



TRANSFORMATION: FROM GOODLUCK JONATHAN'S ADMINISTRATION TILL DATE FOCUSING ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: This study examined the transformation programme initiated by President Goodluck Jonathan's administration (2011 – 2015) and the new government goals set by the present administration of Muhammadu Buhari focusing on community development. It found that in most communities there is shortage of food and water as well as increased number of people with health problems. The study also identified the purpose of transformation such as to make for a society void of criminals to reduce the number of criminals, to promote orderliness in the society, to make for more permanent charges etc. The author is of the opinion that transformation has not been achieved at the local community level.

Keywords: Goodluck Jonathan's Administration, Community Development, Transformation

Introduction

In most communities food, water, housing, education and medical services are limited to a minority. Agricultural productivity is low despite that a large number of rural dwellers are engaged in agriculture. Recently the Federal government under President Goodluck Jonathan's administration (2011-2015) introduced transformation agenda. This transformation programme extends from President Goodluck's administration to the present administration of Muhammadu Buhari. This is meant to improve the general wellbeing of the community and its members to be achieved through sustained agricultural growth. Significant amounts have been expended on the programme. There is need to evaluate this programme to determine the outcomes. The aim of this paper is to examine transformation at the local community level.

Meaning of transformation

Many countries today particularly the third world have embraced the transformational approach. The shift from adaptation to transformation is based on the knowledge that society needs overhauling. Transformation can be defined as change in level, mindset and purpose.

Purpose of transformation

As an all-encompassing process of change transformation has many purposes, which include;

1. **It is to deal with long standing problems in the society:** Long standing problems of the society include for example, inequality, poverty, class, powerlessness, dependence, etc are some the long-standing problem that characterizes most societies. These problems are not tackled effectively through an instrumental approach.
2. **It is to make for more permanent change:** This means changes that make lasting impact on the

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social system. Interventions that is sporadic and limited in nature lead to short-term solutions to problems. Such interventions only touch the surface of the problem and are therefore incapable of altering the conditions of disadvantaged.

3. **It is to have a society free from oppression:** A society characterized by oppression is not likely to be stable and democratic. Moral values and the welfare of future generations will be at stake in such societies.
4. **It is to avoid unnecessary cries for change:** Despite that many countries have adopted democratic form of governance agitations for change continues to increase, sometimes leading to conflicts and insurgency and increasing waves of crimes this is due to structural imbalance in the distribution of resource through transformation these agitations can be stopped.
5. **It is to promote orderliness in the society:** A society may not experience orderliness if it is characterized by a high level of indiscipline. This requires fighting corruption and other aspects of indiscipline. In order for the war against corruption to succeed the issue of governance must be addressed.
6. **It is to safe guide the environment:** The world's environment is seriously threatened as a result of global warming and climate change. Environmental degradation is a global problem; however the impacts are experienced more in poorer countries. It is now increasingly understood that environmental degradation has important implications for social change (Todaro & Smith, 2009; McGregor 2008). According to Todaro and Smith, (2009) the interaction between poverty and environmental degradation "can lead to a self-perpetrating process in which as a result of ignorance or economic necessity, communities

may inadvertently destroy or exhaust the resources on which they depend for survival".

7. **It is to reduce the number of criminals:** Heroin trafficking and distributions, and other criminal activities such as many laundering, armed robbery, and cultism are growing in many parts of Africa. These activities tend to increase the level of insecurity in Africa. Transforming culprits will yield better result than expanding prisons if we are aiming at growth and poverty reduction.
8. **it is to make for a society void of criminals:** Criminals are not born but made; hence the society can be totally purged from criminals. Transformation is a gateway to reducing crime and criminal activities in the society.
9. **It is to effect change in all facets of society:** Society is characterized by dichotomies, for example between urban and rural, between men and women, between rich and poor, etc. through transformation various sections of society can experience change and are giving everyone the opportunity to participate in decisions affecting their lives.
10. **It is bring about equity:** Transformation promotes equity. This is by involving under privileged groups such as women, poor, rural farmers, etc in development process.

Transformation Model

Transformative model seeks profound changes in the entire, social, economic, political and institutional structure of society (Lomg, 1982).

It seeks change in the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure and non-form employment, education, health, nutrition participation in decision-making and behaviour it pays attention to women's involvement in the process of transformation. It seeks to empower people, to provide them access to skills and resources they need to bring about positive changes in their lines



and committees. It anticipates change in production relations (Thompson, 1981, Ake, 1981).

In the sphere of agriculture, it seeks major change in methods of production as well as cropping pattern (Lang 1982). It seeks increased food production, incomes from farm and non-farm activities, it seeks to protect the environment from degradation. Transformation may be defined as a change in level, mindset and purpose. The purpose of transformation can be seen as follows.

Agenda for Transformation

The transformation agenda was initiated by President Goodluck Jonathan during his tenure as president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2011-2015. It anticipated a base line GDP growth rate of 11, 7% of about N428.6 billion and 73.2 trillion respectively. The transformation agenda within the context of community development emphasizes the following thrusts.

1. Agriculture and food security with aim to secure food and feed needs of the nation
2. Job creation: Through reinvigorating all sectors of the economy and enhancing their employment generating potentials
3. Governance: Through maximizing the benefits citizens derive from governance.
4. Human capital Development: Targeted at ensuring that the nation's human resource perception of rulers, endowment is knowledgeable, skilled productive and healthy to enable the optimal exploitation and utilization of other resources to engender growth and development.
5. Infrastructure: aimed to develop infrastructure in key development areas such as power, transportation, housing internet communication technology (ICT) and Niger Delta.

Transformation agenda trans from vision 20:2020. The attainment of vision 20:2020 entails food security, and positive change in transportation communication, health, governance, etc (Bolarin, 2011).

6. Transportation: In order to make easy movement of people and goods different destinations within and outside the country.

New Government Goals Upward

The present government headed by Mohammadu Bahari has developed new goals to guide his administration. The goals are referred as Economic Recovery and Growth plan (ERGP). They are as follows:

- i) Sustained inclusive growth to consolidate national cohesion.
- ii) A structural economic transformation.
- iii) Improving efficiency in both public and private sector
- iv) Increasing national productivity.
- v) Achieving sustainable diversification of production of production.
- vi) Growth of the economy and achieving maximum welfare for the citizens by ensuring food and energy security. These goals represent a continuation instead of a replacement of transformation agenda.

Concept of community development

There is a gradual re-thinking on the concept of community development which views community development in terms of improvement in the quality of life rather than completion of projects (Blum, 2012). The project approach seems to have outlived its usefulness owing to the experiences of most people in grassroots communities, whose lives remain impoverished in spite of participating in projects which are implemented in their communities. Community development refers to personal and social development within the community. Community development has as a goal sustainable socio-economic transformation. This means basic needs such as; food, water, housing, sanitation and education.



Quality rating and Affirmation of Transformation Programme

Evidence based on observers indicate that there is food insecurity in both urban and rural communities. Most people in urban and rural communities do not have enough food how much less enough of balanced food. Rice is one of the stoble foods in Nigeria, 2.5 million metric tons of rice is required annually but only five hundred thousand metric tons of rice is produced within the country annually. The remaining proportion of two million metric tools is imported (Okolo and Obidigbo, 2015).

Malnutrition is evident and the rate to which children are affected is increasing. Price of fish and meat (both cited and fresh) have risen above that an average family can afford. There is very limited supply of good drinking water in rural communities. Most of communities still depend on well mater and streams and squers. During dry seasons people fund it difficult to get water. In some states water pollution is rampant. It can be pointed out that there is an increase in domestic production of water but this is insufficient and unaffordable to most people.

Without adequate food and water peoples quality of life cannot be proved. Transformation programme initiated by president Goodluck Jonathan's administration failed to transform the people their communities. president Buhari's economic recovery and growth plan also failed to bring the expected benefits to the community and its dwellers.

Perception of Rulers

Some statements made by our ruling dites indicate their perception of the transformation programme. Ojo and Adebay (2012) disclosed that the minister of Agriculture and water resources believe 65 percent of Nigerian population is suffering from lack of food security while 40 percent of children are skinted and 25 percent are under weight. Majority of our leaders will agree with honourable minister for Agriculture and water resources because he has the facts and figures hence, he is able to

speak authoritatively on food security situation in the country.

Conclusion

The outcomes of transformation can be food, water, housing, education and health. These are not achieved in rural communities. Most community members lack access to resources needed for effective participation in economic activities. Transformation failed to meet these needs for individuals and communities therefore, it may be concluded that if it is to make positive impact at the community level it must focus on attainment of basic needs. Transparency is required for success in transformation.

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