Networking and Capacity Building for the Management of Urban Renewal Programme in Nigeria

By

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Abstract

The rate of urbanization especially in developing countries Nigeria inclusive is frightening as a result of population explosion. This has necessitated the emergence of urban renewal programme for effective planning, development, and management of towns and cities in Africa’s most populous country – Nigeria. The cardinal philosophy of the renewal programme is premised on curtailing the unbridled rural-urban migration and the associated challenges of infrastructural deficiencies. However, it has been observed that this programme is not producing the desired results envisaged in the design of the goals, objectives, and implementation mechanisms. Based on the observed shortcoming, above, it became imperative for a deeper investigation of alternative strategies for ensuring the effectiveness and success of the programme. In response to this, this study was designed and carried out to find-out if the introduction of participatory principles of networking and capacity building process will result in collective action which can stimulate effective management of the renewal programme. The population comprised selected Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Ibadan Metropolis. Data was obtained through a self-constructed questionnaire tagged Networking & Capacity Building and Urban Renewal questionnaire (NCBURQ). Finding showed that development programmes of this nature must be built on networking and capacity building of CDAs to perceive such programmes as theirs rather than as government programmes. Once this is achieved, it will accelerate and promotes the spirit of collectivism in the mindsets of community members. Based on these findings, the study made some necessary recommendations that development practitioners must thoroughly
understand the key principles and processes of networking and capacity building in the design and implementation of development programmes. Keywords: Networking, Capacity Building, Urban renewal, participation, & mobilization
INTRODUCTION:

Nigeria one of the developing countries of the world has experienced one of the fastest rates of urbanization, available data revealed that the population of Nigeria is over 170 million and that the population is increasing at an alarming rate at the rural, and urban cities. The rate of population growth in urban cities in Nigeria over the last three decades has grown close to about 5.8% per annum and this has posed a great challenge to sustainable development programme in Nigeria. (FGN 2008, World Bank 2014, & FOS 2015).

This frightening rate of urbanization especially in developing countries is as a result of rural-urban drift and population explosion in the world (World Bank 2014), according to Eni, (2009), only 2% of the world population lived in cities in 1850 by the year 2000 the proportion of world population that are living in the city was less than 40% out of which 17% of the present rate of urbanization is taking place in developing countries. As a result of this, urban renewal is gaining popularity and is synonymous with development of cities and some towns in developing countries. This trend seeks to cope with and contain unbridled rural-urban migration and the associated challenges of same on infrastructural facilities in these urban areas. It is a system of preventing the premature obsolescence of urban neighbourhood, assemblage of facilities for the restoration of declining areas, as well as the recreation of worn-out areas.

According to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) (2004), 30% of the 10 largest cities were located in developed countries, while the other 70% were fund in developing countries. By projection, it was assumed that by 2010, there were 23 mega cities in the world each with a population in excess of 10 million, out of which 19 were located in developing countries. Experts on urban studies agree that the level of urbanization in developing countries most especially Nigeria exceeds the overall level of population growth rate. For example, Okoro (2007) has shown how the urban population in Nigeria increased dramatically from 1 million in 1850 to about 11 million in 1963 and by the year 2000, the number of millionaire cities rose from 14 to more than 20.
The glaring portrayal of urban growth and city expansion shown above is replicated in very visible environmental consequences such as cities encroachment on land immediately surrounding them, shortage of shelter or housing deficit, pollution of land, air and water, urban environmental degradation, proliferation of slums, squatters and other unconventional settlements, overcrowding of persons and tenements, homelessness forcing people to take shelter under bridges or broken down vehicles (Eni, 1998; Cunningham & Saigo, 2003; Enger & Smith, 2004). There is also malnutrition, despicable poverty, a deficient urban infrastructure such as inadequate water supply, toilet, electricity, roads, drainage, lowering of property values or blighted structures, environmentally induced diseases such as cholera, malaria, typhoid, loss of biodiversity, and different forms of deviant behavior usually associated with substandard living conditions. (World Bank, 2014). It is in the light of this, that this study seeks to address the creative attempt to redress the noted problems of urbanization in these cities that gave birth to urban renewal programme of the present administration. In all the study seeks to see how networking and capacity building can be deployed to manage the negative attitude, lack of knowledge display by the citizens and low participation in the programme.

Literature Review

Networking and Capacity Building:

Networking is a supportive system of sharing information and services among individuals and groups having a common interest, while Capacity building is defined as a process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in the fast changing world (Wakely 2012). Capacity building is a name for the familiar concepts of community and workforce development, it taps into the existing abilities of individuals, communities, organizations or systems to increase involvement, decision-making and ownership of issues.

A network approach to capacity building offers examples of how networks are especially effective for capacity building because they
catalyze innovations, improves communication and reduce duplication of past mistakes as well as spread good ideas faster. UNDP (2014) recognizes that capacity building is a long term, continuing process in which all stakeholders participate (ministries, local authorities, non-governmental organizations professional associations, and others). In the broadest interpretation, capacity building encompasses Human Resource Development (HRD) as an essential part of development. It is based on the concept that education and training lie at the heart of development efforts and it focuses on a series of actions directed at helping the development process to increase their knowledge, skills and understanding to develop attitudes needed to bring about the desired developmental change. Capacity Building is much more than training and includes the following:

- Human resource development: the process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively.

- Organizational development: the elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures, not only within organizations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private and community).

- Institutional and legal framework development: making legal and regulatory changes to enable organizations, institutions and agencies at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities. (Morgan 2010)

Capacity building should cut across all levels and fields of human activities that impinge upon the development and management of cities and settlements. However, in doing these priorities areas should be taken seriously and should take precedent over others in their need for attention and resources because the new paradigms are calling for an urgent and massive exercise in re-building the capacity of human beings and administration. This can be characterised by three types of activity.
• First, is the task of equipping the stakeholders, (CDC, CDAs, community Leaders, youth leaders, transport worker’s union leaders, market women, government administrators and the private sector and communities) with necessary information to interact, to confront and command the new urban renewal agendas.

• Second, is the task of re-structuring, local authorities, and community organisations to enable them to initiate and sustain a new style of operation agenda? This includes the processes of decentralisation, devolution and the privatisation of the delivery and maintenance of urban infrastructure; the formation of new partnerships for the supply and management of public services and amenities; the provision of enabling supports to households and communities in the control and management of their own neighbourhoods and dwellings.

• Third, is the task of developing, attracts, and motivates the best professionals, technicians and managers and rewards their creativity and innovation. Some of the knowledge and skills required to carry out these tasks are readily available. Others, such as working with local communities and with the private financial sector are new and need to be developed before they can be transferred. And some global, regional and local processes affecting the development of cities are so new and complex that substantial basic research is necessary before they can be usefully transferred to those who need them. (UNDP 2014)
Strategies to Networking and Capacity Building

(a) Community Mobilisation:

Community mobilization is a means of encouraging, influencing and arousing interest of people to make them actively involved in finding solutions to some of their own Problems

(b) Community participation:

Community participation is seen as been important to all aspect of renewal promotion, from perceived benefit to action taking prescribed by others to be consulted as part of planning a solution to problems and finally to plan and evaluate benefits of the solution by once self. (Oyebamiji 2014) believe that; meaningful community involvement can only develop community responsible and control at all stage.

(c) Awareness Creation through advocacy in the media, informal groups, & community organisations.

(d) Organisation of Training in form of role play, dance drama, cultural displays, case study etc

(e) Organize a cleanup campaign

(f) Involvement of Community leaders such as; Market women, youth leaders, leaders of thought, union leaders etc

Urban Renewal Programmes and Networking and Capacity Building

Osuide (2004) view urban renewal as regeneration, redevelopment and a deliberate effort to change the urban environment through planned large-scale adjustment of existing city areas to present and possible future requirements for urban living and working. In other words, urban renewal implies attempts to redesign, re-plan, rebuild, re-structure and reconstruct a rundown area of a given city.
Urban renewal, as its name implies, was designed to empower local governments to reverse the trend of physical and economic decline in the central districts of cities around the nation. According to Eni and Abua, 2014 urban renewal programmes can be traced to the great depressions of the 1930s where there was obvious dissatisfaction with the housing conditions in Britain. Urban renewal is an instrument and expression of social and political tendencies and power relations. It is also a relatively comprehensive community redevelopment programme through which a particular city seeks to re-fashion and rebuild the physical structures of a particular segment of the city in order to enable it to cope more successfully with the problem confronting it. Urban renewal has been described as a process of upgrading the status and structure of a particular section of a settlement, with a view to making them “new” through modernisation.

First attempt of urban renewal in Nigeria was in Lagos in 1955 as an aftermath of the outbreak of cholera and bubonic plague in 1929 (Mabogunje, 1974; Kutela and Adesola (1984), Sule (1988) and 2003; Usani, (1986). Other Nigerians towns and cities are presently undergoing very massive and deliberate urban renewal programmes such as Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Makurdi, Kano, among others. In addition, a number of slum upgrading programmes/schemes are being executed in different States in Nigeria under the World Bank Community Based Urban Development Programme. The States benefitting from this programme are Bauchi, Jigawa, Ondo, Ebonyi and Akwa Ibom. Furthermore, the National Urban Renewal Programme is presently going on in three Nigerian cities namely Badgray in Lagos State, Aba in Abia State, and Kurna Asabe in Kano metropolis. What can be gleaned from the foregoing is that urban renewal is mostly undertaken by government and a few supportive international organizations.

According to World Bank, (2000) slums are highly congested urban areas, inhabited by urban squatters, marked by deteriorated, unsanitary buildings, poverty, and social disorganization. In addition, they are also considered as a residential area in an urban locality inhabited by the very poor who have no access to tenured land of their
Ibadan is the capital of Oyo State in Nigeria. Its exact population is not known, in spite of the national census of 1991. However, current population estimates of the city vary from 3 to 5 million inhabitants. Ibadan is a city that is growing amorphously and characterised by traditional slums and spontaneous slums (Agbola, 1987 and Abumere, 1987). It is heavily overcrowded and the environment is largely degraded. In terms of its spatial spread, Ibadan sprawls over a radius of 12-15 km and it is still expanding uncontrollably, due to rapid and uncontrolled urbanisation. Most parts of the city, particularly the inner core and south-eastern section, are unplanned and lack basic facilities due to the inability of municipal governments to keep pace with the level of infrastructure needs and the speed of growth. The need to make Ibadan sustainable has resulted in several interventions in recent years, including the renewal or upgrading of some slums in the city and the participation of the city in the Sustainable Cities Programme among others.
Inadequate provision and management of environmental infrastructure – poor access to potable water, unstable electricity supply and haphazard physical development which constrains the provision of facilities.

Poor waste collection and management: wastes often block drain roads, waterways and the stench from dumpsites cause severe air and water pollution.

Flooding due to the invasion of flood plains by through illegal buildings and construction, inadequate storm drains, acute deforestation and poor solid waste management which have resulted in perennial floods; and High health risks due to poor water supply, inadequate and unreliable refuse collection services, water pollution, overcrowding, and flooding among others.

Fine (2001) described networking and capacity building as “a sack of analytical potatoes”. He says, “what is striking about networking and capacity building is not only the extent of its influence, and the speed with which this has been achieved, but also its ready acceptance as both analytical, empirical and policy panacea”. Networking and capacity building is the “missing link” that can explain any aspect of social, cultural or economic (under) performance, across time and place. Networking and capacity building perspective argues that both the quality of democratic politics and the vitality of a region’s economic life depend on the degree to which its people enjoy social relation.

This, in turn, depends on the quality of its associational life, because voluntary associations are seen to generate social capital by supporting norms of reciprocity and civic engagement, building social trust and providing networks of social relations that can be mobilized for civic action. Idea of urban renewal with the adoption of networking and capacity building connote the correction of urban decay in the urban areas, slum clearance and the rescuing of both the fabrics and functions of the Central Business District (CBD). (Morgan 2010)
Objectives of the Study

Based on the concerns mentioned above, this study aims at elucidating the effect of networking and capacity building for urban renewal programme in Nigeria.

The specific objective is to:

- quantify the effects networking and capacity building for urban renewal programme for sustainable development.

Research Questions

- to what extent do networking and capacity building (networking, mobilization, participation and membership of social organization, collective action, and culture) predict urban renewal programme for sustainable development?

- which of these variables of networking and capacity building has the greatest contributory effect on urban renewal programme for sustainable development in Ibadan metropolis, Nigeria?

METHODOLOGY

A Survey research design of expose facto type was used to obtain information on the study area that is Ibadan metropolis, the researcher and his assistants distributed questionnaire and conducted group interviews with urban residents, local government staff, community leaders, and community development Association’s (CDAs) officers in the study area. A sample size of one thousand, four hundred and twenty respondents (1420) was selected through a multi stage and snowballing sampling procedure were used. One of the fundamental principles of research area is that the sample size must represent the population being described. Therefore, a complete list of the households in Ibadan is necessary for sampling, but it is difficult to get such a list. Owing to growing concern about protection of personal information, it is also, difficult to use residents or voters’ records for sampling in Nigeria. The
researcher and his assistants visited respondents in their household repeatedly and requested them to introduce other residents in the area who are knowledgeable and would be willing to be interviewed. This approach is known as the “snowball method.” It is effective for finding volunteers, but it causes some bias in data collection. In general, respondents were elderly male and females.

In addition, urban survey was conducted to collect information on networking and capacity building for urban renewal programmes and other related development activities of the people so as to have a good opportunity of grasping the situation of groups’ activities through a questionnaire tagged Networking & Capacity Building and Urban Renewal questionnaire (NCBURQ) and interviews. Therefore, some questions directed at the type and level of group activities in urban communities were added to the study questionnaire. In addition, questions about rural-urban linkage and usage or management of urban center which are emerging topics in Nigeria were asked. Data were analysed through the use of inferential and descriptive statistics

Findings and Discussion

Research Question 1

- to what extent do networking and capacity building (networking, mobilization, participation and membership of social organization, and collective action) predict urban renewal programme for sustainable development?

Table 1.

| Table 1. |
| Prediction of networking and capacity building (networking, mobilization, participation and membership of social organization, and collective action,) predict urban renewal programme for sustainable development |
The above table shows that all the variables used to measure networking and capacity building: networking, mobilization, participation and membership of social organization, and collective action if taken together have a joint prediction on urban renewal for sustainable development in Ibadan. This is because the independent variables accounted for 64% direct effect on dependent variables. The observed F-ratio value of 243.8 at 0.05 level of significance is an indication that the effective combination of networking and capacity building will influence urban renewal programme in Ibadan metropolis, this could not have been a matter of coincidence. The degree of relationship between urban renewal and the independence variables that is networking and capacity building, is reflected in the values of the coefficient of Multiple regression (R) of 0.64 and multiple regression square ($R^2$) 0.40 as shown in the above table. It can, therefore, be deduced that 64% of the total variance in networking and capacity building, is accounted for by a linear combination of these factors to urban renewal programme for development. This result is corroborated by the result obtained in the interview conducted, because the membership of associations one belongs play greater roles in influencing members to act or behave in a particular way. Members have a sense of belonging, leaders influence members of organization to participate in development programme of their community. This result is in agreement with Sills (1966), and Dresbach (1992), whose submission on the importance of membership of social organisations showed that development can be facilitated. Also social trust can enhance or hinder the development of rural community because community members often feel incompetent to organize a community response unless the reasons are compelling to their community interest. In addition, creditability of those in leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of variation</th>
<th>Sum of square</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean square</th>
<th>f-ratio</th>
<th>Sig of p</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>r-square</th>
<th>Adj- r square</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>7570776.83</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>189269.2</td>
<td>243.8</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>.407</td>
<td>.406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>1101418.2</td>
<td>1419</td>
<td>776.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1858495.2</td>
<td>1429</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*sig at P<0.05
positions or prominent members of a social organization are necessary for success of rural development.

Furthermore, Beard (2005) concluded that membership of social organization means contributing time and resources, an individual economic status will affect his or her level of involvement in development. In addition, peoples’ trust becomes imperative when they have enough information about developmental issue. This can only take place if social trust was imbibed in community people because of social pact among members of associations. The above is in agreement with Abiona (2003), who submits that attitudes are developed through culture and interaction of people, which will bring development.

**Research Question 2**

- which of these variables of networking and capacity building has the greatest contributory effect on urban renewal programme for sustainable development in Ibadan metropolis, Nigeria?

**Table 2:** Relative Prediction of social capital factors on rural development in Iseyin LGA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficient</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficient</th>
<th>Ranking of the independent variables</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>-56.368</td>
<td>6.760</td>
<td></td>
<td>-8.339</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>2.126</td>
<td>.341</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.240</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilisation</td>
<td>1.857</td>
<td>.236</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.885</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; memberships of social organization</td>
<td>1.484</td>
<td>.260</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.714</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*significant at P<0.05
Table 2

Above shows that among the networking and capacity building variables, the variables with the strongest influence on rural development is collective action (β= 0.25, p <0.05). This is followed by mobilisation (β = 0.20, p<0.05), next is networking (β = 0.17, p < 0.05) and lastly is the participation and membership of social organisation (β = 0.16, p<0.05). Thus, the table reveals that each of the networking and capacity building variables used in this study has a positive significant influence on the dependent variable. From the table and the result of data analysis, one can conclude that the result is in agreement with Beard (2005) submission that participation and membership of social groups to which individuals belong increase or decrease the number of people they know and the number of people they potentially engage in exchange of relationships. Also, Abiona 2003 is of the opinion that attitudes are developed from networking. The way people react to development is derived from the culture, which exists in that particular community. It is, therefore, assumed that the members of cultural groups are more likely to participate in the development of their cities. There must be mutual respect for all the diverse cultures present in a community for there to be maximum support for development.

Development activities take place in urban communities because of collective action, this was revealed by both the qualitative and quantitative methods employed in this study, collective action make people more comfortable, make them depend on one another and give them sense of ownership and belonging in development activities of their area. This is because they can easily converge and take collective decision. The above submission is in agreement with the work of Dresbach 1992, Abiona, 2003, and Adekola 2004, who were of the opinion that active participation of community members in collective action is directly related to socio-economic development of their communities.

Furthermore, membership and networking of organization also influence community members’ attitudes toward development. The outcomes of the interviews and data collected revealed that members are attached to one another because membership of association play a
significant role in the behaviour of others and the tendency of carrying one another along in a similar way, most especially on issues that has direct relationship with the corporate existence of their organization. Also, leaders and influential members can mobilized and motivate members towards development activities of their communities. Adekola, (2004).

This result is in agreement with the submission of Nnoli (1998), who affirmed that it is a fundamental and an erroneous assumption that when participation, mobilization and membership of social groups exist in the same political unit, conflict between them is inevitable. In his word, the problems of ethnicity are magnified out of proportion to their real significance. It has been found that ethnicity is unstable in nature when there is an interaction of many ethnic groups. This is in line with Ottite (2002), and Clark (2002) who were of the view that “ethnic identity boundary fluctuates within the context of wider social relations, being modified and maintained through competitive interaction with other ethnic groups as against the perceptions of national identity”. Against this finding, one can rightly say that Ibadan metropolis is going through a process of cultural diffusion; therefore, the study reveals that ethnicity is an inherent aspect of social change in heterogeneous communities. People of Ibadan metropolis in recent time down play their ethnic affiliation when it comes to pooling resource together for development.

Conclusion

Urban renewal programmes is transformation of cities to give a facelift to the state, as well as to improve the living standard of the people in the cities. The urban renewal projects are considered highly essential as the environment contributes to the level of spiritual, social, economic, intellectual and cultural development of the people. Urban renewal was designed to eliminate poverty by spurring the physical improvement of low-income communities. Networking and capacity building brings people into contact with those outside their normal circle, broadening horizons and raising expectations, and can link people into informal networks through which work is more easily found. It promotes self-
help whereby people identify their needs and been able to proffer solutions.

On the other hand, care must be taken to ensure that networking and capacity building are not be viewed as a panacea for development and assumed to make up for the absence of other resources. The study conducted by Warren, Thompson and Saegert (2001) noted that over-dependence on self-help method of community development has led to undue focus on social resources without due consideration to other non-social resources most especially in poor communities. Rather networking and capacity building constitute an essential means of promoting non-social resources so as to make effective use of them.

The implication of the above is that attempt to build networking and capacity building may disrupt existing regulations that people have come to depend on because bridging social network is not an easy task, and may be achieved at the expense of bonded group in the societies.

Although this study is in agreement with social capital factors in predicting rural development, it raises new questions on research that needed to examine the type of action each of these factors is supported. Also, Ibadan metropolis is a big heterogeneous city. Additional research is needed in homogeneous communities to determine whether the findings differ in a small community. Regardless of the issues raised, the findings indicate that Networking and capacity building are strong predictors for urban renewal strategies for enhancing community action for development.
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