



Research Paper

## Assessment of Social Facilities Towards Rural Development Planning In Ipara, Remo, Ogun State

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### ABSTRACT

Through the provision of adequate social amenities that can improve the living standard of the rural residents, rural planning development could be achieved. Availability of the community facilities can provide the necessary support for the functionality and habitability of any particular environment. Therefore, the paper assessed the provision of community facilities in Ipara Remo in achieving the rural development planning.

Primary data was adopted. The primary instrumentation used were questionnaire, personal observation and in depth interview. Cluster sampling method was adopted. The whole village was divided into six according to the road patterns of which 15 respondents were randomly selected from each zone. Therefore, the total of ninety respondents was sampled. The data was analysed using descriptive analysis such as frequency counts and charts.

Findings revealed that 55.6% of the respondents were female, 38.9% had no formal education, 27.7% obtained primary school education, and 50.0% involved in farming occupation, and 44.5% of the respondents earned less than N24, 000 per month. It was revealed that the main roads are in good condition, only one health centre available and 66.6% of the respondents live at a distance less than 1km. Also, 50.0% of the respondents noted that there was a government primary school in Ipara and only one open stall market which operated every seven days. In conclusion, the government has contributed towards provision of social facilities but not yet adequate to improve the living conditions of the residents towards rural development goals. It was therefore recommended that provision, planning and maintenance of these social facilities should be a collective responsibility of the state and local government, non-governmental organizations as well as the people in the community to enhance development in the study area.

**KEYWORDS:** Social facilities, rural development, planning,

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The need for rural development has received more attention by Nigerian academia and politicians. A number of approaches have been forwarded which identified themselves with rural planning – an instrument for rural development. Rural development and planning have often been neglected at both national and regional planning levels (Labeodan, 2015). The little effort in this direction equally lacks a comprehensive approach and has failed to establish effective agencies and organizational framework for implementing development programmes and policies (Olujimi, 2005). The development of rural areas is worth considered because most rural areas in Nigeria are characterized by abject poverty, low per capita income reflecting in low activities turn over, depopulation, land fragmentation, dominance of occupational structure (that is, primary occupation such as fishing, farming, lumbering etc), inadequate or total absence of essential public infrastructure and poor accessibility to mention a few (Olujimi, 2010).

In the developing countries, rural areas have suffered a long neglect and many deprivations because the development approach adopted was that of developing the urban area while the expected positive effects of the development would automatically spread to the rural areas (Okafor and Onokhoraye, 1986). Thus, development would automatically spread to the rural areas. Thus development in rural areas was left to mere chance. By this approach, the weight tends towards urban areas and the resultant effects on urban land are enormous. To be realistic, some rural areas may not experience transformations or changes if they are waiting

for the government to initiate the development they need. It purports then that the government cannot solely handle rural development. As a matter of fact, development cannot be successful without the active participation of the community. Hence, rural development programmes should be the joint efforts of both the government and the community dwellers.

To this end, rural development is a change geared toward bringing about social, economic and cultural changes in individuals or groups of people. Basically, “it is concerned with raising the quality of life of the low income population living in rural areas on a self-sustaining basis, through a fundamental transformation of the rural mode of production (Gana, 2006). Scholars have also conceived it as a process towards improving the living standard of the rural poor and this does not centre solely on increasing per capita income, but embraces also the provision of infrastructural facilities to promote good quality of life (Lele and Diejohoah, 1995).

The report from development and developing countries indicated that there are vast social-economic disparities between the rural and urban dwellers. Nigerian rural areas like most other third world countries are characterized by abject poverty, low level of infrastructure and poor living standard. In spite of high rural-urban migration, over 70% of the Nigerian population still lived in rural areas (Olujimi, 2010). This purports that where the majority of Nigerians live is a substandard environment. The central focus of development is functionally, ensuring high productivity and creation of employment opportunities. This development could be achieved by the practice of rural planning. Availability of community facilities as part of the land use types provides the background and necessary support for the functionality and habitability of any particular environment. The adequacy of facilities like school, health, shopping areas (markets), recreation areas, and religious buildings, cultural facilities such as community hall, post offices and postal agencies is very necessary. Therefore, this study is to assess community facilities in the area in achieving the rural development planning.

### **1.1. The Study Area**

Ogun State is a state in southwestern Nigeria. It borders Lagos State to the south, Oyo and Osun states to the north, Ondo to the east and the Republic of Benin to the west. Abeokuta is the capital and largest city in the state. Remo North is a Local Government Area in Ogun State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Isara at. It has an area of 199 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 59,911 at the 2006 census. Ipara town is in the northern part of Remo Division. It is a one road town. This is the old Federal road from Lagos – Sagamu -Ode Remo and from Saapade to Ipara. Ipara has a boundary with Fidiwo a town-let in Obafemi Owode Local Government in the north. In the South-east, it has a boundary with Isara and Ode-Remo. In the West, it has a boundary with Obafemi – Owode farm-land with villages. Before the Lagos Ibadan Express Road was constructed, Ipara was a port of rest for vehicles travelling long distances to Ibadan and the far North. Ipara was particularly a business centre then for it was very popular for its good palm-wine and bush meat. The drivers enjoyed their stay in Ipara then. The present Lagos-Ibadan Express road is not in favour of Ipara as regards its position and trade. Ipara is a gateway town to the Remo Division. It has served as a gateway town from its foundation

## **II. CONCEPTUAL AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

Central place theory is the underlying theory to this research. Central place theory was formulated by Walter Christaller (1933) after the empirical study of central places in southern Germany. Christaller, in this respect, seeks to relate central places of their hinterland and defines a central place as settlement providing services for the population of its hinterland (Glasson, 1974). This means that there is a central place which performs central functions that extend over a large region in which other central places of less importance exist. This implies that we have the central places of higher order performing more important or more central functions and exercise importance or influence over large areas while lower order performs less function and exert less influence over its zone. Moreover, the two central places are linked together by main transport routes. The principle of the model, therefore, could be applied in the provision of infrastructure and community facilities.

Meanwhile, each of these central places produces goods and services and just as the central places themselves vary in importance, so do the goods they produce and the services they render. This means the lowest order central places provide low range goods and services for very small catchment areas while the highest order central places supply goods and services of their receptive orders over an extensive catchment area.

This, a hierarchy of size, orders of centers, therefore emerged, and their surrounding areas net within each other in a regular way. This implies that the area of influence of lower order centres lies within those of large centres. And the higher order central places are fewer in number and more widely spaced than the lower order central places. Berry (1958) developed generalized factors that determine the distribution, spacing and the size of a complementary region, the result led to the inclusion of two concepts in Christaller’s original presentation which are the ‘threshold population’ and the ‘range of goods and services’.

Threshold population is the minimum number of people required to make the provision of a good and service minimally profitable, worthwhile and economical. Therefore, the threshold for a central good or service is the minimum market or effective demand to bring it into existence. If the population of the area rises beyond the threshold level, the service activity would flourish and reap profit and otherwise. This is, therefore, worth considering in the provision of basic rural infrastructure and facilities.

The range of goods and services is the average maximum distance that prospective consumers are willing to cover in order to consume particular goods or services. Distance, in this context, has been defined by Omuta and Onokerhoraye (1986) to mean economic distance. This implies physical distance converted into such units as costs of overcoming the friction of space, or cost of travel; time wasted, discomfort encountered among others. Thus, consumers will only patronize goods and services nearer to them.

The choice of the concept in the provision of rural facilities and infrastructure cannot be underestimated. It is considered a panacea to the location of community facilities. Locating community facilities at Ipara would not be a loss because the settlement, which are within a reasonable travel distance from each other. They are equally lined with the major route and have a population that is capable of sustaining the community facilities when provided. Mabogunje (1980), defined rural development as the improvement of the living standard of the people living in rural areas on self-sustaining basis through transforming socio-spatial structures of the productive activities, has also stressed that the concept of rural development must be distinguished from agricultural development which were regarded as being synonymous.

To this end, scholars have conceived rural development as a process towards improving the living standard of the rural poor and this does not centre solely on increasing per capita income, but embraces the provision of infrastructural facilities to promote the good quality of life. The goals of rural development as reiterated by Olujimi (2005) include:

- i. Need for an improved knowledge base: this implies having an understanding of the problems of rural people and their environment in order to enhance a well-formulated knowledge in regional planning and rural economics;
  - ii Presentation of ecological integrity: this ensures and guarantees continuous supply of life supporting resources and to avoid the impairment of rural areas;
  - iii. Functional allocation of land uses: this could be achieved through proper evaluation of the rural environment, analysis of associated problems to ensure maximum and functional utilization of rural resources.
  - iv. Aesthetically pleasing environment: the development of rural areas brings improved facilities leading to urbanization which engenders more problems. For the achievement of this goal then, their values must be carefully re-examined in the process of rural planning.
  - v Improved human welfare and comprehensiveness: rural planning must be comprehensive and thus should include the full range of physical, biological, ecological, economic and human factors.
- On this note, social facilities are one of the important tools to improve the rural welfare and enhance development in the rural communities.

### III. METHODOLOGY

The research used primary data. The primary source used includes questionnaire, personal observation and in depth interview. The questionnaire was based on socio-economic characteristics; facilities inventory, community involvement. Personal observation was used to examine the quality and quantity of the existing facilities in the area as well as the structure of the town and information on number of health centres. Cluster sampling method was adopted. In order, to avoid being biased in the selection of the respondents, the whole village was divided into six according to the road patterns of which (15) respondents were randomly selected from each cluster. Therefore, the total of ninety respondents was sampled. The data was analysed using descriptive analysis such as frequency counts and charts.

### IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Socio-characteristics

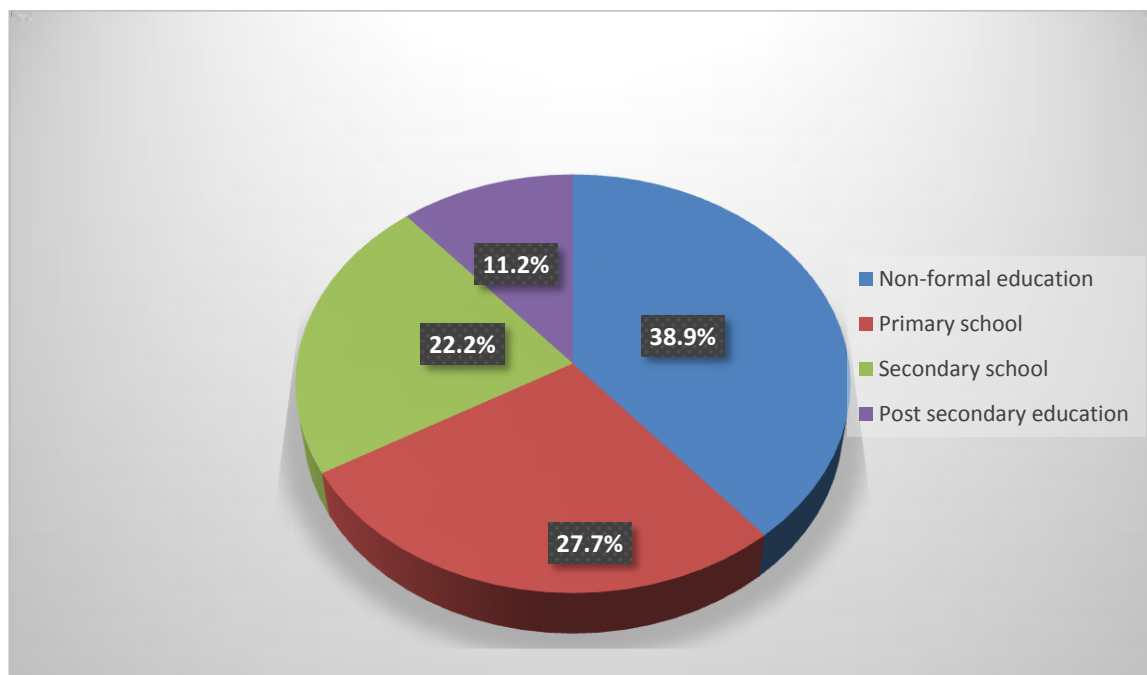
The sex composition of the area shows that the female respondents' accounts for 55.6% while the male respondents was 44.4 per cent (Table 1). This indicates that there are more females in the study area because it is a rural area. The majority of the male have moved to urban areas for greener pastures.

**Table 1: Sex of the respondents**

Sex	No of people	Percentage
Female	50	55.6
Male	40	44.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Author's Field survey, 2021.

The educational level of any person affects the standard of living, level of exposure and attitude. The majority of the respondents are illiterate with 38.9%. The respondents with primary school education account for 27.7%, those with secondary school education are 22.2% while only 11.2% are with post-secondary education (Figure 1). This indicates that community dwellers are stack illiterate which implies that they may not see the need for the improvement of their social life as well as their environment. Consequently, it would be difficult to identify themselves with community projects unless they are induced and awareness has been created in them through proper education and orientation.



**Figure 1: Educational background of respondents**  
**Source: Author’s Field survey, 2021.**

From the research, it could be deduced that the highest total number of the respondent’s of about 50% are engaged in farming activities such as planting of cash and food crops. This is followed by trading activities with 33.3 percent which include petty trading, hawking, among others. About 11.1% are civil servants, 5.6% are artisan (Table 2). This implies that farming is the major occupation of the respondents.

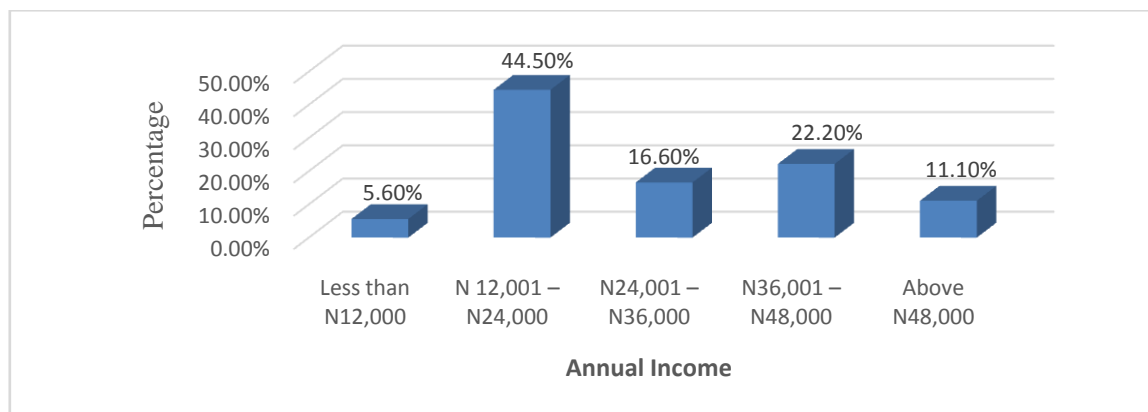
**Table 2: Occupational distribution of respondents**

Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage
Farming	45	50.0
Trading	30	33.3
Civil servant	10	11.1
Artisan	05	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Author’s Field survey, 2021.**

Generally, rural areas experience low income per head due to the nature of their job. This is not an exception in the study area. The income level depicts that 5.6% earned below N12,000 per month, 44.4 percent earned between N12,001 and N24,000, 16.6% earned between N24,001 and N36,000 per month while 22.2% earned between N36,001 and N48,000 per month and 11.1% earned above N48,000 per month. In a nutshell, majority of the people have low income per head (Figure 2).

This implies that it will be difficult for the residents to contribute to the provision of social facilities on their own owing to the low level of their income. Since their income is low as a result of their occupation, they would be backward in actualizing projects if not assisted by the government or other non-governmental bodies.



**Figure 2: Income level of respondents**  
**Source: Author’s Field survey, 2021.**

**4.2 Existing facilities in the Study Area**

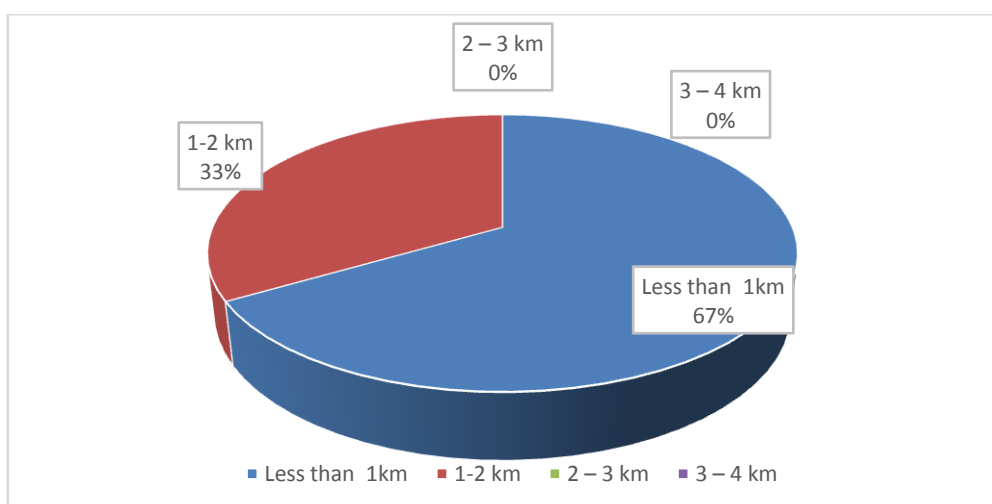
Transportation, as the transfer of people and goods from one place to another, is what makes possible the difference in land uses and economic activities. It is the dominant form of what some people call “spatial interaction”. The conditions of the main roads in the study area are very good. The road passing through to the centre of the community leading to Ita-Ale market is tarred but not in good condition presently thus, provided with drainage. But all other existing roads within the core area are un-tarred. No efforts, however, have been made by the community to rehabilitate the road. The result showed that there was only one health centre which was owned by the government, and there were no other forms of health facilities available (Table 3).

**Table 3: Existing health facilities**

Type	Available	Not available	Number	Percentage
Hospital		No	0	0
Health Centre	Yes		1	100.0
Clinic		No	0	0
Dispensaries		No	0	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2020.**

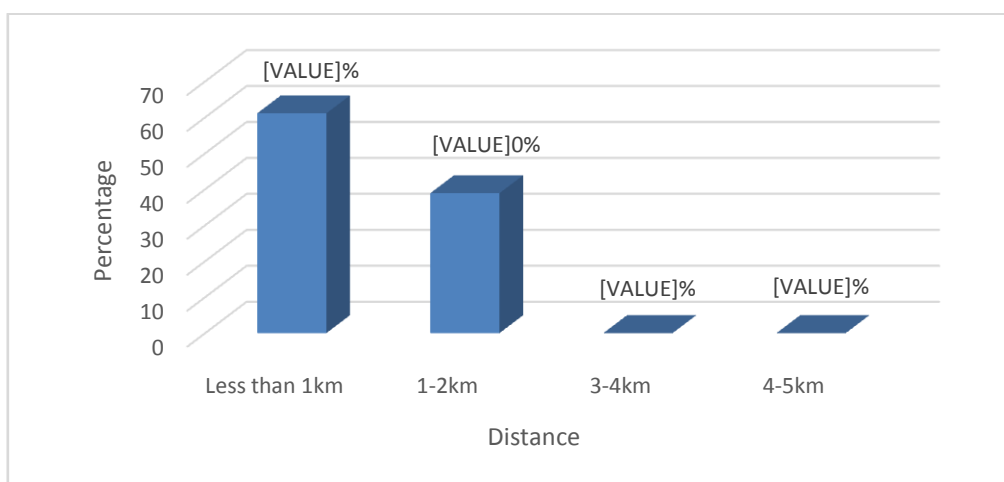
From the survey in Figure 3, it was noted that about 66.6% of the respondents live at a distance less than 1km while 33 per cent live between 1 to 2 kilometre. This implies that the location of the health centre was not very far from the location of the respondents’ houses.



**Figure 3: Distance of house to the nearest health centre**  
**Source: Author’s Field survey, 2021.**

Further, the respondents noted that the provision of the health centre in the area has created a positive effect on the health of the people. It has been discovered that people become healthy and recover from sickness after visiting the health centre. Moreover, its existence has helped to curb or reduce mortality rate. It also guaranteed a good healthy life for the people. More importantly, is the fact that the pregnant women seek for anti and postnatal care in the health centre. Apart from the stated benefits from the health centre, other problems identified by the respondents were, shortage of drugs occasionally, inadequate health furniture such as bed, lack of transport facility in case of emergency call, inconsistent electric supply and insufficient number of health personnel or nurses.

Education is the pivot on which emancipation and mental developments revolve. The survey (Table 4) showed that there was one (1) pre-primary school, two (2) primary schools and one (1) secondary school.



**Figure 4: Distance to nearest secondary school**  
Source: Author's Field survey, 2021.

Table 5 shows the effects of the educational facilities on the people of Ipara community. The respondents of 83.3% support that education has created positive effects on the people while 16.7 percent of the respondents do not see any positive effect on the people. Notwithstanding, the reasons provided by the respondents include reduction in the level of illiteracy and absence of employment for indigene graduate students. However, the settings of the area still remain as rural.

**Table 5: Effects of educational facility on respondents**

Effects	No of Respondents	Percentage
Positive (Yes)	75	83.3
Negative (No)	15	16.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's Field survey, 2021.

### 4.3 Market facility

The economic activities are a vital aspect of the life of settlement because it accounts for the standard of living of inhabitants. The survey reveals that there is an open stalks market which comes up every seven (7) days. This is the only periodic market in the community and is constructed through self-help effort of the people (Table 6). The name of the market is called Araromi market. There is also a daily night market called Ita-Ale market. The latter is preferred by the people more than the former. It is reported that the people, especially farmers and traders, prefer to patronize the neighbouring market. That is, Isara market while their owned local market has been abandoned. This hindered development in the area.

**Table 6: Types of market and operational period**

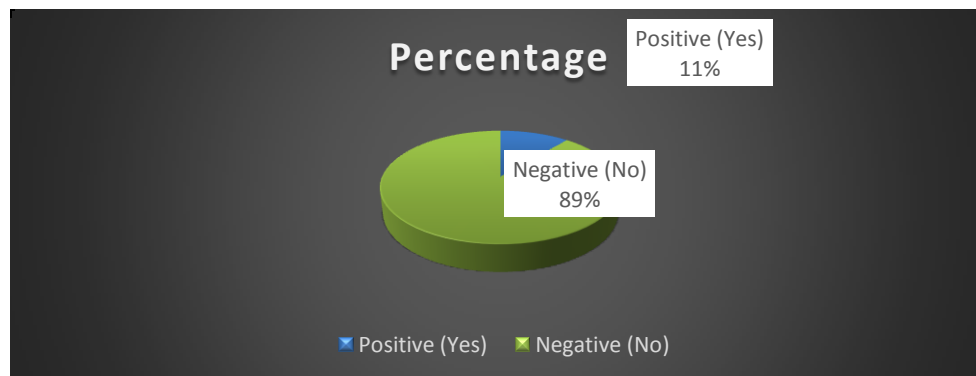
Types	Available	Not Available	Operational period daily interval	Number
Open stall	Yes	-	7 days	1
Lock-up shops	-	No		
Night market	Yes		Yes	1

Source: Author's Field survey, 2021.

Figure 5 shows that (88.9%) of the respondents believe that the market does not have an impact on the economy of the people. The respondents noted that the space allocated for the market is very small and that



people from other areas outside the community are not ready to come and trade because the people are not accommodating. Traders, who could have brought development to the market, were not welcomed. The remaining 11.1 per cent respondents agreed that the market has a positive impact. They noted that the people no longer go far to sell their products at other neighbouring markets.



**Figure 5: Effects of the market on the economy**  
Source: Author's Field Survey, 2021.

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The government has contributed a little in providing social facilities to improve the living conditions of the rural people in achieving the rural development goal in the area. However, the efforts are not adequate and there are no significant effects of the contribution on the living conditions of the people. The findings clearly indicate that the study area still lacks some basic social facilities and this hindered the achievement of rural development goals. Adequate provision of the social facilities would have facilitated the development in some of the communities in the area.

Social facilities should be planned and developed so that they would enhance the community's objectives. They should serve the residential, commercial and industrial activities within the community. They must not conflict with adjacent land uses but must stimulate other desirable land uses and improve the physical appearance of the community. The provision, planning and maintenance of these social facilities should be a collective responsibility of the State and Local government, non-governmental organizations as well as the people in the community. There should be a community facility development plan for the local government. The local government council which has the role of providing and maintaining the market should look beyond the economic gains and allow for comprehensive planning as well as adequate provision of facilities when it comes to market development. There is a need to improve the quality of the existing roads and to construct new ones to link areas where roads are not hitherto available. This could be undertaken through self-help or community development projects.

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