



## The Impact of Public-Private Partnership Policy on Rural Development in Niger State

**Abdullahi Mohammed Yamma (PhD),**

Department of Political Science,

Nasarawa State University, Keffi

[mohyamma@gmail.com](mailto:mohyamma@gmail.com), 08133089120

**Yahaya Abdullahi Adadu (PhD),**

Department of Political Science,

Nasarawa State University, Keffi

[adaduyah@yahoo.com](mailto:adaduyah@yahoo.com), 08063222570

**Godiya Atsiya Pius (PhD),**

Department of Political Science,

Nasarawa State University, Keffi

[godiyap18@gmail.com](mailto:godiyap18@gmail.com), 07037713433

&

**Sulaiman Saudia Elsauud,**

Department of Political Science,

Nasarawa State University, Keffi

[elsaleem59@gmail.com](mailto:elsaleem59@gmail.com), 08036020514

### Abstract

Infrastructure inadequacies caused by poor financing, poor economic outcomes, recessions and recently, the Covid-19 pandemic have remained one of the major impediments towards attaining rural development in Nigeria. The inadequacy of the traditional methods of infrastructural financing and the limitations it pose to rural infrastructural development has further necessitated the need for collaborative engagement through public private partnership as a means of infrastructure financing and delivery. This study therefore, examines public private partnership policy and its impact on rural community development in healthcare, education, roads and agriculture in Niger State from 2011 to 2019 and with major focus on three selected rural communities in the three senatorial zones. The objectives were to examine the impact of effective PPPs implementation on rural community development in Niger State, the hindrances to PPPs implementation, the strategies to tackle these hindrances, and what templates and framework could ensure effective PPPs' implementation and performance. Neoliberal theory was used as a theoretical framework for the analysis due to its thrust on democratization and inclusion of private participation of the larger society in public policies. The study adopted both primary and secondary methods of data collection using questionnaire and interview. Data were collected and analyzed using chi-square and SPSS and findings from the study shows that PPPs have positively impacted rural community infrastructures in healthcare, education, roads and agriculture in Niger State. The study recommends more sensitization, awareness, community consultation and participation in the planning and implementation of PPPs, formulation of rural oriented PPPs, and workable template and legal framework capable of promoting rural community development.

**Keywords:** Public Private Partnership, Infrastructure, Rural Development, Development.



## Introduction

The core impediment to Nigeria's economic growth and development is her actual shortage in basic physical infrastructure, which also seriously hinders human capital development. The World Economic Forum's 2017-2019 Global Competitiveness Index ranks Nigeria's infrastructure at the bottom i.e. 132 out of 138 countries (WEF, 2019), and according to the organization's recent Executive Opinion Survey, the poor supply of infrastructure is also the largest hindrance to Nigeria's business environment. Development infrastructure across Nigeria in general and rural communities in particular is in serious need of improvement and rehabilitation. This has negatively affected rural communities' attempt to generate employment and spur economic development. The few available infrastructures are either structurally defective or functionally outdated. Though, failing infrastructure is not restricted to rural communities alone, rural communities however, face special difficulties in tackling infrastructure requirements because rural communities' projects are somewhat small hence, the inability to draw adequate encouragement or funding from the private sector. The customary mode of funding rural infrastructure (local government Internally Generated Revenue) is seriously inadequate in most rural communities due to declining population emanating from rural-urban migration. It has really become difficult and almost impossible to attract and encourage people to stay and contribute meaningfully to the development of their rural communities through active participation in rural community activities.

Considering the significance of durable infrastructural existence to the socio-economic, political and technological development of any country, the stock of available infrastructure in Nigeria remains downward in contrast to the global benchmark of 70% of GDP. Increasing infrastructural deficits are worsened by the growing demands of an expanding unproductive population and complex urbanization. Available facts and figures in Proshare's December 2020 report put the rate of infrastructural shortage at \$100 billion representing 189.77% of the 2021 Federal Government of Nigeria's budget projection of \$34.51 billion. As at 2019, the stock of post-contract PPPs under implementation stood at 69, pre-project PPPs at development and procurement phase stood at 138, while the total investment in approved PPP projects between 2010-2018 stood at US\$8 billion with major sectors being rails, ports, roads, natural gas, solar, telecoms, electricity, housing and water, sanitation, aviation and agriculture (www.icrc.gov.ng).

Nigeria is currently estimated to have a population of over 200 million people and with a projection of 70% increase by the next 20 years bringing the population to 330 million by the year 2040 (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/African Centre for Economic Transformation - OECD/ACET, 2020), and with no rapid amelioration in Nigeria's basic physical infrastructure, this growth will increase the complexities of the current infrastructural shortage.

Likewise, the African Development Bank estimated that Nigeria would need to invest US\$15 billion annually to meet its infrastructure needs (AfDB, 2013). By 2016, Oxford Economics, put Nigeria's cumulative infrastructure spending need (investment need scenario) between 2016 and 2040 to about US\$878 billion with average annual investment of US\$36.6 billion, while the expected spending would be about US\$657 billion, with an average annual investment on infrastructure being US\$27.4 billion leaving a gap of over US\$200 billion with an average annual investment gap of US\$8.3 billion (GIO, 2013). If Nigeria is to measure up with the best performing countries in its income peer group (investment need scenario), the Nigerian



government would have to increase annual average infrastructure spending to about 4.8% of GDP between 2019 and 2030 and to about 3.8% of GDP between 2030 and 2040. These figures need to increase to 6.8% and 3.8% of GDP respectively if Nigeria were to achieve universal access to water, sanitation and other basic infrastructure by 2030 (Nigerian Economic Summit Group, 2017).

### Statement of Research Problem

Inadequate rural infrastructure has been a major source of exodus of expertise, vibrant men and women from the rural areas to urban centres thereby causing great concerns to the government as well as the members of the rural communities themselves. Available data obtained from the Niger State Bureau of Statistics points to the fact that there is high rate of rural-urban migration due to lack of motivating infrastructures to keep them behind in the rural areas. In the surveys conducted by the agency above covering the period of 2011-2017, more than 50% of primary and secondary school teaching and non-teaching staff in the rural areas have sort redeployment to urban centres. Also, over 90% of local government council staff and 85% of Niger State civil servants from all the sectors deployed to public institutions in rural communities have found their way back to urban centres through Inter-Service Transfers and Redeployment respectively.

More so, contractors, development partners and experts who should stay in the rural communities to help develop and manage rural infrastructural projects are not left out in this exodus (Niger State Bureau of Statistics, 2018). One major factor responsible for this trend is the unavailability of rural infrastructure that supports and enhances the well-being of the rural people. The consequence of this situation is a decline in primary school enrolment, increasing rural health challenges, poor administration of government policies and programmes at the rural levels, declining internally generated revenues by the local government councils who in most cases domicile in these rural areas, increasing unemployment, food shortages and rising insecurity among others. This has also contributed to the government's neglect of rural infrastructural development to the advantage of the urban centres both in terms of policy formulation and programme and projects implementation as it relates to public private partnership.

In an attempt to resolve these challenges, the government has opted for Public Private Partnership as a means of providing and delivering rural development infrastructure. The extent to which PPPs have helped in rural infrastructural provision and delivery necessitated this study to investigate the role of public private partnership policy in rural community development with specific focus on rural community participation in PPPs for the provision of rural infrastructure in three selected rural communities in three senatorial zones of Niger State.

### Research Questions

This study seeks to address the following questions:

- i. How has the implementation of PPP affected the level of rural community development in Niger State?
- ii. What are the major hindrances to the implementation of PPP for the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State?

- iii. What assuaging strategies can be established to overcome the constraints facing the implementation of PPP in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State?
- iv. What template could be developed for the effective implementation and performance of PPP in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objectives of this study are:

- i. To evaluate the effect of PPP implementation on the level of rural community development in Niger State,
- ii. Identify the major hindrances to the implementation of PPP in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State,
- iii. Know the assuaging strategies than can be established to overcome the constraints facing the implementation of PPP in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State, and
- iv. Suggest a workable template for the effective implementation and performance of PPP in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State.

### **Research Hypotheses**

The study is based on the following hypotheses-

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant relationship between rural community development and Public-Private Partnerships.

**Hypothesis 2:** The performance of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in rural community development is not significantly limited by existing hindrances.

**Hypothesis 3:** Public Private Partnership (PPP) strategy cannot overcome rural community development challenges.

**Hypothesis 4:** Effective public private partnership (PPP) template cannot impact positively on PPPs outcomes in rural community development.

### **Literature Review**

#### **The Concept of Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**

Public private partnership is joint initiatives of the public sector in conjunction with the private, for-profit and not-for-profit sectors”, also referred to as the government, business and civic organizations (World Bank 1999). In these partnerships, each of the actors contributes resources (finance, human, technical and intangibles, such as information or political support) and participates in the decision-making process.

The United Nations (2010), defined PPPs as voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both state and non-state, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits.

In the context of this study, public private partnership could be seen as a voluntary contractual engagement or arrangement between agreeing parties (government, private partners, non-governmental organizations and host communities) to share responsibilities and risks as well as

mutual gains and pains in the context of specific infrastructural and service delivery within an agreed specified period of time.

### **Motivation for Engaging in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

The three main needs that motivate governments to enter into PPPs for infrastructure are:

To attract private capital investment, increase efficiency and use available resources more effectively, and to reform sectors through reallocation of roles, incentives, and accountability.

### **The Benefits of Public Private Partnerships**

The benefits of PPPs include: efficiency, sources of financing, better on-time construction performance, early delivery, innovation, protection of the public interest and clear accountability.

### **The Challenges of Public Private Partnership**

Some of the challenges of PPP include: unattractive environment, inadequate local engineering skills, lack of strong political will, lack of good governance, transparency and probity, politics, budgets, and long-term planning, rigid institutional/ legislative framework, lack of clarity of project objectives, wrong selection PPP model for projects, inadequate information on value for money and poor planning of PPPs.

Other challenges include; inadequacy of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks for investment in some sectors; high cost and unstable power and energy supply, leading to high overhead costs; cumbersome land titling and administration practices that constrain the optimisation of land as a factor of production; high domestic public debt, which tends to crowd out private sector borrowing thereby undermining real sector growth; security threat to lives and property; multiple taxation; high cost of capital and inadequate term lending; and skills mismatch between the education system and industrial needs (FGN, 2013).

### **Economic Perspective of Development**

Seer's (1976), viewed development to consist increase in output in all sectors of the economy and distribution of the output in such a way as to enhance the quality of life of the broad masses of the population. To him, three questions must be answered if any social system must be seen to have developed. That is, what is happening to poverty? What is happening to unemployment? And what is happening to inequality?

If all these three have declined from high levels, beyond doubt, there has been development in the country concerned. But if one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, then development has not taken place. This is in spite of an increment in per capita income.

Also, Streeten (1981) in his book "First thing First" propounded the theory of "Basic Needs". According to him, the issue that must be addressed in order to attain development is the provision of the basic human needs. These needs include health, housing, water, education, food and sanitation as well as citizens' participation in national economic planning.

### **Concept of Rural Development**

Rural development is the transformation of the rural communities into socially, economically, politically, educationally, orderly and materially desirable conditions, with the aim of improving the quality of life of the rural population. The process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of the governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of their communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the Nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress, United Nation (1956). Furthermore, it was defined as a socio-economic process which seeks to bring about a more equitable distribution of resources and incomes within a society with the involvement of the



integration of the rural poor that constitutes the large majority of the population of most developing countries into the national economy. In many developing countries, agriculture constitutes the occupation of a large majority of rural people. Therefore, agricultural development is an important aspect of rural development. The cardinal objective of rural development is the attainment or the improvement of rural life through the provision of durable and quality rural infrastructure that is capable of lifting the rural communities from their state of political, social and education doldrums.

### **Empirical Review of Literature**

Bjarstig and Camilla, (2016) conducted a study on “public-private partnership in a Swedish rural context ‘a policy tool for the authorities to achieve sustainable rural development’” with major focus on evaluation of the critical role of the State in these partnerships. It initiated a workshop ‘partnership for sustainable rural development’ and a semi-structured group interviews was used to collect data from respondents. The workshop held in Ostersund, in the northern Swedish province of Jamtland in January 2014 with representatives from all the key agencies at national and regional levels involved in natural resource management and/or rural development invited to participate in the workshop. The reasons being that there is sparse population and several national authorities are located there. Five agencies with 16 representatives were invited to attend the workshop but only eight invitees were however, able to attend. The findings from the study revealed that partnerships are seen as a means to get ahead in environmental policy, to improve local acceptance and to enhance local participation in development and to contribute to sustainable rural development through lease agreements, coordination of marketing and the promotion of tourism.

Also, Oladimeji, Adebisi, & Gambo, (2017), conducted a study “public-private partnership: a panacea to the problems of infrastructure development in Nigeria” using a population sample of 68 respondents, in a field survey research. Data were collected and analyzed through structured questionnaire. Findings from the analysis revealed that, the major factors limiting the usage of Public-Private-Partnership included; limited competition, loss of control, construction risks, and regulatory risks. The study however concluded that PPP system of procurement was having a positive effect (impact) on the nation’s economy. The study proffered strong regulatory framework as one sure way to enhance the effectiveness of the use of Public-Private-Partnership in Nigeria.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theory adopted by this study is the neoliberal theory. Neo-liberalism is an economic thinking and a political culture whose thrust is hinged on the capacity of market forces to deliver abundance, emancipation, wider participation and tranquility to the whole of mankind (Scholte, 2000). Neo-liberalism is rooted in liberal political theory, a product of the European enlightenment with advocacy for artificial barriers elimination in trade, privatization of State owned firms and a limited role for the State in other areas as well. It favoured political freedom, democracy, constitutionally guaranteed rights, canvasses market capitalism, and abolition of welfarism. It is an offshoot of liberalism which is founded on the work of social contract theorists like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, philosopher Immanuel Kant, and economists Adam Smith and David Ricardo. Neoliberalism allows for free movement of goods, services and capital. Though argued by scholars as exploitative, Neoliberalism in the

context of PPP allows wider participation in economic development through competitive policies and institutional framework deliberately made for wider opportunities and enhanced consultative participation in infrastructural development. It also assists the government to encourage the attraction and accumulation of funds and expertise from the private and non-government actors.

### Methodology

The survey design was used through cluster sampling to collect data from the research population of 2334 respondents selected from Niger State Ministry of Works and Infrastructural Development (NMW&ID) and three Rural Infrastructural Maintenance Industrial Cooperative Societies (RIMICS) from three rural communities with one from each senatorial zones of the State. From Zone "A" Gbangban-Kpantorogi & Co. RIMICS was selected, Zone "B" Abwamannati-Afagyakpalle & Co. RIMICS was selected, and Zone "C" Abidoka –Bobi Uruma & Co. RIMICS was selected. The sample size of 400 was determined using Taro Yamane (1967) formula. 400 questionnaires were administered with a return of 353 questionnaires representing 88.12%. The questionnaire was administered to get information from the respondents on the research questions using Likert 5 scale measurements. 1 – 5 of the scale represent "agree, strongly agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree" respectively. The questions and responses are provided in the table below.

**Table 1: Research questions relating to research hypotheses and objectives**

Questions	A	SA	D	SD	N	Total
That PPPs create value by contributing to socio-economic development and environmental sustainability of rural communities in Niger State	67	165	49	21	51	353
That PPPs have any impact on social service effectiveness and efficiency in rural communities in Niger State	120	160	33	27	13	353
The level of impact of PPPs on the development of rural communities in Niger State	169	71	56	37	20	353
Rural communities' involvement in PPPs decision-making process in Niger State	89	69	36	136	23	353
That PPPs as the sure way out of rural infrastructural deficiency in Niger State	49	39	127	94	44	353
The rural community members in Niger State were aware of the role of PPPs in infrastructural development in their communities	127	29	149	31	17	353
That level of community awareness and enlightenment about PPPs were the major problem to PPP implementation for the Development of rural infrastructure in Niger State	93	58	127	44	31	353
The level of Government's effort towards engaging the rural community for PPPs in Niger State	74	49	158	40	32	353
That the private sector partners were providing enough support to motivate rural communities' input in PPPs in Niger State	50	34	74	170	25	353
That there were sufficient regulatory and legal frameworks to enhance PPPs for rural community development in Niger State	55	36	159	35	68	353
The regulatory and legal framework make specific provisions for rural communities' involvement in PPPs implementation in Niger State	55	36	164	35	63	353
The legal and regulatory provision for rural community involvement in PPPs implementation in Niger State	64	33	156	45	55	353



The conducive environment that provides fairness in the allocations of risks, roles and responsibilities in PPPs in Niger State	67	165	59	37	25	353
The consultative platforms and incentives that spur rural community members in Niger State to participate in PPPs in their communities either as individuals or group	57	74	177	22	23	353
The template and incentives that spur rural community members in Niger State to participate in PPPs in their communities either as individuals or group	100	101	90	62	0	353
The template that makes provision for enabling environment for rural communities' participation in PPPs in Niger State will help to enhance PPPs roles in infrastructural development in Niger State	108	101	49	88	7	353
The rate of community-involvement in impact-assessment for PPPs arrangement in Niger State	18	71	129	110	25	353
The template for private rural community members' involvement in PPP's equitably allocate roles and responsibilities for effective involvement in PPPs in Niger State	28	69	121	132	3	353
The possible opportunities for improvement and adjustments in the template for more positive outcomes from private community members' involvement in PPPs in Niger State	166	182	0	0	5	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>1556</b>	<b>1542</b>	<b>1913</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>6707</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2021

**Table 2: Result of Test of Hypotheses**

Variables	Lev. of Sig	Df	Critical Value	(X <sup>2</sup> )	Decision Rule	Decision
Hypothesis1	95%	12	@ 0.05 = 21.02	24.23	Reject (H <sub>0</sub> ) if X <sup>2</sup> < critical value. Accept (H <sub>1</sub> ). If the calculated value is > critical value. ( H <sub>1</sub> ) Accepted	H <sub>0</sub> Rejected, H <sub>i</sub> Accepted
Hypothesis2	95%	12	@ 0.05 = 21.02	20.46	Reject (H <sub>0</sub> ) if X <sup>2</sup> < critical value. Accept (H <sub>1</sub> ). If the calculated value is > critical value.	H <sub>0</sub> Rejected H <sub>i</sub> Accepted
Hypothesis3	95%	12	@ 0.05 = 21.02	24.71	Reject (H <sub>0</sub> ) if X <sup>2</sup> < critical value. Accept (H <sub>1</sub> ). If the calculated value is > critical value.	H <sub>0</sub> Rejected H <sub>i</sub> Accepted
Hypothesis4	95%	12	@ 0.05 = 21.02	46.50	Reject (H <sub>0</sub> ) if X <sup>2</sup> < critical value. Accept (H <sub>1</sub> ). If the calculated value is > critical value.	H <sub>0</sub> Rejected H <sub>i</sub> Accepted

Source: Research Computation, 2021

NB:Df= Degree of freedom, X<sup>2</sup> = Computed Value, H<sub>0</sub>= Null Hypothesis, H<sub>i</sub>= Alternate Hypothesis.





The result from the table 2 above shows that all the hypotheses were accepted as the computed values were greater than the critical/table values in all the scenarios tested.

SPSS analyses on the effect of PPP on Rural Development (Regression Analysis).

The outputs in the table below represent a multiple regression to empirically show the effect of Public Private Partnership on rural development in Niger State.

**Table:3a Model Summary**

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup> Square
1	.916 <sup>a</sup>	.838

**Table: 3b Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model (Independent Variables)	Unstandardized Coefficients	Sig.
	B	
(Constant)	.677	.000
i.) Effective implementation of Public Private Partnerships for rural community development in Niger State.	.719	.000
ii.) Effective resolving of Public Private Partnerships hindrances to rural community development infrastructure in Niger State.	.619	.016
iii.) Active establishment of effective assuaging strategies to overcome the constraints facing the implementation of Public Private Partnerships in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State.	.907	.001
iv.) Workable Template for the implementation and performance of PPPs for the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State.	.093	.000

**Dependent Variable: (Rural Community Development)**

R Represent the relationship between dependent and all the independent variables.

R<sup>2</sup> Represent how much of the depend variable is explainable by the independent variable

B Represent co-efficient of the independent variable

Sig. Represent the statistical significant level of the model

The regression equation is therefore  $y = a + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + b_4x_4 + b_5x_5$ . When the values from the table are computed, the equation becomes  $y = 0.677 + 0.719(x_1) + 0.619(x_2) + 0.907(x_3) + 0.093(x_4)$ .

The equation above reveals that Public Private Partnership has a very strong relationship with rural community development. The correlation value was 0.916 which is considered a strong relationship because the value falls above 0.60(60%) and 0.90(90%) The R<sup>2</sup> indicates that

83.8% (0.838) of rural community development could be explained using the independent variables.

## Findings

Findings showed that the effective implementation of Public Private Partnership has positively affected rural community development in Niger State though with some hindrances affecting the implementation of PPPs for the provision of rural healthcare, education, road and agricultural infrastructure in Niger State. However, with active establishment of effective assuaging strategies, the constraints facing the implementation of Public Private Partnerships in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State can be overcome.

From the research question, objective and hypothesis one analysis, findings showed that majority of the respondents agreed. The co-efficient value for effective implementation of Public Private Partnership on rural community development using SPSS 22.0 was 0.719 implying that all things being equal, when the other independent variables are held constant, rural development will increase by 71.9% if there is 100% improvement in effective implementation of PPPs.

This was statistically significant ( $0.00 < 0.05$ ) i.e. the independent variable is playing an important role and making a very positive contribution to the prediction of the dependent variable. This is in agreement with Escobal and Ponce (2002) view when they asserted that one of the major impacts of rural infrastructure like road is reduction in the cost of transportation and other transaction costs brought about by the construction and rehabilitation of rural roads with positive consequences on agricultural production and supply to the urban markets. Increase in average traffic volume by 40%, improved access to farm input for farmers in the intervention areas, increase in farm size by farmers in the intervention areas by about 15%, improvement in school enrolment in the intervention areas compared to baseline by about 4%, reduction in post-harvest losses by about 50% in the infrastructural intervention areas as compared to baseline, reduction in travel cost compared to baseline by about 45%, improved access to primary and secondary healthcare services thereby reduction maternal death compared to baseline by about 60% in the intervention areas, reduction in drudgery in the activities of beneficiaries in the intervention areas, and creation of 621 permanent jobs within the communities along the road and other rural infrastructures developed are some of the benefits of rural infrastructural development through PPPs (RAMP2, 2021).

Similarly, Riverson, Gaviria and Sidney (2001) explain that the importance of rural infrastructure like access roads extends to all aspects of economic and social development of rural communities. The major challenge however, associated with the rural roads is maintenance and sustainability.

Also, Ahmed and Donovan (1992) and the World Bank (1994) agree on the strong connection between the Rural Road infrastructure, agricultural development and poverty reduction. Agriculture, a major economic activity in rural areas is facilitated by the social amenities especially access roads. If rural communities are devoid of good rural transport system, they

would be isolated from markets, health, and education (Hine, Sasidharan, Eskandari, Burrow and Usman, 2019).

From the second analysis, findings showed that the co-efficient value for effective resolving of Public Private Partnerships hindrances to rural community development infrastructure in Niger State was 0.619. This means that all things being equal, when the other independent variables are held constant, rural community development would increase by 61.9% if there is 100% improvement in effective resolving of Public Private Partnerships hindrances to rural community development infrastructure in Niger State. This was statistically significant ( $0.00 < 0.05$ ) i.e. existence of PPP hindrances is having a significant effect on the prediction of the dependent.

Furthermore, from the third analysis findings showed that the co-efficient value for active establishment of effective assuaging strategies to overcome the constraints facing the implementation of Public Private Partnerships in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State was 0.907. This means that all things being equal, when the other independent variables are held constant, rural community development would increase by 90.7% if there is 100% active establishment of effective assuaging strategies to overcome the constraints facing the implementation of Public Private Partnerships in the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State. This was statistically significant ( $0.00 < 0.05$ ) i.e. effective tackling of PPP hindrances is making a very positive contribution to the prediction of the dependent variable.

Finally, from the fourth analysis findings showed that the co-efficient value for workable template for the effective implementation and performance of PPPs for the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State was 0.093. This means that all things being equal, when the other independent variables are held constant, rural community development would increase by 9.3% if there is 100% workable template for the effective implementation and performance of PPPs for the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State. This was statistically significant ( $0.00 < 0.05$ ) i.e. the independent variable is making a significant contribution to the prediction of the dependent variable. This is supported by Kwak et al., (2009) who argued that Private sector confidence to participate in PPPs depends greatly on the environment in which they operate. In this regard, for successful implementation of PPPs, governments need to create an attractive and favourable investment environment characterized by stable social, legal, economic and financial conditions.

## Conclusion

Conclusively, Public Private Partnership and rural community development have some level of relationship and significance to each other. The effective and efficient formulation and implementation of Public Private Partnership policies, plans, programmes and project through systematic tackling of hindrances, establishment of workable strategies to mitigate against PPPs implementation challenges as well as development of sustainable template for enabling environment, institutional mechanism and community consultation, collaboration and productive engagement for better performance will in no small measure facilitate rural community development in Niger State.

### Recommendations

The recommendations therefore, are:

- i.) For effective impact of PPPs on rural community development in Niger State, there is need for more sensitization and awareness for more community involvement.
- ii.) In order to tackle the hindrances to the implementation of PPP for the provision of rural community development infrastructure in Niger State, there should be more community consultation, collaboration and productive engagement in the planning and implementation of PPPs so as to reinforce a sense of community ownership in the minds of community members.
- iii.) Effort should be made by the government and other stakeholders to make PPPs policies and projects to be rural sensitive as it will help tackle the problem of rural-urban migration, decaying rural infrastructure, and reducing the increasing shortage of competent manpower needed in the management and administration of the affairs of the various local government areas which are majorly rural communities;
- iv.) A workable template and legal framework that can promote PPP project continuity should also be formulated to ensure the continuation of PPP projects even at the expiration of any administration that initiated such projects. The current National Policy on Public Private Partnership should also be reviewed so as to provide opportunities and recognition for Philanthropic-Public Private Partnership. This will allow other private organizations to go into partnership for the development of enduring rural community projects where they felt challenged in the area of sufficient capacity (expertise and finance) to build any project for the community.

### References

- Ahmed, R. and Donovan, C. (1992). *Issues of Infrastructural Development: A Synthesis of the Literature*. Washington D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute.
- African Development Bank (2013). *Public-Private Partnership Operational Plan 2012-2020: Realizing the Vision for Strategy 2020: The Transformational Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Asian Development Bank Operations*. Asian Development Bank.
- Bjarstig, T., and Camilla, S. (2017). *Public-Private Partnerships in a Swedish Rural Context: A Policy Tool for the Authorities to Achieve Sustainable Rural Development*. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 49: 58-68 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2016.11.009>
- Escobal, J. and Ponce, C. (2002). *The Benefits of Rural Roads: Enhancing Income Opportunities for the Rural Poor*. Working paper 40-1. Retrieved from researchgate.net
- FGN (2013). *Mid-Term Report of the Transformation Agenda*. Abuja: Federal Government of Nigeria.
- Global Infrastructural Outlook (2017). *Infrastructure Investment Need in Compact with African Countries*. Oxford Economics: University Press
- Hine, J., Sasidharan, M., Eskandari, T.M., Burrow, M.P.N., and Usman, K. (2019). *Evidence on*

*Impact of Rural Roads on Poverty and Economic Development.* K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies

Nigerian Economic Summit Group (2019). *Nigeria 2050; Shifting Gears: Proceedings from the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Nigerian Economic Summit Group.* Lagos NESG and Dalberg.

Niger RAMP2 (2021), *Compendium of Niger State Rural Access and Mobility Project.* Minna: Leobooks.

Niger State Bureau of Statistics (2019). *Socio-Economic Survey: Minna,* Government Press.

NIIMP (2019). *National Integrated Infrastructural Master Plan.* Abuja, Government Press

Oladimeji, A.B, Adebisi, H.O & Gambo, M.D. (2017). *Public-Private-Partnership; A Panacea to the Problems of Infrastructure Development in Nigeria: International Journal of Sciences, Engineering & Environmental Technology (IJOSEET)*

OECD/ACET (2020). *Quality Infrastructure in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Africa: Prioritising, Accelerating and Scaling up in the Context of Pida. 2021-30*

Proshare Nigeria (2020). *Infrastructure Deficit as a Constraint to Economic Development.* Retrieved in March 2021 from <http://Nigerian-economy.ng/state-of-infrastructure-in-nigeria>

Riverson, J., Gaviria, J & Sidney, T. (2001). *Rural Roads in Sub-Saharan Africa.* World Bank Technical Paper 141(5)

Scholte, J.A. (2000). *Globalization: A Critical Introduction.* Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Seers. D., (1976). *The Meaning of Development.* New Delhi: Eleventh World Conference of the Society for International Development.

Streeten P., et-al. (1981). *"First Things First", Meeting Basic Human Needs in Developing Countries.* New York: Oxford University Press.

United Nations (1956). *Report of the Ashdridge Conference on Social Development: United Nations.* Miscellaneous Publication, p523.

World Bank (1994). *World Development Report.* Washington D.C.: Oxford University Press.  
 World Economic Forum (2019). *The Global Competitiveness Report.* Geneva: World Economic Forum.



www.icrc.gov.ng

Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics, An Introductory Analysis*. 2nd Ed., New York: Harper and Row.

### **Bio-data of Authors**

**Abdullahi Muhammad Yamma** is a Professor of Political Science with the Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Keffi. He is also a Course Writer/ Developer at National Open University of Nigeria. He has authored several books and journals.

**Abdullahi Yahaya Adadu** is a Professor of Political Science with the Department of Political Science Nasarawa State University, Keffi. He has authored several books and journals.

**Dr. Godiya Atsiya Pius A** is a Senior Lecturer with the Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University Keffi. She has several publications to her credit.

**Sulaiman Saudia Elsauud** is a lecturer in the Department of Public Administration, Niger State Polytechnic, Bida Campus. He is also a PhD student in the Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University, Keffi.