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Hasiya Salihu
Faculty of Social and
Management Sciences,
Department of Political
Science and Public
Administration, Yelwa Na
Farko in Mubi, Adamawa,
Nigeria

Hamisu Ali
Faculty of Social and
Management Sciences,
Department of Economics,
Yelwa Na Farko in Mubi,
Adamawa state-Nigeria

Correspondence
Hasiya Salihu
Faculty of Social and
Management Sciences,
Department of Political
Science and Public
Administration, Yelwa Na
Farko in Mubi, Adamawa,
Nigeria

Impact of national economic empowerment and development strategy (NEEDS) on rural women: A case study of Yelwa Na Farko in Mubi, Adamawa state-Nigeria

Hasiya Salihu and Hamisu Ali

Abstract

This paper examines the impact of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) on Yelwa Na Farko Development Association in Mubi North Local Government Area, by looking at the contribution the NEEDS had made on the rural women in understanding their goals in term of self-reliance in the study area. This study used primary data collection from the respondents through the use of questionnaire and interview; two hundred and eighty questionnaires (280) were distributed and two hundred and fifty questionnaires (250) were successfully returned which recorded (89%) of returned. The study employed simple percentage to analyse the data collected. The result obtained depicts that there is serious discrimination, lack of sufficient capital among the rural women in the study area. The study recommends that; government should breach the gap of discrimination (gender equality) among the rural women, government should provide working capital for rural women and also government should include them in all their decision such as commercial activities, politics and awareness coaching among themselves.

Keywords: Rural women, NEEDS, economic empowerment, strategy

1. Introduction

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) became advanced through the National Planning Commission, through then headed by Professor Charles Soludo. The Federal Executive Council of Nigeria as a poverty softening approach recommended it. The purpose of the scheme became to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals of curtailing the risk of poverty in Nigeria and bringing it to the barest minimal through the year 2015. National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy is a manner of letting the International Community realize wherein Nigeria stands within side the vicinity and the international, and the way it desires to be supported. In searching on the opportunities of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) in assembly the aspirations of Nigerians, we should now no longer fail to nation that NEEDS specifically, addresses the global Development Targets (IDTs), which had been set in 1996 to enhance monetary wellbeing, social and human improvement and make sure environmental sustainability and regeneration. (MDGs, 2015) ^[8].

Nigeria had produced some of National Development plans, which represented the objectives and aspirations of the nation, in charting its course of monetary, social and political development. They have been generally primarily based totally on a few philosophies or models. The first National Development plan in Nigeria turned into after independence, 1962 - 1968. There turned into the Nigerian civil conflict 1967 - 1970. The second National Development plan turned into 1970 - 1974. Others are third, National Development Plan 1975 - 1980, Fourth National Development Plan 1981 - 1984, the 5th National Development plan of 1989 and the three every year rolling plans because the imaginative and prescient 1990s which culminated within side the imaginative and prescient 2010 for Nigeria (Ogundele and Opeifa, 2004) ^[12]. In the First and Second National Development Plans, the standards used have been: (i) that specialize in funding with best increase potentials (ii) making sure the feasibility of numerous authorities proposals (iii) Emphasizing monetary desirability of projects, and (iv) making sure the fulfilment of most increase rate.

The paper discusses amongst many empowerments to lessen the fee of poverty within side the Yelwa na Farko women improvement affiliation within the look at vicinity; the programmes installation through the Federal and the State Governments referred to as the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) and Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS). Prior earlier than the return to democracy in 1999, Nigeria as a state is been confronted with collection of troubles starting from monetary dwindling, insufficient and shortage of infrastructural maintenance, poverty and inequality, loss of protection and susceptible and beside the point of public zone amongst others. The researcher found that the subsequent trouble wishes to be researched upon to look at the area of NEEDS similarly is predicted to deal with the trouble of assuaging poverty amongst Nigerians. Both the federal and nation authorities have installation numerous poverty assuaging programme to lessen to the minimal poverty a number of the citizens. The look at aimed to attain the subsequent objective, to assess the troubles related to the National Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) on enhancing Yelwa Na Farko women improvement on Rural women in Mubi North.

Conceptual Clarification

The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)

NEEDS is homemade or Nigeria's domestic grown medium time period improvement and poverty discount package. It makes a speciality of the country's macroeconomic, structural, and social rules and programmes for selling increase and decreasing poverty, via a participatory system related to all segments of the society. It is distinctively a Nigeria improvement imaginative and prescient with four fundamental help establishments pillar or strategies. These are reforming authorities and establishments, developing the non-public sector, imposing a social charter, and cost re-orientation of the citizenry. (CVCNU, 2004) ^[5].

NEEDS

Perhaps, it may be related to endeavor a definition of the term so as make a clearer picture of the term and upgrade a firmer get a handle on of the talk at stake. The National Financial Strengthening and Advancement Procedure (NEEDS) was a nostrum arrangement of the Obasanjo's respectful organization to turn around the nation's financial fortunes. It has been contended that "NEEDS is the reaction to the advancement challenges of Nigeria". Concurring to J.A. Bamiduro *et al*, NEEDS can moreover be said to cruel "a comprehensive, domestic developed and destitution mitigation programme". This modern neo magnanimous change arrangement "modeled on the IMF's Destitution Decrease and Development Office, is pointed at accomplishing macroeconomic soundness, destitution lightening, riches creation and business generation"⁴. Within the setting of this paper, NEEDS, a new neo-liberal approach, may be unused frame of Western imperialism and a re-enactment of the scramble for spheres of impact within the Less Created Nations (LDCs). (Nnole, 2006) ^[13].

The Needs Statement of Vision and Mission against the Status Quoante

The civilian authorities of former President Olusegun Obasanjo and his provided with inside the NEEDS report that its imaginative and prescient for Nigeria development, derives from her history, endowments, enjoy and aspirations. The imaginative and prescient underscored the need and urgency to construct a current Nigeria that maximizes the potentials of each citizen, to emerge as the most important and most powerful African economy, and a pressure to be reckoned with earlier than the mid-twenty first century. The assignment of former president Obasanjo authorities became to apply the instrumentality of the country wide Economic Empowerment and Development, Strategy (NEEDS) as a nationally co-coordinated framework of motion in near collaboration with the State governments and different State holders to construct a stable basis for the attainment of Nigeria's long time imaginative and prescient. Over the medium term, the NEEDS will lay the muse and reap enormous development with inside the regions of wealth creation, employment technology and poverty reduction. NEEDS consequently became anchored at the imperatives to repair the essential values of Nigeria that have weakened over the years. Soludo (2004) ^[17] Nigeria is a multi-ethnic society with a gadget that derives from the variety of its human resources, faith and culture. The detail of this cost gadget consists of admire for elders, honesty and accountability, cooperation, industry, discipline, self-self-belief and ethical braveness Obasanjo (2005) ^[11].

Development Strategies in Nigeria

The following are the numerous improvement techniques that has been followed at one time or the different. These are: network forums of 1954, the farm agreement scheme of 1959, The First National Development Plan Period (1962-68); The Second National Development Plan Period (1974-1980); The Third National Development Plan Period (1975-80); The Fourth National Development Plan Period (1980-85); and the Post Fourth Plan Period (1985 to 1990), the rural improvement project, operation feed the nation, countrywide directorate for employment, inexperienced revolution, mass mobilization for self-reliance and financial recovery, river basin improvement authority, countrywide increased meals manufacturing Programme, the countrywide farm animals improvement Programme, the directorate of meals, roads and rural infrastructures, the incorporated rural improvement programs, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, the imaginative and prescient 2010, the imaginative and prescient 2020, the seven factor schedule and the likes (Ohagwu, 2010; Ezeah, 2005; Ndukwe, 2005; Igbokwe and Seniyi, 1998) ^[14, 6, 10, 7]

Challenges of National Development Strategies

The splendour of any improvement plan is the devoted implementation of such plan, which its fulfilment lies with the implementers, maximum of the beyond improvement plans failed because of implementation trouble and absence of devoted management Based in this fact, new improvement guidelines and techniques had been raised as opportunity techniques for improvement, which include

Seven Points Agenda with inside the Yaradua's administrations, Vision 2020, the Goodluck Jonathan transformation agenda, the adoptions of the millennium improvement goal. The Nigeria Vision 20: 2020 is an attitude plan; an financial marketing strategy meant to make Nigeria one of the pinnacle 20 economies with the aid of using 2020, with an increase goal of now no longer much less than \$900 billion in GDP and a consistent with capita of now no longer much less than \$4,000 consistent with annum. The 3 Pillars of the Vision 20:2020 are; making certain the health and productiveness of the people, optimizing the important thing reassess of financial increase and fostering sustainable social and financial improvement. Nigeria Vision 20:2020 is Nigeria's 2nd try at using the attainment of her countrywide aspirations the use of long time attitude plan. In addition to the primary attitude plan (Vision 2010), numerous strategic making plans efforts had been undertaken with the aid of using the Federal Government in latest years. These efforts consist of the Poverty Strategy Reduction Papers (PSRPs), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS I & II), Nigeria's Strategy for reaching the Millennium Development Goals, and the Seven Point Agenda. These guidelines and imaginative and prescient look like all embracing however they may be now no longer sacrosanct of their totality. But if faithfully implemented, the country as a minimum will circulate closer to direction of improvement. (NPC, 2015) ^[9].

Rural Development: An Overview

To gain a practical variety of Rural Development approach, there may be an outstanding want to increase sensible and plausible targets that take into awareness of all of the forces and elements that militate in opposition to it. Until pretty recently, Rural Development have been perceived as an approach particularly associated with agricultural productiveness and ordinarily tied to monetary boom. In different words, improved agricultural productiveness through itself could remedy issues of rural groups and their inhabitants. Other in advance misconceptions of Rural Development have been embedded within the promoting of funding ratio, putting in of import substitution industries, growth of training etc. But it turned into quickly found out that there are some of international locations that had attained fast monetary boom without a corresponding boom within the situation of dwelling of the bulk of the people. There is consequently a want to increase a complete package deal opportunity of Rural Development approach or principle primarily based totally on a hard and fast of plausible rules bizarre to the situations inherent in a given situation. For example, positive unstable issues (political, monetary, social, moral, cultural etc.) should be seriously understood and settled earlier than something is evolved. In essence, there may be a want to have a long-variety Rural Development goal, which is synonymous with whole transformation of the complete social and monetary institutions, members of the family and strategies of manufacturing. (Joseph, 2014).

Theory of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)

Neo-Liberalism and NEEDS

Some state states carry out higher economically than others in bringing approximately boom or improvement. There are predominantly main financial paradigms, specifically the statist or conservative financial paradigm and neo-liberal paradigm. The conservative technique accepts the country because the agent of financial improvement (Evans, Rueschemeyer and Skocpol, 1985; Streeten, 1992; Kohli, 2004) even as the neo-liberal paradigm has a tendency to deter or decrease the function of State in acting enterprise activities (World Bank, 1987 and 1991; Williamson, 1998; Gore, 2000). The theoretical debates consequently thrive alongside individuals who view the country as the important thing financial participant and engine of financial improvement and the neo-liberal or pro-marketplace faculty who consider in minimizing the function of the country within the procedure of financial improvement.

The NEEDS changed into conceived within the framework of neo-liberal financial order that limits the function of Government possession of effective resources. The NEEDS changed into premised on spotting the non-public region because the engine of financial boom and that a strong non-public enterprise initiative is related to profitability, performance and merchandising of speedy financial boom. The neo-liberal financial order believes that Government intervention within the economic system to behaviour enterprise operations typically threatens non-public investors.

Existing of Literature

Anne and Mary (1998) ^[3], in an observe legitimized the concept of efficient companions in agriculture and different financial sports, coming across and documenting the diverse roles performed with the aid of using rural ladies as farmers, and agricultural professionals. Besides running on farms, rural ladies in Nigerian societies additionally participates actively in non-agricultural sports as diverse alternate transaction, which includes hand and innovative art, however no matter the essential function rural ladies play in financial sports they're infrequently given any interest within the vicinity of education and visitation with the aid of using network improvement agents, extension agent or any authorities officers with progressed technologies. Banks infrequently offers them loans and they're infrequently reached with progressed seeds, fertilizer and different inputs (Damisa & Yohanna, 2007). Rural ladies have laboured facet with the aid of using facet with guys in agriculture with a few marked department of labour, the guys finished the duties of felling trees, accumulating and burning of bush, and making ridges whilst ladies had been concerned in planting of seeds specially meals crops, harvesting, transporting, processing and promoting of farm products (Lawanson, 2008).

Ajani, (2013) ^[4], in a studies talked about that rural women's financial sports may be promoted in numerous methods due to the fact their prospects as sellers of extrude to network improvement thru their participation in financial and earnings producing sports are untapped, but, their theoretical and realistic know-how to the surroundings and useful resource isn't given due consideration.

Adebowale, (2014) ^[1], mentioning the financial contribution rural women made to the network improvement thru handcraft because the conventional manner of creating pots, its miles one of the oldest vocations in Nigerian rural communities. Like different conventional creative, it has survived competitions growing from modernization of the manufacturing procedure and transmission of substitutes which include plastics, and steel products. Nigeria has many methods of creating a conventional pot, in maximum of Africa its miles career especially performed with the aid of using women. Hand- made pottery is a thing of the conventional generation of a given network, and it represents their try at exploiting their herbal environment, and its substances for survival. It symbolizes the ideas, cost system, and perspectives of the people. Any significant pottery research ought to take focus of the herbal environment, in addition to the society that produce and use the pottery wares, it's been determined that each degree of pottery manufacturing has specific cultural enter that differs from one middle to any other and in a few instances character to character, it's miles a conventional manner of creating pots with the aid of using the usage of hand and a mom to daughter vocational talent transfer. All of the studies conducted in Nigeria and none of the study exist 2014, the previous study did not touches the area of women empowerment. Therefore, the current study were covered the women empowerment in the study area through the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) on Rural Women.

Methodology

Mubi North region which forms the Adamawa Northern Senatorial district lies between latitude 9° 30' and 11° north of the equator and longitude 13° and 13° 45' east of the Greenwich meridian. It is bounded in the north by Borno state, in the west by Hong and Maiha local government areas and in the south and east by the Republic of Cameroon (Adebayo, 2004) ^[2]. It has a land area of 4728.77 km² and a population of 202,500 according to National Population Commission (web) 2016 projection. The temperature regime in Mubi region is warm to hot throughout the year, because of high radiation income which is relatively evenly distributed throughout the year. However, there is usually a slightly cool period between November and February; minimum temperature of 12.7°C around January and maximum temperature of 37°C around April (Adebayo,

1997).

Research Design

Social researchers typically ask primary forms of studies questions. The first is “What goes on?” and the second one is “why is that this going on?” The former kind of query is called descriptive studies whilst the latter is known as explanatory studies. As the call implies, descriptive studies describes social phenomenon. Explanatory studies, on the alternative hand, seek to expand and compare reasons of phenomenon. This research is both a descriptive and an explanatory study. This study is meant to investigate what is going on among rural women in the study area. This study is set to provide an understanding on the empowerment status of rural women in relation to National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS).

Source of Data

The data were sourced through the use of primary data; questionnaires were distributed to the target respondents, along the line interview were also conducted in order to achieve the study target. The respondents in the study area preferred interview because of the level of informal education in some of the rural women in the study area.

Sample Size

Data for this study were derived from a sample size of two hundred and eighty (280) active rural women in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State Nigeria. The sample size is considered adequate to achieve confident generalizations about the study area. Two hundred and fifty (250) were filled and returned successfully for the analysis.

Result and Presentation

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The respondents constituted of active rural women in Yelwa Na Farko development association their age range was between 25 and 55 years old. The distribution of the respondents by age was 20-25 years (5.9%), 25-30 years (19.7%), 30-35 years (24.5%), 35-50 years (26.0%) and 55years above (23.9%). The distribution of respondents by marital status revealed that 0.2%, 63.5%, 2.8% and 33.5% were single, married, separated and widowed respectively. This means that most of the respondents were married (63.5%) and all the respondents constituted of women in the study area.

Table 1: Distribution of Rural Women through National Economic and Empowerment Strategy (NEEDS) participation

Types of Task	Degree of Involvement				
	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Undecided
Eradicating gender equality (Discrimination)	70 (28%)	120 (48%)	20 (8%)	28 (11.2)	12 (4.8%)
Participating in Socio-economic development	85 (34%)	115 (46%)	17 (6.8%)	22 (8.8%)	11 (4.4%)
Engaging in Commercial Activities	65 (26%)	123 (49.2%)	21 (8.4%)	27 (10.8%)	14 (5.6%)
Political Participation	90 (36%)	110 (44%)	15 (6%)	25 (10%)	10 (4%)
Public enlightening programmes	70 (28%)	120 (48%)	20 (8%)	28 (11.2%)	12 (4.8%)

Source: Field Survey, 2020

The result from the above table depicts that the percentage of respondents within the types of task that involved in rural women participation, the eradicating gender equality (discrimination) made the majority of the respondents strongly agreed with (48%) shows that there is gender

discrimination among the rural women in the study area, the participating in socio-economic development shows that majority of the respondents strongly agreed with (46%) that rural women are fully participating in socio-economics development among the rural women in the study area,

engaging in commercial activities most of the respondents strongly agreed with (49.2) shows that rural women are engaging in all commercial activities undertakes in the study area, political participation shows that majority of the respondents strongly agreed with (44%) depicts that rural women are participating in politics in the study area. The public enlightening programmes depicts that (48%) shows that most of the rural women involved in public enlightening programmes in the study area.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This paper has attempted to examine the impact of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). We have also advocated the NEEDS statement of Vision and Mission (2020) were discussed. Because of the comprehensive of the NEEDS approach to development. We identified specific development association as Yelwa Na Farko development association on rural women in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The commitment and honesty on the part of the policy makers and implementation remain the only way to developmental challenges and the effectiveness of the strategies for development with the rural women in the study area. Based on the following conclusion the recommendations were made; government should breach the gap of discrimination (gender equality) among the rural women, government should provide sufficient working capital for the rural women in order to be self-reliance and government should include them in all their decision such as commercial activities from all the sectors, politics and awareness of their members in line with development strategy.

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