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**PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE CASE OF
TARABA STATE**



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UUM
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**A Thesis Submitted to the Ghazali Shafie Graduate School of Government
in fulfilment of the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy
Universiti Utara Malaysia**



Kolej Undang-Undang, Kerajaan dan Pengajian Antarabangsa
(College of Law, Government and International Studies)
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ABSTRACT

The last 16 years (1999-2015) has witnessed renewed hope about the revival of democracy in Nigeria. The successful return to democratically elected government was widely applauded and supported by the majority of citizens. This was due to the difficulties of many years under military rule, which lasted from December 1983 to 1999. Prior to that, the military had intervened shortly after the independence in 1960. The military captured power on 15th January 1966 and ruled Nigeria uninterrupted up to 1979. The successful return to democracy was accompanied by hopes and expectations by the majority of the citizen due to the fact that the country's development remains dismal, especially in the rural areas. This study, therefore, attempts to assess the democratic government and its impacts on rural development in Nigeria with Taraba State as a case study. The methodology adopted to achieve these objectives was mixed method, in which both the quantitative and qualitative data were obtained through survey questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussion respectively. Correlation coefficient and simple linear regression were used to analyze the quantitative data. While Nvivo qualitative software was used to analyze interviews and focus group discussion. It was found that democracy was considered the best form of government, but stunted due to the exhibited behaviours of the political leaders; who ran short of the ideal practices and values of a democratic system. Hence, democracy was not fully imbibed and therefore in deficit. Moreover, there is imbalanced political power and financial autonomy among the levels of government, especially the Local Government, which is much closer to rural people. The consequences of this resulted in poverty, inequality, deprivations, illiteracy and denial of basic infrastructural services to the rural folk, thereby pushing the people deeper and deeper into underdevelopment. It was recommended amongst other factors that leaders should imbibe the values of being patriotic and adhere to democratic ideals. Similarly, there is a need for an urgent amendment of some constitutional provisions that hamper the political and financial autonomy of the lower levels of government (State and Local government) for effective delivery of public service especially at the rural areas. These will go a long way to address the myriads of rural problems and general development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Democratic Government, Rural Development, Rural Communities, Taraba State.

ABSTRAK

Sepanjang 16 tahun yang terakhir (1999-2015) telah menyaksikan pembaharuan harapan berkenaan kebangkitan semula demokrasi di Nigeria. Kejayaan dalam mengembalikan kerajaan yang dipilih secara demokratik telah mendapat sokongan dan pujian secara meluas oleh majoriti rakyat. Ini disebabkan oleh kesukaran-kesukaran yang dialami di bawah pemerintahan tentera yang bertahan selama bertahun-tahun dari Disember 1983 hingga 1999. Sebelum itu, pihak tentera juga telah campur tangan sejourus selepas kemerdekaan pada 1960. Mereka merampas kuasa pada 15 Januari 1966 dan berterusan memerintah sehingga tahun 1979. Kejayaan dalam mengembalikan sistem demokrasi disertai oleh harapan dan jangkaan majoriti rakyat yang dibelenggu oleh hakikat bahawa pembangunan negara masih suram, terutamanya di kawasan luar bandar. Kajian ini dilakukan untuk menilai kerajaan demokratik dan kesannya terhadap pembangunan luar bandar di Nigeria yang mana negeri Taraba diambil sebagai kajian kes. Kaedah yang digunakan untuk mencapai objektif kajian adalah kaedah penyelidikan campuran, di mana kedua-dua data kuantitatif dan kualitatif diperolehi melalui soal selidik, temu bual dan perbincangan berkumpulan terfokus. Pekali korelasi dan regresi linear mudah telah digunakan untuk menganalisa data kuantitatif. Sementara itu perisian kualitatif NVivo digunakan untuk menganalisa temu bual dan perbincangan berkumpulan terfokus. Hasil kajian mendapati bahawa demokrasi merupakan bentuk kerangka kerajaan yang terbaik, namun tercemar disebabkan oleh tingkah laku yang dipamerkan oleh pemimpin-pemimpin politik; tersasar jauh daripada amalan ideal dan nilai-nilai sistem demokrasi. Oleh itu, sistem demokrasi tidak dipraktikkan sepenuhnya malah menzahirkan kecacatan. Selain itu, terdapat ketidakseimbangan kuasa politik dan autonomi kewangan di peringkat Kerajaan Tempatan, yang mana ia sangat dekat dengan penduduk luar bandar. Keadaan ini menyebabkan kemiskinan, ketidaksamaan, kekurangan keperluan asas, buta huruf dan penafian kemudahan infrastruktur asas kepada penduduk luar bandar, sekaligus menyebabkan masyarakat luar bandar semakin mundur dan terkebelakang. Adalah disyorkan di kalangan pemimpin untuk melengkapkan diri dengan faktor-faktor lain seperti nilai patriotik dan memenuhi idea demokrasi. Begitu juga, terdapat keperluan untuk pindaan segera beberapa peruntukan perlembagaan yang menghalang autonomi politik dan kewangan di peringkat yang lebih rendah dalam kerajaan (Kerajaan Negeri dan Tempatan) bagi meningkatkan keberkesanan penyampaian perkhidmatan awam terutamanya di kawasan luar bandar. Ini akan memberi impak yang lebih besar dalam menangani pelbagai masalah luar bandar dan pembangunan secara umum di Nigeria.

Kata kunci: Kerajaan Demokratik, Pembangunan Luar Bandar, Komuniti Luar Bandar, Negeri Taraba.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE.....	I
PERMISSION TO USE.....	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	III
ABSTRACT.....	IV
ABSTRAK.....	V
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	VI
LIST OF TABLES.....	XII
LIST OF FIGURES.....	XIV
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	XV
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	6
1.3 Research Questions	13
1.4 Objectives of the Study	13
1.5 Significance of the Study	14
1.6 Scope of the Study	16
1.7 Limitations of the Study	17
1.8 Research Location	19
1.8.1 Taraba and its Economy	21
1.8.2 Mineral Resources	22
1.9 Organization of Chapters	25
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Introduction	27
2.2. An Overview on Democracy and its Models	27
2.3 Conceptual Review of Local Democracy	34
2.4 Overview on the Concept of Development	36
2.5 Rural Development Paradigm	40
2.6 Democracy and Rural Development in Nigeria	49
2.7 Gap in Literature	52
2.8 Chapter Conclusion	65
CHAPTER THREE: THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWOK	
3.1 Introduction	66
3.1.1 Urban-biased Theory	66
3.1.1.1 Criticism of Urban-biased Theory	68
3.1.1.2 Relevance of the theory to the Study	70
3.1.2 Democratic Developmental State Theory	72
3.1.2.1 Criticism of Democratic Developmental State Theory	75
3.1.2.1 Relevance of the theory to the Study	76
3.1.3 Conceptual Framework	80
3.2 Chapter Conclusion	83
CHAPTER FOUR: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
4.1 Introduction	85
4.2 Research Design	85
4.3 Source and Methods of Data Collection	87

4.3.1 Primary Sources	87
4.3.1.1 Interview	87
4.3.1.2 Questionnaire	88
4.3.1.3 Focus Group Discussion	88
4.3.2 Secondary Sources	89
4.4 Questionnaire Variables, Measurement, Scaling and Coding	90
4.5 Reliability and Validity of Survey Instrument	91
4.5.1 Pilot Study Test for Perception and Attitudes toward Democracy	91
4.5.2 Pilot Study Test for Democracy and Implementation of Rural Programme	92
4.5.3 Pilot Study Test for Democratic Performance on Rural Development	92
4.5.4 Pilot Study Test for Nigerian Political Arrangements and Rural Development	92
4.5.5 Pilot Study Test for Rural Development	92
4.6 Qualitative Data Coding and Categorization of Generated Themes	92
4.7 Population of the Study	93
4.8 Sampling Size	94
4.9 Informants Interviewed and their Coding	96
4.10 Sampling Technique	97
4.11 Method of Data Analysis	98
4.12 Hypotheses Development	99
4.13 Chapter Conclusion	99
CHAPTER FIVE: NIGERIAN DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS OF GOVERNMENT AND REVIEW OF PAST POLICIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
5.1 Introduction	100
5.2 Structure of Government	100
5.2.1 Federal Government Structure, its Constitutional Jurisdiction and Powers	101
5.2.2 State Government Structure, its Constitutional Jurisdiction and Powers	103
5.2.3 Local Government Structure, its Constitutional Jurisdiction and Powers	105
5.3 Major Institutions and Agencies for Rural Development	108
5.3.1 Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	108
5.3.2 Taraba State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development	110
5.3.3 Local Government and Rural Development	114
5.4 Review of Past Programmes on Rural Development in Nigeria	115
5.4.1 National Policy on Integrated Rural Development	115
5.4.1.1 Policy Objectives	116
5.4.1.2 Policy Strategies	117
5.4.1.3 Major Priorities	118
5.4.2 Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructural Programme	118
5.4.3 The Agricultural Development Project	119
5.4.4 The Green Revolution Programme	123
5.4.5 The River Basin and Rural Development Programme	125
5.5 Chapter Conclusion	127

CHAPTER SIX: QUANTITATIVE DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

6.1 Introduction	129
6.2 Rate of Questionnaire Return	129
6.3 Descriptive Analysis of Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	130
6.4 Reliability Test of the Research Instrument	154
6.5 Analysis Summary of the Regression Result	156
6.5.1 Regression Summary of Perception and Attitudes towards Democracy and Rural Development	156
6.5.2 Regression Summary of Democratic Government Effective implementation of Rural Development Programmes	158
6.5.3 Regression Summary of Democratic Government Performance and Rural Development	160
6.5.4 Regression Summary of Nigerian Political Arrangement and Rural Development	162
6.6 Hypotheses Testing	164
6.6.1 Hypothesis 1	166
6.6.2 Hypothesis 2	166
6.6.3 Hypothesis 3	166
6.6.4 Hypothesis 4	167
6.7 Discussion of Findings for Quantitative Data	167
6.7.1 Findings 1	167
6.7.2 Findings 2	168
6.7.3 Findings 3	169
6.7.4 Findings 4	169
6.8 Chapter Conclusion	170

CHAPTER SEVEN: QUALITATIVE DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

7.1 Introduction	171
7.2 Theme One: Perception and Attitudes towards Democracy	171
7.2.1 Transparency and Accountability	173
7.2.1.1 Due Process	175
7.2.1.2 Mandate	177
7.2.1.3 Reporting	178
7.2.1.4 Consultations	179
7.2.2 Best form of Government	180
7.2.2.1 Right to Vote and be Voted for	181
7.2.2.2 Protection of Peoples' Interest and Right	182
7.2.2.3 Freedom of Association and Expression	184
7.2.3 Representative Government	185
7.2.3.1 Federal, State and LG Representatives	186
7.2.3.2 Community Representatives	188
7.3 Theme Two: Effective Implementation of Rural Development Programme	189
7.3.1 Effective Implementation of Programmes	190
7.3.1.1 Stakeholder Collaboration	191
7.3.1.2 Community Engagements	193
7.3.1.3 Funds Utilization	195

7.3.2 Level of Political Commitments to Implementation	196
7.3.2.1 Service Delivery and Dividends	197
7.3.2.2 Resource Mobilization	199
7.3.3 Implementation Problem	200
7.3.3.1 Lack of Political Will	201
7.3.3.2 Corruption	202
7.3.3.3 Poor Supervision and Monitoring	204
7.4 Theme Three: Democratic Performance and Rural Development	205
7.4.1 Agricultural Development	206
7.4.1.1 Farm Implements and Machineries	207
7.4.1.2 Agro-Chemicals and Fertilizer	208
7.4.1.3 Extension Services	210
7.4.2 Rural Health Medical Facilities	211
7.4.2.1 Medical Personnel	212
7.4.2.2 Medical Equipments	213
7.4.3 Rural Infrastructural Facilities	214
7.4.3.1 Rural Roads	215
7.4.3.2 Rural Electrification Projects	216
7.4.3.3 Water Supply	218
7.4.4 Rural Human Empowerments and job Creation	219
7.4.4.1 Employment Opportunities	221
7.4.4.2 Poverty Reduction	222
7.4.4.3 Income Generation and Wealth	223
7.4.5 Rural Access to Education	225
7.4.5.1 Educational Facilities and Equipments	226
7.4.5.2 Literacy	227
7.4.5.3 Qualified Teachers	229
7.5 Theme Four: Nigerian Political Arrangement and Rural Development	230
7.5.1 Effective Synergy and Cooperation among Levels of Government	232
7.5.1.1 Multi-agency Collaborations	233
7.5.1.2 Implementation Process	234
7.5.2 Free and Fair Electoral Authorization among Levels of Government	235
7.5.2.1 Free and Fair Electoral Contest	236
7.5.2.2 Unified Periodic Elections	238
7.5.3 Independency and Autonomy of Sub-tiers of Government	240
7.5.3.1 Subvention and Allocations	241
7.5.3.2 Power and Resources to Execute Projects	242
7.6 Discussion of Findings for Qualitative Data	244
7.6.1 RQ1: Perception and Attitudes toward Democracy	245
7.6.1.1 Transparency and Accountability	245
7.6.1.2 Best form of Government	247
7.2.1.2 Representative Government	248
7.6.2 RQ2: Effective Implementation of Rural Development Programme	248
7.6.2.1 Effective Implementation of Programmes	248
7.3.1.1 Level of Political Commitments to Implementation	249
7.3.1.2 Implementation Problem	250
7.6.3 RQ3: Democratic Performance and Rural Development	250

7.6.3.1 Agricultural Development	250
7.6.3.2 Rural Health Medical Facilities	250
7.6.3.3 Rural Infrastructural Facilities	251
7.6.3.4 Rural Human Empowerments and job Creation	252
7.6.3.5 Rural Access to Education	252
7.5.4 RQ4: Nigerian Political Arrangement and Rural Development	252
7.6.4.1 Effective Synergy and Cooperation among Levels of Government	253
7.6.4.2 Free and Fair Electoral Authorization among Levels of Government	253
7.6.4.3 Independency and Autonomy of Sub-tiers of Government	254
7.7 Chapter Conclusion	254
CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS	
8.1 Introduction	255
8.2 Research Implication and Contributions	255
8.2.1 Theoretical Contributions	255
8.2.2 Practical Contributions	257
8.3 Conclusion	257
8.4 Recommendations	258
8.5 Suggestions for Further Studies	265
BIBLIOGRAPHY	267
APPENDIX I: Questionnaire Survey	291
APPENDIX II: Interview Guide	298
APPENDIX III: Krejcie and Morgan's Sample Size Determination Table	300
APPENDIX IV: Interview Pictures	301
APPENDIX V: Pictures for Focus Group Discussions	305
APPENDIX VI: Rural Pictures in Taraba State Nigeria	306

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1: GDP Growth rate in Nigeria and Taraba State @ 2012	8
Table 1.2: Statutory Allocations in Nigeria and Taraba State 1999-2007	8
Table 1.3: Nigerian Poverty Rate and Taraba State 2013-2014	9
Table 1.4: Mineral Deposits and their Locations in Taraba State	22
Table 4.1: Population of the Selected Local Governments	94
Table 4.2: Respondents Sample and Method of Data Collection	96
Table 4.3 Informants Sample and Coding	97
Table 6.1: Rate of Questionnaire Response	130
Table 6.2 Respondents Gender	130
Table 6.3 Respondents Age	131
Table 6.4 Respondents Marital Status	131
Table 6.5 Respondents Educational Qualification	132
Table 6.6 Respondents Occupation	132
Table 6.7: Democracy is the best form of government	133
Table 6.8: Democracy allows my right to be protected	134
Table 6.9: Democracy tells me what my rights are	134
Table 6.10: Democracy is the bridge between the rural people and the government	135
Table 6.11: Whether there is a high correlation between democracy and the rural people	135
Table 6.12: Whether the Political Office Holders Benefit More from democracy in Nigeria	136
Table 6.13: Whether democracy enhances development	137
Table 6.14: Level of satisfaction with the democratic role in bringing Development to local communities	137
Table 6.15: Whether Democracy encourages formation of community organisations	138
Table 6.16: Whether people influence policies towards development of their areas	138
Table 6.17: Whether political office holders are committed to implementing rural development programme	139
Table 6.18: Whether rural development programmes are effectively implemented under democracy	140
Table 6.19: Whether rural communities are carried along in implementing rural development programmes	141
Table 6.20: Whether the rural development programmes has impacted on the lives of the rural people	142
Table 6.21: Whether democracy has set standard criteria for effective implementation of rural development programmes	142
Table 6.22: Opinion on whether rural development programmes are laudable but marred with implementation problem	143
Table 6.23: Whether democracy ensures effective coordination of Implementing rural development programmes among all levels of government	144
Table 6.24: Whether there is public confidence in the effectiveness of Democratic Government and its political leadership towards rural development	144
Table 6.25: Democracy has provided rural infrastructural development	145

Table 6.26: Whether democracy has provided rural health medical facilities	146
Table 6.27: Whether democratic government has provided rural human empowerment and job creation	147
Table 6.28: Whether democratic government provide access to efficient education	147
Table 6.29: Democratic government improves agricultural development	148
Table 6.30: Whether democracy improves the general wellbeing of the rural populace	148
Table 6.31: Level of Peoples' confidence on the ability of democratic government to solve the problems confronting rural communities and their ability to influence it	149
Table 6.32: Whether the Nigerian political arrangement negatively affects rural development	150
Table 6.33: Whether the sub-central tiers of government are independent from the centre	150
Table 6.34: Whether the sub-central tiers of government has power and resources to carry out rural development	151
Table 6.35: Whether there is effective cooperation of government at the most level with rural communities in the formation and implementation of policy of rural dev	152
Table 6.36: Whether all levels of government are subjected to free and fair electoral authorization, criteria of openness, accountability and responsiveness in their operations	152
Table 6.37: Whether State/LG joint account has significantly improves rural development	153
Table 6.38: Analysis Summary item by item reliability test	155
Table 6.39: Model Summary ^b for PATD and RD	156
Table 6.40: ANOVA ^a PATD and RD	157
Table 6.41: Coefficients ^a PATD and RD	157
Table 6.42: Model Summary ^b of DIRD and RD	158
Table 6.43: Anova of DIRD and RD	159
Table 6.44: Coefficients ^a ON DIRD and RD	159
Table 6.45 Model Summary ^b of DPRD and RD	160
Table 6.46 Anova of DPRD and RD	161
Table 6.47 Coefficients ^a ON DPRD and RD	161
Table 6.48: Model Summary ^b NPRD and RD	162
Table 6.49: ANOVA ^a NPRD and RD	163
Table 6.50: Coefficients ^a of NPRD and RD	163
Table 6.51: General Summary of Coefficients ^a for NPRD, DIRD and NPRD	165

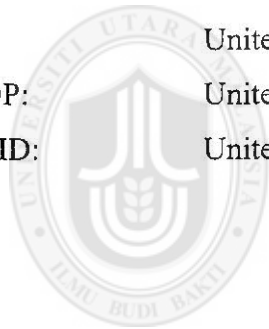
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Taraba State Showing the 16 LGAs	23
Figure 1.2: Taraba State Showing the Three Senatorial District	24
Figure 1.3: Nigeria Showing the 36 States of the Federation & FCT	25
Figure 3.1: The Conceptual Framework	80
Figure 7.1: Model for perception and attitudes towards democracy with its sub – themes	173
Figure 7.2: Model for Transparency and Accountability in Democratic Government	175
Figure 7.3: Model for Democracy as the Best Form of Government	181
Figure 7.4: Model for Democracy as the Representative Government	186
Figure 7.5: Model for Implementation of Rural Development Programmes and its Sub-themes.	190
Figure 7.6: Model for effective implementation of Programmes	191
Figure 7.7: Model of Political Commitments to implementation of Rural Development	197
Figure 7.8: Model for implementation problems of rural development	201
Figure 7.9: Model for Democratic performance on rural development with its themes	206
Figure 7.10: Model for agricultural development	207
Figure 7.11: Model for rural health medical facilities	211
Figure 7.12: Model for rural infrastructural facilities	215
Figure 7.13: Model for rural human empowerments and job creations	221
Figure 7.14: Model for rural access to education	226
Figure 7.15: Model for Nigerian political arrangements and rural development with its sub-themes.	232
Figure 7.16: Model for effective synergy and co-operations among all levels of government	233
Figure 7.17: Model for free and fair electoral authorization among all levels of government	236
Figure 7.18: Model for independency and autonomy of sub-central tiers of government	241

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABD:	Africa Development Bank
ADP:	Agricultural Development Projects
CBN:	Central Bank of Nigeria
CDI:	Community Development Initiatives
CDPA:	Community-Driven Participatory Approach
DFRRI:	Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructures
DIRD:	Democracy and Effective Implementation of Rural Development
EFCC:	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
FDRD:	Federal Department of Rural Development
FG:	Federal Government
FGN:	Federal Government of Nigeria
FMARD:	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FRN:	Federal Republic of Nigeria
GDP:	Growth Domestic Product
GRP:	Green Revolution Programme
ICPC:	Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission
IFAD:	International Food and Agricultural Development
INEC:	National Electoral Commission
LEEDS:	Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
LG:	Local Government
LGA:	Local Government Area
LGC:	Local Government Council
MDAs:	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
NAPEP:	National Poverty Eradication Programme
NBS:	National Bureau of Statistics
NEEDS:	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPRD:	Nigerian Political Arrangement and Rural Development

PATD:	Perceptions and Attitude Toward Democracy
PHC:	Primary Health Care
RCBO:	Rural Community Based organizations
RD:	Rural Development
REA:	Rural Electrification Agency
SEEDS:	State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
SIEC:	State Independent Electoral Commission
SURE-P:	Subsidy for Re-Investment Programme
TSMWRD:	Taraba State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development
TSRWSESA:	Taraba State Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Agency
TSWB:	Taraba State Water Board
UBE:	Universal Basic Education
UN:	United Nations
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
USAID:	United State Agency for International Development



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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Democracy as system of government has gained international acceptance across the continents of the world, irrespective of the political or economic ideology. Its basic principle are perceived as that which represents people's interest. Omotoso (2013) asserts that democracy is adjudged the best form of government all over the world. This is because of its positive attributes and the perception of citizens' regarding the benefits of a democratic system, which includes participation in governance, transparency and accountability.

According to Igwe (2010) democracy is accepted globally as a refined system of government which places much premium on human personality and rule of law. Because of the role it plays in development and modernization scholars and public commentators' call for its enthronement as the best governance option to move a society forward. It is in this light that every responsible government, most notably the democratically enthroned ones, should be responsive to meeting the yearnings and aspirations of their citizens. This has been corroborated by Ogbudinkpa (1980) when he stated that government at all levels the world over, is the guardian of life and property of the people. Therefore, it must do all that lay within its powers to serve their interest regardless of the area in which people as citizens live.

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APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

GAZALI SHAFIE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

Dear Respondent,

I am a PhD (Public Administration) student of Ghazali Shafie Graduate School of Government, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) conducting a research survey on Democratic Government and Rural Development in Nigeria: A Study of Taraba State. You are hereby kindly solicited to give your objective opinion on the subject matter.

You are assured that, your response will be treated with utmost confidentiality, as the exercise is strictly for academic purposes.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this survey study.

PhD Candidate

Madu Abdulrazak Yuguda,

Main Supervisor

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rohana Yusof

Co-Supervisor

Dr Suyatno

Section A: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents. Please Tick (√) where applicable

1. Gender:

1. Male () 2. Female ()

2. Age:

1. 15-30 () 2. 31-45 () 3. 46-60 () 4. 61 & above ()

3. Marital Status:

1. Married () 2. Single () 3. Others ()

4. Educational Qualification:

1. FSCL () 2. SSCE/HSC () 3. OND/NCE () 4. BSc/HND ()
5. PGS ()

5. Occupation:

1. Farmer () 2. Public Servant () 3. Private Business ()
4. Community Leader () 5. Others ()

Section B: Structured Questions

The questions below are intended to explore democratic government and rural development in Nigeria. For each question, a scale has been provided with 5 (Strongly Agree) as the highest and 1 (Strongly Disagree) as the lowest. The value of the scale 1-5 is indicated below:

Strongly Disagree (SD)	Disagree (D)	Neutral (N)	Agree (A)	Strongly Agree (SA)
1	2	3	4	5

1. Perception and Attitudes Towards Democracy

PATD	Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
PATD 1	Democracy is the best form of government	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 2	Democracy allows my right to be protected	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 3	Democracy tells me what my rights are	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 4	Democracy is the bridge between the rural people and the government	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 5	There is correlation between democracy and the rural people	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 6	People have benefited most from democracy in Taraba state	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 7	Democracy enhances development	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 8	I am satisfied with the democratic role in bringing development to my local community	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 9	Democracy encourages formation of community organizations	1	2	3	4	5
PATD 10	Democracy allows people to influence government policies towards development of their areas.	1	2	3	4	5

2. Democratic government and effective implementation of rural development programmes

DIRD	Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
DIRD 1	Political office holders are committed to implementing rural development programmes	1	2	3	4	5
DIRD 2	Rural development programmes are effectively implemented under democratic government	1	2	3	4	5
DIRD 3	Rural communities are carried along in implementing rural development programmes	1	2	3	4	5
DIRD 4	The rural development programmes has impacted on the lives of the rural people	1	2	3	4	5
DIRD 5	Democracy set standard criteria/strategy for effective implementation of rural development programmes	1	2	3	4	5
DIRD 6	Rural development programmes are laudable but marred with implementation problems	1	2	3	4	5
DIRD 7	Democracy ensures effective coordination of implementing Rural development programmes among all levels of government	1	2	3	4	5

DIRD 8	There is public confidence in the effectiveness of democratic government and its political leadership towards rural development	1	2	3	4	5
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3. Democratic government performance to achieving rural development

DPRD	Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
DPRD 1	Democracy has provided rural infrastructural development	1	2	3	4	5
DPRD 2	Democracy has provided rural health medical facilities	1	2	3	4	5
DPRD 3	Democratic government provides rural human empowerments and job creation	1	2	3	4	5
DPRD 4	Democratic government provides access to efficient education	1	2	3	4	5
DPRD 5	Democratic government improves agricultural development	1	2	3	4	5
DPRD 6	Democracy improves the general wellbeing of the rural populace	1	2	3	4	5
DPRD 7	People have confidence on the ability of democratic government to solve the main problems confronting rural communities and in their ability to influence it	1	2	3	4	5

4. Nigerian political arrangements and rural development

NPRD	Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
NPRD 1	Nigerian political arrangement negatively affects rural development	1	2	3	4	5
NPRD 2	The sub-central tiers of government (state/LG) are independent from the centre (federal)	1	2	3	4	5
NPRD 3	The sub-central tier of government has power and resources to carry out rural development	1	2	3	4	5
NPRD 4	There is effective and extensive cooperation and coordination of government at the most level with rural communities in the formation and implementation of policy and service provision to rural areas	1	2	3	4	5
NPRD 5	All levels of government are subjected to free and fair electoral authorization, criteria of openness, accountability and responsiveness in their operations	1	2	3	4	5
NPRD 6	State/ Local government joint account improves significantly on rural development	1	2	3	4	5

5. Rural development

RD	Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA
RD 1	Adequate rural infrastructural development	1	2	3	4	5
RD 2	Effective rural health medical facilities	1	2	3	4	5
RD 3	Provision rural human empowerments and job creation	1	2	3	4	5
RD 4	Provision access to efficient education	1	2	3	4	5
RD 5	Agricultural development	1	2	3	4	5
RD 6	Improving the general wellbeing of rural populace	1	2	3	4	5
RD 7	Participation of rural people in decisions and policy	1	2	3	4	5

Thank you for accepting to participate in this study

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. What is your general perception about democracy?
2. Do you regard democracy as the best form of government?
3. What kind of benefits do you think democracy bring to rural communities in Taraba state within the last 16 years?
4. Do you believe that there is correlation between democracy and rural development?
5. Who do you think benefited most from democracy among political office holders and the rural people and how?
6. What are views as regards saying that, democracy enhances development?
7. How satisfied are you with the democratic role in bringing development to your community?
8. Do you believe that, rural people influence government policies towards development of their areas?
9. How can you assess the level of commitments of political office holders in implementing rural development programmes?
10. Does government effectively implement rural development programmes?
11. Do you think rural people are carried along in implementing rural development programmes?
12. What are your views on the sayings that, the rural development programmes are laudable, but are marred with implementation problems? If yes what would you suggest as the best strategy to ensure effective implementation?
13. What is your level of confidence on democratic government towards rural development?

14. How can you assess the provision of rural infrastructures in your locality under democracy?
15. Do your community been provided with adequate and functional health facilities?
16. What can you say about democratic government providing rural human empowerment and job creation?
17. What is your assessment on rural access to education?
18. Taraba State is one of the most agrarian states in Nigeria. Do government supports and improves agricultural development in your area?
19. Do you thing the current political arrangements of Federal, State and Local affects grassroots development/rural development?
20. Do you feel that, there is effective cooperation and coordination at all levels of government towards formation and implementations of policies and service provision to rural areas?
21. Do you believe that sub-central tiers (State/LG) government has power and resources to carry out rural developments?
22. In your opinion, what are the best possible ways that can strengthen democratic government toward achieving effective rural development?

Thank you for your participation in this study.

APENDIX III: SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION USING KREJCIE AND MORGAN TABLE

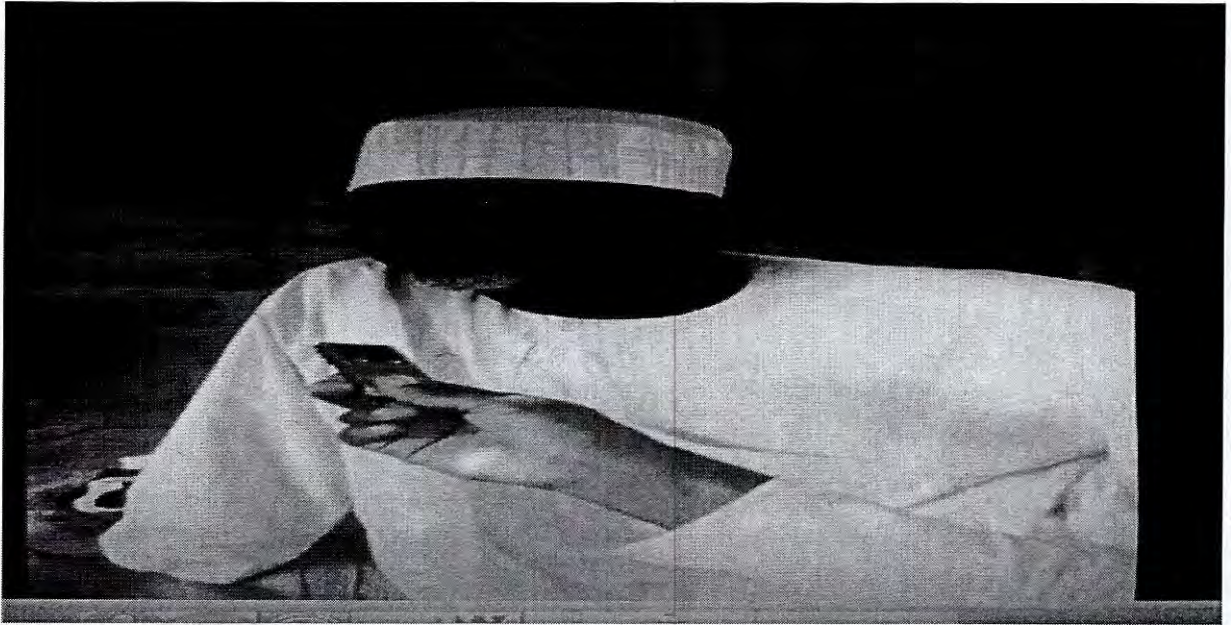
<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3200	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	384

Note.—*N* is population size. *S* is sample size.

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970

APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW PICTURES

An interview with on of the Rural Community Based Organizations



An interview with one of the Village Heads



An interview with one of the Councilors



An interview with one of the Village Heads



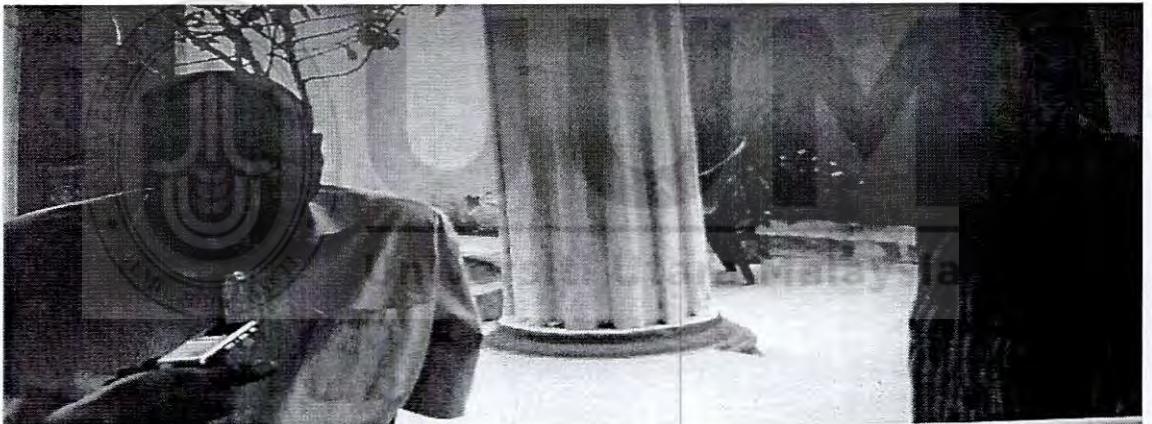
An interview with one of the Local Politicians



An interview with one of the rural community based organizations



An interview with one of the local Councillors



An interview with one of the member of academics



An interview with one of the member of academics

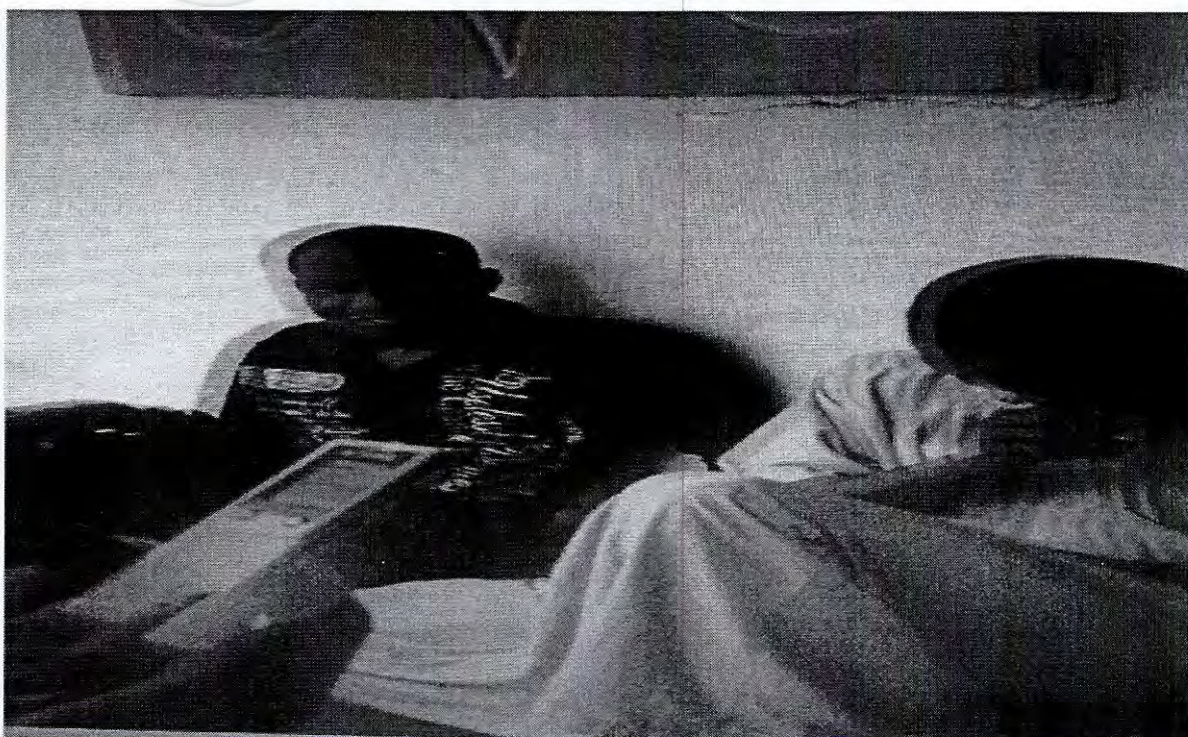


APPENDIX V: PICTURES FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

One of the sessions of focus group discussions at Karim- Lamido



Another session of focus group discussion at Mutum Biyu Village

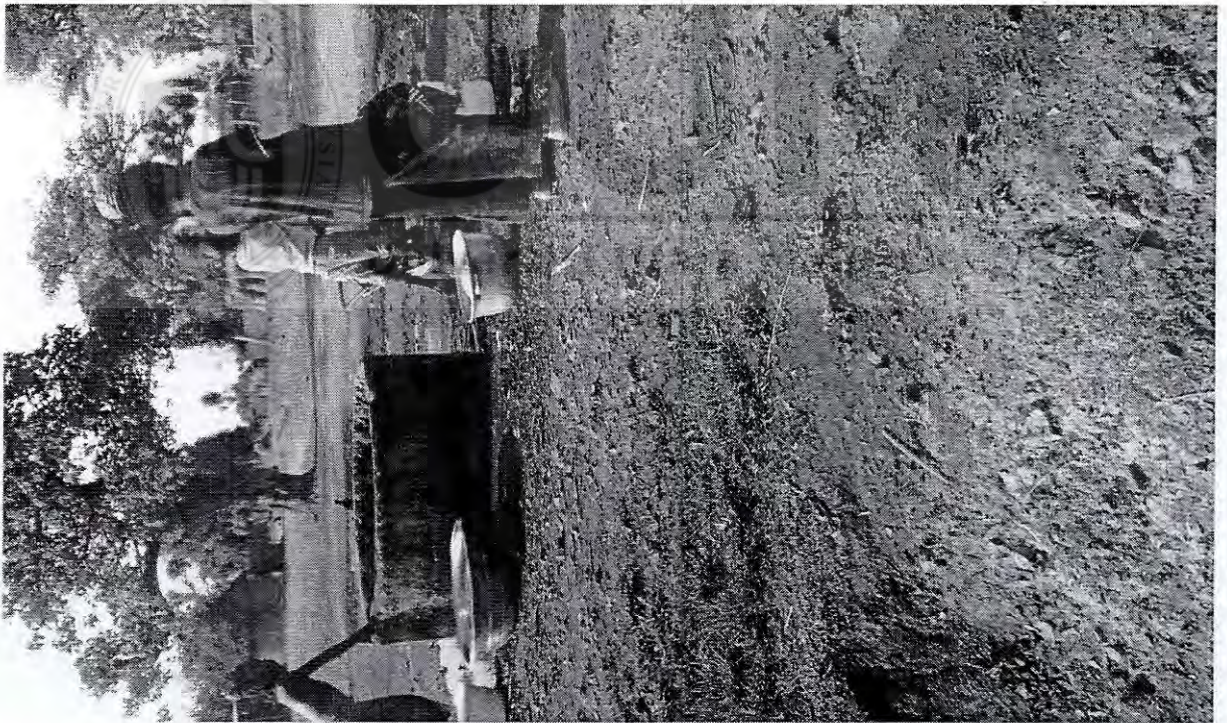


APPENDIX VI: RURAL PICTURES IN TARABA STATE NIGERIA

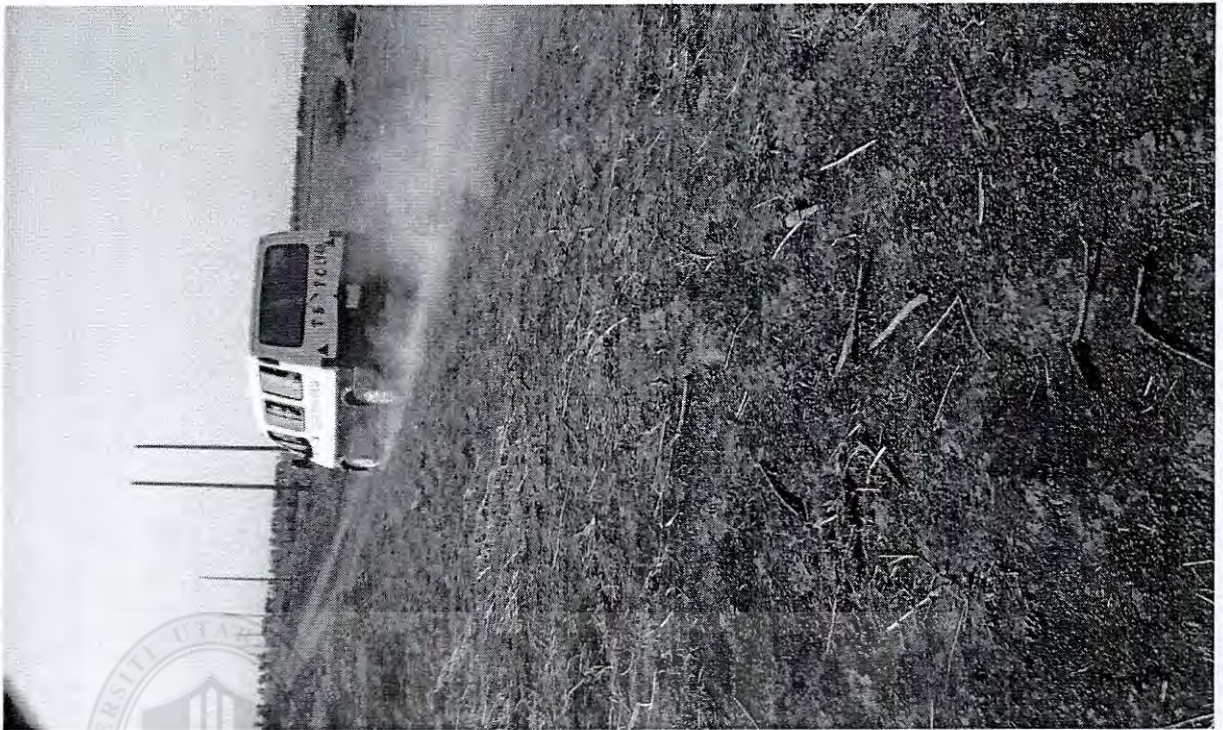
Picture showing rural commercial water vendors



Picture showing village source of water through a well



Picture showing rural road: A road connecting Karim-Lamido LGA with Lau LGA of Taraba State



Picture showing village source of water through a stream



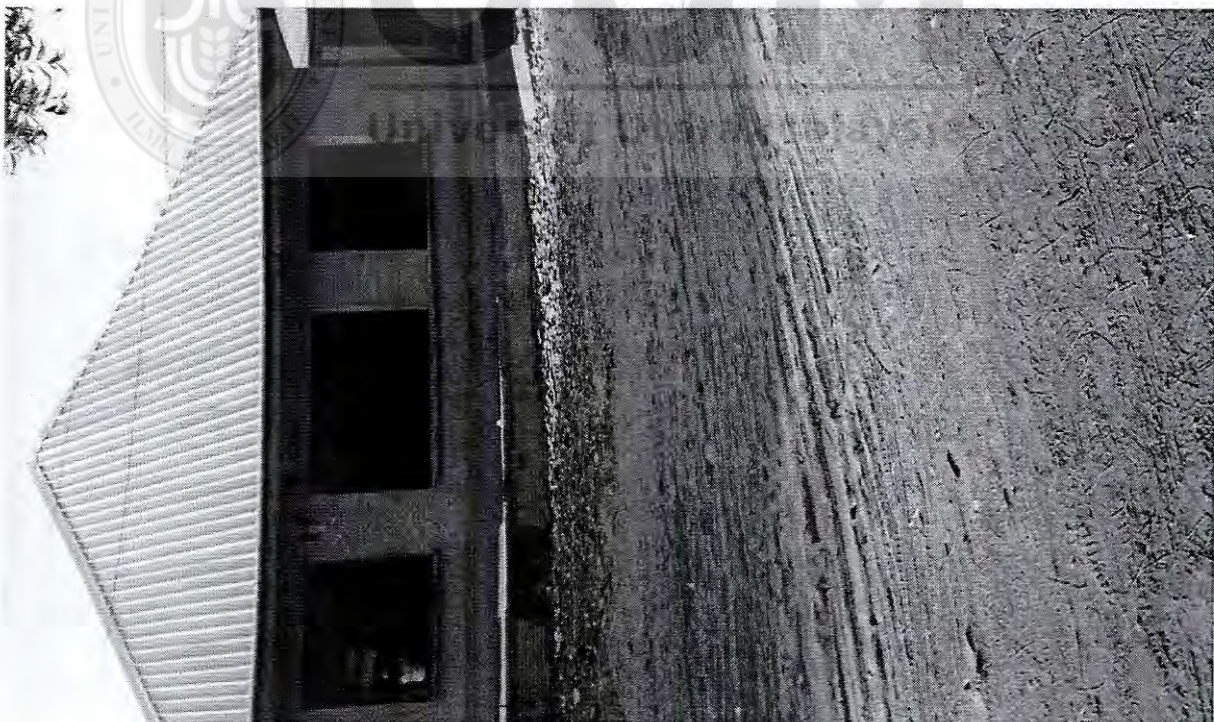
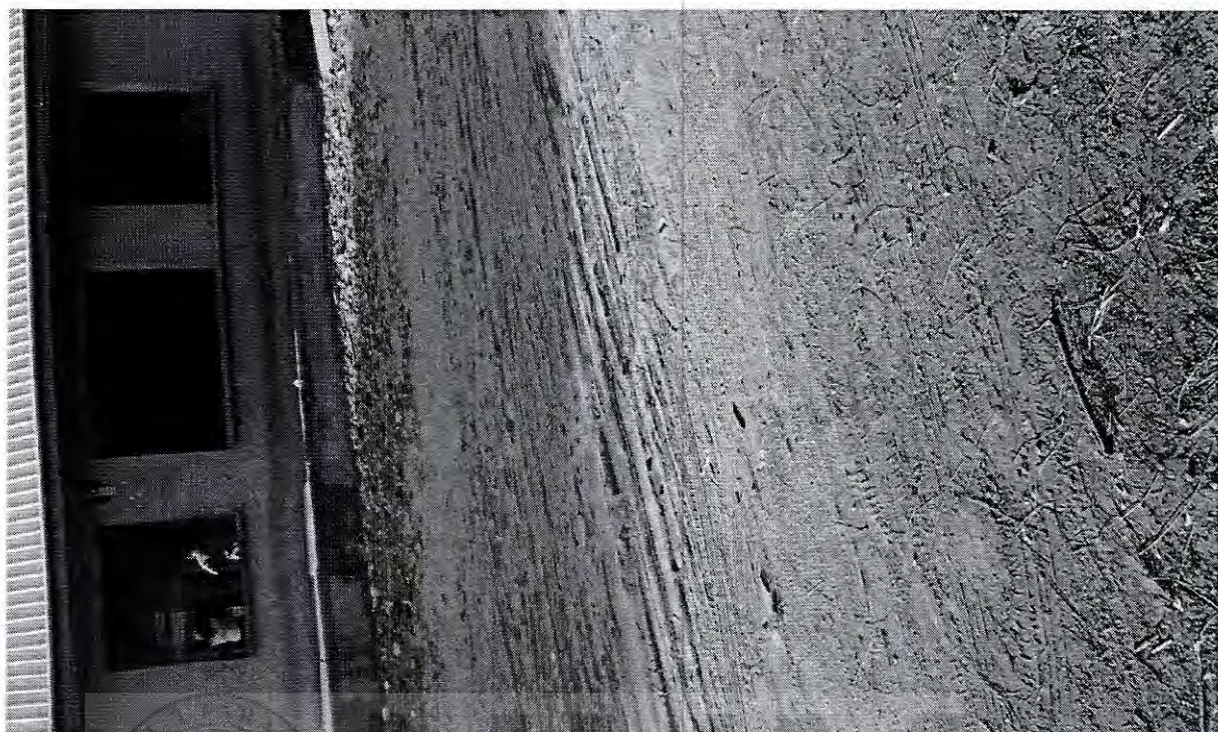
Picture showing a village primary school



Rural road



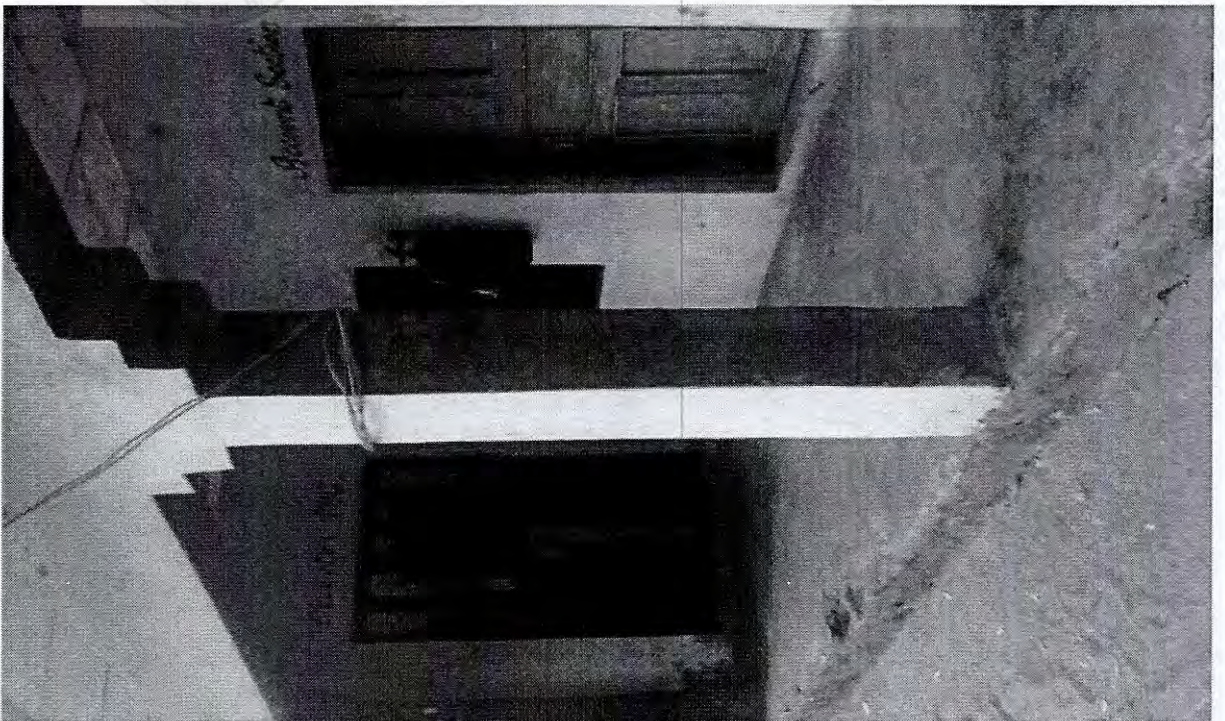
A vialge health clinic constructed by MDGs



A village market



A village clinic



UUM
Universiti Utara Malaysia

A typical village setting



Source of water in a village through a stream



A village woman washing her cloths with a source of water through a stream

