

TITLE PAGE

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN IDEATO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF
IMO STATE.**

BY

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SOC/2009/050

**A PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc) DEGREE IN
SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CARITAS UNIVERSITY AMORJI NIKE, ENUGU**

AUGUST 2013

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DEDICATION

TO MOST BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP.

***HEALTH OF THE SICK, HELP OF CHRISTIANS AND MOTHER OF DIVINE
GRACE. HOLY MARY.***

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound acknowledgement goes to my lecturer, Mr Charles Onwuka C. J. and other lecturers in the department of sociology. Mr Abonyi S.E., Mr Ezeho, Mr Orji, Mr Oguamanam, G. O., Mr Mba may God bless you.

To the man who gave me his best for my success, Chief Ogbunga G. O. Daddy, God bless you. To my best friends, my joy, my strength and my support, my Mummy, siblings and my brother-in-law, may God bless you all.

To the most Holy trinity God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, May all glory, power, honour and adoration be unto thy Holy Name Amen.

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ABSTRACT

Over the years, Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo state has been experiencing a slow rate of development in the area. Based on this therefore, this work was designed to investigate the socio-economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato North Local Government Area. Two hundred respondents were randomly selected and used. Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The data collected were analysed using SPSS and chi-square, tables, charts and percentages were used to present the results. Several findings were made as regards socio-economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato North LGA. One major factor is that Ideato people are facing total neglect from the government which goes a long way in affecting their development negatively. Secondly, cultural belief system of the people also affects their development. Thirdly, inadequate planning of developmental projects caused by lack of collaborative efforts of the government and the youths also hinder development in Ideato North LGA. Finally it was recommended that government should focus more attention in the development of rural areas in order not to allow them feel neglected and rejected. Rural people should learn to welcome and harness development despite their cultural belief system and there should be a collaborative effort of the government and the people, more especially the youths in planning and implementation of rural development projects.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

In Nigeria, the rural areas are not progressing in line with urban areas or metropolitan states in term having sustainable development like good road, electricity, good telecommunication, transportation, good water supply, standard market and health centres, 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 skill. 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 programmes. 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, 1994). In Nigeria, this has been serious social issue in recent time.

Socioeconomically, infrastructure and basic amenities like good road, portable water supply, electricity, health centres, 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 centres 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 a fraudster and also a ritualist.

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, human

resources 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, behavioural, engineering and management sciences (Kata Singh, 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. According to Prolletensky (2004), 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. Falcoya, (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.

In addition, the issues concerning rural development should be government involved as well as rural dwellers involved so as to achieve a better solution to rural problems. That is to say that in order to achieve a better rural development in Ideato LGA, government and the rural people should integrate their efforts together. The study therefore tries looking into the

socio-economic and cultural factors militating against development in Ideato Local Government Area of Imo State.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The issue of rural development is very challenging, considering that more than 70 percent of the 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. One major factor affecting rural development is government neglect or government not showing concern towards rural development. According to Nwankpa (2001), government should play pivotal role to making sure that development occur in the rural setting. Another important factor is on lack of basic infrastructure and basic amenities needed for development such as transportation, good roads, electricity, good school, portable water, health centres, markets, telecommunication, churches, recreational centres etc. When all these infrastructures and basic amenities are not available in a particular rural area, development finds it difficult to occur. Illiteracy, ignorance, and poverty serve as another important factor militating against rural development in Ideato rural community, Illiteracy, poverty and ignorance make or flop the developmental process in the rural areas, so making them to move backward (Edeh, 2003). Rural dispute is another factor militating against rural development. This implies that when dispute comes between two communities due to land, government who has planned bringing development can decide to withdraw it till the dispute or conflict is settled. Land tenure system as well as inability of the rural people to harnessing the available resources contributes to the backwardness of the rural areas, especially rural, Ideato.

Furthermore, cultural beliefs of the people in the rural areas affect the development that will come therein, for example some rural areas always find it difficult to give government land for development due to the fact that the land is where sacrifices are made for

the gods of their land. Another fear they have is the destruction of their aesthetic values by the government while the development projects are going on. Some individuals due to their selfish interest, find it difficult to dispose their land to the government for them to build structures like hospitals, schools, churches, recreational centres etc. According to Iyiogwe (2005), in his work on economic theory says land is free gift of nature, such as land surface, soil, rivers, mountains, forest, mineral deposits etc. Okorji (2005) restated that land is therefore nature's aid to production. Another cultural factor is the fear of terror and labelling. Some private individuals avoid helping people in some developmental structures in the rural area in order not to get them killed or labelled as criminals, fraudsters or as ritualists by the rural people.

More so, the problem of gender segregation is another crucial factor to be considered while discussing on the cultural factor militating against rural development. The reason is that sometimes women in the rural areas are not allowed to contribute in the issues concerning rural or community development. By so doing, the ideas of development becomes one sided which in turn affects the developmental processes. Women should be allowed to contribute in the developmental issues, whether political, economic, social and cultural. (Egbule, 2006)

Based on statistics, 65 per cent of the lands in the rural areas are undeveloped due to total dominance by the owners. According to Ikpeama (2004), land is a free gift of nature, and development of any kind should be done on it, in as much as it will change the living standard of the people. 85 per cent of our rural dwellers are not living in comfortable homes, while 95 per cent of them are poor (Hossian, 2005). According to agricultural organization of the United Nations (2005), 95 per cent of the rural farmers cannot boast of using modern farming implements in their agriculture. All these hindrances have continued to put the rural communities under a shackle of underdevelopment, in spite of the abundant human talents there in. This unavailability of basic economic infrastructure in the rural communities, hinders

their potentials, especially being unable to generate enough for themselves and contribute to the nation's economic growth. Rural dwellers should be encouraged in their agricultural endeavours, which will in turn help in the nation's economic building (Preben Kaarshelin, 1991). When all these socio-economic and cultural factors that affect rural development are put in place, there will be a rapid rural development, especially in Ideato Local Government Area of Imo State.

1.3 **Research Questions**

The following research questions will guide the study

1. What are the socio-economic factors that hinder rural development in Ideato Local Government Area?
2. What are the cultural factors that hinder rural development in Ideato LGA?
3. What are the reactions of people to development in Ideato LGA?
4. To what extent have rural dwellers helped in facilitating rural development in Ideato LGA?
5. What are the consequences of improper rural development in Ideato LGA?

1.4 **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to investigate on the socio-economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato Local Government Area of Imo State. Its specific objectives are therefore as follows:

1. To evaluate the socio-economic factors that hinder rural development in Ideato

LGA.

2. To investigate the cultural factors that hinder rural development in Ideato LGA.
3. To ascertain the reactions of people to rural development in Ideato LGA.
4. To examine the extent rural dwellers have helped in facilitating rural development in Ideato LGA.
5. To ascertain the consequences of improper rural development in Ideato LGA.

1.5 **Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study tends to treat both the theoretical and practical importance. Theoretically, this study will add to the already existing knowledge of the socio-economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato LGA. The study was written in order to know the problems of the rural people and at the same time proffer solutions to them. More so, the study will be a guide to future researchers in their research in knowing the socio-economic factors militating against rural development, and look for means of tackling those problems.

Practically, this research work will enable the rural dwellers to know the importance of harnessing the available rich natural resources in their localities in order to bring about development in their areas. This can be done by making sure that the various natural resources in the rural areas are well managed, through their efforts and efforts of the government. This study will also make them to put in agenda the issues concerning rural development, more especially on the areas of infrastructures, such as good roads, electricity, portable water, health centres, and transportation.

1.6 Definition of Terms

For more understanding of this research work, the researcher has decided to define some of the terms which would be frequently used for easy understanding.

Community : Okoh (1989), defined community in line with this study as group of people living in one geographical area and sharing the basic condition of common life. Example, family, a village, town or city, a tribe, among others.

Community development: Thus simply means all the strategies aimed at promoting the socio-economic status of the rural communities. It aimed at motivating the rural dwellers to utilize their full potentials in attempt to embark on the project that will help better their lots. United Nations in line with this study defined community development as including the effort of the government united with that of the people themselves. Thus, the efforts of the people themselves are united with that of the governmental authorities to improve the economic and social well being of people to enable them to contribute fully in national progress.

Development: The definition of development by Walter Rodney (1972) was used in order to explain this term. Development according to him implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and increase in material wellbeing.

Rural: Rural areas are characterized by their depleted workforce, their rudimentary and inefficient mode of production, their general lack of basic infrastructure and social amenities, such as portable water, all season access road, electricity, schools, medical facilities, market, low level of health care delivery, nutrition, hygiene, education and social awareness.

Rural development: According to Ihumodu (2003), rural development is the process of economic and social progress aimed at eradicating poverty through the provision of employment, improvement in the quality of life and satisfying the basic needs of the people.

Rural dwellers: These are group of individual or persons living in the rural communities. These group of persons are not urbanized and typically, much of their land is devoted to agriculture.

Rural Geographical Area: This is a mapped out area of the earth's physical surface, in which rural people live.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature provides conceptual issues, Review of Empirical literature, Review of theories, theoretical framework and some of their criticism as well as the study hypotheses.

2.1 Conceptual Issues

Umalele (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 Belloncle (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. Belloncle argues that rural development should deal with the traditionalistic models and egalitarian values of the rural populace; hence Belloncle sees rural development as a deliberate effort towards improving the value-system of the rural community.

Mcnamara (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. McNamara's 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 too national economy. Ezea (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. Hayter & 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 (FOA), 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 Ezea (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 guides 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 to 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 for 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 is faced with poverty. There is unavailability of industries that would easily employ the youths, making large number of people to migrate to urban areas.

FACTORS AFFECTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

There are some factors affecting rural development in Nigeria according to the Better Life Programme for rural women (1988).

1. Lack of portable water: it is painful fact that most rural communities in nigeria do not have access to portable water. Most rural inhabitants in the country still depend on

unhygienic traditional sources of water both for drinking and other domestic activities. The perennial water problems of rural communities have not gone unnoticed by the various governments in the country.

2. Healthcare: The poor state of healthcare facilities in most third world countries including Nigeria is appalling. In Nigeria, the embarrassing state of the healthcare delivery system became really bad from the period of the second republic (1979-1983). The situation became terrible that the military who took over power in 1983 had to describe the existing hospitals as “mere insulting clinics”. Thereafter, critiques were forced to describe the hospitals a “mortuaries” because of their deplorable states. The story in rural areas has in most cases been seen as caused by non- availability of modern healthcare facilities. Most rural dwellers in Nigeria have to travel for long distance before they can get to the nearest privately owned clinics. In some, only unreliable chemist stores exist. Where public health centres exist, they have become dished or the necessary drugs are out of stock.
3. Transportation problem: the movement of the rural population in Nigeria can be categorized into two: movement within the rural areas, and movement outside the rural areas. This movement within rural areas involves movement to rural settlement and its farm lands. They both require various means of transport system and it is still poor. They usually undertake their movement on foot and bicycle along bush paths and narrow roads. The distances covered are relatively long and the people still carry things on their head. Heavy loads of about 30-50 kilograms could be transported using the head over a distance of 16 kilometres to meet the road points where motor vehicles, motor cycles or bicycles would be available. It has been observed that the poor transport system in the rural areas adversely affect the movement of rural producers, causing market inefficiency and above all, reduces rural income.

4. Educational problem: During the past decade, the centrality of education has been jettisoned. At present, less than 60 per cent of all eligible children in the country are receiving education illiteracy has remained a serious problem while the standard of education has collapsed at all levels. The education problem in rural Nigeria is compounded by the poor attitude of government to teacher's welfare. It has become normal for teachers' salaries to be owed for months. When paid, the salaries are grossly inadequate and the teachers are as a consequence, forced to take other business activities for survival. Pupils are not taught for the greater part of the school year because most of the time, the teachers are either on strike or have abandoned the pupils for the other business. With these, the pupil in most rural Nigeria is educationally disadvantaged.
5. Inaccessibility to loans and credit facilities: it has been observe that the extent to which modern financial institutions provide the needed services or reach out to the poor I rural areas is greatly limited. There are few banking services in the rural areas of the country. Where such services are available, obtaining a loan is highly bureaucratic and time consuming. The rural poor cannot meet the requirements for the loans. Government has however, not been oblivious of the need for effective banking services in the rural areas. As it stands, the problem of inaccessibility of loans and credit facilities from banks is likely to remain a long term on in rural Nigeria.

2.2 REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL LITERATURE

Problems affecting rural development

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 our 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:

- a. Poverty: a major characteristic of the rural populace is absolute poverty. That is, they live below a specified minimum level of subsistence income necessary to secure the barest essentials of food, clothing and shelter. There is a constant battle against malnutrition, diseases and ill health. Their general living condition is abysmally low as evident in their very low income generating ability, poor living environment, little or no education etc. In the context of Nigeria, it has been shown that 70% of the rural population are living below poverty line.
- b. Inequality: apart from inequality in income distribution in the rural areas, there is also inequality in access to economic, social and political opportunities as well as inequality in the distribution of costs and benefits of development. The percentage of the benefits received by the rural areas is quite low compared to that of urban areas.
- c. Unemployment: in Nigeria, there is scarcity of employment opportunities in rural areas. This situation arose as a result of the absence from rural areas the necessary infrastructure like water, electricity, good roads to attract meaningful investment to

the place. Ninety per cent of the youth in the rural areas are unemployed and that is why they migrate to the urban areas for employment opportunities and better life.

- d. Self-esteem: a universal component of worth and self-respect is now being used as a tool by others for their ends. All people and society seek some form of identity, dignity, respect, honour 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 programmes 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.

2.3 REVIEW OF RELEVANT THEORIES

This section has to do with review of sociological theories that can be useful in understanding the phenomenon under this study.

Modernization theory

Modernization is the view that sees the development of societies as a change from a state of traditionality to a state of modernity. Anthony Smith (1973) was of the view that the content of modernity should be taken as 'an idealization of the spirit which should animate development policies, successful in the west'. Thus, modernization is a process of change in locating those qualities of western societies, which are absent in the traditional societies and making the later adopt them. This approach is evident in David McClelland theory, where

'need for achievement' is the missing factor which should be injected into traditional societies (McClelland, 1971).

According to Agbakoba (2003), modernization theorists generally adopt Structural Functionalist approach to the study of society. They take society as whole with parts that contribute towards the maintenance of the whole. This is the basis of the teleological determinism of the modernization theory.

In spite of its shortfalls, the benefits derived from modernization such as the creation of more jobs to reduce unemployment through industrialization, improving on people's health and adoption of various community based organizations to improve the condition of the rural people cannot be overlooked. Modernization is very important because it brings about development and changes which are to the benefit of mankind, when it is not manipulated negatively by some people for their own selfish interest.

Functionalist Theory

The idea of functionalism was developed by Emile Durkheim and refined by Talcott Parsons. According to them, functionalists view the society as a system which are interconnected, 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. 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.

Dependency Theory

Dependency theory was introduced by A. G. Franklin in 1960. Central to the theory of dependency is the argument that the mode of articulation of underdeveloped economy with the world economic system may result in a transfer of resources from the periphery to the exploitative central periphery relationship in the sectors. Exploitative relationship exists between the modern and the rural societies. In other words, the urban societies exploit the rural societies. The exploitation is on the area of exchange of its agricultural products to costly finished products from urban societies. Again, rural societies lost most of its active labour forces to urban societies and therefore lack the necessary man power to produce enough agricultural products to have favourable balance of trade with the urban society. This is responsible for continuous underdevelopment of our rural societies. The solution to the above situation by dependency theorists is delinking of the rural societies from the urban, just like developing societies is to be delinked from developed capitalist societies. Another solution is to initiate an integrating rural development programme which will lead on an overall development of the society.

2.4 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.

2.5 **Study Hypotheses**

This work will be successful by proper examination of the following hypotheses:

1. There is a significant relationship between the ages of respondents and factors militating against rural development.
2. Male respondents react well to development more than the female respondents.
3. There is a relationship between respondent's level of education and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

CHAPTER THREE- METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Design

The study adopted the cross-sectional survey research design. This is the type of survey in which information is collected from only a fraction of the population selected in such a way as to represent the whole. A study of this nature using survey design allowed the researcher to draw inferences that was generalized to the larger target population at a reduced cost and time.

3.2 Study Area

The study area is Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo state. It is one of the twenty seven local government areas that made up Imo state. The local government is comprised of six communities namely- Owerri Akokwa, Amachara, Obinato, Umuoredimma, Umuorji, and Amanasa. In terms of education, they have advanced educated personnel in virtually all fields of endeavour. That is why some of them are civil servants and self- employed. Some of the areas are characterized by inadequate and deteriorated road walkways, unregulated building patterns, poor sanitation, noise pollution and overcrowding as a result of human migration.

3.3 Population of the study

According to the National Population Commission of 2006, the population of Ideato North Local Government Area is 158406 of which 84849 are males and 76557 are females(NPC, 2006). This is the general population of this study.

3.4 Sample size

A sample size of 180 respondents was taken for this study. These 180 respondents included every male and female from 18 years and above. It is hoped that this sample size is large enough to permit statistical calculations for the study.

3.5 Sampling techniques

The sampling technique that was adopted for the study was the simple random sampling technique and systematic sampling technique. With simple random sampling technique, thirty respondents were selected from the six communities - Owerri Akokwa, Amachara, Obinato, Umuoredimma, Umuorji, and Amanasa.

For questionnaire administration, houses were selected through systematic sampling method, where by an 'nth' number was selected. One household was picked from each house and the questionnaire administered to the selected household. Care was taken to maintain gender balance.

3.6 Instruments for data collection

The major instrument chosen for this study is the questionnaire. A uniform set of questionnaire was administered to all 180 respondents selected for the study. The questionnaire consisted of open and close ended items that were related to the theme of the study. Information sought from the respondents includes personal characteristics, knowledge of socio economic and cultural factor militating against rural development, efforts made by the government in reducing problems against rural development.

3.7 Administration of instruments

The researcher administered the instrument on a face to face basis to the respondents for one week. This enabled the researcher to administer to all the respondents. Also the village elders were informed of the study so that they can have prior information or notice of the need for the research. This was done to create more room for acceptance and willingness of filling the instrument by the respondents.

3.8 Methods of data analysis

The data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Simple descriptive statistics such as percentage, tables and graphic illustrations were used in presenting the findings of the study. The hypotheses was done using Chi-square (χ^2).

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSES

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the results of the analyses are presented. This chapter is divided into sections. In section one, key socio-demographic variables are presented.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the study population (n =180)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
SEX		
Male	99	55.0
Female	81	45.0
Total	180	100.0
AGE BRACKET		
18-27	64	35.6
28-37	39	21.7
38-47	29	16.1
48-57	29	16.1
58-67	19	10.6
Total	180	100.0
MARITAL STATUS		
Single	68	37.8
Married	103	57.2
Divorced	3	1.7
Widowed	6	3.3
Total	180	100.0
HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION		
No formal education	33	18.3
Primary education	4	2.2
Secondary education	39	21.7
NCE/OND	18	10.0
Tertiary education	86	47.8
Total	180	100.0
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION		
Christian	149	82.8
Traditional	31	17.2
Total	180	100.0
OCCUPATION		
Farming	36	20.0
Civil servant	39	21.7
Trading	55	30.6
Schooling	50	27.8
Total	180	100.0

Table 1 above presents the demographic characteristics of the study sample. 55% of the respondents were males while 45% were females. In terms of age, 35.6% were within the age bracket 18-27 while 21.7% were within 28-37 years. 16.1% respectively were within 38-47, and 48-57 years of age. Only 10.63% were within 58-67 years of age. Another important feature of the sample is that in terms of marital status, majority (57.2%) Of the respondents were married while only 37.8% were single. A look at the respondent's level of education shows that 47.8% had university education while 21.7% had secondary education. 18.3% had no formal education while only 2.2% had primary education. On the issue of religion, majority of the respondents were Christians (82.8%). This is not surprising since the study was carried out in the Eastern part of the country that is predominantly Christians. As regards to occupation, 30.6% were traders; 27.8% were schooling; 21.7% were civil servants; while 20% were farmers.

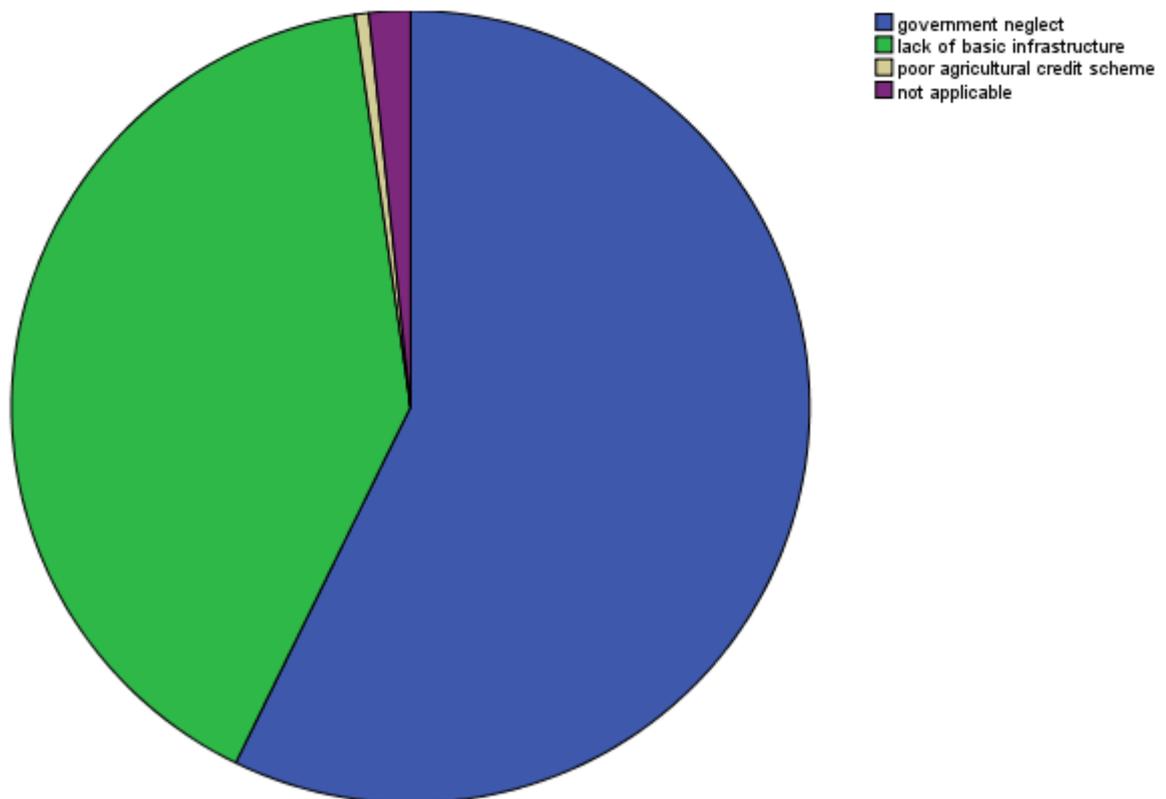
Table 2: Respondents views on socio economic factors that hinder development (n=180)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Are there socio economic factors that hinder development?		
Yes	177	98.3
No	3	1.7
Total	180	100.0
If yes, what are these socio-economic factors that hinder development?		
Government neglect	103	57.2
Lack of basic infrastructure	73	40.6
Poor agricultural credit scheme	1	.6
Not applicable	3	1.7
Total	180	100.0

Table 2 presents the respondent's views on socio-economic factors that hinder development. While 98.3% of the respondents agreed there are socio-economic factors that hinder development, 1.7% did not agree. Of the respondents that agreed, 57.2% said that these factors are government neglect while 40.6% said lack of basic infrastructure. The remaining .6% said poor agricultural scheme. This is also presented with a pie chart below.

Fig 1: Respondent's views on socio-economic factors that hinder development.

if yes, what are these socio-economic factors that hinder development?



From the above figure, 57.2% of the respondents saw government neglect as one of the factors that hinder development. 40.6% believe it is lack of basic infrastructure, while .6% said poor agricultural credit scheme.

Table 3: Respondents views on socio cultural factors that hinder development (n=180)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Are there socio economic factors that hinder development?		
Yes	115	63.9
No	65	36.1
Total	180	100.0
If yes, what are these socio-economic factors that hinder development?		
Cultural belief system	89	49.4
Gender segregation	26	14.4
Not applicable	65	36.1
Total	180	100.0

Table 3 presents the respondent's views on socio-cultural factors that hinder development. While 63.9% of the respondents agreed there are socio-cultural factors that hinder development, 36.1% did not agree. Of the respondents that agreed, 49.4% said that these factors are cultural belief system while 14.4% said gender segregation. This is also presented with a pie chart below.

Fig 2: Respondent's views on socio-cultural factors that hinder development.

if yes, what are these cultural factors that hinder development ?

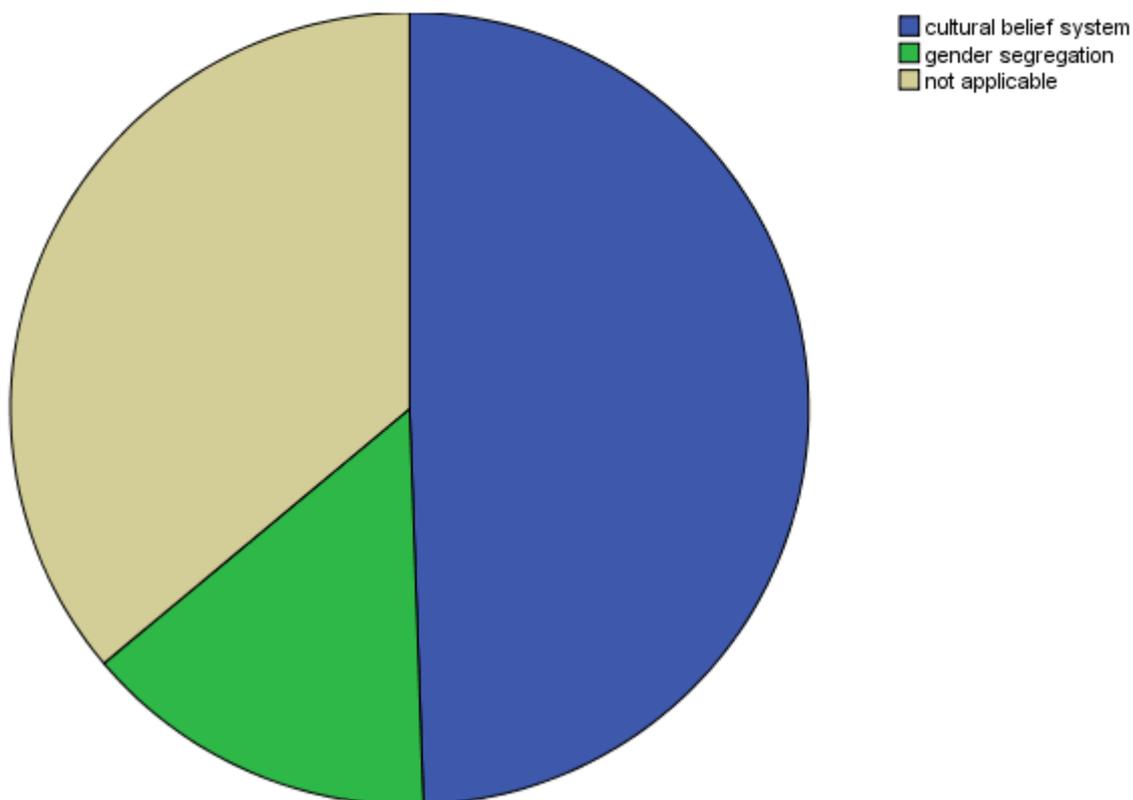


Table 4: Respondents views on people's reaction to development (n=180)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Do you think people react well to development?		
Yes	156	86.7
No	24	13.3
Total	180	100.0
If yes, how do you think people react to development?		
By harnessing the infrastructures provided by the government	72	40.0
By welcoming development despite cultural belief.	84	46.7
Not applicable	24	13.3
Total	180	100.0

Table 4 presents the respondent's views on people's reaction to development. 46% of the respondents agreed that people react well by harnessing the infrastructures provided by the government while 46.7% said it is by welcoming development despite cultural belief.

Table 5: Respondents views on whether rural dwellers help in facilitating rural development. (n=180)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Do rural dwellers help in facilitating rural development ?		
Yes	145	80.6
No	35	19.4
Total	180	100.0

From table 5 above, 80.6% of the respondents believe that rural dwellers help in facilitating rural development while 19.4% do not agree.

Fig 3: Respondent's views on whether improper rural development has any consequence.

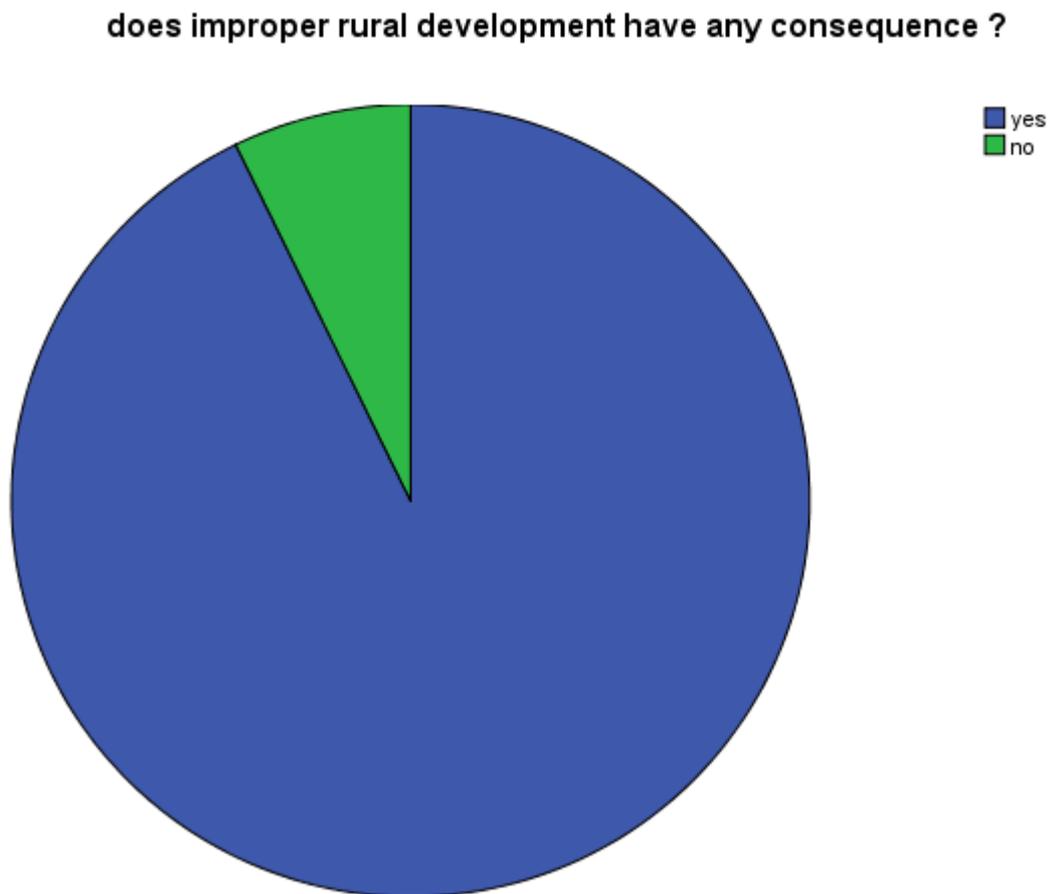


Fig 4: Respondent's views on whether government has made any effort to stopping the problems affecting rural development

have government made any effort to stopping the problems affecting rural development?

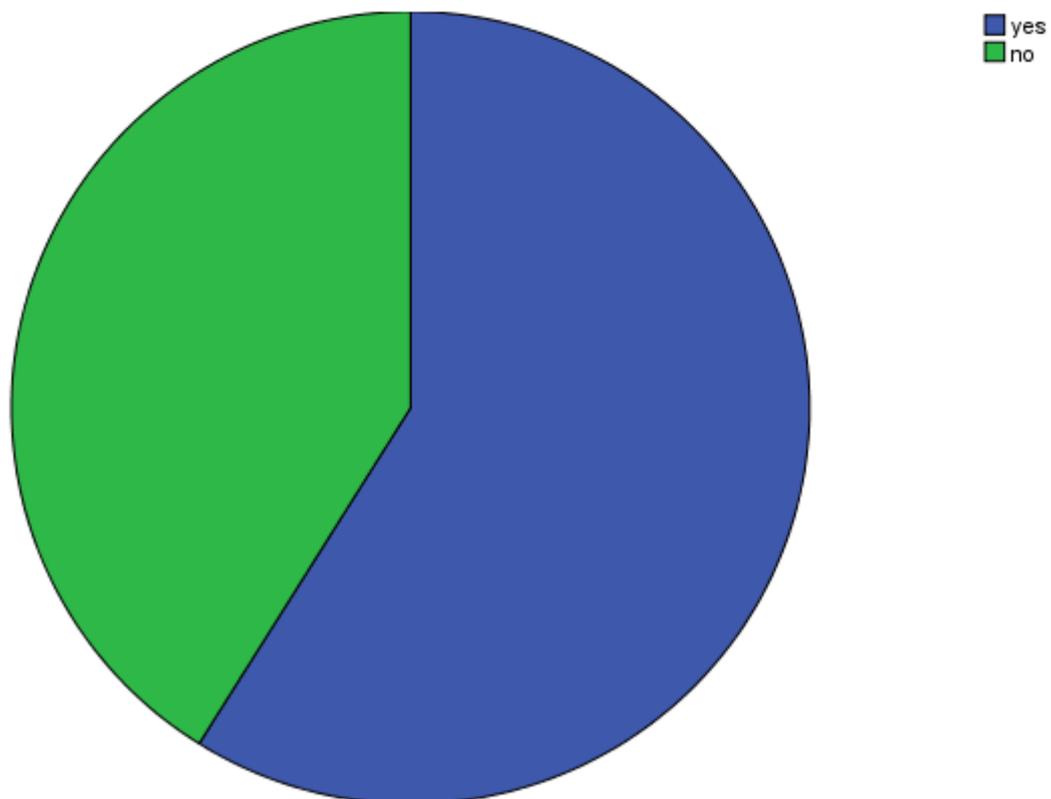


Fig 5: Respondent's views on efforts of the government in stopping the problems affecting rural development.

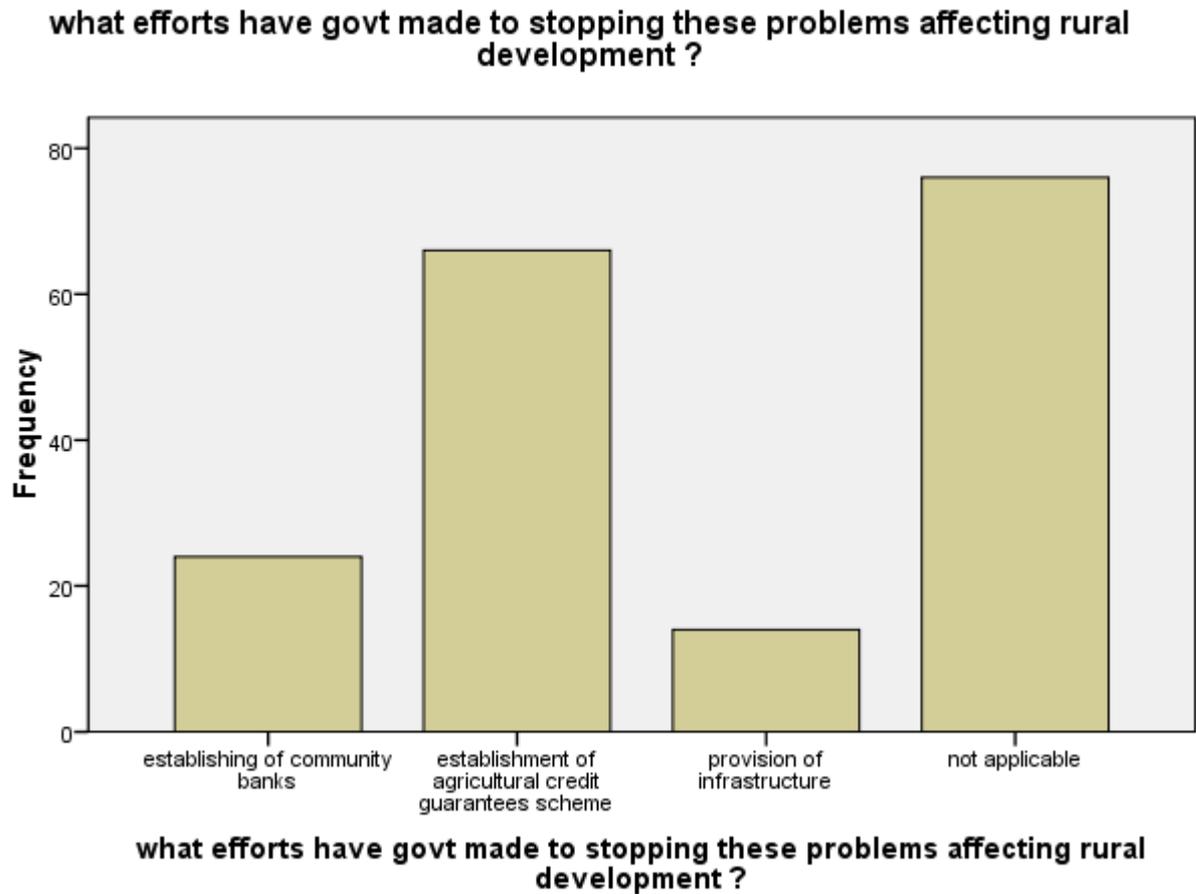
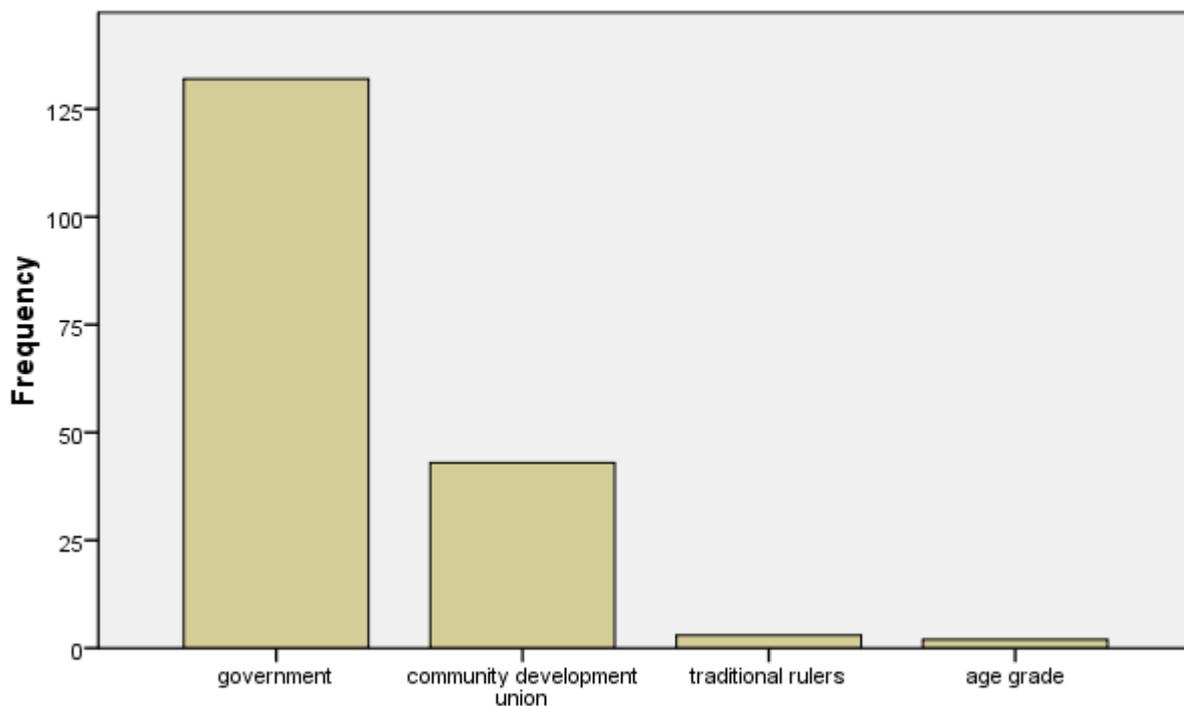


Fig 6: Respondent’s views on agencies that can be used to eradicate the problems affecting rural development.

what agency or body can be used to resolve these problems affecting rural development ?



what agency or body can be used to resolve these problems affecting rural development ?

Table 6: Respondents views on whether the youths have important role to play in rural development. (n=180)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Do the youths have important role to play in rural development?		
Yes	174	96.7
No	6	3.3
Total	180	100.0

Majority (96.7%) of the respondents agreed that the youths have important role to play in rural development. Only 3.3% do not agree.

4.2 Major issues of the research

Here, major issues of the research are presented. These include respondents' responses on socio-economic and cultural factors that hinder development, government's efforts in stopping problems affecting rural development, measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development, and agencies that can be used to resolve problems affecting rural development.

4.2.1 Socio-economic and Cultural Factors that hinder development.

To measure the socio-economic and cultural factors that hinder development, the relationship between demographic characteristics (like sex, age, marital status, level of education, occupation, and religion) and items 7 & 8 on the questionnaire schedule (are there any socio-economic factors that hinder development) were cross-tabulated and examined

However, some of the independent variables were recoded to make the analyses less cumbersome. These are presented with tables.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents by sex and factors militating against rural development.

SEX	Are there socio-economic factors that hinder development?					
	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male	97	54.8	2	66.7	99	55.0
Female	80	45.2	1	33.3	81	45.0
Total	177	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0
$\chi^2 = .682, df = 1, p = .168$						
SEX	Are there cultural factors that hinder development?					
	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male	65	56.5	34	52.3	99	55.0
Female	50	43.5	31	47.7	81	45.0
Total	115	100.0	65	100.0	180	100.0

$\chi^2 = .585, df = 1, p = .298$

The respondents' sex shows that 54.8% of male respondents and 45.2% believe that there are socio-economic factors that hinder development. Also in terms of cultural factors, 56.5% of male respondents and 43.5% of female respondents believe that there are cultural factors that hinder development. However, this is not significantly different ($\chi^2 = .682, df = 1, p = .168, \chi^2 = .585, df = 1, p = .298$).

Table 8: Distribution of respondents by age and factors militating against rural development.

AGE	Are there socio-economic factors that hinder development?					
	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Younger	130	73.4	2	66.7	132	73.3
Older	47	26.6	1	33.3	48	26.7
Total	177	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0
$\chi^2 = .792, df = 1, p = .069$						
Are there cultural factors that hinder development?						
Younger	90	78.3	42	64.6	132	100.0
Older	25	21.7	23	35.4	48	100.0
Total	115	100.0	65	100.0	180	100.0

$\chi^2 = .047, df = 1, p = 3.954$

The respondents' age shows that 73.4% of younger respondents and 26.6% of older ones believe that there are socio-economic factors that hinder development. Also in terms of cultural factors, 78.3% of younger respondents and 21.7% of older respondents believe that there are cultural factors that hinder development. However, this is significant (**$\chi^2 = .792, df = 1, p = .069$** , **$\chi^2 = .047, df = 1, p = 3.954$**).

Table 9: Distribution of respondents by level of education and factors militating against rural development.

	Are there socio-economic factors that hinder development?					
Level of education	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Lower	72	40.7	3	100.0	75	41.7
Higher	105	59.3	0	.0	105	58.3
Total	177	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0
$\chi^2 = .039$, df =1, p= 4.271						
	Are there cultural factors that hinder development?					
Younger	36	31.3	39	60.0	75	41.7
Older	79	68.7	26	40.0	105	58.3
Total	115	100.0	65	100.0	180	100.0

$\chi^2 = .000$, df =1, p= 14.069

The respondents' level of education shows that 40.7% of respondents with lower level of education and 59.3% of those with higher level of education believe that there are socio-economic factors that hinder development. Also in terms of cultural factors, 31.3% of respondents with lower level of education and 68.7% of those with higher level of education believe that there are cultural factors that hinder development. This is also significant ($\chi^2 = .039$, df =1, p= 4.271, $\chi^2 = .000$, df =1, p=14.069).

Table 10: Distribution of respondents by marital status and factors militating against rural development.

	Are there socio-economic factors that hinder development?					
Marital status	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Single	68	38.4	0	.0	68	37.8
Ever married	109	61.6	3	100.0	112	62.2
Total	177	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0
$\chi^2 = .174, df = 1, p = 1.852$						
	Are there cultural factors that hinder development?					
Single	45	39.1	23	35.4	68	37.8
Ever married	70	60.9	42	64.6	112	62.2
Total	115	100.0	65	100.0	180	100.0

$$\chi^2 = .619, df = 1, p = .248$$

The respondents' marital status shows that 38.4% of respondents that are single and 61.6% of those that are ever married believe that there are socio-economic factors that hinder development. Also in terms of cultural factors, 39.1% of respondents that are single and 60.9% of those that are ever married believe that there are cultural factors that hinder development. This is not significant ($\chi^2 = .174, df = 1, p = 1.852, \chi^2 = .619, df = 1, p = .248$).

Table 11: Distribution of respondents by marital status and factors militating against rural development.

	Are there socio-economic factors that hinder development?					
Marital status	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Single	68	38.4	0	.0	68	37.8
Ever married	109	61.6	3	100.0	112	62.2
Total	177	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0
$\chi^2 = .174, df = 1, p = 1.852$						
	Are there cultural factors that hinder development?					
Single	45	39.1	23	35.4	68	37.8
Ever married	70	60.9	42	64.6	112	62.2
Total	115	100.0	65	100.0	180	100.0

$$\chi^2 = .619, df = 1, p = .248$$

The respondents' marital status shows that 38.4% of respondents that are single and 61.6% of those that are ever married believe that there are socio-economic factors that hinder development. Also in terms of cultural factors, 39.1% of respondents that are single and 60.9% of those that are ever married believe that there are cultural factors that hinder development. This is not significant ($\chi^2 = .174, df = 1, p = 1.852, \chi^2 = .619, df = 1, p = .248$).

Table 12: Distribution of respondents by occupation and factors militating against rural development.

Occupation	Are there socio-economic factors that hinder development?					
	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Farming	36	20.3	0	.0	36	20.0
Civil servant	37	20.9	2	66.7	39	21.7
Trading	54	30.5	1	33.3	55	30.6
Schooling	50	28.2	0	.0	50	27.8
Total	177	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0
$\chi^2 = .229$, $df = 3$, $p = 4.317$						
Are there cultural factors that hinder development?						
Farming	17	14.8	19	29.2	36	20.0
Civil servant	28	24.3	11	16.9	39	21.7
Trading	28	24.3	27	41.5	55	30.6
Schooling	42	36.5	8	12.3	50	27.8
Total	115	100.0	65	100.0	180	100.0

$\chi^2 = .000$, $df = 3$, $p = 18.173$

The respondents' occupation shows that 20.34% of respondents that are farmers, 20.9% of civil servants, 30.5% of traders, and 28.2% of those that are schooling believe that there are socio-economic factors that hinder development. Also in terms of cultural factors, 14.81% of respondents that are farmers, 24.3% of those that are civil servants, 24.3% of those that are traders, and 36.5% of those that are schooling believe that there are cultural factors that hinder development. This is slightly significant ($\chi^2 = .229$, $df = 3$, $p = 4.317$, $\chi^2 = .000$, $df = 3$, $p = 18.173$).

Table 13: Distribution of respondents by religious affiliation and factors militating against rural development.

		Are there socio-economic factors that hinder development?					
Religious affiliation		Yes		No		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
Christian		147	83.1	2	66.7	149	82.8
African traditional religion		30	16.9	1	33.3	31	17.2
Total		177	100.0	3	100.0	180	100.0
$\chi^2 = .456, df = 1, p = .555$							
		Are there cultural factors that hinder development?					
Christian		96	83.5	53	81.5	149	82.8
African traditional religion		19	16.5	12	18.5	31	17.2
Total		115	100.0	65	100.0	180	100.0

$\chi^2 = .741, df = 1, p = .110$

The respondents' religious affiliation shows that 83.1% of respondents that are Christians and 16.9% of those that are traditionalists believe that there are socio-economic factors that hinder development. Also in terms of cultural factors, 83.5% of respondents that are Christians, and 16.5% of those that traditionalists believe that there are cultural factors that hinder development. This is not significant ($\chi^2 = .456, df = 1, p = .555, \chi^2 = .741, df = 1, p = .110$).

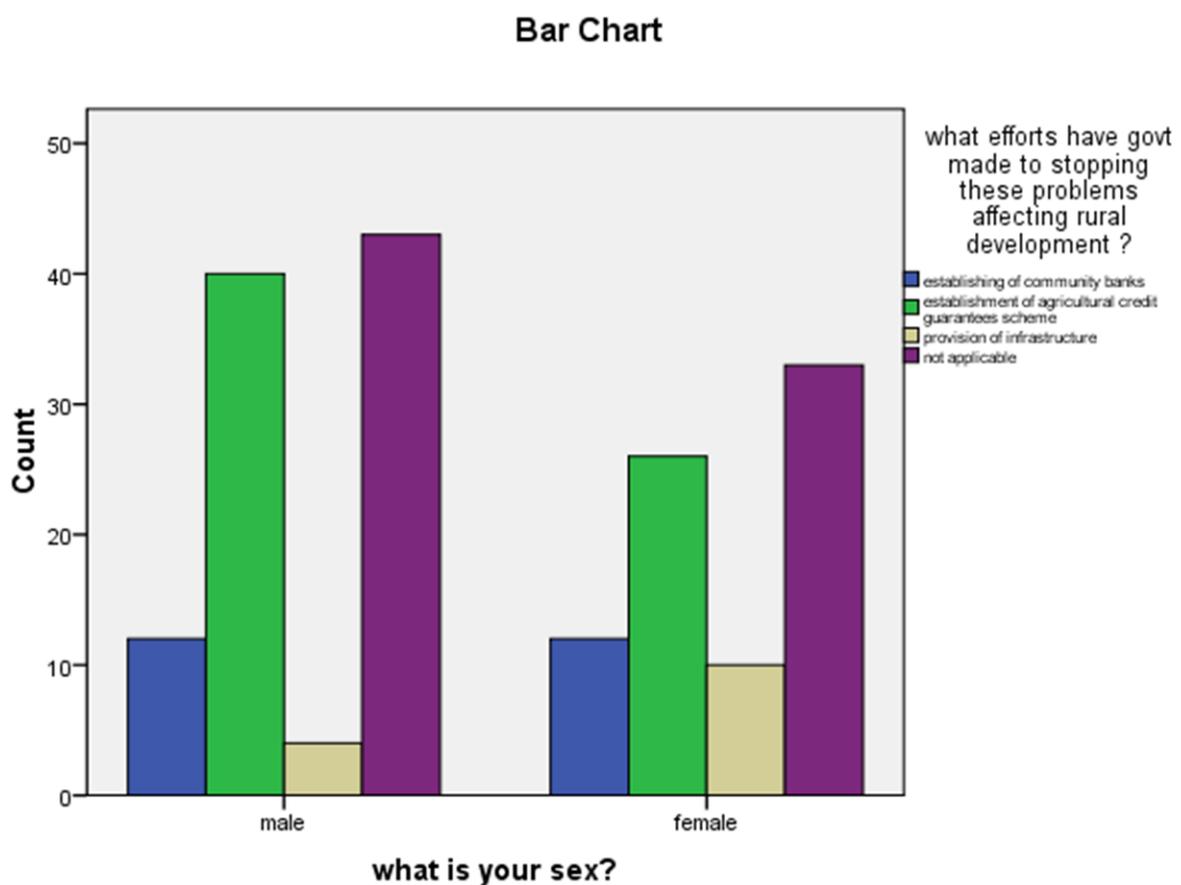
4.2.2 Government's efforts at stopping problems affecting rural development

To measure the government's efforts at stopping the problems affecting rural development, the relationship between demographic characteristics (like sex, age, marital status, level of education,

occupation, and religion) and items 16 on the questionnaire schedule (what efforts has government made to stopping the problems affecting rural development) were cross-tabulated and examined.

However, some of the independent variables were also recoded to make the analyses less cumbersome. These are presented with charts.

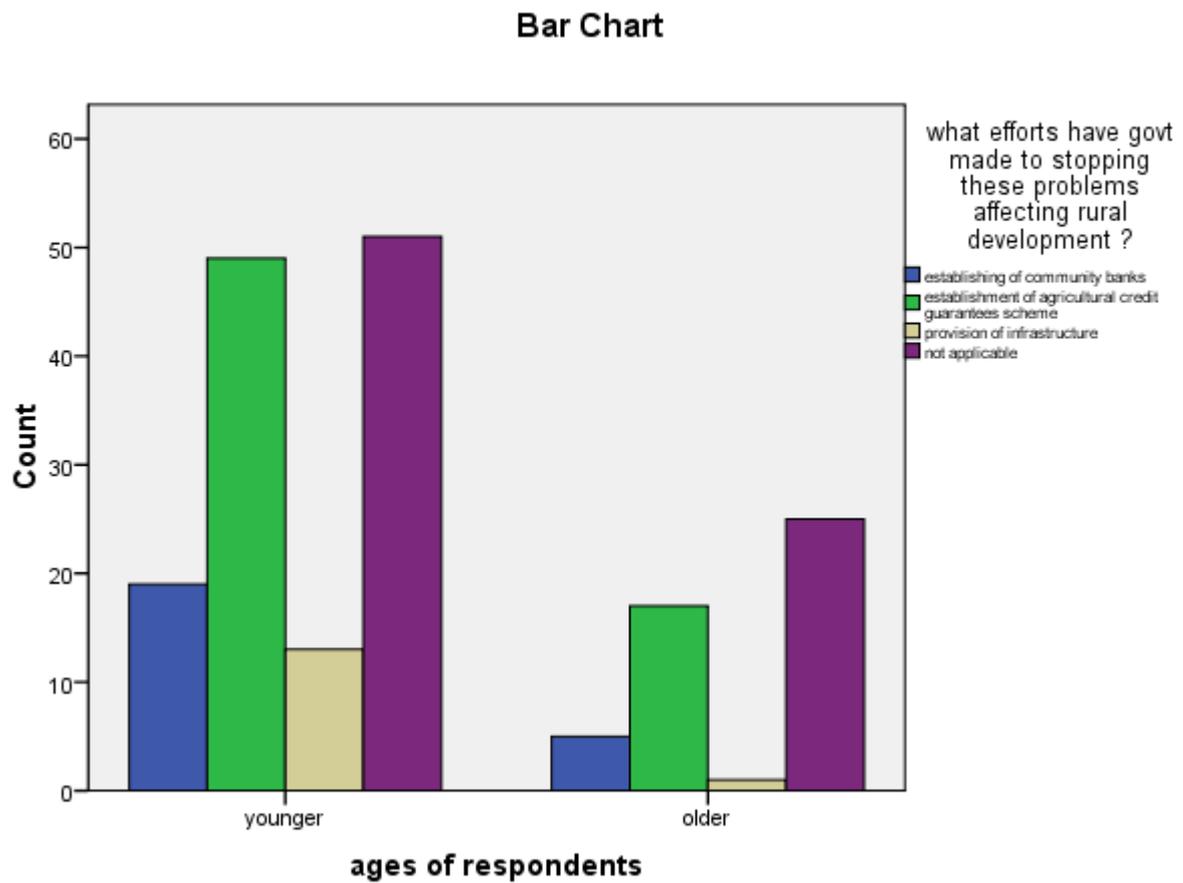
Fig 7: Distribution of respondents by sex and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.



$$(\chi^2 = .164, df = 3, p = 5.108)$$

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between sex of respondents and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.

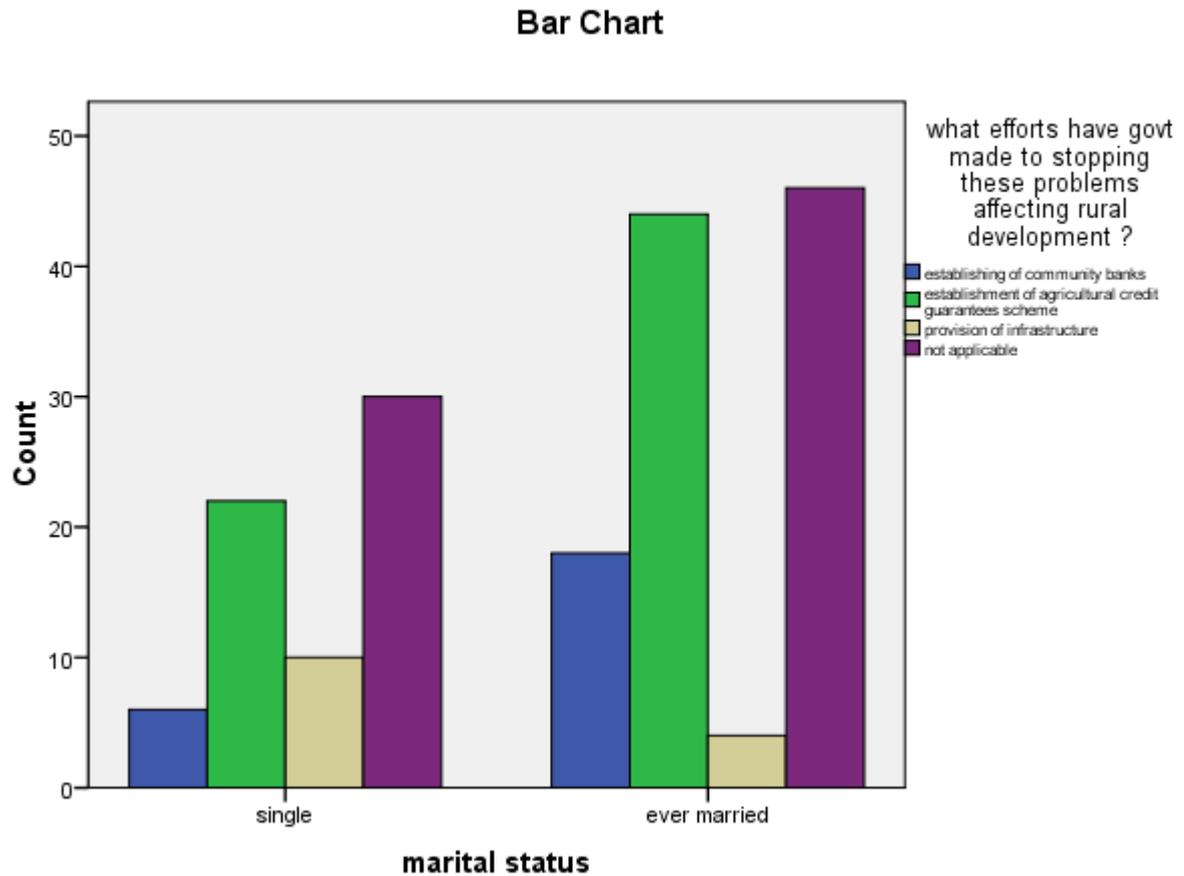
Fig 8: Distribution of respondents by age and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.



$(\chi^2 = .197, df = 3, p = 4.682)$

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between ages of respondents and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.

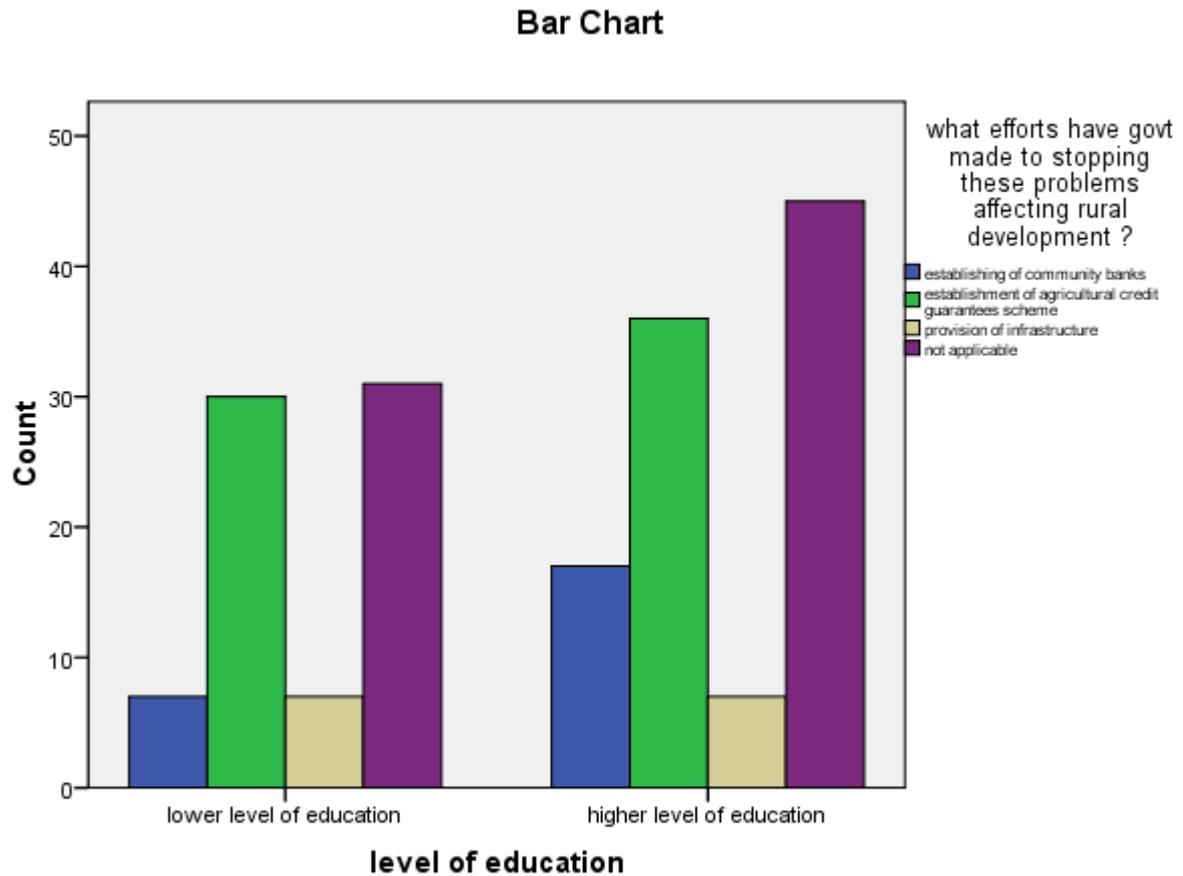
Fig 9: Distribution of respondents by marital status and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.



$(\chi^2 = .029, df = 3, p = 9.059)$

The above chart shows that there is a significant relationship between marital status of respondents and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.

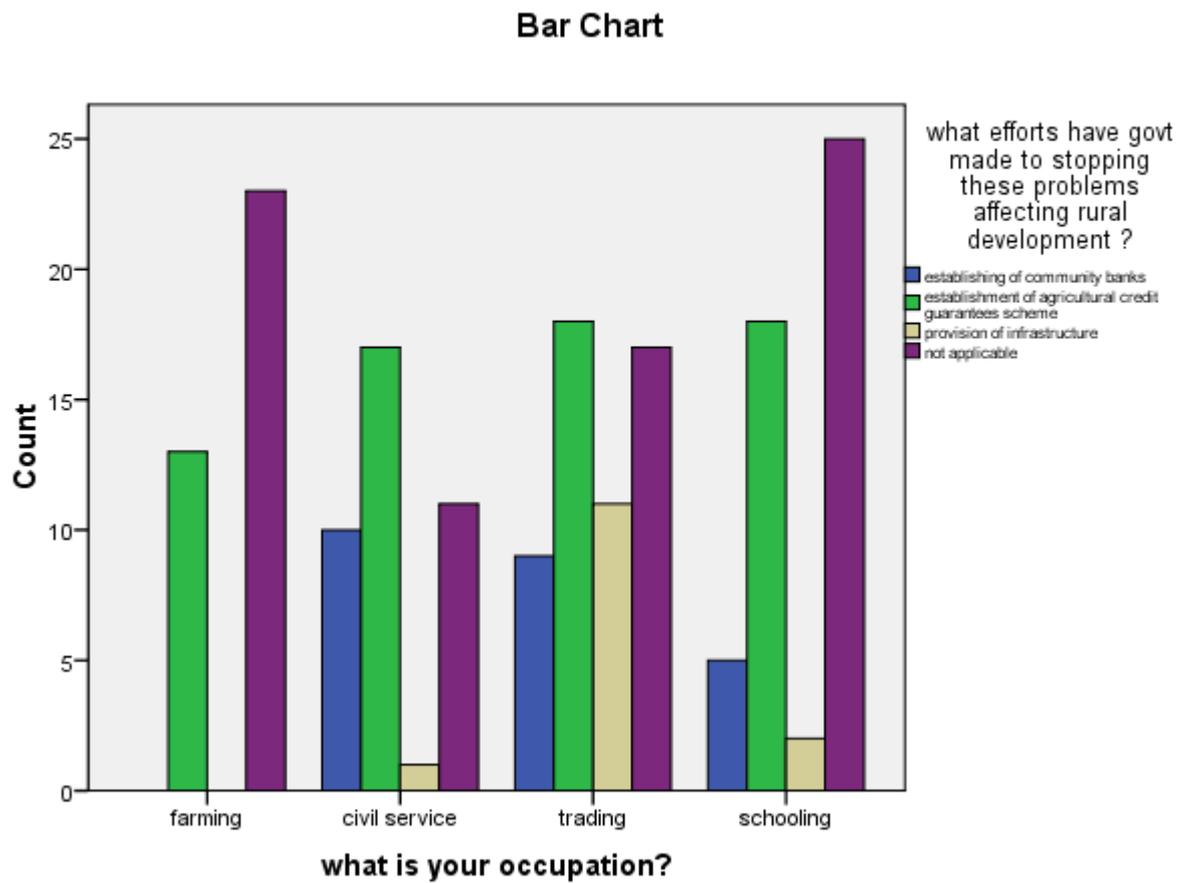
Fig 10: Distribution of respondents by level of education and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.



$(\chi^2 = .502, df = 3, p = 2.357)$

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between the level of education of respondents and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.

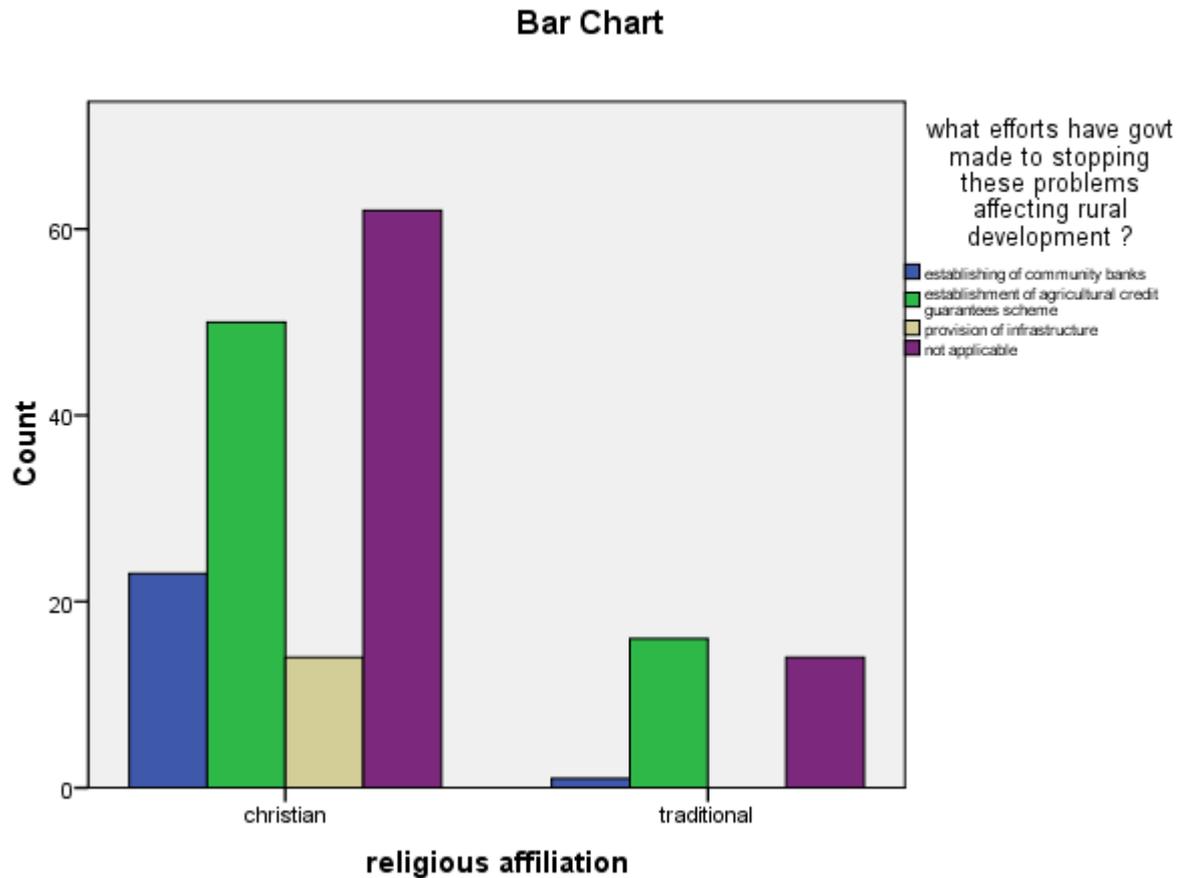
Fig 11: Distribution of respondents by occupation and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.



$(\chi^2 = .000, df = 9, p = 34.623)$

The above chart shows that there is a significant relationship between the occupation of respondents and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.

Fig 12: Distribution of respondents by religious affiliation and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.



$(\chi^2 = .043, df = 3, p = 8.140)$

The above chart shows that there is a significant relationship between the religion of respondents and efforts made by the government to stopping problems affecting rural development.

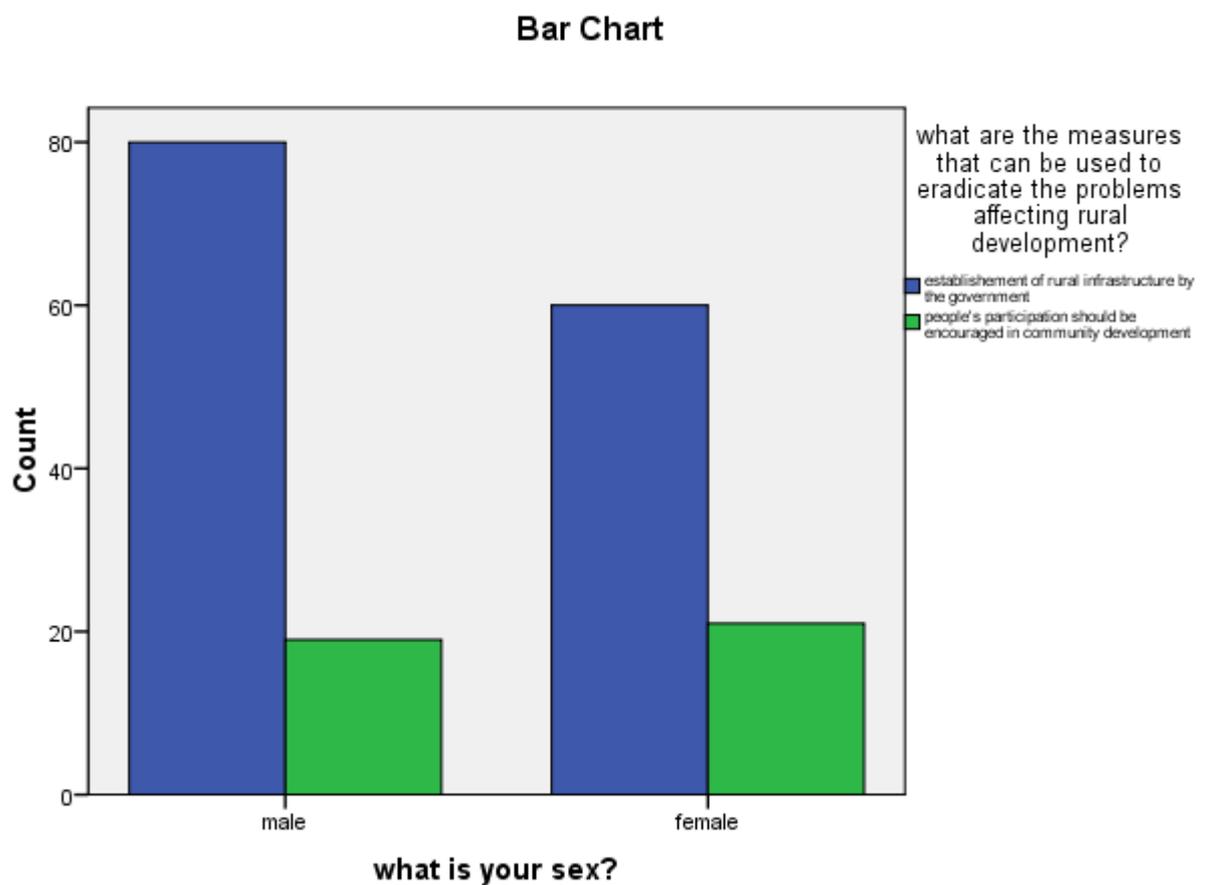
4.2.3 Measures that can be used to eradicate the problems affecting rural development.

To measure the measures that can be used to eradicate the problems affecting rural development, the relationship between demographic characteristics (like sex, age, marital status, level of education, occupation, and religion) and items 17 on the questionnaire

schedule (what are the measures that can be used to eradicate the problems affecting rural development) were cross-tabulated and examined.

However, some of the independent variables were also recoded to make the analyses less cumbersome. These are presented with charts.

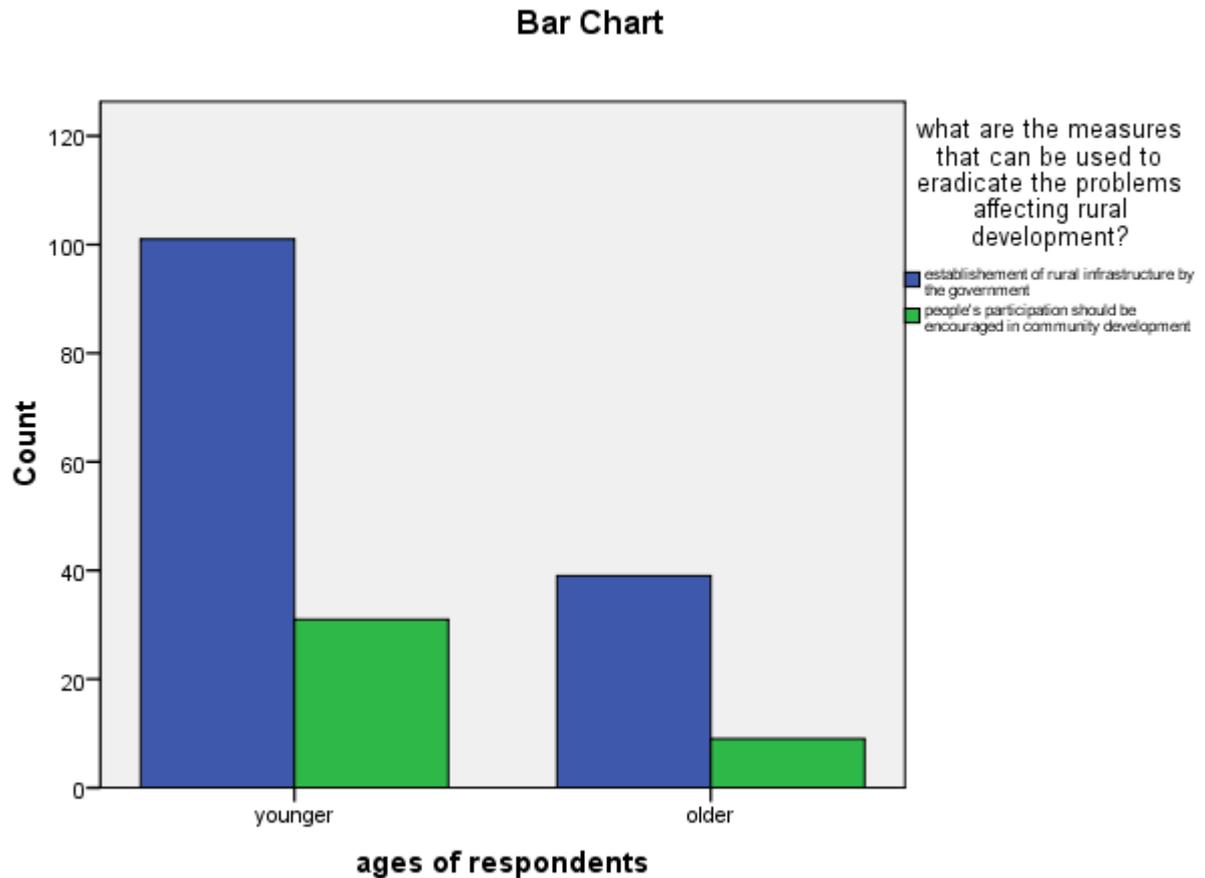
Fig 13: Distribution of respondents by sex and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.



$$(\chi^2 = .280, df = 1, p = 1.169)$$

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between the sex of respondents and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

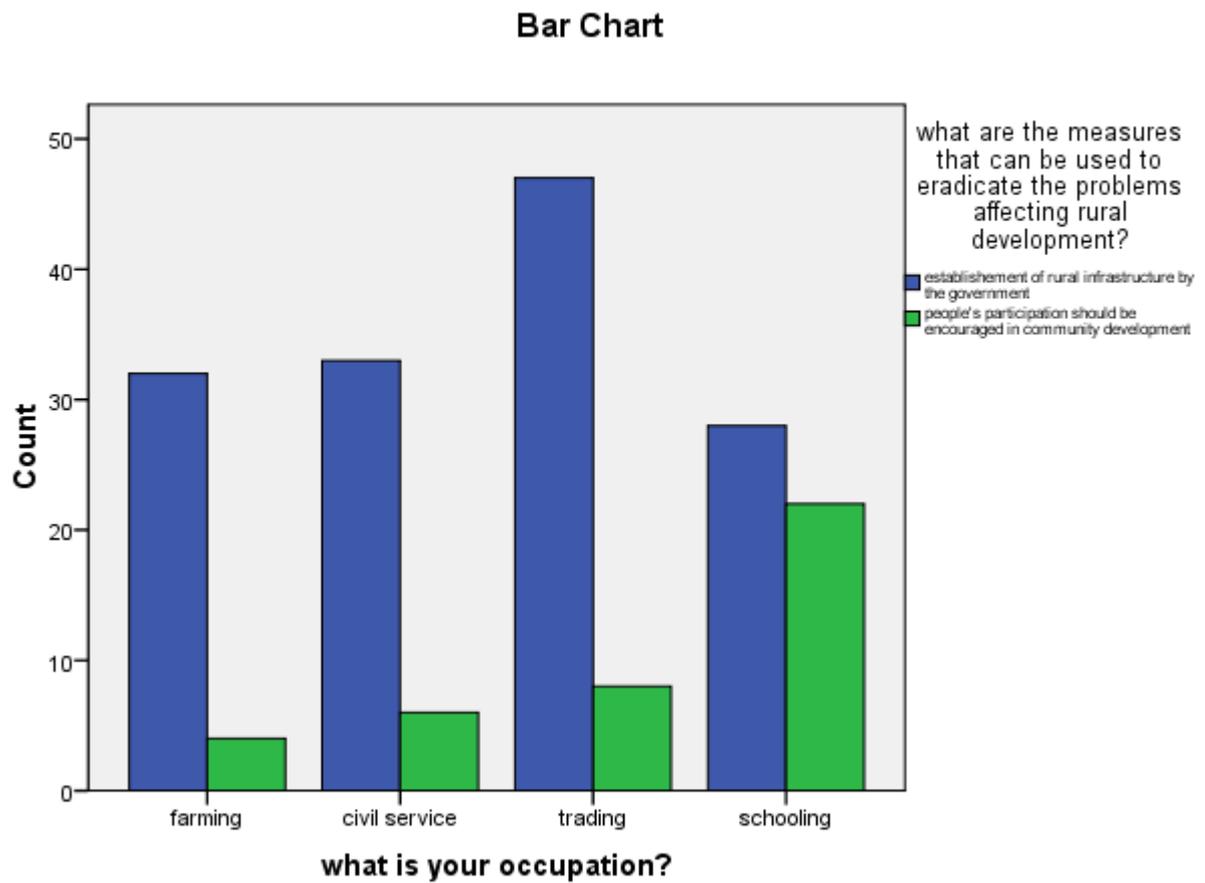
Fig 14: Distribution of respondents by age and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.



$(\chi^2 = .499, df = 1, p = .457)$

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between the ages of respondents and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

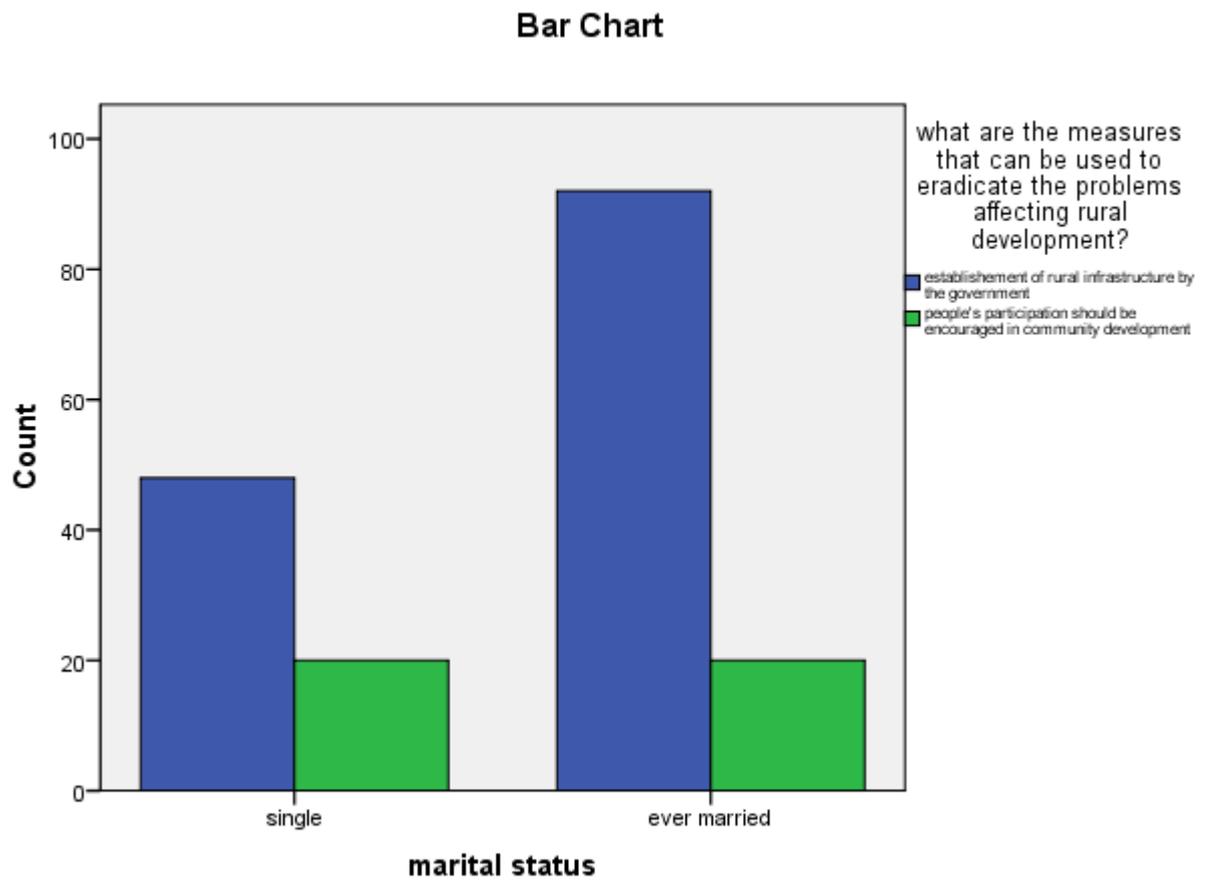
Fig 15: Distribution of respondents by occupation and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.



($\chi^2 = .000$, $df = 3$, $p = 19.222$)

The above chart shows that there is a significant relationship between the occupation of respondents and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

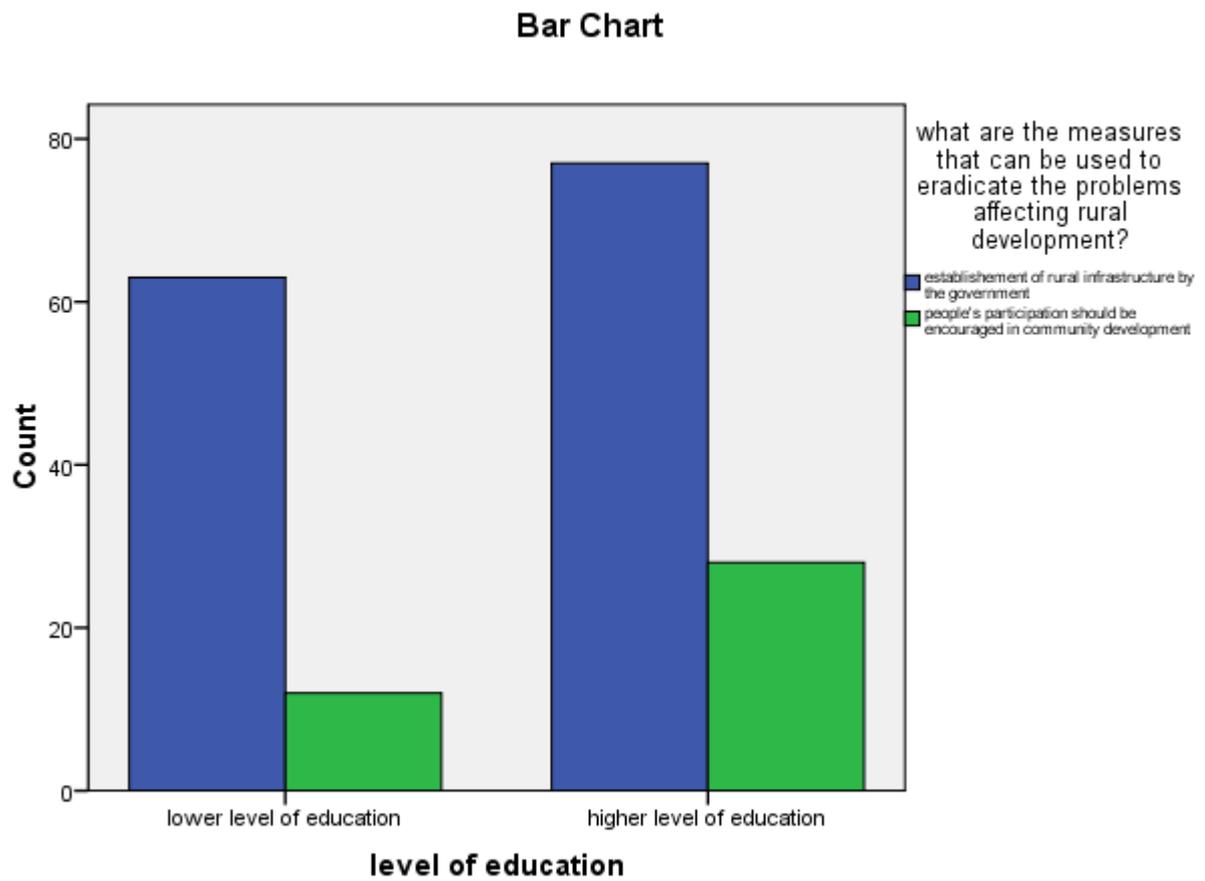
Fig 16: Distribution of respondents by marital status and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.



$(\chi^2 = .071, df = 1, p = 3.268)$

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between the marital status of respondents and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

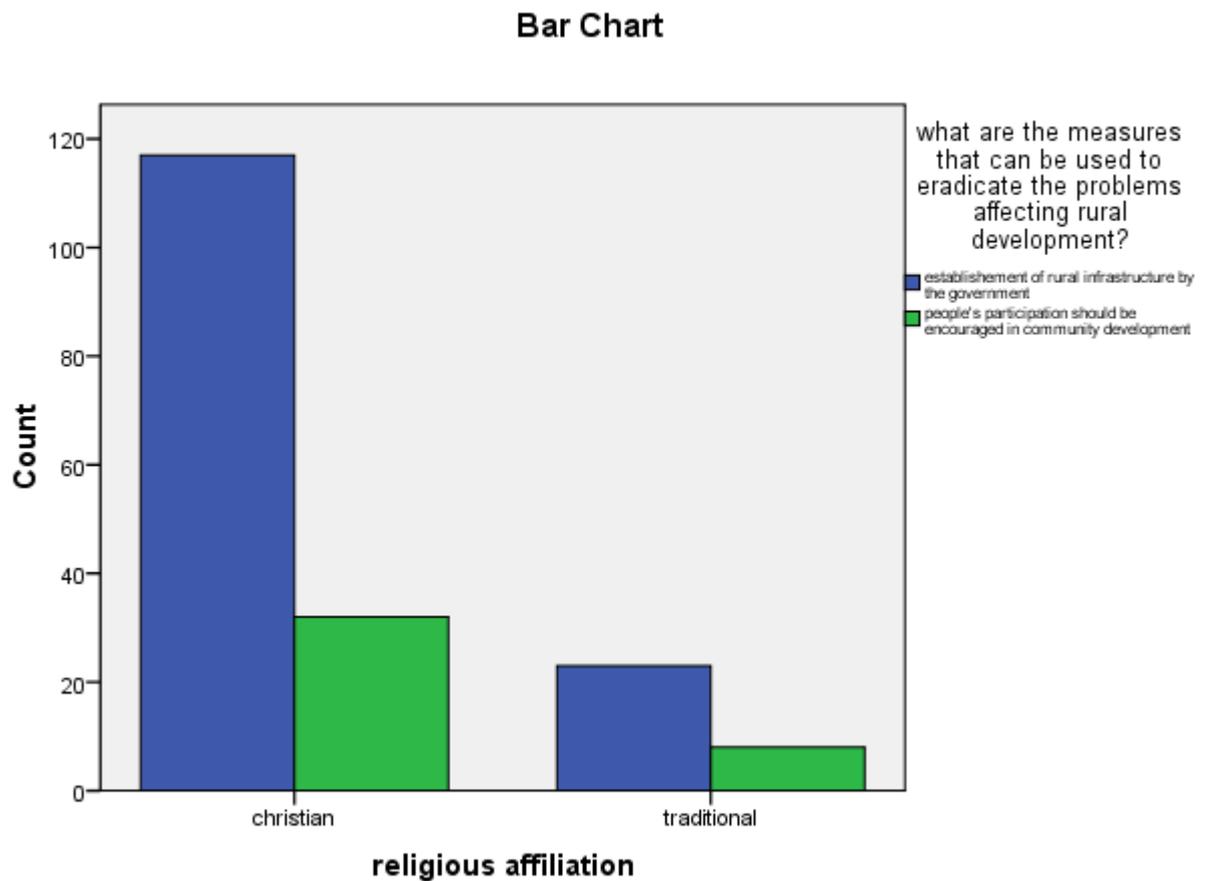
Fig 17: Distribution of respondents by level of education and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.



($\chi^2 = 0.90$, $df = 1$, $p = 2.2880$)

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between the level of education of respondents and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

Fig 18: Distribution of respondents by religious affiliation and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.



$$(\chi^2 = 5.98, df = 1, p = .278)$$

The above chart shows that there is no significant relationship between the religion of respondents and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

4.3 TEST OF HYPOTHESES

The study is designed to explore the socio-economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo state. In this section, three hypotheses formulated for the study were tested. Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses.

4.3.1 Hypothesis one

H1: There is a significant relationship between the ages of respondents and factors militating against rural development.

To test this hypothesis, a cross tabulation between the ages of respondents and the questions, “are there any socio-economic factors that hinder development ?” was done (see table below).

Table 14: Distribution of respondents by age and factors militating against rural development.

AGE	Are there any socio-economic actors militating against rural development?					
	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Younger respondents	130	98.5	2	1.52	132	100.0
Older respondents	47	97.9	1	2.1	48	100.0
Total	177	98.3	3	1.7	180	100.0

$$\chi^2 = .792, df = 1, p = .069$$

The above table indicates that there is no significant difference ($\chi^2 = .792, df = 1, p = .069$) between the ages of respondents and socio-economic factors militating against rural development. Therefore, we reject the hypothesis.

4.3.2 Hypothesis two

H1: Male respondents react well to development more than the female respondents.

To test this hypothesis, a cross tabulation between the sex of the respondents and “do you think people react well to development?” was done (see table 15 below).

Table 15: Distribution of respondents by sex and factors militating against rural development

SEX	Are there any socio-economic actors militating against rural development?					
	Yes		No		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male respondents	83	83.8	16	16.2	99	100.0
Female respondents	73	90.1	8	9.9	81	100.0
Total	156	86.7	24	13.3	180	100.0

$$\chi^2 = .217, df = 1, p = 1.523$$

The above table indicates that there is no significant difference ($\chi^2 = .217, df = 1, p = 1.523$) between the sex of respondents and socio-economic factors militating against rural development. Therefore, we reject the hypothesis.

4.3.3 Hypothesis Three

H1: There is a relationship between respondents level of education and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

To test this hypothesis, a cross tabulation between level of education of respondents and the question, “what are the measures that can be used to eradicate the problems affecting rural development” was done (see table 16 below).

Table 16: Distribution of respondents by level of education and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.

Respondents' level of education	Measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development.					
	establishment of rural infrastructure by the government		people's participation should be encouraged in community development		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Lower level of education	63	84.0	12	16.0	75	100.0
Higher level of education	77	73.3	28	26.7	105	100.0
Total	140	77.8	40	22.2	180	100.0

$$\chi^2 = .090 \text{ df} = 1, p = 2.880$$

The above table indicates that there is no significant difference ($\chi^2 = .090 \text{ df} = 1, p = 2.880$) between the level of education of respondents and measures that can be used to eradicate problems affecting rural development. Therefore, we reject the hypothesis.

4.4 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Discussion of findings is very pivotal in any research work. This is because it helps to give a better understanding of the topic under study. Based on the responses gotten from the questionnaire and the analysis done, it was discovered that there are socio-economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo state.

Firstly, respondents' views on socio economic factors that hinder rural development, 98.3% of the respondents agreed that there are socio economic factors that hinder rural development. 1.7% did not agree. For those that agreed, 57.2% were of the opinion that it was government neglect, 40.6% said lack of basic infrastructure, and 6% said it was due to poor agricultural loan scheme. A pie chart was used in presenting the above findings (figure 1). These findings have proven that government neglect is the major socio economic factor that hinders rural development. This supports the work of Nwankpa (2001) which studied the role of government in rural development, and that of Olatunbosun (1975). It is a truism that when a rural area is neglected by the government, the infrastructural development of that area is affected drastically. This is being supported by the work of Ezeah (2005) which emphasized that rural development is that type of development which seeks to enhance the quality of life in the rural areas by providing basic infrastructural facilities.

Secondly, respondents' views on socio cultural factors that hinder rural development shows that 63.9% of the respondents agreed that there are socio cultural factors that hinder rural development while 36.1% did not agree. For those that agreed, 49.4% said that these factors are cultural belief system while 14.4% said gender segregation. These findings were also presented with pie chart (figure 2). In view of this, it is credible that cultural belief of the people affects or hinders rural development. According to Foster (1962), the idea of holding tight the ways of doing things (cultural belief system) hinders the chances of learning new innovation.

Thirdly, respondents' views on people's reaction to rural development, 40% of them agreed that people react well by harnessing the infrastructures provided by the government while 46.7% said it is by welcoming development despite cultural belief. Based on these findings, it is considered necessary for the rural people to welcome rural development despite their cultural belief system. In view of this, according to Briddle (1990), meaningful

structural change cannot occur in the rural areas unless there is willingness among the people to embrace and welcome change.

Fourthly, respondents' views on whether rural dwellers helps in facilitating rural development, 80% of the respondents believe that rural dwellers help in facilitating rural development while 19.4% do not agree. On the other hand, majority of the respondents were of the view that improper rural development has greater consequences while few numbers of them said no to that. This was shown using pie chart (figure 3). This is supported by the works of Nwobi (2007) whose findings showed that improper rural development can lead to four major rural development problems which are poverty, inequality, unemployment and self- esteem.

Fifthly, respondents' views on whether government has made any effort to stopping the problems affecting rural development in Ideato North, majority of the respondents were of the view that government has not made any effort to stop the problems affecting rural development while few numbers of persons agreed that government has made some efforts. A pie chart was also used in explaining this (figure 4). The views on what efforts the government has made to stop these problems were explained with bar chart (figure 5).

Sixthly, respondents' views on agencies that can be used to resolve the problems affecting rural development in Ideato North were shown using bar chart in figure 6. On the other hand, respondents' views on whether the youths have important role to play in rural development, almost all (96.7%) the respondents agreed that the youths have important role to play in rural development in Ideato Local Government Area. Based on this, rural dwellers especially youths should be allowed to participate in decision making and planning on the developmental projects taking place in the rural areas.

In conclusion, based on the discussion of these findings, the researcher pointed out some measures that should be put in place in order to alleviate these socio economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato Local Government Area of Imo state. These measures are: (1) Government should live up to their expectation by providing the basic the basic needs of the rural people and not leave them in total neglect. (2) Rural people should learn to welcome and harness development provided by the government despite their cultural belief system, and (3) Participation of rural dwellers, mostly the youths in developmental decision making and planning should be made paramount. The rest of the problems lie on the above mentioned three major problems, when these three major problems are tackled, other minor ones are solved.

CHAPTER FIVE

Summary of findings, conclusion and recommendation

This chapter summarizes the salient points in this work. It also provides conclusion and recommendation on the socio economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato Local Government area of Imo state.

5.1 Summary of findings

This study has made known among other things that the socio economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato Local Government Area of Imo state is as a result of total neglect experienced by the rural people from the government and unwillingness of the rural people to welcome and harness incoming or already made developmental projects as a result of their cultural belief system and nonchalant attitude.

Other important factors under the above mentioned two factors are lack of basic infrastructures, unavailability of erected industries to fight unemployment among youths, government not being eager to provide agricultural credit loan scheme facilities for rural farmers, and lack of effective participation of the rural dwellers in rural developmental planning as well as in decision making. Most of all these problems according to the findings are owing to the fact that governments mostly focus their attentions on the development of urban areas instead of rural areas, forgetting that rural areas plays vital roles in building up our standard of living and economy through its agricultural productions. However, the researcher also revealed the consequences associated with the absence of development in the rural areas as rural-urban migration by the youths in search of better condition of living. As a result of this, labour force will be lacking in the rural areas and also the economic activities in the rural areas will be greatly affected.

Subsequently, the study highlighted the ways by which rural development can be enhanced or the way forward for achieving effective and sustainable development in Ideato Local Government Area. They are:

1. Government attention should be mostly on developing the rural areas and not the urban areas alone. That is to say that government should not be neglecting the rural areas in terms of development
2. Rural development by the government should be the one that will address the basic needs of the people.
3. Government should try and collaborate with the rural dwellers, more especially the youths in planning and decision making of any developmental projects coming to the rural area. This will enable the community people to be aware of incoming development project and have the mind to welcome them willingly.

5.2 Conclusion

Generally the socio economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato Local Government Area of Imo state have been attributed to lack of effective participation of the rural dwellers in the decision making and planning processes of the rural development; Government not living up to their responsibility in bringing a better development in the rural areas; individual members of the rural areas not welcoming and harnessing the development brought to them by the government; Government not focusing their attention in the development of rural areas, rather, they focus more attention in the urban areas, leaving the rural areas in total neglect; the cultural belief system of the rural people; absence of basic infrastructures in the rural areas; unavailability of rural industries for employment opportunities which gives rise to

rural poverty; the idea of land tenure system in the rural areas and lastly, government not being willing to provide agricultural credit loan scheme for rural farmers.

Furthermore, based on the above mentioned socio economic and cultural factors militating against rural development, it is now a truism to say that Ideato 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 rural development.

5.3 **Recommendation**

For effective and sustainable development, development in Ideato rural community, there is need for a proper utilization of the following recommendations:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Individual in the rural areas should learn to welcome development. They should learn better ways of harnessing the little development brought to them by the government.
4. Government should not only focus their attention in developing the urban settings and leaving the rural settings in total neglect.
5. For a sustainable development in the rural areas, rural people should learn to avoid placing their cultural value system foremost for it hinders or militates against rural development in the area.

6. The local and state government should make provision for rural infrastructure in the community to the extent it will facilitate rapid economic development of the communities.
7. Government should make provision for employment by building industries in the rural areas. It will reduce the rate of unemployment and create job opportunities in the rural area, which will in turn give room for poverty reduction.
8. The idea of land tenure system should be looked into in the rural areas as it hinders development that will come to the rural areas.
9. 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.

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APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE SCHEDULE

Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Caritas University,
Amorji Nike,
Enugu State.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a final year student in the department of Sociology/Anthropology of the above school. I am currently conducting a research work on the socio economic and cultural factors militating against rural development in Ideato North Local Government of Imo State.

This is strictly for academic purpose and the answers you give will be treated with absolute confidentiality. Thanks for your kind cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,

Section A: Personal Data of the Respondents

Instruction: please tick (✓) in the appropriate boxes to indicate the correct answer

1. What is your sex? (a) Male [] (b) Female []
2. What age bracket do you fall in? (a) 18-27 [] (b) 28 -37 [] (c) 38-47 [] (d) 48- 57 [] (e) 58-67 [] (f) 68- above []
3. What is your marital status? (a) Single [] (b) Married [] (c) Divorced [] (d) Widow []
4. What is your level of education? (a) Elementary [] (b) Secondary [] (c) NCE/Diploma [] (d) University education [] (e) No formal education []
5. What is your occupation? (a) Farming [] (b) Civil servant [] (c) Trading [] (d) Schooling []
6. What is your religious affiliation? (a) Christian [] (b) Islam [] (c) Traditional religion [] (d) Others (Specify) -----

SECTION B: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

7. Are there socio economic factors that hinder rural development in Ideato North L. G. A? (a) Yes [] (b) No
8. Are there cultural factors that hinder rural development in Ideato L G A? (a) Yes [] (b) No
9. What are these socio economic factors that hinder rural development in Ideato LGA? (a) Government neglect [] (b) Lack of basic infrastructure [] (c) Other specify ---
10. What are these cultural factors that hinder rural development in Ideato L G A (a) Cultural belief system [] (b) Gender segregation [] (c) Other specify -----
11. Do you think people react well to rural development in Ideato LGA? (a) Yes [] (b) No

12. How well do you think people react to rural development in Ideato L G A? (a) By harnessing the infrastructures provided by the government [] (b) By welcoming development despite their cultural belief system [] (c) Other specify -----
13. Do rural dwellers help in facilitating rural development in Ideato L G A? (a) Yes [] (b) No
14. Does improper rural development have any consequences on Ideato L.G. A? (a) Yes [] (b) No
15. Have governments made any effort to stopping the problems affecting rural development in Ideato LGA? (a) Yes [] (b) No
16. What effort have government made to stop these problems affecting rural development in Ideato LGA? (a) Establishing of community banks [] (b) Establishment of agricultural credit guarantee scheme [] (c) Other specify -----
17. What are the measures that can be used to eradicate the problems affecting rural development in Ideato LGA? (a) Establishment of rural infrastructures by the government [] (b) People's participation should be encouraged in community development []
18. What agency or body can be used to resolve these problems affecting rural development in Ideato LGA? (a) Government [] (b) Ideato community development union [] (c) Traditional rulers [] (d) Age Grade []
19. Do you think youths have important role to play in rural development of Ideato LGA? (a) Yes [] (b) No