
Assessing The Role Of Community Based Organization In The Development Of The Rural Community. A Case Study Of Lwengo Sub country In Lwengo District.

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Abstract

Evaluation of the Contribution of Community Based Organisation (CBOs) to the Development of Communities in Uganda (A Study of Lwengo Local Government), these CBOs provide socio-economic facilities for the common benefit of the community. This type of organization has been in existence in Lwengo Local Government Area even before the creation of the Local Government in 2012. In the past, these CBOs have contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of Lwengo by the provision of schools, community health centers, feeder roads, market stalls, motor parks etc but of recent we have notice a decline in the performance of these organizations. Our research problem is therefore the poor performance of these CBO's. The objectives of this study among others therefore, are to find out the immediate and remote causes of this problem. In doing this, two assumptions were postulated. The study mostly used secondary data, and supplemented by primary data. Simple percentages were used to analyze data collected. Our major findings among others are that the poor performance of these CBOs is due to the poor working relationship between them and the local government particularly financial assistance. We recommend that Lwengo Local Government should assist these CBOs in order for them to perform and achieve their objectives.

Background To The Study

The use of community organizations for development is a process of social action in which community people organize themselves for planning and action (Christopher, Muhindo, et al., 2022). They implement their plans with maximum reliance on community resources and supplement these resources with outside services and materials (Christopher, Komunda, et al., 2022). However, CBO's approach to self-help involves the fullest participation of all members in the decision-making process. The participation of local people in the activities of community-based organizations (CBO's) is an act that involves residents in a project that requires a democratic approach (Ntirandekura &

Christopher, 2022). The belief is that all members contribute to decisions that affect them. In fact, people are more likely to be involved in a rural project if they are involved in its planning and implementation because they are more likely to identify with its use and consider it their project (K. Faridah et al., 2023). It is therefore usually observed that projects implemented by CBOs are always successful, especially because most members would not want to be associated with failure. CBO activities in Offa Local Government have become so important because there seems to be a disintegration of public institutions that could look after the welfare of the people in the area (N. Faridah et al.,

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2023). The spirit of coming together to develop one's community without waiting for the government has been with the people for a very long time even before the creation of the state, an indicator of the above is the creation of the Rakai Health Sciences program in 1987 (Victoria et al., 2023).

In Lwengo Local Government, the performance of community organizations cannot be dismissed with a wave of the hand (Seth & Ntirandekura, 2022). Bringing people together to form organizations is the foundation of public participation in development. CBOs provided facilities like; roads, culverts, bridges, halls, water projects. In addition, they have engaged in a democratic system of supporting community development activities because these organizations are closer to the majority of people in the community and the members of these organizations are also from the same community (Musaibah et al., 2023).

Statement of the problem

Local governments were created and enshrined in our constitution as the third tier of government to bring government closer to the people and provide much needed social infrastructure to the rural areas where the majority of Ugandans live (Joventa et al., 2023). This dream cannot be achieved with the small resources available to the local government; coupled with the complexity and scope of the duties they have to perform. This therefore requires intensive self-help efforts to improve people's living conditions (Moses, 2022).

However, their efforts to develop rural communities through self-help projects encountered some significant obstacles (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022). Despite their determination to implement projects, for example, quite a few projects were abandoned due to lack of funds or other relevant resources. Some projects have turned out to be useless to the community due to improper planning (Christopher, Komunda, et al., 2022). It is widely recognized that self-help efforts have been more effective in meeting the needs of certain communities than others. A community organization can rightly be called a community asset (Racheal et al., 2023); The University Press under Makerere University (2010) in Uganda found that many of these organizations are mostly disconnected from any external, technical or financial assistance; invested their large funds in projects. their financial capacity cannot sustain (Akankwasa et al., 2022), some have built clinics without medicine or medical staff, the schools built are without teaching materials, in fact there are many unfinished projects in the local government (Turyatamba et al., 2022). This study therefore seeks to evaluate the contribution of CBOs in self-help projects in Lwengo District.

Objectives of the Study

1. To evaluate the contributions of CBO's to the development of Lwengo Community over the years.

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2. To identify the remote and immediate causes of their decline in performance as agent of change.
3. To suggest new approaches to development in the local government, the state, and Uganda generally.

Literature Review

Evidence from the literature revealed the activities of community-based organizations in Uganda (Christopher, Muhindo, et al., 2022). For instance, the study conducted by (Rashid et al., 2023) in Masaka city revealed that CBOs in the city solely relied on internally generated revenue with very little aid from the government. This was why the CBO that won best CBO award in 2011 emanated from Masaka district. The organization in 2011 built a primary school, bank, court hall, community hall, post office and opened up several roads for vehicular usage. A study conducted by Abegunde (2004:16) on the activities of the CBOs in Atiba local government area of Osun state revealed that there were about 160 CBOs in the area. About 40% of these CBOs provided social facilities worth 17.56 million naira to their immediate community (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022).

Similarly, CBOs in Anambra state were said to be economically buoyant enough to have constructed access roads within, built schools and health centres, provide water and see to the general welfare of their members without government assistance (Kazaara & Kazaara, 2023). It was even recorded that the ultra-modern maternity centre built by CBOs in Iwengo Local Government Area of the state aroused no governments' interest, in that the maternity could not takeoff for over 10 years after construction because of lack of personnel and equipment's from the government of that area

(Victoria et al., 2023). The experiences of CBOs in Masaka district differed. Their government assisted them in discharging their responsibilities to the communities through fund provision (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022). Their problems were the conflicts of interest, level of education of community development workers among the two tiers of government (state and local), low and poor public acceptance. Unlike in Mpigi district, the people were receptive to CBOs activities but inadequate government support and economic status of members limited their operation Adejumobi, continued.

Community development is an age long social activity in our society. Even before the advent of the colonial administration, people had at different times employed communal resources to provide physical improvement and functional facilities in their respective localities. For example, communal labour was employed in constructing homesteads, clearing farmlands, roads and even some public utility buildings, such as "Obas" palace, market stalls and town halls (Christopher, Komunda, et al., 2022).

Poor performance of government in meeting the socio economic needs of citizens since 2011, has been identified as one of the reasons behind the proliferation of community based organization in Uganda. Along this line, (Ntirandekura et al., 2022) observed that people in developing nations

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have until recently looked up to their government to meet their basic socio economic demands. In accordance with this, (Emmanuel et al., 2023) observed, governments in African nations have evolved both top down and bottom up approaches to achieve sustainable development for their people. These includes establishment of cottage industries to create job opportunities, provide basic infrastructure and utilize regional natural and manmade resources to stimulate growth and economic development that would spread to lagging areas of the country. Beside this, (Christopher, Moses, et al., 2022) noted that the failure of government top down approach and lack of involvement of the people at the grassroots in the bottom up strategy have weakened the confidence of the public. As a result of the above, communities seeks solace in indigenous institutions which pressurize government for attention to development of their

Methodology

The population of the study was made up of all the Community Based organizations in the local government area, members of the public, and officials of the local government.

The first category of the population are the various Community Based Organization in the local government area, they consist of 22 CBOs out of which only eight (8) of them registered with the local government. The second categories of the population are members of the public i.e. household heads, and artisan. The last category of the populations is the local government officials. This comprise of the members of the executive of the local government, legislative council members, and head of departments. The sample of this study was drawn from the population of the study, i.e. community based organizations in the area of study, members of the public and local government functionaries. In the selected community based organisations, the leaders (officials) of these CBO"s were selected as our respondents. Another type of respondents are the member of the public in Lwango district Local Government Area mostly Lwango sub county, and the last type of respondents are the local government officials.

communities and undertake development programmes and project that they observed are very needful to their immediate communities (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022).

Some past attempts to achieve rural development in Nigeria failed due to the oil boom in the 1970s which gave people the erroneous impression that government should provide all their needs (Musaibah et al., 2023). Consequently, the spirit of self- help was relegated to the background. Olajide (1994:70). However, the present economic reality in the country has made the people find a lasting solution to the social economic problems of their communities, through Community Development Organization (CDOs) (Musaibah et al., 2023). The CBOs exist under different names and varying sizes and are scattered all over the study areas. Members can be solely males or females, and sometimes mixed, depending on their predominant activities

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The reasons for the selection of CBO leaders as our respondents is that these CBOs leaders have served the CBOs for several years, in fact, some of the leaders are the initiators or co-founder of these organizations. Another reason is that they have the records of performance and the creation of the organization. Other part of the respondents are the local government officials, they are selected as our respondents because they have records of some of these CBOs, most especially those CBOs that registered with them. In some instance, they have participated in the activities of these organizations. The study selected the community dwellers, i.e. household heads, health and medical workers, traders, and artisan; in order to make use of their views and assessment of the performance of these organizations. This study would cover many community dwellers as possible particularly those that are members of these organizations, including those that have benefited in one way or the other from the services of these CBOs.

Table 1: Categories of respondents, population and sample size

Categories	Population	Sample size
CBO officials	80	75
Members of the public	300	250
Local government officials	25	20
Total	405	345

Source: Author's Field Work, 2006.

The study administered three types of questionnaires to the various respondents mentioned above in this chapter. On the part of the CBO's officials, the study co-opted two research assistants to administer the questionnaire on officials of the CBO's. The two assistance has general background of the activities of these CBO's, the wards and the main language spoken. Data was derived from primary source through the use of questionnaire, observations and interview methods, constructed three sets of questionnaires: for leaders (officials) of CBO's, for members of the public (local people) and for local government officials. Reconnaissance survey revealed that there were twenty-one community based organisations in Offa LGA, as seen in Appendix 1; but only eight (8) CBO were duly registered in the 12 wards of the local government. Contacts with these CBO's were first made by obtaining their addresses from their registered files in the community Development unit of the local government. The study targeted the officials of these CBO's for questions and interviews, and we equally observed some of their programmes. A visit to these CBO's address revealed a different thing entirely as some of them have relocated to another area or they are no more in existence. Some have their signpost erected at the

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resident of one of their leaders. Some CBO's exist in name, no leader, no objective and no active members. In some instance, the people who are supposed to be its members were only thinking vaguely on reviving it which suggests that such CBO is dead. Data was analyzed in form of tables, frequencies and percentages using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022)

Results

Table 1: Total Number of Questionnaire Administered, Returned and used for Analysis.

S/N	Categories of Respondent	Population Size	Sample Size	Number Returned	Number Analyzed
1.	CBO's officials	80	75	73	72
2.	Members of the public	300	250	245	200
3.	Local government officials	25	20	20	20
Total		405	345	338	292

Sources: Authors Research (2006).

We administered questionnaire to 345 respondents as previously mention which is also the sample size of our population. However, 338 questionnaires were returned. Forty six (46) out of the 338 were not correctly filled and were therefore rejected. Therefore our data and their analysis are based on 292 copies of the questionnaires as shown in the table above. In addition, data from primary source, will assist us greatly in confirming some previous findings in secondary sources. Meanwhile table

Table 2: Community Development Projects Executed by CBO's in Offa LGA (2002-2007).

S/N	Projects	Projects planned	Projects executed	Amount projected (N000,000)	Amount Generated (N000,000)	Amount from state L/Govt.	Remark
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1.	Roads	15	6	8.50	0.80	-	Only 6 were completed between 2002-2007 (out of 15)
2.	Community halls	8	2	2.00	0.40	-	Only 2 were completed by 2006 (out of 8)
3.	Renovation of palace	5	1	2.00	0.40	-	Only 2 were completed by 2006 (out of 8)
4.	Community health centres	3	-	-	-	-	Community donated land expecting local government to build
5.	Market stalls	4	4	5.5	2.80	2.80	Both were completed between
6.	Water (peep well)	5	2	2.40	0.30	0.30	Only two were completed by the year 2005 (out of 5)
7.	Schools (primary)	6	3	4.50	1.20	1.20	Only three were executed and 2 have been completed in 2004
8.	School	3	2	5.20	0.80	0.80	One started

	(secondary)						in 2004 one
9.	Electricity	2	2	1.00	0.20	0.20	in progress Both of
10.	Motor parks	4	1	2.00	0.10	0.10	them in Only one
11.	Drainage	22-	-	1.00	0.0	0.0	was completed by 2005 (out of 4)
12.	Housings	2	1	3.00	0.20	0.20	None of the projects were executed
							Only one out of the 2 CBO embarked on housing unit and not completed
Total		59	24	13.60	7.90	7.90	

Sources: Computed by the Researcher, (2007) and Adebayo (2007)

Table 2 above shows the trends in the community development projects executed by CBO's in Offa LGA between 2002-2007. The table presents the number of projects embarked upon by these CBO's. Projects planned and projects executed. Amount projected for these projects and amount generated, also it presented the amount of the financial assistance received from the state and local government. The table shows the list of community projects these CBOs embarked upon in Offa LGA. These include constructions of roads (29.41%) community hall (22.41%) renovation of CBO's in Gamo, and Igbo-Idun, proposed community health centres projects. No projects plan for Gamo's project, but the Igbo-Idun project plan reveals 50 bed capacity health centre. In our group discussion with some members of this community, we were made to understand that the CBO bought two plots of land for the project. In 2003, the then local government chairman paid a visit to the village and promised to take over the building of the health centre since land had already been acquired for it, when we visited the place in 2008 nothing is done on the land, regrettably, roadside mechanic and other small scale business have encroached on the land.

The same table, indicated that CBOs in Offa town embarked on the construction of market stalls beside Owode market, in the proposed project the project plan was shopping complex with 10/12 shop size, but had to change the

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plan to lock up shops with 10/8 shop size due to a major slump in the amount projected. In Gbosun and Ogbondoroko, two villages that are 9 kilometers to each other, the CBOs in these villages had a project plan of 6 classrooms and 8 classrooms but were able to execute 4 classrooms and 5 classrooms respectively. In the same analysis of the table, a CBOs in Ajegunle which is about 15 kilometers to the local government headquarter who according to the information we gathered have a project plan of building 5 units of 3 bedroom flat in order to generate revenue for the organization, but was able to execute 3 units of 2 bedroom flat, as at the time we visited the project in 2008, the projects is on its foundation stage due to lack of funds and outside assistance. The next table is meant to explain the location of CBO's projects and present level of completion.

Table 3: Major Activities of the CBO's before 2002

S/N	Names of CBO's	Activities	Location of projects in the LGA	Date	Present level of completion
1.	Offa Descent Union	- Offa Grammar School - Offa Community Girls School - Offa Teachers College - Offa Community Secondary School - General Hospital - Grade Market	Offa Offa Offa Offa Offa Offa	1943 1953 1957 1980	Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed
2.	Okin Progressive Association	- Construction of drainages - Donation of sets of computers to two secondary schools - Donation of medical equipment to general hospital	Offa Offa	1999 2000	Completed Completed

3.	Ajelanwa Youth Club	- Construction of feeder road	Ajelanwa	1988	Completed
		- Construction of two blocks classrooms	Ajelanwa	1989	Completed
		- Construction of two peep wells	Ajelanwa	1990	Completed
4.	Igbo-Idun Community Development	- Market Stalls	Igbo-Idun	1993	Completed
		- Construction of a Health Centre			
5.	Gamo Development Association	- Construction of a well clearing	Igbo-Idun	1994	Completed
		- Renovation of Primary School	Gamo	1994	Completed
		- Construct a cottage hospital	Gamo	1996	Completed
		- Construction of 10 prototypes shops	Gamo	1998	Completed

Source: Author Survey, 2005

Some of the major activities of these CBO's before year 2002 is shown in the table above. This is followed by the infrastructural facilities provided by these CBO's in the period between 2002 and 2007. A close comparison between the two tables shows that CBO's in Offa L.G.A performed very well before year 2002 but declined in their performance between 2002 and 2007. The table below explains better.

Table 4: Infrastructural Facilities provided by these CBOS's in the LGA

between 2002 and 2007

S/N	Facilities	Provided by which CBO's	Date	Location in the LGA	Present Condition
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1.	Education				
	a. Primary Schools	None	-	-	-
	b. Secondary School	None	-	- Offa	- Completed
	c. Nigeria Naval Medical Training School	Donation of a permanent site by Offa descendent union for the	2005		
2.	Health				
	a. Community health centre	Igbo-Idun Community Development Association	2003	Igbo-Idun	Not completed
	b. Cottage Hospital	None			-
	c. General hospital	-	-	-	-
3.	Roads				
	a. Feeder roads	Ajelanwa youth club, gamo development	2003	Ajelanwa	Not completed
4.	Markets				
	a. Market stalls	Gamo development	2005	Gamo	Not
		association			completed
		None			-

5.	Water supply				
	a. Pipe borne water	None	-	-	-
	b. Boreholes water	None	- Not known	- Ajelanwa	- Completed
	c. Well	Ajelanwa youth club			
6.	Recreation centres	None	-	-	-
7.	Bank	None	-	-	-
8.	Electricity	None	-	-	-
9.	Motor parks	None	-	-	-

Source: Author's Survey, 2006

We went further to know the number of people meant to benefit from CBOs projects and the actual number of the people benefiting, in an attempt to do this, we realized that it is difficult to measure those who benefited from CBOs activities and those who did not, but general observations were conducted particularly on the few facilities provided by these CBOs and the people that are benefiting from these facilities. In the period under review, few kilometers of feeder roads were constructed by the CBOs while many bad roads could be found in the local government. We observed the number of vehicles that use these roads constructed by the CBOs and discovered that few people benefited from these roads, the number would have been much if the CBOs were able to execute their plan projects on road construction.

Our observations also revealed to us that due to shortage of community health centres in some villages in the local government, CBOs decided to have cottage hospitals in their area to benefit all the people, but this did not come to pass because the local government who pledged to build one of such hospital did not honour its pledge, this has denied many people the benefit. In another development, in areas like Ayekale, Bolorunduro and Alayin, they have only one primary school that served the three villages, the primary school cannot meet the community request for admission, CBOs in the area have in their projects plan on building more primary schools in order to take care of primary school enrolment, they were able to construct one, this project is yet to be completed. Therefore, people in this area are unable to benefit from this project as originally planned

It is the same story with secondary schools the people in villages like Kamamu, Idiape, Ayekale and Kolo, have no secondary schools the CBOs in these villages decided to come together and have one, in the course of our investigation, these villages agreed on a particular site where the school will benefit the three communities, and

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representatives of these CBOs have on several occasions appealed for assistance both verbally and in written but no response from the local government.

In line with the above analysis, the first assumption which posits that the poor performance of community based organizations in Offa LGA in terms of socio-economic facilities can partly be attributed to the poor working relationship between them and the local government can be upheld.

Table 5: Contributions of Members to Fund Raising Activities by CBO's in Offa L.G.A (2002- 2007).

S/ N	CBOs	Year	Initial amount needed	Members contributions	Non-members contributions	Location govt. contribution	Total amount collected
1.	Ajelanwa youth club	2002-2004	1.0m	150,000m	55,000	-	205,000
2.	Okin progressive	2003	1.5m	210,000	45,000	Fund promised but not	255,000
3.	Igbodun community development association	2002-2004	2.5m	180,000	42,000	-	325,000
4.	Gamo	2005	2.0m	50,000	21,000	-	71,000

	Development association						
5.	Cooperative society alayin	2006	2.0m	62,000	31,000	-	93,000
6.	Offamajo development association	2007	2.0m	180,000	26,000	-	206,000

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	Total		11.0m	832,000	220,000	None	11,550.00
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Sources: Computed from CBOs minute

With respect to the levels or extent of CBOs achievement in contributing to the Socio-economic development of Offa LGA is a function of members participation in the organizations activities. The information contained in table 5 above shows the low level of contributions by members to fund raising activities of CBOs in the local government. The table indicates that from 2002- 2007 the CBOs organized series of fund raising activities in order to raise funds for their various projects. During this period, according to our investigation, all the CBOs were looking for ₦11.0m. Members of these organizations contributed ₦832, 000 which is on the low side, non members donated 220, 000 altogether, local government promised to donate fund for one of the CBOs but did not keep their promise. Non-members are those who do not belong to these CBO's but are members of the communities where these CBO's exist.

Table 6: Attendance of Meeting by CBOs Members in Offa LGA (January- December, 2006).

			Attendance of meetings on monthly based by CBOs members												
S/N	CBOs	No of members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Remarks
1.	Okin progressive association	55	30	15	22	17	19	17	20	22	30	16	23	20	Low attendance
2.	Ajelanwa youth club	60	22	18	-	20	28	24	22	30	20	15	17	26	Low attendance
3.	Igbodun community development association	48	40	21	18	28	29	30	42	43	39	30	38	42	Low attendance
4.	Gamo development association	30	15	10	16	12	20	28	16	13	19	20	19	11	Low attendance

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5.	Cooperative society	57	20	18	25	28	32	36	15	19	22	30	32	21	Low attendance
6.	Offamajo development association	40	30	20	31	20	19	28	29	32	15	18	21	19	Low attendance

Sources: Computed by the researcher 2008

The low performance of CBOs could be attributed to irregular and poor attendance of meetings by members, unfortunately, that is where they normally generate ideas and funds. From the data contained in table 6 above, the attendance of meetings by all the six CBOs investigated were very low apart from Igbo-Idun Development Association which attendance of meetings by members according to the table was relatively high in 2006. It is also the same story in 2007 as indicated by the table below. Attendance of meetings is one of the activities of CBO's where that is very important to them.

Table 7: Attendance of Meeting by CBO's Members in Offa LGA (January- December, 2007).

			Attendance of meetings on monthly based by CBOs members												
S/N	CBOs	No of members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Remarks
1.	Okin progressive	55	22	17	19	30	22	32	30	16	23	20	25	18	Very low
2.	Ajelanwa youth club	60	28	30	15	20	18	31	38	15	21	29	15	23	Low
3.	Igbodun community development	48	20	28	18	24	29	15	18	25	22	18	19	23	Low
4.	Gamo development	30	15	20	18	22	13	19	20	11	10	14	20	17	Low
5.	Cooperative society	57	31	20	14	21	18	22	13	19	17	20	21	15	Low
6.	Offamajo development	40	33	29	30	39	35	30	38	39	23	36	37	38	High

Sources: Computed by the researcher 200

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In these meetings, money are contributed and vital decisions taken. Many of them hold their meetings on the last Sunday of the month. The result as contained in table 5.6 indicates that attendance of meetings by all the member of all the CBOs under investigation were very low except Offa Majo Development Association. To further confirm the assumption, we had discussions with some members of these organizations executive on members, based on the information we gathered in the course of our discussions and observation, members hardly visits projects site.

In a follow up question to ascertain the reason why members participation in CBOs activities were very low, there were several reactions but majority of the respondents indicated that the low participation of members in CBO5 activities was as a result of lack of finance and lack of support from the local government. The table below contains the reactions of the respondents.

Table 8: Members Participation in CBO's Activities.

S/N	Reason	No. of Respondent
1.	Lack of cooperation from community members	27
2.	Lack of support from local government	40
3.	Poverty in the community	100
4.	Lack of finance	125
Total		292

Source: Author's field work, 2006.

Based on the information contained in the table above, lack of finance has been contributed as the main reason for low level participation in the activities of CBOs. Lack of finance is quickly linked to poverty in the community. A cross section of them lamented that the poor economic situations of the country is having its effects on them. It becomes clear therefore, that the assumption which states that the level or extent of CBO achievement in contributing to the socio-economic development of Offa LGA is a function of members participation in the organizations activities, is upheld. The analysis so far generally shows that there is poor working relationship

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between the local government and the CBOs in the area this has been validated by the various data presented since the beginning of this chapter. In the same vein, the low level of members participations in all the activities of CBOs has negatively affected CBO's achievement in contributing to the socio-economic development of Offa L.G.A. However, we attempt to complement this assertion in the next section. In this section the study presents the respondents views on the contributions of CBOs to the socio-economic development of Offa LGA. The questionnaires (copies attached in Appendixes) were designed to elicit information from the following respondents as indicated in chapter three of this study. These are CBOs leaders, community dwellers, and local government staff; the table below explained further.

When we asked both the CBOs leaders and local government functionaries on the financial assistance rendered to the CBOs by the local government, their responses were summarized and presented in the table below.

Table 9: Frequency in the assistance of local government to CBOs.

S/N	Types of Assistance	V.S	S	F.S	N.S	Total
1.	Finance	20	32	30	40	122
2.	Material inputs	10	15	10	20	65
3.	Technical	10	10	10	30	45
4.	Mobilization	-	-	-	-	-
Total		55	57	600	120	292

Source: Field survey (2006).

The breakdown of the response in the table above, shows that a bulk of the respondents indicated that the assistance of the local government to CBOs were not satisfactory. This is because 41% (120) indicated that local government assistance to the CBOs was not satisfactory. Although 20.5% (60) indicated that local government assistance was fairly satisfactory. Whereas 19.5% (57) indicated that their assistance was satisfactory. With the above analysis it has further confirmed our previous analysis of secondary data which shows a low working relationship between the local government and the CBOs. In a follow up questions on why the local government have over the years unable to assist the CBOs, there were several reactions but majority of the respondents indicated that the local government itself is not financially buoyant or strong to assist the local

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government. The table below contains the reactions of the respondents.

Table 10 : Frequency of reasons for lack of assistance from Local Government Authority

S/N	Reason	No. of Respondent
1.	Lack of qualified staff	55
2.	Lack of commitment on the part of the staff	112
3.	Lack of finance and logistics	125
Total		292

Sources: Authors field work (2006).

An analysis of the above table indicates that the highest number of the respondents (125) agree that lack of finance and logistics has been responsible for the local government inability to assist the CBO's, in a discussion we had with a member of local government staff he said the local government cannot give what it does not have, 90% of the local government revenue goes to payment of salaries coupled with several deduction by the state government, little or nothing is left for development project. No wonder the outcry of zero allocation by the local governments. Based on the information contained in the table above, we went further to find out the level of cooperation from members of the community with these CBO's since the local government cannot assist them, we received many reactions but majority of them indicates that the CBO's received a low cooperation from the members of the community. The table below contain the reactions of the respondents.

Level of Cooperation of Community Members with CBO's.

S/N	Types of Cooperation	Very high	High	Very low	Low	Total
1.	Direct labour	20	30	30	45	125
2.	Donation of inputs	15	10	10	20	55
3.	Finance	10	10	10	30	60
4.	Mobilization	-	10	12	30	52

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Total	45	60	62	125	292
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Sources: Author's field survey (2006)

The data contained in the above table 10 shows that 15.9% (45) of the total respondents indicated that the cooperation of members of the community with the CBO's was very high and 20.5% (60) of the total respondents indicated that community cooperation was high. However, 21.2% (62) of the total respondents indicated that the community cooperation was very low. In the same table, 42.8 (125) of the total respondents indicated that the cooperation from the community to the CBOs was low, which is twice the number of those who indicated very low. We went further to ascertain reasons for this low level of cooperation to the CBOs by members of the community, a cross section of these people who are civil servant, traders and artisan lamented lack of money, particularly the poor economic situation of the country is affecting members of the community.

In Offa L.G.A; the absence of the government (state and local) in community development and the widening gap between the people and the government in the area of policy formulation and implementation, people of this local government have for long decided to come together and formed development associations, clubs or unions in order to jointly provide infrastructures for the common benefits of the community. Meanwhile, the researcher intend to find out how adequate is the CBOs contributions to the development of community in Offa L.G.A., their reactions are contained in the table below.

Table 11: Level of Adequacy of CBOs Contributions to Community

Development

S/N	Types of Cooperation	High	Very low	Low	Total
1.	Education	20	30	35	135
2.	Health care	15	20	35	70
3.	Water supply	-	-	25	25
4.	Feeder roads	-	-	-	-
5.	Market & motor parks	15	17	30	62
Total		60	62	125	292

Source: Author's field survey (2006).

The contributions or activities of these CBO's to the development of the community were not adequate as indicated in table 5.9.2 above. Out of 292 respondents 59.9% (175) indicated that the contributions of CBO's to community development were not adequate. And 2.9% (67) indicated that their contributions were adequate,

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while 17.1% (50) indicated that they were very adequate. In a follow up question on how these services were not adequate, a bulk of these respondents said the number of primary school by the government is unable to take care of people demand for primary education, and the contributions of CBO's in this respect have not been able to solve the problem, in the area of health care services, the respondents said some of the cottage or community health care clinics established by these CBO's are yet to be completed, while those completed have no drugs and health personnel. On feeder roads the few kilometers of feeder road constructed by some of these CBOs have developed pot-holes due to lack of regular maintenance.

Based on the analysis of the above table, we went further to ask a related question, since the services of these CBO's are not adequate, what problems/challenges does these CBOs face in carrying out its activities. There were several reactions but majority of the respondents indicated that lack of local government support is the main problem facing the CBO's. The table below contains the reactions of the respondents.

Table 12: The Challenges face by CBO's in Offa LGA.

S/N	Challenges	No. of Respondent
1.	Poverty	25
2.	Lack of finance	40
3.	Lack of people's cooperation	105
4.	Lack of local government support	122
Total		292

Sources: Author's field work (2006).

A cross section of the respondents said the local governments have failed on several occasions to come to the assistance of these CBOs even when invite by these CBOs they don't come. It became clear therefore that the proposition which states that the poor performance of community-based organization in Offa L.G.A in terms of socio-economic facilities can partly be attributed to the poor working relationship between them and the local government" is upheld. However, in the process of carrying out their activities and programmes, they are faced with many challenges. In the course of our fact findings, we had several discussions with our respondents on the challenges facing the CBO's.

Conclusion

In the 21st century, CBO's hold a great promise to provide the much needed socio-economic infrastructure in the developing countries. They are increasingly making up for the shortcomings of the state, particularly in developing countries where the state is weak and conspicuously absence in the development of communities.

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They are considered part of the civil area in society, which exist in form of clubs, unions, people's associations, development or cooperative associations etc. Our analysis so far shows that these CBO's in Offa LGA had been in existence for a very long time even before the creation of the local government. The proliferation of CBO's in this area is as a result of the fact that people recognized the need to come together and produce common social facilities that would benefit them particular[y in a situation where we have weak state. These CBO's have performed relatively well in the past by the provision of socioeconomic facilities in the local government like schools (both primary and secondary) Health centers or cottage hospitals, feeders roads, peep well, drainages, market stalls and motor parks. These are facilities that are very important to the people, but unfortunately, the provisions of these vital facilities by the CBO's have declined or on the downward trend to the extent that they found it difficult or unable to embark on new project, and to the extent that the few projects provided in the past are now in a poor state or condition due to lack of regular maintenance.

The above in turn raises question about what is actually wrong with these CBO's and why they have not been able to forge ahead on their past achievements. The above now become the subject matter and problem that attracted the researcher, some appalling problems were identified particularly the lack of local government assistance to these CBO's. It is the position of this research that CBO's ~~cannot~~ and should not be seen as an institution that can solve all problems of developing countries but because of their role in the provision of social facilities for the people, they can be seen as supplementing government efforts in socio-economic development, base on the above, we proffered some recommendations.

Recommendations

1. Government at all levels should encourage the proliferation of and economically support the goals and objectives of CBO's in the study area, creating a common forum where both governmental and nongovernmental organizations could contribute their quota.
2. The advantages of fund raising from the community has been well recognized and utilized by CBO's in the study area, many of these CBO's have organized series of fund raising activities but have not been able to realize their targeted amount due to low turnout of members of the community. The government and the general public can complement the efforts of these CBO's by donating „generously to these CBO's so that they can finance local projects for the people.
3. Related to the above is the members participation in CBO's activities particularly attendance of meetings and contribution of inputs for project implementation. Members of these organizations have supported their organizations in the past but have not been able to continue with this gesture due to the poor economic situations of the county. The economy is the hub of the society; therefore, government should take concrete measures to revamp the economy. If the economic is buoyant enough, members would be able to participate effectively and contribute financially to the activities of CBO's. This will go a long way in assisting the CBO's and make them to

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perform according to the “community action theory” which emphasized on self-determination by people in a community to come together and develop their community from within rather than waiting or calling on the government to come and do it for them.

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