

# Willingness to Improving Infrastructure (A Focus on Iju Town, Ondo State, Nigeria)

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## Abstract

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century of human habitat and global transformation of towns and cities, a nation develops through willingness of stakeholders (i.e. Government, Community Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Individuals) in improving infrastructural facilities that allow a society to function effectively. This study examined the effects of infrastructure on the socio-economic livelihood of the people in Iju community, with a view to enhancing development and alleviating poverty. Data was collected with the aid of structured questionnaire from 180 respondents using stratified sampling. The sample size was the ratio of buildings. The processing of data in the study was carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19. Data collected were analyzed at two levels using univariate and bivariate statistics. The Univariate Analysis was used to present the data on frequency distribution through the use of tables, charts, maps, and percentages. The Bivariate Analysis was used in carrying out the tests of the formulated hypotheses. Findings revealed that provisions of infrastructures such as road, water supply, electricity, school and town halls were instrumental in improving the socio-economic activities of the people, however the condition of some facilities in the town was dilapidated and as such had not been adequately maintained. The recommendations called for encouragement of self help programmes and assistance from NGOs and cooperative societies.

**Keywords:** Infrastructure Development, Iju Town, Ondo State, Socio-Economic, Willingness

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Over the years, most third world's countries experience inadequate and insufficient infrastructure development as a result of the igniting increase in growth. The United Nation report predicted that in 2002 the number of people living in the rural areas of the world would have risen to about 3.1 billion. Nigeria is ranks as the country with the most rural dwellers in Africa. Cities and towns in Nigeria according to various reports is urbanizing at an astonishing pace. Nigeria is described as a rural society (Osuntogun and Oludimu, 1986) because a greater percentage of Nigerians live in the rural area, while rural infrastructure development in Nigeria like in most towns cannot be over-scored as a catalyst to improve the living conditions of rural dwellers and reduce the rate of rural-urban migration. In the rural areas of Nigeria, several attempts have been made by the rural people to alleviate the hard effects of government policies which barely acknowledge their existence but favour it with only routine care attention, with promises that are hardly fulfilled. The study of Diejomaoh (1999) has highlighted that rural development is a process of not only increasing the level of per capital income in the rural sector, but also the standard of living of the rural people. This definition goes on to observe that the standard of living depends on a complex of factors such as food and nutrition levels, health, education, housing, recreation, security among others (Okosun et al, 2016; Daodu, 2006).

Rural development has also been defined as the outcome of a series of quantitative changes occurring among a given rural population and whose emerging effects indicate in time a rise in the standard of living and favourable changes in the way of life of the people concerned (Onokerhoraye and Okafor, 2001). One of the main issues in development debates is willingness to improving infrastructures on how to tackle rural poverty. The constraints to developing the rural areas as well as the problems of this critical sector have come to loom very large. For over four decades in Nigeria, all attempts to put the rural areas on course of development have failed. Conditions have continued to worsen and poverty has become a major issue in the rural areas in spite of their potentials.

Therefore, a major will and concern to governments, multilateral institutions and policy makers in different countries is to identify appropriate strategy for poverty alleviation especially in the rural areas. The rural areas however present problems that are of contradictory paradox of its natural resource endowment. Omofonmwan (2000), rural communities are seriously marginalized in terms of most basic elements of development. In addition, the inhabitants tend to live at the margin of existence and opportunities. Most rural communities lack potable water, electricity, health care, educational and recreational facilities and motorable roads. They experience very high population of infant and maternal mortality, low life expectancy and a peasant population that lacks modern equipment that can guarantee sustainable exploitation of the natural resources on which they

live. This trend draws the attention of this research; hence focus on effects of infrastructure on the socio-economic livelihood of the people in Iju town of Ondo state, Nigeria.

## 1.2 The Study Area

Iju community is located in Akure North Local Government Areas of Ondo State, Nigeria. The headquarters of Akure North LGA is situated between the town of Iju/Itaogbolu. The study area is situated at Iju along Ikere-Ekiti – Ado-Ekiti road. It is bounded in the North by Ekiti State, at the East by Owo Local Government, at the South by Idanre Local Government and West by Ifedore Local Government. Iju is 18km from Akure the capital of Ondo state and 16 km from Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State. According to the 1991 population census figure Iju Town was put at 14, 679 persons. As at 2015, the projected population figure was put at 24, 053 persons.

## 2.0 Problem of the Study

Willingness to improving infrastructure play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of nations which support urban/rural dwellers in their production, distribution and consumption activities as well as introducing total development of the existence of people (Azekhuen, 2015; Okosun, 2015; Obadan, 2003). In Iju town, the most prevalent problems are (a) incessant power failure (electricity) (b) lack of portable water supply (c) inadequate road network system (d) inadequate and poor state of existing schools and lack of proper drainage system. These problems have negative effects in both the rural and urban setting which is attributed to the breakdown of economic and social welfare of the people.

As stated by Edewede, (2016) and Olayiwola, (1998), people are living below the living standard because they do not have appropriate access to basic infrastructural facilities. Many rural villages are immersed in poverty so pronounced that the people are embodiment of it. In most rural areas in Nigeria, basic infrastructure, where they exist at all, are grossly inadequate for any meaningful development. Physical infrastructure like good road, water, electricity, schools, health care and so on, is often not adequate. The dwellers and their livestock in many rural settlements depend on shallow wells and infested ponds for their water supply. The rural dwellers most of whom are farmers, work on the land from sunrise to sunset to provide food that are cheaply bought by middlemen who can risk plying the usually deplorable roads for re-sale to the city dwellers at very high profits.

Many rural communities in Nigeria have built schools through self – efforts and most of the schools lack necessary teaching aids like science equipment, sitting and writing desks and so on. Qualified teachers failed to serve in most of these areas because they are considered un-habitable for human beings due to absence of basic social amenities. However, government and the civil society cannot function effectively without the support of basic infrastructure. This is because infrastructural facilities are important for the improvement of the standard of living in both the rural and urban settlements. For example, rural producers cannot move their goods to market places if there are no good roads and this can affect the distribution of agricultural produce thereby leading to shortage of food stuffs and raw materials for our local industries (Akande, 2014).

## 2.1 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of infrastructure on the socio-economic livelihood of the people in Iju town, with a view to enhancing development and alleviating poverty.

To realize this, the study objectives are to;

1. highlight the socio-economic characteristics of the lives of the people in the study area;
2. examine the length of stay and the level of development in Iju Town;
3. highlight the institutions responsible for the provision of infrastructural facilities in Iju Town

## 3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data for the study were collected from primary and secondary sources. The tools used for data collection from primary sources were questionnaires, interviews and personal observation. Secondary data on the other hand were collected from books and articles. Data generated from both sources were analyzed descriptively using tables and figures. The survey research method was adopted for this study. Data were collected with the aid of structured questionnaire. It consists of fifty five (54) questions, set to elicit specific information from the respondents. However three (3) sets of questionnaires questions were set and specifically designed to obtain information from Akure North LGC office, Chiefs/Community Leaders of Iju Town and residents of Iju Town, about their socio-economic characteristics such as: their ages, sex, marital status, educational level, occupation, and history of their residency etc.

A stratified sampling approach was employed for use in this study; it was used in classifying the town into three strata using three political wards which include (Oke-Iju, Ayetoro and Mofere ward) thereafter 40% of the streets in each street were randomly selected within the study area. The sample size is the ratio of buildings on the selected streets in each stratum, which is made up 180 respondents. Interviewed was thus conducted only on the one hundred and eighty household heads. In this study, the researchers in conjunction with the five(5) Field

Assistants administered the questionnaires. The data collected from the field were collated and proceed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19.

**Table 3:1: Sampling and Sample Size**

Wards	No of streets in each ward	Total Number of Buildings	Percentage no. of buildings in each ward (using 12%)	Selected Streets in each ward	Percentage no. of streets in each ward (using 40%)
Ward 1	14	595	71	Oke-Iju, Otalewu, Ejigbo, and Ifofin	7
Ward 2	9	455	55	Surulele, Olorunsogo and College road	4
Ward 3	10	451	54	Owode, Ayetoro, Kajola, and Igbo-Ogun	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.0 RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section, discussions of the findings were based on the research objectives as follows:

##### 4.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the People in Iju Town

###### 4.1.1 Demographic Characteristics

Findings from the field survey in this study revealed that there were more male household heads dominant than the females gender in Iju Town. This findings is in agreement with Fapohunda and Todaro (1988) who was on the view that men traditionally dominate the households in Nigeria; male children are highly valued by women's because they represents the only way they can inherit part of their deceased husband's property. Further findings revealed that farming activities was prevalent in the study area and it dominated the economic activities of residents in Iju Town, this is mostly embarked upon by the male population.

**Table 4.1 Gender Composition of the People in Iju Town**

Gender Composition	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	102	56.7
Female	78	43.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

###### 4.1.2 Ages of Respondents

Table 4.2 shows that in the population structure, those between the ages of 31 to 40 years are more in the community. This represents 39.0%. This is followed by those between the ages of 21 to 30 years which represents 33.3%, this set of people formed the youth organization of CBO. In the area who were mainly students and workers. Those below 20 years and 41 years and above represent 5.5% and 22.2% respectively, this population are fewer in relation to the number of people interviewed. The interview however covers mostly the adult populations in the area.

**Table 4.2: Age of Respondents**

Age	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Below 20 years	10	5.5
21-30 years	60	33.3
31-40 years	70	39.0
41 and above	40	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

###### 4.1.3 Marital Status

The majority of those interviewed are married, this represent 56.1% of the total population of the sample size, however, the majority of population fall within 31 years to 40years as shown in Table 4.3 below, this category of people are high, 26.6% of the sample sizes are single while 9.0% and 8.3% are widow and divorced respectively, this condition is most pronounced in Oke-Iju, within Iju community, this may be ascribe to the population structure, ethnicity and tribe.

**Table 4.3: Marital Status of respondents**

Status	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	48	26.6
Married	101	56.1
Widowed	16	9.0
Divorced	15	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.1.4 Occupation of Respondents

Table 4.4 shows that farming is the predominant occupation of the people of Iju Town with about 30.5% of the people engaged in farming, this could be traced to the high level of illiteracy among the dwellers Artisans constituted 25.6% while Trading activities generally represents 23.9% of the occupation. Trading activities in this regard is concerned with buying and selling of agricultural products, provision and petty goods while 5% of the respondents stated lumbering as their occupation, this is as a result of the present of vegetation in the area

**Table 4.4: Occupation of Respondents**

Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Civil Servant	27	15.0
Farming	55	30.5
Trading Activities	43	23.9
Artisans	46	25.6
Lumbering	9	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.1.5: Monthly income level of respondent

The monthly income earned by the dwellers in Iju community reveal that there are more respondent earning N10,000 – N15,000 with 60 (33.3%), Less than N10,000 with the respondent of 50 (27.8%), 15,000 – N20,000 with the respondent of 30(16.7%) while N25,000 and above with the respondent of 40 (22.2%). With reference to findings from this study, the effect of poverty alleviating programmes and projects is positive on peoples' income level.

**Table 4.5: Monthly income level of respondents**

Income level	Respondents	Percentage
Less than 10,000	50	27.8
10,000 – 15,000	60	33.3
15,000 – 20,000	30	16.7
25,000 and above	40	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.1.6 Level of Education of respondents

The NDHS (2013) defined literacy as the ability to read all or part of a sentence. The majority of the respondents have secondary education, which represent 42.0%. Primary education represents 33.3%. Tertiary level of education was 8.0%, while those without formal education are about 16.7%. The high percentage of secondary level of education could not be connected to the fact that the majority of the villages have secondary schools. Only a few number of persons with tertiary education resides in Iju community, this category of people are mostly found in College Road, Mofere and Iforin. These are those that work in Rufus Giwa Polytechnic as Civil servant and Government offices at Akure North East LG headquarters,

**Table 4.6: Level of Education of respondents**

Level of Education	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No Formal Education	30	16.7
Primary School	60	33.3
Secondary School	75	42.0
Tertiary Institution	15	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.1.7 Religion of Respondents

From Table 4.7 below, about half of the community, are Christians this represents 59.0%, this is followed by Muslims, which represents 25.0%, while Traditional believers and others are 12.7% and 3.3% respectively. This situation is connected with the impact of the missionaries and the Islamic Jihad, however, the churches and the

mosques were built by the community through communal efforts by levies and voluntary donations.

**Table 4.7: Religion of Respondents**

Religion	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Christianity	106	59.0
Islam	45	25.0
Traditionalist	23	12.7
Others	6	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.2 Length of stay in the study area

Table 6. indicates that majority of the respondents have leave in Iju between 20 to 29 years, this represent 53.5% of the sample size, followed by those that have stayed for 10 to 19 years which represent 22.7%. The majority of those who have stayed in the study area for 10 to 19 years and 20 to 29 years are found within ward 1 and ward 3 respectively in Iju community.

**Table 4.8: Length of stay of respondents**

Length of Stay	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than 10 years	20	11.1
10 – 19 years	96	53.5
20 – 29 years	41	22.7
Above 30 years	23	12.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.2.1 Level of Development in the study area

As seen in Table 4.9, 57.0% of the respondent claimed that there have been developments in the study area from the period they have stayed in Iju community. While 43.0% of the respondents expressed developments have not taken place in the study area from the period they have leaved there. Those who reported development exist within the community are those that reside within Oke-Iju and College roads. They have at least a primary school and motorable road, while on the other hand those that reside within the interior area are without good road and electricity, thus expressed that their area has not experience development, within the period they have stayed in Iju.

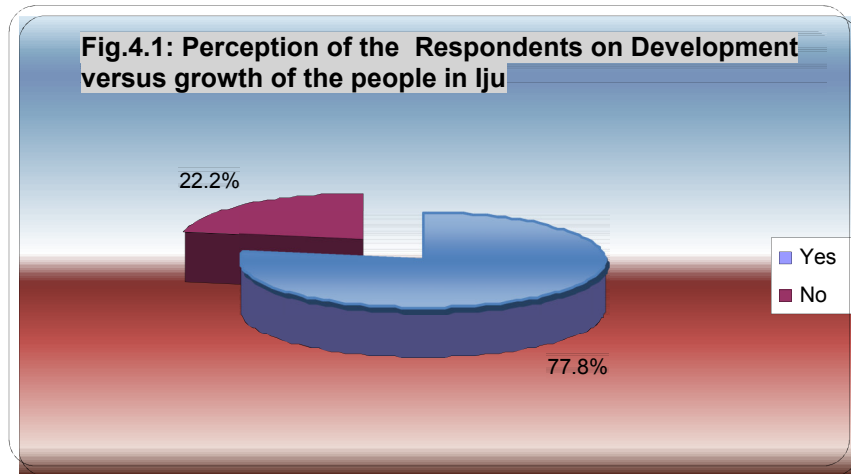
**Table 4.9: Level of Development in the study Area**

Development	No of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Yes	102	57.0
No	78	43.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

#### 4.2.2 Perception of Respondents on development versus growth of Iju Town

Figure 4.1 shows the development experience in the community that represents growth is 22.2%, while 77.8% represents the idea that the development does not represent growth. The area that agree with the concept of growth are around the ward that have a functional Town hall, road to neighbouring villages, bore holes with overhead tank. All these developments are community driven and built. On the other hand for example in College road and Oke-Iju, individuals and community development organization have tried in the past to build bore hole, maintain primary school, and drainage, but the community is not connected with functional road, in some part year, for example most of the roads are not wide or tarred and are impassible particularly during the raining seasons and the conditions of most of the infrastructural facilities like educational facilities, water supply, healthcare facilities are dilapidated, this does not make them feel that the community is growing.



#### 4.3 Institutions Responsible for the Provision of Infrastructural facilities in Iju Town

Table 4.10 shows that Road construction in Iju community was mostly carried out by the Government. In the provision of Town hall, the community was mainly involved in the provision of Town Halls. Water project were carried out mainly by the community-based organization through individual contributions and contributions from Philanthropists in the town. Hydro Electric Power supply was provided by the governments and non-governmental organizations. Other electric power supplements are individual home power generators. Drainage and schools were embarked upon by government and individual's in Igbo-ogun and college road respectively. There is present of bank in the study area, such like (Wema Bank and Elu-Iju commercial bank) is situated in College Road like Findings reveal that most of the infrastructural facilities in the town have not been adequately maintained and people's participations are low.

**Table 4.10: Institutions Responsible for the Provision of Infrastructure in Iju Town**

S/N	Infrastructure	Institution Responsible	Location	Condition
1.	Road Construction	Government	College Road Odo-Oro Ayetoro	Fair Fair Fair
2.	Town/village hall	CBOs	-	Good
3.	Water supply	CBOs	Igbo-Ogun, Ayetoro	Fair
		NGOs	College Road	Fair
		Government	Oke-Iju , Mofere, Otelowu , Ifofin	Good
		Philanthropist	Mofere	Fair
		Individuals	College Road	-
4.	Electricity	Individuals	Prospective homes with electric generators	Fair
		NGOs (MDDGs)	College Road	-
		Government	Oke-Iju, Igbo-Ogun	Fair
5	General Hospital	Government	-	Fair
6	Drainage system	Government	Ayetoro, Mofere	Fair
7	Police Post	Government	College Road	Good
8	School	Private Individuals	College Road, Mofere, Igbo-Ogun	Good
	(Primary and Secondary)	NGOs (NDDC)	-	Fair
		Government	College Road Oke-Iju	Fair
9	Bank	Private Individuals	College Road	Fair
10	Bus Stop	CBOs	College Road	Good
11	Post Office	Government	-	Poor

**Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017**

#### 4.4 WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR IJU TOWN

The study found out that majority (i.e. 64%) of the participants in the study; they are willing to participate in improving infrastructural facilities in the study area. This idea is very crucial in enhancing and sustaining infrastructure development. This is a call for public enlightenment on the provision, maintenance and handling of facilities. This is followed by those participants who believe that government alone should have the willingness

to improving infrastructure they provided. This submission is due to their personal belief, high level of poverty; others are lack of education and public awareness that encourage fullest participation and partnership with NGOs, CBOs and individuals, all of these enhance and improve infrastructure.

**Table 4:10: Willingness to Improving Infrastructure in Iju Town**

Willingness to improving infrastructure	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	64	12.0
No	36	28.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Infrastructural development offers many positive opportunities, thereby absolving the overspill population in the cities/towns. It thus reduces the problems of congestion, overcrowding, pollutions, housing shortage and unemployment thereby creating jobs opportunities for the people. In the light of these revelations, the following recommendations were made in order to alleviate poverty and develop the study area. One, encouragement of maintenance culture, Two, government should initiate policies and programmes that will involve the fullest participation of the people in developmental decision that involves them; Thirdly encouragement of self help programmes and assistance from cooperative societies, secondary institutions like Cooperative Banks and Commercial Banks should be located in Iju community, they should be directed to give loan to farmers in order to support the socio-economic development thereby improving the standard of living of the people in the study area.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

The Government, Community-Based Organizations, Individuals, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Philanthropists had shown to be very useful in the socio-economic development of the people leaving in Iju community, however they had been very effective in the provision and maintenance of infrastructural facilities in the study area. Schools were provided by the Government Private individual and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), while Town hall was provided by the Community-Based Organizations, Water supply was constructed by the Government, CBOs and Non-Governmental Organizations. Bus-stop and sign-post was provided by the CBOs (i.e Iju Youth Associations). All of those afore-mention infrastructural facilities and institutions have helps in developing Iju community to some extent as well as reducing poverty, thereby improving the standard of living of the people in the study area.

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