 6 block classrooms have gone a long way in helping the community children in learning in a conducive environment.

FUND RAISING STRATEGY
One of the recent trend in sourcing for funds for Community projects is FUND RAISING. This is a major strategy commonly employed in sourcing for fund for the implementation of community development projects, outside the sources already identified internally and externally. Fund raising is the act of soliciting, identifying and winning contributions for development programmes. In traditional Africa community, fund raising-normally take the form of village rally that is preceded by identifying a specific project, costing it and then summoning potential donors to contribute to the aid of the community in order to achieve their set goal.

MANAGEMENT OF COMUNITY FUNDS
Fund management and control of fund for community project is important and essential in executing community project. Therefore, a lot have to be done in controlling fund in order to make the project to be effective, and fund to be accounted for. Using OKO COMMUNITY as an example, there are three committees set aside for management and control of fund. They are:
1. FUND RAISING COMMITTEE.
2. PROJECT EXECUTION COMMITTEE.
3. MONITORING COMMITTEE.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE: This committee is very important to achieving success in community project; as it has a major role to play in community project. This committee consists of 6 members; it has in private account which is different from the community account. The criteria for choosing members of this committee are 2 members from the men association, 2 from the women association and 2 from the youth association. The fund generated during the fund raising exercise goes into the fund raising committee account. The functions of this committee include:
1. Fixing a date for the fund raising ceremony.
2. Identifying the chairman and others special guest to the ceremony.
3. Putting in place logistic and other material to make the ceremony to be successful.
4. Convening information about the fund raising to the chairman and other guest.
5. Choosing a secured venue that is safe for the guest.
6. Finding a chief launcher that will take off the lunching proper.

PROJECT EXECUTION COMMITTEE: This committee also has a major part to play in order to achieve a successful community project. The major function of the committee is to execute the project; and this committee also has an account that is different from that of the fund raising committee and the community account. The committees consist of 7 members who are professionals in set goals. Here various sub committees are set up primarily for execution purpose. Some of their functions include:
1. Finding the best site to execute project.
2. Finding the material and human effort to execute the project
3. Finding the best method to go about project management.

MONITORING COMMITTEE: This is the committee that serves as the eyes of the community. Their major task is to monitor the execution of the project from the purchasing stage to the finishing stage. This committee is made up of seven members, which is chaired by a professional. This professional in most cases is a citizen of that community. If there is no professional in that community, the community goes ahead to hire an expert to be a member of that committee. The primary duty of the committee is to monitor the
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The committees also have the power to stop the project if the committee finds out any misconduct from members of the project execution committee. This is the committee that is closer to the people. Other functions of the committee include:

1. Ensuring that the project fund are used judiciously
2. Ensuring that the actual materials are used in execution of the project
3. Ensuring that the project master plan is followed duly
4. Ensure that no personal interest is put first before the community interest.

In order for funds to be accounted for properly, usage of the fund must go through due process.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE ACCOUNT: This account is the first account in any project; all funds that are contributed during the fund raising exercise are kept in the fund raising committee account. The major signatory to this account are the CHAIRMAN, FINANCE SECRETARY and TREASURER. After the fund raising committees have finished collecting all funds, the next step is to pay the funds (money) into the project execution committee account.

PROJECT EXECUTION COMMITTEE ACCOUNT: This is the account for the movement or flow of money “funds”. The funds realized during the fund raising exercise is transferred here to be utilized for the purpose it was raised. The main signatory to this account are the CHAIRMAN, FINANCE SECRETARY and TREASURER. Money spent is usually accounted for therefore, proper documentation/record have to be kept in order for members of the committee to render good account.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Community development project is a community development concept in which individual community, organization, companies etc conceive, initiate, prioritize, plans and propose a viable and sustainable development project within the community. The project is subsequently implemented and maintained by the people themselves. The issues discussed in this paper may not be exhaustive; but they can serve advisory role to those who wish to improve on how to solve the problem of their felt need in a community, so that all individual citizen can contribute their part in community development drive.

RECOMMENDATION

As community development project play a significant and positive role in the economic development of a Nation, Policies ensuring the growth of the community (Rural Sector) will have relevant implications to economic development in Nigeria. Therefore, instructive policy implementation in terms of budgeting and sectorial allocation of funds on the side of the government is highly advised. This will be instructive for policy makers and implementers in knowing the right amount that should be allocated to community projects in rural areas, and also for predictive purposes should the allocations to the sectors be enhanced. This will lead to development in the economy, which will in turn lead to enhancement of life in the community (Rural Sector). More so, specialized training that will make workers in the rural sector relevant to today’s technologically dynamic world should be encouraged. This will enable human efforts to be complementarily relevant to the development process. Furthermore, all issues in a topic like this cannot be exhaustively discussed in one paper. In view of this, it is recommended that future papers should focus on how communities can pool resources, come together and solve the problem related to their felt needs in a prioritized manner.

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