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The Dilemma of Development in Shangev-tiev: An Explication of Some Remedial Measures

Kamnan Moses Adure
Department of History and Diplomatic Studies
Federal University Wukari
Taraba State
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Abstract

The challenge of development is one that Nigeria as a country is still grappling with today. While the consequences of this challenge are felt all over the country, rural communities mostly bear the brunt of underdevelopment. The situation of these local populations is further compounded by the near collapse of the local government system that is supposed to be closer to the people. Whereas Nigerian politicians may not be bothered about the deteriorating living conditions of the rural dwellers, it is incumbent on the academia to document the uncertainties that have befallen the rural areas and suggest possible ways of mitigating those huddles. This study examines the dilemma of development in Shangev-tiev. The work noted that people of the area have always engaged in economic activities that would improve their living standards. However, the inability of the government to provide an enabling environment that would support the efforts of the people has continually put the area in a dilemma. Accordingly, the study has called on government-concerned agencies to deliberately make policies that would improve the standard of living of the people, especially in education, healthcare, transportation, and security. The people of Shangev-tiev have also been called upon to improve their level of political participation and equally develop an agenda to guide their future.

Introduction

Societies across the globe have continually engaged in ventures that would deliberately enhance the living standards of their populations. Whereas the result of these endeavors may not be visible or useful immediately, such efforts can produce quality change and conditions to continue that change. Against this backdrop, Mike Odey has argued that however crudely organized, how people worked or lived to sustain themselves should be a foundation and the dynamics of their political economy, which must be kept in focus all the time.[1]
Within this context, it is plausible to note that the people of Shangev-tiev had viable economic structures in agriculture, art, craft, and industries, which were on the course of development until the colonial intervention came to stampede

[1] M.O. Odey, 2009, The Development of Cash Crop Economy in Nigeria's Lower Benue Province, 1910 – 1960 (Makurdi: Aboki Publishers) p.3

the process. The economy of the area was re-directed towards colonial interest. As long as colonialism endured, the traditional course of material production in the area was altered. this was achieved through certain policies ranging from taxation, monetization, colonial labor, and colonial agriculture. Conversely, it is doubtful that the period of colonial intervention in Shangev-tiev provided the area with the desired wheels for economic development. K. P. Maddocks[2] noted in 1936 that the only motor road serving the Shangev West district was the Otukpo – Gboko road, which passed through the north of the area. Even after Nigerian independence, the area has continued to grapple with underdevelopment. The object of this discourse is to examine the problem of development in Shangev-tiev and propose some remedial measures to improve the lives of people in the area. But first of all, a background history of the Shangev-tiev is discussed to provide readers with a better understanding of the subject of the discourse.

The Land and People of Shangev-tiev

The name Shangev-tiev refers to a section of Tiv people as well as the area they inhabit. Geographically, Shangev-tiev is located between latitudes 6.55 and 7.20 North and longitudes 8.30 and 8.40 East. The Shangev-tiev area covers a landmass of about 340 square miles. It is bounded on the north and northwest by parts of Masev, and on the northeast by Mbatiav. To the southeast, Shangev-tiev is bounded by parts of Gaav while on the south it shares boundaries with the Igede. The area is of the usual gently undulating type intersected by some of the tributaries of the Konshisha River including Gbugbu, Ubo, Milwe, Unyumula, Agbur, and Ukpede. In 1936, the colonial government estimated the population of Shangev-west at 22,960 while the 1963 census (adjudged by many as the most authentic) put the population of Shangev-tiev at 49,452. With an annual growth of 3.2% from 1963, the current population of the area is projected at 79,123.

The history of the Shangev-tiev also follows the popular narrative regarding the origin of Tiv, which argues that "God (Aondo) created the progenitor of the Tiv people, Takuruku" who later got married and gave birth to Tiv.[3] It is to be acknowledged that Takuruku, is regarded in certain versions of Tiv narratives as the son, and others as the brother of Aondo. Whichever might be the case, the genealogy of all Tiv people is traced to one ancestral father, Tiv, through Takuruku to God Himself.[4] Though Tiv is said to have had many children, only two – Ipusu and Ichongo have been identified in the group genealogy, which is the primary evidence for the family theory of Tiv origin and migration. While

[2] NAK/AR/INT/T/21 – Shangev West Intelligence Report 1936
[3] J.T. Gbor, 1981, Mdugh U Tiv man Mnyer ve Ken Benue (Zaria: Northern Nigeria Publishing Company) p.4
[4] E. T. Ihembeato, 1987, "An Analysis of Issues and Problems in the Early History of Tiv" A Paper presented at the International Conference on the Confluence of Nigeria, Lokoja. P.3, C.F.I. Lanshima, 1985, "Tsombor u Tiv". An Unpublished Manuscript. P.8, see also E. Rubingh, 1969, The Sons of Tiv: A Study of the Rise of Church Among the Tiv of Central Nigeria (London: Longman) p. 7

Ipusu, one of the Tiv sons begot Shitire, Kum, and Kpar, Ichongo, begot seven children namely Gondo, Ihar, Ikyura, Mase, Nongo, Tongo, and Turan.[5] All Tiv people, therefore, trace their descent through these ten children to the ancestral father. According to Tiv traditions, one of the sons of Ipusu (Kpar) later got married and the marriage was blessed with many children including Jechira. Jechira in turn gave birth to Shange, the biological father of Shangev-tiev.

There is at least a consensus among Tiv scholars that, the proto-Tiv once occupied the area around the Cameroon – Obudu Plateau.[6] According to traditions, the period between c.1475 – 1535 is the earliest recorded migration in Tiv history.[7] Two important factors necessitated the dispersal of the Tiv people into the Benue plains. Makar[8] has shown that so enormously had the population increased that it could no longer be housed in the small triangle of the present Turan – Ikurav-ya, the original settlement (of the Tiv). Secondly, the dispersal was motivated by the desire to secure more lands for sufficient foodstuff to feed the ever-growing population. These two factors were aided by the defeat of the Chamba which naturally removed the obstacle to the push into the plains in the north and east. Meanwhile, until the period of the migration of Tiv from the Cameroon–Obudu Plateau into the Benue Valley, the Shangev clan was one. They comprised five main genealogical groups – Tondov, Morov, Kohov, Iyiav, and Diiv. It was during the dispersal of these genealogical groups into the Benue Valley that Shangev clan was split into two. The first three genealogical groups – Tondov, Morov, and Kohov (Shangev-ya), remained in the hills (around the Turan – Ikurav Ya area) and the Iyiav and Diiv (Shangev-tiev) took the north-westerly route almost as far as Gboko and then turned south-west to their present habitat in Southern Tivland.[9]

During the pre-colonial period, the economy of Shangev-tiev was characterized by agricultural activities, traditional crafts, and industries. The mode of production was communal, whereby the factors of production – land, labor, and capital, were communally owned by the family which was the immediate social

[5] Z.A. Gundu, 2003, "Archeology and the Tiv Question" in Aondoaver Tarhule (ed.) Middle Belt Perspectives: An Interdisciplinary Journal Exploring Africa's Cultural Economic and Socio-Political Dynamics Volume 1, Number 1. USA: A Tiv Ne Publication. p.24

[6] J. Iyo, 2007, "The Origins, Migrations and Settlement Pattern of the Tiv in the Lower Benue of Nigeria C1475 – 1900AD", in Y.A. Ochefu, J. Iyo and T.A. Varvar (eds.) A History of the Peoples of Benue State (Makurdi: Aboki Publisher) p.40, S.K. Agber, 1994, "European Commercial Enterprise and Underdevelopment in Tiv Area", Ph.D. Thesis, University of Jos, Jos, D.D. Gbande, 1982, "Trade and Settlement in the Middle Benue Basin: 1850-1960", M.A. Dissertation, ABU, Zaria, A. Dzurgba, 2007, On the Tiv of Central Nigeria: A Cultural Perspective (Ibadan: John Archers limited), T. Makar, 1994, The History of Political Change Among the Tiv in the 19th and 20th Centuries (Enugu: Fourth Dimension Publishing Co. Ltd.)

[7] J. Iyo, 2007, "The Origins, Migrations and Settlement Pattern of the Tiv in the Lower Benue of Nigeria C1475 – 1900AD"…p.42

[8] T. Makar, 1975, "The History of Political Change among the Tiv in the 19th and 20th Centuries", Ph.D. Thesis, ABU, Zaria. p.36

[9] NAK/AR/INT/T/21, 1936, "Intelligent Report on Shangev West District" by K.P. Maddocks

group within the society.[10] The biggest unit of production was also the family where the *orya* directed activities of every individual member of the family. This family unit was defined not only in terms of the immediate family but also included the kin of extended genealogical connections residing with an agnate. Labour was organized along lineage lines with the household as the basic unit of labour mobilization. The house head or *orya*, by his position, controlled not only labour but also the surplus from the production process. Labour was also mobilized based on *kwav* or age-grade system. There was also wage labour, which featured in the pre-colonial Shangev-tiev economy. Occasionally people from the district provided labour to be paid wages. These wages were mostly in the form of agricultural produce. Another source of hired labour for the people of Shangev-tiev was the neighboring Igede who provided services for certain fees. Generally, Labour was organized based on sex, age, ability, and not class. There was a clear distinction between men's, women's, and children's jobs. The clearing of farmland and making of heaps, for example, was a duty of the male and weeding was for the female. Young people did most of the physical work while the elderly gave directives and supervised.

The physical environment of Shangev-tiev also provided the people with several choices in their economic activities.[11] Accordingly, the people took advantage of their environment to engage in other economic activities as they featured traditional industries in which craft and utilitarian items were manufactured.[12] There were such industries as ironworking, ceramics, textiles, woodworking, cane and raffia working, bead making, and leather works. However, the significance of manufacturing and craft production in Tiv pre-colonial economy has not been given sufficient attention. This is largely a result of the erroneous assumption that traditional crafts and industries in West Africa were miscellaneous activities that did not matter in the overall economic system.[13] Nevertheless, it is to be stressed that the people of Shangev-tiev had a viable economy that was on a course of development until colonialism came to dislocate the process.

Colonial Conquest of Shangev-Tiev

Several scholarly studies provide a background to the build-up to the colonial conquest of Tiv area by the British, the actual penetration of areas captured under Tivland; the modus operandi adopted including the nature of resistance; and some aspects of the effect and character of the administration that was subsequently established.[14] What is important to stress here is that beginning

[10] A.D. Igirgi, 2007, A History of the Tiv Textile Industry C.1850 – 2000AD…p.66
[11] Y.A. Ochefu, 2002, The Economic Transformation of Idoma Society, 1860 – 1960 (Makurdi: Aboki Publishers) p.43
[12] A.D. Igirgi, 2007, A History of the Tiv Textile Industry C.1850 – 2000AD…p.66
[13] A.G. Hopskins,1973, An Economic History of West Africa(London: Longman) pp.43-4
[14] See A.A. Idrees and Y.A. Ochefu, 2002, Studies in the History of Central Nigeria Area (Lagos: CSS Limited), see also T. Makar, 1975, The History of Political Change Among the Tiv in the 19th and 20th Centuries (Enugu: Fourth Dimension Press), and T. Wuam, 2011,

from 1885, the British free trade imperialism policy, which was initially opposed to actual colonization and partitioning of the African continent by European powers, was effectively weakened and its merchants, who had been arguing otherwise for a long time, were quick to seize the initiative.

The formal phase of Anglo-Tiv relations, covering the period from 1900 – 1960, began when the Tiv in 1900 became part of the British empire with Lugard's proclamation of the protectorate of northern Nigeria.[15] However, early contacts between the Tiv and the British were characterized by a high degree of suspicion which made the Europeans develop a very negative impression about the Tiv.[16] The British (as they kept emphasizing) wanted to trade with the Tiv. However, due to trade disputes of an acquaintance that had not been developed, but which even at this stage was an unequal one, skirmish did arise in the Anglo-Tiv relations. Thus, the British, from the onset, regarded the Tiv generally as "rude, troublesome, quarrelsome and repulsive".[17] This probably informed the attitudes of British colonialists against the Tiv and also determined the kind of measures that were adopted by the British in the conquest of Tivland.

Consequent to the proclamation of the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria, therefore, the British came out in full force to subjugate the Tiv. Thus, between 1900 and 1914 several military expeditions were sent against Tivland under the directive of Lord Lugard, the Governor of the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria.[18] Three events occurred during this period. The first was the struggle between the British and 'Mbagwen' in north-eastern Tivland. The people of Mbagwen had resisted the destruction of their farms by the British constructing a telegraph line through their territory, linking Lokoja with Ibi. The second was the destruction of the Royal Niger Company's (RNC) station at Abinsi in 1906 by the Tiv. The third was the series of military patrols into Tivland by the British between 1906 and 1914, which was followed by fighting.[19] Given these circumstances, responsible colonial administration over some areas of Tiv territory was delayed until the end of the second decade of the twentieth century when taxes were assessed and collected in Shangev-tiev.

In Shangev-tiev colonial subjugation was by direct military conquest from Southern Nigeria. During the early years of British rule in Nigeria, the whole of Shangev-tiev (Shangev West) came within the sphere of influence of Southern Nigeria. However, there was no formal system of district administration put in place in the area. Perhaps, the influence from the southern protectorate was

"Trade and Exchange in the Tiv Area of the Lower Benue Valley, 1850-2000", PhD Thesis, Benue State University, Makurdi.

[15] J.E.A. Iyo, 1990, "The Tiv Nationalism and some Aspects of British Colonial Rule, 1854 – 1960", PhD Thesis, Department of History, University of Calabar, p.266

[16] A.D. Igirgi, 2007, A History of the Tiv Textile Industry C.1850 – 2000AD (Makurdi: Aboki Publishers) p.158

[17] T. Makar, 1975, The History of Political Change Among the Tiv in the 19th and 20th Centuries (Enugu: Fourth Dimension Press)pp.206-207

[18] A.D. Igirgi, 2007, A History of the Tiv Textile Industry C.1850 – 2000AD… p.161

[19] T. Makar, 1975, The History of Political Change Among the Tiv in the 19th and 20th Centuries…pp. 94-95

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probably because of the economic intercourse maintained between this section of Tiv and their southern neighbors; and apparently because of the interaction the government of the Southern Protectorate had come to exert on the Upper Cross River region. The position of the boundary between the southern and northern protectorates in this area was disputed. By 1912 Shangev-tiev was claimed to be part of Northern Nigeria yet in that year it was visited with a punitive expedition from the Southern Protectorate and suffered very severely at its hands.[20] The military expedition was premised on the allegation that the Shangev-Tiev had made an unprovoked attack on Gabu, a people from the southern protectorate, and killed about a hundred persons. The expedition, which was carried out by Major C. Mairs, even while the Acting Governor of the Southern Protectorate, James, had refused to sanction it, lasted only four days – from the 5th to the 8th of July but was devastating as Shangev-tiev suffered a huge loss in men and property.

Having been charged heavy fines in the form of animals, crops, and cloths (*tugudu*), the people were also compelled to build two strong bridges across River Gbadema, a good road through Mbatiav from the north-west to south-east across the bridges, as well as contribute labor for the building of a military barrack at Ogoja. When a Commission of Enquiry was later set up by Lord Lugard under Lt. Col. Moorhouse, the report showed several atrocities that were committed by the army against the Shangev-tiev. Even though the commission was one-sided because it did not include the indigenous people, Lugard noted that the war was not justified. He ruled that the order sent to Captain Gibb to conduct military operations in Shangev-tiev was illegal. However, it is recorded that the effect of the expedition was so devastating that the possibility of taxing this District was prevented for some years. Over a year, after the 1912 wanton destructive encounter, it was reported that the people were still very scattered and had not yet returned to the sites of their burned houses. However, all the territories in southern Tivland were under the nominal control of the Southern Nigerian Government until 1914 when they were returned to Muri Province.[21] However, owing to the effect of the punitive expedition of 1912 that destroyed much of Shangev-tiev, and partly because of the inaccessibility of much of the terrain, Shangev-tiev was the last of the Tiv clans to be taxed, the first assessment being made in 1918. The table below shows the population of various kindred in the Shangev-tiev district and the initial taxes that were collected in the area in 1918:

Sub-Clan	Kindred	Population	Tax

[20] NAK/AR/INT/T/21, 1936, "Intelligent Report on Shangev West District" by K.P. Maddocks p.3

[21] B. Dzeremo, 2002, Colonialism and the Transformation of Authority in Central Tivland: 1912 – 1960 (Makurdi: Aboki Publishers) pp. 31-41

Iyiav	Mbayegh	5127	269.4.0
	Mbakeen	3991	232.0.0
	Ugambe	2996	162.8.0
	Mbamar	3296	181.8.0
Diiv	Mbagusa	3189	185.4.0
	Mbatser	1441	86.16.0
	Ikurav	2021	119.4.0
	Mbatwer	825	53.16.0
Foreign Settlements	Igede	74	5.16.0
Total		22960	£1295.16.0

Table 1: Tax Assessment in Shangev-Tiev in 1918
The above table shows the first tax assessment in Shangev-tiev. Lugard noted
Source: NAK/AR/INT/T/21

that the imposition of tax on the colonized subjects marked "the recognition by the community of the protecting Power".[22] It is also in line with this position that Ikimi argues that as late as 1923 colonial presence in Tivland was in patches.[23]Though the whole of Tiv area had, in principle, fallen to Britain in 1900, it is clear that in reality, Tivland before the outbreak of the First World War, was more or less still "independent" of British presence.[24] Penham also confirmed this position when he admitted; "There can be few African tribes as large as the Tiv which have been so late in coming under British administration".[25]

The Dilemma of Development in Shangev-Tiev

For clarity, development as a concept entails the application of certain economic and technical measures to utilize and manage the natural and human resources of an area to create wealth. The purpose of development is to activate

[22] F. Lugard, 1926;1965, Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa (London: George Allen and Unwin) p.218
[23] O. Ikimi, 1973, "The British Pacification of the Tiv 1900 – 1908, Journal of Historical Society of Nigeria Vol. VII NO. I. P.79
[24] M. Jibo, 2009, Chieftaincy and Politics: The Tor Tiv in the Politics and Administration of Tivland (Germany: Peter Leng) p. 132
[25] M. Penham,1937, Native Administration in Nigeria (London: University Press) p

a rise in the level and quality of life of the population and the creation or expansion of local income and employment opportunities. The international agenda began to focus on development in the second half of the twentieth century. During this period, a perspective was engendered that economic growth does not necessarily lead to a rise in the quality of life for populations. Accordingly, there was a need to emphasize specific policies that would channel resources and enable social and economic mobility for various layers of the population. Therefore, the following conditions were considered as eminent for the achievement of this aim: The capacity to obtain physical necessities, particularly food; A job (not necessarily paid employment) but including studying, working on a family farm, or keeping house; Equity, which should be considered an objective in its own right; Participation in government Belonging to a nation that is truly independent, both economically and politically; and Adequate educational levels (especially literacy)

It is to be mentioned that development has been on the front burner since the colonial period in Nigeria. For instance, the colonial government initiated the Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare Act in 1946 to bridge the rural and urban development gap in the country. In 1951, the development plan was discarded and two other successive plans were in place before 1962. Several plans have equally been initiated during the post-independence period. However, as observed by Ibietan and Ekhosuehi,[26] development planning in Nigeria has suffered from a lack of coordination and harmonization of programs/policies both with the tenure of an administration and those succeeding it. The result is that unemployment and inequality continue to be on the rise and so does poverty in most parts of the country.

While the people of Shangev-tiev are known to have engaged in viable economic activities including agriculture production, fishing, craft, industries, and trade since the pre-colonial period, the non-availability of other favorable conditions to galvanize their efforts into a better level and quality of life for the population perpetually left the people in a dilemma. For instance, Abdussalam,[27] has argued that every economy requires a good transport system to transit from subsistence to trading economy, just as a transition to the industrial stage requires adequate transportation. This implies that transportation is a critical factor in the process and at every stage of development. It is transportation that plays the role of changing the location of people as well as goods, In Shangev-tiev, however, all the major roads that crisscross the area (Aliade – Gboko, Achoho – Oju, Awajir – Tse-agberagba) have remained in deplorable conditions for several years. This has made it difficult for the movement of goods and humans. Similarly, most of the rural roads in the area are seasonal, which often makes it extremely difficult to access parts of Shangev-tiev (especially the Diiv sub-clan) during the rainy season. This has affected the conduct of trade and

[26] J. Ibietan and O. Ekhosuehi, 2013, Trends in Development Planning in Nigeria, 1962 – 2012
[27] I. K. Abdussalam, (2010), "Transportation and Transformation in Jos C.1900 – 1966", Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Department of History, Bayero University Kano p.32

exchange in the area. Whereas sesame, yam, groundnuts, rice, soybeans, watermelon, and oranges, are produced by the people in large quantities, the reward for the farmers is usually not worth it. Furthermore, the non-availability of a viable transport system has often denied people access to some necessities of life that could not find a route into the area.

Another problem that has bedeviled the quality of life in Shangev-tiev is the lack of a decent educational structure. Already, stakeholders from the area had in 2002, while commenting on the status of 50 primary schools located in the area lamented that: The schools in Shangev-tiev are poorly staffed with a full primary school having not more than three (3) trained teachers posted to it. None of these schools have facilities for the study of science. This reduces the chances of the children from the area having access to quality education, thus perpetually placing Shangev-tiev in a deprived position.[28]

The picture in the above quote indicates the low access to quality education in Shangev-tiev. First, the primary schools are inadequate; and even where they exist both the infrastructure and manpower are mostly lacking. The situation is even worse with secondary education in the area. The Government Secondary School Gungul was established at the headquarters of Shangev-tiev in 1977. Whereas the school's motto is "Towards Academic Freedom", it is highly doubtful if the school has been able to provide the desired academic freedom. The school has continued to decay both in infrastructure and manpower. Meanwhile, it does appear that the same fate has also befallen missionary and community schools in Shangev-tiev as they have also continued to grapple with several challenges. What this has resulted in is non-access to quality education and the perpetual degradation of the standard of life of people of the area.

Several other problems have also contributed to drag the people of Shangev-tiev into a constant struggle to survive, without any meaningful results. One such problem is the lack of a formidable healthcare system in Shangev-Tiev. Curiously, an area with a population of over 80,000 has no hospital. While the local authorities have provided some primary health centers, most health facilities in the Shangev-tiev lack basic facilities to render quality services to the people. The non-viability of the primary health centers has been compounded by the near collapse of the local government system in Nigeria. Again, most settlements in Shangev-tiev do not have access to electricity. Meanwhile, it is to be noted that providing electricity as an economic infrastructure usually affects returns on investment and the establishment of an economic climate that influences investment decisions. Therefore, the absence of an energy supply has affected the quality of life of the people of Shangev-tiev.

Equally challenging is the problem of the security of lives and property in Shangev-tiev. It is needless to mention that there is almost no presence of security agents in this area. What is important to stress is the fact that the non-

[28] P. I. Ityohegh and D. A. Gbakighir, 2002, A Memorandum to the Committee on the Creation of Local Governments in Benue State p.5

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availability of government security agents in Shangev-tiev has opened the room for several infractions that have consumed many lives and properties already. Similarly, the lack of security within the area has constituted a factor in the persistence of communal crisis on the southern fringes of Shangev-tiev where they share borders with Mbaisa and Igede. It was the crises on the border with the Igede that led to the sad killing of some military personnel, and the excruciating calamity that befall Shangev-tiev in 2021.

Arising from the problems that have been noted, the rate of poverty in Shangev-tiev has continued to grow unabated. While the people are actively involved in material production, the value of their efforts is not worth it. This is because of the low patronage of their products that is orchestrated by the difficulty experienced by buyers who should have patronized them. In most cases, people resort to using motorcycles to move their products to "collection centers" where they are mostly shortchanged. Furthermore, the desire of people of the area to acquire Western education has been frustrated by the low attention of the government to provide suitable infrastructure for quality education in the area. It is the same fate that has befallen the people of Shangev-tiev in health, power, and security.

Some Remedial Measures

It has already been noted that the area of Shangev-tiev is greatly endowed with both natural and human resources, which are critical factors that are necessary for development to take place. However, it requires the efforts of the government to harness those resources and transform them into a good life for the citizenry. This underscores the need for government to put in place meaningful policies that would activate a rise in the level and quality of life of the people of Shangev-tiev. Specific areas to be targeted are education, power, healthcare, and security. If government can channel resources into those areas it will enable social and economic mobility for various layers of the population.
While the study acknowledges the role of government in improving the quality of life of her citizenry, it is pertinent to stress the need for the people of Shangev-tiev to develop strategies that would position them to attract the government. First, there must be an improvement in their political participation from voter registration to the election of people into political offices. This is necessary because politics itself is a game of numbers and the number of votes cast in Shangev-tiev is critical in determining certain decisions that are taken by the government concerning them. Unfortunately, the people of Shangev-tiev who have been complaining of non-inclusion at the local, state, and federal levels appear reluctant to register and collect their permanent voter's cards (PVCs) to participate in electing political leadership. The effect of low participation in politics is that the people have been considered inconsequential and mostly not given opportunities for representation. However, it is only through representation that the people of Shangev-Tiev can attract developmental projects to the area.

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Finally, there is also the need for the people of Shangev-tiev to develop an agenda for themselves. Most political leaders from the area in the past years appear to have participated in politics only for personal aggrandizement. The result of this self-centeredness of political leaders from the area is why the area has continued to remain backward. To develop an agenda for Shangev-tiev requires unity of purpose where the collective interest is considered above personal interest.

Conclusion

Whatever man does in this life is targeted at improving his/her standard of living. This study observed that the people of Shangev-tiev have engaged in activities that would help in improving their quality of life from time immemorial. However, certain predicaments have constrained the quest for a good life. It was noted that the government at various levels appears not to be committed to providing the required infrastructure that would uplift the people. The result is that the people have continued to sink deep into poverty. To overcome this challenge, the paper has proposed some remedial measures that would require collaboration efforts from the government and people of the area. While the government is challenged to initiate deliberate policies to improve the standard of living in Shangev-tiev, the people are also encouraged to develop an agenda for themselves and also improve their level of political participation.