

Self-Help Project as a Tool for Community Development: The Case of Igboja Community Health Centre in Ondo State, Nigeria

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KEYWORDS Self-Help. Community Development. Initiators. Legitimizers. Leadership.

ABSTRACT This study examined the execution of self-help projects as effective tool for community development. The study focused on a Health Centre built by communal effort at Igboja in Ondo State of Nigeria. 110 respondents were selected, comprising of the Initiators, Legitimizers, Project leaders and ordinary community members. A combination of Positional, Social participation and Reputational approaches were used to identify the various categories of leaders while stratified systematic sampling was used to select the ordinary community members. Majority (74%) of the respondents could be categorized as youths, not being older than 50 years. About 77.5% were literate while only 32.5% were engaged in farming as their primary occupation. Some of the project *initiators* were also identified as the project *legitimizers* while all the initiators were identified as some of the project *leaders*. Meetings, campaigns and launchings were the means by which people were made aware of the project. Methods of resources mobilization were mostly voluntary donations, launchings, levies, and loans. Level of participation varied with 28% being 'high', 46% and 15% being 'medium' and 'high' respectively. Chi square test revealed that educational level was significantly related to project leadership while t-test results showed no significant difference between expectations of community members and benefits derived from the project.