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PERFORMANCE MEASURES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN IFELODUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KWARA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the performance measures of rural development strategies in Ifelodun LGA of Kwara State. The instruments used in this study are questionnaires, key informant interviews, and observation. The adopted sample size for the study is 384 persons. Simple random sampling was used to distribute questionnaires proportionally to the nine districts according to population size. Data analysis for this research was descriptive and inferential. Multiple regression analysis was used to measure the performance of development strategies in the study area. The result from the socio-economic characteristics of respondents revealed that 66% of the respondents were male, while 34% were female. Most (51.3%) of the respondents are within the age bracket of 31-45 years. It was also observed that over 90% of the respondents have attained one level of formal education or the other and apart from 17.13% and 28.73% that engage in civil service and business enterprises other than farming, 44.20% of the respondents are solely farmers and 94.5% earn above ₦20,000 monthly. Furthermore, the State Government was the major contributor to health, transport, agriculture, and education with a percentage contribution of 28.2%, 30.4%, 29.6%, and 44.8% respectively. The regression analysis result revealed that 82% of the impact of development strategies implemented in the study area could be explained by the transport, health, and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the study recommends that the federal government be more involved in the development of the study area and rural dwellers should be involved in the initiation, planning, and execution of development programs.

Keywords: Development, Strategies, Transport, Health, Performance.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is essentially a rural society with the vast majority of its population dwelling in rural areas (Nwuke, 2020). Specifically, rural areas of Nigeria lie outside the densely built-up environment of towns, cities, and sub-urban villages, and their inhabitants are engaged primarily in agriculture as well as the most basic of rudimentary forms of secondary and tertiary activities (Ezeah, 2015). Given the importance attached to the rural sector of the national economy, enhancing the development of this sector should be central to government and public administration and for which the sector would witness a tremendous level of infrastructural development. Development goes beyond economic and social indicators to include the improvement of human resources and positive change in their behavior. Indeed, the prevailing conception of development connotes essential enhancement in the well-being of people (Okoye, 2021). Deriving from our understanding of what

development generally is, rural development is then that part of development that seeks to enhance the quality of life in rural areas (Ezeah, 2015). Indeed, the basic objective of rural development is a reduction in poverty and improvement of the quality of life of rural people. Ezeah (2015) defined rural development as a spatially sectional but determined and conscious attempt to focus on the general upliftment of the living conditions of people in rural areas. So, rural development in Nigeria entails the process of making life more satisfying and fulfilling for the millions of Nigerians who live in rural areas.

Rural development is a many-sided process or a multi-dimensional process involving the totality of the rural people and their environment. Emphasizing the aspect of human development as an essential part of rural development, Ajadi (2010) notes that rural development implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with daily tasks of their lives and changes consequent upon it. It is perhaps in this direction that Ele (2016) posits that it is not enough to provide for the rural people; they should be enabled to develop themselves and their environment. The foregoing entails that development can only be meaningfully achieved when the population becomes agents of their development. The development requirement of the rural areas should, therefore, be multi-dimensional using various strategies. Strategies for rural development are varied depending on the peculiar needs, characteristics, and capacities of rural people as well as state and national development objectives. Strategies are the specific processes and activities carried out to achieve program objectives and policy directions. Rural development strategies are measures directed towards improvement in the existential characteristics of the rural people in ways amenable to their integration within the parameters of improved national life and their ability to contribute to the positive development of the nation. The foregoing exposition points to the fact that rural development should essentially entail a deliberately planned change in all aspect of the rural communities to attain desired improvement in all aspects of their life Nwuke, 2020).

Nigeria is still considered a rural society as a large number of its population dwells in rural areas (Nwuke, 2020; Ele, 2016). The rural sector of Nigeria is very vital in the socio-economic development equation of the nation. It is observed by Nyagba (2009) that the most important sector of the Nigerian population is the rural areas. For instance, the rural sector is the major source of capital formation for the country and a principal market for domestic manufactured goods. However, very curious and worrisome is that some policies and programs initiated and implemented by the government over the years have not resulted in meaningful enhancement of the development of the rural areas in Nigeria (Ezeah, 2005). Hence evaluation of which strategy has a beneficial impact and which does not is necessary to determine which needs continuation and modification or discontinuation to achieve overall development goals.

In Nigeria, over the years, the stated objectives and strategies of rural and community development have been pronounced by policymakers and those concerned with the issue of development. This notwithstanding, there still exists an enormous gap, between policy formulation and implementation and the reality of the quantum of development those strategies have achieved. To put this in proper perspective, a few studies with direct links to this work are examined. For instance, Adewumi and Omoresho (2019) studied the impact of the agricultural program on the lives of rural women in Imo State, Nigeria, with the view of strengthening their subsistence agricultural production and encouraging rural development in the southeastern area of Nigeria. The findings showed that processing ventures (cassava into pancake and cassava flour; soybean into flour paste and soya-

meal; cocoyam into cocoyam flour; and tomato fruits into tomato paste) recorded high awareness values even though they had low rates of adoption. The study recommended that the government should empower the rural women dwellers financially and also provide infrastructural amenities that would aid in the development and improvement of rural lives. The strength of the study is in emphasizing infrastructure provision as a public strategy to complement income-generating agricultural activities.

Also, Adedeji et al. (2017) examined the impact of road transport on rural development using the Obokun Local Government Area of Osun State as a case study. The study revealed an inequality in the provision of road infrastructure and rehabilitation of roads in the area, resulting in disparities in the level of development. Provision of roads involves the construction of new roads while rehabilitation of roads deals with the maintenance of already existing roads. The poor condition of roads in the area had negative effects (longer travel time to markets, spoilage as a result of poor routes, poor prices, vehicle damages, etc) on agricultural activities which is the major source of income for residents, thereby increasing the poverty rate.

Furthermore, Ogbeide (2015) assessed cooperative society as a strategy for rural development in Edo State. The result of the analysis showed that the cooperative society strategy is successful and should indeed be encouraged in the development of rural communities. Despite these commendable results, there is a gap in using the work for generalization due to the small number of cooperatives used for the study the convenient sample nature of the selected respondents, and the fact that the very poor members of rural communities may not benefit from cooperatives as a development strategy.

In the Ifelodun local government area of Kwara state, which is a rural community, several rural development strategies have been implemented but their performance is not documented. It becomes necessary to evaluate these strategies to understand the impediments to realizing the desired enhancement in the quality of life of the people and to explore necessary policy actions or measures that would fast-track the development process of the study area.

However, considering the studies of (Adewumi and Omoresho 2019; Adedeji et al., 2017; Ogbeide, 2015) that focused more on the types and level of implementation of rural development strategies, this study measures the performance of rural development strategies in the study area by characterizing the rural development strategies in the study area and assessing the effects of these strategies on the residents of Ifelodun LGA.

STUDY AREA

Ifelodun Local Government Area was created in 1976 with the Headquarters at Share. It is located between Latitude 8°15′55′′ and 8°36′37′′ North of the Equator and between Longitudes 4°27′12′′ and 5°48′49′′ East of the Greenwich Meridian. It shares common boundaries with Asa, Edu, Isin, Ire-podunk, Ilorin South, Moro, and Oyun Local Government Areas of Kwara State as well as the Yagba West Local Government Area of Kogi State (Figure. 1). It has a landmass of 4,000 square kilometers.

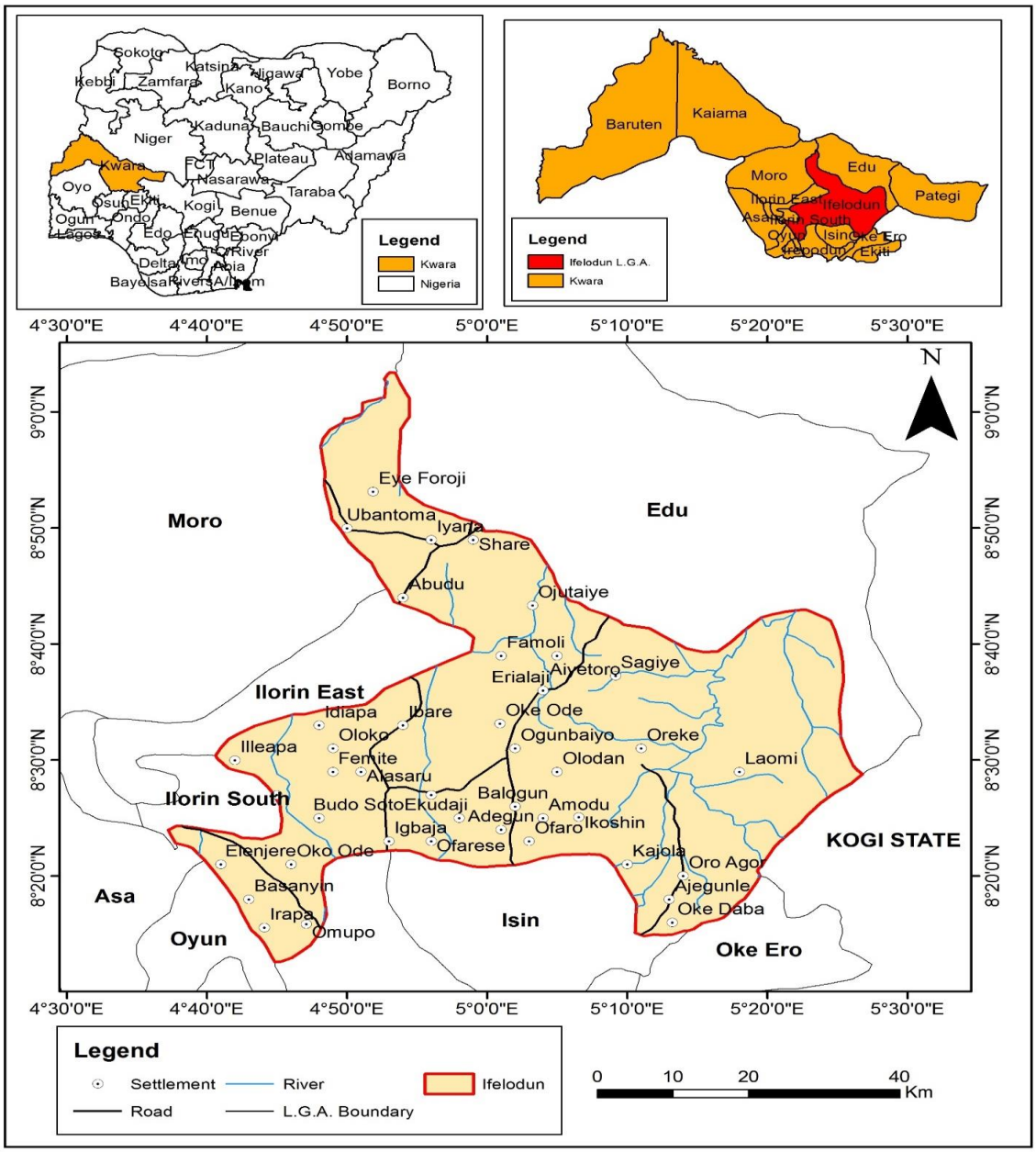

Figure 1: Ifelodun LGA showing the Area of Study
Source: Adapted from the Administrative Map of Kwara State

Two main seasons are experienced in the study area. Dry and wet seasons with an intervening cold and dry harmattan from December to January. The annual rainfall ranges between 1,000 and 1,500mm while the average temperature is between 30˚C and 37˚C. The climate of Ifelodun LGA is the humid tropic type and is characterized by both the wet and dry seasons with a mean annual temperature that ranges from 25-28.9°C. In addition, the annual mean rainfall is about 1,150 mm, exhibiting the double maxima pattern between April and October of every year. Days are very hot during the dry season from November to February temperature typically ranges from 33-34°C while from February to April, values are frequently between 34.6 and 37°C (Adebayo, 2002).

Essentially, Ifelodun LGA is located in the transition zone between the deciduous forest (rainforest) of the southwest and the savannah grasslands of the north (Jimoh 2013). The vegetation of Ifelodun is composed of species of plants such as locust bean trees, shear butter trees, acacia trees, baobab trees, elephant grasses, shrubs, and herbaceous plants among others are common in this area. The soils belong to the order of oxisols in the American system of soil classification. The soil parent materials are in the form of sedimentary rocks formed on sandstone and developed into Mineral hydromorphic soil (Olabode and Oriola 2013).

The study area has a population of 125,200 (National Population Commission [NPC], 2006) and is projected to 206,042 persons by 2022 based on the National growth rate of 3% living in well over 1,000 towns and villages. Ifelodun comprises nine (9) districts namely; Share, Agunjin, Idofian, Igabaja, Ile-Ire, Oke-Ode, Omupo, Ora, and Oro-Ago. The people of Ifelodun LGA area are predominantly Yoruba and belong to Igbomina and Adako ethnic groups. Other groups in the LGA are Nupes, Fulanis, Hausas, and Igbos. The majority of the people in the study area practiced subsistence farming and petty trading to earn their living. Food crops produced include yam, cassava, maize, rice, soya beans, locust beans, and groundnut. Generally, the people are very hospitable, peace-loving, accommodating, and famous for their high level of self-help approach to development efforts.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Based on the importance attached to rural development and overall growth of Ifelodun LGA, the survey design was employed for the conduct of this work. Surveys are used by behavioral scientists to describe people's opinions and attitudes (Baba, 2021). The types of data needed for this study include:

i. The socioeconomic characteristics of respondents
ii. The type of development strategies in the study area
iii. The level of implementation of development strategies

The instruments used in this study include questionnaires, Key Informant Interviews (KII), and observation methods to gather the necessary information regarding the performance of rural development strategies in the study area from respondents. The interview was conducted with the interviewees which included the Local Government Chairman, traditional leaders in the communities, and community development associations' leaders. An interview guide checklist was designed and used by the researcher (interviewer). The choice of these informants is premised upon their ability to provide cogent and important information needed for the study based on their in-depth knowledge of happenings in the community.

In reducing the population to a sample size that was used to investigate the phenomenon, the sample formula from Krejcie and Morgan (1970) was used to determine the sample size of the study. The sample size used for this study was 384 respondents. The sample size above was further allocated proportionally to the nine districts according to population size. The distribution of the sample size for the districts is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Sample Size Distribution

S/No.	District	Projected Population 2022	District 2016	Projected Population	Sample size
1.	Share	45,857	59,614		86
2.	Agunjin	30,208	39,270		56
3.	Idofian	23,110	30,043		43
4.	Igabaja	19,216	24,981		36
5.	Ile-Ire	15,518	20,173		28
6.	Oke-Ode	18,114	23,548		34
7.	Omupo	32,253	41,929		60
8.	Ora	6,134	7,974		12
9.	Oro-Ago	15,632	20,322		29
	Total	**206,042**	**267,854**		**384**

Source: Adopted from National Population Commission (2022)

The key informant interview (KII) sessions were held with 20 interviewees. These include ward councilors, village heads, traditional rulers, and the chairman of the Ifelodun Local Government Council. Data analysis for this research was descriptive and inferential. Data collected was carefully coded into the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20. Having done this, three hundred and sixty-two (362) samples were found to be valid and worthy of analysis. Results are presented in tables, using cross-tabulation, frequency, and mean. Multiple regression analysis is used to determine the level of performance of development strategies in the study area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

The socioeconomic characteristics of respondents include indices such as occupation, educational status, and income level of respondents. From Table 2, it was observed that 66% of the sampled population were male, while 34% were female. This is a result of the cultural and religious setting limiting the involvement of females in most economic activities. Also, as revealed by Table 2, 51.3% of the respondents are within the age bracket of 31-45 years, 21.6% fall within the age bracket of 15-30 years, and the remaining 27.1% are 46 years and above. This indicates that most of the respondents are young. Age is considered significant in the evaluation of rural development strategies because most rural development strategies target certain age groups. It however, contradicts other characteristics of rural areas as portrayed by Uyanga (1980) where the researcher opined that rural areas are where the youths have migrated or classified rural areas as zones of high propensity for out-migration because, in the study area, about 72.9% of the respondents are youths actively involved in agriculture, although they combine it with trading and schools. This is perhaps because of the differences in the period of study. Between 1980 and 2018 is over two decades which reflects the dynamics in characteristics of rural areas.

Table 2: Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents in the Study Area

Sex	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Male	239	66.0
Female	123	34.0
Total	**362**	**100**
Age (Years)	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
15-30	78	21.6
31-45	186	51.3
46.60	63	17.4
61 and above	35	9.7
Total	**362**	**100**
Level of Education	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Informal	30	8.3
Primary	78	21.5
Secondary	175	48.3
Tertiary	79	21.8
Total	**362**	**100**
Occupation other than Farming	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Civil Servant	62	17.1
Business	104	28.
Student	36	9.94
None	160	44.2
Total	**362**	**100**
Monthly Income (₦)	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
5,000-10,000	8	2.2
10,001-15,000	8	2.2
15,001-20,000	4	1.1
20,000 and above	342	94.5
Total	**362**	**100**

Source: Authors Field Survey, 2023

In analyzing the educational qualification of respondents, Table 2 reveals that over 90% of respondents have attained one level of formal education from their various communities in the local government with 8.3% not having attended a formal institution of learning. The distribution here implies that the population of respondents used in this study is literate and should be able to respond well and provide the study with adequate information. This finding is supported by Odeleye and Oyekanmi, (2013) who stated that educational level is very important as it increases an individual's ability to obtain, analyze, and interpret information and use their resources efficiently. Also, as revealed by Table 2, apart from 17.13% and 28.73% that engage in civil service and business enterprises other than farming, 44.20% of the respondents are solely farmers. The implications of engaging in only farming include seasonal income, a single stream of income, and disruption of livelihood in the event of poor farming outputs.

Income is a major determinant of standard of living. As revealed by Table 2, majority of the respondents (94.5%) earn above ₦20,000 monthly. This is followed by those between ₦5,000-₦10,000 and ₦10,001-₦15,000 representing 2.2% each. The level of income of the respondents might be connected with low educational status and the prevalence of farming as the occupation of the respondents which in most cases determine their income. This also necessitates the need for development and interventions.

Types and Providers of Selected Rural Development Projects in the Study Area

Several projects are provided under different strategies. It is therefore considered more appropriate to look at the projects. Also, some of these are provided by stakeholders hence these are also captured. These are shown in Table 3. Respondents across the communities surveyed in the study area are able to indicate the type of development strategies used in the study area and the stakeholders who provided such projects. From the analysis in Table 3, the State, local government and NGO's were shown to have contributed more to the development of the health sector in Ifelodun representing 66% of the respondents as against the federal governments contribution with 12.2% and individuals with 6.4%. It could be inferred that the intervention in the health sector in the study area is more of the State's responsibilities.

Also, the State Government and Local Government are major stakeholders in the development of rural transportation and road construction in the study area. As shown in Table 3, the state government, local government and the members of the rural communities' support road infrastructure as strategy for development. More than 65% of the respondents jointly opined that state government, local government and community members contribute to the development of road/transport sector while 30.4% recognize federal government effort. Considering the peculiarity and importance of rural communities, the condition of road in the area has a significant effect on their contribution to national growth. In the words of Adedeji et al. (2017), it is noted that efficient and effective road transport infrastructure will enhance the transportation of rural dwellers and agricultural produce to urban locations especially where their farm products are being sold in the natural form, distributed locally and exported for the growth of the nation's economy.

In the interview conducted with one of the village heads in Share. He stated that:

"Government are trying on the construction and renovation of roads especially with the creation of usable access roads to the hinterlands. Examples of access road by the federal government is the road linking Share and Tsaragi and also Ganmon along Omupo. State government efforts are seen in roads like Alabe, Oreke and Oro-ago roads and communities graded roads within Omugo and Ahun".

On the contributions to the agricultural sector, 63.7% stated that the State, local government and community members contribute to the development of the agricultural sector in Ifelodun. The state Ministry of Agriculture have embarked on agricultural initiatives like the "operation back to farm" programme where farmers were provided with farming implement like hoes, cutlasses, etc. Also, community members who form cooperative societies provide finances and farming implements to their members especially every farming season as opined by 12.2% of respondents. This result contradicts the study conducted by Ogbeide (2015) where the researcher considered cooperatives as the major financial backbone of rural areas.

Table 3: Projects for Rural Development and their Providers

S/No	Projects	Stakeholders/Providers	Frequency (N=362)	Percentage
1.	Health facilities and infrastructures	Federal Government	44	12.2
		State Government	102	28.2
		Local Government	88	24.3
		Community Members	49	13.5
		Individual/Philanthropist	56	15.5
		NGOs	23	6.4
		Total	**362**	**100**
2.	Road/transport infrastructure and service	Federal Government	88	24.3
		State Government	110	30.4
		Local Government	108	29.8
		Community Members	56	15.5
		Total	**362**	**100**
3.	Agricultural development projects	Federal Government	56	15.5
		State Government	107	29.6
		Local Government	60	16.6
		Community Members	61	16.9
		Cooperative Societies	44	12.2
		NGOs	34	9.4
		Total	**362**	**100**
4.	Education infrastructure and services	Federal Government	85	23.5
		State Government	162	44.8
		Local Government	71	19.6
		Community Members	23	6.4
		Individual/Philanthropist	21	5.8
		Total	**362**	**100**

Source: Authors Field Survey, 2023

Indeed, as revealed by Table 3, about 44.8% stated that the State government contribute more to the education sector. The State government contribution to education included paying for the WAEC fees of poor students, construction of blocks of classrooms, employment of more teachers in the various schools especially in some isolated communities in the local government area, provision of sanitation facilities in schools and also the introduction of adult education. This is followed by 23.5% that opined that the federal government also contribute to the development of the education sector in the study area. The least contributors were the local government, community members and philanthropic individuals as opined by 19.6%, 6.4% and 5.8% respectively. These stakeholders provide school textbooks, school desk and chairs and also provision of scholarships to outstanding students.

Generally, from the analysis presented in Table 3, it could be inferred that a significant percentage of the respondents stated that the participatory role in rural development of Ifelodun LGA involved actively and collectively the efforts of the State Government and communities in Ifelodun through

communal projects. It was also revealed that cooperatives and NGOs contribute to the development of the study area.

The finding of this study is in line with the study conducted by Ogunleye-Adetona and Oladeinde (2013) in Kwara State which showed that projects embarked upon by the community is a collective effort of multiple stakeholders. Based on the stakeholders that have used different strategies for rural development, this study confirms the veracity of the system theory and integrated rural development approaches. The subsystems are education, health, transportation and agricultural production. The overall rural development effort is integrated in the delivery approach such that both government and other stakeholders provide these programmes under different strategies.

Also, the various strategies are subsystems and their working together will give maximum benefits to rural dwellers. As illustrated, if agricultural strategies increase the yield and output but roads are not provided or cost of transportation are prohibitive, farmers and marketers will not be able to transport the produce, hence overall input or benefit would be minimal on the quality of life. Health and education are sub-indicators for human capital development and empowerment. As subsystems they will not individually contribute meaningfully to improved quality of life but will, in synergy with other strategies, increase the satisfaction with the quality of life.

Effects of Rural Development Strategies in the Study Area

The development strategies have different levels of implementation. However, the implementation of development strategies does not necessarily mean that they have beneficial effects on the target beneficiaries. Therefore, Table 4 shows the perceived effects of the development strategies in the study area. Indeed, many of the respondents have benefited from them. No doubt some settlements by virtue of their needs, location, socio-spatial circumstances and cogency of need will benefit more from a strategy and less from another. As revealed by Table 4, about 71.3% of the respondents agreed that intervention in the health sector has contributed positively in primary healthcare service delivery. Their views were further statistically supported by the mean score of 3.6 obtained which implies that the strategies being employed in the heath sector were beneficial.

Similarly, 94.7% of the respondents agreed that their communities have been provided with equipment in the Primary Health Care (PHC) to reduce maternal and child mortality through the introduction of nutrition, family planning, exclusive breastfeeding and antenatal care which has led to a positive impact in the health sector as it reduced maternal and child mortality in the study area. An aggregate mean score of 4.0 was obtained. By this, it could be inferred that the strategies in the health sector has a positive impact. Therefore, the development strategies on health have great impact on the residents of the study area

Furthermore, Table 4 revealed that 58.6% and 23.8% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that intervention on roads has open up access to communities in the hinterland to commute passengers and agricultural produce to market. This has had a positive impact on the lives of the people in the local government area with a mean score of 3.7 which is above the theoretical mean score of 3.0. Also, majority (74.3%) of the respondents opined that buses, taxies, cars and motorcycle are available in the study area to commute residents from one place to the other. The response on this item obtained a mean score of 3.9 which means that the approach has been positive.

This assertion on the effects of developmental strategies on transportation development in the study area was further confirmed by the Chairman of the LGA when he stated that:

"Transportation in Ifelodun has improved in recent years with the development of new E.g. the roads from Egbeda to Awetoto. This with increase in local government buses and private vehicles have opened up new areas and link previously existing communities"

The impact of development strategies in the education sector in Ifelodun was also assessed. In this regard, 52.8% and 21.5% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that the strategies being employed are beneficial. A further analysis of the response showed a mean score of 3.8 which implied that the strategies was considered positive.

Although 40% of the respondents disagreed that farmers in the study area were supplied with inputs to increase their harvests, 32.9% agreed to this assertion. This recorded the lowest aggregate mean of 3.2 which is still above the benchmark of 3.0 indicating a positive assertion. In the same vein, about 99% of the respondents agreed that government has been able to provide credit facilities such as farming loans, improved seeds etc through the use of agricultural banks, microfinance banks and cooperatives to aid farmers in their farming activities. Their response had a mean score of about 4.4 which is the highest mean aggregation in the study area indicating that provision of financial assistance had a positive impact on the farming activities of the people of Ifelodun LGA.

Generally, provision of financial assistance to farmers and provision of equipment such as beds, medical supplies etc, in the PHC had the greatest impact on residents in the study area with an aggregate mean of 4.4 and 4.0 respectively. In affirming these findings, the Chairman, Okeode Progressive Farmers Association has this to say about the impact of development strategies in the agricultural sector in Ifelodun:

"If we must talk about the impact of development strategies in agriculture in Ifelodun, we need to look at the positives and the negatives. It is true that government has been able to help us to provide loans through banks and some other agencies so that we can have money to buy farming implements we need in the farms which is a positive aspect. We have some challenges which the governments have refused to address. Though fertilizers are provided at subsidized rates for farmers by the government, it is very difficult to get fertilizers from the government people, even when you get, you have to bribe your way to get it. Also, we don't see extension agents again coming to help us on new farming skills and improved seedlings".

Also, the Headmaster of Local Education Authority School, Ora in his summation said:

"*Today, the children you see in school is a testament of the positive impact of development strategies being employed by the state, local government and philanthropic individual efforts in our school system. The renovation and building of new school blocks and the provision of incentives for academic excellence from individuals has actually helped in bringing more children to school. By this, I could say that the approach being adopted in recent times in developing education in our community and the state in general has had a positive impact on the education of our children".*

Table 4: Effects of Rural Development Strategies in Ifelodun LGA

S/No		Degree of agreement					Total	Mean	Remark
	Effects	**Strongly agree (%)**	**Agree (%)**	**Disagree (%)**	**Strongly disagree (%)**	**Undecided (%)**	**(%)**		
1	The development strategy in the health sector has contributed positively in primary healthcare service	72(19.9)	186(51.4)	52(14.4)	10(2.8)	42(11.6)	362(100)	3.6	Agreed
2	The communities have been provided with equipment in the PHC to reduce maternal and child mortality	87(24.0)	256(70.7)	8(2.2)	0(0.0)	11(3.0)	362(100)	4.0	Strongly Agreed
3	Intervention on roads has open up access to communities in the hinterland to commute passengers and agricultural produce to market	86(23.8)	212(58.6)	18(5.0)	8(2.2)	38(10.5)	362(100)	3.7	Agreed
4	The communities in the local government has road transport means like the use of buses, taxies, cars and motorcycle to commute from one place to the other	112(30.9)	218(60.2)	11(3.0)	3(0.8)	18(5.0)	362(100)	3.9	Strongly Agreed
5	The construction and renovations of school classrooms has led to more enrollment of pupils and students	78(21.5)	191(52.8)	40(11.0)	15(4.1)	38(10.5)	362(100)	3.8	Agreed
6	Farmers were supplied with inputs to increase their harvests	18(5.0)	101(27.9)	98(27.1)	83(22.9)	62(17.1)	362(100)	3.2	Agree
7	Credit facilities through microfinance banks and cooperatives are provided to aid farmers in farming activities	98(27.1)	260(71.8)			4(1.1)	362(100)	4.4	Strongly agree

Source: Authors Field Survey, 2023

In order to statistically establish the significance of level of implementation of the selected rural development strategies in the study area, multiple regression analysis was employed. The result is presented in Table 5. The regression result reveals an R-squared of 0.82, implying that 82% of the impact of development strategies implemented in the study area could be explained by the independent variables. From the regression result, road/transport (X_2) with a coefficient of .785 is a good predictor (strategy) of rural development in the study area. It is expected that when access roads are constructed for the rural communities, it would create enabling environment for easy movement of goods and humans. The intervention on roads has opened up access to communities in the hinterland to commute passengers and agricultural produce to the market. It shows that in the study area, road transport system enables the use of buses, taxi, cars and motorcycles are used to commute from place to the other. This is in agreement with the study of Enefiok and Ebong (2013) that road construction is significantly relevant to rural development as rural roads and bridges form the basis for transformation and communication. Rural roads infrastructure which consist of Federal, State and Local government roads (major feeder, tracks, footpaths, bridges and culverts) enhances capacity development and promotion of allied services.

Table 5: Result of Regression Analysis

Development Projects	Coefficient	Standard Error	T-values	Sig
Health (X_1)	.122	.123	.989	.323
Road/transport (X_2)	.785	.110	7.117	.000
Agriculture (X_3)	.349	.139	2.515	.012
Education (X_4)	.-755	.056	-13.561	.000

Source: Computer Analysis of data obtained from field survey 2023

Number of Observation = 362; R-squared = 0.822; Adj R-squared = 0.820, Significant at 0.05 sig. level

In the same vein, another variable with positive value is agriculture (X_3) with a coefficient of .349, showed that it is a good predictor for development in the study area. When farmers are provided with everything they need for their faming activities, they yield could be high. Most development strategies in agriculture in the study area are fully implemented, this is because agriculture is viewed as key to rural development. Also affirming the positive impact of agriculture as a development strategy is the study by Aderinoye-Abdulwahab et al. (2015) where the researcher posited that development in agricultural sector in the rural areas help to promote farmers' productivity thereby resulting in higher incomes for the people. Education also had significant impact in the development of the study area as earlier established.

Although health (X_1) showed a positive coefficient of .122 but was not statistically significant at 0.05. This suggests that the development strategies in the health sector does not really impact on the lives of the respondents in the study area. It further implies that while the strategies being employed in the health sector like maternal and child care and nutrition though vital, respondents in Ifelodun local government still have not felt the impact. This is in agreement with the study conducted by Okafor (2016) who posited that budgetary allocations to the health sector in Nigeria remain far below the World Health Organization required standard.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study found that there are rural development strategies being employed in the development of Ifelodun LGA in different sectors of the economy ranging from health, road/transport, and agriculture to the education sector. Although the perceptual assessment of respondents revealed that provision of financial assistance to farmers and provision of equipment in the PHC had the greatest impact on residents in the study area, it was revealed from the regression analysis that road/transport, agriculture and education were impacted positively by the development strategies being employed in the development of the study area, therefore serve as good predictors of development strategies.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made. The education sector in the study area should be looked into because it has not achieved its desired result. Government should develop workable rural development strategies, proper coordination, funding and technical assistance which will reduce bottlenecks in the development of the study area. Government at federal level need to be more involved in development of the study area and projects with beneficial impacts on the people should be the focus of all stakeholders. Also rural dwellers should be involved in the initiation, planning and execution stage of development strategies, this will ensure the active participation of communities.

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