

Political Consciousness and Rural Development in Nigeria: Adopting Kingdom's Tripple-Streams Model in the Study of Azumini Ndoki Community in Abia State

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ABSTRACT

This study examines Political Consciousness and Rural Development in Nigeria, adopting Kingdom's Tripple-Streams Model in the Study of Azumini Ndoki Community in Abia State. A sample of 172 respondents is randomly selected from Azumini Ndoki community and structurally interviewed based on the development interventions in the community as well as their levels of political participation. Data obtained are presented on tables and charts and arranged in percentage. Simple statistical and quantitative methods are used for analysis of the data obtained and judgment drawn based on simple polemics within the frame and logic of the theoretical framework of Kingdom (1995). The major finding is that the rural people do not receive sufficient level of political orientation being reason why the rural areas in Nigeria have not witnessed sufficient level of development. It argues that Rural Development is tangential to the political consciousness of the people. The research recommends emphasis on civic education and civil rights orientation for the rural people rather than piecemeal development interventions. Instead of progressive humanitarian projects and interventions, government and private organizations should train the rural dwellers to understand the political statuesque of the State where they belong and understand the rights and privileges therein as well as understand how to - build social formations at the grassroots level.

***Keywords:** Rural Development, Political Participation, Political Culture, Rural Politics, Political Consciousness, Azumini.*

INTRODUCTION

Nations and States across the world have taken on one new form of government or the other; one new style of State administration or the other. This trend became more

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significant shortly after the upsurge of global unity which has to do with the formation of a uniform global government on the back of United Nations (which came into being shortly after the Second World War) and subsequent formation of other regional, continental and international bonds and partnerships among States.

Consequent upon this global unity, nations of the world have learnt new governance strategies and are beginning to integrate among themselves to create cities and new States with which to pursue corporate agenda. Nations of the world, in the line of this new spirit of global development have mastered the act of coalition in the name of regional and continental organizations to cause a widespread development. Before this period, “there was, on the one hand, the growing rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union, and on the other hand, the proliferation of newly independent Third World nations”, (Randall and Theobald, 1985). This is in line with what Karl Marx (1859) describes as ‘social consciousness’ - a radical upheaval and disorder of existing social orientation and a drastic re-ordering of the status quo to introduce development. This is one way through which development can be constituted.

Similar events featured prominently in previous centuries precisely during the era of global Industrial Revolution of the early 19th century as well as technological revolution of the 20th century. These two events ‘rapidly’ improved ‘productivity’ (Jensen, 1993) on one hand and gave room for a more robust market structure and high-level competitiveness on the other hand. This is development. This unfettered influence of drastic change in order and structure of governance from the political sphere was referred to as ‘creative destruction’ (Schumpeter, 1950) of the political system and further establishment of a workable structure which is a necessary attribute of social cum political existence across the globe. If a system remains unperturbed and sequestered, there is a near evidence and tendency for it to be moribund and for it to lose every sense of its existence.

In essence, it becomes important therefore to note that constant inversion of new cultures, structures, traditions within the system to reshuffle the way in which the system is positioned is germane to the human society in order to occasion periodic change and development in the society. This assumption evidently forms the bedrock for political change and development campaigns. This constant and necessary refurbishment of the political system comfortably creates condition for a new lease of life to be drafted into the social system, making government institutions, machineries and agencies to link up with a common stream of action towards development. Upon the above assumption for development, as has been proven through historic experiences which stretched up to modern era, comes the question: what factors motivate development in the rural areas? Are such factors feasibly practicable? Is the level of consciousness of oneself (or a people living within same political geography) regarding

his (or their) political space tangential to the nature of development in that particular area? In that light, it becomes important to x-ray certain tangents to development as it pertains to the rural enclave on the one hand and secondly examine how the conscious level of a people regarding their political environments and engagements can contribute to development on another hand. This research shall narrow down several factors within the framework of rural society of Azumini Ndoki community of Abia State which is the direct focus of this investigation. Not so many scholars have evaluated and considered the concept of rural development outside the models of infrastructure and mercantile undertakings. Very little efforts have been made at garnishing the academic library with development imperatives of political orientation and consciousness with relation to its contribution to rural development.

However, the general objective of this study is to examine the level of impact which political consciousness of a people can have on their levels of development. Specifically, this study shall establish whether or not the people in rural areas in Nigeria (with focus on Azumini community located in Abia State of Nigeria as a case study) can achieve general development if their sense of consciousness towards their political space is advanced by affirmative actions and other legitimate means of participation.

Problem of Pseudo Development Intervention in the Rural Areas

Human life is more abundant in the rural area as statistics record that more than 70% of the Nigerian population is found in the rural area. This contrasts with the reality of the fact that basic social sustenance and amenities are only cited in the urban areas where less number reside. Evidently, none of the rural development agencies owned either by the government or non-governmental organizations have their head offices located in the rural area. All the rural development projects and programs are hawked into the rural area from the urban areas where the headquarters of the operating agencies are located and from where they design intervention programs. Evidently, rural programs developed by these urban-based agencies are laced with urban demographics, logic and models. This creates a question regarding how factual these researches and interventions into rural areas are. Scholars have commonly agreed that there is general problem of underdevelopment in the rural area, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. This reality has given rise to a host of other factors such as rural-urban migration, poverty, frustration, child abuse, teenage pregnancy among others. In the midst of consistent interventions and human development initiatives particularly targeted at the rural areas, why do we have reasonable level of underdevelopment in rural Azumini Ndoki Community? Why are rural areas not home for better facilities and amenities? Why is the living standard and individual survivability reasonably slim in the rural area? Why

do rural areas not share parity in capital projects, capital installations and budgetary provisions with the urban areas in Nigeria? These and more causes of enquiry form the bedrock for this study.

Political Consciousness

Political consciousness is the wave of orientation that influences “people’s freewill and ability to generate informed thoughts and make rational decisions” (Akinbile, 2008) regarding their political space. These sets of ‘thoughts’ and the rights to embark upon ‘rational’ decision making process are however protected by the constitution and every man born within the republic has his rights and privileges to share and express his opinions. These rights and privileges are solidly moored on and protected by the constitution which is the *grund norm* of the land and the individual has the right to utilize same without legal restrictions’ (Malami, 2012). Political consciousness is a product of political communication and political synergy. As noted by Littlejohn and Foss (2002), “communication is most persuasive, important and complex aspects of human life”. Its use and efficacy is boundless and, in every case, unpredictable. This informs the fact that political consciousness borrows strength from diverse channels provided by political communication mechanism. Its development largely depends on the traditional media and their creative abilities to reach large audience (Edgal, 2008).

Little wonder various political institutions carry out advocacy activities and affirmative actions with the use of mass media and communication platforms in order to protect, sell and advance their political ideologies for public acceptance. Political consciousness introduces a new regime of self-conviction regarding certain political events. It creates a variant of understanding about one’s political system which occasionally launches a drive for betterment and development. Evidently, political consciousness climaxes to the point at which it brings the ethnic nationalities that make up a State together in order to occasion equal opportunities for them and they will be able to forge common understanding” (Akinbile, 2008) towards a just and socio political system.

Going deeper however, it will be necessary to establish the fact that the extent and reachability of the development within a system is tangential to the extent of political consciousness forged by unity of action, purpose and pursuit. This implies that the efficacy of political communication towards a development-oriented consciousness is tied to the ability of the people to unite to solve generic problems. This consciousness which comes up to unite the people helps them to articulate their problems, with relative recommended solutions. Political consciousness creates traction for problem-solving initiatives through group actions. Series of mass movements and protests have produced

offshoots of global policies in the area of global warming and climate change, nuclear energy management, toxic waste disposal among other factors that have plagued human existence including epidemics and terrorism. So, government's attention is drawn to depressive situations and problems of the people when they, in unity champion their problems in a conscious and elegant fashion.

Political consciousness defines the political behaviour and political culture of the people. Almond and Verba (1963) identify three categories of political culture viz: participatory, subject and parochial. It holds that the level of demands the people make from the government is determined by the political culture. **A people whose political culture is parochial; a people who are virtually ill-informed about the State system will have no benefit from the government.** If a people do not have full consciousness regarding what they deserve, what their rights and privileges are, they will not know what to ask from the government and how to make such demands.

The Concept of Development: World View vs Rural View

The concept of development bears a strong weight when it comes to definition. It witnesses variants of definitions, which most times conflict among themselves. The term, 'development' is one in which scholars have not fully compromised on its meaning, scope, indices and application when it has to do with the human society. For instance, a physical scientist's understanding of development may vary from an agriculturalist's perspective. A political scientist's perspective will differ from that of a medical scientist. When it comes to development, variants of views justify the complexities which accompany the dynamics of development ranging from infrastructure, economics, finance, politics, health, demographics, geography among others. These dynamics accompanying the disciplinary peculiarities cannot singularly prove a point about the development of the society without witnessing some faults and or shortcomings. Thus, one disciplinary approach or view point cannot give a comprehensive definition of development. This implies that an infrastructural approach to development may not flawlessly hold way if it is singularly applied. In essence, therefore, people may have sophisticated infrastructure and yet lack the requisite manpower to furnish themselves to the point of development. On the other hand, an economic approach for development (such as the use of quantitative statistical tools) may not sufficiently provide basis for a holistic approach to the concept of development as it may be faulted by political, agricultural or industrial defects and shortcomings. This is the world view.

Kuwait, for instance, with the highest-valued currency and also with high GDP Per Capita still lacks requisite manpower in non-oil industries and witnesses marginal reflux in its general well-being of the citizenry. So, the cash value and GDP indices may

run short of evidence to prove the development level of a given society especially as applied to the rural area. In the early 60s, Zambia, a sovereign State could not sufficiently solve her development problems. It witnessed impediment in its multimillion development plans regardless of its per capita income and abundant repository of copper in its soils (Edame, E. and Edame, G., 2001). This justifies the fact that not only is development characterized by complexities but also has an all-encompassing and comprehensive dimension. To address the issue of development with all sufficiency, however, it will be imperative to take a broad-based and inter-disciplinary approach by galvanizing the basic integral components of development across disciplines as it applies to the human society. In the words of Seers (1969), development cuts across three major issues which include poverty, unemployment and inequality. Thus, in order to build a strong basis for proper understanding of development, according to Seers, one must ask questions regarding the values and levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality in the society. One must enquire to know the relative impact these three components have on the people and in the society. All these three components unanimously establish if a society is developed or not.

To Rodney (1973), a number of issues must be fully addressed when we talk about development. These include increase in skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being. These factors are tangential to individual person and emphasize individual development much more than any other. Todaro (1985) views the concept from an economic perspective. He tags development a 'multi-dimensional process' which above all must include a re-ordering of the social system as well as the economic system. It also involves a radical or gradual improvement in the collective income of the people as well as output in terms of commerce. Development, according to Todaro (1979), equally involves reorganization of the social and administrative structures featuring a new lease of attitudes, customs and beliefs. This establishes the fact that development is not just a factor which relates with the physical structures and infrastructure of the society but it has to do equally with the state of mind of the people (Edame, E. and Edame, G., 2001).

In simplest form, development implies increase in 'quality'. It varies from 'change' which is increase in 'quantity'. This appeals to the rural population. Both change and development can take radical and gradual fashion in their occurrence. Development introduces a brand new order in social, cultural, political, economics undertakings. In other words, development does not take place 'unnoticed' (Fanon, 1980). It sweeps across every boundary of convenience and occasions a significant identity with which its presence can be quantified and ascertained. Scholars have had series of unbridled arguments regarding the concepts and nature of a rural area. Sule (2007) describes a rural area as a place with significant level of poverty evident in the

standard of living of the people and in the general lifestyle. Thus rural area is a place where children are exposed to harsh and inhuman social conditions. A place with meager and insufficient infrastructure such as poor drainage system, slums, and so on. A rural area in the view of Sorokin, Zimmerman and Galpin (1930) has to do with demographics. He explains that a rural area has a population which is sparingly and meagerly distributed. Thus, there are fewer inhabitants who engage in commercial and industrial activities.

Agriculture is the main stay of rural economy. The rural dwellers own ranches and farm lands which are majorly cultivated on subsistence methods. There is low level of entrepreneurial activity and low level of merchandise of agricultural products. The communal system in rural areas is evident in the nature of infrastructure which the people establish. The rural people usually live in hamlets, huts and peak-squeak structures, closely built together and such co-existence is connected by certain biological and family clans. Leadership in the rural areas is usually traditional and monarchical. The rules and regulations and what makes for value system in the rural areas are usually predominantly drawn from the customs of the people. Thus, formal cum civil existence and the presence of the government is largely insignificant. The people in the rural areas tend to obey their customary regulations more than the State laws.

Rural development has a different and peculiar feature from urban development. This peculiarity cuts across theory and practice. Rural development has a strong relation with the peculiarities of the environment (whether rural or urban), with its people (their wants and preferences) and the culture of the land. What appeals to one rural area as a development index may not appeal to the other. The people, the land and the culture generally defines what rural development is all about. This complexity has however created a glitch for development administrators in their bid to establish a common agenda with which the rural areas in Nigeria can be developed. Most times, the infrastructural, health, education, commercial and agricultural agenda of development agencies have witnessed failures due to the cultural and traditional belief systems of the people. This is a symbolic evidence of the heterogeneity which hampers efforts aimed at bringing development in the rural area.

Multiple Streams Model; A Theoretical Analysis of the Triple-Turn Effect of Political Consciousness

A theory is an assumption which gives explanatory and descriptive direction to a phenomenon and has the ability to futuristically predict its' later ends thereof. A theory designs and redesigns objects of real life emphasis with the aim of creating knowledge about them. Within the context of this study, however, the multiple streams model

advocated by Potter (1995) shall be used. The Multiple Streams model came as a criticism to the Policy Stages model on the grounds that the latter is excessively rational and linear. According to Kingdom (1995) and Porter (1995), needed changes in policymaking can come about when multiple sets of activities (so called “streams”) – defining the problem, suggesting solutions, and obtaining political consensus – occur simultaneously, thus opening a window of opportunity for the changes to happen.

Problems stream has to do with the general social conditions for which government action is demanded. The citizens make use of legitimate channels like the media, groups platforms among others to present these problems area to the government. After the problems shall have been itemized though series of agitations, the Politics stream is next. This involves a set of actions by the government toward creating policy alternatives in pursuant of solutions to the problems so identified.

The solution stream is the set of policy alternatives which have been adopted by the government as reasonable solutions to the problems which were earlier hyped. The Multiple Streams model is not linear, since three streams flow relatively independently through the policy system; ideally, a compelling problem is linked to a plausible solution that is politically feasible. In practical terms, strong efforts and as set of contests are exhibited in order to make the three streams meet (through lobbying, research, communication, coalitions, interactions, bargaining, media, and many others). Same quota of rational efforts is equally needed to ensure a simultaneous flow of the streams. Additionally, this theory anchors on the belief that not until problems are pushed through a political process, the needed solutions cannot be achieved. In other words, the society shall not witness significant level of development and solution to its problems until it initiates certain political actions.

METHOD

This study adopted empirical research design to examine the development imperatives associated with the political orientation of a people. A sample of 172 respondents was randomly selected from Azumini Ndoki community. Primary data are obtained from a structured interview conducted on 172 respondents randomly selected across the 6 villages in Azumini. The instrument for data collection was structured interview based on the development interventions in the community and their level of political participation. The secondary data were drawn from various sources as a measure of the responses of the people and their political consciousness. The results were analyzed descriptively by simple polemics taking bearing from the logic and assumption of the theory which provides guide for the research. Hence, data obtained were presented on tables and charts and analysed in simple percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Rural Development in Azumini

Rural development projects in Azumini range from miniature interventions by the government in the health, agricultural sectors etc. In most significant cases, nongovernmental Organizations intervene in rural development by organizing programs that are aimed at the improvement of lives of the rural people. There is relatively little or no effort towards integrating the political orientation of the people towards development as government bears the burden of development within its limited capacity. To examine the level of rural development interventions in Azumini, interviews were conducted on 172 rural residents spread across the 6 villages in Azumini. Responses were evaluated based on the interventions they received from the government, non-governmental organizations, not-for-profit organizations, individual philanthropists and other sources. This assistance ranges from health, education, agriculture, humanitarian and others.

Health: This refers to interventions relative to the supply of health facilities and construction of health centers and offices. It equally has to do with assistance received in the area of immunization and primary health care. 112 respondents (being 66%) agreed to have witnessed health interventions, while 54 (being 31%) respondents have not witnessed health interventions, while 6 others (being 3%) are not even sure if any health intervention project has gotten to their locality.

Agriculture: This refers to relevant interventions in provision of agricultural facilities, like tractors, fertilizers and all other supports for farmers and agriculturists. While 58 respondents (being 34%) agreed to have benefited from agricultural interventions, 102 (being 60%) have not and 12 (being 6%) respondents are not even sure if they have witnessed any agricultural intervention.

Humanitarian Services: This refers to interventions in the area of infrastructure, social amenities, life supports facilities among others. While 42 (being 24%) respondents have witnessed humanitarian intervention, 97 (being 56%) have not while 33 (being 19%) do not even know if they have benefited.

Education: This refers to interventions in the area of scholarship for school children, construction and repairs of schools and laboratory equipment for schools. In this category, 89 respondents (being 51%) have benefited from education intervention, while 74 (being 43%) have not and 9 respondents (being 6%) do not even know if they have benefited.

Others: This category refers to any other support received in furtherance of development in the rural area. 124 respondents (being 72%) agreed to have benefited in every other form of intervention in the rural area, while 47 (being 27%) have not and 1 (being 0.6%) respondent is not sure if they have benefited from any other form of intervention in the rural area.

Government: This includes institutionalized efforts by the government to initiate development in the rural area. While 43 respondents (being 25%) agreed to have witnessed interventions from government institutions and agencies, 89 (being 51%) respondents have not and 40 (being 23%) respondents do not know whether they have witnessed government intervention.

Non-governmental organizations: This involves local and international NGOs. 25 respondents (being 15%) have witnessed interventions from non-governmental organizations, while 74 (being 43%) respondents have not and 73 (being 42%) respondents do not even know if they have witnessed any intervention from NGOs.

Non-profit organizations: This involves any other kind of agency like churches and others in this category. While 32 respondents (being 19%) agreed to have witnessed interventions from not-for-profit organizations, 80 (being 47%) respondents have not and 60 (being 35%) respondents do not know whether they have received any intervention from them.

Individuals: This involves individuals and philanthropists who organize development projects in the rural areas. While 19 respondents (being 11%) agreed to have witnessed interventions from private individuals, 115 (being 67%) respondents have not and 38 (being 22%) respondents do not know whether they have received any intervention from individuals.

Others: This involves any other agency other than the above mentioned. Twenty three respondents (being 13%) agreed to have witnessed interventions from other sources, 77 (being 45%) respondents have not and 72 (being 42%) respondents do not know whether they have received any intervention from other sources.

The foregoing implies that there are significant efforts made by both the government and other actors towards development of rural areas in Azumini in the areas of education, health, and so on. These contributions which have relative impact on the rural society are being felt by the people. Other interventions have more impact on the people followed by health and education. The people witness more interventions from the government followed by not-for-profit organization and NGOs.

Political Consciousness in Azumini

The concept of political consciousness when applied to Nigeria and Azumini in particular remains marginally absurd and in most cases complicated. This is largely due to the fact that the socio political orientation of the Nigerian political space is both diverse and disharmonized due to cultural, social, economic heterogeneity. Data collected from 172 respondents display the level of consciousness of the rural dwellers in Azumini in the area of politics based on their responses and involvement in political activities. The responses based on political activities that take place in the rural areas are categorized thus:

YES (Active)

This category is made up of rural dwellers who are politically conscious. They understand their political rights and privileges and understand how best to apply them to their own benefit as well as practically engage themselves in it. There are 159 active responses which make up to 18% of the total responses within this category.

NO (Apathetic)

This category is made up of rural dwellers who are apathetic. They understand their political rights and privileges but choose not to utilize them for several reasons, such as victimization, lack of interest and so on. There are 487 Apathetic responses which make up to 56% of the total responses.

NOT SURE (Parochial)

This category is made up of rural dwellers who are politically unconscious. This category do not understand their political environment, rights and privileges and do not utilize them. There are 214 parochial responses which make up to 25% of the total responses. Scholars have argued that the general development of a given society remains at its best static and non-responsive without relative and effective development in the political structure of the system in the area of good governance and accountability.

Not only should emphasis be laid on accountability. Accountability and good governance are germane. But, in addition to these is the need for corporate organizations, and self-help agencies as well as agencies to assist in building and enhancing the relationship between the government and its citizens (Schedler, 1999 and Goetz and Jenkins, 2005). On this note, there is a strong belief that the level of consciousness of the people about the political space is a major determinant to the system of governance they experience. In line with the Multiple Streams Model, the conversion of problems to solutions in the society is practicable through a political traction. The political structure

of the State aggregates the general problems of the people, channels them through a political process in order to initiate solutions to them. This process is made more realistic and practicable when the people involved are directly informed and conscious about their political system. If the people are politically conscious, they will have the ability to influence a change in the status quo by putting up their problems into the 'politics stream'. Hence, it is less likely for solutions of the problems of the people to be harnessed without a fully conscious political activity which shall be anchored by the people who duly understand their individual rights and privileges.

Table 1: Interventions are distributed into five categories as received by respondents

S/N	Nature of Intervention	Yes	No	Not Sure	Total
1	Education	89	74	9	172
2	Health	112	54	6	172
3	Agriculture	58	102	12	172
4	Hum. Services	42	97	33	172
5	Others	124	47	1	172

Source: Empirical data, 2016

Chart 1: Health intervention received by respondents

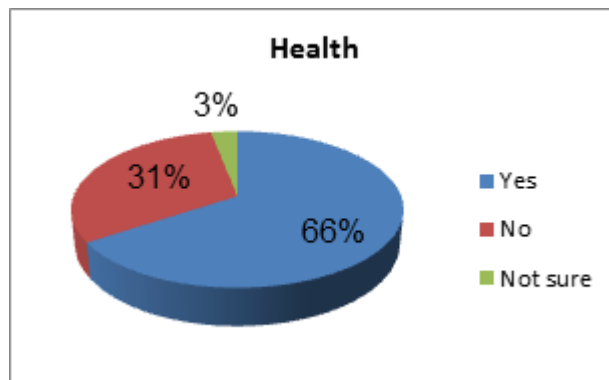


Chart 2: Agricultural intervention received by respondents

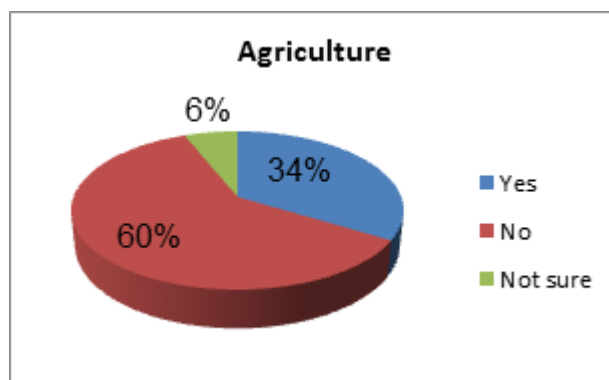


Chart 3: Humanitarian intervention received by respondents

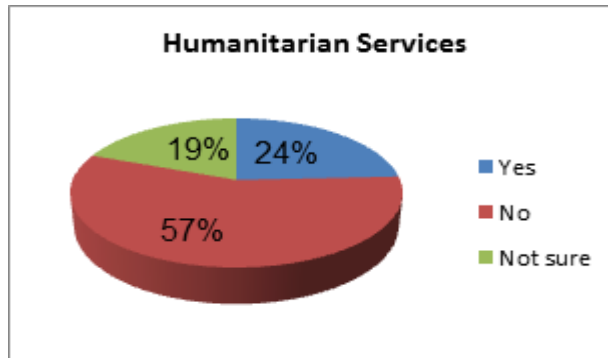


Chart 4: Education intervention received by respondents

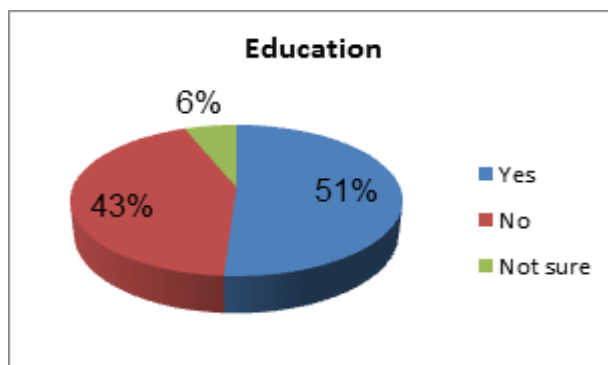


Chart 5: Other interventions received by respondents

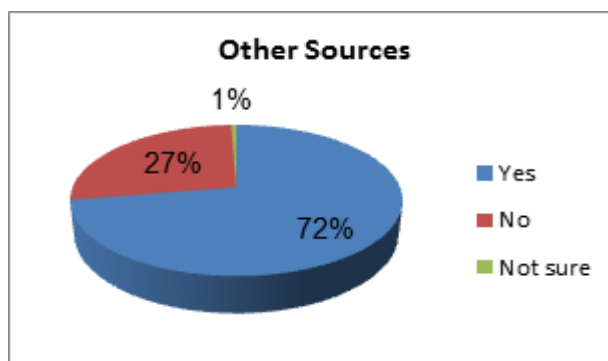


Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on sources of intervention they received

S/N	Sources of Intervention	Yes	No	Not Sure	Total
1	Government	43	89	40	172
2	NGOs	25	74	73	172
3	Not-for-profit orgs	32	80	60	172
4	Individuals/ Self	19	115	38	172
5	Others	23	77	72	172

Source: Empirical data, 2016

Chart 6: Government intervention to the rural areas

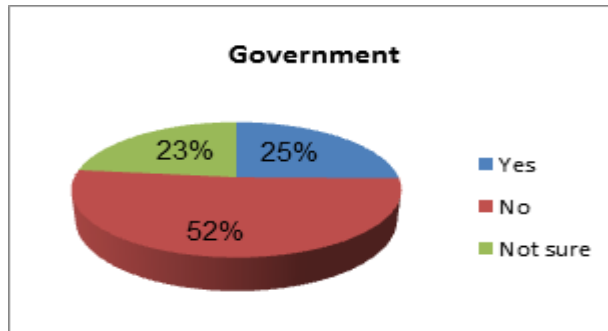


Chart 7: NGOs' intervention to the rural areas

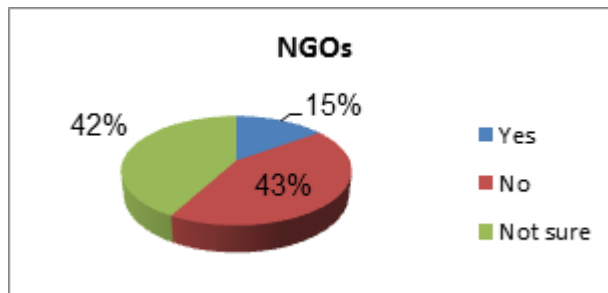


Chart 8: Not-For-Profit Organizations' intervention to the rural areas

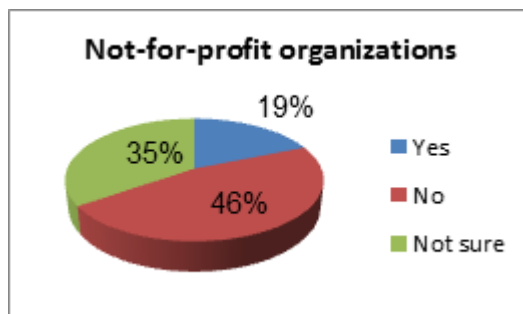


Chart 9: Individual intervention to the rural areas

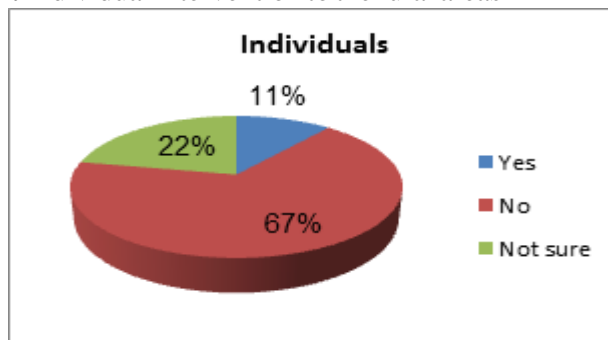


Chart 10: Other interventions to the rural areas

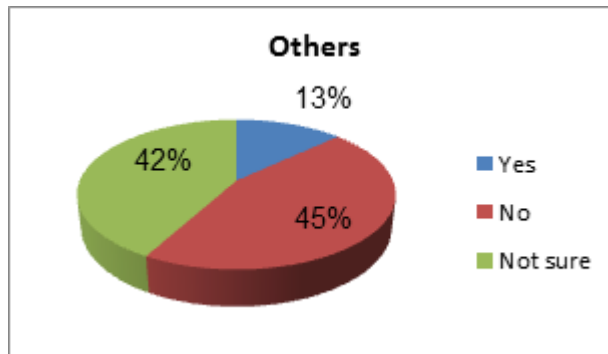
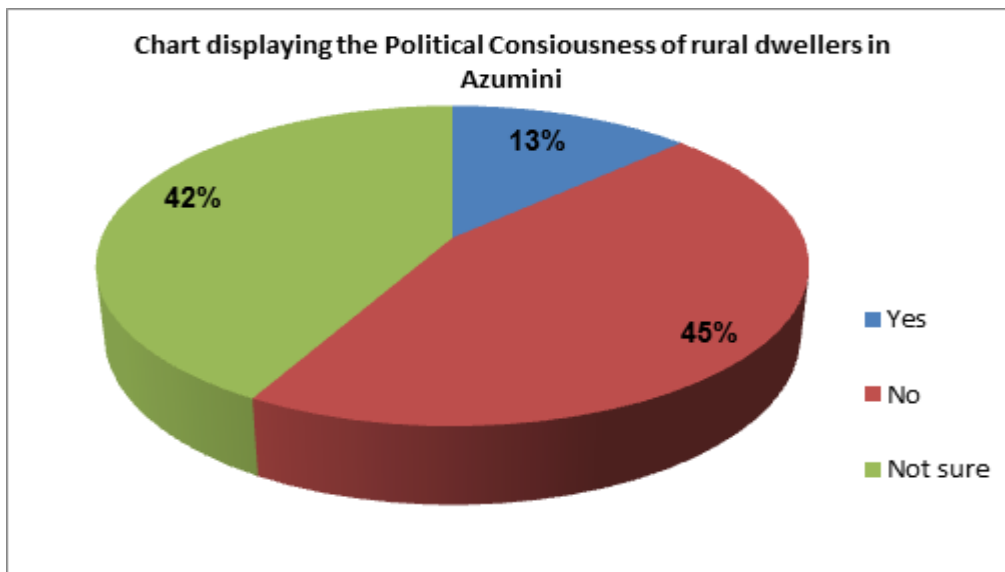


Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on the nature of political activity participated

S/N	Political Activity	Yes	No	Not Sure	Total
1	Election	53	83	36	172
2	Public Hearing	18	142	12	172
3	Demonstration	43	28	101	172
4	Political Campaign	33	92	47	172
5	Others	12	142	18	172
		159	487	214	860

The responses based on political activities that take place in the rural areas are presented in the chart below:

Chart 11: The level of political consciousness of rural dwellers in Azumini



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A study which was conducted in Azumini, this work obtained responses from 172 respondents randomly selected from the rural areas in the community. Results revealed that there is significant level of intervention towards development in the rural area, especially by the government. On the contrary, there is low level of development in the rural area. The result equally reveals that there is a significant level of political apathy (56%) and political unconsciousness (25%) in the rural area in Azumini. The multiple streams model argues that the conversion of problems to policies (or solutions) in the society involves a strategic political process which is basically triggered by the people by means of agitation and collective group action. On the basis of this assumption, the study concludes that solutions to problems of development within the rural areas can be institutionalized when the people are politically conscious; thus when the people can mobilize themselves to claim their political rights and privileges.

Activities of groups and politically conscious people encourage democratic accountability. A government that has an informed public will be fully responsible in order to avoid affirmative actions and series of criticisms. This entails that political participation dovetails to gradual and or radical development in the social, political, institutional dimensions of the rural area, structurally and functionally. Group activities and collective actions give room for social inclusion; this involves the creation of a social atmosphere that will entertain diverse social orientations, dispositions and viewpoints. In order to encourage participation and social inclusiveness, opportunity should be given to people from diverse backgrounds to express their views and place their demands on the table. No one should be ostracized. This can be made possible by groups coalition and political freedom.

Non-governmental organization and self-help agencies should place more emphasis on raising the standard of political orientation and consciousness of the people by bringing them to the knowledge of their constitutional rights and privileges. This will help them own up to their collective plight and make reasonable and legitimate agitations to the government. Independent institutions of government such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should engage in series of unceasing political tutorship with particular emphasis on the rural area. Such tutorship should not be periodic as it is presently; only carried out during elections. With this, the rural dwellers will be informed of the political machinery wherein they dwell and be made to know how to call their political office holders to question regarding certain rural developmental challenges. Government institutions, agencies as well as Non-governmental organizations whose primary focus is on rural development should establish their work stations in rural areas. This will encourage more domesticated research proposals and give

direction to research agencies on what the rural areas need in order to be developed. Rural development is the bedrock of this study. To achieve this, there is every need to enhance the level of consciousness of the rural people towards politics and political engagements in the rural area.

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