



### THE IMPACT OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN KATSINA METROPOLIS.

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#### **Abstract**

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#### **Keywords:**

*Nongovernmental,  
Organizations,  
Sustainable,  
Development,  
Project.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

All human activities and developmental projects are associated with environmental degradation in one form or the other with the attendant generation of wastes. As a result of these, environmental problems of various types and intensities have emerged to threaten man's well-being and the natural environment which serves as his life support system (Okwonko, 2013:739). However, the implementation of policies and programmes to address environmental problems particularly in the developing countries sometimes failed, delayed or recorded low success due to some constraints.

*not fully evaluated, protection, poverty and facilitators in five recognized and alleviation and health (5) randomly selected and appreciated by most of care services. Survey NGO offices that the community data were collected operate within Katsina members. In most from NGOs programs Metropolis. A cases, community beneficiaries in some descriptive and chi-square members communities in square analysis was misunderstood and Katsina metropolis, used to present the misperceived the Katsina State, Nigeria. results. The findings mission of NGOs. On A structured shows that, NGOs the side of questionnaire was impacts on sustainable government, the level used to collect data development are of commitment from 150 NGOs mainly linked to towards the NGOs beneficiaries from five efficiency of NGOs appeared low. It is for (5) selected political officials and projects this reason this study wards of twelve (12) executed. The findings examines the impact of in Katsina metropolis. of the study can benefit NGOs in ensuring Also, interviews were the government and sustainable used to collect relevant NGOs in creating more development projects data using a structured areas of collaboration within Katsina questionnaire survey for sustainable Metropolis with to NGO officials which development special emphasis on include; the programs environmental development officers*

Complementing the efforts of government to adequately respond to sustainable development challenges led to the participation of NGOs as development partners. In this respect, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are considered as major partners in achieving sustainable development in Nigeria since the scope of sustainable development is wide, ranging from pollution issues, deforestation, soil erosion, declining water table at local, regional and international levels, and other forms of national resource depletion and degradation, to global concerns such as climate change and the ozone layer.

It is a known fact, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been in existence for quite a long time in Katsina State, yet their presence and impact is not fully evaluated, recognized and appreciated by most of the community members. In most cases, community members misunderstood and misperceived the mission of NGOs. On the side of government, the level of commitment towards the NGOs in the state appeared low. It is for this reason this study examines the impact of NGOs in ensuring sustainable development projects within Katsina Metropolis with special emphasis on environmental protection, poverty alleviation, community infrastructure and reproductive health.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The aim of the study is to identify the impact of NGOs in achieving sustainable development in Katsina metropolis through effective sustainable development projects. Therefore this study test the following hypotheses:

H<sub>0</sub>: The impact of NGOs on sustainable development projects is independent of efficiency of NGOs officials and executed projects.

H<sub>1</sub>: The impact of NGOs on sustainable development projects is dependent of efficiency of NGOs officials and executed projects.

### **CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Sustainable development implies development which ensures maximization of human well-being for today's generation without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. Attaining this path requires eliminating those negative externalities that are responsible for natural resource depletion and environmental degradation. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment that took place in Stockholm in 1972, the nations of the world agreed on the urgent need to respond to the problem of environmental protection. In 1982, the Nairobi Summit reviewed the progress in the decade since the Stockholm Conference and called upon national governments to intensify efforts to protect the environment and stressed the need for international cooperation. Then followed by United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992 that took a

critical appraisal of the state of global environment and provided strategies for the mitigation of environmental pollution for sustainable development. The World Sustainable Development summit was held in Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2002. Therefore, the thirty years journey of four world summits from Stockholm to Nairobi to Rio and to Johannesburg has put the world on notice on the inextricable link between development and environment making sustainable development in the twenty first century is not an option but imperative(Shah, 2008:1).

Sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society (Shah, 2008:1). Thus, sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today's population and to continue to meet the needs of future generations. It is efficient with resources and carefully planned to deliver both immediate and long-term benefits for people, the planet, and prosperity. There are three pillars of sustainable development namely; economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion (Iyyank and Valli, 2017:1). Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development, too often development is driven by one particular need, without fully considering the wider or future impacts. We are already seeing the damage this kind of approach can cause, from large-scale financial crises caused by irresponsible banking, to changes in global climate resulting from our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy sources. The longer we pursue unsustainable development, the more frequent and severe its consequences are likely to become, which is why we need to take action now. One implication of not doing so is climate change that is coming with a lot of devastating effects. In order to achieve sustainable development, the Earth Summit unanimously adopted the Agenda 21, a comprehensive blue print of actions toward sustainable development, including detailed work plans, goals, responsibilities, and also estimates for funding. The lack of progress in turning Agenda 21 into actions for sustainable development leads to the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on sustainable development.

Johannesburg put the thrust on public-private partnerships for sustainable development through an endorsement of some 500 such partnerships but most of these agreements failed to be implemented. The failure in the implementation of Agenda 21 is as a result of global complexity and often unpredictable political, institutional, environmental, demographic, social and economic changes. This situation has brought to fore the need for alternative solutions, and this will essentially revolve around NGOs and CBOs (Okonkwo, 2013:744). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a major role in pushing for sustainable development at all levels.

## **PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Economic growth**

Sustainable development stressed the need to change from old ways of doing business to new approaches that involves cross-sectoral coordination and the integration of environmental and social concerns into all developmental process. The reason is that, economics treats nature as an infinite supply of physical resources (raw materials, energy, water, soil, air) to be used for human benefit, but if not sustainably utilized it could generate into environmental problems in the form of various types of pollution and ecological degradation. The corner stone of sustainable development is to provide incentives for businesses and other organizations to adhere to sustainability guidelines beyond their normal legislative requirements. The supply and demand market is consumerist in nature, and modern life requires a lot of resources every single day; economic development is about giving people what they want without compromising quality of life, especially in the developing world.

### **Social development**

Human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and this is at the center of concern for sustainable development. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development set the world on the path of equitable health outcomes to play a key role. The purpose of the event is to help member states articulate how health and health sector can contribute towards the achievement of the Rio+20 conference objectives.

Three key issues were taken into cognizant, namely; universal health coverage, health in green economy and health as a measure of sustainable development. Health is an important measure in sustainable development. Health relevant indicators provide a powerful means of managing across the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. It also deals with encouraging people to participate in environmental sustainability and teaching them about the effects of environmental protection as well as warning of the dangers of unsustainable environment to health.

### **Environmental Protection**

Environmental protection is the process of making sure current processes of interaction with the environment are pursued with the idea of keeping the environment as naturally possible based on ideal-seeking behavior, whether the concept of 4 Rs (reduce, recycle, recover, and reuse) are being achieved or not. Environmental protection is the third pillar and, to many, the primary concern of the future of humanity. Environmental protection demands that society designs activities to meet the human needs while indefinitely preserving the life support systems of the planet. For example, harvesting of fuel-wood for energy at the rate that maintains the biomass and biodiversity (Dasgupta, 2007). Lack of environmental protection occurs when total of nature's capital resources is used up faster than it can be replenished. Sustainable development requires that human activities only uses nature's resources only at which it can be replenished naturally.

### **THE CONCEPT OF NGOs**

Any group or institution independent of government that has primarily humanitarian or cooperative objectives rather than commercial objectives can be referred as NGO. NGOs are peopled organizations that are not part of the state structures, are not primarily motivated by commercial considerations or profit maximization, a largely self-governing, and rely on voluntary contributions to a significant degree (Holmes, 2001:130, World Bank, 1996). NGOs could either operational NGO that engages on designing and implementation of projects or advocacy whose main purpose is to defend or promote a specific cause (World Bank, 1996). Zacharia and

George (2008) also classified NGOs according to whether they are more relief or development-oriented; whether they are religious or secular; whether they stress service delivery or participation, and whether they are more public or private-oriented.

It is widely accepted that failure of government of most developing countries to provide basic amenities needed by the people gave rise to the formation of non-governmental organization (NGOs), a term that has become widely accepted for referring to a legally constituted, non-governmental organization created by volunteer with no representation or participation of any government. Therefore, the establishment of specialized NGOs with thrust towards solving environmental problems in Nigeria is encouraged. The National Policy on the environment recognize the need to include NGOs and community based organizations (CBOs) in the implementation of its policy objectives (FEPA, 1991). In Nigeria, NGOs are seen as development partners that complement government in carrying out services for the development of the people. They intervene in the society to provide services at the grassroots levels such as environmental protection, health services, education, information and income generation or poverty alleviation to people in various communities of Nigeria. The issue of whether the NGOs have been actually contributing to the sustainable development has become a great concern by many researchers. It is the effort of this article to establish this relationship in Katsina metropolis, Nigeria.

#### **WHY KATSINA METROPOLIS?**

The fuel-wood protest in the early May, 1992 organized by fuel-wood urban-based dealers in the middle of a kerosene and gas shortage by withholding supplies to Katsina town, in protest of the constant official harassment of drivers of their long-distance delivery trucks (Cline-Cole, and Maconachie, 2015:13) expounds the level of environmental problems created by high level of fuel-wood consumption in Katsina metropolis. In recent time, Musa (2011) found that the level of fuel-wood consumption in Katsina urban community is so huge (21.9kg) that it surpass urban areas like Bauchi and Zaria (19.9kg and 19.6kg). Additionally, Katsina state is among the top list of the poorest states in Nigeria. According to the

information on the states of the federation by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2013), other states with over 70% poverty rate include Katsina state with 74.5%. It is for this reason that issue of sustainable development should be a major priority in Katsina metropolis due to the high level of forest degradation caused by fuel-wood consumption and poverty.

Katsina metropolis is a city and local government area in northern Nigeria, and it is the capital of Katsina state. It has 12 political wards with the projected population of 452,065 (NPC, 2015). It shared boundary with four local governments areas namely; Rimi at the east, Batsari at the west, Batagarawa to the west and Kaita to the north between latitude 12.24<sup>o</sup>C N-12.25<sup>o</sup>C degrees and longitude between 70.10<sup>o</sup>C west-70.12<sup>o</sup>C east. Like in most tropics, Katsina has two main seasons, the rainy and dry seasons. The rainy season mostly started from the month of May each year and end in September. The dry season normally starts from October, with dry cold harmatan and end in February (Rainfall report, Katsina State, Ministry of Lands).

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study is based on the quantitative approach, using a survey method; namely, a structured

Questionnaire to programs community's beneficiaries. The sample comprised community beneficiaries of the NGOs programs from five (5) selected political wards of twelve (12) in Katsina metropolis. The five (5) wards selected are; Kangiwa, Gabas, Kudu, Arewa and Yamma from which 150 completed questionnaires were received. Formal interviews were used to collect the relevant data using a structured questionnaire survey to NGO officials which include; the development officers and facilitators in five (5) randomly selected NGO offices that operate within Katsina Metropolis. The study was cross-sectional in design and relied on trained field assistants to administer surveys for data collection. Each questionnaire was checked for errors to ensure completeness and readability of the data. A descriptive and chi-square analysis was used to present the results. Chi-square analysis was used to test the hypothesis for associations between the efficiency of NGOs official and projects executed

and impact of NGOs in sustainable development projects in Katsina metropolis.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Demographics**

The respondents demographic profile include; age, gender, marital status and occupation. As shown on table 1, the male adults recognized and participated in the activities of NGOs more than the younger generation. Also the result indicated that female between the ages of 15-24 and 25-34 are not participating in NGOs activities. The reason is largely as a result of the values and tradition of people in Katsina metropolis and Katsina State in general where women are not allowed to mingle with men in most activities.

**Table 1: Age and Gender of the respondents**

Age	Sex		Total	Percentage
	Male Frequency	Female Frequency		
15-24	15	0	15	10
25-34	30	0	30	20
35-44	18	32	50	33
45&above	54	1	55	37
<b>Total</b>	117	33	150	
<b>Percentage</b>	78	22		100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

According table 2 below 75% of married respondents in all category recognized and participated in NGO activities. While single in all category constituted only 25% participated in NGOs projects. As noted in the table, civil servants have the highest percentage of those who are participating in NGO activities in the study area (35%). The reason may not be far from the fact that civil servants are the most literates among the respondents, hence they give priority to NGO activities.

**Table 2: Marital Status and occupation of the respondents**

Marital status	Occupation					Total	Percentage
	Civil Servant	Farmer	Trader	Company Worker			
Single	30	2	5	0		37	25
Married	23	33	40	17		113	75
Total	53	35	45	17		150	
Percentage	35	23	30	12			100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

In table 3, respondents were asked to indicate whether they are aware of NGO programmes in their communities. 47% of the respondents have indicated that they are aware, whilst 33% have indicated that they are not aware and 31% have no idea.

**Table 3: Awareness of NGOs programmes**

Awareness of NGOs	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	47
No	33	22
No idea	47	31
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

Respondents were asked about their community infrastructure undertaken by NGOs in their community. Table 4 below shows that 52% of the respondents are aware of the health care services provided by NGOs, while 20% have indicated poverty alleviation as the services provided by NGOs in their community. Furthermore, 15% showed that training /skills acquisition is the services provided by NGOs in their community and 13% have indicated environmental activities are being provided by NGOs.

**Table 4: Community infrastructure**

Community infrastructure	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Health care services</b>	78	52
<b>Poverty alleviation</b>	30	20
<b>Training&amp; skills</b>	22	15
<b>Environmental activities</b>	20	13
<b>Total</b>	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

As noted in table 5, 46% have indicated that NGOs have impacted on provision of health facilities, whilst 34% have shown that NGOs to have impacted on environmental protection, 17% are for youth empowerment and only 3% for women empowerment.

**Table 5: Ways NGO impacts community**

Ways NGO impact community	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Health Facilities</b>	69	46
<b>Environmental protection</b>	51	34
<b>Youth awareness</b>	25	17
<b>Women empowerment</b>	5	3
<b>Total</b>	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013.

**Table 6: Efficiency of NGO officials and Executed project**

		NGO and Project				
		Satisfactory	Very Satisfactory	Not Satisfied	Total	Percentage
Efficiency of NGOs officials	<b>Very good</b>	66	2	0	68	45
	<b>Good</b>	4	43	0	47	31
	<b>Moderate</b>	15	7	0	22	15
	<b>No idea</b>	12	1	0	13	09

Total	97	53	0	150
Percentage	65	35	0	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

### **HYPOTHESIS TESTING**

#### **First hypothesis:**

The researcher adopted the chi-square test of goodness of fit to test the hypothesis formulated. The hypothesis were tested in turn.

Thus  $H_0$  means NGO does not have impact to communities.

$H_1$  means NGO have impact to communities.

**Table 7: Observed and expected frequencies of NGOs officials and executed projects**

Response	Observed frequency ( $O_i$ )	Expected frequency ( $E_i$ )
<b>Very good</b>	68	37.7
<b>Good</b>	47	37.5
<b>Moderate</b>	22	37.5
<b>No idea</b>	13	37.5
<b>Total</b>	150	150

Source: Field Survey, 2013

#### **Notes:**

- i. The observed frequency ( $O_i$ ) are from the responses of the respondents regarding the impact of NGOs officials and executed projects.
- ii. While the expected frequencies ( $E_i$ ) are obtained using the formula below.

$$E_i = \frac{\text{Total frequencies}}{\text{Number of observations}}$$

Where  $E_i = \frac{150}{4}$  then  $E_i = 37.5$

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**Table 8: Computation for Chi Square statistics**

$O_i$	$E_i$	$O_i - E_i$	$(O_i - E_i)^2$	$\frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$
68	37.5	30.5	930.25	24.80667
47	37.5	9.5	90.25	2.40667
22	37.5	-15.5	240.25	6.40667
13	37.5	-24.5	600.25	16.00667
<b>Total</b>				49.62668

Sources: Researcher's computation.

**Note:**

The theoretical Chi-square ( $X^2_{tab}$ ) depends on:

- i. Degree of freedom (d.f) =  $(R-1) (C-1)$

Where  $R = 4, C = 2$

Therefore  $df = (4-1) (2-1) = 3 \times 1 = 3$

- ii. At 5% level of significance

$\alpha = 0.05$  (a one tail-test)

Thus  $X^2_{0.05} = 9.49$

The value of Chi-square above is obtained from Chi-square distribution using 5% level of significance and 3 degree of freedom.

**Interpretation**

The null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected since chi-square calculated (49.62668) is greater than chi-square tabulated (9.49) at 5% level of significance. Therefore, it could be concluded that considering efficiency of NGO official's performance and executed projects to communities there is significant impact in Katsina metropolis.

**DISCUSSION**

Based on the findings above, NGOs impacts on sustainable development are mainly linked to efficiency of NGOs officials and projects executed. However, Sadeeq (2016:149) argues that In spite of the efforts of NGOs in intervening in human development activities there is manifestation of low

patronage of women. It was empirically verified by this study that despite this challenges facing NGOs, they rendered services covering health, environmental protection and poverty alleviation. Some studies (Mohammed, 2008, Casmir, 1997) have found NGOs to have articulated development goals both directly and indirectly and were adjudged to be developmental in terms of the dedication of all their objectives variously to the development aspirations of poverty alleviation, environmental protection, basic health provision, empowerment, enlightenment, income enhancement. However, sustainable development in Katsina metropolis would continue to remain negative and condition of living would worsen as long as attitudes of people, particularly women are not participating in the NGOs activities, and government remains uncooperative to NGOs and unresponsive to people demand and needs.

### **CONCLUSION**

This article intended to establish whether NGOs have any impact on sustainable development in some selected communities of Katsina metropolis. The study found that 34% of the NGOs programs beneficiaries interviewed had indicated NGOs to have impacted on environmental protection, 52% on health care and 20% on poverty alleviation. However, the participation of women is very low only 22%. Also, in the course of this study it was discovered that the NGOs in Katsina metropolis have gone a long way in complementing the activities/programs of government in various ways which in no small amount facilitated towards making life better for the communities. The involvement of people in the NGOs programs that dealt with environmental protection, health care and poverty alleviation is perceived to be one of the best practices of sustainable development in the area.

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