



The Application of Weyarn's (Germany) Rural Development Approach to Isuikwuato (Nigeria): An Appraisal of the Possibilities And Limitations

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

Despite its large population and silent contributions to national development, Nigeria's rural inhabitants remain significantly cut off from the basic amenities of decent living. Although the rural areas produce the bulk of the food that feed Nigerian cities, they still remain the most ignored and neglected parts of the country. Their failure to provide for their secure livelihoods, as a result of lack of access to land, is considered to be the major factor contributing to rural poverty.

RATIONALE FOR THE RESEARCH

The research identifies case-studies of Weyarn (Bavaria, Germany) and Isuikwuato (Abia, Nigeria) municipalities. Weyarn and Isuikwuato rural development approaches were critically analysed with the aim of developing a more sustainable framework for Isuikwuato and possible cross-cutting learning-points for both municipalities. All research objectives are based on this rationale.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

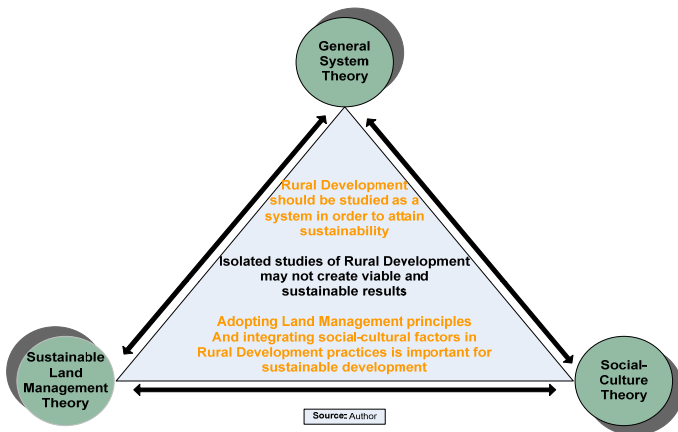
Due to the broadness of this area of research, the research relied on answering a combination of interpretive, hypothetical, predictive and solution-based questions. Some of the research questions include:

- ❖ What are the identified elements of rural development approaches in the municipalities?
- ❖ What are the possibilities and limitations of the cross-application of the identified elements to the municipalities?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical concept for the research is based on the convergence of the General System, Social-Culture and Sustainable Land Management theories:

CONVERGENCE PRINCIPLE OF THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

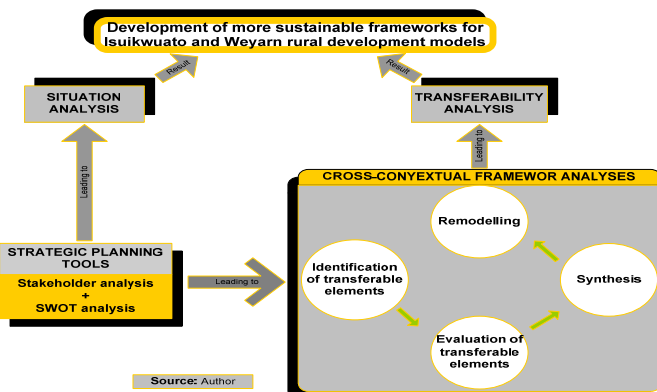


OVERALL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A qualitative approach based on semi-structured interviews (in Germany and Nigeria) and Focus Group Discussion (in Nigeria) is adopted.

The method of analysis involved initial background analyses of the case-studies through the application of the Strategic Planning Tools (SWOT and Stakeholders analyses) to deduce the present rural situations of the study areas. A cross-contextual framework analysis was thereafter, used for conducting a transferability analysis:

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH METHOD OF ANALYSIS

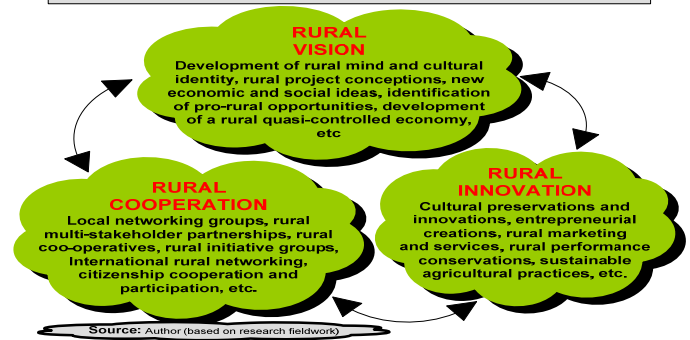


MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

WEYARN FINDINGS

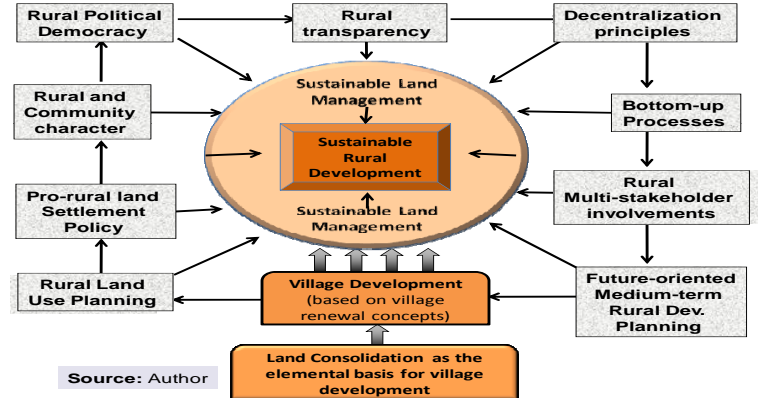
The research identified Weyarn's Rural Development Approach and its main elements. The identified elements helped in discerning Weyarn's present Rural Development situation and strategy, which in comparison to Isuikwuato, is a success:

A THREE-WAY DESCRIPTION OF THE THINKING-PATTERN BEHIND WEYARN'S PRESENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS



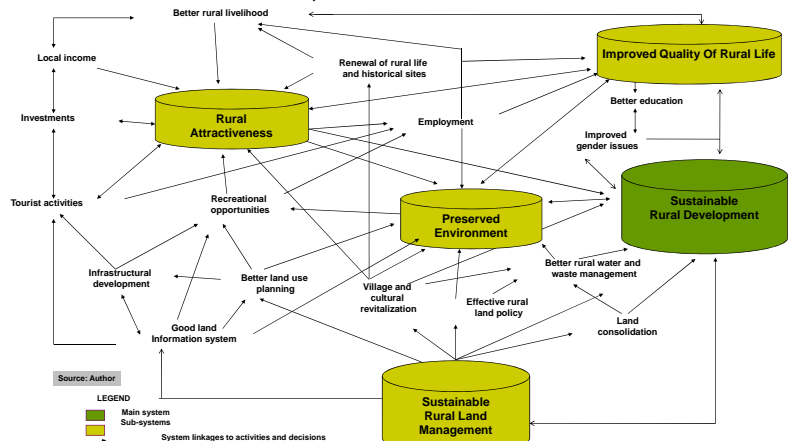
ISUIKWUATO FINDINGS

Isuikwuato's Rural Development Approach and its main elements were identified. The identified elements helped in the re-modeling of Isuikwuato's present Rural Development paradigm for sustainability purposes:



RESULT OF THE RESEARCH

The research resulted in the development of a Casual Loop of how a system-path can lead to Sustainable Rural Development in Isuikwuato:



CONCLUSION

The research revealed that Isuikwuato and Weyarn practise an economic-growth and village renewal approaches to Rural development respectively. Differences found in these approaches (relative to land management) show that 'better land use as a means of achieving sustainability is relative and is based on country and cultural-contexts. Most importantly, the workability of the elements of Weyarn's rural development approach in Isuikwuato depends on conditions of enabling frameworks.