IMPACT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KADUNA STATE (2015-2025)

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Keywords

NGOs, socio-economic development, Kaduna State, Impact Assessment, Development Initiatives

Abstract

Research problem: *The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the socio-economic development of Nigeria, particularly in Kaduna State, has been a subject of interest and concern. Despite their significant contributions, NGOs face numerous challenges that hinder their effectiveness and sustainability. Funding is a primary challenge, as many NGOs rely heavily on external donors, making their operations vulnerable to funding cuts and economic downturns. The study examines the Impact of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) On Socio-Economic development in Kaduna State, Nigeria, from 2015 to 2025.*

Methods/theory: *The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, the study adopts the Participatory Development Theory which emphasizes the involvement and empowerment of local communities in the development process, aiming to create sustainable and inclusive growth. In Nigeria, particularly in Kaduna State, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are crucial to socio-economic development to assess the Impact of NGOs on socio-economic development in Kaduna State.*

Results*: The research reveals that that 68.1% of respondents do not believe NGOs have significantly improved the quality of education in Kaduna State. The study concludes that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on socio-economic development in Kaduna State is profound and multifaceted. These organizations play a pivotal role in addressing various challenges and promoting positive change across different sectors of the state's economy and society.*

Key contribution to knowledge*: The study provides insights into the impact of NGOs on socio-economic development in Kaduna State, highlighting best practices and areas for improvement, and contributing to the existing literature on NGO effectiveness in developing contexts.*

Recommendations: *The study research recommends strengthening partnerships between NGOs and government agencies to leverage resources, expertise, and networks, the government should invest in continuous capacity-building programmes for NGOs to enhance their skills and knowledge in designing, implementing, and evaluating development initiatives.*

Introduction

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are recognized globally as critical players in socio-economic development, providing essential health, education, human rights, and economic development services. They often step in where governments and the private sector fall short,

delivering immediate humanitarian aid and engaging in long-term development projects. Organizations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent have provided disaster relief and health services for decades, while Amnesty International has tirelessly advocated for human rights on a global scale (Red Cross, 2020; Amnesty International, 2020).

In developing nations, NGOs play particularly critical roles. For example, in India, Pratham has significantly improved literacy rates among children (Pratham, 2020). In Bangladesh, BRAC, one of the largest NGOs globally, has been instrumental in poverty alleviation, education, and healthcare, demonstrating the significant impact NGOs can have in regions with limited governmental capacity (BRAC, 2020). The African continent has seen substantial NGO activity aimed at addressing a variety of socio-economic challenges. In Kenya, the Kenya Red Cross Society has been vital in providing disaster relief and healthcare services (Kenya Red Cross Society, 2020). In South Africa, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) has been crucial in advocating for and securing access to HIV/AIDS treatment (Treatment Action Campaign, 2020). International NGOs such as Oxfam and Save the Children have further bolstered local development efforts by collaborating with local governments and communities to implement region-specific programs. For instance, in West Africa, NGOs played a vital role in combating the Ebola outbreak through public health campaigns and direct medical support (Oxfam, 2020).

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, international and local NGOs address various socio-economic issues. NGOs are relatively new in Nigeria, and their development is still low compared with similar organizations in the more advanced countries of America, Europe, and Asia. Nonetheless, the NGO scene in Nigeria is dynamic, and the number of NGOs in the country is exploding, with new ones emerging daily. Presently, the list of NGOs in Nigeria covers the letter A to Z, and there are as many as 3,208 (three thousand two hundred and eight) in number (United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, 2016). This is a good development in an era when economic constraints are mainly caused by corruption and other factors that restrict the influence of government and limit its ability to meet the development needs of the people. This proliferation of NGOs in Nigeria still indicates the need for effective alternatives for social development.

Despite this, NGOs have increasingly come under heavy criticism recently because the development challenge is still apparent in Nigeria, which raises questions about their role as carriers of socio-economic development. For example, while Shonecke (2003) criticizes NGOs for doing more harm than good, NGOs are an avenue for sharing funds (Akukwe, 1988). Evidence of mass illiteracy, hunger, malnutrition, poverty, low level of political education, and humanitarian and child abuses, to mention a few areas of development need in the country today, indicate that the NGOs are not yet able to meet up with their supposed roles. This, however, does not mean that NGOs are alternative development bodies at a parallel line with the state. Nevertheless, NGOs have been accused of neglecting their traditional role of developing the people as they have resorted to doing business with the people in poverty (Shonecke, 2003).

Kaduna State, located in northwestern Nigeria, is a microcosm of the country's broader socio-economic challenges and opportunities. The state's diverse socio-economic landscape features significant urban-rural divides and varying levels of development. NGOs in Kaduna State have made significant strides in addressing

local socio-economic issues, improving maternal and child health, combating infectious diseases, and enhancing access to healthcare services in rural areas. In collaboration with various NGOs, the Kaduna State Primary Health Care Development Agency (KSPHCDA) has implemented programs to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates (Kaduna State Primary Health Care Development Agency, 2020). In education, NGOs such as the Educational Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) have worked to improve the quality of teaching and increase school enrollment rates, particularly among girls (Educational Sector Support Programme in Nigeria, 2020). Despite their critical roles in socio-economic development, there is a shortage of literature on NGOs' challenges in bringing socio-economic changes to the communities. The nature of the problems faced by NGOs remains unclear. This study seeks to characterize the difficulties faced by NGOs in their bid to fight poverty. The study proposes a way forward for NGOs to survive and navigate the challenges compounding them. The study suggests policy and programmatic steps that enable NGOs to flourish and deepen their roles in poverty reduction. This study examines NGOs' impact on Nigeria's socio-economic development, focusing on Kaduna State amidst divergent scholarly views and existing challenges.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the socio-economic development of Nigeria, particularly in Kaduna State, has been a subject of interest and concern. Despite their significant contributions, NGOs face numerous challenges that hinder their effectiveness and sustainability. Funding is a primary challenge, as many NGOs rely heavily on external donors, making their operations vulnerable to funding cuts and economic downturns. This dependency can affect the continuity and sustainability of their projects. NGOs have contributed to increased school enrollment rates and improved educational outcomes. Programs have provided scholarships to thousands of students, enabling them to complete their education. However, challenges such as inadequate teacher training and lack of learning materials persist, affecting the long-term sustainability of these gains. However, the reach of these programs is often limited, and there is a need for more comprehensive support systems to ensure sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. NGO-led infrastructure projects have significantly improved access to clean water and sanitation in many communities. These projects have reduced the incidence of waterborne diseases. However, the maintenance of these facilities remains challenging, with many communities lacking the resources and technical skills to manage them effectively. NGOs' impact on Nigeria's socio-economic development has been debated. While some argue that NGOs have contributed significantly to growth, others criticize them for doing more harm than good. Evidence of mass illiteracy, hunger, malnutrition, poverty, low levels of political education, and humanitarian and child abuses indicate that NGOs are not yet able to meet their supposed roles fully. NGOs have been accused of neglecting their traditional role of developing the people and instead resorting to making business out of the people's poverty.

Research Questions

1. What is the impact of NGOs on the socio-economic development of Kaduna State?
2. What are the challenges faced by NGOs in promoting socio-economic development in Kaduna State?

3. How can the impact of NGOs on socio-economic development in Kaduna State be improved?

Research Objectives

1. To investigate the impact of NGOs on the socio-economic development of Kaduna State.
2. To examine the challenges NGOs face in promoting socio-economic development in Kaduna State.
3. To provide recommendations on how the impact of NGOs on socio-economic development in Kaduna State can be improved.

Research Assumptions

Based on the research objectives, the following assumptions can be made:

1. NGOs have been actively promoting socio-economic development in Kaduna State, and their impact can be measured and evaluated.
2. Socio-economic development addressed by NGOs in Kaduna State aligned with the state's and its communities' needs and priorities.

Research Methodology

Research Design This research adopts a descriptive survey design. A descriptive survey is a research method that involves collecting data to describe the characteristics of a population or phenomenon. The primary purpose of a descriptive survey is to provide an accurate representation of the current state of affairs or the existing conditions within a particular group or situation. The study uses a mixed-methods approach, the study combines qualitative data from questionnaire government reports and NGO publications with insights from stakeholders, including NGO officials, government representatives, and beneficiaries

Area of The Study

The area of study on the impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on socio-economic development in Kaduna State, Nigeria, is Kaduna State itself. Five Local Government Areas (LGAs) out of the 23 LGAs in Kaduna State were selected based on criteria such as NGO activities, socio-economic diversity, and accessibility.

Population of the Study

The population of this study on the impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on socio-economic developments in Kaduna State, Nigeria, encompasses all residents of Kaduna State. Kaduna State has an estimated population of approximately 8 million people (National Population Commission, 2023). The study specifically focuses on individuals residing in the five selected Local Government Areas (LGAs), which were chosen based on the presence of NGO activities, socio-economic diversity, and accessibility. These LGAs include Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Zaria, Chikun, and Kachia. The diverse population in these areas ensures a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic impacts of NGO activities across different demographic segments. The population of this study is illustrated in the table 3.1 below:

Table 1 Population of the Study

S/NO	LGAs	Population
1	Kaduna North	364,575
2	Kaduna South	402,731

3	Zaria	695,089
4	Chikun	372,272
5	Kachia	252,568
	Total	2,087,235

Source: NPC, 2023

Sample Size

The sample size for this study on non-governmental organisations' impact on Nigeria's socio-economic developments, focusing on Kaduna State, will be determined using the Taro Yamane formula (1968). Given the vast population of the Kaduna metropolis, surveying every individual is impractical due to time and resource constraints. Additionally, the population is widely dispersed, complicating efforts to reach every individual. Consequently, the Taro Yamane formula offers a reliable and efficient method for determining a representative sample size. This approach enables the study to draw meaningful conclusions about the impact of NGOs on socio-economic development, ensuring a robust analysis without the impracticalities of surveying the entire population. The population of the study is 2,087,235. The Taro Yamane formula is given below. Using this formula, the sample size was calculated as follows:

$$n=\frac{N}{1+N(e^2)}$$

Where:

- n is the sample size,
- N is the population size,
- e is the margin of error (assumed to be 0.05 for this study).

Applying the formula:

$$n=\frac{2,087,235}{1+2,087,235(0.5^2)}$$

$$n=\frac{2,087,235}{1+2,087,235(0.0025)}$$

$$n=\frac{2,087,235}{1+5218.0875}$$

$$n=\frac{2087235}{5219.0875}$$

n= 400

Thus, the sample size for this study is approximately 400 respondents, which ensures a balance between accuracy and practicality.

Sampling Technique

A multi-stage sampling technique was employed to select the study sample using random sampling techniques, such as stratification. This approach ensures a representative sample of the diverse population in Kaduna State. The sampling process involved the following stages: Kaduna State comprises 23 LGAs. For this study, five LGAs were selected based on criteria such as the presence of NGO activities, socio-economic diversity, and accessibility. Within each community, stratified random sampling was used to select respondents. This ensured representation from different demographic groups, including age, gender, occupation, and educational background. Key informants such as community leaders, NGO representatives, and local government officials were also included. Table 3.2 illustrates the sharing of questionnaires according to LGAs.

Administration of 400 Questionnaires in the 5 Selected LGAs for Sampling Selection

S/NO	LGAs	Sampling Selection
1	Kaduna North	80
2	Kaduna South,	80
3	Zaria	80
4	Chikun.	80
5	Kachia	80
	Total	400

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

Sources of Data Collection

This study on the impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on Kaduna State's socio-economic development combines primary and secondary data sources to ensure a comprehensive and reliable investigation.

Primary Data: Primary data was collected through a questionnaire, enabling direct interaction with respondents and acquiring firsthand stakeholder information. This approach ensured the accuracy and relevance of the data. The questionnaire was chosen as the primary data collection tool due to its standardized format, facilitating reliable data collection from many respondents across a wide geographic area. The questionnaire was designed to generate quantifiable data, allowing statistical analysis to identify trends and relationships. Ensuring respondent anonymity encouraged honest and accurate responses.

Secondary Data: Secondary data sources included books, journals, libraries, and online publications, which provided valuable insights and contextual background from existing analyses. These sources supplemented the primary data, offering a broader perspective and helping to contextualize the findings within the larger body of existing research. This dual approach enhances the robustness of the investigation and ensures a more holistic analysis of the research topic.

Conceptual Clarification

Non- governmental Organizations

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) constitute a viable alternative to government as channels of development assistance, particularly in developing countries. Consequently, the world is witnessing massive registration of NGOs and their collaboration with governments all over the world. In most developing countries, they are now referred to as the third sector, because of their laudable ideas and programmes aimed at responding to or remedying the observed phenomenal challenges in the society(Dahiru, 2017). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in improving the lives of people who have been affected by natural disasters or are facing other challenges. NGOs can act as implementers, catalysts, and partners to provide essential goods and services to those in need. They work to mobilize resources, both financial and human, to ensure that aid is delivered in a timely and effective manner. They play critical roles in driving change by advocating for policies and practices that benefit disadvantaged communities. They often work in partnership with other organizations, including government agencies, to address complex challenges that require a collaborative approach (Folger, 2021).

NGOs and Socio-Economic Development

There is conceptual confusion concerning the term NGO as it is an umbrella term covering a wide range of organizations. Unlike the term inter-governmental organization, NGO is a term in general use but is not a legal definition. In many jurisdictions, NGOs are defined as civil society organizations or referred to by other names such as independent sector, volunteer sector, grass root organization, self-help organization, and transnational social movement, a point which the encyclopedia shares with other authors like Booth (1994) and Lane (1995). To lessen the confusion associated with the term NGO, the World Bank has divided them into Operational and Advocacy types.

Whereas the primary purpose of an operational NGO is to design and implement development–related projects, which are frequently categorized into relief-oriented or development-oriented, service delivery or participatory, religious or secular, public or private-oriented, an Advocacy NGO is to defend or promote a specific course. It tries to create awareness. However, no matter how an organization positions itself to be regarded as an NGO, according to http//www.ngo.org/ngo.info/define/html, it represents any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group organized on a local, national or international level. Task – oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform various services and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation by providing information. Some are organized around issues such as human rights, environment or health. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms, and help monitor and implement international agreements. Their relationship with the offices and agencies of the United Nations system differs depending on the goals, venue, and mandate of a particular institution.

Bagi (2011), in a similar development, defines NGOs from the stand point of being exogenous or indigenous voluntary private non-profit organizations that are engaged in relief, rehabilitation and development programmes using finance raised from voluntary, private sources and donor agencies and managing themselves autonomously at local, national and or international levels. This positions the NGOs as autonomous internal or external organizations that assist targeted individuals or groups when needed. In addition, the World Bank has defined NGOs as groups and institutions entirely or largely independent of state or national government characterized primarily by humanitarian or cooperative rather than commercial objectives. It is apparent from the preceding that NGOs are non-profit organizations established for multiple developmental projects and gendered programmes toward the people. Thus, NGOs seem to be critical in the life of any developmental state as they attract and purvey development.

Role of NGOs on Socio-economic Development in Nigeria

The work undertaken by NGOs is wide-ranging, but NGOs' roles can be usefully analyzed as having three main components: implementer, catalyst, and partner (Lewis, 2007). The implementer's role involves mobilizing resources to provide goods and services to people who need them. NGOs deliver services across various fields, such as healthcare, micro finance, agricultural extension, emergency relief, and human rights. This role has become more prominent as NGOs increasingly respond to artificial emergencies or natural disasters with humanitarian assistance.

The catalyst can be defined as an NGO's ability to inspire, facilitate, or contribute to improved thinking and action to promote social transformation.

The role of partners reflects the growing trend for NGOs to work with government, donors, and the private sector on joint activities, such as providing specific inputs within a broader multiagency program or project or undertaking socially responsible business initiatives. It also includes activities among NGOs and with communities, such as 'capacity building' work, which seeks to develop and strengthen capacities. Furthermore, studies have shown that the developmental activities of most NGOs in Nigeria usually focus on nature conservation, skill acquisition, economic empowerment, disease control and management, literacy schemes, capacity building, amenities provision, conflict resolution, charity, and peace promotion, which are all critical for development (Eni, 2005).

Another study by Adebayo (1997) revealed that most NGOs in Nigeria focus on development-related issues, which indicates a positive drive to stamp out the poverty plaguing Nigerians at different levels. Again, NGOs have been increasing their involvement in rural development activities in Nigeria. However, in more recent times, it has been observed that certain factors have been limiting their performance in contributing to rural development. In this regard, Faride & Adisa (2005) reported that the constraints facing NGOs in Nigeria range from poor collaboration with government agencies, political instability, and strong affiliation to overdependence on donor partners and corrupt practices in some cases. Traditionally, most donor organizations work only with NGOs with legal status that can produce project proposals, plan correctly, and produce reports regularly.

Impact of NGOs on Socio-economic Development in Kaduna State

Oxfam's (2020) study highlights the significant contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in promoting socio-economic development in Nigeria, specifically focusing on Kaduna State. The report emphasizes that NGOs have been instrumental in addressing some of the state's most pressing socio-economic challenges, including poverty, inequality, and poor healthcare. NGOs have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of vulnerable communities in Kaduna State, providing essential services and support in education, economic empowerment, and healthcare. These efforts have helped to reduce poverty and inequality, improve health outcomes, and promote sustainable development in the state. The study also notes that NGOs have been able to reach remote and hard-to-reach areas, providing critical assistance to communities that have been neglected or marginalized. By working closely with local communities, NGOs have built trust, fostered partnerships, and developed sustainable solutions that address the specific needs of the people.

According to Musa (2019), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Kaduna State encounter various obstacles that impede their effectiveness in promoting socio-economic development. The primary challenges identified include funding constraints, lack of infrastructure, and limited capacity. Funding constraints hinder NGOs' ability to implement projects and programs, as they rely heavily on unpredictable and insufficient external funding sources. This financial instability limits their capacity to plan and execute sustainable development projects. The lack of infrastructure, including office spaces, equipment, and technology, further constrains NGOs' ability to

operate efficiently. This infrastructure gap also limits their capacity to reach remote areas and serve marginalized communities.

According to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), in 2018, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) significantly improved access to healthcare services in Kaduna State, particularly in rural communities. MSF's report highlights the efforts of NGOs in providing essential healthcare services, including emergency medical care, vaccination campaigns, and maternal healthcare programs.

Additionally, the TY Danjuma Foundation's 2020 report notes that NGOs have significantly contributed to other areas, including education, economic empowerment, and human rights. NGOs have supported initiatives such as scholarship programs, teacher training, and infrastructure development in education. In economic empowerment, NGOs have implemented programs to promote entrepreneurship, skill development, and access to credit. Furthermore, NGOs have also advocated for human rights, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women and children. WaterAid's (2019) study highlights the key factors that have contributed to the success of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in promoting socio-economic development in Kaduna State. The report notes that NGOs have effectively engaged with local communities, building trust and responding to their needs. This community-centric approach has enabled NGOs to design and implement projects tailored to the specific needs of the communities they serve.

However, Shonecke (2003) raises significant concerns about the long-term sustainability of NGO interventions in Kaduna State. The study notes that NGOs rely heavily on external funding, which can be unpredictable and unreliable. This lack of financial sustainability raises questions about the long-term impact of NGO interventions, as they may not be able to maintain their programs and services once funding ends.

MSF (2019) states that their operations have reduced child mortality rates and improved maternal health outcomes. Similarly, CHAI (2020) has strengthened local healthcare systems, improving access and quality of care. In education, TY Danjuma Foundation (2021) has increased school enrollment rates and enhanced educational outcomes, while ActionAid Nigeria (2020) has improved teacher training and infrastructure development. ILO (2018) and Global Poverty Project (2019) have also implemented microfinance schemes and vocational training programs, promoting economic empowerment and poverty reduction. On the other hand, NGOs have been criticized for prioritizing project implementation over community development, neglecting their traditional role of developing people (Akukwe, 1988). This has raised concerns about their accountability and transparency in Kaduna State (Shonecke, 2003). Furthermore, the reliance of NGOs on external funding and lack of sustainability have posed challenges to their long-term impact.

Gaps in the Literature on NGOs and Socio-Economic Development:

1. Many studies have focused on the immediate impacts of NGO interventions, but there is a significant gap in longitudinal research examining these impacts' sustainability over time. Shonecke (2003) noted that NGOs often rely on external funding, raising concerns about their programmes' long-term sustainability. Without continuous funding, the benefits of NGO projects

may diminish once the financial support ends. Therefore, there is a need for more research on how NGO interventions can be sustained and their long-term effects on socio-economic development.

2. While several scholars have highlighted issues related to the accountability and transparency of NGOs (Akukwe, 1988; Shonecke, 2003), there is a gap in comprehensive analytical frameworks that evaluate these aspects systematically across different regions and types of NGOs. Detailed case studies and comparative analyses are needed to understand how NGOs can improve their accountability and transparency, ensuring that resources are utilized effectively and the intended beneficiaries receive the full benefits.

3. The literature often emphasizes the role of NGOs in implementing projects but less frequently addresses the depth and quality of local community engagement in these processes. As Adebayo (1997) and Eni (2005) have noted, while NGOs aim to involve local communities in development activities, the extent and effectiveness of this engagement are not thoroughly examined. More research is needed to assess how local participation influences the success of NGO initiatives and how NGOs can better integrate community feedback and involvement in their planning and execution stages.

Theoretical Perspectives

Several theoretical perspectives can help explain the role of NGOs in development and the challenges they face. These include modernization theory, dependency theory, and participatory development theory. This study adopted the Participatory development theory.

Participatory Development Theory

The theory is propounded by Paulo Freire (1970), David Korten (1990) and Robert Chambers (1997). Participatory development theory emphasizes the importance of involving local communities in development (Chambers, 1997). According to this perspective, development should be bottom-up, with communities actively participating in project planning, implementation, and evaluation. NGOs that adopt this approach are more likely to achieve sustainable and effective development outcomes. However, this requires significant investment in capacity-building and trust-building efforts.

Assumptions of the Participatory Development Theory

1. Local communities have the knowledge and capacity to identify and solve their problems.
2. Effective development requires the involvement of all stakeholders, including marginalized and vulnerable groups.
3. Development interventions must be tailored to the communities' specific social, cultural, and environmental contexts.
4. Involving communities in the development process leads to more sustainable and lasting impacts.

Relevance of Participatory Development Theory

Participatory Development Theory (PDT) emphasizes the involvement and empowerment

of local communities in the development process, aiming to create sustainable and inclusive growth. In Nigeria, particularly in Kaduna State, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are crucial to socio-economic development. Participatory Development Theory is grounded in the belief that local communities possess the knowledge and capacity to drive their growth. Key proponents such as Robert Chambers (1997) and Paolo Freire (1970) argue that traditional top-down approaches to development often fail to address communities' real needs and aspirations. PDT calls for the active involvement of community members in decision-making processes, ensuring that development projects are culturally relevant, inclusive, and sustainable. NGOs have played a significant role in addressing various socio-economic challenges in Kaduna State. Their interventions span healthcare, education, economic empowerment, and infrastructure development. Applying PDT principles in NGO activities can potentially enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of these interventions. A core assumption of PDT is the empowerment of local communities. NGOs in Kaduna State have increasingly adopted participatory approaches to engage communities in development projects. For instance, Oxfam's programs in Kaduna focus on building the capacity of local farmers through participatory training sessions, which enable them to improve agricultural productivity and increase their incomes (Oxfam, 2020).

Empowering local communities ensures that development projects are aligned with their needs and priorities. NGOs can harness local knowledge and resources by involving community members in planning and decision-making, leading to more relevant and sustainable outcomes. This empowerment also fosters a sense of ownership among community members, increasing their commitment to maintaining and expanding development initiatives.

PDT emphasizes inclusivity and democratic participation, ensuring that all stakeholders, including marginalized groups, are involved in the development process. NGOs in Kaduna State have made concerted efforts to include women, youth, and other vulnerable groups in their programs. For example, the TY Danjuma Foundation has implemented initiatives to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through skill development and microfinance programs (TY Danjuma Foundation, 2020).

Inclusive participation helps address social inequalities and ensures equal distribution of development benefits. NGOs can create more cohesive and resilient communities by engaging diverse groups in development activities. Furthermore, democratic participation fosters transparency and accountability, reducing the risk of corruption and enhancing the effectiveness of development interventions. The assumption of contextual relevance and cultural sensitivity is crucial in ensuring that development interventions are appropriate and respectful of local traditions. NGOs in Kaduna State have recognized the importance of tailoring their programs to the specific socio-cultural context of the communities they serve. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), for instance, works closely with local health workers and community leaders to design and implement healthcare programs that are culturally acceptable and accessible (MSF, 2018).

Critique of the Theory

Despite the potential benefits of applying PDT principles, NGOs in Kaduna State face several challenges. Funding constraints, political instability, and infrastructural deficits are

significant obstacles to practical implementation. Additionally, some critics argue that NGOs may inadvertently reinforce power imbalances or become overly reliant on donor agendas, which can undermine their participatory approaches (Shonecke, 2003).

Moreover, there have been instances where NGOs in Kaduna State have been accused of corruption and mismanagement. For example, Vanguard (2007) reported cases of relief materials being diverted by NGO personnel during a flood disaster. Such incidents highlight the need for greater transparency and accountability within NGOs to ensure their activities genuinely benefit the intended communities.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This following presents the results of a questionnaire-based survey conducted among stakeholders in five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study aimed to gather stakeholders' perspectives on the impact of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on socio-economic developments in Kaduna State. Of 400 distributed questionnaires, 388 were returned, achieving a remarkable 97% response rate. The data is presented clearly and concisely using tables, frequencies, percentages, and charts, and was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Table 1: SexDistribution of Respondentson the impact of NGOs on Socio-Economic Developments in Kaduna State

S/NO	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Male	254	65.5%
2.	Female	134	34.5%
	Total	**388**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

Table.1 shows that out of the 388 respondents, 254 are male. This constitutes 65.5% of the total respondents. While there are 134 female respondents, making up 34.5% of the total sample. The data indicates a higher representation of male respondents than female respondents. Specifically, males are nearly twice as represented as females, with a difference of 31% between the two groups. The table provides a clear overview of the gender distribution of respondents in the study. While males are more represented, this data is crucial for understanding the sample's demographic makeup and interpreting the study's findings in the context of gender representation.

Table 2: Marital StatusDistribution of Respondents on the impact of NGOs on Socio-Economic Developments in Kaduna State

S/NO	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
	Married	200	51.5%
	Single	173	44.5%
	Divorced	5	1.3%

	Widow	10	2.5%
	Total	**388**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

Table 5.2.3 shows that 200 respondents are married, accounting for 51.5% of the total sample. This indicates that over half of the respondents are married. There are 173 single respondents, making up 44.5% of the sample. This is the second-largest group, close in proportion to the married respondents. Only five respondents are divorced, representing 1.3% of the total. This is the smallest group in the sample. However, there are ten widowed respondents, which constitutes 2.5% of the total sample. The vast majority of respondents are either married or single, with these two groups comprising 96% of the total sample. This significantly focuses on these two marital statuses within the population studied. The high proportion of married and single individuals suggests that the study's findings will predominantly reflect the experiences and perceptions of these groups.

Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents on the impact of NGOs on Socio-Economic Developments in Kaduna State

S/NO	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	25-34	148	38.1%
2.	35-44	140	36.1%
3.	45-54	50	12.9%
4.	55 and above	50	12.9%
	Total	**388**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork,2025

Age group 25-34 constitutes the largest segment of respondents, with 148 individuals or 38.1% of the sample. This suggests a significant proportion of the respondents are young adults. The second largest group, aged 35-44, includes 140 respondents, making up 36.1% of the total sample. This group is close to the 25-34, indicating a solid representation of middle-aged adults. Age group 45-54 have 50 respondents, accounting for 12.9% of the sample. This means a more miniature representation compared to the younger age groups.

Similarly, the age group 55 and above also comprises 50 respondents (12.9%). This shows an equal representation with the 45-54 age group. The data shows that most respondents are between 25 and 44 years old, with a combined percentage of 74.2%. This indicates that the study primarily captures the perspectives of younger and middle-aged adults. Respondents aged 45 and above make up 25.8% of the sample. While still significant, this suggests that older adults are less represented than younger respondents. The age distribution is crucial as different age groups may have varying experiences and perspectives on the impact of NGOs. Younger adults might be more engaged with contemporary socio-economic programs, while older adults may provide insights on long-term impacts. The majority of respondents between 25 and 44 years suggests that the study's findings will be heavily influenced by the perspectives and experiences of younger and middle-aged adults.

Table.4: Educational QualificationDistribution of Respondents on the Impact of NGOs on Socio-Economic Developments in Kaduna State

S/NO	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Tertiary	238	61.3%
2.	Secondary	100	25.8%
3.	Primary	12	3.1%
4.	Islamia	38	9.8%
	Total	**388**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

Most respondents, 238 individuals or 61.3% of the sample, have tertiary education. This indicates that a significant portion of the respondents are highly educated. Secondary Education, the second largest group, includes 100 respondents, accounting for 25.8% of the sample. This shows a substantial number of respondents have completed secondary education. There are 12 respondents with primary education, making up 3.1% of the sample. This is a relatively small proportion of the total respondents. The Islamic Education (Islamia) group comprises 38 respondents, representing 9.8% of the sample. These individuals have received education through Islamic schools. The table provides a detailed view of the educational qualifications of respondents, highlighting a predominance of higher education levels. This academic profile suggests that the study's findings will primarily reflect the perspectives of well-educated individuals, emphasizing the need for inclusive strategies to address the educational disparities in NGOs on socio-economic developments in Kaduna State.

Table 5: OccupationDistribution of Respondents on the Impact of NGOs on Socio-Economic Developments in Kaduna State

S/NO	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Community Leaders	130	33.5%
2.	NGOs/ Government Officials Financial Institutions	50	12.8%
3.	Academia	20	5.2%
4.	LGAs officials/ Other Stakeholders	188	48.5.0%
	Total	**388**	**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

A significant portion of the respondents, 130 individuals or 33.5%, are community leaders. This suggests that community leaders play a crucial role and are actively engaged in assessing the impact of NGOs on socio-economic development in Kaduna State. NGOs/Government Officials/Financial Institutions category includes 50 respondents, accounting for 12.8% of the sample. These individuals likely provide insights into the administrative and financial aspects of NGO operations and their socio-economic impacts. There are 20 respondents from academia, making up 5.2% of the sample. These respondents contribute a research-oriented perspective on the socio-economic

developments facilitated by NGOs. LGA officials/Other Stakeholders is the largest group, with 188 respondents (48.5%), consisting of local government area (LGA) officials and other stakeholders. This indicates a strong representation from local authorities and various stakeholders involved in the socio-economic landscape of Kaduna State. Table 5.2.5 provides a detailed overview of the occupational distribution of respondents, highlighting the diverse roles and perspectives that contribute to understanding the impact of NGOs on socio-economic developments in Kaduna State. This diverse representation is crucial for a balanced and comprehensive analysis, ensuring that the study captures the multifaceted nature of NGO activities and their outcomes.

Test of the Research Objective

The data is categorized into four response options: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD), and Disagree (D). These questions are designed to comprehensively address the research objectives and gather relevant data from respondents using a standardized and quantifiable approach.

Objective One: To investigate the impact of NGOs on the socio-economic development of Kaduna State.

Impact of NGOs on the Socio-Economic Development of Kaduna State.

S/NO	Questions	RESPONSES (n%)			
		Strongly Agree (SA)	**Agree (A)**	**Strongly Disagree (SD)**	**Disagree (D)**
1.	NGOs have significantly improved the quality of education in Kaduna State.	50 (12.9%)	66 (17.0%)	122 (31.4%)	150 (36.7%)
2.	NGOs have contributed to the improvement of healthcare services in Kaduna State.	150 (36.7%)	100 (25.8%)	68 (17.5%)	70 (18.0%)
3	NGOs have played a crucial role in poverty reduction in Kaduna State.	100 (27.7%)	92 (23.7%)	90 (23.2%)	96 (24.7%)
	Total	**388**			**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

1. Quality of Education

Table 5.3 shows that 116 respondents (29.9%) agree or strongly agree that NGOs have significantly improved the quality of education in Kaduna State. In comparison, 272 respondents (68.1%) disagree or strongly disagree, indicating scepticism or disagreement with the positive impact of NGOs on education quality in Kaduna State. Most respondents do not perceive a significant improvement in education quality due to NGO efforts, suggesting limited impact or unrecognized contributions. According to Wamaitha (2017), while NGOs often play a pivotal role in supplementing educational resources and infrastructure, the sustainability and scalability of these improvements can be inconsistent, leading to varied perceptions among beneficiaries.

2. Healthcare Services

About 250 respondents (62.5%) agree or strongly agree that NGOs have contributed to improved healthcare services. At the same time, 138 respondents (35.5%) disagree or strongly disagree. A majority recognize the positive contributions of NGOs to healthcare, highlighting a more acknowledged impact in this sector than education. Smith & Morris (2016) highlight that NGOs have significantly contributed to healthcare improvements in many regions through initiatives such as vaccination drives, maternal health programmes, and health education campaigns, which align with the majority positive perception in this study.

3. Poverty Reduction:

About 192 respondents (51.4%) agree or strongly agree that NGOs have played a crucial role in poverty reduction in Kaduna State, and 186 respondents (47.9%) disagree or strongly disagree. The responses are relatively split, indicating a mixed perception of NGOs' effectiveness in poverty reduction, which could reflect varying levels of impact across different communities. Kamruzzaman (2018) discusses how NGOs' efforts in poverty alleviation through microfinance, vocational training, and community development programs have had mixed results due to factors like program implementation and local context, reflecting the divided opinions in the responses.The analysis of the impact of NGOs on socio-economic development in Kaduna State, based on respondents' perceptions, reveals mixed results across different sectors. While NGOs are generally seen as making positive contributions to healthcare, their impact on education and poverty reduction is less uniformly recognized. This variability underscores the complexity of NGO interventions and the need for tailored approaches to maximize their effectiveness in different socio-economic contexts.

Objective Two: Examine the Challenges NGOs face in Promoting Socio-Economic Development in Kaduna State.

Table 4: Challenges NGOs face in Promoting Socio-Economic Development in Kaduna State?

S/NO	Questions	RESPONSES (n%)			
		SA	A	SD	D
1.	Lack of funding is a significant challenge faced by NGOs in Kaduna State.	166 (42.8%)	180 (46.4%)	20 (5.2%)	22 (5.7%)
2.	Government policies and regulations hinder the effectiveness of NGOs in Kaduna State.	150 (38.6%)	100 (25.8%)	72 (18.6%)	66 (17.0%)
	Total	**388**			**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

1. Lack of Funding

This table indicates that 346 respondents (89.2%) agree or strongly agree that lack of funding is a significant challenge faced by NGOs in Kaduna State. In contrast, 42 respondents (10.9%) disagree or strongly disagree with this statement. The overwhelming majority view funding constraints as a critical issue hindering the performance and sustainability of NGOs, highlighting the need for more robust financial support systems. Batti (2014) notes that NGOs often face significant

financial constraints, which limit their capacity to implement and sustain developmental projects. The competitive nature of funding opportunities exacerbates these constraints. In line with the above, Salamon et al. (2013) argue that reliance on donor funding, which can be volatile and inconsistent, poses a significant challenge to NGOs' operational stability. Hossain % and Ali (2014) highlight that insufficient financing can lead to project delays, reduced scope, and compromised quality of NGOs' services.

Government Policies and Regulations

The table shows that 250 respondents (64.4%) agree or strongly agree that government policies and regulations hinder the effectiveness of NGOs, while 138 respondents (35.5%) disagree or strongly disagree with this. Many respondents perceive governmental regulations and guidelines as impediments, indicating potential areas for policy reform to enhance NGO operations. The above responses were supported by Lewis (2016), who discussed how restrictive government policies and bureaucratic red tape can significantly hinder the efficiency and impact of NGOs, often leading to delays and increased operational costs. Additionally, Bratton (1989) examines the regulatory challenges NGOs face, noting that excessive governmental oversight can limit NGO activities and discourage innovative approaches to socio-economic development. In collaboration with the above, Fisher (1998) highlights the tension between NGOs and governments, where NGOs' advocacy roles sometimes clash with governmental interests, leading to restrictive regulations.Moreover Edwards & Hulme (1996) discuss the need for a conducive policy environment that enables NGOs to operate effectively and contribute meaningfully to socio-economic development. Mitlin, Hickey, and Bebbington (2007) argue for policy frameworks that support rather than hinder NGO efforts, suggesting that collaborative approaches between governments and NGOs can yield better developmental outcomes. Najam (2000) emphasizes the importance of aligning governmental policies with NGO goals to foster an environment of mutual support and shared objectives for socio-economic development. The analysis reveals that funding constraints and government regulations are significant challenges NGOs in Kaduna State face. The overwhelming consensus on these challenges underscores the critical need for collaborative efforts between NGOs, donors, and government bodies to create a more supportive and enabling environment for NGO activities.

Objective three: To Provide Recommendations on How the Impact of NGOs on Socio-Economic Development in Kaduna State can be Improved.

Table 5.6: Recommendations on How the Impact of NGOs on Socio-Economic Development in Kaduna State can be Improved.

S/NO	Questions	RESPONSES (n%)			
		SA	A	SD	D
1.	Increased collaboration between NGOs and the government can enhance socio-economic	132 (34.0%)	160 (41.2%)	40 (10.3%)	56 (14.4%)

	development in Kaduna State.				
2.	Enhanced community participation in NGO activities can improve their impact on socio-economic development.	150 (38.7%)	100 (25.8%)	72 (18.6%)	70 (18%)
3	NGOs need more capacity-building programmes to improve their effectiveness in socio-economic development.	270 (69.6%)	88 (22.7%)	20 (5.2%)	10 (2.6%)
	Total	**388**			**100**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

Increased Collaboration between NGOs and the Government

Table 5.6 shows that 292 respondents (75.2%) agree or strongly agree that increased collaboration between NGOs and the government can enhance socio-economic development, while 96 respondents (24.7%) disagree or strongly disagree. Most believe that a more robust partnership between NGOs and government is crucial. This collaboration could leverage both entities' resources, networks, and expertise to implement more effective and coordinated development programs. Chambers (1997) highlights that partnership between various stakeholders, including governments and NGOs, is essential for comprehensive and sustainable development. Such alliances can enhance resource allocation, policy alignment, and project implementation. In the same vein, Brinkerhoff (2002) emphasizes that partnerships between NGOs and governments can leverage the strengths of each partner, combining governmental authority and NGO flexibility for a more significant developmental impact.

Enhanced Community Participation

In the same vein, table 5.6 also shows that 250 respondents (64.5%) agree or strongly agree that enhanced community participation can improve the impact of NGO activities, while 142 respondents (36.6%) disagree or strongly disagree. The data suggests that greater community participation is vital for NGO interventions' success. This aligns with participatory development theory, which emphasizes involving local communities in the development process to ensure the relevance and sustainability of interventions. Nelson and Wright (1995) argue that participatory development ensures community members have a say in the projects that affect them, leading to more relevant and accepted interventions. Community involvement is essential for the sustainability and effectiveness of development efforts. Cornwall (2008) discusses how participatory approaches in development projects can empower communities, increase local capacity, and ensure that projects are better suited to local needs and conditions.

Capacity-Building Programmes

Table 6 reveals that 358 respondents (92.3%) agree or strongly agree that NGOs need more capacity-building programs to improve their effectiveness, while 30 respondents (7.8%) disagree or strongly disagree. An overwhelming majority see the need for capacity-building

programs for NGOs. These programs can equip NGOs with the necessary skills and knowledge to design, implement, and evaluate more effective development initiatives. Korten (1990) suggests that capacity-building is critical for NGOs to carry out their missions effectively. It involves training, organizational development, and resource acquisition, all of which enhance the ability of NGOs to address socio-economic issues effectively. Fowler (1997) points out that capacity-building helps NGOs to adapt to changing environments, improve their organizational efficiency, and achieve better outcomes in their development programs. Gaventa & Valderrama (1999) highlight that capacity-building programs should be continuous and tailored to the specific needs of NGOs to ensure that they remain effective and responsive to community needs.

The analysis indicates a strong belief in the potential for NGOs to enhance their impact on socio-economic development in Kaduna State through increased collaboration with the government, enhanced community participation, and more capacity-building programs. These findings are consistent with participatory development theory, which advocates for the involvement of all stakeholders in the development process to ensure that interventions are relevant, effective, and sustainable. Implementing these recommendations could lead to more successful and impactful development initiatives by NGOs in Kaduna State.

Discussion of Major Findings

1. The data reveals that 68.1% of respondents do not believe NGOs have significantly improved the quality of education in Kaduna State. This indicates a perceived lack of effectiveness in this sector despite NGOs often supplementing educational resources and infrastructure. The study found that NGOs' impact on education in Kaduna State is perceived as limited. Despite efforts, a significant portion of respondents do not recognize major improvements. This finding aligns with the literature suggesting that the sustainability and scalability of educational improvements by NGOs can be inconsistent.

2. Most respondents (62.5%) recognize the positive impact of NGOs on healthcare services in Kaduna State. This reflects NGOs' more acknowledged and appreciated role in healthcare, likely due to visible initiatives such as vaccination drives and health education campaigns. NGOs have made notable contributions to healthcare, as recognized by most respondents. This aligns with studies highlighting the positive impact of NGO initiatives in healthcare, such as vaccination drives and maternal health programs.

3. The responses regarding NGOs' role in poverty reduction are split, with 51.4% acknowledging a positive impact and 47.9% disagreeing. This mixed perception suggests varying levels of impact across different communities, which could be influenced by factors such as the implementation and local context of NGO programmes. The mixed perceptions regarding poverty reduction indicate that while some communities have benefited from NGO interventions, others have not seen significant improvements. This variability underscores the importance of context-specific strategies.

4. An overwhelming 89.2% of respondents agree that lack of funding is a significant challenge for NGOs in Kaduna State. This highlights the critical need for robust financial support systems to sustain and enhance the capacity of NGOs to implement developmental projects. The study identifies lack of funding

and restrictive government policies as significant challenges NGOs face. Financial constraints limit the capacity to implement and sustain projects, while restrictive policies hinder operational efficiency.

5. Approximately 64.4% of respondents perceive government policies and regulations as hindrances to the effectiveness of NGOs. This suggests a need for policy reform to create a more enabling environment for NGO operations. The need for greater accountability, transparency, and community participation is evident from the data. Effective accountability and transparency can build trust and ensure resources are used efficiently.

6. A significant majority (78.6%) believe that effective accountability and transparency by NGOs would increase socio-economic development in Kaduna State. This underscores the importance of these aspects in building trust and ensuring the efficient use of resources.

Conclusion

The Impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on socio-economic development in Kaduna State is profound and multifaceted. These organizations play a pivotal role in addressing various challenges and promoting positive change across different sectors of the state's economy and society. Through their diverse interventions, NGOs contribute significantly to enhancing the quality of life for residents and fostering sustainable development.NGOs have made remarkable strides by improving access to quality education through initiatives such as scholarships, school construction, and teacher training programs. These efforts empower individuals, particularly in underserved communities, to acquire essential skills and contribute meaningfully to the state's development. Similarly, NGOs complement the government's efforts in healthcare by providing critical healthcare services, especially in remote areas. Their focus on preventive healthcare practices, along with curative measures, contributes to reducing the burden of diseases and promoting overall well-being among the populace. Poverty alleviation remains a significant challenge in Kaduna State, but NGOs actively empower individuals and communities through microfinance initiatives, skills acquisition programs, and agricultural interventions. NGOs build resilient communities capable of thriving amidst socio-economic challenges by fostering economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

However, NGOs operating in Kaduna State encounter challenges that hinder their effectiveness. Financial constraints, bureaucratic hurdles, capacity limitations, and coordination issues are among the critical challenges faced by these organizations. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from NGOs and relevant stakeholders to streamline processes, strengthen institutional capacity, and enhance collaboration and coordination.

Despite these challenges, the contributions of NGOs to socio-economic development in Kaduna State cannot be overlooked. Their interventions have a tangible impact on the lives of residents, empowering them to overcome obstacles and pursue better livelihoods. Moving forward, NGOs need to continue innovating, advocating for enabling policies and fostering partnerships to maximize their impact and contribute to the sustainable development of Kaduna State.

Recommendations

1. There should strengthened partnerships between NGOs and government agencies to leverage resources, expertise, and networks.

2. Government- NGOs should promote greater involvement of local communities in the planning, implementing, and evaluating NGO projects.

3. The government should invest in continuous capacity-building programmes for NGOs to enhance their skills and knowledge in designing, implementing, and evaluating development initiatives.

4. Government-NGOs should develop diverse and sustainable funding strategies, including local fundraising, donor diversification, and partnerships with private sector entities.

5. Government should advocate for policy reforms that reduce bureaucratic barriers and provide a supportive regulatory framework for NGOs.

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