

SOCIAL INTERVENTION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF ARTISANS: A PREREQUISITE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LAGOS STATE

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Abstract

Social intervention is a development technique that targets the improvement people's socioeconomic status with a focus on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Three research questions and hypotheses were posited to guide the study. This study adopted a correlational research design. The population of the study comprised 150 artisans in Lagos State. The instrument that was used for the data collection questionnaire entitled: "Social Intervention and Socio-Economic Status of Artisans: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Development in Lagos State". The data collected were analyzed using Regression Analysis and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical tools were used to analyze the Hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that there was significant effects of social interventions and socio-economic status of artisans in achieving sustainable development in Lagos State. From the above premise, it was recommended among others, empowerment schemes for self-development be established for all artisans across Lagos State. Also, greater focus be given to artisans in the rural communities in the distribution of these laudable programmes as this will help reduce the gap in the standard of living between rural residents and people living in urban communities.

Keywords: Social Intervention, Socio-economic Status, Artisans, Empowerment, Sustainable Living, Sustainable Development

Introduction

Social intervention is a development technique that aims to improve people's living standards by ensuring that they are adequately cared for both economically and socially. One of the strategies employed to reach this goal continues to be social interventions. Social interventions do not happen in a vacuum since these notions are interconnected. These are activities that are bundled as programs designed to help individuals in a community improve their lives. The term "social interventions" has no broadly agreed-upon definition. Scholars have explored these issues from several approaches due to their ambiguity. Social interventions have traditionally been considered as a means of increasing people's quality of life, as well as their economic and social well-being. Social interventions are actions taken as part of a development strategy to enhance people's lives or to maintain the status quo and social order within a particular socioeconomic framework. Social interventions take varied forms in different social, economic, and political circumstances. In the view of Onyishi & Ogbu (2019) all public and private initiatives that provide change in the socioeconomic status of people classified as being in the informal sector of the economy, protect the vulnerable from losing their livelihoods, and promote the social status and rights of people who are marginalized fall under the broad definition of social interventions. Implementation of intervention programs aimed at reducing or eliminating the threat of social deprivation and inequality among residents of a particular community to improve their socioeconomic situation and achieve sustainable development.

To accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals, these intervention programs and projects aim to change the status quo, eradicate disparities, reduce poverty, and enhance a country's socioeconomic situation in order to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This means that intervention is one of the tactics utilized to improve a community's living conditions. The ultimate purpose of social intervention is to eliminate inequality, social vulnerability, deprivation, and marginalization to achieve long-term improvement in the well-being of an individual, group, or community. In order to address a social issue in a society, social intervention actions are required. An artisan is a talented manual worker who uses his or her hands, head, and heart to execute skilled work. Artisans are those who have gained skills and knowledge through technical or informal vocational training and conduct skilled work with their hands (Mooko & Aina, 2007), are those who have gained skills and knowledge through technical or informal vocational training and conduct skilled work with their hands. They work in a range of fields, including bricklaying, carpentry, and plumbing, hair styling, fashion design, electrical and mechanical engineering, welding, photography, and artistic sketching, among others.

Some artisans are early leavers. In Lagos State, most artisans are educated through the apprenticeship system. In the view of Adekola (2013), the apprenticeship system of training that produced many craftsmen in Lagos State lacked a set curriculum, and the level of skill, knowledge, and competence learned was also determined by how much the master knew. Aside from what the master craftsman sets, the apprentice system of training is not governed by any established regulations. Instead of emphasizing the teaching process, the apprenticeship training approach emphasizes learning. The apprenticeship training system places a premium on learning rather than the teaching process. During training, artisans only learn through observation, imitation, and trial and error, as there are no training facilities or systematic evaluation techniques available. As a result, these artisans must be retrained in their various skill processes to meet global standards.

Tai (2006) asserts that artisans must be retrained to cope more easily with future obstacles, which has been increasingly required over time. Various federal and state authorities have launched a few social intervention initiatives targeted at building an effective workforce and retraining programmes to boost productivity. Retraining comprises gaining new skills, information, and attitudes to better prepare craftsmen for increased production and performance. Retraining of artisans in Lagos State refers to the process of refreshing, providing new additional knowledge, sharpening the skills and attitudes of artisans who have already been trained to reinforce their work proficiency, familiarize them with new or revised methods of work and procedures to prevent skills obsolescence, and to be able to cope with the immediate market needs through social intervention programs. A program, according to Beywl & Spear (2004), is a set of measures consisting of a sequence of activities based on a set of resources aiming at certain goals with defined target groups. Social intervention programs are a set of activities aimed at improving and updating specific skills, knowledge, and work methods, resulting in increased motivation, morale, productivity, and the ability to deal with emerging complexity in the global sphere, thereby improving the socioeconomic status of these artisans.

In Lagos State, empowerment is a key predictor of artisans' socioeconomic condition. Empowerment, like education, is a variable that indicates a person's standard of living. Traditionally, development measures have been linked to raising people's pay, boosting job possibilities, increasing consumption, accumulating assets, and saving. Impact assessment studies look for indicators and factors that may be assigned numerical values to quantify economic stability in terms of material and tangible assets, such as higher income, increased employment, and physical asset ownership (Ghalid, 2009). When artisans' potential and capabilities are fully realized, they make a substantial contribution to economic progress. They are a vital part of a country's industrial development and growth. They are the backbone of practically all economies throughout the world because of their importance in offering individualized services (Wattanapruttipaisan, 2013). Any activity conducted with the objective of improving people's lives is referred to as "social intervention." In low-income countries, interventions are increasingly seen as an effective strategy for reducing poverty and safeguarding the poor from slipping further into poverty (Holme & Jones, 2019). This means that

intervention is one of the most common ways for improving artisans living conditions in a community. The ultimate purpose of social intervention is to eliminate inequality, social vulnerability, deprivation, and marginalization to achieve long-term improvement in the well-being of an individual, group, or community. To address a social issue in a society, social intervention actions are required.

Artisans have been acknowledged as a crucial component in the attempt to raise countries out of poverty and as an essential component of economic development (Olabisi, Olagbemi & Atere 2013). According to Arinze, Uche, & Ebele (2014), the government has traditionally prioritized artisans because of their ability to accelerate the country's economic development and have successfully contributed to the socio-economic development of rural communities. Government policies that are unstable; gross undercapitalization, which is exacerbated by the difficulty in obtaining credit from banks and other financial institutions; infrastructure inadequacies; astronomically high operating costs; a lack of transparency and corruption; and a lack of interest and long-term support from government authorities for the SMEs sector. The provision of social interventions for artisans is essential to the Sustainable Development process in Lagos State. It's also one of the most effective poverty-reduction measures. One of the goals is to increase people's socioeconomic situation, which is one of the objectives of Sustainable Development. This research focuses on Lagos State, Nigeria's commercial hub. Based on the number of immigrants compared to other states, the state appears to be the first choice of destination for rural-urban migration. Most of these newcomers are artisans.

Lagos State, like every other state in Nigeria, is plagued by a slew of socioeconomic issues that run counter to the norms, morals, values, and ethics of a sustainable society and, as a result, make life difficult for artisans. Poverty, low educational standards, insufficient infrastructure, insufficient financial assistance schemes, inequality, insecurity, unemployment, and other social issues are among them. There are organizations that provide financial and technical aid to communities in the implementation of development initiatives to alleviate social problems, (Hassan & Oyebamiji, 2012). The following are some of the Lagos State agencies that provide social interventions and socioeconomic development programmes: Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA), Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB), Lagos State Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, World Bank, NGOs and so on.

The concept of Sustainable Development is consistent all across the world. The United Nations General Assembly formed the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1983, and it is recognized with igniting the debate that led to Sustainable Development. Although the notion has been evolving since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, when international communities first studied the connection between quality of life and environmental quality. A shared focus on economic, environment and social objectives remain a hallmark of Sustainable Development. Sustainable development is impossible to achieve in a vacuum or through the efforts of a single person or organization. It is a collective obligation that requires all people and relevant entities to participate. Sustainable development is built on the notion of participation, which requires individuals to have positive attitudes in order to make significant progress while ensuring sustainability.

Sustainable development was defined as "development that meets the current generation's needs without undermining future generations' ability to meet their own." The World Commission on Environment and Development (1987). From the Atlantic to the African shores, the concept of sustainable development has become a global phenomenon. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals constitute the foundation of the transformative action plan of (SDGs). These Goals were proposed during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. (SDGs). The purpose was to come up with a set of global goals that will solve the world's pressing environmental, political, social, and economic issues. This study on the Goal 1, 4, 8 and 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The systematic integration of environmental, social, and economic issues into all elements of decision-making across generations is the fundamental summative principle of Sustainable Development.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of well-balanced economic, social, and environmental goals and targets.

Statements of the Problem

Social intervention programs are critical in an ever-changing and dynamic world like ours, and they will continue to be one of the specific forms of priority among several other objectives in achieving Sustainable Development in any society. The conditions for achieving Sustainable Development would change over time, but the core concept of Sustainable Development as understood at each stage would remain the same. Of course, social interventions and craftsmen's socioeconomic situation are not unrelated to other development objectives. These variables, on the other hand, cannot be traded off when determining the rate and extent with which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met. Social interventions focus on several aspects of the artisans' lives simultaneously. Building training facilities, marketplaces, gaining training, loans and scholarships, empowerment initiatives, entrepreneurial development, technology, and equipment provision, and so on are some of these interventions. Some of these intervention programmes, on the other hand, are either just stated in papers or are not appropriately structured to improve people's lives over time. Based on these events, the goal of this study is to determine how the provision of social interventions and socioeconomic status of artisans are a sine qua non for sustainable development in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to examine social interventions and socio-economic development programmes serve as a veritable tool in achieving Sustainable development in Lagos State. Specifically, this study:

1. Established the relationship between social intervention programmes provided for artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State.
2. Examined relationship between socio-economic status of artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State.

Hypotheses

1. There is a significant relationship between social interventions programmes provided for artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State.
2. There is a significant relationship between socio economic status of artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State.

Methodology

The design for the study was correlational design. The researchers therefore considered this design appropriate since the study measures the effects of social intervention and socio-economic status of artisans as prerequisite for Sustainable Development in Lagos State. The population of study consists of 150 male and female of artisans in Lagos State. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in selecting the sample. Lagos State is already stratified into Lagos East, Lagos Central and Lagos West senatorial districts. Stage two involved the selection of two local government areas in each senatorial district using simple random technique (by balloting). Stage three included purposive sampling of four communities from each local government area to represent rural and urban areas and because of their relevance to the study. A total number of six Local Government Areas including Local Development Council Areas were randomly sampled for the study. They were selected using proportionate sampling technique, which was also put in variation in the population of selected Local Government Areas into consideration. The instrument used for data collection is the questionnaire titled " Social Interventions and Socio-Economic Status of Artisans: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Development in Lagos State" It has 20 items that grouped in 4 clusters based on the three research questions formulated for the study.

The researchers administered the 150 copies of the questionnaire on the respondents during their Association meetings with the help of one research assistant and executive Members of these Associations The respondents completed and

returned the instrument through the research assistant. The instrument was administered and collected in two weeks. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The demographic characteristics of the participants were also analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage while the stated hypotheses tested using Regression Analysis at 0.05 level of significance. The analysis was carried out using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)

A sample size of 150 residents from each senatorial district in Lagos State, Nigeria, which represents the total number of questionnaires and respondents of the study.

Table 1: Response Rate Analysis

Questionnaire	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Returned	125	83.3
Not Returned	25	16.7
Total	150	100

Table 1 presents the details of the research questionnaires that were administered to one hundred and fifty (150) respondents. One hundred and twenty-five (125) questionnaires were returned, representing 83.3%, while twenty-five (25) questionnaires were not returned, representing 16.7%.

Result

Table 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents

	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Gender	Male	50	40.0	
	Female	75	60.0	
	Total	125	100.0	
Age	20-25yrs	14	11.2	
	26-30yrs	15	12.0	
	31-35yrs	39	31.2	
	36-40 years	22	25.6	
	41 years and above	25	20.00	
	Total	125	100.0	
Occupation	Carpenters	7	5.6	
	Tailors	19	15.2	
	Electrical and Mechanical Engineer	21	16.2	
	Hairdresser	78	16.8	
	Total	125	100.0	
	Level of Education	Primary School	2	1.6
		JSCE	2	1.6
SSCE		65	52.0	
Vocation Education.		30	24.0	
HND/B.Sc.		13	10.4	
Others		13	10.4	
Total		125	100.0	
Marital Status	Married	82	65.6	
	Single	35	28.0	
	Divorced	2	1.6	
	Widow/Widower	1	0.8	
	Others	5	4.0	
	Total	125	100.0	
Religion	Christianity	102	81.6	
	Islam	14	11.2	
	African Traditional Religion	4	3.2	
	Others	5	4.0	
	Total	125	100.0	

Table 2 shows that 40% of the total respondents were male; 60% of the respondents were female. It shows that most of the respondents were female. Notwithstanding, the study is not gender-biased, it cuts across all genders. In addition, 11.2% of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 20-25years; 12% were between 26-30years; 31.2% were within 31-36yrs; 22.5% were within 36-40yrs while 20% were of 41years and above. In terms of occupation, 5.6% were Carpenters, 15.2% tailors were, 16.8%Electrical and Mechanical Engineer were while 16,2%. On educational qualification, 1.6% of the respondents were first school leaving certificate holders; 1.6% were JSCE holders; 24% were SSCE holders; 52% were trained through vocational education; 10.4% were HND/B.Sc. degree holders while 10.4% had other certifications. It revealed that most of the respondents were learned and quite educated to know the relevance and implication of the study. In terms of marital status of the respondents, 65.6% of the respondents were married; 28% were single; 1.6% got divorced; 1.6% were widowed while 4% had other marital commitments. Since religion, 81.6% of the respondents identified as Christians; 11.2% identified as Muslims; 3.2% are African Traditional Religion adherents while 4% had other religion identities. It indicates that majority of the respondents are Christians due to the location of our case study.

Table 3: Intervention Initiatives for Artisans

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Electricity	11	8.8
Health facilities	2	1.6
Skill Acquisition Centre	20	16.0
Equipment	18	14.4
Loan Scheme	14	11.2
Vocational training	8	6.4
Others	7	5.6
Total	125	100.0

Table 3 reveals Intervention Initiatives for Artisans. Electricity 8.85%, Health facilities 1.6%, Skill Acquisition Centre 16%, Equipment 14.4%, Loan Scheme 11.2%, Vocational training 6.4%, Others 5.6% are the available intervention initiatives respectively.

Hypotheses

Ho1: There is a significant relationship between social interventions programmes provided for artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State.

Table 4: Relationship between social interventions programmes provided for artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.404 ^a	.163	.156	1.217		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Social Interventions Programmes						
ANOVA^a						
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	
1	Regression	35.494	1	35.494	23.980	.000 ^b
	Residual	182.058	123	1.480		
	Total	217.552	124			
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Development						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Interventions Programmes						

Table 7.3 Coefficients^a						
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	2.022	.354		5.711	.000
	Social Interventions Programmes	.539	.110	.404	4.897	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Development

The model summary in table 7.1 result indicates how much of the variation in Sustainable Development can be explained by Social Interventions Programmes. From the results above, Social Interventions Programmes has a significant effect on Sustainable Development ($R^2= 0.163$, adjusted $R^2= 0.156$, $P = 0.000$). This means that Social Interventions Programmes accounted for a significant proportion of the variation in Sustainable Development (16.3%). In addition, table 7.2, shows the F-value statistics of (23.980) demonstrate that the entire equation is significant at (sig.

level = 0.000; $P < 0.05$). The alternate hypothesis (H_1) which states that there is a significant effect of social interventions programmes on Sustainable development in Lagos State is therefore accepted.

Ho2: There is a significant relationship between socio economic status of artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State.

Table 5: relationship between socio economic status of artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.339 ^a	.115	.108	.786		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Socio-Economic Status of Artisans						
ANOVA^a						
1	Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	9.876	1	9.876	15.967	.000 ^b
	Residual	76.076	123	.619		
	Total	85.952	124			
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Development Goals						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Socio-Economic Status of Artisans						

Coefficients^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.370	.208		11.390	.000
	Socio-Economic Status of Artisans	.213	.053	.339	3.996	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Development Goals						

The model summary Table 8.1 result indicated how much of the variation in the achievement of sustainable development Goals (SDGs) can be explained by socio-economic status of artisans. From the results above, socio-economic status of artisans has a significant effect on sustainable development goals (SDGs) ($R^2 = 0.115$, adjusted $R^2 = 0.108$, $P = 0.000$). This means that the socio-economic status of artisans accounted for a significant proportion of the variation in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (11.5%). Furthermore, from table 8.2, the F-value statistics of (15.967) demonstrate that the entire equation is significant at (sig. level=0.000; $P < 0.05$). The alternate hypothesis relationship between socio economic status of artisans and Sustainable Development in Lagos State is therefore accepted.

Discussion of Findings

The alternate hypothesis one stated that there is no significant effect of social interventions programmes on sustainable development in Lagos State. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis one is accepted and the null hypothesis (H_0) rejected. The finding of this present study agreed with the study of Holmes and Jones (2019) that assert that social interventions are an effective mechanism for sustainable development it aids in reducing poverty and protecting the poor from falling into deeper poverty. Also, the alternate hypothesis (H_1) two stated that there is a significant effect of socio-economic status of artisans on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Lagos State. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis two is accepted and the null hypothesis (H_0) rejected. The finding of this present study was in consonance with the study of Iseh (2003) that sustainable development activities of people in Enugu through self-help

efforts aid the sustainable development of the local communities. Furthermore, the alternate hypothesis (H_1) three stated that there is a significant effect of social interventions and socio-economic status of artisans in the State in improving Sustainable living of the people in Lagos State. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted, and the null hypothesis (H_0) rejected. The finding of this study was in alignment with the study of Onyeozu (2010) that the activities of social intervention initiatives influence respondents' living standard.

Conclusions

Social intervention programmes and improved socio-economic status of the artisans are one of the major enablers of sustainable development for under-developing and developing countries. Therefore, intervention initiatives from both the public and private sectors should be readily accessible and judiciously utilized to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations by 2030. This study noted that social interventions programmes significantly influence the level of sustainable development in Lagos State. Therefore, it is imperative for government, private sector, and NGOs to improve the reach of the social intervention programmes carried out in the state to rural areas to accelerate sustainable development in the state.

Recommendations

Based on the finding the following recommendations were made:

1. Empowerment schemes for self-development should be established for all artisans across Lagos State.
2. Greater focus should be given to artisans in the rural communities in the distribution of these laudable programmes as this will help reduce the gap in the standard of living of rural settlers and people living in urban areas.
3. There should be periodic evaluation of each social interventions and socio-economic status of artisans as on achievement of Sustainable Development goal (SDGs) targets in Lagos States, as this will engender sense of belongingness of the artisans in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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