



INFLUENCE OF STAKEHOLDER'S PARTICIPATION ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT IN OLAMABORO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract: This study investigated the influence of stakeholder's participation on community projects and development in Olamaboro Local Government Area of Kogi State. Two research questions were raised to guide the study. A survey research design was adopted to determine stakeholder's participation in community projects and development in Olamaboro Local Government Area of Kogi State. The study population comprised of stakeholder's in the L.G.A. stratified random sample technique was drawn from the senatorial districts using questionnaire. A self- structured questionnaire titled "influence of stakeholder's participation on community projects and development Questionnaire" (ISPCPDQ). A reliability coefficient of 0.70 and above was considered acceptable for the instrument to be deemed reliable. Data were analyzed using inferential statistics. Taro Yamane formula (TYF) was employed to answer the research questions and determine the strength and direction of relationships among variables, while Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient was used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. Findings revealed significant positive relationships between stakeholder's participation on community projects and development. Specifically, stakeholders with higher experience and professional training participated with better contribution to community projects



and development. The study recommends that government and stakeholders should encourage participation in community project through funding, advisory and management roles to improved welfare and good environment in every community. These measures are essential for fostering effective living for every citizen.

Keywords: Stakeholder's participation, community projects, development, project management and Social Studies Education

Introduction

The role of stakeholders in a successful project becomes important and crucial. Stakeholders' active participation in the project ensures the sustainability, success, and performance of the project. It is crucial and very substantial for a project manager to acquire stakeholder management skills that will demonstrate and address the communication requirements of the stakeholders. The transformation of communities to improve their living conditions has become a central challenge to the economic and social development efforts of developing nations like Nigeria. This challenge stems from the urgent need to promote the welfare of rural and urban populations so they can attain a better standard of living (Osuji, 2020). Many developing nations, especially Nigeria, have initiated pragmatic programmes aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of their citizens, particularly in the physical development of communities. The pace and success of community development are largely determined by the people's awareness of their own needs and their willingness to take necessary actions toward meeting those needs. Every community in Nigeria requires development, especially in terms of access to social amenities.

Ajayi & Otuya (2019) posit that community development therefore, has emerged as a powerful tool for mobilizing and integrating people into meaningful participation for both local and national advancement. This

growing awareness has motivated many communities to engage in activities that aim to transform their rural and underdeveloped settings into more urbanized and improved environments. According to Osuji (2019), Nigerian communities have adopted communal efforts as a means of pooling resources and providing functional facilities across social, political, and economic domains. Historically, such efforts were evident even before colonial rule, when community members voluntarily cleared paths and built protective structures as a collective responsibility (Virginia & Bassey, 2024).

Conceptual Clarification

It is within this context that **Social Studies** as a school subject becomes relevant and purposeful. Globally, Social Studies were introduced into educational systems to respond to societal needs, instill civic values, and promote active citizenship. In Nigeria, the emergence of Social Studies in the school curriculum was a deliberate response to cultural erosion, value neglect, and the need to foster national development. One of the primary objectives of Social Studies is to help learners understand and solve problems of their immediate environment, whether social, economic, political, or religious. Through this process, the subject develops in students a **sense of responsibility, cooperation, participation, and critical thinking** qualities essential for sustainable community development.



Advisory and Management Roles

Advisory and management roles are central to ensuring that community development programmes are well-coordinated and aligned with local priorities. Advisors often bring expertise in urban planning, social policy, and environmental management, helping to shape sustainable, long-term development goals. Similarly, project managers help secure resources, monitor performance, and integrate community feedback, thereby ensuring that projects are transparent, inclusive, and responsive to changing needs. However, a major obstacle to effective community development in Nigeria remains the misconception that development is solely the responsibility of the government. Many government-initiated projects fail to thrive because they do not involve the local people in their planning and execution. According to Chukuezi (2019), community participation is critical for the sustainability of development projects, as it fosters ownership, commitment, and shared responsibility.

The rising rate of urban poverty further complicates the situation. A World Bank report (2020), cited in Ugwu (2022), revealed that approximately 21% of Nigeria's urban population about 85 million people live below the poverty line. With limited cash income, these individuals struggle to meet their basic needs, such as food, water, shelter, healthcare, and education (Akpomunie, 2021). This underscores the urgent need for community development initiatives that are both participatory and inclusive, addressing the root causes of poverty while empowering citizens through education and skills. Ultimately, Social Studies education provides the philosophical and practical framework necessary for understanding and tackling the complex issues surrounding community development. It encourages

individuals to be active participants in the democratic process, supports the development of leadership and problem-solving skills, and instills values essential for national integration and sustainable growth. As Nigeria strives to achieve holistic development, integrating the objectives of Social Studies into community development strategies offers a pathway to building more self-reliant, informed, and resilient communities (Gladys & Morrisson, 2025).

Consequently, despite government efforts and the presence of influential individuals at federal, state, and local levels, many amenities remain non-functional or poorly maintained. Key challenges include inadequate collaboration among stakeholders, poor maintenance of facilities, and limited understanding among community members of what development entails. Misconceptions about the aims and objectives of community development hinder popular participation, which is essential for project success. This study addresses the lack of empirical data on stakeholders' specific roles in funding, advisory, and management capacities, as well as the limited exploration of community members' perceptions and awareness.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the influence of stakeholder participation in funding of community development projects in Olamaboro Local Government Area, Kogi State.
2. To determine the extent of stakeholder participation on the advisory roles on community development projects in Olamaboro Local Government Area Kogi State.

Research Questions



The following research questions were posed to guide the study:

1. What is the extent of the funding roles of stakeholders' participation in community projects and development in Olamaboro Local Government Area Kogi State?
2. What is the extent of the advisory roles of stakeholders' participation in community projects development in Olamaboro Local Government Area Kogi State?

Research hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between stakeholder's participation mean rating scale and their funding roles in community projects development in Olamaboro Local Government Area Kogi State.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between stakeholder participation mean rating scale and their advisory roles in community projects development in Olamaboro Local Government Area Kogi State.

Methodology

The sample size for the study was 60 community stakeholders, to arrived at this, Taro Yamane formula was used to calculate

the sample size Stratified random technique was adopted to select the following: 5 Community leaders, 5 Religious leaders, 5 old school association forums, 5 youth forum, 5 members of community development association, 5 political representative, and 30 people from the three district. A self-constructed structured questionnaire titled "Influence of stakeholder's participation on community projects and development questionnaire" (ISPCPDQ) was the major instrument for collecting data for this study. It was divided into two sections; section A and B. Section A seeks information on the demographic data of the respondents while section B seeks information about the respondents' opinion on the item statements. Using the four point likert scale of strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D), strongly disagree (SD) and they are rated as 4 points respectively. The data collected was analyzed using the Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient to measure the internal consistency of the instrument. A reliability coefficient of 0.70 and above was considered acceptable for the instrument to be deemed reliable.

Result of the findings

Demographic Profile of Respondents (N = 60)

Variable	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Status	Old students association	18	30.0
	Stakeholder	42	70.0
Age	15–25 years	22	36.7
	26 years and above	38	63.3
Qualifications	NCE	12	20.0
	B.Sc. Ed	22	36.7
	M.Sc. Ed	14	23.3
	Ph.D	6	10.0
	Others (Level)	6	10.0
Religion	Christian	34	56.7
	Muslim	20	33.3
	Traditional Worshipper	6	10.0



Occupation	Business Operator	26	43.3
	Civil Servant	24	40.0
	Others	10	16.7

The majority of respondents (70%) were stakeholders, ensuring that the responses are valid for a study focused on stakeholder participation. Most respondents (63.3%) were 26 years and above, indicating maturity and likely involvement in community affairs. Educational qualifications were fairly distributed, with B.Sc. Ed holders (36.7%) being the highest, followed by M.Sc. Ed (23.3%), suggesting

that most respondents are well educated. The religious background was predominantly Christian (56.7%), with other faiths also represented. In terms of occupation, business operators (43.3%) and civil servants (40.0%) formed the bulk of respondents, indicating active economic engagement in the community.

Research question 1

Table 1: Responses on Funding Roles of Stakeholder Participation

S/N	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
1	Stakeholders provide sufficient financial support for community development projects.	3.20	0.46	Agreed
2	Government funding for community projects in Olamaboro LGA is adequate.	3.18	0.51	Agreed
3	Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contribute financially to community projects.	3.24	0.42	Agreed
4	Private sector investments support community development initiatives.	3.12	0.49	Agreed
5	Community members contribute financially to local development projects.	3.17	0.47	Agreed
	Cluster Mean	3.18	0.18	Agreed

Table 1 shows that: The respondents agreed that stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector participants, and individual community members, play a crucial role in the financial support of community development projects in Olamaboro Local Government Area. Their responses to the questionnaire items under the funding roles cluster consistently showed high levels of agreement, reflecting a collective acknowledgment of the importance of diverse funding sources. The cluster mean score of **3.18**, which is well above the benchmark of **2.50**, indicates that the majority of the respondents positively

perceive stakeholder financial involvement as both essential and impactful. This suggests that stakeholders are not passive observers but active contributors, ensuring the availability of the monetary resources necessary for initiating, sustaining, and completing various community projects. The implication of this finding is that stakeholder funding serves as a foundational pillar for successful community development, and their financial contributions are regarded as vital for the progress and transformation of the local environment.

Research question 2: Advisory Roles of Stakeholder Participation in Community Projects Development

Table 2: Responses on Advisory Roles of Stakeholder Participation



S/N	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Remark
6	Stakeholders provide useful advice to enhance community project success.	3.30	0.43	Agreed
7	Traditional leaders play an advisory role in community development projects.	3.11	0.46	Agreed
8	Government agencies provide relevant guidelines for project implementation.	3.22	0.48	Agreed
9	Experts and professionals offer technical advice to improve community projects.	3.08	0.53	Agreed
10	Stakeholder advisory roles positively influence project sustainability.	3.18	0.56	Agreed
	Cluster Mean	3.18	0.23	Agreed

Table 2 shows that all five items under the advisory roles cluster recorded mean scores above the benchmark value of **2.50**, which indicates a strong level of agreement among the respondents. This suggests a clear consensus that stakeholders are actively involved in providing advice and guidance that enhances the planning, implementation, and success of community development initiatives. The high mean scores reflect the perception that stakeholders including traditional leaders, professionals, government agencies, and technical experts offer valuable insights, strategic direction, and culturally relevant advice that contribute to the sustainability of community projects.

Their advisory roles help to ensure that projects are better aligned with the actual needs of the community, minimize risks of failure, and promote accountability and continuity. These findings underscore the importance of incorporating stakeholder perspectives in decision-making processes to strengthen development outcomes at the grassroots level.

Hypothesis One (H_{01}):

There is no significant difference between stakeholder's participation mean rating and their funding roles in community projects development in Olamaboro Local Government Area, Kogi State.

Table 3: Significant difference between Stakeholder's Participation Mean Rating and their Funding Roles

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Z-Statistic	P-Value	Decision
Funding Roles	60	3.18	0.18	28.62	0.0000	Reject H_{01}

Since the p-value (0.0000) is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates a statistically significant difference between stakeholder participation and their funding roles in community project development.

There is no significant difference between stakeholder participation mean rating and their advisory roles in community projects development in Olamaboro Local Government Area, Kogi State.

Hypothesis Two (H_{02}):

Table 4: Significant difference between Stakeholder Participation Mean Rating and their Advisory Roles



Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Z-Statistic	P-Value	Decision
Advisory Roles	60	3.18	0.23	22.56	0.0000	Reject H_{02}

The p-value is less than 0.05, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. Therefore, stakeholder participation is significantly associated with advisory roles in community development.

Discussion of Findings

The analysis of responses to research question one revealed that stakeholders actively participate in financing community projects in Olamaboro Local Government Area. The mean values for all items in this cluster were above 3.00, and the overall mean score was 3.18. This suggests that stakeholders including government agencies, NGOs, private investors, and community members contribute substantially to the funding of development initiatives. This finding aligns with the work of Ugwu, N. (2022) who emphasized that successful community development projects often depend on strong financial backing from both public and private stakeholders. Similarly, Esenjor (2021) found that community projects in Nigeria gain sustainability when there is a synergy of financial input from multiple stakeholders. The hypothesis testing further confirmed a significant difference between stakeholder participation and their funding roles, implying that financial commitment is a key area where stakeholder involvement has substantial influence.

From research question two, respondents agreed that stakeholders perform important advisory functions that contribute to the success and sustainability of community development projects. Traditional rulers, technical experts, and government agencies were identified as key advisory figures. This supports the findings of Mohammed et al

(2025) who noted that advisory contributions from educated elites and traditional institutions often help in shaping practical and culturally sensitive development policies. Thompson et al (2024) also confirmed that the advisory roles of stakeholders promote strategic planning, project alignment with community needs, and reduction of project failures. The statistical test validated this outcome with a significant z-score, indicating that stakeholder advisory roles are not only perceived but have a measurable impact on project outcomes.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the study concludes that stakeholder participation is a vital cornerstone for the success, effectiveness, and long-term sustainability of community development projects in Olamaboro Local Government Area. The active involvement of various stakeholders including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector actors, traditional leaders, and community members in areas such as funding, advisory support, and project management has a significant and direct impact on the quality and outcomes of developmental efforts. These roles ensure that projects are well-resourced, contextually relevant, and guided by informed decisions that reflect the collective aspirations of the community.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- Government and development agencies should create and sustain funding frameworks that empower local stakeholders to contribute financially. Community funding



- pools, cooperative saving schemes, and micro-grants should be introduced to complement state funding.
- ii. Traditional leaders, experts, and civil society representatives should be formally integrated into community project planning committees. Their advice should be institutionalized in all phases of project design, implementation, and evaluation to ensure context-specific solutions.
- iii. Training programs should be organized regularly to strengthen stakeholder capacity in project management. Stakeholders should also be encouraged to adopt transparent practices, conduct joint evaluations, and publish periodic progress reports for community awareness.
- iv. The government should enact and enforce neutral stakeholder engagement policies to reduce political interference. Mechanisms for improved communication and grievance redress among stakeholders should also be put in place.

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