

**AN EVALUATION OF THE PERCEPTION OF
ADULTS ON THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMMES IN EDO STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the Thesis:

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DEDICATION

I am dedicating this work first of all to Jesus Christ, the son of God, the author and finisher of our faith and God Almighty for protection and the grace to complete this work against all odds. I also wish to dedicate it to my father Chief J.E. Omoruyi, the Ilekhuoba of Benin kingdom of blessed memory, for not only bringing me to this world but for providing me with a very solid foundation for my education.

Finally, to all the down trodden and those who cherish hardwork and believe in dignity of labour.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	vii
List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xiii
Abstract	xiv

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	11
Theoretical Framework	12
Purpose of the Study	25
Research Questions	26
Research Hypotheses	27
Scope/Delimitation of the Study	28
Limitations of the Study	28
Significance of the Study	29

Operational Definition of Terms	30
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CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction	33
Conceptualizing Adult as a Concept	33
Thoughts/Perspectives on Rural Programme Evaluation	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Periscoping Rural Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Issues of Rurality and Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
The Issue of Evaluation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Types of Evaluation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Approaches and Models of Evaluation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Perspectives on the Problems of Rural Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Studies/Perspectives on Perception	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Review of Related Empirical Studies and Trends in Rural Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Programme Evaluation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Summary of the Literature Review	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Design of the Study	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
The Population of the Study	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Sample and Sampling Procedure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76

Research Instruments	77
Validation of the Research Instruments	77
Reliability of the Instruments	78
Administration of the Instruments	79
Methods of Data Analysis	80

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Demographic Data	82
Results from Research Questions	86
Results from Hypothesis Testing	95
Discussion of Results	102

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Summary of the Study	108
Major Findings	109
Contributions to Knowledge	110
Conclusion	111
Recommendations	112

Implications of the Study for Adult and Non-formal Education Programme

Management and Implementation	...	...	...	...						114
Suggestions for Further Studies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
References	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Appendix I	...	...	...	....	....	...	...	...	...	126
Appendix II	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135

LIST OF TABLES

	Pages
Table 3.1: Distribution of Adults Involved in Rural Development Programmes in Edo State 	75
Table 3.2: Executive Members Distribution in Community Development Selected for the study ...	76
Table 4.1: Sex Distribution of Respondents 	82
Table 4.2: Marital Status of Respondents 	83
Table 4.3: Age Distribution of Respondents 	83
Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification 	85
Table 4.5: Occupational Distribution of Respondents 	86
Table 4.6: Rank Order of Responses on Types of Rural Development Programmes 	87
Table 4.7: Distribution of Responses on the Usefulness of the Rural Development Programmes 	88
Table 4.8: Distribution of Responses on the Overall Rating of The Performance of the Programmes 	89
Table 4.9: Percentage Distribution on Responses on the Extent of Involvement of the Populace in the implementation of the Programmes 	90
Table 4.10: Mean Rating of Responses on the Extent of Achievement of Objectives of the Programmes 	91
Table 4.11: Percentage Distribution of Responses on the Durability of the Programmes	92

Table 4.12: Distribution of Responses on the Impact of the Programmes Implemented	... ..	93
Table 4.13: Percentage Distribution of Responses on Strategies Employed for Implementation of the Rural Development Programmes	... ..	94
Table 4.14: T-test Analysis of Significance of Rating on Types of the Rural Development Programmes Provided	... ..	95.
Table 4.15: Analysis of Variance of the Difference in the Perception of Adults on the Usefulness of the Rural Development Programmes	... ..	96
Table 4.16: One Way Analysis of Variance of the Rating of Programme Performance in Terms of Success Attained	... ..	97
Table 4.17: One Way Analysis of Variance of the Rating of Adults on the Extent of Involvement of Rural People in the Implementation of Programmes		98
Table 4.18: T-test Analysis of Significant Difference in the Responses on Attainment of the Objectives of the Programmes	... ..	99
Table 4.19: T-test Analysis of Significant Difference in Perception Score on the Level of Durability of the Programmes		100
Table 4.20: T-test Analysis of Significant Difference in the Rating by Adultson Impact of Programmes	... ..	101
Table 4.21: Analysis of Significant Difference in the perception of Adults on Strategies Employed	... ..	102

LIST OF FIGURES

	Pages
Figure 1: Schematic View of Comparison/Goal Analysis Theory	15

ABSTRACT

This study was designed to evaluate the perception of adults as major stakeholders on the implementation of the rural development programmes in Edo State, Nigeria. Primarily, the study sought to identify the types of rural development programmes, determine the usefulness of the programmes, the level of performance in terms of the extent of attainment of objectives, level of durability, impact of the programmes provided, the strategies employed for their execution and the extent of involvement of the adults in the implementation of the programmes.

In order to attain the purposes intended, eight (8) research questions were raised and eight (8) research hypotheses were formulated and tested. All the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level.. The descriptive design was employed to carry out the study. Questionnaire was the major instrument used for data collection for the study. This was complemented with a structured interview schedule. Data were collected from 522 adult respondents in the communities involved in the implementation of the programmes selected randomly using a table of random numbers. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics comprising of frequency distribution, mean score analysis and simple percentages for all the research questions examined. In the case of the research hypotheses, inferential statistics involving t-test of significant difference between two independent sample means and, the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were utilized. The study revealed that:

- The rural development programmes provided in Edo State across the three senatorial districts included rural electrification, town hall, road construction, rehabilitation, bore holes and health centres.
- The programmes provided were found to be useful to the people in the communities.
- In addition, the programmes implementation was perceived to be fairly satisfactory.
- Furthermore, the members of the communities were found to be largely involved in the final implementation of the programme.
- The programmes were also found to have impacted positively on the living conditions of the members of the communities.
- Finally, the implementation of the programmes was said to have achieved some of its purposes.

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended, inter alia, that in order for the implementation of the programmes to be totally satisfactory, the people should be involved in all the stages of execution beginning from need assessment stage to the assessment stage. This will help to

raise the tempo of activities or implementation and ensure success. In order to ensure that all of the programmes objectives are achieved, it was also recommended that an in-built evaluation mechanism should be put in place to ensure adequate monitoring of the implementation of the programmes. In this way, problems can be detected early and immediate corrective measures taken and adjustment made where necessary. There is also the need to consolidate on the success so far achieved. The implications of the study for the proper management and implementation of Adult and Non- formal Education programmes was highlighted. In this regard, managers of Adult and Non formal Education programmes must ensure that policy issues are executed with pecunnary backing. Consequently, programmes must be implemented in accordance with laid down standard and specifications. There must be proper monitoring. If this is not done, it is likely that the objectives for which the programmes are provided will not be achieved and they would not produce the desired positive impact on members of the project communities. Suggestions for further researches were highlighted.