

---

---

## Assessment of The Participation of Community Development Associations in the Management of Covid-19 Pandemic in Ogun State, Nigeria

**Aderogba, Ademola A. (Ph.D)**

Lagos State University of Science and Technology

Ikorodu, Lagos State, Nigeria

E-mail: molaaderogba2019@gmail.com

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1732-1997>

### ABSTRACT

This study assesses the relevance of civil society in the process of implementing national intervention programs towards solving the various national problems confronting the citizens in Nigeria. To achieve this, the study employs survey instruments, to examine the extent of participation of the Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Ogun state, in the national management of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> waves of Corona Virus 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic in Ogun State. The selection of sample was through Simple Random Technique, among the CDA executives within the three senatorial districts of the state, and descriptive statistical tools were used to determine the extent of their participation in the three action areas of Covid-19 management- the prevention, treatment, and the monitoring and support activities. The results show that the CDAs participated significantly in both the preventions and the monitoring and support activities, but they did not participate significantly in treatment activities. The study recommends legal recognition, special grants, and capacity building for CDA executives to address the implications of issues identified for new policy decisions.

**Keywords:** Community Development Associations, Covid-19, Grassroots, National Development, Self-Help

---

#### Journal Reference Format:

Aderogba, A.A. (2022): Assessment of The Participation of Community Development Associations in the Management of Covid-19 Pandemic in Ogun State, Nigeria. *Social Informatics, Business, Politics, Law, Environmental Sciences & Technology Journal*.

Vol. 8, No. 3 Pp 47-62.. [www.isteams/socialinformaticsjournal](http://www.isteams/socialinformaticsjournal)

---

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Contemporary public administration encompasses both state and non-state actors. The relevance of non-state actors, especially the civil society, is becoming more prominent in developing nations where state institutions are weak and incapable of solving complex societal problems. The civil societies have been collaborating significantly in recent time, and also complementing the services of the public sector in all critical areas of service delivery; be it social, economic or democratic governance. According to Yagboyaju and Akinola (2019), Nigeria and some other developing countries underperformed due to the lack of the state capacity to deal with the contemporary complexities of governance. They further observe that the reasons for failure of the African states are historical heritage, weak leadership, corruption, and violent conflicts. They conclude that the Nigerian state has failed in three major areas- Security of lives and properties, Promotion of the rule of law, and Provision of visionary leadership because of self-interests and other primordial considerations, rather than the interests and welfare of the public drive governance and political leadership. Therefore, ineffective public institutions in many countries are largely responsible for their poor socio-economic conditions (Fagbemi et al, 2021).

The developmental challenges confronting Nigeria necessitate deliberate intervening policies and laws, that would not only recognize, but that will also empower civil societies in taking active role in national development activities. One of such civil society groups is Community Development Associations (CDAs) at the grassroots, which are collaborating with local government through self-help activities to provide services that can enhance the standard of living in their respective communities. Therefore, in examining the involvement of CDAs in national and grassroots development, the empirical study investigates the level of participation of CDAs in the management of first and second waves of Covid-19 in Ogun State, as their contribution to the process of solving both the national and their constituencies' problem. Thus, the paper examines the concepts of local government, Community Development Associations (CDAs), and corona virus pandemic, theoretical framework, CDAs' operation in Ogun State, the management of first and second waves of Covid-19 in Ogun State by the stakeholders, discussion of findings, policy implications of the findings and recommendations to strengthen the CDAs' operations.

## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework that is relevant in explaining the involvement of the community development association in public governance is Resource Mobilisation Theory. It is a novel approach to the study of social movement, which originated in the 1970s (Morris, 1992). John McCarthy and Mayer Zald are the originators of the economic and entrepreneurial versions of the theory, and Charles Tilly and Doug McAdam are the proponents of the Political Opportunity Theory (Kendall, 2005). Although they are similar, the Resource Mobilisation Theory focuses on the ability of members of social movements to acquire resources and mobilize people towards attaining the objectives of the movement, while the political model of resource mobilisation focuses on the political struggle and opportunities.

The Resource Mobilization Theory challenges social breakdown, and reviews relative deprivation theories that holds the individual grievances as the primary stimulus for collective action. Resource Mobilisation theorists argue that grievances are insufficient to stimulate the rise and sustenance of social movements because, grievances and conflicts are inherent in every society. Hence, the critical factors in movement mobilization are the formation of social movement organizations and the ability of the organization to mobilise resources (labour and money) from potential supporters (Golhasani & Hosseinirad, 2016). Resource Mobilisation theorists further argue that social movement organizations are not deviant and irrational as claimed by other traditional theories, rather, they are rational social institutions created and populated by social actors, with the objective of taking political actions (Buechler, 1999).

CDAs can be regarded as a social movement and part of the civil societies. Civil societies work hand in hand with the government to ensure effective service delivery, especially to the poor and undeserved. They defend citizens' rights and attempt to uphold or change social norms and behavior (Ingram, 2020). Busari-Akinbode and Temilola (2020) argue that the activities of CDAs such as holding regular meetings with members to discuss their programs and projects, identification of felt-needs and participation in community development projects through supply of labour, and the contribution of money and materials often yields positive results. This is evident in the provision of health facilities, market stalls, roads, schools, post offices, wells, boreholes, pipe-borne water and electricity, through self-help projects in their communities. Thus, Resource Mobilisation Theory encapsulates how social movements like CDA contribute positively towards nation building.

### 3. CONCEPTUAL EXPLANATION

#### 3.1 Community Development Association (CDA)

Community development as described by the United Nations is a process by which members of a particular community through self-effort initiate actions to solve their common problems (Adelesi, 2014). The field report of leading United Kingdom organisations on the challenges of community development refers to it as a set of values and practices that can facilitate both economic and political empowerment at the grassroots (Gbesan & Badejo, 1991). Any activity that can engender a stronger community can be classified as community development (Mathy, 2014). Furthermore, community development associations (CDAs) are groups formed by the coming together of people living within a given locality or community, with the sole aim of identifying their felt- needs and agreeing on the ways and means for its realization. Also known as, Community Development Unions, the activities of these groups are important because, there seems to be a breakdown of public institutions meant to cater for welfare of the people in rural areas (Okwakpam, 2010).

In Nigeria, CDAs have been in existence for ages, but the first attempt to integrate CDAs into the local governance structure was in the Third National Development Plan (1975-1980), to facilitate the provision of infrastructure, self-help, and democratic governance at the grassroots (Wahab, 1996). To strengthen this provision, the Federal Government directs various communities to initiate CDAs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Social Development, becomes the supervisory agency (Muse & Narsiah, 2015). However, it became prominent through the enactment of the Community Development Associations Law of Lagos State, in the year 2008. It strengthened their ability to deliver their mandates by facilitating regular meetings with the local and state governments. The Law grants CDAs an opportunity for representation at the local and state levels. It grants certain rights and privileges to them, while the public refers to them as the informal fourth tier of government (Busari-Akinbode & Temilola, 2020).

Furthermore, Udensi et al (2012), stresses that the success of CDAs depends on the dedication and participation of community leaders in community projects. In addition, it must be able to resolve the organizational challenges like: lack of interest in community development project by the leaders, disagreement between community leaders and members, non-inclusion of members in the planning and execution of projects, and discrimination against the women in leadership positions. Moreover, there are factors that strengthen the recognitions of CDAs as development agents and its ability to explore self-help strategies to its advantage; it is more democratic than other stakeholders are in the local governance system (Awosika, 2014), and similarly, adopts participatory techniques in its processes that greatly enhance partnerships (Huesca, 2003).

There are several findings from similar studies on the contribution of CDAs' collaboration to community and national development in Nigeria. Effective community development reduces crime rate and disparity (Straza, 2018). Also, Uko (2019) cites more than five secondary schools built through community efforts and handed to the government in Adamawa state, North-Eastern Nigeria, while findings in the study of Aliero (2008) show their relevance in the creation of community banks in Kebbi and Sokoto States. In addition, Akinsorotan and Olujide (2006) acknowledge the CDAs' roles in road maintenance, street lighting, water provision and the construction of community halls in different parts of the country. From the submission of Ogu and Orefooluwa (2014), Omologede CDA highly helped in the management and reduction of flood in Ogolonto community of Lagos State. Study also reveals the involvement of CDAs in peace-keeping and conflict resolution activities (Peace Insight, 2021).

Local NGOs, including CDAs, contributes significantly to the community development through community self-help efforts such as the training and re-training of community members on improving health care service delivery, and increasing agricultural yields in Zamfara State (Hashim et al, 2020). Also, Olusa (2021) observed that collaborative community participation assists in the provision of infrastructure for grassroots development because government alone cannot provide all the needed infrastructures. Thus, Ibule-Soro Community of Ondo State, Nigeria, adopted the World-Bank assisted project in the community by renovating a block of six classrooms in Jooro High School and extended 31 electric poles. Therefore, these findings point to the effectiveness of collaborations between the CDAs and the government.

### **3.2 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19)**

The Corona virus disease 2019 indicated, as (COVID-19) is a communicable respiratory disease, caused by an outbreak of a new strain of Corona virus- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that causes illness in humans. The origin is still controversial, but scientists are working on the hypothesis that somehow, humans acquire the infection from animals and through interaction infect others. Although, it was first reported in China, it gradually spread throughout the world (africacdc, n.d).

In most cases when a person is infected, it could take between 5–6 days on an average, or in extreme cases up to 14 days for symptoms to manifest. Symptoms of infection may be between mild to moderate illness. While some affected persons recover without hospitalisation, it is worse in some cases, thereby resulting to death. Common symptoms include: fever, cough, tiredness, loss of taste or smell and the less common symptoms include; sore throat, headache, aches and pains, diarrhea, a rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes, and red or irritated eyes. It spreads from an infected person's mouth or nose when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe in form of small liquid particles, which may range from larger respiratory droplets, to smaller aerosols (WHO, 2022).

However, report shows that, from 7th to 8th June 2022, 37 new confirmed cases and 1 death were recorded in Nigeria, while the total of 256,264 infected cases have been confirmed to date (NCDC, 2022). Presently, there is no cure except preventive vaccines, which are currently inadequate to cater for the world population. The available vaccines are; BioNTech- Pfizer vaccine, Moderna vaccine, Johnson and Johnson vaccine, Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, Sputnik V vaccine (NAFDAC, 2022). Covid-19 is a novel virus and a worldwide pandemic that requires collaboration both within and international. The process of managing its spread across the nation involves technical equipment, expertise, and huge funding that is either not available or inadequate. Thus, there is a need to examine the extent to which the civil societies, which include CDAs, are able to collaborate with the government in managing this pandemic in Nigeria.

### **3. STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN OGUN STATE**

The management of covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria started with the first index case of corona virus infection involving an Italian immigrant, who was visiting a factory in Ewekoro, Ogun State, on February 27, 2020. Structurally, the management process involves both the public and the private stakeholders. The public sector includes the federal, the state and the local governments. However, local governments (LGs) collaborate with other non-state local civic organizations in the process of managing the effect in their respective jurisdictions.

The contributions of the stakeholders are as follows:

**I. Federal Government's Roles:** The Federal government involvements in the management process are as follows: The first is Coordination of responses. The following are the coordinating mechanisms: The Federal Ministry of Health, relevant ministries and government parastatals, Nigeria Centre for Disease and Control (NCDC) and the Presidential Task Force (PTF). They serve as a think-tank to the government, and create a workable National Response Plan in managing covid-19 (Ailemen, 2020).

The second is the provision of guidelines. NCDC provides guidelines and protocols to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and regular updates on the outbreak. In addition, there are regular announcements of help-lines to contact for emergency on both traditional and social media platforms (NCDC, 2020). These include lockdown orders, curfews, physical distancing, mandatory use of facemasks, good hand hygiene, and closure of activities-centers such as schools, markets, clubs and religious centers, and quarantines of travelers from other countries.

Thirdly, it enforces the regulations and protocols. The Federal Government deploys the services of security agencies under its jurisdiction including the Military, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Immigration Service, Nigerian Customs, Port Authorities and other relevant law enforcement agencies, to ensure effective compliance (Enyiazu et al, 2021).

Fourthly, it provides resources. The Federal government provides both human and material resources to ease the management process. Thus, the government activated the three Mega Polymerase Chain Reactions (PCR) Laboratories for the COVID-19 testing in Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to increase testing from 2500 to 5000 per day (Dan-Nwafor et al, 2020). In addition, the Presidential Task Force (PTF) and the Ministry of Health provide training and personal protective equipment [PPE] for frontline health workers (Oyeranti & Sokeye, 2020). Measures to mitigate the economic hardships resulting from the lockdown order include cash transfers and sharing of palliatives to the vulnerable. The beneficiaries initially received a payment of 20,000 Naira (\$49) to cover January to April 2020, but later reverted to 10,000 Naira (\$24) per every two months (Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, 2021).

The fifth is quality data management. It assists the government in planning and resources management. Moreover, it provides information on the scope and scale of the pandemic, and the impacts of interventions (Tijani et al, 2021). The National Centre for Disease Control enhances diagnostic and surveillance, and manages data in regards to the number of confirmed new cases, deaths, mode of transmission, and the effects of each government's intervention on the management of the covid-19 outbreak.

**II. Ogun State Government's Roles:** The Ogun State Government adopted several measures to control and manage the transmission of the infection in the state. The classification of roles and responses are: preventive actions, treatment actions, and monitoring and support actions. The preventive actions to curb the widespread transmission of covid-19 include: joining other states and countries affected by the deadly virus to ban social gatherings, and enforcing physical distancing in the state. The state government banned social clubs, halls, cinemas, nightclubs, restaurants, cafes, sport arenas and other high-density gatherings of people. There was prohibition of gatherings of more than 20 people in the state for 30 days, to ensure the safety and welfare of residents of the state (Olatunji, 2020). In addition, government provides sanitizers and nose masks, and other logistics.



Treatment action initiated by the state government as first response to the public health crisis was to provide an 18-bed isolation centre, where covid-19 patients could be isolated and treated (Ihekweazu, 2021). Other measures include rapid training of health workers and other relevant personnel on how to manage covid-19 patients. Also, it involves launching of mobile testing booths to increase testing capacity in the state. Furthermore, the state policymakers observe the need to invest in the health sector, and this led to an increase in the budgetary allocation and funding of the health sector from 6% to 20.2%. In addition, there is collaboration with the private sector, which aided the provision of more isolation centers, testing kits and PPEs.

Monitoring and support actions include close collaboration with the Nigeria Immigration Services and Port Health Services, because the state shares international border with Benin Republic, Niger, Chad and Cameroun. Also, collaboration exists with the Federal and the surrounding States' governments in ensuring compliance to lockdown directives and physical distancing protocol, after the lockdown was eased (Ihekweazu, 2021). In addition, the State government provides foods and facilitates the distribution of palliatives provided by the Federal government to cushion the effects of the lock-down on the residents.

**III. Local Governments' Role:** There is no concrete evidence on individual local government independent initiatives to manage the spread of Covid-19 in their respective jurisdictions, rather, they partner with the local civil societies to assist the state government in implementing programs designed to contain the pandemic.

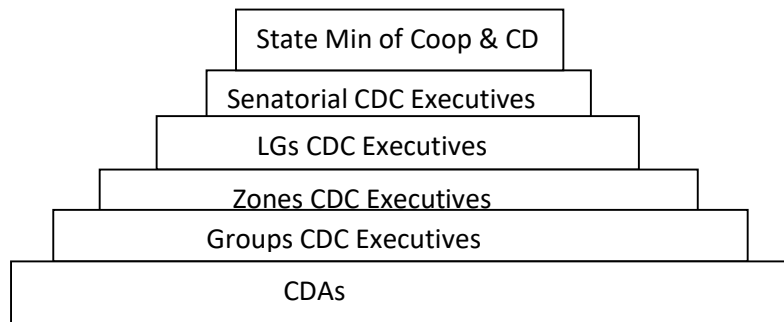
#### **iv. Community Development Associations' (CDAs) Participation**

CDAs are part of local stakeholders and civil societies that collaborate in the management of covid-19 in Ogun State, but there is no reliable data on the level of their involvement. Hence, the focus of this paper is to examine the extent of involvement of CDAs in the management process of covid-19 pandemic in Ogun State. Community Development Association is one of the grassroots civil society organizations that usually complement local government for development activities. It is a voluntary association that started as Landlord Association, however, at a point, it secured government recognition and assistance.

The first attempt at granting state recognition to CDAs in Ogun State was the introduction of CDA Law 2017, in the Ogun State House of Assembly, entitled as "H.R.No.19/OG/2017: A Bill for a Law to Provide for Registration of Community Development Associations and other Matters Incidental Thereto or Connected Therewith". Later, it was repealed with another bill "H.B. No. 044/ OG/2020: A Bill for a law to provide for the registration of Community Development Associations" and a legislative framework to regulate the operations of CDAs in Ogun State (Ogunradio, 2020). They are to achieve the following: strengthening self-help activities of CDAs in the state; guiding operations of CDAs; encouraging community participation in governance; and complementing government development efforts (PM Parrot, 2018).

By the provisions of the law, a CDA comprises the Landlords, Tenants, and other Residents of a particular area. To constitute a CDA, there must be between twenty-five to thirty-five buildings, while a group comprises, between four to five CDAs, the same way an area Community Development Committee (CDC) comprises about 30 CDAs with different operational committees like security, infrastructure, and health. Groups of CDCs constitute Local Government CDC. Sets of local governments within each senatorial district constitute Senatorial CDC, while the three Senatorial districts form the State CDC. Executives at various levels are elected for a three-year tenure which is renewable once. Generally, in Ogun State, CDAs and CDCs in the state are under the supervision of the State's Ministry of Community Development and Cooperatives.

The CDA plays an essential role in rural and national development, because it enables a bottom-to-top approach to development. The Ogun State Commissioner of Community Development and Cooperatives, Hon. Ganiyu Hamza corroborates that about 9,000 Community Development Associations across the state commit around N10bn to various self-help projects in the area of school facilities, road construction and maintenance, hospital equipment, electric transformers and water boreholes (Amery, 2021). The Government’s capacity building initiatives to strengthen the CDAs include organisational and educational programmes such as the Citizenship and Leadership Training (C&L) (African Newspapers, 2017). According to Fagbohun (2016), while government recognition offers legitimacy and sense of ownership to the civil society groups, they in turn also assist the government in identifying local needs and appropriate responses. This significant stride raises poser on the need to examine the effectiveness of CDAs’ collaboration with other stakeholders in addressing the effect of national challenge like covid-19 on their communities, which justifies the basis for the CDAs in Ogun State as an active civil society population of study for this research.



**Fig: 1, Structure of Ogun State CDAs**  
Source: Field Study, 2022

#### 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The population of the research was the various CDA executives across the Ogun State, while the sample size was 180 respondents among the executive members that filled out and returned the questionnaires out of the 200 questionnaires that were distributed. Ogun State CDAs were considered as the population of the study because, aside Lagos State that enacted CDA law in 2008; Ogun State was the second state to initiate the process to officially recognise, coordinate and empower the CDAs to complement the services of the state government at the grassroots. The state house of assembly initiated a bill in 2018, and reintroduced another in 2020, which was enacted subsequently in 2021. In addition, the first incidence case in Nigeria occurred in Ogun State.

The research instrument used was structured questionnaires that contain questions relating to the three aspects of the covid-19 management activities. Some executive members volunteered to distribute and retrieve the questionnaires, during the local government and senatorial CDC executive meetings. The samples responses were based on likert 4 scale rating, where, Strongly Participated = **SP**, Fairly Participated = **FP**, Rarely Participated = **RP**, and Not Participated = **NP**. The data analysis on the level of CDAs’ participation involves using Percentage, while the interpretation of findings was classified based on CDAs participation as follows: Percentage of Significant Level of Participation (% SLP) represented by, % of SP + FP; and Percentage of Insignificant Level of Participation (% ISLP) represented by, % of RP + NP. However, Multiple Bar Chart was employed as statistical tool to describe and illustrate the conclusions.

## 5. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Research Questions

The study examines the following research questions:

- i. What is the extent of Ogun State CDAs participation in Covid-19 preventive actions?
- ii. What is the extent of Ogun State CDAs participation in covid-19 treatment actions?
- iii. What is the extent of Ogun State CDAs participation in covid-19 monitoring and support actions?
- iv. How effective are the CDAs in collaborating with government for developmental activities at the grassroots?

### 5.2 Data Analysis

**Table 1: Rating of CDAs' Participation in Prevention Activities**

Activities	SP	FP	RP	NP	TOTAL
Sensitization	64	58	32	26	180
Ensuring physical distancing	48	66	40	26	180
Ensuring nose mask compliance	38	68	44	30	180
Ensuring handwashing/ sanitizer	36	58	48	38	180
Encouraging lockdown compliance	30	68	42	40	180
Total	216	318	206	160	900

**Source:** Study Survey, 2022

**Table 2: Rating of CDAs' Participation in Treatment Activities**

	SP	FP	RP	NP	TOTAL
Testing	8	18	32	122	180
Evacuation to isolation centres	6	15	28	131	180
Provision of facilities/equipment	0	0	0	180	180
Provision of personnel	0	0	0	180	180
Providing feeding/drugs to patients	0	0	0	180	180
Total	14	33	60	793	900

**Source:** Study Survey, 2022



**Table 3: Rating of CDAs' Participation in Monitoring and Support Activities**

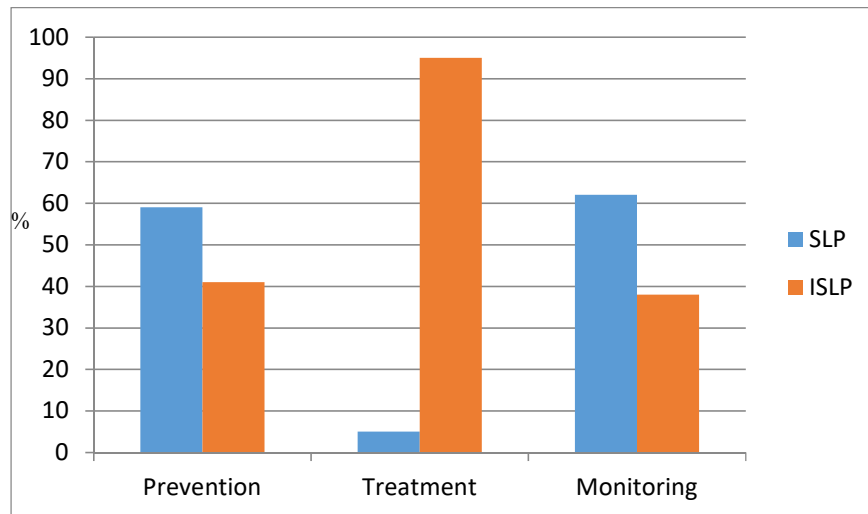
Activities	SP	FP	RP	NP	TOTAL	
Palliatives provision		38	68	52	22	180
Palliatives distribution		52	76	42	10	180
Mobilizing for vaccination		30	68	42	40	180
Total		120	212	136	72	540

**Source:** Study Survey, 2022

### 5.3 Responses in Percentages and Bar Chart

The responses can be interpreted in percentages and bar chart as follows:

- i) Prevention Activities: SLP = 59%, ISLP = 41%
- ii) Treatment Activities: SLP = 5%, ISLP = 95%
- iii) Monitoring & Support Activities: SLP = 62%, ISLP = 38%



**Fig. 2. Multiple Bar Chart Showing Responses (SLP & ISLP)**

**Source:** Study Survey, 2022

### 5.4 Discussion

Finding from the above Table 1, shows 59% SLP and 41% ISLP, therefore, we can conclude that, there is a significant level of participation in the Covid-19 prevention activities by CDAs in Ogun State. Furthermore, finding from the above Table 2, shows 5% SLP and 95% ISLP, therefore, we can conclude that, there is an insignificant level of participation in the Covid-19 treatment activities by CDAs in Ogun State. Also, finding from the Table 3 above, shows 62% SLP and 38% ISLP, hence, we can conclude that there is a significant level of participation in the covid-19 monitoring and support activities by CDAs in Ogun State. The above findings indicate that CDAs in Ogun State significantly participated in two of the three 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> waves covid-19 management activities- Prevention, and Monitoring and support, while it indicates that the level of participation in treatment activities was insignificant.

The findings reveal the inevitability of collaboration between government and the civil societies. CDAs have 59% and 62% levels of participation in two of the 3 sets of activities- Prevention and Monitoring and support respectively. By including CDAs in the third national development plan and enactment of CDAs law in 2008 and 2021 by Lagos and Ogun states government respectively, it confirms the gradual recognition of the civil society as partners in public administration. Civil society in diverse countries of the world has demonstrated that they are an indispensable partner to governments in resolving constraints to public service delivery and humanitarian assistance to victims of violent conflict (GPSA, 2022).

They are significant agents of development, and the effectiveness and efficiency of civil societies determine the transformation of any society or system, especially in the developing societies. They contribute to the social, political, and economic development, and the enthronement and consolidation of democracy in the society (Omede & Bakare, 2014). Civil society is the building block of national cohesion and usually fills the development vacuum created by both the government and the private sector in times of peace, while facilitating reconciliation and providing services that are neglected by the state in times of crises (Ingram, 2020).

Furthermore, the inability of CDAs to contribute significantly to the activities concerning covid-19 treatment, unlike in the prevention and support actions is attributable to the weakness and strength of their main strategy- Self-help. The strength of self-help favours those projects and services that are not highly technical and cost-effective. Self-help projects are inevitable, especially in rural areas because the external or support help are usually inadequate and unhelpful. The locals embrace community self-help as a strategy for community project to eradicate poverty and satisfy the basic needs of their people. It enhances the people's ability to assert their economic, social and cultural conditions, for accelerated development (Tyagi et al, 2020). It is gradually becoming a necessity for community survival in the modern world because it serves as a catalyst for sustainable development projects in developing countries, to overcome rural poverty, unemployment and disease by harnessing the benefit of available local resources. Also, it is a reflection of the expanding needs of the people, rather than the inducement of community agents to address the problem of rural underdevelopment (Acha, 2014).

Ogunleye-Adetona and Oladeinde (2013) point that community unions and associations have contributed immensely to the community execution of self-help projects. They are an essential tool for balanced socio-economic development in the rural areas, especially in Nigeria, due to their efficient projects. In the same vein, Adelesi (2015) argues that, an efficient CDA plays a tremendous role in a democratic government. CDAs are the avenue for the government to reach the people at the grassroots. They are involved in the process of empowering the people (in terms of financial, women, and youth empowerment), serve as structures that enables strong interaction among community members, represent the people, aid the provision of basic amenities, increase collaboration with relevant security agencies, and engage the right politicians within their territory.

In addition, Folayan and Dokunmu (2019) assert that the CDA serves as an opportunity for the people to meet regularly to discuss the problems and needs of the community, and generate resources internally and externally to solve these problems. Moreover, many of these CDAs initiate new projects and manage the facilities in their vicinities. Thus, CDAs are effective tools of political institutions, in achieving an all-inclusive grassroots governance through participatory communication.

---

Furthermore, the weaknesses of the self-help strategy can be adduced to for the insignificant participation of the CDAs in Ogun State, in the covid-19 treatment activities, which requires huge finance and technicality that may not be available to many CDAs through self-help strategy as evident in the findings of similar studies. Tyagi et al (2020) opines that resource mobilization is a major constraint to service delivery in self-help projects execution. The rural communities possess low capacity to mobilize existing resources for financial, social and productive support services, to complement the local government financial capacity to improve the communities. Oyeleye et al (2017) add that location poses challenges to performance of CDAs.

The lack of support for associations in the rural areas hinders their performance because the CDAs in urban areas receive more assistance from big agencies, while the rural area dwellers have to bear their own burden. A comparative study between two CDAs by Busari-Akinbode and Temilola (2020) shows that the 'high performing' CDAs record some level of success on project execution. However, the efficiency of the low-performing CDA was low because of poor funding, low community participation, as well as lack of synergy among the CDAs. Another finding by Akinsorotan and Olujide (2006) reveal that CDAs cannot successfully embark on high cost projects because, they depend mostly on self-help in providing amenities to improve their communities. However, most CDA members in the study area appeared to be living at a very low subsistence level, thus, 70 percent could not even contribute 200 Naira per month for developmental projects. No single member could afford to spare time for communal work at least once a week, while 76 percent can only afford once or twice in a month.

Akpomuvie (2010) stresses further that the success of self-help projects in Nigeria is hindered in some cases by the corrupt attitude of both public development officials and the community leaders. There are instances where the rural elites spearhead self-help projects as an avenue for self-enrichment and political gains. In addition, the same way local governments' autonomy suffers from state governments, LGs also interfere and overbear on CDAs to prevent competition (Muse & Narsiah, 2015).

Furthermore, most CDAs in Ogun State are not in the urban area, and high-level illiteracy hinders the growth and development of rural communities and the ability of CDAs to embark on bigger self-help projects that requires technicality and expertise like the covid-19 treatment. Oyekunle (2018) posits that rural communities in Nigeria are facing problems such as lack of access to basic education, schools, inadequate social amenities and ignorance, which greatly affect the standard of living and the hope of survival in rural areas. Also, Liu (2021) observes that there are some literacy challenges in rural areas, which contributes to the gap between rural and urban areas. These factors include the wide income inequality between residents in rural and urban areas, which affects literacy, access to necessary textbooks, quality teachers, transportation, and gender inequality because of the traditional practice that confer more privilege on male than female. Health challenges such as malnutrition, which hinders the cognitive development of children, and ineffective implementation of national policies in rural areas.

### 5.5 Policy Implications

The following are policy implications deduced from the above findings:

- i. The inability of the federal and state governments to impact significantly on rural communities in Nigeria justifies the indispensability of CDAs initiatives; hence, there is a need for national policy that would authorize the enactment of legislations to legalize the operations of CDAs across the country.
- ii. There is a need for policy directives mandating state governments to set aside special grants, to aid CDAs in their self-help activities.

- iii. Also, there is a need for state policies to integrate CDAs into political and democratic activities within their local governments' area, for the purpose of participating in decision-making processes on issues affecting their communities.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The paper examines the relevance and the level of participation of CDAs in executing projects and programmes that can solve community and national problems, for the purpose of community development in particular, and national development in general. In the process, it focuses on covid-19 management as one of those programmes, and its management in Ogun State as a case. The study interrogates the CDAs' participation in the three-action areas of COVID management: Prevention, Treatment, and Monitoring and support, through a survey instrument administered on the sample of CDA executives across the state. While the findings show that, they significantly participated in the prevention, and monitoring and support activities, it shows insignificant participation in treatment actions. However, discussion of findings in related studies shows that, an effective implementation of the recommendations by the public policy managers and lawmakers, and taking into consideration the identified policy implications, can enhance the CDA contributions to community and national development.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations that can enhance the effectiveness of community development associations, in community development activities in particular and national development efforts in general:

1. The State's supervisory agencies must monitor and interact continuously with CDAs for effective guidance, and tracking of their activities.
2. There is a need for enlightenment and reorientation of residents across the states, on the need to cooperate and participate in CDA activities, in order to complement government efforts.
3. There must be an enabling law recognising and regulating CDAs in other states, where it is currently not available, to enhance effectiveness.
4. State governments should include dedicated grants to each CDA in their annual budget, to support high impact projects that are beyond their financial capability.
5. CDAs should be more involved in political activities and local governance, to ensure that the programmes of the government accommodates their community interests.

---

---

## REFERENCES

1. Acha, O. (2014). Community self-help projects as catalyst for sustainable community development projects in Bekwarra, Nigeria. *International Journal of Continuing Education and Development Studies, (IJCEDS)*, 2(3), 40- 49.
2. Adelesi, F. (2014, November 27). *The role of community development associations in a democratic rule* [Paper presentation]. A Seminar of Ikorodu North Community Development Committee, Ikorodu, Lagos. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/role-community-development-associations-democratic-rule-adelesi>
3. Ailemen, A. (2020, March 29). *Full text of President Buhari's broadcast*. <https://businessday.ng/lead-story/article/full-text-of-president-buharis-broadcast/>
4. Akinsorotan, A.O. & Olujide, M.G. (2006), Community development associations' contributions in self help projects in Lagos State of Nigeria. *Journal of Central European Agriculture*, 7(4). <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/26900>.
5. Akpomovie, O. (2010), "Self-Help as a Strategy for Rural Development in Nigeria: A Bottom-Up Approach", *Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Science*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 88-111.
6. Aliero, H. M. (2008). *The role of community development associations in promoting community banks in Sokoto and Kebbi States of Nigeria*. [Unpublished Ph.D. thesis]. Department of Economics, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria.
7. Amery, H. (2021, January 28). Community Development Associations and CDCs in Ogun, share N85.5 grants for self- help projects. *News Flagship*. <https://newsflagship.com/community-development-associations-and-cdcs-in-ogun-share-n85-5m-grants-for-self-help-projects/>
8. Awosika, F. O. (2014). *Local government and the challenges of community development in Lagos State, Nigeria*. [Unpublished Ph.D. thesis]. Department of Political Science, University of Lagos.
9. Buechler, S. (1999). *Social movements in advanced capitalism: The political economy and cultural construction of social activism*. Oxford University Press.
10. Busari-Akinbode, A. & Temilola, M. (2020). Effectiveness of Community Development Associations (CDAs) in implementing development projects in Surulere, Lagos State. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research*, 3(6), 157-166.
11. "Community Development Association Bill Scales Second Reading in Ogun Assembly", (2020, July 6). [ogsera.ogunstate.gov.ng](http://ogsera.ogunstate.gov.ng)
12. Dan-Nwafor, C., Ochu, C., & Elimian, K. (2020). Nigeria's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic: January to May 2020. *JOGH*, 10(2), 1-9.
13. Enyiazu, C., Nnamani, K., Ugwu, A. & Agbo, J. (2021). Enforcement of the Covid-19 Protocols and the Emerging Human Security Crises in Nigeria. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355210989>
14. Fagbemi, F., Nzeribe, G., Osinubi, T. & Asongu, S. (2021). Interconnections between governance and socio-economic conditions: Understanding the challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Regional Sustainability*, 2(4), 337-348.
15. Fagbohun, O. (2016, August 30). *All-inclusive government: Lagos state in perspective*. [Lecture delivered]. The Annual Public Lecture of Nigeria Union of Journalists (Lagos Information Chapel), Martinos Centre, Lagos.
16. Folayan, B. and Dokunmu, O. (2019). Participatory communication as a tool for all-inclusive grassroots governance: A study of selected Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Lagos and Ogun States. *Nigerian Communication & Information Technology Journal*, 1(1).

17. Gbesan, G. & Badejo, D. (ed.) (1991). Handbook on information management: The grassroots challenge. Fola Bookshops Ltd.
18. Global Partnership for Social Accountability, GPSA (2022, June 8), *Civil society and government: How can they work together to create better public services*. 8<sup>th</sup> GPSA Global Partners Forum.
19. Golhasani, A. & Hosseinirad, A. (2016). The Role of Resource Mobilization Theory in Social Movement. *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding*, 3(6),1-5.
20. Hashim, A., Sidi, S.H., Abubakar, B.Z., Umar, B.F., H.M Aliero, & F.J Yelwa (2020). Role of Local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Community Development in
21. Zamfara State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Environment, Agriculture and Biotechnology (IJEAB)*, 5(1), 42-50. ISSN: 2456-1878.
22. Huesca, R. (2003). Communication for social change among Mexican factory workers on the Mexican-United States Border. in Wilkins, K.G. (ed). *Re-Developing communication for social change: Theory, practice and power*. Rowman Littlefield.
23. Ihekweazu, V. (2021). Ten lessons from Ogun State- from first covid-19 case to building a resilient response. <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/ten-lessons-ogun-state-first-covid-19-case-building-resilient-response>
24. Ingram, G. (2020, April 6). Civil society: An essential ingredient of development. *The Brookings Institution*. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/04/06/civil-society-an-essential-ingredient-of-development/>
25. Kendall, D. (2005). *Sociology in Our Times* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Thomson Wadsworth.
26. Lagos State 2008 Community Development Associations Law, Lagos State, Nigeria.
27. Latest updates on the COVID-19 crisis from Africa CDC. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
28. Letter from Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development to Human Rights Watch and JEI, June 21, 2021.
29. Liu, J. (2021). Literacy challenges in rural China. *Journal of Higher Education Research*, 2(6),396-398. <http://doi.org/10.32629/jher.v2i6.577>.
30. Mathy, A.J. in Adelesi, F. (2014, November 27). *The role of community development associations in a democratic rule* [Paper presentation]. A Seminar of Ikorodu North Community Development Committee, Ikorodu, Lagos. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/role-community-development-associations-democratic-rule-adelesi>
31. Morris, A. (1992). *Frontiers in social movement theory*. Yale University Press.
32. Muse, S. A. & Narsiah, S. (2015). The politics of participatory budgeting in Nigeria: A case study of community development associations (CDAs). *Journal of Human Ecology*, 50(3), 263–269. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09709274.2015.11906884>.
33. NCDC (2020). National strategy to scale up access to Coronavirus Disease testing in Nigeria. Abuja. [http://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/media/files/COVID19TestingStrategy\\_2ZWBQwh.pdf](http://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/media/files/COVID19TestingStrategy_2ZWBQwh.pdf)
34. NCDC (2020). Coronavirus COVID-19. <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng>.
35. Ogu, M. I. & Orefooluwa, F. (2014). Omologede community development association and flood management in Ogolonto community, Nigeria. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)* 19(9), Ver. IV, 109-121. e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.
36. "Ogun's community development initiatives" (2017, May 24). *Tribune Online, and A Publication of African Newspapers of Nigeria Plc*. <https://tribuneonlineng.com/oguns-community-development-initiatives/>



37. "Ogun's House explains new Ogun Community Development Law". (2018, February 27). *Parrot Nigeria*. Ogun-house-explains-what-new-ogun-community-development-law-is-about/<https://pmparrotng.com/2018/02/07/>
38. Ogunleye-Adetona, C. & Oladeinde, C. (2013). The role of community self-help projects in rural development of Kwara State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*, 2(1),28-45.
39. Okwakpam N. (2010). Analysis of the Activities of Community Development Associations in Rural Transformation in Emohua Town, Nigeria. *International Journal of Rural Studies (IJRS)*, 17(1).
40. Olatunji, D. (2020, March 18). Coronavirus: Ogun bans night clubs, gatherings over 50. *The Punch*. <https://punchng.com/coronavirus-ogun-bans-clubs-restaurants-others/>
41. Olusa, A. (2021). Impact of community social development projects on community improvement: Case of Ibule-Soro Community, Ondo State, Nigeria. *Journal of Infrastructure Development*, 13(1), 7–20.
42. Omede, A. & Bakare, A. (2014). The impact of civil society organizations on sustainable development in developing countries: The Nigerian experience. *An International Multidisciplinary Journal, Ethiopia*, 8(1), 215-227.
43. Oyekunle, Y. (2018). Eradicating rural illiteracy through adult education programmes in Lagos State, Nigeria. *Journal of Educational Thought*, 7(1), 136-150.
44. Oyeleye, A.A., Ajibade, A.J., Ayodele, M.A & Ariwoola, S.A. (2017, April 23-26). *Participation of community association in enhancing community development in selected local government area of Oyo State*. [Proceedings.] The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria, University of Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria. pp. 11-17. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jae.v22i1.2S>
45. Oyeranti & Sokeye (2020). The Evolution and Spread of Covid-19 in Nigeria. *CPEEL's Covid-19 Volume II Discussion Papers Series*, pp. 1-18.
46. Peace, (2021). Dakata Community Development Association. <https://www.peaceinsight.org/en/organisations/dakata-community-development-association/?location=nigeria&theme>.
47. Straza Consulting (2018, December 17). Community development: What it is, its importance, and how to contribute in your city. <https://www.consultstraza.com/community-development-what-it-is-its-importance-and-how-to-contribute-in-your-city/>
48. Udensi, L.O., Udoh, O.S., Daasi, G.L.K. & Igbara, F.N. (2012). Community leadership and the challenges of community development in Nigeria: The case of Boki Local Government Area, Cross River State. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*, 1(3), 912-923.
49. Tijani, B., Jaiyeola, T., Oladejo, B. & Kassam, Z. (2021). Improving Data Integrity in Public Health: A Case Study of an Outbreak Management System in Nigeria. *Global Health: Science and Practice*, 8(2) 226-233, <https://doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-21-00240>
51. Tyagi, R., Vishwakarma, S., Yadav, S. & Stanislavovich, T. (2020). Community self-help projects. in *Filho, W. et al (eds), No Poverty, Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 1-9, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-69625-6.28-1>.
52. Uko, B. I. (2019). *Assessment of the contributions of community development associations in the management of secondary schools, in North Eastern Nigeria*. [Unpublished Ph.D. thesis]. Department of Educational Foundations, Benue State University.
53. Wahab, B. (1996). Community Development Associations and self-reliance: The case of Isalu Community Development Union, Iseyin, Nigeria. in Blunt, P. & Warren, M. D. (Eds.) *Indigenous organizations and development*, Intermediate Technology Publications, pp. 56-66.

54. WHO (2022). Coronavirus disease (covid-19). [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_3](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_3).
55. Yagboyaju, D. & Akinola, A. (2019). Nigerian State and the Crisis of Governance: A Critical Exposition. DOI: 10.1177/215824401986581.