CONTRIBUTION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TOWARDS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Presently, Nigeria is extremely encountering social development challenges, the activities of armed grouped jeopardize the lives of the millions, northwest gangs of so-called bandit, Northeast there has been attack by the Islamic state of west Africa province(ISWAP) middle belt communal conflict in middle belt. There are total numbers of 1,190,293 internally displaced persons in 191,688 households across the states in the north central and northwest. Nigeria is globally recognized as one of country with highest rate of maternal mortality rate in the world, attributable to inadequate and unequitable access to maternal health care, poor rehabilitative services to disable person more especially mentally ill-patients. Old peoples 'abuse, gender related problems, higher rate of inflation due to removal of oil subsidy, multidimensional poverty and economic inequality, lack of access to food and other necessities of life (i.e. food, water, shelter, clothes, transport, education, health care, sanitation without functional social protection system, therefore this research has found that non-governmental organizations have significance roles to play in bridging social development gaps in Nigeria through advocacy and awareness, capacity building, community development, humanitarian assistance, policy research and advocacy, environmental conservation, cross-sectoral, social entrepreneurships and empowerment of marginalized group .inconclusively the study has recommended that relevant pluralistic stakeholders should support the efforts of NGOS for achieving sustainable social development in Nigeria, secondary method of data collection has been used in the research.

KEYWORDS: Social Development, Non-Governmental Organisations, Development

INTROUCTION

Concept of social development

The concept of social development has emerged as a result of the inability of economic development models to generate social change and social factors for improving the welfare of the people. The industrial revolution in the world had produced immense economic growth for both the developed countries as well as the developing countries.

The level of economic development have risen to remarkable leve1.it has led to improvements in social indicators such as infant mortality, maternal mortality, institutional deliveries, etc. as compared to the social development indicators of 19th century people have better education, access to health care, sanitation and clean drinking.

But, in the middle of high economic development economic growth and social progress, there is persistence of poverty, suffering, death and disease, in many countries economic development has not been accompanied by reasonable degree of social progress .this has led to distorted development even after high levels of development. Even after high levels of

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development, distorted development has persisted in both developing as well as developed countries. This has led to the emergence of the concept of social development, which is defined as an approach for promoting social welfare and social well-being. (Sharma, tushar Shukla, Rashaan Kumar, 2019)

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

The contemporary social problem that affecting Nigeria is related with government negligence to social development sector in past development planning, according to .it has been noted that, in the past, development planning in Nigeria has not given adequate emphasis to social development considerations and that this neglect has created on areas exacerbated many social problems which have, over the years become more and more chronic which now pose a definite threat to the socio-economic orientation, welfare of the people and the security of the nation. Among such problems are urban unemployment, urban congestion, rural stagnation, food shortages, and hyperinflation, gross economic inequalities, poverty, and destitution, youth Disorientation, deterioration of the physical environment, low productivity, under-production in all sectors of the economy, and insecurity among the people. (Idris, 2012) Presently, Nigeria is extremely encountering social development challenges, the activities of armed grouped jeopardize the lives of the millions, northwest gangs of so-called bandit, Northeast there has been attack by the Islamic state of west Africa province(ISWAP) middle belt communal conflict in middle belt. There are total numbers of 1,190,293 internally displaced persons in 191,688 households across the 8states in the north central and northwest. Nigeria is globally recognized as one of country with highest rate of maternal mortality rate in the world, attributable to inadequate and unequitable access to maternal health care, poor rehabilitative services to disable person more especially mentally ill-patients. Old peoples 'abuse, gender related problems, higher rate of inflation due to removal of oil subsidy, multidimensional poverty and economic inequality, lack of access to food and other necessities of life(i.e. food, water, shelter, clothes, transport, education, health care, sanitation)without functional social protection system(human rights watch,2024)

RESEARCH QUESITION

What are roles of Non-governmental organizations towards achieving social development?

What are the multifaceted programs initiating by NGOs in social development sectors?

Is participation of NGOs indispensable to social development in Nigeria?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has the following objectives

- To examine the roles of NGOs towards social development

- To explore the multifaceted social development programmes initiating by NGOs

- To examine relevance of NGOs in the addressing contemporary social development challenges in Nigeria

METHODOLOGY

The method of data collection for this study is secondary sources, such as data collected from various international organisations such as united nations international children`s emergency fund(UNICEF) as well as library archive, journals etc

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Social development

Social development is the process of continuous improvement of social structure, institutions and programmes in order to create a social condition in which the rights of citizens are advanced and protected; welfare enhanced; and effective functioning and self-actualisation ensured. (NSDP, 1989).

Non-government organisations

United Nations development programs defines NGOs

Any non-profit, voluntary citizen`s group which is organized on a local, national or international, task – oriented and driven by people within a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizen`s concern to government monitor policies and encourage political participation at the community level. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanism and help monitor and implement international agreements, some are organized around specific issues such as human rights, the environment or health (UNDP, 2003)

RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW

Social development is the process of planned institutional change to bring about better adjustment between human needs and aspiration on the other hand and social policies and programs on the other (Ahuja,1993)it encompasses a wide range of issues-social and economic equality, universal education, health and food security ,provision of housing and sanitation condition, safe guiding environment ,upliftment of weaker section of society, redistribution of wealth, moral development etc. all these may be regarded as indication of social development (Raulat,HK 2013)

Social development is used to mean difference Things. It is often associated with community-based projects in the developing countries such as microenterprises, women's groups,
Cooperative, maternal and Child welfare programmes, the provision of safe drinking water and the construction of schools and clinics, it also refers to government policies
And programmes concerned with the 'social aspect' of development, such as reducing

Poverty, increasing literacy, combating malnutrition and improving access to health and education (midgley, '/1999)

Although the United Nations and most other international development agencies use the term social development, the UNDP prefers the term human development. This is often regarded as a synonyms for social development but a closer reading of the organisation's definition reveals an emphasis on Individual choice and responsibility (UNDP, 1990) which is not emphasised by the other agencies. The UNDP's definition is contained in the first of a series of Influential reports published in 1990 that reflect a preference for interventions that
Focus on Individual households which, the organisation points out, can make rational decisions to enhance their own well-being. As the report puts it, Human development is a process of promoting freedom by 'enlarging people's choices' (1990, p. 3).

 This definition of social development is based on Sen's (1985, 1999) writings and may be contrasted with that of Myrdal and Seers, Who propose a much more proactive role for governments. Although the UNDP recognises the need for investments such as education, access to credit and other supports, it avoids the problem of structural inequality and the need for public social investments that are explicitly redistributive. As Nussbaum (2011) points out, the 'human development' approach is concerned with fostering capabilities among individuals so that they can choose what they want to do and be.

Sociologists have used the Term to describe a process of 'guided' social change that improves society while some social workers have linked social development to community based projects Some have also invoked abstract ideals to characterise the field   .
 It has also been used in social policy to refer to social improvements Brought about by government 'welfare state' initiatives and it also characterises recent discussions among social policy writers on what is called welfare developmentalism
Omer (1979, p. 15) social development as a process that bring about 'an integrated, balanced and unified social and economic development of society, and one that gives expression to the values of human dignity, equality and social justice'. She goes on to say that social development seeks 'To create humanistic societies committed to achieving peace in the world and progress for all people' (p. 16).
 AspalterAnd Singh's (2008, p. 2) social development as planned and directed Change that 'enables people to achieve greater happiness, satisfaction and a peaceful life"
Social development includes improvement in the quality of life of people……….a more equitable distribution of resources……..broad-based participation ……in the process of decision making; and special measures that will enable marginal groups and communities to move into mainstream. (Pandey, 1981)
Social development has two interrelated dimension; the first is capacity of people to work continuously for their welfare and that of society; the second is alteration or development of society`s institutions so that human needs are met at all levels, especially at the lowest level,

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through a process of improving the relationships between people and social economic institutions (paiva, 1982)

Social development is the process of planned change designed to bring about a between fit between human needs and social policies and programs (Hollister, 1982)

Social development implies evolution and transformation through which people and societies maximise their opportunities, and become empowered to handle their affairs. (Mohan and Sharma, 1985)

The terms social development can refers to: improvement in the welfare and quality of life of individuals; or changes in societies in their norms and institutions that make development more equitable and inclusive for all members of a society. (Davis, 2004)

DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The levels of industrialization in past 200 years have led to enormous increase in productivity and growth of economies on one hand economic growth has resulted in large scale production of goods, more choices for consumer, higher standards of living, better opportunities and health indicators whereas on the other hand it has created inequalities, poverty, further health challenges, epidemics, disasters, pollution, waste, etc. the levels of social welfare have improved significantly as compared to the condition of the medieval era.

People have higher standards of living, better economic opportunities but these gains have still not reached each and every one as goals of social welfare for all as has not yet achieved. Social achievement have thus been mixed due to mixed due to both the positive gains as the negative externalities   of developmental process.

According to madam (2017) the dimensions of social development can be summed up as follows;

1.   Fulfilment of the basic needs of food, clothing and housing of common people,

2.   Provision of nutritious food, pollution free environment, medical facilities to
     Maintain he high standard of physical and mental health of the people,

3. Provision   Adequate opportunities for employment on the basis of high standard of living,
     Skills and capability not on basis of caste, race, religion or community.

4. Spread of Education which includes scientific education, vocational and moral education
     By which creativity, research, discoveries and inventions are possible,

5. Basic amenities Like pure water, electricity, transport and communication available to
    all   the people

6.   Provision of basic facilities to the backward sections of society like Exploited castes,
     farmers, women, children, aged and disable
.

7. To make conscious efforts to remove all social,   Economic and political hurdles to facilitate social change

8. To reduce foreign help and become independent. To maintain and self-respect, Pride and national identity of nation.

9. To maintain and self-respect, pride and national identity of the nation

ROLES OF NGOS TOWARDS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

It is increasingly recognized that development success depends not only on a vibrant private sector and an efficient public sector but on a vigorous citizens sector as well, relying on the former sectors alone has been compared to trying to sit on a two-legged stool. Organization of the citizens sector are usually term NGOs in the development context but are also referred to as nonprofit, voluntary, independent, civil society or citizens organization.

There are also numerous classification of NGOs. The typology of World Bank uses divides them into operational and advocacy:

Operational

Operational NGOs organize funds, supplies, and volunteers to launch regional initiatives in an effort to "achieve small-scale change directly through projects" To collect money for initiatives, they may apply for grants or contracts from governments and organizations, as well as host sizable fundraising events. Operational NGOs frequently have a hierarchical organizational structure. Professionals who plan programs, make budgets, maintain accounts, and report to and interact with operational fieldworkers on projects are employed in their headquarters. They are most frequently connected to public welfare, emergency relief, environmental challenges, and service delivery. Operational NGOs can be further classified as public or private, service-delivery or participation, religious or secular, and relief or development groups. While many operational NGOs are national or worldwide, some may have a community focus. The characteristic action of an operational NGOs is the implementation of projects. (Sharma, P.N 2013)

Advocacy

Advocacy NGOs or "Achieve large-scale change promoted indirectly through the influence of the political system" is the goal of campaigning NGOs. They need a vibrant, effective team of professionals who can enlighten and inspire fans. The defining activity of campaigning NGOs is organizing and conducting media-attracting demonstrations and events. Campaigning NGOs' main goal is to defend (or advance) a particular cause, and they frequently work on topics pertaining to women's rights, children's rights, and human rights.

There is no denying the importance of non-governmental organizations in social progress. By tackling important problems, empowering communities, and promoting just societies, these

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organizations serve as change agents. NGOs play a major role in creating a society that is more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable through establishing partnerships, encouraging transparency, and utilizing innovation. To reach their full potential, they will need to overcome obstacles and keep changing their strategies to fit the demands of a changing society. As time goes on, NGOs' work continues to be essential to attaining significant and long-lasting social improvement.

In the contemporary world characterized by fast change and ever-escalating societal difficulties, the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in social development has assumed a critical significance. NGOs are important in tackling a variety of concerns, such as healthcare, education, and environmental preservation, as well as poverty alleviation. Their capacity to create connections, push for reform, and put creative ideas into practice has made them important players in the global promotion of social progress.

The lives of those impacted by natural catastrophes or dealing with other difficulties are greatly improved by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs can help persons in need by acting as partners, implementers, and catalysts in the delivery of necessary products and services. They strive to deploy human and financial resources to guarantee prompt and efficient delivery of relief. NGOs are also essential in bringing about change since they support laws and procedures that help underprivileged groups of people. They frequently collaborate with other businesses, including governmental institutions, to tackle difficult problems that call for teamwork. (Johnson, 2017)The capacity of NGOs to operate locally and establish direct connections with communities is one of their main advantages. As a result, they are better able to comprehend the problems that people face and customize their services to fit the unique requirements of each community.

NGOs pursue a number of activities to remove sufferings, promote the interest of poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, undertake community development and promote human rights. They vary in their methods. While some act primarily as lobbyists others conduct primarily programmes and activities (Agarwal, 2022)

NGOs operate in different ways. While some focus mostly on lobbying, others run programs and initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, giving the poor the tools and resources they need to access food and clean water, or even helping victims of violations of human rights receive legal support. Offer specialized technical goods and services to assist other organizations' on-the-ground development initiatives. Project success is largely dependent on management strategies. (Mathew,R.2020)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are essential to social development because they tackle a range of environmental, social, and economic problems at the local level. NGOs play the following important roles in promoting social development:

1. Services and support, such as clean water, sanitary conditions, education, healthcare, and possibilities for employment. NGOs contribute to the betterment of people's lives and communities by providing these services.

2. Advocacy and Awareness: development should be perceived as a multidimensional process involving the re-organisation and reorientation of entire economic and social system….it

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involves radical changes in institutional, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes and even customs and belief (Todoro,1997) Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work to promote awareness of social injustices, environmental issues, and human rights violations while fighting for the rights and interests of underprivileged communities and groups. NGOs fight to sway legislators in favour of good change by organizing public campaigns, lobbying activities, and public education programs.

3. Capacity Building: social development is focussed not only on the well-being of individuals, but more frequently than not on the achievement of achievement of the well-being and fullest possible human realisation of the potentials of individuals, groups, communities, and masses of people (Billups, 1994, from Lowe, 1995)   By offering technical support, skill development programs, and training, NGOs help local communities, organizations, and individuals become more capable. By strengthening local institutions, empowering communities to take care of their own needs, and increasing their resilience to social and economic difficulties, these capacity-building programs help communities grow.

4. Community Development: process of planned social change designed to promote the well-being of the whole population as whole within the context of a dynamics multifaceted development process (midgley, 2014)Non-profit organizations (NGOs) support community-driven development programs that enable local communities to decide on priorities, devise plans of action, and carry out projects that are suited to their particular requirements. NGOs build social cohesion among communities and promote sustainable development by encouraging community ownership and engagement.

5. Humanitarian Assistance: social development is planned comprehensive social change designed to improve people's general welfare. (Barker, 2003) NGOs offer food assistance, shelter, medical treatment, and psychosocial support to impacted populations during times of crises and emergencies. In order to lessen suffering and save lives during natural disasters, wars, and other humanitarian emergencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are essential.

6. Social Entrepreneurship: it is recognised that social development is inconclusive of economic development but differs from it in the sense that it emphasises the development of the totality of society in its economic, political and, social aspect (gore, 1973) to address social and environmental issues while producing long-term revenue, several NGOs participate in social entrepreneurship projects. These initiatives use creative business structures. These social enterprises support economic empowerment, generate job opportunities, and advance social development goals.

7. Policy Research and Advocacy: To support development planning and evidence-based policymaking, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) carry out research, data collection, and analysis. Organizations that support social justice, equality, and sustainable development contribute to the creation of laws, rules, and regulations through the production of research reports, policy papers, and advocacy materials.

8. Environmental Conservation: To address problems like climate change, deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss, many NGOs concentrate on environmental conservation and sustainable resource management programs. NGOs seek to save natural ecosystems and

advance ecological sustainability through community-based initiatives, lobbying campaigns, and conservation projects.

9. Empowerment of Marginalized Groups: To maximize chances and gain the ability to manage their own affairs, individuals and societies must evolve and alter through social development (Mohan and Sharma, 1982).
By fighting for their rights, giving access to opportunities and resources, and encouraging inclusive participation in decision-making processes, NGOs empower marginalized groups like women, children, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and LGBTQ+ people.

10. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration: To accomplish shared objectives and optimize impact, NGOs frequently work with corporations, governments, educational institutions, and other stakeholders. These collaborations make better use of complementary skills, resources, and talents to tackle difficult social development issues. (Sharma, 2013)

Conclusion

Governments, for the most part, have not been able to adequately address and provide the socioeconomic quests and demands of their people. This failure by governments is what is attributed to the rapid emergence of NGOs over the years. The important complementary and supplementary role played by NGOs   in the social development of countries is of a great significance and its importance cannot be dismissed. NGOs work to improve the social and economic conditions of the poor, the marginalized and disadvantaged through the various programs and projects which they roll out. These programs empower the beneficiaries by empowering them to become economically independent and improve their standards of living. Therefore for achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria all relevant pluralistic social development stakeholders should cooperatively support the effort of NGOs this would effectively accelerate to minimising social development challenges in Nigeria.

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