

EFFECT OF SOCIAL INNOVATION, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND POVERTY-REDUCTION INITIATIVES ON COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

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Abstract

Social entrepreneurship has gained increasing attention as a means of addressing social and economic challenges while creating social value. However, evidence on how it contributes to community transformation in Nigeria remains limited. This study examined the effects of social innovation, community empowerment, and poverty-reduction initiatives on community transformation in Nigeria. A quantitative survey design was adopted, and structured questionnaires were administered to social entrepreneurs, employees of social enterprises, and community stakeholders across selected Nigerian cities. Of 426 questionnaires administered, 392 were validly completed, representing a 92.0% response rate. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and multiple linear regression with SPSS Version 29. The findings showed high mean scores for social innovation ($M = 4.28$, $SD = 0.64$), community empowerment ($M = 4.34$, $SD = 0.60$), poverty-reduction initiatives ($M = 4.21$, $SD = 0.67$), and community transformation ($M = 4.39$, $SD = 0.56$). Significant positive relationships were found among the variables. The regression model explained 66% of the variance in community transformation ($R^2 = 0.66$; adjusted $R^2 = 0.65$). Community empowerment was the strongest predictor ($\beta = 0.41$), followed by social innovation ($\beta = 0.38$) and poverty-reduction initiatives ($\beta = 0.33$), all at $p < 0.001$. The study highlights the importance of innovation, empowerment, and poverty-reduction interventions in promoting community transformation in Nigeria.

Keywords: social entrepreneurship, social innovation, community empowerment, poverty-reduction initiatives, community transformation, Nigeria