

Factors Militating Against Community Development in Yobe State.

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Abstract

This research examined the factors militating against community development in Geidam Local Government, Yobe State. The research design for this study was quantitative approached. The population of this study was people of Geidam Local Government (108,997). Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination was used to get (384) as sampled for the study. Simple random sampling was employed in getting the respondents of this research. Questionnaire was the major instrument for data collection in the study. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the collected data in which the results were presented in tables and Histogram for easy interpretations. The findings revealed that there were relationship between poverty and community development, relationship between portable water and community development and also positive relationship between inaccessibility to loan facilities and community development. On the factor that predict underdevelopment in the communities the results shows that poverty was the greatest factor. Therefore, based on the findings of this research it is recommended that government should provide Agricultural Credit Loan scheme to farmers in order to enhance their agricultural production which will help in sustaining their living as well as that of the urban populace. There should be effective participation of rural dwellers in the planning and developmental decision making process in order to achieve a sustainable development in the community. The governments should also live up to their responsibility in helping to develop the rural areas because majority of Nigerian population reside in the rural areas.

Keywords: Community development, Poverty, Inaccessibility to loan facilities, Geidam

Date of Submission: 08-05-2021

Date of Acceptance: 23-05-2021

I. INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, the rural areas are not progressing in line with urban areas or metropolitan states in term of having sustainable development like good road, electricity, good telecommunication, transportation, good water supply, standard market and health centers, improved housing as well as improved agricultural and storage facilities that would help in sustaining the rural masses. McKnight, (1995) defined the term rural development as the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of the rural people. According to Ihumodu, (2003), rural development is the process of economic and social progress aimed at eradicating poverty among rural populace through provision of life and satisfying the basic needs of the people. Eradicating poverty among rural people demands appropriate skills. Rural people are endowed with quantum of knowledge and traditional skills, but at their primitive levels, that needs development to fit in properly with the modern trends of thing (Stall &Stoecker, 1998). This can be achieved through capacity building programs. Capacity building is the process of developing skill, ability and faculties individually and collectively, that is vital in comprehending rural development and its roles in ameliorating rural poverty, ignorance, low human skill and literacy (Castelloe, 2002). All these are done to sustain the development of rural setting. Sustainable development vector i.e. elements of desirable social objectives or attributes which societies seek to achieve through conserving natural resources (Pearce &Barbier, 1999). Most rural societies are not able to achieve development because they lack the basic resources that would bring development or they are not able to harness and utilize the existing resources that would enable them develop their society (Robinovitch, 2017). In Nigeria, this has been serious social issue in recent time. Socioeconomically, infrastructure and basic amenities like good road, portable water supply, electricity, health centers, markets, transportation, telecommunication, sports centers etc. affect development. This is true because, when all these essential things are lacking, development can hardly come or occur. Other important factors are illiteracy, ignorance and poverty. On the other hand, government neglect can also affect developmental process that will take place in the rural areas. Culturally, belief system of the rural

people bridge development, for example, they find it difficult to release a particular land for development due to the belief that it is on that land sacrifices are being made for the gods of their land, secondly they find it difficult to release a particular land for development to avoid the destruction of their aesthetic values like trees and other things that bring about the beauty of their area. Another cultural factor is on land tenure system (ownership of land). This implies that some land owners in the rural areas do not like releasing or letting go of their land for building of factories, schools, market, churches, health centers etc. by the government or even private individuals who are capable of doing so. By so doing, development is swept under the carpet. Fear of terror and labelling are another vital cultural factor which affect development, for example, an individual who is financially capable can withdraw his intention to develop a particular rural area due to the fear of getting him killed by armed robber and evil men or being labelled as fraudster or a rituals. Rural development is a multidimensional and comprehensive concept; it encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities and above all, in rural areas. As a phenomenon, rural development is the end result of interactions between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural and institutional factors (Isife, 1998).

According to Igbokwe (2000), rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social wellbeing of a specific group of people, i.e., the rural poor. As a discipline, it is multi-disciplinary in nature, representing an intersection of agriculture, social, behavioral, engineering and management sciences (Kata, 1999). Problems of rural areas could come as a result of the already stated factors, most importantly, on the area of deliberate neglect of the rural areas by the government. Prelleltensky (2004), stated that rural development problems come as a result of governmental deliberate neglect or inability of the rural community to welcome development due to their cultural belief system etc. According to rural development strategies 2002, through rural development strategies, efforts of the people and that of the government are brought together to improve the economic social and cultural conditions of the rural areas, so as to integrate them into the life of the nation and allow them to enable their people contribute more to national growth. Fakoya, (1984) on the other hand stated that rural development strategies created an avenue for rural people to organize themselves for a planning actions, define their common individual plans to meet the needs of the community and solve their problems, execute these plans with maximum reliance upon community resources and supplement these resources when necessary with services and materials from government and non-governmental agencies outside their communities. The study therefore, will try to investigate some of the socio-economic and cultural factors (lack of portable water, poverty, inaccessibility to loan and credit facilities and cultural belief) militating against rural development in Yunusari, Geidam, Dapchi, Tarmuwa, Gulani and Gujba communities of Yobe State. So, the issue of rural development is very challenging, considering that more than 70 percent of Nigerian population live in the rural areas, where they cultivate the soil to make a living. Looking at this poverty level it therefore becomes a social problem that demands urgent solution.

Research Question

The study was guided by the following research questions;

1. Is there any relationship between poverty and rural development in Geidam, communities of Yobe State?
2. Is there any relationship between lack of portable water and rural development in Geidam, communities of Yobe State?
3. Can inaccessibility to loan and credit facilities militates against rural development of Geidam, communities of Yobe State?
4. Which of the factors militate against rural development of Geidam, communities of Yobe State.?

Empirical Studies

Williams (1995) sees rural development as improving the standard of living of the mass, low income population residing in rural areas and making the processes of their development self-sustaining. He also sees rural development from the point of view of mass participation, equitable distribution of resources and development of appropriate skills. Umalele equally sees rural development as an effort towards improving the standard of living of the rural people. According to Tsauni (1957), rural development would be implemented through a comparative organization which would find its strength in the traditional egalitarian values, which some ardently maintained were the continuing basic of village life. Tsauni argues that rural development should deal with the traditionalistic models and egalitarian values of the rural populace; hence Tsauni sees rural development as a deliberate effort towards improving the value-system of the rural community.

Roger (1976) view of rural development recognized that improved food supplies and nutrition together with basic services, such as health and education not only directly improve the physical well-being and quality of life of the rural poor, but can also indirectly enhance their productivity and their ability to contribute to the national economy. Roger argument is that as rural development take place through the provision of amenities and improvement of the nutritional value of rural food consumption; it improves the quality of life of the rural

people, hence, making them productive and capable of contributing to national economy. Ezeah (2005) sees rural development as that part of development that seeks to enhance the quality of life in the rural area by providing basic infrastructural facilities. To him, rural development seeks to transform the rural areas in such a way that the rural population can develop their innate potentials for sustainable development. According to him, realization of their goals has been a mirage for the whole period of political independence in Africa. The failure has been greatly attributed to the strategies adopted at different times in our national development. Watson (1985) are of the opinion that rural development will become meaningful only when sponsored by international agencies such as the International Banks for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), or United Nations, etc. They are opposed to public ownership of land, the most fundamental means of production and therefore call for land reforms as a necessary prerequisite for effective agricultural and rural development. Ghai, Azizur, Lee, & Radwan (1985) in their opinion said that the problem is much wider, one of developing appropriate organization and institutions induce members of the rural society to greater productive effort, to help them overcome the constraints in the way of utilizing available resources and to enable them to contribute to the result of their effort equitably among themselves. They are suggesting that it is not just enhancing productivity in the rural areas that matters, but they are contending that there should be a body of organization which should be entrusted with ensuring that the results of rural productivity will be directed towards yielding them qualitative environment. Kortan (2005) in his work which envisaged planned changes in the traditional society, psychological problems of modernization in Ethiopia lamented that lack of success in achieving desired rural development progress is often due to barriers posed by our inability to overcome patterns of human behaviour inappropriate to modern needs. He maintained that it is imperative to discover the patterns of traditional behaviour that are absolute to modern industrial society and to attempt to change them through education and occupational training. Emphasis here is on factors that can be effective and accelerate social and economic rural development.

According to Briddle (1990) writing on the process of change and development argues that, meaningful structural changes cannot occur in the rural areas unless there has been inward transformation. That is a change of attitude and willingness among the people to embrace change". That is to say that any external change in people's social lives and relationships enable them to overcome traditional resistance to development. According to Ezeah (2005), writing on the factors militating against rural development efforts in Nigeria, asserts that one important reason for the limited impact of rural development in Nigeria is the conceptualization of development that aides such activity. According to Okonjo (1991) until the end of 1960, development planning in Nigeria is strongly influenced by models of development derived from the experiences of the western industrialized nations. These models which turn out to be the first set of colonial heritage stressed capital intensive technology imported from the developed countries. The model featured centralized planning and regarded the causes of underdevelopment as being with the developing nations.

Uba (1994), in his book "Local Government as a Third Tier of Government" argued that local government has performed below expectation in rural development in spite of the great optimism that ushered in the new local government system in 1976. He attributed the poor performance of local government in Nigeria to the country's development strategy which has been urban oriented. He said that the colonial image of local government as an instrument of exploitation has continued to persist in Nigeria and this is manifested by inability of local government to improve the living standard of the people in rural areas. Olatumbosun (2001) asserts that rural sectors has been economically backward since the colonial days. Nigeria rural sector is not only economically backward, the gap between it and the urban has also been widening in recent years in spite of potential strength achieved through political independence. The set of development policies pursued by Nigerians who took control of government from the colonial administrators continued to resemble in many ways those of the colonialism. Consequently, the living conditions of the rural people have remained virtually unaffected by development efforts. Foster, (1962) point out that the idea of holding tight to all ways of doing things hinders the chances of learning new innovation from nearby towns. The issue of land Ownership or land tenure system poses some problem. Land is fragmented on individual basis. This as a matter of fact brings problem because nobody would want give out his land for the building of social facilities like hospitals, schools etc. It is very difficult to buy land in the communities, for example, various lands given out erection of churches, schools and hospitals, the owners are regretting. Another factor is the lack of financial base to back the already targeted project. The rural area faced with poverty. There is unavailability of industries that would easily employ youths, making large number of people to migrate to urban areas.

The issues of problems affecting rural development cannot be overemphasize. Because, we have thousands of articles and books on problems of rural development written by different scholars that can guide our focus variables. Example, Ijere, (1990), in his study noted that 85% of our rural areas are characterized by general malnutrition, prolonged exploitation, neglects, marginalization and lacking enough purchasing power to maintain a minimum standard of living. Nwobi (2007) also noted that 70% of the problems suffered by or affecting rural developments is the impact of urbanization, the emergence of domination group and their

doctrines, chieftaincy tussle and present economic demands. According to him, rural urban migration has caused tremendous problem in our rural areas today, more especially tour rural area agriculture, and caring for the aged. Rural urban migration is a type of movement, which describes the rapid influence of young men and women from the village to the cities or towns, thus depleting the population capacity especially in the area of agriculture since old men and women who are left behind to work in the farms are not physically able to work and produce enough food for the country's teeming population. Nwobi (2007) in her study of rural development noted that the major characteristics of rural problems are as follows; identity, dignity, respect, honor or recognition. This quality of life is completely absent in the rural areas. Nwobi emphasized that 80% of what the government does in the rural areas does not even touch the area of increasing or making high their low self-esteem. What they mostly thought of doing in the rural areas is just to make up their infrastructural development which they find difficult sometimes. She further stated that government has not paid good attention on how to liberate rural areas from this bondage. Efforts have not been made on rural development programs to suppress these problems so that the standard of living of the rural dwellers will be improved in such a way that development will take place totally.

Theoretical Framework

This research will adopt the functionalist theory. Functionalists view the society as a system which are inter connected, which also work together to form a whole. Functionalism is on the notion that no part of the society can live or survive in isolation from each other. Based on this point, to have a perfect functionary society, all the systems must work mutually in order to achieve a perfect goal. In determining the functions of various part of the social structure, functionalists are guided by the following ideas: (1) Societies have certain basic needs or requirements which must be met if they are to survive. These requirements are sometimes known as functional prerequisites. (2) Society is viewed as a system- an entity made up of interconnected and interrelated parts, with a tendency toward equilibrium. Each part will in some way affect every other part and the system as a whole; and if the system is to survive, its various parts must have some degree of fit or compatibility. For an effective rural development, there must be collective efforts of the government and the rural members of the community. This means that the government should provide their own quota in the development of the rural communities by ensuring that all the basic social amenities are kept in place while the rural people on their part will welcome as well as harness the development brought to them. This mutual understanding will help in effective growth of the rural areas. With the idea of functionalist theory, the problems of rural development will reduce when there is an integrated and collective effort of the government and the rural people.

II. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive research design was adopted by the researchers because it is a method of gathering data from large sample of people relatively quickly and cheap (Ary, et al., 2010). So, the population of this study was (108,997) which were men and women of communities of Balle, Damakarwa, Gumsa, Borko, Futchimiram, Kolori and Kellori communities all under Geidam local government are, Yobe State. To calculate a sample size of the study, statistical apparatuses and equations of Krejcie & Morgan (1970) sample size determination table was used in which based on the Krejcie & Morgan table in a population of 108, 997 the sampled size was (384). Consequently, simple random sampling technique was used in getting the respondents because it gives all the members of the population an equal chance of being drawn during each selection round (Kanupriya, 2012). Questionnaire was used as the major instrument for data collection. The use of questionnaire is appropriate in research because it can reach many respondents within short period of time, it offers a sense of confidentiality and sufficient time for the respondents to answer the questions and finally, it is an objective in method compare to interview (Owens, 2002). Finally, descriptive statistics was applied for the data analyses.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bio-data of the respondents

| GENDER | Frequency | Percentage % |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Male | 287 | 74.74 |
| Female | 97 | 25.26 |
| Total | 384 | 100 |

The above table 4.1 shows that majority of the respondents of this study were male (74.74%) while female were (25.260%). This may be attributed to the culture and religion of the people which not allowing married women to be participating in societal issues that are not related to her husband or family.

Table 4.2 Respondent age

| Age | Frequency | Percentage % |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 20-29 | 64 | 16.67 |
| 30-39 | 106 | 27.60 |
| 40-49 | 137 | 35.68 |
| 50-59 | 68 | 17.71 |
| 60 & Above | 9 | 2.34 |
| Total | 384 | 100 |

In the table 4.2 indicates that age bracket 40-49 are the highest with (35.68%), 30-39 age bracket with (27.60%), 50-59 years category with (17.71%), 20-29 age bracket with (16.67%) and only (2.34%) within the age category of 60years and above.

Section B: Factors militating against community development in Geidam Communities

Table 4.3: Respondents views on relationship between poverty and community development (n=384)

| Variables | Frequency | Percentage % |
|---|------------|--------------|
| Can poverty hinder community development in your community? | | |
| Yes | 324 | 84.38 |
| No | 60 | 15.62 |
| Total | 384 | 100 |

The Table 4.3 above indicates that majority of the respondents (84.38%) agreed that poverty can hinder community development because based on their responses with poverty nothing can be achieved even the farming cannot be possible which is their major business while (15.62%) have a contrary views.

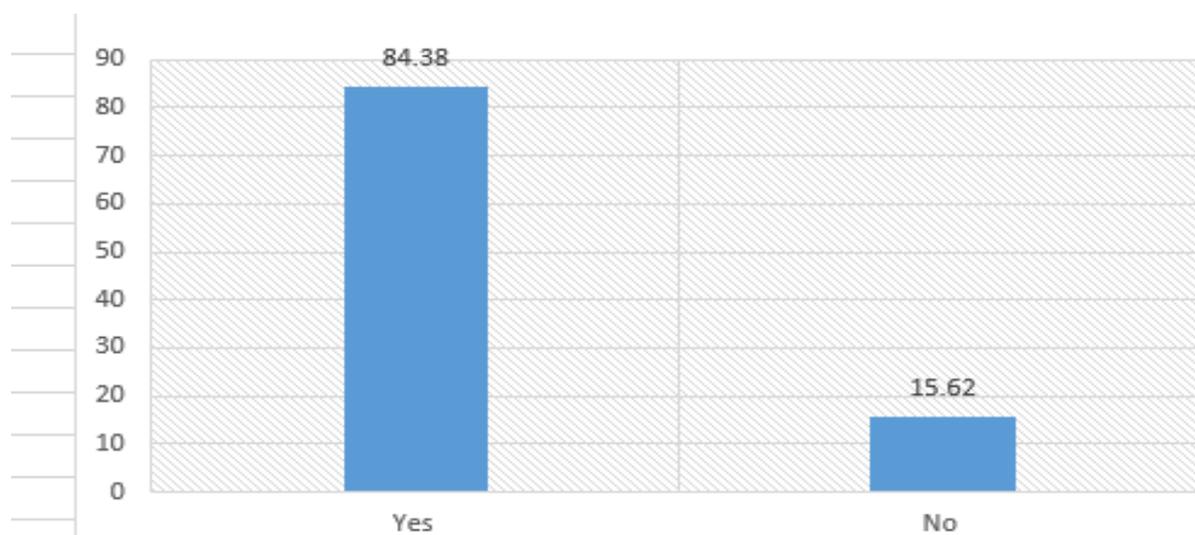


Figure 4.1 Above Displays the Distribution of Respondents view on the Relationship between Poverty and Community Development.

Table 4.4: Respondents views on relationship between portable water and community development (n=384)

| Statement | Frequency | Percentage % |
|---|------------|--------------|
| Tracking to 3-5 kilometers before get water | 46 | 11.98 |
| No borehole in the entire community | 5 | 1.30 |
| Only one borehole in the community | 187 | 48.67 |
| Only wells are the source of water in the community | 75 | 19.53 |
| Many boreholes in the community | 48 | 12.5 |
| The source of water of the community has spoiled | 23 | 5.99 |
| Total | 384 | 100 |

Table 4.7 above revealed that most of the communities (48.67%) have one borehole in their communities which cannot be enough for them, (19.53%) said walls are the only source of their water, (12.5%) said they have more than one boreholes in their communities, (11.98%) said they have to tracked to 3-5 kilometers in order to get water, (5.99%) said that the source of water to their communities have damage and only (1.3%) responded by saying no borehole exist in their communities.

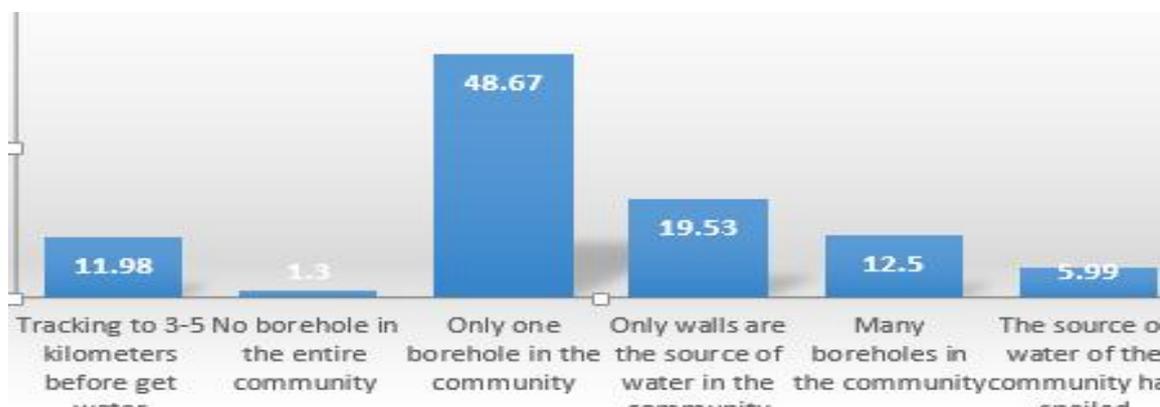
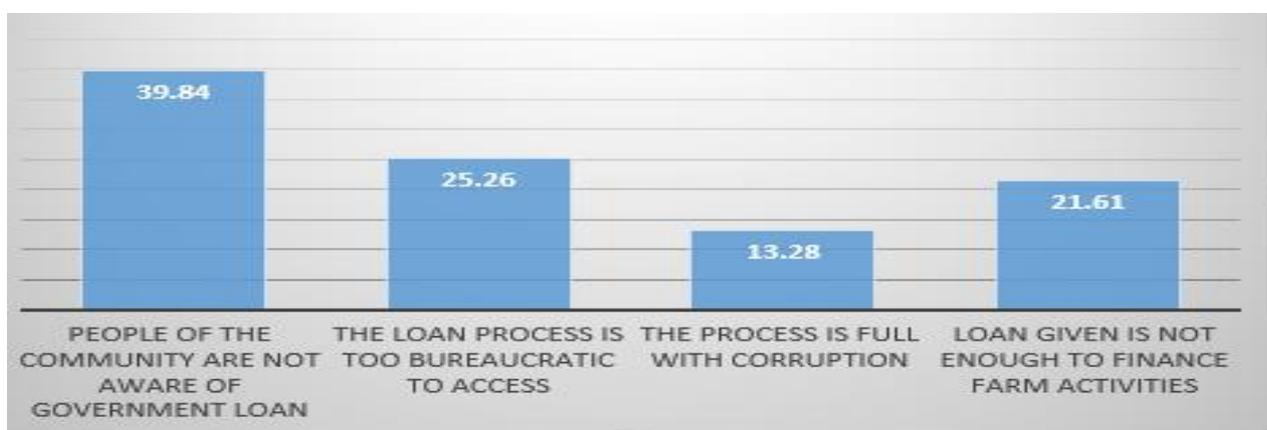


Figure 4.2 Above Shows the Distribution of Respondents view on Relationship between portable water and Community Development

Table 4.5: Respondents views on relationship between inaccessibility to loan and credit facilities militates against rural development of Geidam, communities of Yobe State (n=384)

| Statement | Frequency | Percentage % |
|--|------------|--------------|
| People of the community are not aware of government loan | 153 | 39.84 |
| The loan process is too bureaucratic to access | 97 | 25.26 |
| The process is full with corruption | 51 | 13.28 |
| Loan given is not enough to finance farm activities | 83 | 21.61 |
| Total | 384 | 100 |

Table 4.5 indicates that majority of the respondents (39.84%) said that they are not aware of government loan totally, (25.26%) said that the government loan is too bureaucratic for the local people access, (21.61%) said the loan given to them is not enough to finance their farming activities and lastly (13.28%) said that the loan process is full with corruption.



militates against rural development of Geidam, communities of Yobe State

Table 4.6: Respondents views on which of the factors militates against rural development of Geidam, communities of Yobe State (n=384)

| Statement | Frequency | Percentage % |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Poverty | 251 | 65.36 |
| Inaccessibility to loan facilities | 52 | 13.54 |
| Portable water | 81 | 21.1 |

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Total | 384 | 100 |
|--------------|------------|------------|

Table 4.6 above revealed that the influencing factor in predicting lack of community development was poverty (65.36%), inaccessibility to loan facilities by the communities' members (13.54%) and finally portable water (21.1%). So, from the above findings it can be concluded that poverty is the great factor militating against community development of Geidam communities in Yobe State and this is also presented in Histogram below.

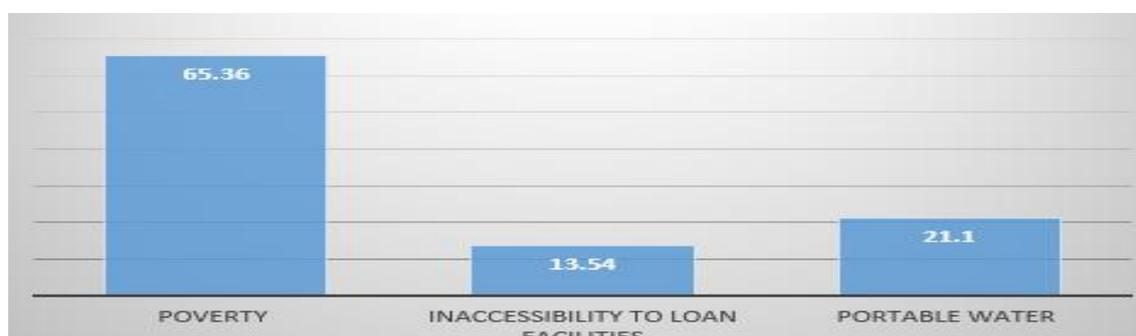


Figure 4.4 Above Shows the Distribution of Respondents' views on which of the factors militates against rural development of Geidam, communities of Yobe State

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study was on factors militating against community development of Geidam Local Government (Balle, Damakarwa, Gumsa, Borko, Futchimiram, Kolori and Kellori) and the main factor that militate against community development was poverty based on this findings. Furthermore, the results revealed that there is relationship between poverty and community development, relationship between inaccessibility to loan and community development and relationship between portable water and community development. Furthermore, based on the above mentioned factors militating against rural development, it is now a truism to say that Geidam Local Government Area is facing difficulties in development due to human actions. These human actions are the actions of the government and that of rural dwellers towards their development. Consequently, the following recommendations were made by the researchers; Government should provide Agricultural Credit Loan scheme to farmers in order to enhance their agricultural production which will help in sustaining their living as well as that of the urban populace, there should be effective participation of rural dwellers in the planning and developmental decision making process in order to achieve a sustainable development in the community, governments should live up to their responsibility in helping to develop the rural areas for they know that greater or majority of Nigerian population reside in the rural areas more especially the aged, government should not only focus their attention in developing the urban settings and leaving the rural settings in total neglect.

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AlhajiMa'aji Sheriff, et. al. "Factors Militating against Community Development in Yobe State." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 26(05), 2021, pp. 25-32.