



# **The Impact of Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) on Sustainable Development Projects in Katsina Metropolis**

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## **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author NMB designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors NBM and AA managed the analyses of the study. Author AA managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

## **Article Information**

DOI: 10.9734/JEMT/2019/v24i630183

### Editor(s):

(1) Dr. Robert Mauritius Kunst, Professor of Economics, University of Vienna, Austria.

### Reviewers:

(1) Acaye Genesis, Cyan International, India.

(2) Darmesh Krishanan, Management and Science University, Malaysia.

(3) Alan Garfield, University of Dubuque, USA.

(4) Gerald Aranoff, Ariel University, Israel.

Complete Peer review History: <http://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/51553>

**Original Research Article**

**Received 15 July 2019**

**Accepted 18 September 2019**

**Published 25 September 2019**

## **ABSTRACT**

Nigeria is facing profound social, economic and environmental impact of population growth, development and environmental constraints. It is apparent that government alone has limited capacity to deal with all these problems. NGOs being one of the most effective partners have been playing supportive roles with the government, in some cases, they are considered more effective to get attached with the grass root level developmental initiatives. However, despite the role NGOs played, their presence and impact is not fully evaluated, recognized and appreciated by many governments and community members. It is for this reason this article attempts to examine whether projects executed by NGOs have any impact on sustainable development in Katsina Metropolis, given special emphasis on projects that dealt with environmental protection, poverty alleviation and health care services. The study further look at whether efficiency of NGOs officials has any impact on success of sustainable development projects execution. A structured questionnaire was used to

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collect data from 150 NGOs beneficiaries in five (5) selected political wards of twelve (12) in Katsina metropolis. Interviews was used to collect relevant data using a structured questionnaire from NGOs officials which include; development officers and facilitators in five (5) selected NGO offices operating in Katsina Metropolis namely; Save the Children, Service to Humanity Foundation, Murna Foundation, Katsina Friends of Environment and Makudawa Skills Acquisition. Frequency and chi-square analysis was used to present the results. The findings revealed that NGOs are complementing government efforts towards achieving sustainable development through their projects, and efficiency of NGOs officials has significant impact on success of sustainable development projects executed in the area. The findings of the study can benefit government and NGOs in creating more areas of collaboration in order to achieve sustainable development.

*Keywords: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs); sustainable development; impact; projects; Katsina Metropolis.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been in existence for quite a long time, and are considered as major partners in achieving sustainable development in Nigeria, taking into consideration of the wider scope of sustainable development issues, ranging from pollution, deforestation, soil erosion, declining water table, national resource depletion and degradation, poverty eradication, health and other global concerns such as climate change and ozone layer. Information from Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission in 2012 showed that the growth of NGOs in terms of number has reached 6000, and are operating various aspects of development such as health, education, environment, income generation among others [1]. Considering the enormity of socioeconomic and environmental challenges facing Katsina State, NGOs have become indispensable due to the limitation to what government is willing and able to do for the citizens. For example, an assessment of poverty level according to states in Nigeria by National Bureau of Statistics other states with over 70% poverty rate include Katsina state with 74.5% [2]. This statement was significantly backed by United Nations Development Programme Multidimensional Poverty Index reporting poverty to be more endemic in North West region of Nigeria, and Katsina state appeared among the least performing states in the poverty indices [3]. In the health sector, [4] reported Katsina state as state with high illiterate population and is classified among the rural states in Nigeria with many local governments ravaged by sporadic cases of malnutrition. Katsina state can only boast twenty-three nurses and midwives catering for over ten thousand people with five community health officers [5]. In terms of environmental challenges, the major cause of deforestation in

the area is fuel-wood consumption. It is an established fact that deforestation as a result of fuel-wood consumption create air and land pollution. There was the report of high fuel-wood consumption in Katsina Metropolis to the extent that in 1992 there was fuel-wood protest organized by fuel-wood urban-based dealers in the Metropolis [6]. In the recent time, the level of fuel-wood consumption in Katsina urban community raised to (21.9 kg) surpassing urban areas like Bauchi (19.9 kg) and Zaria (19.6 kg) respectively [7].

Given the above scenario, it is apparent that government has limited capacity to deal with all these challenges and improve the existing situation. NGOs being one of the most effective partners have been playing supportive roles with the government to improve the situation. This is in line with [8] argument that NGOs have been playing supportive roles with the government, in some cases, they are considered more effective to get attached with the grass root level developmental initiatives. However, it is pertinent to note that in spite of the significance of NGOs in the development process, there is the danger of corruption in NGOs due to lack of planning, number of actors and financial resources at stake. According to Jérôme [9], NGOs are reluctant to talk about corruption due to the fear of bad publicity and consequently loss of funding.

Earlier studies such as [1], [10,11] have assessed the role of NGOs on Nigeria's development, but there has been little research related to role of NGOs on sustainable development projects execution, and there has been no attempt to link the impact of NGOs official's efficiency to sustainable development projects execution, particularly in Katsina Metropolis. It was the intention of the study to establish whether projects executed by NGOs

have any impact on sustainable development, and whether efficiency of NGOs official has any impact on sustainable development projects execution in Katsina Metropolis. Based on this, the study tests the following hypotheses:

H<sub>0</sub>: The impact of NGOs on sustainable development projects is independent of efficiency of NGOs officials and execution of projects.

H<sub>1</sub>: The impact of NGOs on sustainable development projects is dependent of efficiency of NGOs officials and execution of projects.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Sustainable Development and Environment

Fuel-wood consumption for energy is one of the major reasons responsible for decline of vegetation in Nigeria [12]. The intensity of vegetation decline has emerged to threaten man's wellbeing and natural environment which serves as his life support system [13]. Generally, all human activities and developmental projects are associated with environmental degradation in one form or the other with the attendant generation of wastes. Since the core objective of sustainable development goals implied a development which ensured maximization of human well-being for today's generation without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development, too often development is driven by one particular need, without fully considering the wider or future impacts. We are already seeing the damage this kind of approach can cause such as changes in global climate resulting from our dependence on fossil fuel and biomass based energy sources [12],[14]. Sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different and often competing needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society.

#### 2.1.1 Major environmental issues in Katsina State

Forest is one of the natural resources that are facing a serious threat in the world today.

Overexploitation of forest resources for fuel wood is increasing faster, to the extent that the future prospects for most forest in the world are open to question [12]. Conversely, well-managed forests provide climate change mitigation benefits over time through sequestering carbon, and thus reducing the amount of carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere. Over the years, the inhabitants of Katsina state are faced with challenges of high cost and poor distribution of kerosene and cooking gas, occasioned by the deregulation policies of the federal government. This situation coupled with erratic power supply has precipitated increased demand of fuel wood for household use. The consequences of this situation had accelerated deforestation in an already arid area with fragile ecological basis [15]. A study conducted by Silviconsult [16] on domestic energy use in Katsina state using four (4) energy sources i.e. fuelwood, Sorghum stalks (Kara), Kerosene and gas has showed that energy cost, low income and poverty forced majority of the people to use fuel- wood and sorghum stalk as their major household energy sources. Another study by Hassan [17] that analyzed the utilization level of household energy in Katsina metropolis reported households utilized different type of energy sources, fuel-wood, sorghum stalk, kerosene, sawdust, electricity and charcoal within the houses, and an average consumption of fuel-wood is higher at 1.5 kg as against electricity, 0.3kw/capita/day, kerosene, 0.14 litres, sorghum stalk and charcoal, 0.04 kg per day per capital. Furthermore, [18] revealed that the level of pollution created by commercial motorcycles in Katsina metropolis is very high and urgent attention need to be taken for environmental sustainability because vehicular air pollution contribute to global warming, atmospheric ozone depletion and acid rain.

### 2.2 Sustainable Development and Poverty

Sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today's population and to continue to meet the needs of future generations, this means that there is the urgent need reduce the global poor population and socio-technological limitations that narrows people's abilities for meeting the current and future needs.

#### 2.2.1 Major poverty issues in Katsina state

The general consensus in the literature is that poverty remains one of the most pressing

economic and social issues in Africa. Poverty remains widespread in Nigeria with a consistently increasing rate averaging 68 percent between 1980 and 2011, with the highest rate estimated at 69 percent in 2010 [19]. A study conducted by Kabuga and Adamu [20] revealed that there are poorer household than non-poorer households in Katsina State. The level of poverty in Katsina state is chronic, factors such as household size, lack of education and lack of non-farm jobs were among the causes of poverty in the state.

### **2.3 Sustainable Development and Health Care**

Human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and this is at the center of concern for sustainable development. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development set the world on the path of equitable health outcomes to play a key role. Three key issues were taken into cognizant, namely; universal health coverage, health in green economy and health as a measure of sustainable development. Health is an important measure in sustainable development. Health is a relevant indicator that provide a powerful means of managing across the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

#### **2.3.1 Major Health issues in Katsina state**

Katsina state is top most in teenage pregnancy in Nigeria with 65% of all cases recorded in Nigeria. The state with the population that is that is little above six million people has an annual birth rate of 249,000 with annual number of neo-natal death at 11,700. The annual number of under-five death at 54,000 children [21]. This confirmed the report of [4] which showed death as a result of meningitis and cholera for children between four years to twelve years in Katsina has remained a recurring decimal.

### **3. WHY KATSINA METROPOLIS?**

Katsina state is among the top list of the poorest states in Nigeria. Katsina metropolis is a city and local government area in northern Nigeria and it is the capital of Katsina state. Katsina Metropolis is the most populated city in Katsina State, with 12 political wards and projected population of 452,065 [22]. It shares boundary with four local governments areas namely; Rimi at the east, Batsari at the west, Batagarawa to the west and Kaita to the north between latitude 12.24°C N-

12.25°C degrees and longitude between 70.10°C west-70.12°C east. Like in most tropics, Katsina has two main seasons, the rainy and dry seasons. The rainy season mostly starts from the month of May each year and ends in September. The dry season normally starts from October, with dry cold harmatan and ends in February [23].

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

This study was based on the quantitative approach, using a survey method; namely, a structured Questionnaire to community beneficiaries of NGOs projects. The sample comprised community beneficiaries of the NGOs projects from five (5) selected political wards of twelve (12) in Katsina metropolis namely; Kangiwa, Gabas, Kudu, Arewa and Yamma from which 150 completed questionnaires were received. Data was also collected from personal interviews with NGO officials which include; the development officers and facilitators in five (5) selected NGO offices that operates within Katsina Metropolis which include; Save the Children, Service to Humanity Foundation, Murna Foundation, Katsina Friends of Environment and Makudawa Skills Acquisition. Ethical clearance was sought from Katsina Local Government Council Chairman and District Head of Katsina (Magajin Gari). The consent of the respondents was also sought, and they were assured that they have right of refusal to participate in the survey, and can withdraw at any point during the survey. They were told that all the information they provided is for the purpose of the study and it will be confidential. Frequency tables and chi-square analysis was used to present the results.

### **5. RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Demographics**

The respondents' demographic profile includes; age, gender, marital status and occupation. Table 1 shows 37% of the respondents aged 45& above, 33% aged between 35 and 44, 20% aged 25-34 and 10% aged 15-24.

According to Table 2, 75% of married respondents in all category have occupations. As noted in the table, civil servants constituted the highest percentage of the respondents (35%), followed by traders (30%), farmers (23%) and the lowest respondents were the company workers (12%). High participation of civil servants in the

**Table 1. Age and gender of the respondents**

Age	Sex		Total	Percentage
	Male Frequency	Female Frequency		
15-24	15	0	15	10
25-34	30	0	30	20
35-44	18	32	50	33
45&above	54	1	55	37
Total	117	33	150	
Percentage	78	22		100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

**Table 2. Marital status and occupation of the respondents**

Marital status	Occupation				Total	Percentage
	Civil servant	Farmer	Trader	Company worker		
Single	30	2	5	0	37	25
Married	23	33	40	17	113	75
Total	53	35	45	17	150	
Percentage	35	23	30	12		100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

study could be attributed to higher level of literacy, hence they give priority to the activities of NGOs.

In Table 3, respondents were asked to indicate whether they were aware of NGOs programs in their communities. 47% of the respondents have indicated that they were aware, whilst 22% have indicated that they were not aware and 31% have no idea. The findings showed that NGOs activities were to some extent being recognized in the area.

**Table 3. Awareness of NGOs programs**

Awareness of NGOs	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	47
No	33	22
No idea	47	31
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Respondents were asked to indicate whether NGOs are undertaking any sustainable development projects in their wards. Table 4 shows 52% of the respondents said they were aware of the health care services provided by NGOs, while 20% have indicated poverty alleviation, 15% training /skills acquisition and 13% environmental protection.

On the ways NGOs impacted on the community, Table 5 shows 46% of the respondents have indicated that NGOs have impacted on provision

of health facilities in their communities, whilst 34% said that NGOs have impacted on environmental protection, 17% have indicated that NGOs have impacted on youth empowerment, and only 3% have indicated women empowerment.

**Table 4. Community infrastructure**

Community infrastructure	Frequency	Percentage
Health care services	78	52
Poverty alleviation	30	20
Training & skills	22	15
Environmental protection	20	13
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

According to the result in Table 6, 65% of the respondents have indicated efficiency of the NGOs officials on sustainable development projects execution as satisfactory, and 35% of respondents considered the efficiency of the NGOs officials on sustainable development projects execution as very satisfactory. None of the respondents indicated that the efficiency of the NGOs officials is not satisfactory. Meaning that efficiency of NGOs officials has positive impact on the sustainable development projects execution.

### 5.2 Chi-square Test

This study adopted chi-square test of goodness of fit to test the hypotheses formulated on impact of efficiency of NGOs officials on sustainable development projects execution.

The value of Chi-square above is obtained from Chi-square distribution using 5% level of significance and 3 degree of freedom.

### 5.3 Interpretation

The result of chi-square test shows that the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected since (49.62668) is greater than chi-square tabulated (9.49) at 5% level of significance. Therefore, it could be concluded that efficiency of NGOs officials has significant impact on sustainable development projects execution in Katsina Metropolis, hence hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted.

**Table 5. Ways NGO impacts community**

Ways NGO impact community	Frequency	Percentage
Health Facilities	69	46
Environmental protection	51	34
Youth awareness	25	17
Women empowerment	5	3
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

**Table 6. Efficiency of NGO officials on sustainable development projects execution**

		NGO and sustainable development Projects				
		Satisfactory	Very Satisfactorily	Not Satisfied	Total	Percent
Efficiency of NGOs officials	Very good	66	2	0	68	45
	Good	4	43	0	47	31
	Moderate	15	7	0	22	15
	No idea	12	1	0	13	09
Total		97	53	0	150	
Percentage		65	35	0		100

Source: Field Survey, 2013

**Table 7. Observed and expected frequencies on efficiency of NGOs officials on sustainable development projects execution**

Response	Observed frequency ( $O_i$ )	Expected frequency ( $E_i$ )
Very good	68	37.7
Good	47	37.5
Moderate	22	37.5
No idea	13	37.5
Total	150	150

Source: Field Survey, 2013

**Notes:**

- i. The observed frequency ( $O_i$ ) are from the responses of the respondents regarding the impact of NGOs officials on sustainable development projects execution.
- ii. While the expected frequencies ( $E_i$ ) are obtained using the formula below.

$$E_i = \frac{\text{Total frequencies}}{\text{Number of observations}}$$

Where  $E_i = \frac{150}{4}$  then  $E_i = 37.5$

**Table 8. Computation for chi square statistics**

$O_i$	$E_i$	$O_i - E_i$	$(O_i - E_i)^2$	$\frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$
68	37.5	30.5	930.25	24.80667
47	37.5	9.5	90.25	2.40667
22	37.5	-15.5	240.25	6.40667
13	37.5	-24.5	600.25	16.00667
Total				49.62668

Sources: Researcher's computation (2013)

**Note:**

The theoretical Chi-square ( $X^2_{tab}$ ) depends on:

- i. Degree of freedom (d.f) = (R-1) (C-1)  
Where R = 4, C = 2  
Therefore df = (4-1) (2-1) = 3×1 = 3
- ii. At 5% level of significance  
 $\alpha = 0.05$  (a one tail-test)  
Thus  $X^2_{0.05} = 9.49$

**6. DISCUSSION**

From the above findings, it can be concluded that NGOs have impact on sustainable development projects in the study area, and efficiency of NGOs officials has impact on sustainable development projects execution. It was empirically verified by this study that despite the challenges facing NGOs, they rendered services covering environmental protection, poverty alleviation and health care, and these services forms part of sustainable development goals. However, sustainable development in Katsina metropolis would continue to remain negative and condition of living would worsen as long as attitudes of people, particularly women are not participating in the NGOs activities, and government remains uncooperative to NGOs and unresponsive to people demand and needs. Furthermore, the study notes that the relationship between NGOs and government is essentially the same, both institutions are supposedly aimed at strategic development of human needs [24]. By contrast, [1] only assessed the role of NGOs on human development. Also [10] analyzed the role of NGOs on development process and [11] studied the role of NGOs on rural development. These studies felt short of analyzing the role of NGOs in sustainable development that seeks to balance between environmental concerns and development objectives, while simultaneously enhancing local social relationships.

**7. CONCLUSION**

This article intended to establish whether NGOs have any impact on sustainable development in some selected communities of Katsina metropolis. The study found that 46% of the respondents have indicated that NGOs have impacted on health care service, 34% on environmental protection, and 17% on poverty alleviation, and efficiency of NGOs officials has impact on sustainable development projects execution. However, the participation of women is very low only 22%. Also, in the course of this study it was discovered that the NGOs in Katsina metropolis have gone a long way in complementing the activities/programs of government in various ways which in no small amount facilitated towards making life better for the communities. The involvement of people in the NGOs programs that dealt with health care, environmental protection and poverty alleviation were perceived to be one of the best practices of sustainable development in the area.

**COMPETING INTERESTS**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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*Peer-review history:*  
*The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:*  
<http://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/51553>