

AN ASSESSMENT OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACH ON WATER SUPPLY (A CASE STUDY OF JIMETA – YOLA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA)

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ABSTRACT

This paper assesses the level of participatory planning approach on water supply in Yola North Local Government Area, and to push further in identifying existing stakeholders, the roles they play, and measures put in place by the state water agency to adopt healthy and sustainable participatory planning practices in water supply schemes. Participatory planning approach has been an age long reoccurring activity either in physical planning, human, economic or environmental development activities in developed nations mostly in Europe and the Americas, and in recent times has gradually become a growing trend, especially in water supply development activities in developing countries in parts of Asia and Africa, but the major challenges have always been how to categorize the level of involvement of all stakeholders especially the urban poor.

Results and major findings revealed that there is a wide gap existing between areas of relatively adequate water supply and those with inadequate, the widespread of failed water supply schemes has been as a result of low-level to non-existence of participatory planning activities on water supply schemes, continuous adoption of poor and ineffective policy implementation process for water supply projects, professional lack of zeal to fully understand the plight of the urban poor and how to act as catalyst to participatory planning process, and end-users understanding of their rights to be involved and their collective responsibilities for sustainable water supply schemes in the study areas. It is recommended that there should be a re-evaluation of the planning and implementation process for water supply schemes, a streamlined fiscal policy for water supply schemes, adopt a participatory approach to strengthen the synergy between all stakeholders, and planning process of any future water supply schemes should be designed on the bases of the framework suggested.

KEYWORDS: *Water Supply, Participatory Planning, Stakeholders, Water Agencies & End-Users*

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