

VALUES OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT: *The paper focused on the values of sustainable community development. Every human endeavour in development process is value-oriented. Sustainable community development offers people an opportunity to value the benefits of sustainable community development to people of present generation and future generations. The concept of sustainable community development is a process whereby the efforts of members of participating communities are united with those of governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations (COs) among others in order to improve the living conditions of people of present generation without jeopardising the abilities of future generations to take care of their own needs. People must be careful to understand the values which they desire to have in engaging in sustainable community development. The paper identified the values of sustainable community development to include generational values, economic sustainability, social sustainability, empowerment of people, group action among others. The concern of sustainable community development is to add value to the lives of people of present generation without disrupting the opportunities of future generations to benefit from the same expectations. The paper contains some of the following recommendations: (1) The values of sustainable community development should possess sustainable features that will help to promote sustainable community development initiatives (2.) The values of sustainable community development should possess suitable qualities that will stimulate qualitative sustainable community development concerns. (3) There is need to inculcate the right type of values and attitudes in people for sustainability of the values of community development projects among others.*

KEYWORDS: Values, Sustainable, Community and Development

INTRODUCTION

The values of sustainable community development remain the central concern and focus of sustainable community development in various communities in the contemporary society. The values of sustainable community development can simply be perceived as the good and desirable benefits that accrue to people of various communities from promotion of sustainable community development in their localities. The concern of sustainable community development focuses on sustainability of community development projects in various communities in the society.

Essentially, people should endeavour to understand the type of values that they desire to have in engaging in sustainable community development. People must be careful so that they do not become victims of their own values. Eyo (1980) states that the values are, however, not only individual, but societal and generational. The outlook of the individual, societal and generational values of sustainable community development usually focuses on people of present generation and future generations. Eyo (1980) notes that a value that should be has to be transmitted to future generations and since the present generation is really the foundation of

future generations, present values should have the qualities that will be transmissible to future generations. Indeed, the values of sustainable community development should be what the people of present generation will be able to transmit to future generations.

The sustainability of the values of community development project; focuses on promotion of the continuity of community development projects to ensure that the projects attain their stated objectives in meeting the needs of the people. In the views of Mulwa (2008), the concern of project sustainability is focused on continuity of a project until it attains its identified objectives. Mulwa (2008) states while quoting Swanepoel that the objectives of community development projects are always concrete for people to see and touch when people are involved in community development projects. He further remarks that when people establish a specific project such as a health institution like a clinic or health centre, they have achieved a concrete objective which will help them to achieve abstract goals of self-sufficiency, self-reliance and human dignity. Self-sufficiency is not exactly the same thing with self-reliance.

The concept of self-sufficiency simply means to be able to provide all the things you need without help or assistance from other people in the society. Self-sufficiency, indeed, means that people are able to provide all the things that they need without necessarily seeking for help, assistance or intervention from other people. A case in point is a country being self-sufficient in food production. This tends to indicate that a country is able to produce the food for the teeming population without assistance and intervention from other people and countries in the world.

The concept of self-reliance simply means to be able to do or decide things by yourself without necessarily depending on the help, advice or intervention of other people in the society. Self-reliance deals with doing something or taking a decision without the help, advice or intervention from other people. Amucheazi (1991) asserts that self-reliance involves the complete dependence on self. He further states that self-reliance means complete independence from and absence of external connections and dealings. The attainment of self-reliance is not possible in the contemporary global environment because of local resources and endowments which are not often adequate in various countries of the world. Amucheazi (1991) notes that in the contemporary world that self-reliance is not clearly possible as countries increasingly realize that local resources and endowments are rarely adequate to achieve the standard of living which their citizens ultimately desire in their various countries. The implication of this is that collaborative international efforts and concerns are required to enable various countries to address prevailing challenges. Indeed, collaboration and partnering across national boundaries are required in addressing developmental challenges in order to improve people's living conditions through sustainability of sustainable community development initiatives in various communities.

Sustainability as a development concept which focuses on the immense benefits of present generation without jeopardizing the abilities of future generations to benefit from the same expectations of this great concern makes people custodians of hope in sustainable community development in various communities in the society. Sustainable community development is stimulated by promise and hope of sustainability which requires collaborative efforts of all relevant stakeholders in sustainable community development. The community is, indeed, people's domain and it is rich in its potential for development. Ehusani (2015) rightly asserts that the world is not just full of dangers, but it is as well rich in its potential for good things. Sustainability is a proclamation that all is not lost in human efforts for improved living

condition which is possible as articulated in sustainable community development in various communities.

Sustainable community development has a good purpose for various participating communities in the society. The purpose which focuses on improved living conditions of people in various participating communities will be realized in spite of numerous challenges confronting people in various communities. Schaefer (2005) acknowledges that day-to-day deterioration of human environment presents a devastating threat to humanity. The quality of improved living conditions of people depends on the quality of the environment and human activities. Todaro and Smith (2009) assert that future development and overall quality of life depend on the quality of the environment. The implication of this is that human environment offers a common heritage for all generations in various communities in the society.

Prudent management of resources is critical for the benefit of both present generation and future generations in the society. Aruma (2016) states that people in their desperate efforts and desire to achieve certain things in life jeopardize the abilities of both present generation and future generations. Todaro and Smith (2009) remark that the pursuit of short-term economic goals penalizes both present and future generations in the society. The prudent and efficient management of sustainable community development projects will stimulate an improved living conditions for people of present generation without jeopardizing the abilities of future generations to enjoy the same opportunities.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to articulate the values of sustainable community development in various participating communities in human environment. The paper examines the values that accrue to various participating communities from promotion of sustainable community development initiatives in human environment.

Sustainable Community Development

The concept of sustainable community development is a development process whereby the efforts of people of participating communities are united with those of governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations (COs) among others to improve the living conditions of people of present generation without jeopardizing the abilities of future generations to take care of their own needs. Aruma (2015) views the concept of sustainable development as a process of meeting the needs of present generation without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs in the society. Todaro and Smith (2009) define sustainable development as a type of development which allows future generations to live at least as much as the current generation in the society. The focus of sustainable community development is on the benefits of people of both present generation and future generations in various communities in the society. The concept of sustainable community development means lasting development initiatives that improve the living conditions of people in various communities of present generation and future generations.

Indeed, sustainable community development focuses on promoting improved living conditions of people that last for the benefits of both present and future generations. The concept of sustainable community development is perceived as the process of promoting community development which focuses on how to meet the needs of the present generation in various

communities without necessarily compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs. From national developmental perspective, Aruma (2009) considers sustainable national development as the process of stimulating development initiatives which focus on meeting the needs of the present generation in a country without compromising the abilities of future generations to meet their own needs. Segynola (2003) views sustainable development as development that lasts which does not in any way endanger human environment. The concept of sustainable community development is community development initiative that articulates the concerns of people in order to improve their living conditions in the various participating communities for the benefit of the present generation and future generations in the society. The focus of sustainable community development is that people must endeavour to live today and enjoy what the day holds for them in order to secure the opportunities of future generations to meet their own needs. Aruma (2015) states that the cardinal focus of sustainable development is, however, that human beings must certainly try to live today and enjoy the benefits of what the day holds for them with a view to securing the opportunities of future generations to meet their own needs. The needs of people in sustainable community development must be well articulated in order to address the prevailing challenges of people in various communities in the present generation without compromising the abilities of future generations to address their own concerns in the society.

Justification for the Research

An investigation into the values of sustainable community development is a worthy academic enterprise in the contemporary human environment that is knowledge driven. The justification for this research becomes imperative since every community development initiative is very important in the participating communities in human environment. The justification for the research is anchored on the premise that it is rewarding for relevant stakeholders-donors, donor agencies, project sponsors, project beneficiaries, project participants, project owners, workers, community people or members, governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organisations (COs) among others in community development. This will enable the relevant stakeholders to know the values of sustainable community development in various communities in human environment.

The desire to know the values of sustainable community development will strengthen people's consciousness to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to enhance the living conditions of people in various participating communities in the society. While commenting on a similar subject, Aruma (2016) rightly notes that the desire to satisfy the urgent need to acquire knowledge is an important area of focus in lifelong learning in human environment. Essentially, knowledge of the values of sustainable community development motivates people's desire to engage in sustainable community development initiatives in various participating communities in the society.

In sustainable community development, the people of both present and future generations are encouraged to engage in promotion of community development initiatives that will be value rewarding to them on sustainable basis without jeopardizing their abilities in community development efforts in their various communities in human environment. Aruma (2016) asserts that the desire of people to achieve certain things should not jeopardize the ability of both present and future generations to address their community needs in the various communities in the society.

Assessing the values of sustainable community development forms an important consideration when community development projects are being identified and considered for implementation in participating communities in the society. Ugwuzor (2016) states that people need to know the reasons why they should participate in community development projects and the benefits thereafter since their consciousness, enthusiasm and zeal need to be awakened and sustained in order for the development projects to be effective in the society. Consequently, if sustainable community development projects are to remain relevant and meaningful to the people, the values of the projects must be rewarding and attractive enough in order to sustain the interest of the project beneficiaries and other relevant stakeholders.

The Values of Sustainable Community Development

The values of sustainable community development are the followings:

Generational Values:

The sustainable generational values of sustainable community development remain the central focus of both present and future generations in the contemporary global environment. Sustainable community development is, therefore, community-oriented development initiative that is generational in all ramifications. Jhingan (2009) perceives sustainable development as the development that keeps going in the society. Such development initiative that keeps going is ultimately for benefit of people at community, societal, national and international levels presently and in future.

Sustainable community development concerns itself with the needs of present generation which is the foundation of future generations that take care of their own needs in order to continually guarantee improved living conditions of people in various participating communities in the society. Eyo (1980) states that values are societal and generational. The values of sustainable community development should possess sustainable features and qualities to guarantee qualitative sustainable development initiatives that will impact positively on improving people's living conditions in the participating communities in the society. Jhingan (2009) states that the emphasis of sustainable development is on creation at sustainable improvement in the quality of people's lives through increase in income per capita, improvement in health, education, and general quality of life among others. Income per capita means total gross national product of a country divided by total population (Todaro and Smith, 2009).

The values of sustainable community development as a concept in community development initiative tend to indicate that people value what community development offers to humanity both now and in the future for the ultimate benefit of enhanced living conditions of members of the participating communities in human environment. The intervention of relevant stakeholders notably the government at various levels in Nigeria, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations and communities will enhance the actualization of improved living conditions of people in the participating communities in human environment. Sustainable community development offers people an opportunity to value what is good presently and what ought to be good in future for them in the participating communities in the society. Eyo (1980) observes that Nigerians value what is good now and what ought to be for the individuals in the society. Jhingan (2009) affirms that meeting the needs of people in the present generation is very important in order to sustain the needs of future generations. Sustainable community development, indeed, places great emphasis on the

values that will be of benefit to people of both present generation and future generations in human environment.

Economic Sustainability

Another value of sustainable community development is economic sustainability of community development projects in the participating communities in the society. It is appropriate for people of various participating communities to initiate viable sustainable community development projects which will generate income for the ultimate benefit of members of the concerned communities in the society. Mulwa (2008) observes that initiation of income generating investment or wealth creation investment is advisable if it is managed profitably. The focus of sustainable community development should be on establishment of viable income generating projects and wealth creation projects that will be managed profitably. It is advisable to conduct feasibility study of such community development enterprise projects to explore their economic viability and profitability in order to guarantee their sustainability. The prudent management of such community development enterprise projects is critical to guarantee their sustainability to a certain extent in the participating communities in the society.

Mulwa (2008) advocates that people should be helped to develop the management skills which will enable them to use the available resources efficiently and effectively. Consequently, the economic sustainability of community development projects places emphasis on the ability of people to create wealth, mobilize available resources, generate income and employment as well as manage their projects efficiently and effectively in various participating communities in the society. The economic values of sustainable community development which manifest in wealth creation, mobilization of available resources, income generation and employment creation last for the ultimate benefit of both present generation and future generations.

Social Sustainability

Social sustainability is equally an important value of sustainable community development. It is pertinent to state that people are conscientised as Freire (1985) advocates to understand that they have the capabilities and potential to enhance their poor living conditions through their own efforts to identify their problems, prioritize the identified problems, plan, implement, manage and evaluate community development projects in order to guarantee their sustainability. This, undoubtedly, enhances the dignity and respect of members of the participating communities that they are able to contribute reasonably in addressing their own problems. Mulwa (2008) asserts that the ultimate aim is to give people the required support in order to rediscover, restore and preserve their own abilities and potential in the society. The utilization of people's rediscovered capabilities and potential becomes more relevant when they are used appropriately to address prevailing challenges in their various communities in the society. This will help the members of the participating communities to maintain their self-respect regardless of their social status in the concerned communities in the society.

Empowerment of People

Another value of sustainable community development is empowerment of people. The concept of empowerment of people simply means to give people more power or control over their own life, affairs or situations in the society. Aruma (2015) defines the concept of empowerment as the provision of adequate opportunities to people to help them develop their potential in order to contribute to development at various levels notably community, local government, state and

national. He further states that the term to empower people means to give people the opportunity to have some elements of control over their own lives in the society. The ultimate purpose of empowerment of people is to help them to enhance their potential in order to improve their living conditions in their various communities.

It is a common phenomenon that knowledge is power. Empowerment of people as Freire (1985) rightly states is a concept which helps people to acquire relevant knowledge and skills to enhance their potential in order to improve their living conditions in the society. In the views of Mulwa (2008) the concept of empowerment simply means a process of helping people to gain confidence, strength and vision in order to work for the ultimate purpose of promotion of positive changes in their lives, individually and collectively with others in the society. Empowerment of people is certainly very critical for sustainability of sustainable community development initiatives which help to improve people's living conditions in various participating communities. Akande (2016) asserts that empowerment of the people of various communities to get themselves organized is very important for any sustainable development in the society. Interestingly, promotion of sustainable community development demands empowerment of people individually and collectively on how to address prevailing problems in their various communities in the society.

Knowledge remains the foundation of people's empowerment for promotion of sustainable community development. Aruma (2015) remarks that knowledge is the bedrock of people's empowerment in the following areas of human endeavours notably economic empowerment, financial empowerment, technological empowerment, political empowerment among others. The empowerment of people with relevant knowledge and skills economically, financially, technologically, scientifically, politically, socially among others will help them to contribute to sustainable community development in the society.

Group Action Sustainability or Collective Action

Group action sustainability or collective action is equally another value of sustainable community development in various participating communities in the society. The concept of group action or collective action is a human-oriented action to stimulate change based on solidarity and support of people who work together to address a common problem or problems in order to improve people's living conditions in various participating communities in the society. Aruma (2015a) defines the concept of group action in community development efforts or endeavours as an action of a group of people who come together in a particular participating community with the ultimate aim of stimulating collective action, social action or human activity which will impact positively on the members of the group as well as other people in the participating communities in the society.

Every group action or collective action is a joint undertaking by people who share common interests to work together to address issues of common concern in various communities. Aruma (2015a) perceives every community development-oriented group action as a joint undertaking by the people of participating communities to improve the living conditions of people in the society. The members of the group or collective action must have issues of common concern to address in the participating communities in the society.

Implications of the Study

An important implication of the study is that the assessment of the values of sustainable community development should constitute part of the considerations when monitoring and evaluating sustainable community development projects in various participating communities in the society. Values stimulate people's desire to engage in sustainable community development initiatives that will ultimately improve people's living conditions in various communities in human environment.

Another implication of the study is that for sustainable community development to be relevant to the people in various communities, it must add value to the lives of the concerned people in certain specific areas that will impact positively in improving people's living conditions in the society. The values of community development projects must be highly rewarding and attractive to sustain the interest of relevant stakeholders notably donors, project sponsors, donor agencies, project beneficiaries, project participants, project owners, community development workers, governmental authorities, non-government organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations, members of the participating communities among others.

Essentially, the concern of relevant stakeholders in sustainable community development is to ensure that sustainable community development adds value to the lives of the people of participating communities in human environment. It, therefore, becomes imperative that at the development stage of sustainable community development projects that is important to carry out value assessments in the participating communities in the society. This will certainly justify the cost of sustainable community development projects in communities.

Sustainable community development must have more rewarding values to people in various participating communities in human environment. It is appropriate to create value through sustainable community development initiatives that will make significant contributions to the success of sustainable community development in various communities in the society.

CONCLUSION

Sustainable community development as a development concept focuses on how the efforts of people at community level are united with those of governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate organizations (COs) among others to improve the living conditions of people of present generation without compromising the abilities of future generations to address their own needs in the society. The focus of sustainable community development on the immense benefits of present generation without jeopardizing the abilities of future generations to benefit from the same expectations of this great concern places serious demand on people as custodians of hope in sustainability of community development in various communities in the society.

Sustainable community development is energized by promise and hope of sustainability which requires partnering with relevant stakeholders to improve the living conditions of people in various participating communities in the society. The term sustainability remains the central concern and focus of sustainable community development in the contemporary society. Sustainable community development offers people an opportunity to value the benefits of sustainable community development initiatives to people of both present generation and future generations. Indeed, sustainable community development places emphasis on the values that will be of benefit to people of both present generation and future generations in human

environment. Essentially, the values of sustainable community development are generational values, sustainable economic values, empowerment of people, group action, sustainable social values among others. The values of sustainable community development should be sustained in order to make meaningful impact in improving the living conditions of people of both present and future generations in various participating communities in the society. It is appropriate to appreciate the dynamics of sustainable community development for improved living conditions of people of both present generation and future generations in various communities in the society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on the discussion on values of sustainable community development:

1. The values of sustainable community should possess sustainable features that will help to promote sustainable community development initiatives. This will certainly improve the living conditions of people on sustainable basis in various communities in the society.
2. The values of sustainable community development should possess sustainable qualities that will stimulate qualitative sustainable community development concerns in the participating communities in the society. This will impact positively on the lives of people by improving people's living conditions in various communities in the society.
3. There is an urgent need to enhance the partnering of all relevant stakeholders in community development initiatives. All the relevant stakeholders should, indeed, identify appropriate opportunities for action in promotion of people-oriented sustainable community development initiatives that will meaningfully improve the living conditions of people in various participating communities.
4. There is also an urgent need to inculcate the right type of values for the survival of people in various communities in the contemporary society. This will help the people to cherish the values of sustainable community development and work conscientiously or carefully to guarantee their sustainability in various communities.
5. There is equally an urgent need to inculcate the right type of attitudes in people for sustainability of the values of community development projects in various communities in the society. This will help the people to see community development projects as their own projects and work conscientiously or carefully for the survival and sustainability of such projects in their various communities.
6. There is an urgent need to help people to develop a culture of management skills in various participating communities. This will help people to manage community development projects efficiently and effectively for sustainability of community development initiatives to improve the living conditions of people in various communities.

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