



## Sense of community and rule enforcement in community afforestation programme development in yobe Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on 17 local governments in savannah Sahel of Yobe State Nigeria. The level of community participation, in afforestation programme development for rural communities is attributed to sense of community. A Sense of community and rule enforcement is a necessary condition for community afforestation programme development. This paper provides an approach for sense of community and rule enforcement in relations to community afforestation programme development. The main purpose of the study was to assess the sense of community and rule enforcement in community afforestation programme development in Yobe State, Nigeria. Sense of community and rule enforcement has been identified as bridge to effective community participation in afforestation programme development. The study used survey design in which questionnaire was used to collect the data from the selected communities and villages. The result shows that about 89 percent change in afforestation programme development was as a result of changes in rule enforcement and sense of community. It can be concluded that the use of this domain allows community leaders to scrutinize their achievements, address their constraints and measure their progress.

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### Introduction

The afforestation programme is defined as the establishment of tree plantation on land that has not previously been managed for forest. Clark et al (2004). Community afforestation programme were identified in this study have the above characteristic. As identified by the Clark et al (2004) afforestation programme do not have to be any sort of official reserves or parks.. Agrawal, (2001) identified dozens of variables as being associated with higher levels of sustainable management of community resources particularly forest and park reserves. Studies have identified multiple factors that can give way to successful result on the management of common resources. Clark et al (2004) grouped these into four categories: characteristics of the resources, characteristics of the group, institutional arrangement (which for some analysts include norms and duties), and the external environment. Unlike in the past today "For most of this century, the management of protected areas was essentially a policing task, and local people were seen as a management problem McNeely (1993). But today many researches recognized and accept rural community participation as an important component for resource conservation and development. Participation is an important ingredient for identifying the values and needs of the different stakeholders, especially those usually excluded from decision making, such as village communities. More so, we recognise factors that are important for sustenance of common resource which are benefits and rules. An individual will place greater value on the maintenance of the resources because of benefit he may derived from it." Given this, individual should be willing to pay higher cost now in following rules than a person who is less

dependent on the resources, (Clack et al, (2004). A higher level of collective activity is recorded when a group user has harvesting and entry rule, (George and Ostrom, 2001). Aside from rules and benefit, traditional cultural practice, can contribute in the loss of biodiversity and vice versa. Hence sense of community is important in the study of cultural practices which include rules, responsibilities, norms, right, value, beliefs and institutions develop over time. Sense of community focuses on the experience of community rather than its structure. McMillan and Chavis (1986) define sense of Community as "a feeling that members sense of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through their commitment to be together. According to Chavis and Wandersman, (1990) Sense of community is a phrase commonly used by citizens, politicians, and social scientists, to characterize the relationship between the individual and the social structure for example having a sense of community or lacking a sense of community). McMillan and Chavis (1986) identified five attributes of membership of sense of community to include: (1) Boundaries, (2) emotional safety, (3) a sense of belonging identification, (4) personal investment (5) A common symbol system. In a community relationship, there exists a process for improving the quality of community life via; (1) community development, (2) community building and (3) community organization. Participation in community organization has been considered a major method for improving quality of the physical environment, enhancing service, preventing crime, and improving social condition, (Chavis & Wandersman 1990).

By sense of community it means, cultural practice of rules and customs, responsibility, norms, value and beliefs that help in rule enforcement. As Clark et al (2004) identified rule enforcement “what we do not necessary mean only official enforcement by outside official agencies. What we do mean are activities undertaking by members of group to enforce some accepted rule”. This activities undertaking by members of group or community to enforce some accepted rule is what we mean by sense of community. This research work seeks to examine the relationship between sense of community and rule enforcement in the Seventeen (17) local government of Yobe state, Nigeria. In view of this, we seek to proposed one general hypothesis.

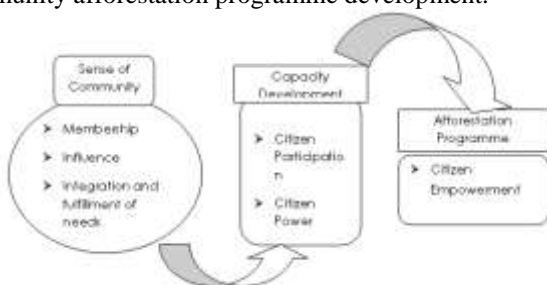
**Literature**

**Element of sense of community**

According to Chavis and Wandersman, (1990). Sense of community is a phrase commonly used by citizens, politicians, and social scientists, to characterize the relationship between the individual and the social structure for example having a sense of community or lacking a sense of community. Ahlbrant and Cunningham (1979) viewed sense of community as an integral contributor to one’s commitment to neighbourhood and satisfaction within it.

McMillan and Chavis (1986) identified four different components of sense of community which including; membership, influence, integration, and shared emotional connection. Table 1 below Show these elements of sense of community as developed by McMillan and Chavis, (1986). Some of these components of the theory were used to test our hypothesis, using data obtained from the field survey for assessing the relation of sense of community for community afforestation programme development and rule enforcement in this research. The relationship between Sense of community and rule enforcement in community afforestation programme development

In this study an outline of the concept of sense of community and rule enforcement in relation to community afforestation programme development was developed in order to describe the process of constructing a tool for assessing sense of community and rule enforcement relation in the context of community afforestation programme development. Consequently an attempt has been made to provide an assessment of afforestation programme condition by rule enforcement in relation to sense of community. Figure 1 illustrates a conceptual framework of the four dimensions of sense of community relate to rule enforcement and afforestation programme development. Sense of community is closed connected to citizen power and citizen participation. Hence it can foster them for development of community capacity building Fariborz et al (2009). Figure 1: Shows the expected Overall interaction between sense of community, rule enforcement and community capacity development for community afforestation programme development.



**Fig. 1. Interaction between sense of community and community capacity development for afforestation programme development**

**Objective**

The main objective of the study was to assess the relation between sense of community and rule enforcement in community afforestation programme development in Yobe State, Nigeria.

**Hypothesis**

H<sub>1</sub>: There is positive relation between sense of community and rule enforcement in afforestation programme development.

**Table 1. Elements of sense of community**

Sense of community dimension	Elements of sense of community
Membership	Need to belong Shared history Common symbols Family rituals Emotional safety Personal investment Social responsibility Citizenship
Influence	Trusting relationships Freedom of expression Empowerment Collective well-being
Integration	Status Social integration Resilience Shared values Youth subcultures
Shared connections	Participation Shared events and Narratives

Source: Adapted from (McMillan & Chavis 1986).

**Method and Material**

The measurement of sense of community in the context of rule enforcement for community afforestation programme development was carried out in seventeen (17) communities in the adjoining village of the seventeen local governments of Yobe State in the North Eastern Nigeria, from September 2007 to June 2009. These local governments are :(1) Damaturu, (2) Potiskum, (3) Fune, (4) Fika, (5) Nangere, (6) Gujba, (7) Nguru, (8) Bade, (9) Jakusko (10) Geidam. (11) Machina, (12) Yunusari, (13) Tarmuwa, (14) Yusufari, (15) Karasuwa, (16) Gulani and (17) Bursari. In this study, the unit of analysis is the community head/village head (Lawans ) and the Ward Head (Bulamas). The researchers believed that these leaders represent the voice of their people as argued by Eng and Parker, 1994. Leaders were chosen because it has been established to be the true representative of their communities (Eng and Parker, 1994). Similarly Community leaders are able to speak for their community because they have knowledge of the community and their roles as leaders in that community (Nettekoven, and Feng, 2000). The study used survey design in which questionnaire was used to collect the data. Data on the socioeconomic, demographic variable where collected, questions were developed base on literature review of the measurement of sense of community in relation to environmental and community development. A five point linkert scale was use in answering the questions; each question represented an item of range between the most to the least situation and participant answer the questions base on the scale that best answered the situation. Data was analyzed using ordinary lease square (OLS) with SPSS software.Taken from Chambers and Guo besides, continuing output growth can arise within environmental endogenous growth model too. These models suggest that sustained economic growth is possible despite limitation on the productive availability of exhaustible natural resource and that additional costs and restrictions associated with preserving environmental

quality are not an insurmountable impediment to growth. (Chambers and Guo 2009).

## Results

**Table 2. Result of ordinary lease square analysis**

R SQUARE	R SQUARE ADJUSTED	F STATISTICS	PROBABILITY (F-STAT)
0.708	0.687	7.768	0.0001

## Discussions

R square measures goodness of fit of the model while R square adjusted measures the goodness of fit after panelising the model to take into account degree of freedom. The F-stat measures the overall performance of the model. From the table above, about 71 percent change in afforestation programme development is explained by changes in rule enforcement and sense of community. After taking into account the degree of freedom, about 69 percent change in afforestation programme development as a result of changes in rule enforcement and sense of community. Only about 31 (which represents the error term) percent variation in afforestation development not explained by the controlled variables. Overall, the F-stats indicate that the model has performed very well in explaining afforestation development, at one percent significant level.

“If a group can come up with rules, but does not think it can enforce them efficiently, then these rules may not even be constructed. Clearly even knowing the necessity of rules, we have a great of work ahead of us” Clark et al (2004).

Afforestation programme development in the same direction also, a one percent change in sense of community would leads to 0.19 percent change in afforestation programme development in likewise direction. In a simple note, there is direct positive relationship between afforestation programme development and sense of community and rule enforcement. All the local government successes in the community afforestation programme development with increase in maintenance and protection of the afforestation programme.

## Conclusion

This study, try to measure the Sense of community and rule of enforcement as important factors of community capacity development for community participation in afforestation programme development. It has been argued that sense of community and rule enforcement is important component of community afforestation programme development. The finding of this study reveals that sense of community and rule enforcement by community group is significantly correlated with community afforestation programme development. It is expected that the findings of this study could be utilized by the community leaders and other policy makers for future follow-up

and reassessments of sense of community for community afforestation programme development in their communities. It is clear that both formal laws and institutions and informal ones are imperative to community afforestation programme development. Therefore, more emphasis on rule and sense of community should be place on informal laws and institutions in promoting community afforestation programme development since in the formal institutions there is laws and penalty for deviant members in the community as regards to afforestation programme development in the study area. Also these formal institutions of laws enforcement should be very effective and strict in order to achieve meaningful community afforestation programme development.

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