

Meet the right NEEDS



... the right WAY

COMMUNITY Needs Assessment PROPOSAL

from

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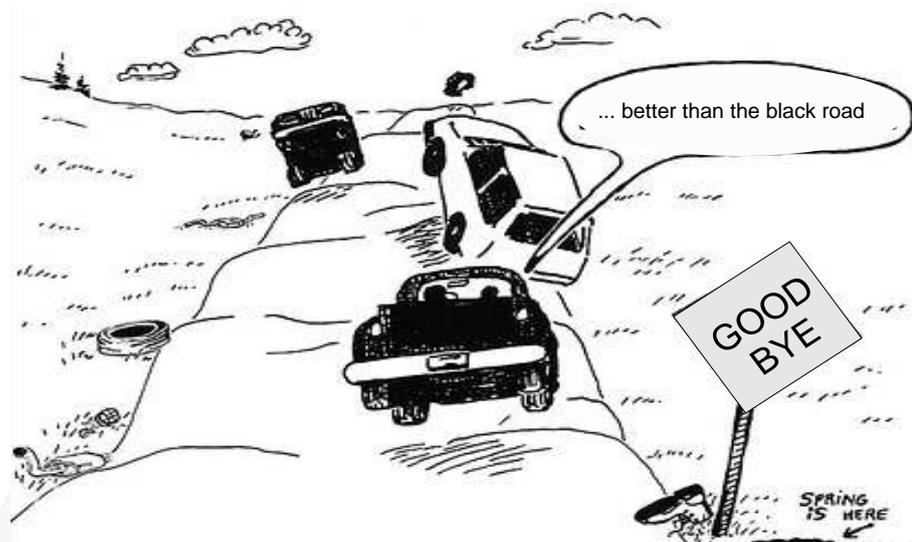
research • assessment • evaluation

The Road along the Village Path

In a discussion on policy formulation and implementation, a public policy analyst once gave the analogy of “the road along the village path”. The story is a short but a thought provoking one.

“There exists a village where just side by side its major path, which served foot and vehicular travelers, a double lane asphalt road ran from the village connecting it with other villages and indeed the city. The road looks just as new as when the government tractors and mobile asphalt plants left site satisfied by their work. Never has the road been used. Why?

The inhabitants of the village hold a stern belief that these wide bush paths covered with black dust was bad omen. The general acceptance was that the asphalt was the same black thing on the roads in the city and was responsible for deaths due to road accidents. So they created another path just along the road to escape the evil that asphalt laid roads portend and would rather drive on a bumpy path”.



Scenarios such as this is common in Nigeria where billions of Naira is sunk annually into community development projects by both public and private sector institutions without them (the projects) getting to fulfill their set purposes. No reason can be closer to precision than the refusal to employ the services of assessment and evaluation professionals before, during and after projects are initiated.

In the story above, an assessment report would have recommended a pre and post execution community education program on road safety rules to prevent accidents and the bigger gains of asphalt roads such as time saved and convenience.

International Corporate Research has therefore developed a Community Needs Assessment Model to help governments and corporations at all levels ‘meet the right needs the right way’.



ICR COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community Needs Assessment as a cadre of the general assessment practice assesses communities with a view to finding out their needs and the most appropriate form to meet those needs that would ensure real impact. International Corporate Research assesses communities either to help come up with a desired project for execution or the right format to execute a pre-stipulated project.

Community Needs Assessment incorporates the general principles of assessment but with a more flexible approach due to the differences in human taste, environment, culture, strengths and beliefs. It is less scientific and more instructive in that it has life and therefore shapes the desired results rather than the results shaping assessment procedure.

HOW WE APPROACH COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Our approach to community assessment takes a holistic form based on our deep understanding of community make up and segmentation in Nigeria. Assessment tests are administered, observations are made, interviews conducted and a lot more painstaking approaches are adopted in ensuring that when we come up with a decision it can be depended upon and less likely to go the way many projects have gone.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT WILL DO FOR YOU

You are rest assured in your decisions knowing they are knowledge based and can be depended upon.

Less likelihood of under-performing projects or outright non-operational projects.

You reduce likely waste that comes with speculative decisions.

A more appreciative community knowing the right needs have been rightly met.



CASE STUDY

CVL/DFID COMMUNITY BOREHOLE AJEGUNLE

OVERVIEW

In April 2009, the Centre for Values in Leadership a non-governmental organization based in Lagos was appointed to execute a community development project on behalf of the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The project detail was to sink a water borehole to provide a source of clean, portable water for a section of the Ajegunle community in Lagos.

THE MANDATE

The Centre for Values in Leadership then brought us in to join a team of assessors to assess the community (Ajegunle) with a mandate to;

- Identify a most suitable location where the borehole will be sited.
- The site must be assessable to a good number of the community.
- The state similar projects that existed in the community was.
- Get community opinion on such projects both the intended project and existing ones.
- Raise ten youth from the community who can be a voice for development.
- Determine the most appropriate way to maintain the borehole in relation to existing ones

WHAT WE DID

With the desired outcome in mind and clearly in focus, ICR assessors developed a strategy for approaching the community and achieving our aim.

As a foundation we visited and met with the traditional ruler of the community to make our intention known and seek his advice

We also met with the chairman of the local government area (Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government)

A community youth leader and president of the Nigerian Youth Assembly was also engaged in the process of meeting with other cardinal members of the community.

CONTINUED



CASE STUDY

CVL/DFID COMMUNITY BOREHOLE AJEGUNLE

CONTINUED

WHAT WE FOUND OUT

In our series of discussions with local government officials especially the director of works at the local government, we discovered that there are certain areas of the local government that had saline ground and so any attempt to sink a borehole would only produce salty water.

There were existing stipulations on what the environment where borehole projects can be sited should be like.

We also found out that the site for community borehole projects such as the one we were planning on executing were donated by community members (usually the set back of there house). So we had to seek the commitment of the landlord association in trying to get someone to offer his setback for the project.

WHAT WE ARRIVED AT

After concluding the detailed assessment process and gotten a suitable site for the borehole, we organized a village square meeting where members of the community ranging from youths, market women, artisans and the traditional ruler of the community who were in attendance bared their minds on how similar projects in the community fared badly due to a lack of adequate consultation with the community members.

They were very elated that we considered it of critical relevance to seek their opinion before going ahead to execute the project. It was at this meeting that they also gave various advices on how best to ensure that the project lasted for years after it is launched citing examples of even bigger projects that lasted only a few weeks after launch.

It was also a forum to educate the community members on ways to ensure the sustenance of the project, why we had selected Ajegunle and how to channel complaints to the appropriate authority.

In the end with our report from a well executed assessment of the community, the project commenced and was inaugurated in July 2009.



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 - Africa's endangered kings of capitalism
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Contact International Corporate Research for enquiries

icr@stakescapital.com
008054061133, 01-2128084

Sanyaolu Kehinde
Chief Research Analyst
4 Olufeko close off Femi Adebule Street, Fola Agoro
Shomolu, Lagos, Nigeria.
P.O.Box 9170 Shomolu Lagos

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