

## IMPACT OF HOST COMMUNITY ON IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES TOWARDS ACHIEVING DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GOAL

by:

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### Abstract

*Universities across the globe do not exist in vacuum; they are hosted by communities. Host community–university relationship has decisive impact on the realization of research development mandates of universities. In view of that, this study attempted to examine Impact of Lapai community on the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University's Management in achieving its development research goal. The study used mixed methods in data collection and analysis. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 descriptive analysis and simple regression test as well as content analysis were used to analyse the questionnaires and interview respectively. The study discovered that Lapai host community has provided a friendly environment for the realization of research development by IBB University without reciprocal benefit being received by the host community. Therefore, the study recommended that researchers in the University should give emphasis to host community-oriented research efforts.*

**Key Words:** Research Development, Host Community, Corporate Social Responsibility

### Introduction

Universities have since their medieval beginnings, been founded to preserve the positive heritage of society. They are committed to promote society's corporate well being and advancement by refining the ability of its members to select reasons and understand by enquiring into and seeking to explain the development and function of man as part of the natural world and by acting as guide and critic in those areas which can be informed by a university's resources of knowledge and specialized skills (Clarke & Edwards, 1980).

The triple idea of university creation is teaching, research and community development. Hence, universities are regarded as places of education and area of scientific research (Marga, 2009). The universal idea of the university is a community of scholars, free to pursue knowledge without undue interference from any quarters (Banjo, 2001). In the same vein, Hannah (1998) postulates that universities are enterprises that produce and distribute a public good, which is knowledge. Salter (1983) agreed that knowledge production is the focus of universities and that the production of knowledge has always focused on teaching and research.

In the whole history of society there has always been a close link, which existed between the evolution of cities and that of educational institutions. For instance, relations between the universities of the Middle Ages and so many cities in the Europe. The influence of these institutions was such that many of them assimilated the name of the city, which they help to make famous: Oxford, Salamanca, Heidelberg, and Louvain, to mention but a few (Carrier, 1985).

The association between universities and cities has continued to the present. The often heard expression; "town and gown" derives from the integration of a university within a town. The British experience of the so-called red brick universities started around 1910 and is an excellent example. Cities like Birmingham, Sheffield, Bristol, and Southampton among others have created a university to serve their urban community (Kyazze, 1993). Nearer home in Nigeria, several communities see the advantage and pride in having schools bear their names. For instance, the University of Ibadan developed out of a very small settlement. The people of Nigeria took pride in knowing that a good educational institution could emanate from their country then Ibadan in those days was a rural settlement with its red-roof houses. But now, it has metamorphosed into a big urban settlement.

There is no doubt, environments where universities need research-friendly environment with the wherewithal to enable attainment of their core mandates. A community that is not hostile to academic activities and university staff. It is instructive that large per cent of university staff reside out the campus. This underlines significance of host community-university relationship. Locations of universities are carefully chosen. Relationship between universities' host communities and their managements, among other factors, could have impact on the realization of core mandates of universities particularly, research development.

Despite this putative impact that host community relations has on its guest (universities), there seems to be a dearth of literature on the research problem. Previous study concentrated attention on impact on tertiary education on community development. Albulescu & Mirela (2014) conducted a research on the University in the Community: the university's contribution to local and regional development by providing educational services for adults. The study gave emphasis to building entrepreneurialism and community service rendered by the University of Babes-Bolyai, Romania with no reference to research development, one of the core mandates of the universities. Similarly, Fourie (2005) undertook a research on Beyond the Ivory Tower: service learning for sustainable community development, University of the Free State, South Africa. The study emphasized on the service learning as it relates to development. It centred on skills acquisition and its application in challenging situations. The study was exploratory in method. Igbinedion (2012) qualitatively undertook a study on Corporate Social Responsibilities of Tertiary Educational Institutions to Host Communities in Delta South Senatorial District of Delta State of Nigeria. The place of conducting this research is southern part of the country with emphasis on university community service. Its scope was narrowed to South Senatorial District of Delta State. Awah (2005) carried out a research, using quantitative method, on The Effect of Tertiary Institutions on Host Communities: a study of Federal College of Education, Obudu, Cross River State, Nigeria Obudu and Obanliku local government areas of Cross River State.

It is against this background that this paper attempts to investigate the impact of host community on Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University Management's research development goal.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The framework for explaining this study is based on the social exchange theory (Ekeh, 1974 & Turner, 1974). The central idea of this theory is that the exchange of social and material resources is a fundamental form of human interaction (Ingoldsby and Smith, 1995). Exchange theory assumes that people select exchanges after having assessed benefits and costs (Homans, 1961). According to this idea, perceptions are affected by the perceptions of the exchange people believe they are making. Consequently, individuals who evaluate the exchange as beneficial perceive the same impact differently than someone who evaluates the exchange as harmful. It specifies the exchange of tangible or intangible resources that host community and

university may give and receive in the host–university context. Therefore, the starting point for social exchange comes from the need to reciprocate for benefits received to continue receiving them (Moore and Cunningham, 1999). Members of the host community are willing to enter into exchange with university if they receive more benefits than cost. Host communities who found the exchange beneficial for their well-being are keen to support university development and have positive reactions to university management. Host communities who view the exchange as problematic will oppose university activities.

The theory is a relevant explanatory tool as location of tertiary institutions is greeted with expectations of socio-economic prosperity in host communities, while, tertiary institutions also needed a conducive environment to realize its mandates. Community service and social responsibility is one of the mandates of these institutions. Without delivering on social responsibility, host communities would not feel impact of locating these institutions which might negatively affect university-host community relation. At what cost did host communities give out their landed property for the location of these institutions? One thing is let go for another that is bigger to both host and universities communities. Serene atmosphere that higher institutions may need for teaching and research must only be provided by the host communities for mutual benefit. How has this really occurred so far in IBB University and its host community is what this research work intends to investigate.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

#### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

Over the years, many organizations and companies usually located in rural areas and semi-urban centres, act as contributory agents to the wellbeing and development of their host communities. These organizations mostly carry out this through the engagement/employment of some of the qualified inhabitants of the host community as their staff or through execution of corporate social responsibility programmes.

Corporate Social Responsibility refers to an organisation's sense of responsibility towards the community in which it operates. Murillo & Martinek (2009) define corporate social responsibility as a doctrine that promotes expanded social stewardship by businesses and organizations whereas Yap & Labangon (2015) state that CSR suggests institutions must increase their sphere of reach to its surrounding neighbourhood. Yap & Labangon (2015) further state that CSR demands the inclusion of stakeholders – from employees to clients and even to the community at large. From the foregoing, CSR is geared towards delivering programmes and services that tend to reduce challenges encountered by the community and also contribute to the overall well being and development of the community. This could be educationally, socially, economically or through the development of infrastructures and provision of essential services.

The trend is that communities are increasingly getting aware of their rights and demand that corporate entities meet their social responsibilities to them. The host communities are demanding that tertiary educational institutions in their domain should grant them some concessions in employment, admission of students and the award of contracts as part of their social responsibilities to them. They also expect these institutions to contribute directly to the development of their communities either financially or through donations of manpower and technical know-how. They equally expect contribution to the management of community security; provision of extra mural education programmes and the development of community infrastructure (Igbinedion & Ovbiagegle, 2012). Organizations such as companies, corporate bodies, financial institutions, industries and others in different areas of human endeavour engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes from their different perspectives and standpoints across the universe. Educational institutions, especially the tertiary ones ought to bear some levels of social responsibilities to the society that sustains their existence and

operations. Social responsibility in the words of Nichols, McHugh & McHugh (1997) is the concern corporate institutions have for the welfare of the society which sustains their operations. The ability of most tertiary educational institutions to deliver on these subsidiary objectives defines their social responsibility.

### **University and Host Community**

The relationship between institutions of higher education and their communities is historical. Dating to 13th century Italy, something was known of the tension between students and local townspeople, but communities had also long seen benefits in hosting colleges. The benefits of hosting a college or university was sorted into two groups: Direct impacts, which resulted from the economic activities of the university like payroll, purchasing, and student spending; and forward linkages, which were forces that resulted in community economic development over the long term (Banjo, 2001).

Generally, relevance of education to man cannot be overstated. Survival of human existence in its entirety is dependent on education. It plays fundamental role in the society that a life devoid of education can hardly be imagined. Scholars contend that education is the precursor of societal transformation because its impact affects all spheres of human life (Eze, 2011). Education frees human being from the entrapment of want, ignorance, poverty and underdevelopment. Corroborating the above, Eze (2011); and O, Flaherty, (2005) affirm that the establishment of tertiary institutions is concerned with undergraduate and graduate education, research, scholarship and innovation vis-a-vis community partnership, outreach, and engagement to arouse the economic, social and cultural well-being of the larger society. The authors reiterated that communities that have tertiary institutions are extraordinary places and are seen as engine in the host communities that propels economic activities of the people.

Faloki (2017) conducted a study on 'socio-economic impact of tertiary institutions in Nigeria on his host community' a case of six communities in Osun state, Nigeria. The researcher used mixed methods of data collection. The University has six campuses scattered among different communities. It is a deliberate attempt to take development to the door steps of these host communities. The study found out that there is a significant improvement in the these communities especially in the areas of health care delivery, infrastructural development, increased commercial activities, population explosion as well as integration of different ethnic group into the system.

Igbinedion (2012) remarked that tertiary educational institutions in Delta South Senatorial District had responded to the yearnings of its host communities. This is the areas of job creation, promotion of cultural awareness, physical infrastructural development, education among others. The study used quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection.

In addition, Oke, Oredipe & Komolafe (2012) concluded that there was a correlation and symbiotic relationship between the university and Ijagun Community of Ogun State, Nigeria. The location of the University there precipitated stability in electric power supply, medical care, communication links, etcetera. The study, like above mentioned studies, gave attention to socio economic impacts of higher institutions on host communities. Irene-Mary (2005) buttressed on this in his work "the effect of tertiary institutions on host communities". It was carried out in Obudu and Obaniku local government areas of Cross Rivers State, although, the criminal acts have risen in the host communities. The study thus, captured both positive and negative effects of location of higher institutions.

From the foregoing, the major gap that this study attempts to fill is host community and research development.

### Methodology

The study used both quantitative and qualitative method of data collection. It is an empirical study. SPSS version 20.0 was used to analyse the data using simple regression to weigh the two constructs (host community relation and research development).

### Population of the Study

According to 2006 general census conducted, the population of the study area, Lapai is 110,127. It has an area of 3,051 kms. This study used KREJCIE and MORGAN (1970) schedule table to determine the sample size.

Thus,

$$N = 110,127$$

$$S = 384$$

The authors provide a table for reference of the appropriate sample size (S) based on the number of population (N) as shown in Appendix.

### Data cleaning and screening

The data screening set was conducted through an examination of basic descriptive statistics and frequency distributions. Values that were found to be out of range or improperly coded were detected.

### Factor Analysis

A five-point Likert scale (ranging from SA=Strongly; A=Agree; N=Neutral; D=Disagree; SD=Strongly Disagree) was used to measure relationship among the constructs. Factor analysis was used to identify the structure of the factors that account for the relationship among leader, ivory tower and development research.

### Simple Regression

Simple Regression Analysis was used to test the variables. The goal of regression analysis is to obtain estimates of the unknown parameters which indicate how a change in one of the independent variables affects the values of dependent variables.

### Method of Data Analysis

Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 20 was used for descriptive and simple regression in quantitative data analysis. While concurrent explanatory strategy was used to analyse the qualitative data.

### Reliability Test

This study used Cronbach's alpha reliability to test the internal steadiness for different dimension. Cronbach Alpha ranges from 0 to 1, according to George and Mallery (2003) any value below 0.5 is unacceptable.

**Table 1.1 Descriptive Statistics of Reliability**

| Measure        | Number of Items | Cronbach's Alpha |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Host Community | 7               | 0.5465           |
| Development    | 5               | 0.5034           |
| Management     | 4               | 0.6387           |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The result in Table 1.1 shows constructs to be rejected if its value is below 0.5. Development construct has the lowest cronbach alpha 0.5034 within the acceptable threshold, while the Management construct has the highest value of 0.6387. The four measures are therefore, accepted for further analysis.

### Exploratory Factor Analysis

This study used Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) to determine the common factors that influence each construct, because it facilitates the covariance of the constructs (Kahn, 2006). The items with loading factor less than 0.30 were removed from the process.

**Table 1.2 Host Community**

| Measure  | Mean | SD   | Factor Loading |
|--|------|------|----------------|
| Farmers whose lands were taken over by the State government for the establishment of the University were compensated accordingly | 3.83 | 0.90 | 0.4167(3)      |
| Establishment of the University doesn't negatively affect farming in Lapai community   | 3.65 | 0.78 | 0.4258(3)      |
| There is sharp increase in the population of Lapai community   | 4.47 | 0.68 | 0.3829(2)      |
| There is symbiotic relationship between IBB University and Lapai community   | 4.12 | 0.77 | -              |
| There is a notable increase in the houses/buildings in Lapai   | 4.44 | 0.79 | 0.4311(2)      |
| It increases job opportunities for the residents of Lapai  | 4.43 | 0.65 | 0.4252(1)      |
| Existence of IBB University increases crime rate in Lapai environ  | 4.23 | 0.86 | 0.4215(1)      |

Source: Field Survey, 2019 **Note: Values in parentheses denote the factor loading rate.** From the above table, six factors loaded at different loading rate with factor three at highest mean value. One factor refused to load.

**Table 1.3 Research Development**

| Measure   | Mean | SD   | Factor Loading |
|---|------|------|----------------|
| There are enough infrastructural and laboratory facilities in the University                | 2.43 | 1.13 | 0.7079(1)      |
| The University has enough teaching staff across all the departments                         | 2.11 | 1.04 | 0.7101(1)      |
| IBB University has conducted researches that address socio economic problems in Niger State | 3.90 | 0.97 | 0.6028(2)      |
| There are work-in-progress and viable researches carrying out by the University.            | 4.08 | 0.85 | 0.5257(2)      |
| IBB University has a very functional research centre  | 3.85 | 1.13 | 0.5215(2)      |

Source: Field Survey, 2019 **Note: Values in parentheses denote the factor loading rate.** The above table shows that all factors were loaded. That is, they are valid enough to represent the relationship between the University and research development.

**Table 1.4 Management**

| Measure   | Mean | SD   | Factor Loading |
|---|------|------|----------------|
| IBB University has sustainable sources of funding   | 2.86 | 1.08 | 0.7004(1)      |
| The University has viable Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)  | 3.12 | 1.17 | 0.7067(1)      |
| IBB Management signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) on researchers with international and national agencies. | 2.86 | 1.26 | -              |
| Zonal politics in the State affects the growth of IBB University  | 4.26 | 1.09 | -              |

Source: Field Survey, 2019 **Note: Values in parentheses denote the factor loading rate.**  
From the table above, two factors loaded while the other two failed to load.

### Result of Simple Regression Test

The following tables are the simple regression tests that show the significant level or otherwise of the relationship between different constructs.

**Table 1.5 Impact of Host Community on the IBB University**

| Variable       | Coefficient        |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Host Community | 0.0685<br>(0.0460) |

Source: Field Survey, 2019 **Note: Standard error in parenthesis, \* denotes significance at 10%**

The result in table 1.5 shows that host community has a positive relationship with IBB University, though it is not significant at any level. This indicates that host community contributes about 6.85% to the development of the University. This relationship manifests in terms of provision of enabling environment by given full cooperation to the University to enable it fulfill its mandate of research development. The interviewees' responses confirmed this position.

**Table 1.6 IBB University and Research Development**

| Variable   | Coefficient           |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Management | 0.1773***<br>(0.6448) |

Source: Field Survey, 2019 **Note: Standard error in parenthesis, \* denotes significance at 10%**

The result in table 1.6 indicates a positive and significant relationship between IBB University and development research at 1% level of significance. That is, the University contributes about 17.75% to the development research. This aligns with the responses conducted with some academic staff and Director Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CASTER). The contribution here is in the provision of enabling environment; laboratory and other facilities, administrative skill as well as human resources needed for research development.

### Discussion of Findings

The study reveals that there is a positive relationship between the host community and the University Management. It was unanimously agreed that host community members are not hostile rather friendly to students, marketers and staff of the University without which the University would not achieve its core mandates – teaching, community service and research

development. The interviewees attested to population upsurge and increasing growth of Lapai as well as its business activities. These are indicative of hospitable atmosphere of the Town. This corresponds with the study carried out by Oke, Oredipe & Komolafe (2012) that there was a positive correlation and symbiotic relationship between the university and Ijagun Community of Ogun State, Nigeria. The contribution of the host community to the development of IBB University, according to the result of simple regression test, is at 6.85%. The contributions could be in the areas of relinquishing their ancestral land for the establishment of the University, peaceful co-existence with other stakeholders of the University, community effort to ensure security of lives and property among others.

Again, the research finding shows that there is a positive and significant relationship between University and research development. The interviewees revealed that University TETFund intervention in providing facilities, equipments and other wherewithal for research development in the University has been wonderful. So far, the University has successfully conducted researches on Organic Agricultural Development and Bida Basin Hydrocarbon prospection (oil and gas research) by Prof. G. N. Obaje. The researcher discovered crude deposit at commercial quantity in Bida Basin. This portends great economic advantage for the State.

### **Conclusion**

From the foregoing research findings, the study observed that host community maintains positive relationship with the University Management. This cordiality between the University and its host enables breeding ground for research development and academic activities. The Management also supports the researchers by providing facilities for research development. Ironically, the host community and the State have not seen phenomenal result of research efforts by the University dons. Hydrocarbon Oil and Gas research is yet to transform to practical benefits to the State.

The study thus, concludes that there is low capacity among the researchers to come up with solution driven researches as socio – economic base of the State remains statics notwithstanding the establishment of the University. The host community has not received much reciprocal benefits of developmental research that may be conducted by the University. The social exchange theory that this study adopted recognizes that fact that host community's positive support for the cause of the University is due to the expectation that it will benefit immensely from the University from different aspects. The realization of this expectation would be more prominent in the fulfillment of research development mandate of the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai.

### **Recommendations**

In line with the findings of this study, three recommendations have been made. Firstly, the University dons and researchers should not be exclusively inspired by publishing for promotion but by passion to conduct development - oriented researches; researches that address societal ill and challenges.

Secondly, it is imperative to train the researchers in the University on the new and emerging trend in conducting researches. The study strongly recommends to the University to have an effective centre that organises training for researchers on basic research techniques and procedures particularly in the field of applied and natural sciences. Lastly, it is essential that the University signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with international reputable universities and research institutes. There are great benefits in collaborative academic engagement with the universities and institutes that have excelled in research development.

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