

Nigerian-British Relations: An Acid Test for British International Development Programmes in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The main objective of this work is to examine, analyze and provide an in-depth study of the Department for International Development (DFID) and its activities in Ekiti State, Nigeria between 1999 and 2003. The work assesses the performance of the organization, essentially as an integral part of the international relations between Nigeria and Britain.

The work has through a combination of oral, empirical and analytical sources of data assessed the implementation level attained by DFID, with a view to ascertaining its relevance and contributions to the development of Ekiti State.

Findings of the work however revealed many factors underplay the workability of the overall goals of the organization; the leadership personality factors of the two countries, internal and economic policies of the partners, financial incapability of the recipient country, fulfillment of the partnership terms of the relations, and ultimately, the zeal to carry out programmes effectively as construed to bring results, change and improvement to the lives of Ekiti citizenry.

Taking as a whole, the prospects for the practicability of the bilateral relations between the two countries demands, a new kind of realism, readjustment of misplaced priorities and probably even a greater insight and understanding into the limitations of the mission.

Introduction

Although, much has been written on the subject-matter of Nigerian-British relations over the years, little attention has been given to the activities of the British Department for International Development (DFID), which has been playing a key role in the foreign relations of the two countries - Nigeria and Britain.

After Nigeria gained independence in 1960, there was a need to redefine relations with Britain altogether. Nigeria had to look up to Britain for some assistance and guidance, while maintaining her sovereignty. In the same vein, Britain in the spirit of paternal concern put up some programmes, at least, to help her former colonies. One of the means of sustaining relations with her ex-colonies was the establishment of the Department for International Development by the British Government.

The establishment of the Department for International Development in Nigeria, as pointed out by dates back to 1961. There was a downturn because of the military intervention in Nigeria in 1966 which paralyzed the noble objectives of the organization in the first republic. However, the organization renewed its role in Nigeria in 1999 at the return to civil democracy in the country¹. The British Department for International Development (DFID) was established as a government department separate from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Gager 2003:4). As a government department, DFID had a secretary of State, Mr. Hillary Benn (MD) and a Permanent Secretary, Mr. Suma Chakrabarti - The Senior Civil Servant. As pointed out by Gager (2003:5), most DFID overseas offices are often based in Embassies and High Commissions and the offices work closely together when appropriate, as done with other government departments in the United Kingdom on issues with a lot of overlap². The DFID has offices in some 36 countries all over the world with various programmes and a small grants scheme operating through embassies and civil society challenge funds. In some cases; there may just be one or two DFID staff members in a British High Commission or embassy.³

Historical Background to the Study: DFID in Nigeria

The DFID in Nigeria at the time of this research period operated through a Regional Director, Tom Scott and most recently Mr. William Kingsmill who was the director of the Abuja DFID headquarters office to which other state offices report. The four state offices, which pioneered the development schemes, are Ekiti, Jigawa, Enugu, and Benue which were managed by State Coordinators. The four states" are pilot schemes" are pilot schemes to test-run the establishment of programmes, which eventually should spread to all over the 36 states. The DFID programmes were service/ financially evolved to spread its operations in the whole of Nigeria's 36 states. Maxwell (2005:2) has noted that DFID in all its operations liaises with the three tiers of Governments, Federal, State and Local governments in the dispensation of its activities, which ultimately are directed towards poverty alleviation, and improvement of lives of the poor⁴.

Short (2000:25) highlights DFID's objectives to include; providing macro-economic stability and facilitating private sector investment in trade; organizing pro-poor policies and planning/accounting for the use of resources in relation to policy; assisting political systems, which provide opportunities for all people, including poor and disadvantaged people; guaranteeing equitable and universal provision of effective basic and

health services for HTV/AIDS to avoid the worst effects of the pandemic; to ensure personal safety and sanity in communities with access to justice for all. However, the benefiting government has to accord high priority to reform the police, court systems and to resolve differences between communities before they develop into conflicts⁵.

DFID Programmes in Ekiti State

The Department for International Development arrived in Ekiti State in 1997. However it did not start effective operations until 1999 when the initial field survey of its programmes dispensation were concluded. There are seven major programmes handled by the DFID in Ekiti State. These programmes are: The State and Local Government Programme (SLGP), State and Local Governments' Programmes in Ekiti State, Partnership for Transforming Health Systems (PATHS) In Ekiti State, Access to Justice Programme in Ekiti State, Millennium Development Goals And International Target Programmes, The Universal Basic Education (UBE), The Universal Basic Education (UBE), Ekiti Rural Access Programme, Change Agent Programme. These are briefly highlighted in order to understand the focus of this research and objectives⁶.

The State and Local Government Programme (SLGP).

According to Fossu (2002:2), the major objectives of the SLGP, was directed towards building capacity in state and local governments' services to poor people and to help establish accountable, transparent responsive and democratic governance⁷. Further, the programmes were aimed at providing macro-economic stability and to facilitate private sector investment and trade, to develop a policy framework than can meet poverty eradication targets and to rise, allocate and account for resources in accordance with those policies and to develop honest and accountable government than can combat corruption. Fossu (2003:4) states that through DFID SLGP have provided support in refurbishment of the following: Ado Central Market toilets, construction of 60,000 litres capacity overhead tanks and borehole water system, supporting drug revolving funds in excess of N4million for the Health Rangers Scheme of Governor Ayo Fayose, Support to the state debt management systems⁸.

According to Shaka (2003:2), the State and Local Government Programme in Ekiti State particularly is an attempt to get at the grassroot through various programmes assistance⁹. She noted that SLGP coordinated with the State government through the governor, to set up the Ekiti State Reform Team (ESRT) in 2002 to carry out governance reform activities within the state. These include setting up farming schemes centrally in villages in far remote areas which the government at Ado Ekiti may not remember in their pursuits. These plots are in each local government, while the traditional rulers and chiefs are fully involved. The pilot farming projects are monitored by DFID field officers, and nurture indigents to whose benefit the schemes are meant for, in order to get them to learn. Implements, Agricultural nutrients/inputs, crops are utilized to arrive at the best results which now serve as guides for the indigenes.

To the women folk, Shaka posits that SLDP through its field officers have equally given financial assistance advice, to ensure that a good commercial network is established in the state¹⁰. Shaka (2003:4) summarizes the targets of the State Reform Team (SRT) to include Poverty reduction and wealth creation in every little way in the LGs, boosting Agriculture through improved techniques and practices/assistance to the grassroot, Setting up cottage industries in virtually all the local governments in pottery, fishing, projects, crafts and Arts, Promoting the sustenance of a peaceful, stable and conducive political environment for growth and development¹¹.

The second programme of DFID is Partnership for Transforming Health Systems (PATHS) in Ekiti State. According to Maxwell (2004:4), the programme manager of PATHS, the main task of PATHS in Ekiti state is to facilitate process of creating a supportive environment to strengthen the health system in providing quality health services particularly to the poor¹². To achieve this, Maxwell points out that PATHS was established in October 2002 to move the health agenda forward. He noted that rather than taking over the functions of the Ministry of Health, PATHS delved into the requirements of potential (both public and private) stakeholders to set an agenda for the operations of PATHS. Constituencies were mobilized/motivated to see the innovativeness of PATHS.

The major substance of the programme is to revitalize abandoned health projects, transform those that are not working well or adopt completely new innovative approaches. Maxwell clarifies that the support provided by PATHS is founded on time tested ideas and experiences - gained from other regions particularly in Africa and South Africa¹³.

The major substance of the work of PATHS include among others; Advocacy for policy change, Health sector reforms, Health faculty decentralization TB control, Community Mobilization with Joint Public Private Initiatives. The programme has been striving to build a more broad-based intervention, increase local ownership gradual resumption of stakeholder's responsibilities. The approach to effectively monitor the PATHS programmes has been through the assessment of the Information System and improving the various hospitals through drugs revolving support and reforms through inputs. PATHS have particularly been involved in

restoring the HIV/AIDS programme to tackle the problem of discrimination (stigma) against people affected with AIDS. Visitations to Ministries, NGOs, unions Religious groups and by such discussion determine areas of needs (Maxwell 2003)¹⁴.

The third programme of implementation of DFID is called the Access to Justice Programme in Ekiti State. A DFID publication by Sanni (2003:4) highlights the programme initiatives of ACCESS to JUSTICE, which was launched on October 7, 2003 by Governor Peter Ayo Fayose. Sanni pointed out that the programme is jointly run by the criminal justice coordinating committee and ensures; that the Ekiti Justice Centre offers free legal services for the poor masses, hosts the Legal Aid Council, the community Law centre and Directorate of Citizens Rights and Support outreach services, A pilot scheme with traditional rulers in 6 palace courts which aims at collecting information on all proceedings; improve record keeping and make recommendation for long-term support¹⁵. According to Sanni (2003:2), other projects engaged by the Access to Justice Programme include; the capital improvement Fund in Ado prison which transformed the system in the digging a borehole, equipment for the carpentry workshop, transport for prisoners to courts, office equipment for the state command and also informal and community policing in partnership with the state command of the Nigeria Police¹⁶. Also, Ekiti Law Review has been working to raise and update laws and procedures of law adjudication as distinct to the laws of former Ondo still in use in Ekiti and publish the laws of Ekiti State separately.

The Fourth Programme according to a quarterly publication of the DFID (2003:3) is called Millennium Development Goals and International Target Programmes. The Millennium Development Goals and International Targets are specified goals that 188 member countries of the United Nations signed up to achieving and have put specific dates to when these targets are expected to be achieved. These are to serve as means of measuring results at the end of the targeted years¹⁷. Nigeria being a member of the UN is committed towards meeting these international targets. The Millennium Development Goals commit the International community to an expanded vision of development as the key to sustaining social economic progress in all countries and recognizes the importance of creating a global partnership for development.

The goals have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress and were a key factor in measuring the impact of the support DFID to Ekiti State. Many of the targets of the MDGS were first set out in international conferences and summits held in the 1990s, which were later complied and became known as the international development goals. The major Substance of the MDGS, among others include: Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day, Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, Thirdly, to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and all levels of education not later than 2015 and to reduce by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015, the mortality rate.

The Universal Basic Education (UBE) the fifth programme of dispensation, according to a DFID (2003:4) News Publication, was launched in Ekiti State on the 8th and 9th September, 2003 and is a joint DFID-World Bank project executed in 16 States of provide support to school children in their first nine years. In its support to the programme, DFID is providing technical assistance for the programme, especially in light of the declining state of education in the State. The Publication noted that although this programme has not taken off fully, yet its implementation will enhance the improvement of education in the State¹⁶.

The sixth programmes Ekiti Rural Access Programme Fossu submits that (2004:1), the DFID in conjunction with Ekiti State Government based on two signed bills determined to transform accessibility to the rural areas of the State. This involves construction of roads provision of water and electricity into these areas. Fossu stated that the disbursement of the first year cash counterpart of contribution of a sum of four million, three hundred and seventy eight thousand Naira to the programme has been concluded¹⁸.

A form of partnership put in place include the technical task force that will be responsible for setting standards specifications for roads in Ekiti as well as map out the entire road network. This will reduce duplication of efforts by the agencies that are responsible for the development and maintenance of roads in the State. He clarified that the local government Chairmen of the 16 local governments have been briefed and readily awaiting the first phase of the programme to take off with the arrival of the technical partners. This as he noted, is expected to be one of the most grass roots development of DFID.

The last programmes of DFID in Ekiti State, the Change Agent Programme, according to Adaramola (2003:2), took off in 2003 with the Constitution of the Project Implementation Team (PIT). The project commenced in 3 local government areas: Omuo Ekiti (Ekiti East), Emure LGA and Efon Alaaye¹⁹. He noted that the programmes were formulated after the visit of Mr. Taiwo Benson to Uganda. The proposed initiative based on his experience on the HIV/AIDS patients in those areas. Accordingly, the project's goals are to increase communication of HIV/AIDS at all levels of special interaction and to promote health education, intervention for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support²⁰.

Statement of the Problem

Having highlighted the major programmes implemented by the DFID within the scope of this study, the main

problem of this work is that of the challenge of indepthly investigating into the roles, achievements, problems, prospects of DFID in Ekiti State. In other words, the problem set before this work to accomplish is to take and organizational audit of DFID to determine its effectivity and impact on the Ekiti polity. To achieve this purpose, the study broadly raises the following questions; What are the set goals of the department? What are the problems that militate against the achievement of the set goals? Has the DFID really put in place strategies schedules and sufficient resources capable of meeting its goals? Has the living standard of the people in the target areas of DFID improved? What are the effects of the DFID programmes in Ekiti - British relations? What are the true motive of DFID and British in Ekiti? What are the prospects of alleviating poverty and improvement of welfare in Ekiti by 2015 as targeted by DFID?

Theoretical Framework of Analysis

The Structural - Functionalism analysis is employed by the study. According to Douse and Hughes (1983:77), Structural- Functionalism as a model of the political system has a political structure, which is more or less clearly demarcated from other structures in the system²¹. As Anikpo (1986:63) points out, the major protagonists of Structural Functionalism are Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Talcot Parsons and Robert Merton. As a mode of analysis, the political system is conceptually demarcated from other systems, because it is seen as performing the functions of integration and adaptation (both internally and in relation to other societies) by means of the employment of more or less physical compulsion effectively by breaking down, by changing the environment or by developing instrumentalities to cope with environmental challenges²².

Almond and Powel (1983:77) argue that there are basically four elemental challenges of the theory:

*That of building a legal structure: State building;
that of producing effective commitment: Nation- building;
of meeting pressure from the population as part that of
political decision making: participation; and that of
pressure to utilize the legal monopoly of force to redistribute
scarce values.*²³

However, Varma (1999:45) has advanced that the analysis revolves around certain concepts, the most important of which are the concepts of functions and structures. The three basic elements identified in the operation of their position are:

*What basic functions are fulfilled in any given system;
By what structures and under what conditions*²⁴.

In other words, Structural Functionalism consists of one of these several forms or some combination of them; (i) in an understudy, what observable uniformities or patterns can be discovered (ii) What conditions of empirical state of affairs resultant from previous operations can be discovered or alleged to exist in the phenomenon studied, (iii) What process or action changes in the point of view, in terms of observable uniformities of the conditions that can be discovered. Varma (1999:45) pointed out that the analysis became paramount as a result of the impact of the General System Theory. He observes that through discarded in Sociology by late fifties 'or early sixties as a major framework of sociological/Biological research, it was fervently adopted in politics, particularly in the field of Comparative Politics²⁵. Firth (1955:60) on the other hand contends that among its other usefulness in the analysis of politics, is that it 'embraces a far wider range of societal types and although rather dimly, it does incorporate a concept value in the study of political modernization. It further knits together insights drawn from interest, socialization and group analysis. The structural- functionalist analysis is primarily directed towards gauging the amount of change at the structural level that a system can accommodate without seriously hindering the fulfillment of its basic functional requisites²⁶.

Major defects identified with the use of structural functionalism according to Varma (1999:47), include (a) such postulations of sociologists before it became a respectable instrument of analysis such as functional unity of society (b) Universal functionalism and (c) Sectional indispensability²⁷.

Evaluation Methodology

This work has employed empirical and analytical approaches in the collection of data. Sources of data collection were essentially primary and secondary. The primary sources of data were through oral interviews and questionnaires administered on officials of the Department for International Development (DFID). Others were Ekiti State indigenes and beneficiaries of the programmes of DFID. Secondary sources utilized include textbooks and relevant documents on foreign aids, poverty alleviation and development from the Learning Resource Centre of DFID, Ado Ekiti. The work further utilized the indices of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) to comparatively analyze DFID's programmes as a way of evaluating its contributions to poverty eradication in Ekiti State.

However, in concrete terms of reference, the evaluation methodology utilized to assess the performance

of the DFID to the development of Ekiti State in particular employed the indices of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP Core Welfare Indicator Survey) to comparatively analyze DFID's programmes as a way of evaluating its contributions to poverty reduction in Ekiti State. Secondly, the research methodology also used the DFID Core Welfare Indicator Report (2000-2002) which reflected the present attainment of DFID's programme as a standard for a better understanding and articulation of poverty alleviation. Thirdly, two hundred and forty questionnaires (240) were dispensed/administered to respondents on the assessment of DFID performances on various aspects of welfare of the Ekiti Citizenry. The essence is to be able to draw inferences, conclusions and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness for improving observed deficiencies in the activities of DFID and to recommend same for corrective actions. Extensive recourse was made to the Internet to source / corroborate and update emerging facts and figures on the subject matter. More information on the methodology has been inculcated into the section on the three major case studies.

Review of Pertinent Literature

Literatures by prominent scholars have reflected on various aspects of poverty alleviation, foreign aid, and international development on various aspects of Nigerian-British relations. Most of the scholars reflected in this review cover the Ekiti State perspective and the international development views on the programmes. The first literature of relevance to this work titled, *Can Africa Halve Poverty by 2015* written by Short²⁸. Short (2002:1) examines the rationale of setting a target date for eradicating the-poverty in Africa, arguing that it might really be difficult, if not impossible to achieve such a feat. He argues that the 2015 deadline set by the United Nations (UN) to eradicate poverty in Africa, Nigeria and particularly in Ekiti State is the major reason, for DFID's presence in Nigeria. According to Short, although, the 2015 target year was arrived at a United Nations Special Assembly, when leaders of the world committed themselves to work together, they were yet to muster and mobilize the energy and capacity of the international community to reduce poverty in all earnest as at the year 2002 when such a date was fixed.

Short further posits in a comparative analysis that living conditions of humans' have improved with the following world population statistics: 3 billion in 1960, 6 billion in 2002 and 8 billion by 2025, such that more people now inhabit the world more than ever before. By this calculation, to meet the set target of halving poverty by 2015, would mean 1 billion people lifting themselves out of poverty between 1990 and 2015. He contends that Nigeria and other members of the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) should design a strategy for co-ordinating economic management rather than incessant conflicts because according to her, World Bank Reports reveal that bad management of resources by African leaders and conflicts cost Africa 2% reduction in annual economic growth. As a palliative, Short further highlights that for Africa to achieve poverty eradication by 2025, there was a need to increase current levels of economic growth, more specifically, sub-Saharan African require 7% economic growth from now until 2015.

In another related literature titled *Possible Approach of Poverty Development Policy*, Henner (1999:256) contends that many programmes by foreign countries which focused on rural development has constituted an important factor in alleviating poverty in any economy, foreign countries (at times) with their own selfish interests in allocating funds, hardly have bought the idea that it is possible to eradicate poverty out rightly, packing their baggage after some few years of trying to exercise their given priorities²⁹. Henner is of the opinion that the alleviation of poverty is the most difficult challenge facing African countries. He argues that despite the fact that a successful agricultural sector should provide the bulk of food requirement, supplying agricultural raw materials to the manufacturing sector and ultimately provide adequate employment and income to the rural farmers, foreign organizations have failed to grab the bull by the horns by extending/ concentrating on the development of agriculture.

Henner (ibid) lists the following as the root causes of poverty: Unequal wealth distribution and lack of access to capital/ monetary loan, continuing legacy of colonization and globalization of world economy, which has forced developing countries under the spell of the haves and have nots. The structural adjustment programmes of the various developing countries lack good decision. There are violation of human rights, race and class discrimination, degradation of indigenous cultures, natural disasters, wars and conflicts, and other man-made disasters, gender discrimination, domestic violence, concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, embezzlement of government funds, lack of access to food, drinking water and the lack of irrigated farmlands and better agrarian development input. Henner (ibid) further argues that any developmental process/ alleviation of poverty programme that does not consider these factors is bound to fail.

Adaramola in his work titled *Economic of Poverty Reduction with Special Reference to Ekiti* (2003:4) believes that the state government should place its own adequate poverty reduction programmes before the foreign bodies follow suit³⁰. Daramola asserts that in Ekiti State 73% males live in rural areas and 27% in the female category, while male in urban area were 67% with 33% females living in the urban areas. Those who were employed in Agriculture were 37% while private / informal sector were 30% household heads in Ekiti, beyond Daramola's study (2003:6) revealed the perception of the people about poverty as 45% consider the

current economic condition as better to the year before the study, while 33% rated the situation as same as the preceding year, while the rest 18% thought the situation was worse and not showing any signs of improvements. Daramola stated that the employment level reflected that 59% of those 15 years and above were working, 41% not working. 54% were fully employed while 5% were underemployed. All the above contention however pointed to the fact that the State government itself had to enhance measures to improve the welfare of its citizenry rather than look for foreign donors.

Another authoritative work is that by Oyeboode et al, titled *Ekiti State: The Story of Determined People* (2000) which addresses the issue of how education should aid development in the State³¹. The question is whether education in Ekiti state should be regarded in consumption terms or as a tool for economic development (i.e. investment) or both and where the 'bent' in government policy should be. They point out that taking an official position on the matter should influence how education is managed, the content of the curriculum and type of resources provided.

Oyeboode et al (ibid) contend that apart from spending heavily on education, there is very little evidence that the Nigerian government has made or is making any deliberate effort to use education for the purpose of putting the economy on the fast lane. Education is also seen in Nigeria as predominantly schooling whereas it should be seen as training for young people. When conceptualized as training, education is more directional and more goals specific. It also accommodates more financing tools and strategies, and allows for longer allocation of government provision. Also, because of the way education is considered in the country, less attention is paid to the demand-side issues while emphasis has always been laid on the supply-side. Thus, when people are talking about education, the interest is usually on what government has been doing to provide educational development for them, whereas interest should also be placed on how to use education for economic development of the state. In this regard, they noted there will be need to provide basic education for all and, subsequently, adopt policies that seek to deliberately use the education system to speed up economic development. "It is when the products of our educational institutions can turn their learning into the production of goods and services then we- can talk about Ekiti as the fountain state of knowledge"³². The focus of educational development therefore, should be to examine the areas of access to schools and how resources are harnessed to produce knowledge in the state.

Shaw and Aluko (1983), in their book: titled *Nigerian Foreign Policy: Alternative Perception and Projections* have strong arguments leading to a better understanding of the relations³³. They examined the Nigerian- British relations over the years and opined that despite whatever is said of the relationship of the two states, Nigeria's independence was achieved through peaceful constitutional conferences rather than armed liberation struggle. Continuing, the authors argued that, "at the start, what ripples there were in the" calm waters of Anglo - Nigerian relationship were negligible, the only, significant expression of Anti - British feelings being a mass demonstration organized in 1961 by students of University of Ibadan against the Anglo-Nigerian Defence Pact. Aluko traces the imbalance in Nigeria's relations with the British government since independence. He clarified that the objectives of various policies enacted at different periods of the relations between both countries required a clear-cut understanding and definition of stated goals. Otherwise, it may be unproductive for either to continue the bilateral relations. He concludes however, that it is unlikely that Nigeria could out rightly break relations with Britain because of its colonial antecedents.

What set this paper apart from existing works is that it examines the strength and weakness of DFID and evaluate the positive contribution of the organization from 1999 to 2003.

Assessment of the Impact of DFID Activities in Ekiti State through three Case Studies

In order to assess the impact of the Department for International Development activities in Ekiti, three test cases were utilized by this study to draw out inferences.

Results of First Test – Case Study 1

The first is the Core Welfare Indicator Survey, which was jointly conducted by the DFID and the Ekiti State Chapter of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) to determine areas of impact. The study covered the Welfare of Ekiti State citizens from the year 2000-2002, a year after the establishes of the DFID office in Ekiti State. The major parameters used in assessing include; education, medical services and the economic situation.

Under Educational indicators, the criteria used were; Access to school, Primary school enrolment, male and female enrolment and the satisfaction percentage level. Under the parameter medical services were considered the Health access indicator, need use and satisfaction percentage level. The Economic situation was measured through the Household access to food, through farming or by purchase in the last one-year; access to safe water, access to employment and the satisfaction percentage levels. The results from this pilot field study are represented in the bar charts in Figure 4-7. Figure 6 is the DFID Country Programme Expenditure profile, which is also made reference to drawn corroborate inferences drawn from the survey. All percentage quotations

reflected in the figure appear exactly as DFID/NAPEP left it.

In the analysis of this field survey, these figures have been helpful to arrive at a meaningful overall report unto the various areas of investigation. Further to have a broad based assessment, the study embarked on the field survey in three zones. Ekiti Central covered the following LGAS; Ado Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ijero, Efon and Ekiti West Ekiti North zone covered Ikole, Oye, Ido/Osi, Ilejemeje, Moba, while Ekiti South covered Ise/Orun, Emure, Gbonyin. Ekiti East and Ekiti South. Twenty (20) DFID/NAPEP officials were designated to each of the zones, while they came out with 320 separates reports arrived at through interviews and practical observation. Figures 5, 6 and 7 are chart representations of the Figure 4- Results of the Core Welfare Indicator Survey.

Education is considered as a major indicator of growth and deemed as a major instrument of reducing poverty in any given society. From the percentage represented in fig. 4, it would be seen that there is a margin of error +/-%. This is to signify the accuracy level of the survey. Under the tabulation that follows are results arrived at from collation of All Rural, All Urban, Central, north and South geographical zones of the state. Access to school in the whole of Education reflected 90.3, while All rural is 76, All urban - 95, Central - 88, North - 93 and South - 89. Primary enrolment was for Ekiti Total - 85.9; All rural -86; All urban - 95; North -87; South - 85. The Survey reflected an overall satisfaction percentage level of 79.2. After observations, it was discovered that the Access to Education in all the local governments were high and the satisfaction level also satisfactory. Despite the fact that more females were enrolled than their male counterparts, the figures are equally high for educational attainments. This survey predicts that with such figures reflecting at primary education, the tendency is for the secondary and tertiary levels in the state to be equally high. This is clearly represented in Fig. 5 bar chart.

For medical services, the overall result for access to health services in Ekiti State is 56.5%, which is a little above average. However the overall need which is at a significant 7.9 showed that a lot still require medical attention. The satisfaction level of Ekiti Central at 70% is highest which showed that the level of urban focus of this zone made the accessibility level high. Rural Health Services reflected 68, while all urban reflected 64% - emphasizing that there is a balance in attention. Also, DFID attributes the higher percentage to its attention in Rural Health to the state government support. Figure 6 pie chart reflects these percentages in Access, Need Use and Satisfaction, because there are already health facilities in the urban more than the rural areas. The state hospitals in urban areas cover more health needs.

Figure 7 is the welfare indicator for the economic situation of the people of Ekiti State in general. It has been determined by crosschecking the survey questions on household accessibility to food, through farm yields or by purchase in the last two years.

Further, the access to safe drinkable water as distinct from just any water source was also calculated to ensure need. Then access to employment was assessed to determine the overall satisfaction level of the various zones and the overall total for household access to food reflected 74.8, which is satisfactory, the access to safe water stood at 46.9. The All-urban result showed 60 reflecting better water access in the towns than in the rural villages where well water and rivers were relied on.

Access to employment in Ekiti overall, stood at 48.3 percent, poverty to the fact that unemployment and underemployment had to be given higher concentration. In the absence of industries, the department needed to create more employment facilities for the state to reduce poverty. While in the All-urban, 53% reflected satisfaction over employment, it may be argued that the Ministries, Parastatals, Local governments staff formed the bulk of the satisfactory people. Also, artisans and business people are categorized in this group. Yet, a lot still needs be done in terms of impute into employment and provision of work for citizens of the state. Thus, the satisfaction level of the economic situation at 44.8% shows that the indicator fell short of expectations. From the report, it was discovered that decision making in the areas of clothing, food, education and health rested upon both male and female head in the households.

The next is figure 8 which clearly reflects the DFID's Country Programme Expenditure Profile from 1999 to 2003 in Pounds Sterling. From the figure, it would be discovered that DFID in commitments expended 1.40m in 2000, 1.20 in 2001/02 and 1m in 2002.03 to support Federal Government reforms. In the same period (1999-2003), 4.20m was spent in 2000/01, 5.00m in 2001/02 and 3.30m in 2002/03 in supporting reforms in the state governments. Thus, when the federal expenditure is compared to the state expenditure, it would be seen that more funds is being spent by DFID in the pursuit of state government projects. In the DFID plans, from 1999-2003, it can be seen that a total of 35 million was committed for disbursement for projects.

It would therefore be safe to assume that the above figure is an appreciable effort, when argued with the expected counterpart funds from the Federal and State governments in the pursuit of poverty alleviation in Ekiti State.

TABLE 2 Results of Core Welfare Indicator Survey 2000-2002

Parameters	Ekiti Total	Margin Error (+/-%)	of All Rural	All Urban	Central	North	South
Education							
Access to School	90.3	4.8	76	95	88	93	89
Primary Enrolment	85.9	3.4	86	86	95	87	85
Male	83.8	4.8	82	84	82	86	84
Female	88.3	3.6	90	88	90	88	87
Satisfaction	79.2	5.8	67	84	83	72	86
Medical Services							
Health Access	56.5	6.0	37	64	61	59	48
Need	7.9	1.2	9	8	9	9	6
Use	7.0	1.0	7	7	8	7	6
Satisfaction	65.0	0.8	68	64	70	58	69
Economic Situation							
Household Access to Food (through farming or by purchase in the last 1 year.)	74.8	5.2	65	79	71	79	76
Access to safe water	46.9	7.2	18	60	43	46	44
Access to employment	48.3	4.2	47	49	41	47	60
Satisfaction	44.8	6.8	25	53	47	45	41

Source: DFID (CWIQ) File, LRC Ado Ekiti.

Each zone covers a number of LGAS, as follows:

Ekiti Central: Ado, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ijero, Efon Ekiti West,

Ekiti North: Ikole, Oye, Ido/Osi, Ilejemeje, Moba **Ekiti**

South: Ikere, Ise/Orun, Emure, Gbonyin, Ekiti East, Ekiti South.

Results of Core Welfare Indicator Survey 2000-2002. (i)

Figure 3

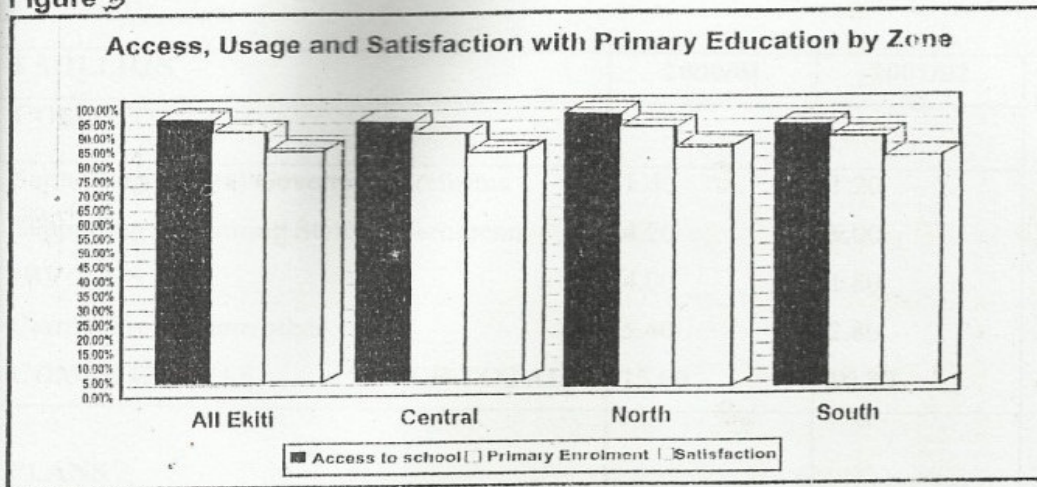


Figure 4

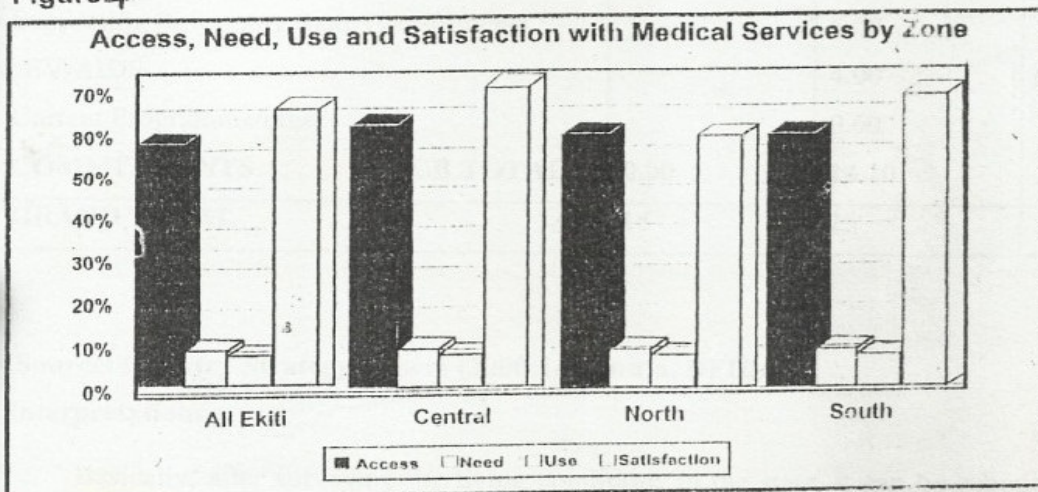
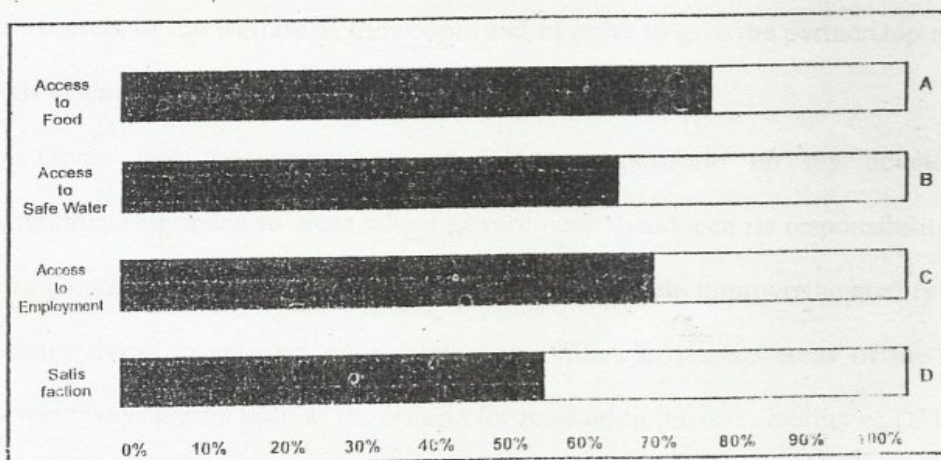


Figure 5

Household Economic Situation



Source: DFID (CWIQ) File, LRC, Ado Ekiti

Fig. 6: DFID Country Programme Expenditure Profile

£ Million	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Commitments			-.
Supporting Federal Government reforms	1.40	1.20	1.00
Supporting Reforming State Governments	4.20	5.00	3.30
HIV/AIDS	4.00	1.80	1.00
Current Programme/other	5.40	2.80	1.20
Commitments Sub total	15.00	10.80	6.50
Plans			
Supporting Federal Government reforms		3.60	6.50
Supporting Reforming State Governments		6.00	13.00
HIV/AIDS		4.00	8.00
Current Programme/others		0.60	1.00
Commitments Sub Total	0.00	14.20	28.50
Grand Total	15	25	35

Source: Country Strategy Papers (2000:16) Abuja, DFID.

Interpretations

Basically, after surveying the living conditions in the state, it can be submitted that much still needs to be done on those neglected areas which are the major ways to decide on improvement of the welfare of the people and in order to give the partnership a focus that is truly people oriented. The current United Kingdom portfolio on the development assistance programmes responded to areas where government abandoned its responsibilities in the mid-90s, working outside government, the programme aimed to help improve the quality of life particularly for those living in selected poor rural communities in remote areas of the State through the following ways herein used as the criteria for measuring the test/viability of DFID programmes.

Assessment / Results of Second Test – Case Study 2

The DFID study 2002/03 Core Welfare Indicators Report (a follow-up to the DFID /NAPEP study) rated that education has been enhanced through supply of teaching aid skills, instruments and improved functional literacy for adults, yet its volume is questionable. Also, through the same study, it can be argued that partnership with the Ekiti State government has brought reforms such as boreholes to improve water supply in almost all the local government areas, and the spread is still not adequate in view of the rural areas, some still resort to river and wells for water.

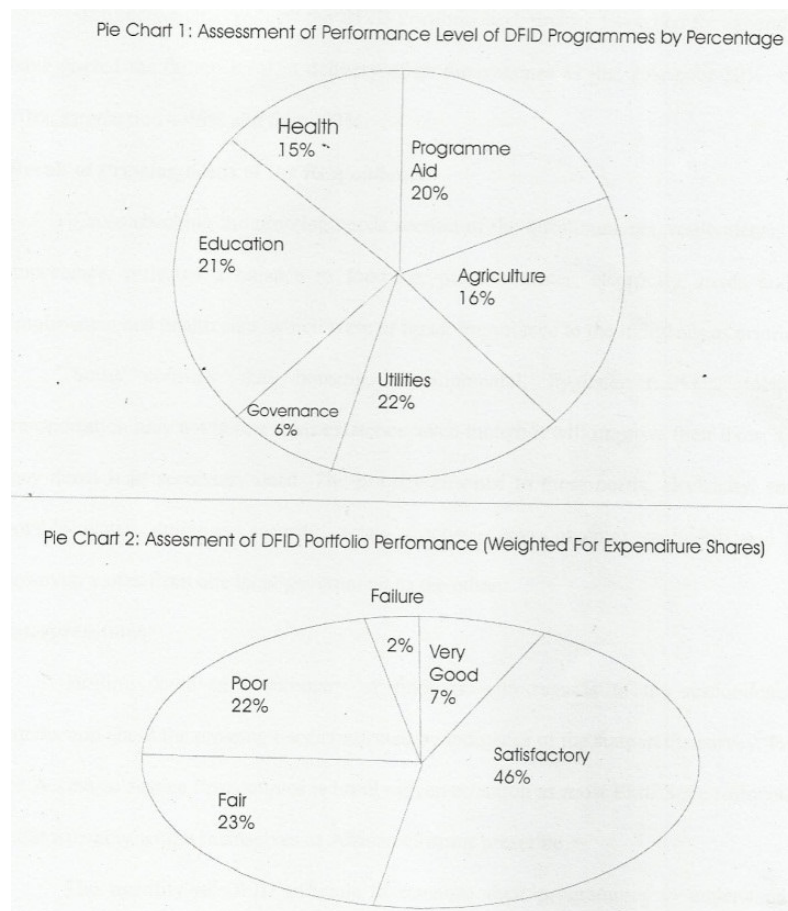
Agriculture and rural development in the Core areas, according to the Survey revealed that the projects aimed to develop the capacity for the rural poor (source). The DFID report further confirmed that they work with a range of government aid intermediary agencies and not directly with farmers. One viable project mentioned in the scheme, which would have enhanced DFID/ Ekiti indigenes relationship is that of sustainable forest management, but unexpectedly, nothing has been done in this sphere.

On the Access to Justice programme in particular, it was observed that while there remained a range of other civil society organization programmes to support democracy building and human rights under the State and local government programme, key interests groups including the women folk and their occupational interests and also the functions of the media have not been put in place to function to ascertain levels for operations.

The performance indicators made reference to cover the extent to which the programmes have been able to justify improvement on health, social well-being, education and enhancing living conditions. Statistical tables have been utilized to portray the results arrived at, within the structural-functionalist model approach.

Of the 10 projects and programmes of the Department For International Department, which commenced in the period under study, the analysis of project completion reports in the state showed that over half of the projects were adjudged to be satisfactory in execution schedule plans. The DFID expended over N40million in their dispensation of programmes during the 1999 - 2003 period.

Assessment on Projects/Programmes completed between 1999-2003



Source: *DFID Core Welfare Indicator Report (2002/03) LRC, Ado Ekiti*

The completion levels of the various programmes are represented in the pie chart (1) as Health – 15%, Programme Aid – 20% Education – 21%, Governance – 6%, Utilities – 22% and Agriculture – 16%. The second chart reflects the DFID Portfolio Performance (weighed for expenditure shares) have graded the failure level in delivery of its programmes as just 2%, poor-22%, very good -7%, satisfaction - 46% and fair - 23%. Cross checking the pressing needs section of the questionnaires, respondents, in order of importance, reflected a balance in food i.e. portable water, electricity, roads and drainage, employment and health care, which were of lesser importance to the indigenes as priority. Some consider that housing, environmental, hygiene, markets, telephone and transportation may not border their existence, even though it will improve their lives; and as such, they deem it as secondary need. The priority attached to these needs, electricity, employment, potable water, drainage, security, waste disposal, environmental sanitation and telephone, however, varies from one local government to the other.

Assessment/Results of Third Test – Case Study 3

The responses to the questionnaire administered and its correlation with the pressing needs of the people formed the basis for this final assessment test.

In all, 240 questionnaires were administered to respondents of various professional backgrounds. Out of this lot, fifteen (15) each went to the 16 local governments of the state; namely: Ado Ekiti, Ikere, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ido/Osi, Ijero, Efon, Ekiti West, Ikole, Oye, Ilejemeje Gbonyin, Ekiti East, Ekiti South, Moba, Emure and Ise/Orun.

The respondents ranged from traditional rulers in each of the local governments, local government chairmen, selected staff of local governments, primary and secondary school teachers, beneficiaries of the DFID Pilot Farming Schemes and rural projects, DFID field officers to monitor their projects in the various LGAs illiterate farmers and market women.

Information officers of the LGAs helped in circulation/collation of the final outcomes. In Ado Ekiti, lecturers responded to five (5) from the Political Science Department who are acquainted with DFID matters. Several other University staff were orally interviewed, two principals of secondary schools, answered the questionnaires others whose views were reflected are local indigenes of Ado Ekiti communities, workers of the print and electronic media who are well informed on the subject matter. In other local governments such as Ikole, Oye,

Ido/Osi, Uejemeje and Moba, respondents were randomly spread among practitioners from diverse occupational backgrounds.

The respondents were supposed to have lived in the communities where they were interviewed for various periods of time (in the main for over two years). The responses also showed that the respondents have fair and reliable knowledge on the subject matter and of their communities. The work employed empirical and analytical approaches in the collection of data for the survey. The Primary Sources of data were through oral interviews and questionnaires and practical observations. Secondary Sources utilized include textbooks and relevant documents on foreign aids, poverty alleviation and development from the Learning Resource Center, Ado Ekiti. Bar and pie charts, histograms and extensive recourse was made to the internet to source/corroborate and update emerging facts and figures especially on the subject-matter from the DFID London office.

The basic criterion of age, educational qualification residential areas and occupations of respondents as reflected in the appendix was useful in determining the level of the respondents. It is however interesting to note that awareness about DFID programmes hardly produced the desired effect. While some have good knowledge of the programmes, some claimed to have learnt about the programme through sponsored adverts on the radio, television and oral communications. However, more male claimed knowledge of the programmes than the females. While half (50%) of the respondents thought the DFID programmes are important, 20% thought it not so important and that the programmes have not impacted in any way to their lives. Others who have no knowledge of the programmes account for 25% of the sampled number of respondents.

Discussion of Research Findings

In light of the research findings, no doubt, some benefits were expected to accrue with the coming and operations of the Department for International Development in Ekiti State since 1999. Remarkably, it could be said that the programmes of the DFID have impacted positively on the generality of the people, especially, the elite group. Apart from providing lucrative employment to indigenes of the state, the organization has gone ahead to create an understanding relationship with the rural poor. Although, because of the partnership status assumed by the Department in its dispensation, it can be discerned that most of the programmes highlighted are created to benefit people of the state. However, this study submits that providing sufficient funds is, perhaps the most important constraint on attaining the eradication of poverty in the state. This improvement on the status quo should be arrived at jointly by the Ekiti State government and the British (DFID) on the other hand. There is clearly provision of funds, but how justifiably is it expended into the right channel? Expectedly the presence of DFID in Ekiti State should result in economic prosperity, improvement in the standard of living, and a greater opportunity for increasing economic growth and development. On the part of DFID itself, certain expectations are required by the British government to continue the dispensation of programmes to their Nigerian partners.

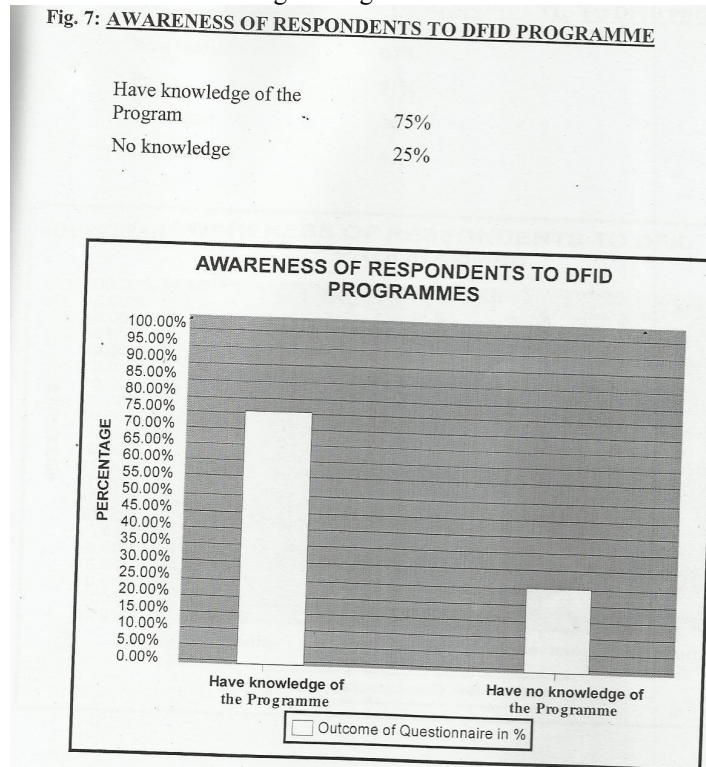
In Health matters, education and the access to justice, for example, it could be said that the down to earth postures of the Department have benefited indigenes in various dimensions. Education actually received a high boost through library services by DFID, provision of school materials and teaching aids to both primary and secondary. HIV/AIDS awareness, sanitation and community health and mass literacy have been given consideration while the impacts of Nigeria's democracy, no doubt have received tremendous support. Although in the villages, indigenes are not too conscious of these opportunities, a new change of approach by DFID has started opening up with the Access programmes to the rural areas with indigenous officers trained to monitor each programme. In more ways, and related to the fund available to its dispensation, it may, therefore, be said that the advent of the organization has brought in more benefits to alleviate poverty.

Although most of the long-term programmes yet need patience to realize their potentials, result obtainable from the study portray that obviously DFID was positive in its pursuit. The above findings, has shown that respondents' awareness were influenced by their level of educational attainment, with a higher proportion of respondents claiming awareness, (that is, among the educated professionals). It is also noteworthy that there is relatively a low level of awareness about the DFID programmes in the rural areas. This clearly reflected the level of perception by both parties. It rather suggests that a conflicting climate of operation for the state government to promote singularly its achievement, rather than take proper collaboration steps to ensure maximum returns of the programme inputs by both parties.

If as reflected that British development assistance to Nigeria totaled £11m in 1999, when the DFID projects work started its assessment,' with an increase of £25m in 2001 - 2002 and £35m in 2003, (DFID, Fig. 6, P 13) then in the current year 2004 - 2005, it may be assumed that the budget has been increased. Given that four states involved - at least, it can be said that no less than £8m pounds should accrue to Ekiti State annually for the purpose of facilitating DFID programmes in the state. With such fund, it is arguable that the amount of programme input should spread throughout the state and better felt by individuals in terms of transforming their lives. More importantly, when Mr. Clare Short, the British Foreign Secretary to Nigeria visited in March 2000, he endorsed the DFID strategy plan for Nigeria and Ekiti State particularly. He further stated that the World Health Organization (WHO), Her Majesty Treasury of the British Government, and British Trade International

will contribute to the long terms goals of DFID in Ekiti State.

Fig. 7: AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS TO DFID PROGRAMME

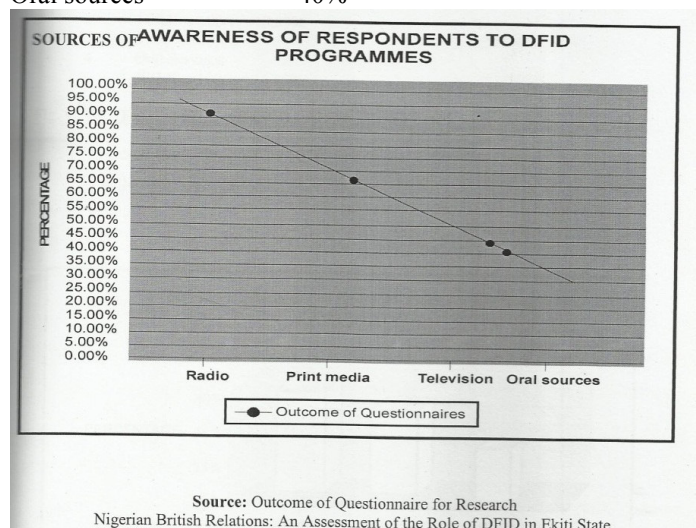


Source: Outcome of Questionnaire respondents as administered by the Researcher
 N = 240

1. Have knowledge of the Programme – 180
 $180/240 \times 100/1 = 75\%$
2. Have no knowledge - 60
 $60/240 \times 100/1 = 25\%$

Fig. 8: Sources of Awareness of Respondents to DFID Programmes

Print media	65%
Radio	91%
Television	44%
Oral sources	40%



Source: Outcome of Questionnaire for Research
 Nigerian British Relations: An Assessment of the Role of DFID in Ekiti State.

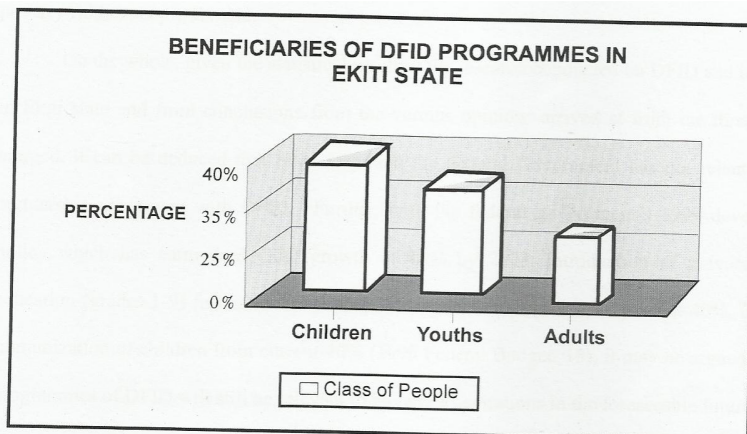
N = 240

1. Print Media
 $65/240 \times 100/1 = 27.08\%$
2. Radio
 $91/240 \times 100/1 = 37.92\%$

3. Television
 $44/240 \times 100/1 = 18.33\%$
4. Oral Sources
 $40/240 \times 100/1 = 16.67\%$

Fig. 9: Beneficiaries of DFID Programmes in Ekiti State.

Children	40%
Youths	35%
Adults	25%



Source: Outcome of Questionnaire for Research
 Nigerian British Relations: An Assessment of the Role of DFID in Ekiti State.

N = 240

1. Children
 $40/100 \times 240/1 = 96$
2. Youths
 $35/100 \times 240/1 = 84$
3. Adult
 $25/100 \times 240/1 = 60$

A further reference to the graphic representations collated from the research questionnaires Fig. 11 portray that respondents in Ado Ekiti and each of the other local government headquarters had the highest level of awareness of DFID programmes dispensation. In the local government headquarters areas, respondents showed awareness of the programmes or of its existence as a political / democratic impact. This goes to suggest that the concentration of the programmes were felt at the local government headquarters more than in the rural areas where poverty-ridden people abound.

On the whole, given the statistical result of the research conducted on DFID and its impact in Ekiti state and from conclusions from the various opinions arrived at from the three studies merged, it can be deduced that Ekiti State has not relented in its partnership agreement with DFID. Further, with the federal government's 1999 development policy which has earmarked GDP growth of 10% by 2003, introduction of universal basic education (grades 1-9) full national coverage of private health care from present 40%, universal immunization of children from current 40% (1999 Federal Budget: 15), it may be argued that the programmes of DFID will still be relevant to Nigeria's aspirations in the foreseeable future.

The Ekiti state government in its year 2003 budget earmarked the following as its priorities; improved access to safe water, liberalization of exchange rate, foreign currency transactions and trade regulation, infrastructure and improvement in prudent fiscal and money stance, which in likewise manner correlate with the priorities of DFID.

However, external payment crisis has set back the volume of programme grants and foreign aids for better cooperation between the two governments. For as revealed, two-third of the current debt stock of Nigeria as at the period of this research was over USS34 billion per annum while 42% of export (DFID, 2000:4)³⁴. The study further observed that two-thirds of the debt represents arrears to the Paris Club where the United Kingdom is the largest creditor. The combination of economic mismanagement, unproductive investment, and a policy of non-payment of debts to the Paris Club have reduced the quantum of programmes initiation presently extended by DFID to Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the evidence of the survey research embarked upon by this work, it can be deduced and concluded that the effort by DFID is in the main has been an attempt at reducing the intensity of the incidence of poverty and as well improve the living conditions of the people of Ekiti State. While an attempt has been made to distinguish between rural and urban population of the state, Ndekwe 1986:83 gives substance to the above assertion that Agriculture and rural development constitute an important factor in alleviating poverty in any economy where poverty is a phenomenon like the Ekiti State example³⁵. As a result of all the foregoing, a review of the approaches to poverty alleviation in the state shows that many programmes and projects were not as carefully designed as claimed, while it could be acknowledged that poverty alleviation efforts take into consideration various dimensions of lack of needs of fulfillment (depravity wants) in the field of Agriculture, nothing was firmly particularly done by the organization. This portends fear of the unknown future for states receiving their programmes.

Derivable from the above, strategies for poverty alleviation must be the product of the nature of poverty - both DFID and Ekiti state government should specify the minimum standards for the basic needs, social welfare measures, provision credit facilities, skills acquisition, enhancing income earning opportunities for the vulnerable population of the state. Then, it can mature into fruition thereby impacting positively and the improvement of life felt by the grass root. The projects and programmes chart (see bar chart 1 & 2), which reflects as follows; Programme Aid - 20%, Health - 15%, Education - 21%, Governance - 6%, Utilities - 22% and Agriculture further shows that the portfolio performance weighted for expenditure share could be enhanced to record better results. The dispensation that could further be discerned is that 46%, recorded for satisfactory performance may be improved upon to rise up to at least 50%, which evidently point to the fact that their programmes could reach and achieve a pass mark or higher levels. In reference to the areas that constitute the major assessment criteria for this work, i.e. Health, HIV/AIDS, Education, Water, Sanitation and rural livelihood, the Department has been able to record some positive results as reflected in the evidences.

As stated by the act establishing DFID (2002:5), that most of its programmes are aimed at improving the quality of life for those living in selected poor rural communities in remote areas, the question is how many lives have been affected directly by these programmes? The percentage recorded in the survey earlier assessed was quite low, pointing to the fact that a lot still needs to be done to improve the poverty lives of Ekiti indigenes at the grass roots³⁶.

That indeed, is the challenge posed by this work for continuity in assessing/ monitoring from the observer's view of the programmes of DFID and its utility for improving the bilateral relations of Nigeria and Britain with regards to Ekiti State. In order to promote and sustain the democratic culture, high level of interaction between programme officers and the grass root public should be encouraged to enhance the impact and the peculiarity of their needs. Suggestions for the areas of improvement to hasten the impact of the programmes can be through organizing forums of meeting with indigenes of local government on each area of infrastructures and improvement. Going by the respondents' results from the survey report earlier, it appears the priorities of the people as clearly reflected by the tables do not clearly tally with their most pressing needs. At the local government levels, the priorities of the officials consulted reflect that they were not aware of how the programmes are managed or do they benefit from it in any form.

Recommendations

Based on the above inferences therefore, it is only but instructive that the two governments, Nigeria as represented by Ekiti State and Britain as represented by DFID should consider the following options:

1. That a systematic sensitization of peoples' need be carried out based on the duty of the accountability owed to the people. This should continue to be seen as an important initiative to ensure that wrong people – a select elite whose needs are recognized by DFID do not benefit at the expense of the generality of the citizenry and become the beneficiaries of the poor people's right and allocation of funds from the DFID.
2. Another vital recommendation is that the much sought after poverty alleviation programmes can be achieved by guiding their inclusions in budgets drafted by both parties, monitoring the subsequent implementation and delivery of outcomes and by the use of its limited resources especially to social services that are not 100% commercially viable such as roads, drains, water waste disposal facilities as well as provide high caliber feasibility research reports, projection into the real needs of the people.
3. The study further recommend that the Ekiti State government should realize that its commitment to the partnership pact would enhance more international development and presence of other donor groups, which ultimately is to the advantage of the state. This is informed by the fact that Britain does not have much to loose directly in the eventuality of the discontinuation of the programmes and the fact that the more programmes that are on ground and pursued vigorously will be additional gains for the state at large.
4. There is need for government support for community based poverty reduction initiatives in collaboration with people's efforts. Such initiatives should cut across socio-economic needs of the people and identified by them.

Furthermore, the people should be allowed to initiate poverty reduction projects/programmes so that they can be in full support as well as be involved in the implementation and sustainability process as envisioned by DFID. Resources or impact from DFID and other external bodies should be put in care of the local community development committee (rather than individuals) wherein the Oba-council will have a supervisory access over the implementation.

5. When and where necessary, experts and/or contractors could be hired by the community and be made responsible to the people in such community for proper accountability, monitoring and implementation of poverty reduction initiatives. Since DFID is concerned with improving the economic base, provision should therefore be made for community based micro - credit facilities that can be sustained and expanded over time. Government intervention should be limited to advisory, educative and supervisory roles to attain the set standards and results. While efforts should be made to create a durable database for planning in Ekiti State through a data bank at the government level and should attract donors' attention and be self-sustaining.
6. Finally, the study concludes that any programme embarked upon should benefit society more than its cost; else huge sums may just be voted for projects that do not directly impact on the people. A sufficient funding should be ensured before commencing any programme and further emphasis should be placed on a process of redistribution of priorities between the rich contribute more than the poor of the society. The State government should certify their participation, financing, monitoring and evaluating of the programmes should be to the benefits for its citizenry as a necessity follow-up to the tasks of DFID. It follows from the foregoing that the ideal expenditure will be at a level where marginal benefits are equal to if not more than marginal costs. This is not attainable presently, as such; funding should be first directed to actions with highest marginal net benefits, such as support funds for farmers, traders, artisans and other small scale industrialist of the state. It is only one such steps and measures are allowed, that the Ekiti citizenry can fully acknowledge the presents of the DFID in their state.

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