

Evaluation of Community and Social Development Projects (CSDP) Performance in North Central Nigeria

Ochepo, C.O. ; Ejembi, E.P. and Jiriko, R.K.

Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria. Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication.

Corresponding author email id: Talk2comforter@gmail.com

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Abstract – This study on Evaluation of Community and Social Development Projects (CSDP) Performance in North Central Nigeria was carried out in three states in North Central Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique and a sample size of 418 respondents was selected for the study. Data for the study were collected from primary sources. Primary data were collected through a well-structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics, such as frequency distribution, percentages and mean scores were used to analyze socioeconomic characteristic of the participants and access to CSDP project. The ordinal regression model of factors influencing performance of CSDP project indicates a good fit of the model to the data. Specifically the fit of the model with predictor variables was better compared to the intercept only model ($x = 243.86$; $p < 0.01$). This implies that the explanatory variables in the model jointly and significantly influenced performance of CSDP project, specifically, the model shows that only the variable, CSDP staff ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of project funds significantly influence the probability of high performance of CSDP. It was concluded that CSDP project has significantly affected the rural communities in north central, Nigeria.

Keywords – Communities, Social, Development, Projects, North Central Nigeria.

I. INTRODUCTION

Community development is one of the engines of growth and development of any nation, a process that leads to not only more jobs, income and infrastructure, but also, communities that are better able to manage change, whatever the dimension (Chukwuezi, 2005). Community development is the stimulation of the desire for better things and the urge to attain such things (Bassey, 2002).

Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) is a conceived development intervention that is built on two existing poverty reduction oriented programs namely; Community-based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP) and the Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP) which came to effect in 2004 (CSDP, 2011). The areas of linkages between the current Nigeria's development focus and CSDP are those which address Community Driven Developments (CDD) which are socially inclined, engendering social inclusion through gender equality and people's participation, creation of job opportunities and wealth through the provision of support for various income generating activities. CSDP is to ensure improved service delivery to all rural dwellers through training in capacity and utilization as well as participatory budgeting and financial management in key development sectors (CSDP, 2011). The focus of CSDP and the linkages with the national development expectation is however targeted at the rural dwellers where community and social development needs are to be guided by basic underlying principles of CSDP development frameworks. The principles of CSDP are geared towards enhancing accelerated community and social development at grass root levels where developments have been limited over the years by absence of resources, lack of accountability and transparency in governance among others (CSDP, 2011).

Improving living standards, educational levels and well-being for the entire population are major focus of CSDP (Rehim, 2007). It is based on the perception that no modern settlement can survive on its own without adequate provision of community infrastructural facilities such as modern markets, water facilities, adequate roads network system, health facilities, communication network facilities and many others to mention a few (Frishchmann, 2007). Community infrastructure, according to Idachaba (2005), consists of physical, social and institutional forms of capital which aid community residents in the production, movement, distribution and consumption activities, as well as enhances the quality of community life. According to Ogbuozobe (2000), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have been responsible positively for various forms of physical community infrastructural development in Nigeria, through diverse developmental activities of community based organizations (CBOs) participation in infrastructural provision.

The CSDP report (2011) unveiled that there are demand-driven micro-projects that are eligible for assistance under this project. The micro-projects so qualified are to improve social facilities in communities, help strengthen sustainable environmental management and generally improve access of poor people to social and natural resource infrastructure. The eligible micro-projects are classified as physical, social, common economic infrastructure, environmental and natural resources management and safety net support.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Government initiated community development programs have been criticized for their failure to properly identify the common objectives or the felt needs of beneficiaries and failure to base the planning and implementation on democratic procedures by involving the people adequately (Omoruyi, 2001; Anyanwu, 1992). This makes most governments slow to deliver basic services and are often ineffective in reaching the poor (Ochepo, 2010). The major problem is that each government tends to have unique and varied philosophical inclination to whatever aspect of development it deems fit. Itari (2002) remarked that lack of power at the local level, absence of effective local development oriented institutional structures, lack of funds and mismanagement of lean resources and over dependence on outside models hamper developmental programs. Nwiteozum (2009) reported that most government programs fail because of administrative and structural factors. Similarly Ekomo (2002) reported that often developmental initiatives take top-down approach whereby planning and implementation is done at the government circle without the involvement of the target population in the decision making process of needs identification and project design.

Many poverty reduction projects in developing countries were not sustainable because of their supply-driven and top-down nature which neglected community partnership and ownership of development projects (Dongier, 2004). United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2001) and World Bank (2008) reported that programs commanding a sense of ownership by target beneficiaries and stakeholders have clearly performed better than those that did not and unless the target beneficiaries are carried along, they will never have commitment to make such development programs work.

Oghenekohwo (2014) assessed the Impact of Community Education and Social Development Projects on Rural Development Projects in Bayelsa, Nigeria and attributed the success of the project to the community driven development strategy (CDD). Okereke-Ejiogu, Asiabaka, Ani and Umunakwe (2015) assessed Households' Participation in Community and Social Development Projects (CSDP) in Imo State, Nigeria and concluded that the project was very effective and sustainable with lots of responsibilities on community members. This paper is

focused on evaluating the performance of Community and Social Development Projects (CSDP) in North Central Nigeria.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study employed public opinion method which made use of questionnaire for data collection.

2.1 Study Area

This study was carried out in North Central Nigeria. The North Central or Middle Belt is a human geographical term designating the region of central Nigeria which comprise of Benue, Plateau, Kogi, Kwara, Nassarawa and Niger states and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). North Central Nigeria lies between latitude $4^{\circ} 30'N$ and $11^{\circ} 20'N$ of the equator and longitude $3^{\circ}E$ and $14^{\circ}E$ of the Greenwich Meridian (FAO, 2004). The area occupies a land mass of about 296, 898 Km² and a population of 21,566, 993 million people (National population commission) (NPC, 2006) representing 15.35 % of Nigeria's population. The population density is estimated at 76 percent per km² with the rural population constituting about 76 percent of the population in the zone. The major ethnic groups are the Gwari, Tiv, Igala, Idoma, Igbira, Angas, Buruba, Bargana, as well as Bassa and Birom. The rainfall in North Central Nigeria is largely seasonal and highly variable from year to year, with mean annual rainfall of between 1500mm to 1800mm in north and south respectively. The North Central zone has both upland for rain-fed as well as lowland (fadama) for irrigated farming. The vegetation is mostly savannah and the area is drained by the Benue and Niger rivers and tributaries. Agricultural land is estimated at 24.6 million hectares (representing about 30 % of total arable land in Nigeria) in which only about 6.5 million hectares are being cultivated. The irrigable farmland is estimated at 64,000 hectares. The population of livestock in the North Central zone includes cattle (3.7 million), chickens (18.4 million), goats (7.5 million), sheep (4.2 million), pigs (1.4 million), ducks (3.5 million) as well as over 735 million guinea fowls (FDA/FMANR, 2001). The North Central zone has great potentials in fisheries activities with an estimated surface area of 222,000 million hectares occupied by network of natural lakes, reservoirs and Dams with a total of about 480 water areas of farm ponds scattered within the zone either partially functional or abandoned (Special Food Security, 2003). Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. It is estimated that the North Central Zone contributes about 30 percent of the overall agricultural GDP (Central Bank Nigeria) (CBN, 2003).

The major crops of the area are rice and groundnut as the zone produces over 40 percent of the national production. Other arable crops include sorghum, cowpea, soya-bean, yam and Irish potatoes. Economic trees grown are mango, citrus and cashew. The zone is also an important oil palm producer.

Large populations of rural adults (45 percent) are involved in agriculture while the main non-farm activities include technical professionals, administrative, clerical and sale services. Farming enterprise in the area is family based with family labor being the major source of farm operation. The average farm size is 5.0 hectares with an average household size of 5 people. The method of farming is mixed food crops systems with artisanal fishing. Livestock production systems include pastoral, agro-pastoral and sedentary systems. The average family income has been estimated at N4,000.00 per annum with non-farm activities contributing to 30 percent of the total family income (FAO, 2004).

2.2 Population and Sample Size Selection

The population of this study consisted of all beneficiaries in North Central states of Nigeria which include Niger, Benue, Nassarawa, Kogi, Plateau, Kwara and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Fifty percent of the states were selected randomly to give three states out of the six states in the North Central. Benue, Nassarawa and Plateau states were selected randomly Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 458 respondents. The first stage involved the random selection of fifty percent of the six states in the north central to ensure effective coverage and representation of communities. The second stage was the selection of ten percent of the local government area from each of the three states using simple random sampling technique this led to the selection of two local governments each from Plateau and Benue States and one local government from Nassarawa. The third stage involved the purposive sampling of two communities from each of the selected local government areas participating in CSDP giving a total ten (10) communities. The fourth and final stage involved a proportional purposive sample of 0.2% of the population of each community which formed the sampling frame. The sampling frame for the study is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sampling Size Selection Plan

STATE	SENATORIAL ZONE	LGA	COMMUNITY	SAMPLING FRAME	SAMPLE SIZE (0.2%)
BENUE	Zone A	Konshisha	Agurachambe	2500	50
			Agune	2000	40
	Zone C	Oju	Adumowo	1600	32
NASSARAWA			Okpenehe	1800	36
			Sub-total	7900	158
	Southern Zone	Keana	Obene Agaza	2900 7000	58 140
			Sub-total	9900	198
PLATEAU					
	Central Zone	Bokkos	Mundat Gurum	1272 241	25 5
	Northern Zone	Barkinladi	Rawuru Heipang Sub-total	615 3050 5178	12 61 103
TOTAL		Grand total	Sub-total	22978	459

2.3 Method of Data Collection

Data for this study were collected from primary sources. Primary data were collected through a well-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire focused on respondent's response on factors influencing performance of CSDP project in the study area.

2.4 Validation and Reliability of Research Instrument

The research instrument was validated by pilot testing and passing it through erudite scholars in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi to ensure that it possessed both face and content validity. The suggestion and critique of the experts were used to modify the

instrument before administration. To ensure the reliability of the research instrument questionnaires were administered twice to the same group of twenty respondents in different occasions at the interval of two weeks to ensure that it is reliable that is using test and retest this is done to reduce error within a short time and ensure consistency.

2.5 Data Analysis Techniques

Factors influencing the performance were analyzed using ordinal regression model.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study were as presented below

3. 1 Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

The socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents were as shown on table 2 below.

Table 2. Distribution of Respondents based on Socio-Economic Characteristics (n = 458).

	Benue		Nassarawa		Plateau		North Central		\bar{X}
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Sex									
Male	90	56.6	111	56.1	68	67.3	269	58.70	
Female	68	43.3	88	43.9	33	32.7	189	41.3	
Age(years)									
1-20	10	6.3	34	17.1	9	8.9	53	11.5	
21-40	62	39.0	86	43.2	62	61.4	210	45.7	
41-60	66	41.5	72	36.2	27	26.7	165	36.0	
>60	20	13.2	7	3.5	3	3.0	30	6.8	38
Marital Status									
Single	30	18.9	63	31.8	40	39.5	140	36.5	
Married	112	71.1	112	56.5	59	58.5	277	60.5	
Divorced	16	10.1	23	11.6	2	2.0	41	3.0	
Educational Attainment									
Non-formal	20	12.7	29	14.6	10	9.9	59	12.9	
Primary	50	31.6	33	16.6	5	5.0	88	19.2	
Secondary	63	39.9	109	54.8	32	31.7	204	44.5	
Tertiary	25	15.8	28	14.1	54	53.5	107	23.4	
Household Size									
1-5	158		199		101		458		
6-10	59	37.7	97	48.7	39	38.6	195	42.6	
11-15	67	42.1	85	42.7	49	48.5	200	43.9	
16-20	27	17.0	12	6.0	11	10.9	50	10.9	
	5	3.1	5	2.5	2	2.0	12	2.6	
Major Occupation									
Farming	158		199		101		458		
Civil service	75	47.5	71	35.2	39	38.6	184	42.2	
Self Employed	18	11.4	26	13.1	26	25.7	72	15.7	
Petty Trading	64	40.5	70	35.2	33	32.7	169	36.9	
	1	0.6	32	16.1	2	2.0	33	7.2	

	Benue		Nassarawa		Plateau		North Central	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	\bar{X}
Annual Income								
<200,000	64	40.51	80	40.20	67	66.34	211	46.07
200,001-400,000	55	34.81	45	22.61	12	11.88	112	24.45
400,001-600,000	21	13.29	16	8.04	11	10.89	48	10.48
>600,000	18	11.39	58	29.15	11	10.89	87	18.60
Membership of Organizations								
No	66	41.5	20	10	47	46.5	132	28.8
Yes	92	58.5	179	90	54	53.5	326	71.2

Sex Distribution of Respondents

The result of Table 2 shows that most (56.6%) of the respondents in Benue State were males and 43.3% were females, in Nasarawa state most (56.1%) were males and 43.9% were females while 67.3% were males and 32.7% were female in Plateau State. The pooled result shows that 58.70% of the respondents were males whereas 41.3% were females. This shows that both sexes were adequately represented in the CSDP with slight variation in favor of the male respondents. The dominance of male in the project could be as a result of cultural, religious and social factors which limit female participation in social activities. This could increase the level of involvement of the community members because most of the male members as household heads could influence the participation of their members in community projects. This was expected as males dominate most of the activities in rural communities in Nigeria (Attah and Ejembi, 2015). Similar results have been obtained by Singh *et al.*, (2015) who reported 57.8 % and 42.2 %, male and female respectively similarly, Okereke-Ejiogu *et al.* (2015) reported that majority of the respondents (68.1%) as male while 31.9 were female. This could be as a result of local customs that deny women participation in most social organization, local customs that relegate women or forbid their participation in public activities can limit their contributions to community development, more so, some women in rural communities are not engaged in substantial income generating activities and may thus be discouraged from participating in community development projects that involve the payment of money.

Age Distribution of Respondents

Result in Table 2 reveal that greater percentages (41.5 %) of the respondents in Benue State were aged between 41 and 60 years, 39.0 % were aged 21 – 40 years. Another 13 % were above 60 years among others. Table 2 reveal that in Nasarawa state, a greater percentage (43.2 %) were aged between 21 - 40 years, 36.2 % were within the age bracket of 41 – 60 years. While 17.1 % were above 60 years old. The majority (61.4 %) of the respondents in Plateau were within the age bracket of 21 to 40 years, while 26.7 % of the respondents were within the age bracket of 41–60 among others. The pooled result revealed that about 44.2 percent fell within the age group of 21- 40 years. This was followed by the 41-60 years age group, which represented 36 percent. The result shows that the project participants were still in their economically active ages. Young people are less conservative and could easily engage in any thing that could bring about positive changes in their communities. Also, their physical strength could promote their involvement in community development projects. The results of an average age of

38 years is lower than average age of 45 years reported by Othman (2006) on the impact of community Based Organizations on rural development. The mean age of 38 years in this result is also slightly lower than the 41 years which was reported by Oghenekohwo (2014) meaning that the men were in their productive age and women in their active reproductive years. This is a clear indication that they could handle the rigorous activities involved in community development work. Age is considered an important variable in rural community development because of its influence on people's attitude, skills and aspiration.

Distribution of Respondents according to Marital Status

Greater percentages (71.1%) of the respondents in Benue state were married, among others. Also, about 57 % were married in Nasarawa while 58.5 % were married in Plateau state among others. These results are not unexpected because, marriage is considered important for matured individuals in the North Central.

The pooled result shows that majority of the respondents (60.5 %) were married compared to 30.5 percent who were single and 3.0 percent who were divorced. This indicates the importance attached to marriage institution in the study area which necessitates the need for more infrastructures such as the maternity centres and educational facilities to cater for the expected increasing number of every child. This shows that most of the respondents who are married have greater responsibility, which may encourage them to be committed towards their participation in CSDP-Project, as the major beneficiaries of the projects. This finding is similar to the findings of Mbam and Nwibo (2013) and Oghenekohwo (2014) who reported that 64.2 and 67.9 percent of the respondents respectively were married.

Distribution of Respondents according to Primary Occupation

Entries in Table 2 indicate that 47.5% of the respondents in Benue state had farming as a major occupation while 40.5% were self-employed among others. Similarly in Nasarawa state 35.2% were engaged in farming among others. In Plateau State, majority of the respondents (38.6%) were farmers, another 32.7% were self-employed, another 25.7% were civil servants, and the least was 2.0% who were engaged in petty trading. The pooled results show that majority (42.2%) are farmers. The project members being mainly farmers imply that the communities are rural. According to Ekong agriculture is the major occupation of rural people, considering the deplorable conditions of social amenities in most rural communities in Nigeria, there is a need for concerted effort among the people and collaboration with external agencies to bring about development.

This result is similar to that of Okereke-Ejiogu (2015) in their work on assessment of household participation in Community and Social Development Project in Imo state, Nigeria reported that majority of the respondents were into farming. The 40.3 percent reported in this study is slightly lower than that of Singh *et al.*, (2015) who reported that more than (50%) of the respondents were farmers. These findings are supported by reports of Singh (2009), that agriculture is the pre dominant activity occurring in the rural communities and considered the village economy. Similarly, Okere-Ejiogu *et al.*, (2015) reported that farming is the predominant occupation in rural communities although people engaged in other activities.

Distribution of Respondents according to Level of Education

Entries in Table 2 indicates that 39.9% of the respondents in Benue state had secondary education, while 31.6% had primary education among others. In Nasarawa state, 54.8% had secondary education, followed by 16.6% who

had primary education, 14.1% had tertiary education, while 12.5% had non-formal education. Similarly, in Plateau state 53.5% had tertiary education, 31.7% had secondary education, and 9.9% had non-formal education among others.

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

Membership of Social Organization

Table 2 shows that 58.5 % were members of one form of association or the other in Benue State, while 41.5 % did not belong to any association. Relatively high percentages (90 %) of the respondents were members of one form of association or the other in Nasarawa, while 10 % of the respondents did not belong to any association. Also, in Plateau state, 53.4 % belong to one form of association or the other, while 56.5 % did not belong to any association. It could be said that majority of the respondents belonged to one form of organization or the other which can facilitate understanding of the program due to interaction among themselves.

The pooled results shows that majority of the respondents (71.2 %) belonged to one form of social organization or another whereas (28.8%) did not belong to any social organization. This result is similar to that of Okereke-Ejiogu (2015) who reported that majority (91.2%) of respondents were members of social organizations. Membership of a social organization offers members the opportunity to engage in collective action. Social organizations provide platforms for collective identification of needs and pooling of resources to meet them.

Household Size of Respondents

Results in Table 2 show that 42.1% of the respondents in Benue state had a household size between 6 and 10 persons while 37.7% had a household size of 1 to 5 among others. In Nasarawa state, a greater percentage (48.7 %) had a household size of 1 – 5 persons, 42.7 % had household size of between 8 – 10 persons among others. Furthermore, of the respondents in Plateau state most (48.5 %) had a household size of 6 – 10 persons, 38.6 % had a household size of between 1 and 6 persons, followed by 10.9 % having a household size of 11 – 15 persons and 2.0 % had a household size of 10 -20 persons.

The pooled results also showed that a greater percentage (43.9 %) had a household size of 6 to 10. This result is similar to Agbo (2014) and Ajah and Ajah (2014) who reported an average household size of 8 persons in their

various studies. The findings were also in agreement with that of Ayoola *et al.* (2011) and Alexander (2002) which reported that large household size characterize typical African societies with large blood relations. The large family size is justified in the role of increased hands on the farm in a manually or traditionally driven agricultural sector. Ejembi (2004) posited that a large household size enable such household to have sufficient workforce to enhance effective management of resources which invariably can guarantee steady income flow and consequently improve standard of living.

Distribution of Respondents according to Annual Income

Result in Table 2 show that in Benue state 40.51% had annual income of ₦200,000.00 or less than ₦200,000.00, while 34.81% had annual income of ₦ 200,000 to 400,000 among others. In Nasarawa state, 40.2 % had an annual income of ₦200,000.00 or less than ₦200,000.00, while 29.15 % had annual income greater than ₦600,000.00 among others. The result also indicate that a greater proportion (66.34 %) of respondents in Plateau state had an average annual income of ₦200,000 or less than ₦200,000 and 11.88 % had annual income of ₦200,001. 00 to ₦400,000.00 among others.

The pooled result shows that 46.07 % had annual income of ₦200,000.00 or less among others. Earning of income by the people could enable them participate actively in the projects. Sometimes, beneficiary communities are mandated to contribute certain amount of money for projects. However, people's participation and perception of projects tend to be high when they contribute financially; they begin to see the projects are theirs. Thangata *et al.* (2002) argued that households with higher income are more likely to participate in projects than those with lower income.

3.2 Factors Influencing the Performance of the CSDP Projects in the Benefitting Communities

The result on factors influencing the performance of CSDP in benefiting communities in North Central Nigeria is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Ordinal Regression Estimate; Results of the Factors Influencing the Performance of Community and Social Development Project among the Respondents.

Variable	Estimate	Std Error	Ward statistics	df	Significance
Community involvement in identification, design and implementation of the project	.522	.319	2.676	1	.102*
Community's ability to mobilize their resources towards execution of the identified project	.925	3.484	0.71	1	.790
Marginalized groups and vulnerable in the community participate in the CSDP project	1.629	3.720	.192	1	.661
Community members participation in monitoring and evaluation	2.020	1.801	1.258	1	.262
Community members participation is voluntary and not coerced	2.221	1.561	2.051	1	.152

Community project leaders were elected democratically	2.440	1.839	1.761	1	.185
Involvement of men and women in leadership position	3.943	3.588	1.208	1	.272
The community project leadership was accountable to the other members of the community	.637	2.589	.060	1	.806
Community projects leaders were able to solicit and lobby for support for the micro projects	1.399	2.822	.246	1	.680
Staff of CSDP ensured transparency and accountability in the management of project funds	3.987*	2.230	3.196	1	0.74*
Project finances were released on time as per schedule	1.908	2.642	.521	1	.470
Procurement process was transparent	1.983	2.034	.950	1	.330

Table 3 CONT'D

Variable	Estimate	Std Error	Ward statistics	df	Significance
Involvement of CSDP staff in monitoring and evaluation	.370	4.293	.007	1	.931
Technical assistance provided by CSDP staff and local government staff	.451	1.714	.069	1	.793
Trainings provided by CSDP	3.369	2.553	1.741	1	.187
Community members willingness to corporate with government agencies in service delivery	2.703	3.318	.664	1	.415
Community's ability to pay their counterpart fund	1.509	2.896	.272	1	.602

- significant at <0.10

The ordinal regression model of factors influencing performance of CSDP project indicates a good fit of the model to the data. Specifically the fit of the model with predictor variables was better compared to the intercept only model ($\chi^2 = 243.86$; $p < 0.01$). This implies that the explanatory variables in the model jointly and significantly influenced performance of CSDP project, specifically, the model shows that only the variable, CSDP staff ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of project funds significantly influence the probability of high performance of CSDP. Further, the threshold parameters indicate that the different categories of performance are significantly different from each other and therefore cannot be modeled as one continuous function. Specifically, the model shows that the variables community involvement in identification, design and implementation of the project and CSDP staff ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of project funds significantly influence the probability of high performance of CSDP. Further, the threshold parameters indicate that the different categories of performance are significantly different from each other and therefore cannot be modeled as one continuous function. This implies that community members were involved in

the development project. This concurs with Mutege (2015) who reported that involvement of community members in project activities from the conception to the end strongly affects their utilization as community needs and wants are clearly analysed to answer fully its objectives. Mansuri and Rao (2003) further reported that. Community participation leads to development projects that make government more responsive, better delivery of public goods and services and better managed community assets and a more informed and involved citizenry.

The involvement of CSDP staff in ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of project funds and project implementation thus influencing the better performance indicate that community project decisions are not void of external facilitators' input. This study concurred with Mansuri and Rao (2003) qualitative evidence suggesting that the role of external agents such as project facilitators was a major contributor to the success of community driven development.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

The study concluded that most of the respondents were male but they were more male participants in Plateau when compared to Benue and Nassarawa. Also participants in Nassarawa and Plateau were younger than those of Benue state, with most of them being married. Educationally most participants in Plateau state had tertiary institution as compared to participants in Benue and Nassarawa who had secondary education. Furthermore a great number of participants across the three states have many people in their household while majority in Benue and Plateau states were farmers, a good number of participants in Nasarawa were either farmers or self-employed with majority belonging to one social organization or another. CSDP project staff ensuring transparency and accountability of project funds significantly increase the performance of the projects. The hypothesis that this factor did not influence the performance of CSDP in the benefiting communities was rejected in the case of this factor hypothesis and the alternative accepted. Overall, it is concluded that CSDP project has significantly affected the rural communities in north central, Nigeria and community members were satisfied with the project.

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