

Public Policy and Rural Development: Assessing the Impact of CSDA in Edo State Nigeria

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Article Info

Received: 12/05/2025

Revised: 09/11/2025

Accepted: 19/04/2026

Abstract

This study evaluates the impact of the Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA) on rural development in Edo State, Nigeria. Using a qualitative research design, data were collected through in-depth interviews with 109 participants, including CSDA officials and community members selected via random and convenience sampling. Thematic analysis reveals that rural communities are actively involved in project execution through counterpart funding, labor, and supervision. The findings demonstrate that CSDA interventions significantly improved socio-economic activities and local security, proving the effectiveness of community-driven approaches over traditional top-down models. This research contributes to the literature by providing empirical evidence from an underexplored region, highlighting the sustainability of people-centered development. The results offer practical policy implications for addressing rural underdevelopment through participatory strategies. Future studies are encouraged to adopt mixed-methods approaches to further validate these grassroots dynamics.

Keywords: Community-Driven Development, CSDA, Edo State, Public Policy, Rural Development

How to Cite: Ebonine, V. C., & Kadiri, J. A. (2026). Public policy and rural development: Assessing the impact of CSDA in Edo State Nigeria. *Jurnal Karya Abdi Masyarakat*, 10(1), 23-36. <https://doi.org/10.22437/jkam.v10i1.43984>



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INTRODUCTION

Public policy fundamentally concerns what government intends to do for the people it represents. Therefore, every policy must be people-centred to effectively improve and protect the quality of life (Esteves, 2021). This mandate is officially captured in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) which states that the well-being of citizens is the government's primary responsibility (Olarinmoye, 2023). Consequently, the Nigerian government continues to create initiatives to address diverse human needs and changing socio-economic realities. However, a significant challenge remains as 63% of Nigerians, or 133 million people, are now multi-dimensionally poor (Adetoro et al., 2023). This poverty level has increased exponentially over the past decades, with 65% of the poor living in the North and 35% in the South (Sarkar & Mishra, 2024). Ultimately, since 70% of the poor reside in rural areas, the government faces a critical task in addressing these statistics to improve rural communities (Rasul

& Karki Nepal, [2024](#)).

Public policy in developing nations is increasingly judged by its ability to foster inclusive growth in marginalized rural areas (Ahmad & Islam, [2024](#)). In Nigeria, the persistent challenge of multi-dimensional poverty necessitates a robust framework where government intentions translate into tangible socio-economic improvements for rural dwellers (Abubakar, [2022](#)). The significance of evaluating agencies like the CSDA lies in their role as instruments of social engineering designed to protect the quality of life as mandated by national constitutional frameworks. Recent scholarship emphasizes that without effective public policy intervention, rural infrastructure remains stagnant, further widening the inequality gap (Nie et al., [2024](#)).

. Rural development is a conscious and systematic effort aimed at improving the living conditions of rural poor through the provision of electricity, clean water, good roads, well-equipped health care facilities and good learning centres (Kainyande et al., [2022](#)). The task of improving the lives of rural people is global. As a result, various international agencies such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank and the United Nations have continued to intervene through financial and material aid to help improve rural lives. Locally, various governments have attempted to improve the lives of the rural people through various intervention programmes (Yeshanew, [2023](#)).

However, despite the laudable intentions of these programmes, they failed to articulate the roots of rural poverty and therefore missed their targets. Most of these policies were either suffocated during the process of implementation or hijacked by the corrupt elites or suffered inadequate financial backup (Anam et al., [2024](#)). Moreover, part of the reason for the failed implementation was the government's attitude of shouldering unattainable development responsibilities of both the urban and rural dwellers. Indeed, when combined with these two asymmetrical areas, the urban areas dominate (Mashi et al., [2026](#)). Also, the government failed to recognize that rural lives could be improved upon when the people are part of the development process (Ahmad & Islam, [2024](#)).

The recurring failures of previous initiatives exposed a fundamental policy gap. The necessity for rural residents to actively participate in the planning, implementation, and oversight of development projects to ensure effectiveness and sustainability (Esteves, [2021](#)). Recognizing that state-centric development models imposed from above rarely translated into genuine community progress, a paradigm shift toward a decentralized, people-centric participatory model became essential. This shift birthed the concept of community-driven development, which emphasizes a robust partnership between local communities and the government to inspire desired growth. Within this evolving framework, the CSDA was established to coordinate rural projects in direct partnership with the people (Adetoro et al., [2023](#)). This approach aligns with scholarly perspectives suggesting that institutions are created as vital vehicles for social engineering and the achievement of meaningful development (Olujobi & Ape, [2025](#)).

Extensive research has been conducted on the operational mechanics of the CSDA across various Nigerian regions (Yeshanew, [2023](#)). Most studies focus on the agency's capacity to deliver basic social headers such as water, health, and education facilities through community-driven mechanisms. Scholars have documented how the CDD model generally outperforms traditional top-down approaches in terms of immediate project completion and local acceptance. These investigations have largely validated the agency's role in short-term poverty alleviation

and localized infrastructure development (Idike et al., 2021); (Abdulkareem et al., 2023).

The novelty of this paper lies in its empirical assessment of the CDD model within a high-conflict rural environment in Southern Nigeria (Dimnwobi et al., 2025). Unlike existing studies that treat rural development as a purely economic variable, this research introduces "local security and social stability" as a direct outcome of participatory project management (Okunola et al., 2025). The scientific merit is found in the application of the Social Capital Theory to explain how community labor and counterpart funding create a "security shield" that protects local assets. This provides a fresh theoretical perspective on the sustainability of public policy in volatile regions (Aderibigbe & Gumbo, 2022)

This research examines rural communities and development through the specific lens of the CSDA. While numerous studies have explored the agency's impact on Nigerian rural development, this work does not claim absolute novelty (Haladu et al., 2025). However, the existing literature reveals a significant geographical imbalance. Current empirical evidence is heavily weighted toward Northern Nigeria, leaving the Southern states silk comparatively under-researched. This disparity obscures a holistic understanding of how CSDA operations vary or align across different regional contexts (Olarinmoye, 2023). In Edo State, this academic gap is particularly critical because the region faces unique security challenges such as kidnapping, cultism, and farmer-herder conflicts which have severely disrupted rural economies and increased inhabitant vulnerability. Despite these pressing socio-economic crises, there remains a lack of scholarly focus on how CSDA interventions specifically mitigate these issues and support rural resilience (Bamidele, 2026).

The primary objective of this study is to critically assess the impact of CSDA interventions on the socio-economic development and security resilience of rural communities in Edo State (Esteves, 2021). Specifically, it aims to determine the level of community participation in project life cycles and evaluate how such engagement influences the sustainability of rural infrastructure (Ajiboye & Orebiyi, 2022). By examining these dynamics, the study intends to offer a scalable framework for people-centered development that can be adapted to other Southern Nigerian states. This goal aligns with global efforts to localize sustainable development goals through grassroots empowerment (Mashi et al., 2026).

This article is organized to provide a systematic investigation into whether community-driven initiatives can mitigate rural underdevelopment; it specifically asks: To what extent do rural residents participate in CSDA projects, and what the measurable impact on their socio-economic well-being. Following this introduction, the article reviews the theoretical framework of participatory development, followed by a detailed methodology section explaining the qualitative approach used in Edo State. The subsequent sections present the thematic findings and a comprehensive discussion of their policy implications. Finally, the article concludes with recommendations for development partners and directions for future mixed-methods research (Okeke & Onyemere, 2025).

METHODS

Study Area and Design

Edo State was purposively selected as the research location due to its significant contextual relevance and

operational feasibility. While the CSDA functions under a standardized national framework, its practical execution often encounters variations shaped by specific socio-economic and geographical factors. Consequently, Edo State provides a critical case study owing to its escalating challenges, including rural poverty and heightened insecurity. These peculiar conditions allow for a deeper exploration of how development agencies adapt to volatile regional contexts. To capture these dynamics, the study employed a qualitative research design aimed at gathering rich, descriptive data. Information was systematically collected through the use of structured interviews with key stakeholders and direct field observations. This methodological approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between institutional policy and grassroots reality.

Data Collection

The study employed a structured interview method to ensure every respondent received a consistent stimulus throughout the data collection process. This approach was strategically chosen to facilitate the seamless aggregation and comparison of responses from various stakeholders. Between June and November 2023, the researchers interviewed a total of 109 participants to gather comprehensive primary data. This cohort included 8 CSDA officials and 101 community members who provided diverse perspectives on the agency's impact. To ensure data credibility, the interview process carefully accounted for the socio-demographic characteristics of each participant. Detailed records were maintained to reflect the diverse backgrounds of the respondents, ensuring a representative and reliable dataset for subsequent analysis.

The interview phase was strictly guided by a dual-structured instrument designed to address specific research objectives for different groups. One part of the guide was tailored for expert CSDA officers, while the second part focused on the lived experiences of individual community members. All questions were meticulously aligned with the core research questions to maintain thematic consistency and analytical focus. During these sessions, the researchers remained highly cognizant of the participants' socio-economic backgrounds, including their education, occupation, and experience. This sensitivity allowed for a more nuanced interpretation of the data within the specific rural context of the study. Consequently, the structured nature of the guide provided a rigorous framework for capturing high-quality qualitative information.

To strengthen data triangulation, the study integrated a direct observation method as a vital complementary tool for physical assessment. This method allowed the research team to personally verify the authenticity, standard, and physical condition of the reported projects in each community. A specialized observation checklist was utilized to evaluate technical parameters such as facility functionality, material quality, and estimated capacity. These observations also extended to assessing maintenance cultures, environmental suitability, and evidence of community usage as displayed on project billboards. Field notes and photographs were systematically taken to provide empirical evidence that corroborated the verbal accounts given during interviews. By converting these technical parameters into a cohesive narrative, the study ensured a rigorous and objective evaluation of project sustainability.

Sampling Procedure

The study utilized a simple random technique to select 8 officers of CSDA out of the population of 120 officers.

It is hoped that the information that would be unveiled by these officers would provide a great deal of insight into the operations of CSDA and their role in alleviating the poverty level of rural communities through critical rural interventions. A convenience sampling technique was used to select members of the selected communities. This sampling method was crucial due to the remoteness of the project locations as well as the prevailing security concerns in some of the areas in the state. It was imperative to avoid or minimize the risks of harm to both the researchers and the participants.

To mitigate potential selection bias inherent in convenience sampling, explicit inclusion criteria were developed and applied. Respondents were selected based on the following criteria: (a) attained the age of 18 and above; (b) residency in the community for not less than five years; (c) direct knowledge of or participation in CSDA-supported projects; (d) willingness to participate in the interview; and (e) representation across relevant social categories such as gender, age, occupation, and community leadership roles. Efforts were deliberately made to ensure that the sample reflected diversity in perspectives by including traditional leaders, women, youths, farmers, artisans, and members of project management committees. This approach helped to enhance the representativeness and credibility of the data obtained despite the non-probabilistic sampling method. The distribution of sampled communities is presented in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. The Selected Senatorial Districts, Local Government Areas and Communities

Senatorial Districts	LGAs	Communities
Edo North	Akoko-Edo	Ekpedo, Ekpe, Uneme-Osu and Makeke
	Etsako-West	Ikholo, Iyamoh, Afashio and Ikabigbo
Edo Central	Esan Central	Eguare-Ewu, Agua, Ugbegun and Idunwele.
	Esan West	Eguare, Ogwa, Ugiogba and Emaudo.
Edo South	Ovia North East	Uhiere, Utekon, Okhunmwun and Ebvoneka
	Ikpoba-Okha	Evboriaria, Erediauwa, Uteh and Ohovbe

[Table 1](#) illustrates the strategic distribution of the study areas across the three senatorial districts of Edo State including Edo North and Edo Central as well as Edo South to ensure a comprehensive and representative geographical coverage. In Edo North the research focused on Akoko Edo and Etsako West LGAs encompassing diverse communities such as Ekpedo and Uneme Osu along with Iyamoh and Ikabigbo. The central perspective

was captured through Esan Central and Esan West involving key localities including Eguare Ewu and Ugbegun and Ogwa. Meanwhile the southern region was represented by Ovia North East and Ikpoba Okha LGAs covering strategic communities ranging from Uhiere to Ohovbe. This systematic selection of Local Government Areas and their respective communities was designed to capture the varying socio-economic dynamics and the specific impacts of CSDA projects across the entire state. Consequently, the inclusion of these diverse locations strengthens the empirical rigor of the study by reflecting the multifaceted realities of rural development in different regional contexts.

Validity and Reliability of Instruments

The validity and reliability in qualitative research differ from those in quantitative research. In qualitative research, ensuring validity and reliability of instruments and results are rooted in credibility, dependability, conformability and transferability of results. In this study, the researchers ensured a detailed audit trail and maintenance of research procedures, interview guides, transcripts and coding processes. More so, the prolonged engagement (six months) allowed the researchers to build trust with the participants. The adoption of interviews, observations and document reviews helped in data triangulation to ensure the authenticity of data. The research team was debriefed to review emerging interpretations. The use of audio recordings, field notes and direct quotations supported interpretations and independent verification.

Data Analysis

The data collected in this study were analyzed using the thematic analytical method following a systematic and professional procedure to ensure high methodological rigor. The process began with the verbatim transcription of all recorded interviews immediately after the fieldwork to maintain data integrity followed by a comprehensive familiarization phase where the researchers repeatedly examined the transcripts. While an inductive coding approach was primarily adopted to allow themes to emerge naturally from the data elements of deductive coding were also integrated to align the analysis with the specific research questions. Meaningful response units were identified and labeled with descriptive codes which were subsequently grouped into broader categories reflecting key patterns and internal coherence. To ensure the credibility and validity of the findings the researchers implemented triangulation by cross validating interview data with direct physical observations of the projects. Furthermore, strategies such as member checking and peer debriefing were utilized to confirm the accuracy of interpretations and minimize individual bias. Finally, a detailed audit trail including field notes and recordings was maintained to enhance the overall trustworthiness and confirmability of the qualitative findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

[Table 2](#) presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the 109 respondents to provide a clear contextual background of the participants involved in the study. This distribution highlights key variables such as gender and age along with occupational and educational backgrounds to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the rural

dweller's profiles.

Table 2. Socio-Demographic Distribution of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	80	73.4
	Female	29	26.6
Age	18–27	11	10.1
	28–37	48	44.0
	38–47	28	25.7
	48–above	22	20.2
Religion	Islam	7	6.4
	Christianity	102	93.6
	African Tradition	1	0.9
Occupation	Farming	74	67.9
	Trading	23	21.1
	Civil service	11	10.1
	Others	1	0.9
Education	No formal education	16	14.7
	Primary	35	32.1
	Secondary	42	38.5
	Tertiary	16	14.7

Table 2 shows that the respondents were relatively well distributed across gender, age, religion, occupation, and educational background. This diversity ensured that multiple perspectives on CSDA interventions were captured. The predominance of farmers (67.9%) confirms that most beneficiaries of CSDA projects are rural dwellers whose livelihoods depend largely on agriculture. This socio-demographic spread strengthens the credibility of the findings as they reflect the realities of typical rural communities in Edo State (Nie et al., 2024).

Rural Communities' Participation in CSDA Development Projects in Edo State

Payment of Counterpart Fund

The concept of counterpart funding within rural development projects like the CSDA serves as a crucial mechanism for fostering community ownership and long-term sustainability. By contributing at least 10 percent of the total project value, rural inhabitants transition from passive recipients to active partners who manage their own assets and determine their collective future (Alhassan & Ade-Banjo, 2025). Field observations reveal diverse strategies for meeting these obligations ranging from direct monetary levies and philanthropic donations to the provision of manual labor which is particularly prevalent in regions like Edo South. The use of transparent project signposts detailing expenditure further enhances public accountability and strengthens trust in government policy effectiveness (Olarinmoye, 2023).

Distinguishing between direct financial contributions and philanthropic donations is theoretically significant as it reflects different levels of community agency and inclusivity. Collective contributions through communal levies tend to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility compared to a reliance on wealthy benefactors which may

risk elite capture in local decision making. However, a primary challenge arises when the timing of counterpart payments conflicts with the seasonal cycles of agrarian communities such as planting or harvesting periods which can hinder overall economic participation. Consequently, involving the community in determining project execution timelines is essential to ensure that developmental initiatives do not disrupt local social and economic stability (Dimnwobi et al., 2025).

Furthermore, the fulfillment of counterpart funds becomes increasingly complex at the state government level due to high dependency on central budget allocations. Post pandemic economic instability and declining internally generated revenue in many developing nations often lead to delays in the execution of physical rural development projects (Obasohan et al., 2024). Such fluctuating fiscal conditions require international donor agencies to reconsider the flexibility of payment mechanisms or seek alternative contribution methods for states facing financial crises. Synchronizing government fiscal policies with the urgent needs of rural dwellers remains the key to ensuring that poverty alleviation programs remain effective and sustainable (Sam et al., 2024).

Provision of Labour

The strategic engagement of local labor in rural development projects serves as a crucial instrument for economic empowerment and community capacity building. Unlike voluntary communal work, this model treats residents as paid professionals involved in every project phase from foundation digging to final roofing, thereby fostering a deep sense of psychological ownership. This participatory approach is not limited to artisanal skills but integrates professional contributions from local healthcare workers, engineers, and administrators working collaboratively. Recent scholarship indicates that integrating local expertise into infrastructure projects significantly strengthens communal harmony and ensures higher construction quality compared to projects managed entirely by external contractors (Solaja et al., 2024).

The cyclical impact of utilizing local labor provides tangible contributions to improved living standards and regional revenue through taxes and supporting economic activities. During the construction phase, a micro-business ecosystem emerges involving food vendors and transportation services that increases the overall income base of the community. This phenomenon demonstrates that community-driven development is effective in building resilience and economic independence, where wages earned by residents are often reinvested into private assets like housing or small business capital. By strengthening natural talents and skills, communities transform into agents of change capable of controlling their own developmental destiny in a fast-changing world (Okunola et al., 2024).

However, project success depends heavily on the effectiveness of collaborative supervision and monitoring mechanisms between institutional authorities and the community. Failures in technical oversight often result in substandard workmanship, such as the use of poor roofing materials or design flaws that jeopardize public services. Institutional challenges regarding accountability and transparency necessitate the formation of joint monitoring teams comprising technical officials and community representatives to detect construction defects early. Therefore, strengthening oversight structures that involve independent technical experts is vital to prevent policy failure and ensure that every project provides long-term benefits for rural development (Abubakar, 2022).

Maintenance of the Projects

The findings from the surveyed communities across the three senatorial districts indicate a high level of project maintenance reaching 95 percent, as evidenced by the well-kept conditions of markets, schools, and lock-up stores. However, the operational sustainability of water schemes remains largely contingent upon the financial buoyancy of the communities, particularly their ability to provide alternative power sources like generators for pumping during outages. While communities in Edo North demonstrated greater resilience through the use of generator sets, the specific funding sources for this equipment remain unverified due to a lack of documentary evidence, highlighting a need for further research into long-term sustainability models. In contrast, areas such as the Evboneka community in Ovia North East remain heavily dependent on the national grid, rendering their water systems dormant during extended power failures. Ultimately, these dynamics confirm that rural dwellers are actively engaged in the project lifecycle through expressing interest, providing counterpart funds and labor, and conducting oversight, a finding validated by recent literature on community-driven development (Olise, 2025).

Impacts of Projects on Rural Development in Edo State

As observed across all communities, the impacts of the projects have been highly significant. However, the positive effects are more pronounced in Edo North Senatorial District compared to Edo Central. This disparity is largely due to the higher concentration of projects implemented in communities within Edo North than in Edo Central and Edo South Senatorial Districts. Furthermore, most of the projects in Akoko-Edo are economically viable and have strong potential to generate substantial income for the benefiting communities, as shown in Figure 1. Overall, the projects have contributed positively to improving both the socio-economic conditions and the security of the communities.

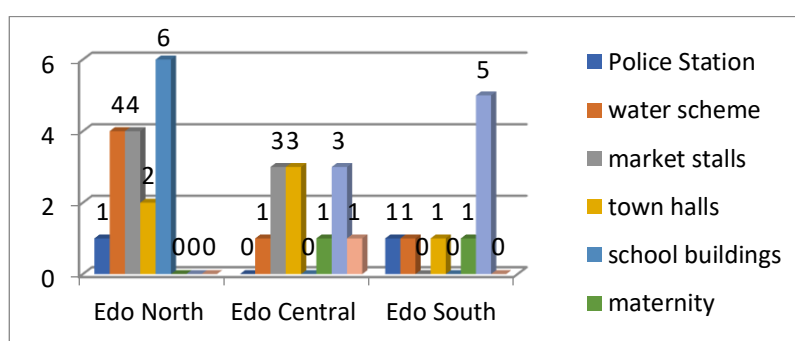


Figure 1. Distribution of Projects by Senatorial District

Figure 1 above illustrates variations in community needs, which influence their prioritization and level of participation in addressing them. In Edo North, the siting of police stations emerged as the top priority, likely due to heightened security concerns. In Edo Central, market stalls, town halls, and electrification were highly prioritized, while electricity was the primary concern in Edo South (Rasul & Karki Nepal, 2024). These patterns reflect common community challenges that contribute to the persistence of rural poverty.

Improved Socio-Economy

Rural socio-economic development remains one of the most pressing concerns in Nigeria. As noted in earlier studies, poverty and other socio-economic challenges are predominantly experienced by rural dwellers. In

response, the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) was established to improve the well-being of these populations. The impact of these projects on community life has been substantial, particularly in strengthening social cohesion. For example, the construction of town halls has enhanced relationships among communities by providing venues for meetings, cultural events, and social gatherings.

In addition to social benefits, the projects have significantly improved the economic conditions of rural communities. Town halls and lock-up stores generate revenue through user fees, which are reinvested to meet communal needs. Rural electrification projects, especially in Edo South, have stimulated business activities and increased income for both individuals and communities. Even non-revenue-generating projects, such as water schemes, have reduced household expenses and improved living standards. Evidence from project reports also indicates improvements in school enrolment, healthcare access, and overall community welfare (Ajefu & Ogebe, 2023).

Despite these achievements, the outcomes of rural development interventions remain mixed both within Nigeria and globally. Some studies highlight the success of participatory approaches in improving access to essential services, while others point to challenges such as corruption, elite capture, and weak political will. Comparisons with countries like China show that strong commitment and effective policy implementation are key to success (Olise, 2025). In many African countries, limited revenue and reliance on external funding continue to hinder sustainable rural development. Therefore, while initiatives like CSDP have made notable progress, stronger governance, accountability, and adaptive policies are essential for long-term impact (Thompson et al., 2026).

Improved Security

Rural insecurity remains a major challenge in Nigeria, manifesting in various forms such as herdsmen attacks, banditry, terrorism, secessionism, and kidnapping. In 2023 alone, over 8,000 lives were reportedly lost due to these violent incidents. Rural communities have been the most affected, largely due to farmer–herder conflicts, inter-community disputes, and weak security presence (Zelalem et al., 2023). As a result, food insecurity has emerged as an additional threat to national well-being. Projections indicate that about 26.5 million Nigerians could face food insecurity, including nearly 9 million children at risk of severe acute malnutrition.

Security, defined as freedom from harm, threat, and anxiety, is closely linked to socio-economic development. Improvements in socio-economic conditions can reduce crime, while the presence of security infrastructure helps deter criminal activities (Bamidele, 2026). Evidence from the studied communities suggests that the establishment of police stations has significantly reduced hostilities and criminal infiltration. For example, in Ekpedo, the presence of security personnel has curtailed attacks previously carried out by armed groups and reduced inter-community tensions. This demonstrates the importance of combining physical security measures with development interventions.

Community-driven development approaches have also been shown to enhance social cohesion and promote peace. In contrast, top-down development strategies often fail to address local needs, resulting in persistent insecurity and weak community trust in government (Oyewole, 2024). Rural development is inherently linked to food security, as farmers require safe and stable environments to carry out agricultural activities. When insecurity disrupts farming, it directly affects food production and availability. Therefore, interventions that ensure

peaceful coexistence and protect livelihoods are essential for sustainable rural development.

The lack of adequate security presence in rural areas has been identified as a major cause of continued violence. Challenges such as insufficient manpower, poor infrastructure, and limited communication systems hinder timely responses by security agencies (Ukeje et al., 2022). In this context, the establishment of police stations through development programmes represents a critical step toward restoring order. However, long-term security also requires the involvement of local stakeholders, including traditional leaders and youth groups. Their participation helps sustain peace and prevents future breakdowns in law and order.

Technological innovation offers additional opportunities to strengthen rural security systems. Tools such as drones and surveillance technologies can improve monitoring, enhance rapid response, and reduce human casualties (Sarkar & Mishra, 2024). However, effective techno-securitization requires skilled personnel, reliable power supply, and substantial financial investment. While technology can complement existing security structures, it cannot replace the need for strong governance and community engagement. Ultimately, sustainable rural security depends on a combination of socio-economic empowerment, participatory development, and adaptive policy strategies (Thompson et al., 2026).

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that community-driven development through the CSDA has significantly improved socio-economic conditions and security resilience in rural communities in Nigeria, particularly in Edo State. Active community participation in funding, labor provision, and project oversight has strengthened ownership, sustainability, and overall project effectiveness. The findings reveal that investments in social infrastructure, such as town halls, electrification, water schemes, and police stations, have enhanced livelihoods, social cohesion, and local security. Despite these achievements, persistent challenges such as weak political will, inadequate funding, corruption, and infrastructural deficits continue to limit the full potential of rural development interventions. The study further highlights the importance of integrating technological innovations and inclusive stakeholder engagement to sustain security and development outcomes. Therefore, a holistic approach that combines participatory development, strong governance, and adaptive policy frameworks is essential for achieving long-term rural transformation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors sincerely express their gratitude to Musa Abutudu, Aiguosatile Otoghile, and Charles Eghweree of the Department of Political Science, University of Benin, for their valuable guidance, critical insights, and constructive feedback throughout this study. The authors also extend their appreciation to the officials of the Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA) and all community members who participated in the research for their cooperation and willingness to share relevant information. Their contributions have been instrumental in enriching the quality and depth of this research.

DECLARATIONS

- Author Contribution : VCE: Conceptualization, Project Administration, Writing-Original Draft, and Formal Analysis;
JAK: Methodology, Data Curation, Writing – Review & Editing, and Validation.
- Funding Statement : This research received no funding from any individual, group, or institution known to the authors.
- Conflict of Interest : The authors declare no conflict of interest.
- Additional Information : Additional information is available for this paper.

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