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Impacts of Rural Poverty on Developmental Aspirations of Yobe State: A study of Geidam, Yunusari and Bursari Local Governments Areas of Yobe State

Modu Lawan Gana

Lecturer, Department of Public Administration, Mai Idris Aloomo Polytechnic, Geidam, Yobe State, Nigeria

Abstract:

The needs of sustainable rural development are topping the priority list of many developing countries. This is because any informed development must root from the grass root areas. In many countries of the Sub Saharan Africa majority of their population are dwelling in the rural areas. In Nigeria for example, of the country's 140 million population, 70% were reported to be in rural areas. However, amidst the vast rural population size, miserable state of livelihood accounted in their daily livelihood. In the north eastern State of Yobe where the study was conducted, perennial crises of deprivations in the tripod of economic, political and social axis. This study among others found a wide gap in the distributions of basic infrastructures between the rural and urban centres. Where certain relative infrastructures existed, it is often described as misplaced priority. Poor consultations on rural decisions were also labelled as challenge. Most rural decisions are programme on the traditional top-bottom approach. Parts of its recommendations were the re-improvement of the agricultural sector which is the mainstay but should be diversified to accommodate emanating desires on other sectors. It also recommended for bottom-top approach as well as direct involvement of rural people in the decision making apparatus of the state.

Keywords: Rural, development, poverty infrastructures

1. Introduction

The question for sustainable rural development has been on the priority list and occupied the centre of most development agendas of world leaders. This is because developments of rural areas were the seen as a catalyst of accelerated national development. Studies in (Ebiram, U.D; IFAD, 2012; Okafor, 2004) have since reported the conjoined between rural and urban areas. To them rural areas are the major suppliers of national economies. In most developing countries of sub Saharan Africa, over seven per cent of their population are in rural area this is also in addition to the facts that approximated 55% or 3.1billion of the world's population are reportedly are rural settlers IFAD (2011). While the rural areas are homes for the largest population of the globe, meaningfulness of their livelihoods has been an issue of philosophical contestation. Pandemonium of human destitutions with consortiums of poverty circles, dilapidated health status, high illiteracy with child labouring and decayed infrastructures embodied in the four corners of their livelihood. In Nigeria for example, of the estimated 160 million population (2006 Census), about 80% were reportedly hosted by rural areas (IFAD, 2012; NBS, 2014) whereas about 70% were said to be hallowing in abject poverty and malnourishments. The facts that rural areas in Nigeria were deprived of basic necessities are longer an issue of debate again. With the countries monumental gains in the fields of agriculture and the oil sector since her political independence, the impacts of it were partially exported to the rural areas. The neglected attitude toward rural areas over the years in no less deprived the county's projected development prosperities. According to Nwosu (2008), the ruined of the socio economic situations of the rural people as the factor that metamorphosed into widespread rural urban migration a situation which further culminated into urban congestions and underdevelopment. The consequential effects of rapid urbanization according to Udoh (2007) were an increased in urban slums characterized by insecurity of tenure, poor housing conditions, poor sanitary situations and overcrowding. Today an approximated 72% of urban populations were reported to be slums (Udoh, 2007).

Though, the alarming rural situations coupled with the lineage effects were well informed by the authorities, particularly in views of consortiums of policies and programmes with budgetary allocations, yet total human deprivation was what simply described the rural areas of Nigeria. Amidst the policies intents, the pains and agonies of the rural lives persisted in concomitant with policies or programmes initiated.

The regular envisage for generous solutions in both the academia and policy centres more importantly on the policies malfunctions of the over the years, myriads of reasons were labelled including poor institutional/leadership commitment in implementations, political instabilities and pervasive corruptions occupied the centre of most of their discussions. It is not disputable in spite the bedevilling situations of urban slums, urban centres in Nigeria relatively furnished with most of the basic necessities of livelihood in comparison to the rural areas. According to Girei (2014), the prolonged neglects of rural areas in governmental policies and the need of informed

livelihood by the rural population culminated into rural-urban migration. According to Paul, Agba & Chukwurah (2014), most governments in Nigeria turn down on rural projects and emphasis on urban areas; an idea reportedly re-widen the gap between the rural and urban areas and found difficult to be bridges by all the government policies and programmes. Abbas (UD), in a words "with the widening gap of inequality between the rural and urban centres, development plans resulting in balanced developments always ended in further Underdevelopment."

This research among others aimed at exploring the prevailing circumstances in rural development in Yobe State of North east Nigeria as well as to determine the how rural deprivation impacted on the development quest of the state and the country at large.

1.1. Statement of the Problems

The major problems which informed this research were the increasing neglects of rural areas in development quest of Nigeria and Yobe state in specific. Neglected approach toward areas according to many was the obstacles that hindered the developmental aspirations nation states. Problems in rural areas were often reported amidst increasing budgetary allocation from both governments and non-governmental organisations. The linear effects of it were celebrated in widespread rural urban migration which further compounded into poverty and destitutions. The over congestions of urban centre also culminated into other organised criminal activities together with traffic jams and unfaithful competitions on basic social amenities and infrastructures.

There is also certain peculiar problem food dependency mainly arising from poor productivity from the rural populace due to neglects of the agricultural sector; an occupation hitherto accommodating the majority of the rural dwellers. The monolistic approach on agriculture as a panacea to rural problems by the successive government programmes were also labelled as another challenge in enhanced rural productivity and development.

1.2. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to explore the magnitudes of rural lacking in Yobe State and to examined the perceptions of people toward the differential approach in rural development in the State.

The specific objectives on the other hand includes the following

1. To examine the prevailing factor in rural underdevelopment in Yobe State.
2. To examine the types of infrastructures required by the rural populations.
3. To examined the eminency of the infrastructure required
4. To recommend solutions for policy consumptions.

1.3. Research Questions

1. What are the predisposing factors of rural underdevelopment in Nigeria?
2. What are basic infrastructures required in rural areas?
3. In what preference infrastructures were required?
4. How would the menace of rural underdevelopment be solved?

1.4. Significance of the Study

This significant of this study lied in her effort in examinations of the prevailing circumstances in rural development programmes in Yobe State, Nigeria as well the determinations of priorities in which infrastructures were required on the same paper. Successive researches hitherto concentrated on devising panaceas to the menace of rural problems projecting on agricultural approach without in-depth analysis of the generic factor in the rural programmes.

The study should also be finding relevant for policy options. In the body of knowledge, it is hopeful that it will contribute for future research.

1.5. Scope and Limitations

This study is limited to three local government areas of Yunusari, Geidam and Bursari of Yobe State north east, Nigeria. Yobe State was one of the least developed states in the federation of Nigeria. The state has a population size of 2,321,339 (Census, 2006) with an estimated 80% of the said population in rural areas. On the three local governments under study Yunusari, Geidam and Bursari have a population of size of 391372 with a respective population of 125,940, 155,740 and 109692 (Census, 2006). These areas are found relevant because they among other possessed similar attributes of rural dominance, socio-economic and cultural ties and are among the least developed local governments of the state. These characteristics were assumed to provide generalizable findings.

2. Literature Review

Though there are much encompassing literatures on the concept of development and what constitutes underdevelopment but less agreement existed on the basic features of the two phenomena. Most literatures over the years absolutely projected on certain dissections between the two concepts and basically on a broader scale of national and international aspects, less was found to have existed on its interpretations on rural development.

The term development according to Hornby (2000) in Lah et al (2013) is the gradual transition from a poor state of being to a more advance state of human affairs. Accordingly, (Okafor, 2004; Omarioghae, 2008) opined that development connote a movement, a movement from bad to better situations. The term underdevelopment on the other hand was the absolute state of lacking of human endeavours.

The relevance of rural development in national development has also been justified by extent literatures. According to World Bank (2010), Rural Development (RD) is one of the basic yardstick of determining any informed national development in the world. This is because development in any country must start from the grass root levels. According to World Bank (2010) development of the rural areas should be based on the improvement on rural income through modernized agricultural practices and expanded markets. The fact that rural areas depend on agricultural practices has also been reported. It is not disputable that agriculture contributed for the largest population of the rural income. According to Udoh (2007), in Nigeria for example, before the advent of its oil economy, agriculture accounted for about 64% of the GDP and remained an employer of about 70% of the countries labour force. This argument further proved that any meaningful transformation in rural population must start from improving the agricultural practices through the provisions of farm input and technical supports.

The contemporary development challenges in Nigeria was said to be grounded from the neglects of the rural areas which acted as the suppliers of the countries food requirement. The continuous rise in the countries According to Okafor (2004), the persistent rise in rural poverty was grounded from the neglect of the agriculture sector which is the mainstay of the rural economy and largest employer of the country's labour force since the pre-colonial period. To this end, Oka for concluded that improve agricultural productivity is an effective tool of poverty eradication. In the same vein, Ambrosio-Albala & Batiaesen (2010) summited that improved agriculture productivity is the basic tool in ameliorating agonies of poverty and guaranteeing sustainable food security of the country.

The relationship between rural development and agriculture productivity was also reported by IFAD (2012) where it opined that the persistency of contemporary challenges of urban crowed, food dependency, and social rebellions were rooted from the spontaneous neglect of the agricultural sector by successive governments in Nigeria.

The spatial priority of successive governments in Nigeria in implementing renowned policies and programmes on the agricultural sector was said to be the culpable for the country's security challenges. Though, Nigeria is often reported as the best yard of public policies, the end result is also a mirage. Adebayo (1998) summited that since rural areas are the genesis of any sustainable national development, a qualitative management of their affairs cannot be underemphasize. According to Paul, Aagba & Chukwumura (2014) though there are myriads of policy interventions in rural areas since independence, none of the programmes has succeeded in radical change in the poor standard of living of the rural population. If anything a perennial misery of the rural lives re-persisted. Paul, Aagba & Chukwumura (2014) further opined that in a words

Despite the numerous rural development policies introduced at different times by successive governments coupled with the huge financial and material resources employed, little or nothing is felt at the rural level as each policy has often died with the government that initiated it before it starts to yield dividends for the rural dwellers.

Alain (ud) opined that any effort in arresting rural sufferings must eventuate with a diversified strategy. In a word, he summited that Getting rural households out of poverty often requires either increasing their access to land or diversifying their off-farm activities - introducing "pluriactivity." To survive, the rural poor often need diversified sources of income, combining agriculture with off-farm activities Alain (ud).

In a related contributions (Lah et al 2013; Leon, 2005; OECD, 2006) a summited that a reviewed approach characterising a multi-sectoral approach designed on more steady social and political transformations to replace the agricultural dominance approach of the traditional societies if the rural status quo should be broken. The needs of multi-sectoral approaches toward rural areas have nevertheless dragged local, regional and international donors (USAID, DFID, World Bank, German Foundation Agricultural Development Bank, etc.) over the years.

2.1. Theoretical Framework

The growing momentum for a sustainable rural development envisaged for the need of a theory. Myriads of philosophical literatures evolved envisaging for one theoretical perspective or the other on how to ameliorate the agonies of rural suffering and ensuring accelerated national development through sustained food security. Among which are the basic needs approach which posited on the direct provisions of community's demands in terms of social amenities, basic educations and other social services. Institutional transformation approach coined from the works of Albala and Bastiensen (2010) agitated for institutional transformation through involvement of rural people into decisions. Others are the integrated rural development approach, command compliance approach, participatory method among others.

This study was designed on the integrated rural development approach of Alain de Janvry (2002) of university of California. It emphasized for cooperation between the rural people and intervening bodies. Though, the integrated rural development which has witnessed acceptability among stakeholders, it was however marred with widespread criticisms of lopsidedness on over concentration on government machineries as planning and implementation agents of rural policies. Despite the labeled criticisms However, the relevance of the theory cannot be overemphasized. Integrate theory was modeled on bottom-top approach by enabling the rural poor as part of decisions and implementations of their projects. The theory advocated for the complete reformation of the pre-existing rural development strategies. The theory is more or a less a participatory theory which demands the involvement of rural people in the policy initiations, formulations and implementations. The relevance of this approach in rural development was captured by Alain (2002) in a word

Integrated rural development approach evolved through experimentation of rural development projects pioneered by agencies such as IFAD, The Inter-American Foundation and Innovative NGOs. It was adopted and perfected by the World Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank, The Inter-American Development Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture and UK Department of international Development.

Adebayo (1998) also opined that, the perennial failure of rural development policies in Nigeria aroused from the deprivations mainly conditioned with the noninvolvement of the rural people into policy making and implementations of events that involve their lives.

3. Methodology

This research utilized information from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were obtained through the instruments of questionnaires and interviews. 160 questionnaires were administered on the three local government areas (Bursari, Geidam and Yunusari) on a ratio of 50:60:50. This decision was arrived as the as result of the inequity in the distribution of their registration area wards. 10:11:10 respectively. Seven (7) areas (wards) are randomly selected from the local government on a ratio of 2:3:2. Two rural communities were in turn selected on a non-probabilistic scale of purposive method in each of the area wards totaling a number of 14 villages. Below is the distribution of sampling population.

Local Government	Registration Areas Selected	Villages selected	No. of Questionnaires
Bursari	Guba	Dapso	10
		Guba	15
	Guji/ Metalari	Ajiri	15
		Bururu	10
Geidam	Damakarwa	Aji Wango	10
		Damakarwa	10
	Maanan/Dagambi	Maana	10
		Dagambi	10
	Shame Kura/Dilawa	Kalgeri	10
		Shame Kura	10
Yunusari	Mairari	Mairari	15
		Goniri	10
	Mozogun/Kujari	Mozogun	15
		Mala-Assandi	10
Total Local Govt: 3	Reg. Areas: 7	Total Comm: 14	Total Questionnaires: 160

The respondents were in turn stratified on the basis of gender, age and occupations. To ensure equal gender representations, 55% of the questionnaires in each community were reserved for male respondents whereas 45% are for the female. This distribution was deduced from the fact that 52% of the estimated 391372 people (NPC, 2006) of the three local government areas were male.

3.1. Perceptions toward Agricultural Development as Rural Remedy in Yobe State East

Opinion differs among people on how to guarantee sustainable development in rural areas of Yobe state. Although much of the opinion was predominated by improved agriculture approach as a primordial tool of rural development, ameliorating poverty and bridging inequality but however expressed skepticism that such can only be realized through institutional support in farm tools and techniques, diversified practices and expanded markets for products. Though there are generous perceptions in agriculture directions, differences propounded on the degree and magnitude by the various respondents. For example with the uses of Rensis Likert five measurement scale (Strongly Agreed [SA], Agreed [A], Disagreed [DA], Strongly Disagreed [SD] and Undecided [UD]) differential opinion existed among people. It was gathered that 48.7% strongly agreed that accelerated agricultural development will guarantee improve sustainability and arrest most of the rural sufferings, 29.3% Agreed in the same respect. 8.7% strongly disagreed whereas 9.4% and 3.7% were recorded for disagreed and undecided respectively.

Below are charts showing the characteristics of the respondents and the various responses recorded.

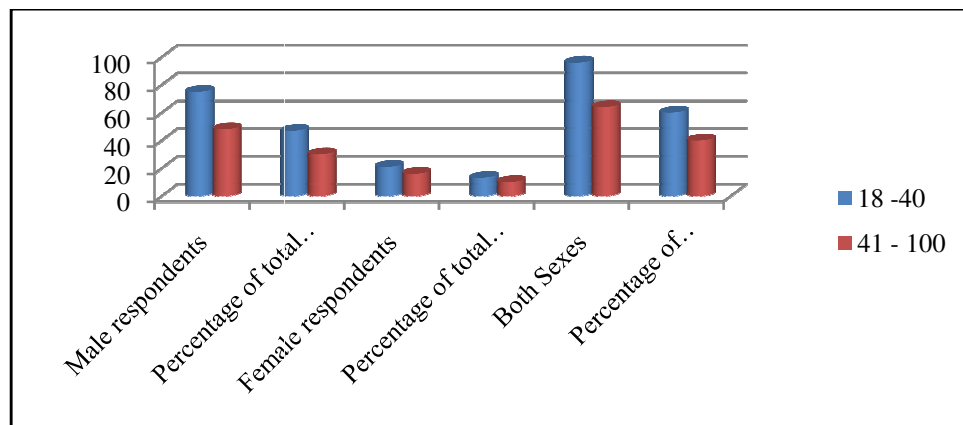


Figure 1: Characteristics of the Respondents
Source: Field Data

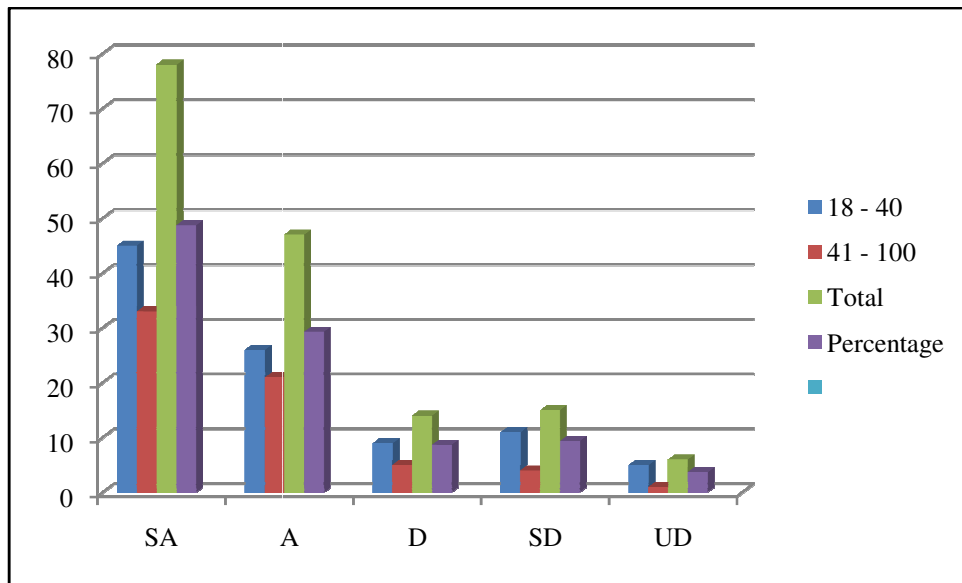


Figure 2: Percentage Distributions of Responses
Source: Field Data

Above are the various responses recorded from the examinations of the relationship between agricultural development and rural empowerments using the Likert five measurement scales, 48% of the respondent agreed that there is a strong relationship between agricultural development and rural empowerment. However, of the total responds recorded in this aspect, higher responses of 58.7% of the respondents were people within the age bracket of 18-40 years whereas 41.3 was obtained from those above the age of 40. Likewise, 29.3% agreed in similar structuring of the strongly agreed recording a higher responses for age below 40 with an approximated rate of 55.3% on against the 44.7% of age above 40. 8.7% of the respondents disagreed with any meaningful relationship between rural development and agricultural approach. 9.4% strongly disagreed and 3.7% were yet to decide on the presumption.

3.2. Perceptions toward Multi-Sectoral as a Rural Development Approach

In the examination of the relevance of multiple approaches in rural development, alleviating poverty and ensuring equality, differential perceptions existed among the respondents. Below is a line graph showing distributions of the respondents for the said examinations.

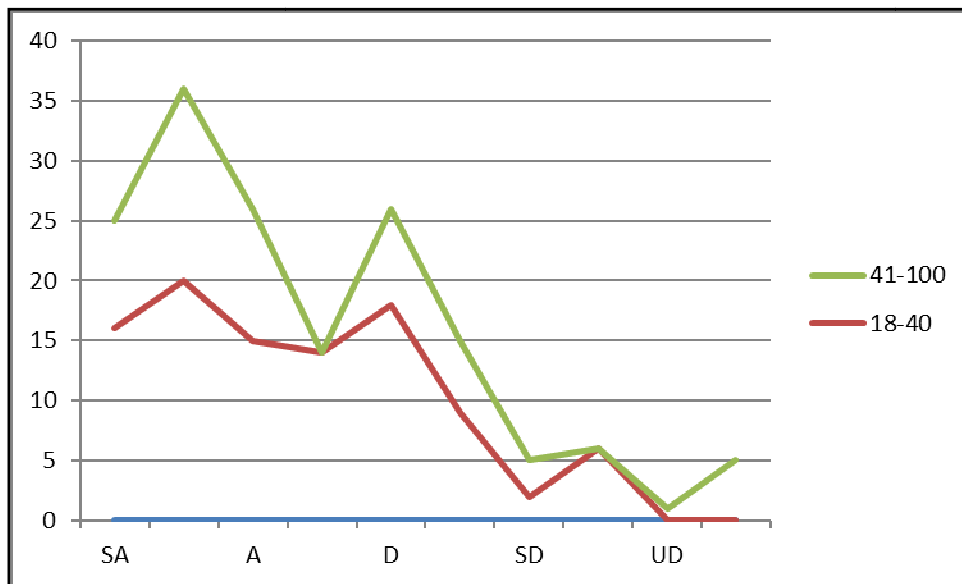


Figure 3
Source: Field Data

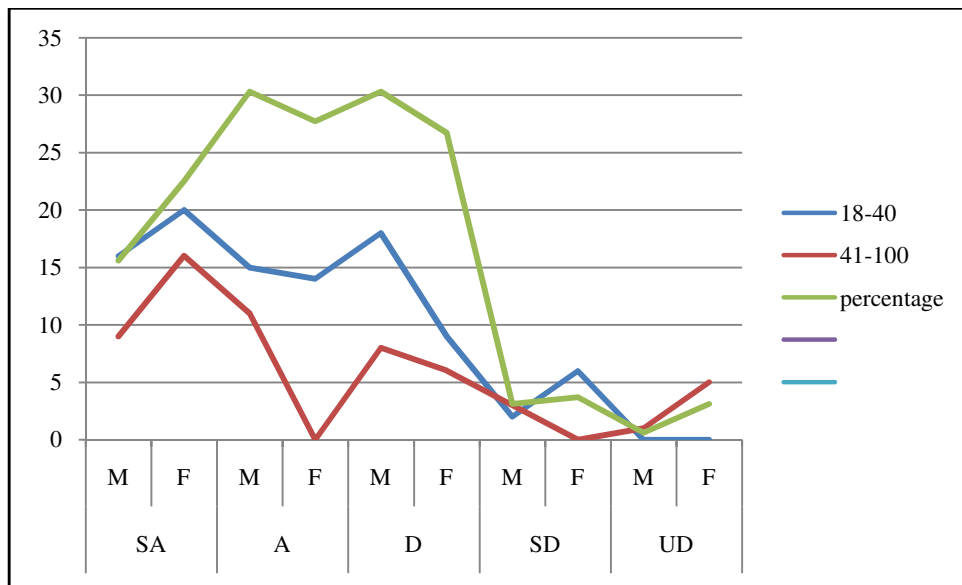


Figure 4: Percentage Distribution of All Responses

Much of the responses was dominated by agreed (A) option though slightly higher than the strongly agreed (SA) recording a percentage rate of 15.6% for male and 22.5% for the female respondents lower than the 30.3% and 27.7% respectively for the Agreed option. Similarly 30.3% and 26.7% of male and female respondents disagreed in the approach whereas 3.1% and 3.7% respectively for males and females strongly disagreed. A lesser response was recorded on the undecided option of 0.6% and 3.1% for the two sexes respectively. Below is the distribution of the respondents based on gender.

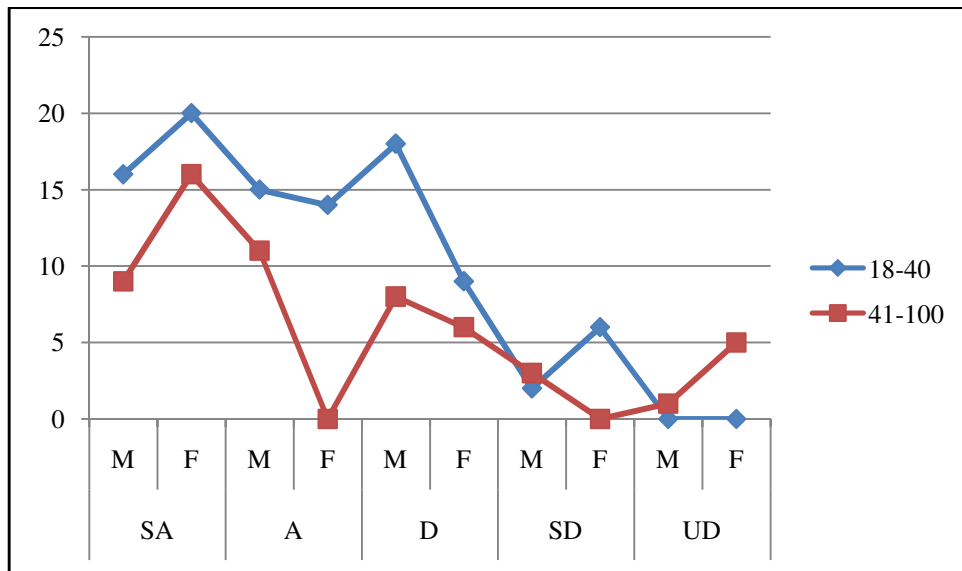


Figure 5: Gender Distribution of Respondents
Source: Field Data

4.1. Summary/Conclusion

This research concluded that the position of rural areas in any inform development by nation cannot be overemphasize. Rural areas in spite the befalling calamities of impoverishment must occupied the center of the state policies. It was found that complete miserableness of human needs featured in all their ramifications. Whereas an estimated 80% of the state populations are in the rural areas basic infrastructures of health, education and roads are absolutely lacking and complete level of human deprivation is what can simply explain their socio-economic existence. Amidst their level of sufferings, rural people are still optimistic that inform policy in agriculture will undoubtedly be an antidote for their long term aspirations. While many expressed optimisms in the agricultural sector, many other still perceived that multiple approach through diversified method can fasten the realizations' of their untold suffering. The presumptions of the needs of diversifications of the agricultural sector as a sole approach of rural empowerments aroused mostly on the decimating nature of agriculture market; a factor which laid as reason of the poor investment in the sector and massive declined in productivity.

The argument of multi approach of rural development also stemmed from the fact that a need of modern education, health care system and information communication can immensely contribute in cost reductionist and boast their economic welfarisms and help bridge the outstanding gaps between the rural and urban centers.

4.2. Recommendations

In order to guarantee rural development in Yobe state, the following has been recommended as a panacea

- a. Governments and concern bodies should restructure their approach from monolithic agro business to a multiple/differential approach in rural development. The poor market relevant of agriculture products dragged many to rescind the business for other alternative. Improved and expanded market is highly recommended.
- b. Since top-bottom approach on rural decisions were highly condemned of ineffectivity, a recourse strategy that will invite the rural people into decision making is also desirable. It was found that most rural development projects were executed without endue consultations of the rural people which often ends in rare duplications, and or outside priority. By involving the rural people into decisions making and implementations, the ruins can easily be eliminated.
- c. Whereas the present system of the State's road networking system was said to be in right direction, a frequent extension to rural areas cannot be underemphasize. It was found that commodities worth thousands of naira perish due to lack of transports particularly during the harvesting periods. With well-equipped feeder roads, the government's dream of poverty alleviating in the rural area can be guaranteed.
- d. Through public mobilizations, certain traditional practices can be subdued. It was learnt found that some inform policies were rejected though having a certain age limitations y some rural areas. This behaviour in no less deprived the success of many government programmes in the rural areas. To guaranteed effective and widespread mobilizations, the needs of rural networking through the Global System Mobilization can be ensured.

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