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EFFECTS OF POPULATION PRESSURE ON RESOURCE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD IN TARABA STATE, NIGERIA

Gabriel, A.T., Baba, E., Philip, A.H.

Taraba State University, Taraba State Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

Yearly flooding in Taraba state is not solely as a result of climate change. The anthropogenic temperament of nature has generated erratic rainfall with high rainfall intensity, shortening of the rain season with serious flooding, increased heat stress causing wilting of seedlings, reduction in yield and crop failure, fast decline of soil fertility, a consequent hike in the price of food crops, food insecurity on the increase and now herder- farmer crises. The recent declaration of state of emergency on exploitation of the environment by the Executive Governor of Taraba State on the prohibition of mining and mining activities across the state is not unconnected to ongoing uncoordinated and uncontrolled exploitation of the environment in Taraba state. Using personal observation, literature review, GIS satellite imagery and TSBS documentary, this paper describes the various processes of settlement dynamics with strategic options for managing the challenges that may erupt as a result of the continuous interaction between man and his environment. It assesses the obstacles and opportunities that need to be considered as we think about how to develop sustainable communities. It provides an explanation not only of the settlement system within but also directs attention to the link between land use change and the consequent environmental habitat problem. Advice the stakeholders of the state on the decision to be taken on the erosion and consequent landslide in Gembu and the incessant flooding in Jalingo and environs.

Key words: Nature, gifts, Sustainable, Communities, Shrinking and Resources.

INTRODUCTION

It is no doubt that more people are using more resources with more intensity than at any point on the human record. Urbanization and population growth put pressure on natural resources and increases demand for energy, water and sanitation (Stelios, Alberto and Alexandra, 2016). There are obvious signs of stress on cropland, forests, fisheries and biodiversity at local, regional and global levels. The weight on the environment according to UNFPA (2001) is as a result of increasing affluence—that is, more consumption, pollution and waste, and on the other hand, persistent poverty—that is, lack of resources and the technology to use them, and lack of the power to change these circumstances. In the developed world, improvements in technology have offset the effects of increased consumption and exploitation of the environment, while in the less developed, poverty is the issue. With the current unemployment rate in the nation, poverty will push many to increase the rate of exploitation of the environment. Over the last three decades, both the public and policymakers have become increasingly concerned over the negative consequences of human activities on the environment. Environmental damage often arises from economic processes, especially when the full social and environmental costs, such as damage from human activities, are not factored into decisions about resource extraction, production and consumption. Visionary leaders realize that sustainable development ushers in sustainable communities. To



direct attention to sustainable and functional communities, a resource maintenance governor declared thus:

“It is with a heavy heart that I announce the need for immediate action to curb the rampant mining and illegal activities that have been wreaking havoc on our environment, our communities and our economy”

This is coin from the first speech delivered by his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Taraba State on 30th May 2023. The impulse of the message was for the prohibition of mining and mining activities across the state. According to the state governor, illegal mining has become a cancer eating away at the very fabric of our society. He added that it has led to the exploitation of our vulnerable communities, increased crime rates, and contributed to social unrest, hence the need for necessary steps to preserve our environment and ensure sustainable development.

The concept of sustainable development dates back to 1980. It was developed or propounded to address the spiky problem of meeting the material needs of the present population. Sustainability can be applied. Among these lines has been the literature surrounding the concept of sustainable community and sustainable community development (Daly and Cobb, 1989, while at the same time maintaining the veracity of the environment. The idea generally received not only a passing nod but thumbs up in the air. This has prompted elites in the field of environmental and related studies to broaden the range of issues to which sustainability can be applied. Among these lines has been the literature surrounding the concept of sustainable community and sustainable community development (Gibbs, 1996; Turner, 1993).

To have sustainable communities begins at every home. Sustainable homes initiate sustainable communities. Every household can be the impetus for eco-conscious change. The locality is the level of social organization where the consequences of environmental degradation are most keenly felt (Jeffrey and Luloff, 2023). Focusing on sustainability at the local level, changes can be seen and felt in a more immediate manner. In many developed countries, the link between overpopulation and resource-based decline is widely known and conscious effort to checkmate this, is top priority. Their working hypothesis is that specific solutions against resource-based decline are successfully developed in certain sustainable practices that preserve biodiversity, but with consideration of the 5 PS of the SDGs: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Taraba, with an annual population growth rate of 2.96% and a projected population of three million, two hundred and thirteen thousand, and seven hundred and forty-four and with a rapidly growing sprawl, making human settlement functional and harnessing nature’s gift in a sustainable model, is not negotiable. Poor resource governance can trigger conflict among different communities and individuals within the communities (Tukur, 2015). This paper describes the various processes of settlement dynamics with strategic options for managing the challenges that may erupt as a result of the continuous interaction between man and his immediate environment in the state. It assesses the obstacles and opportunities for consideration to develop sustainable communities. Provides explanation not only of the settlement system within the study area but also directs attention to the link between land use change and the consequent environmental habitat problems such as land degradation, soil erosion and flooding.

NATURE’S GIFTS TO THE STATE

Taraba state is considered as nature’s gift to the nation because of its rich natural resources endowments. The state is well-endowed with abundant solid mineral and surface water resources, as well as vast arable and grazing land with tourist potentials.



Solid Mineral Resources

In the 16 LGA of Taraba state, apart from the agro-based raw materials, there is also the presence of one or more solid minerals at various magnitudes waiting for exploration (Table 1). All these are natural endowments to the state awaiting sustainable use. At the time of filling out this report, the federal Ministry of Environment has granted a license to Clarisver Solution to commence exploration and mining of uranium in Mika village in Yorro LGA of Taraba (Taraba Truth & Facts, 2023). This project expects to unlock massive economic opportunities for Taraba State and Nigeria as a whole, especially through the provision of foreign income to boost revenue generation. However, artesian mining by the teaming youth is not uncommon. In fact, a regular phenomenon for human survival in the various locales of depots, especially in Gembu and Yorro until the ban in 2023 by the present administration.

Table 1: Natural Resources and Industrial Implication and Use

	LGAs Found	Reserve Estimated	Industrial Use
Minerals			
Barytes	Karim Lamido, Ibi	Commercial Quantity	Filler in drilling mud, Rubber and Paper mills, Used largely in chemical Industries
Bauxites	Sardauna	Huge Quantity	Application in Aluminium Metal production
Graphites	Gashaka	Commercial Quantity	Moulds, Pencils, Electroplating
Galena	Karim Lamido, Ibi, Wukari, Sardauna	Commercial Quantity	Electrical Wires, Batteries, Lead foils
Limestone	Karim Lamido, Ibi, Wukari, Lau and Ardo-Kola	Commercial Quantity	Cement Production, Material in iron smelting
Gypsum	Karim Lamido, Ibi	Commercial Quantity	Component in Portland Cement production, Use in POP production.
Uranium	Yorro, Ussa	Commercial Quantity	Essential in the production of Nuclear energy

Source: Taraba Truth & Facts, 2023



Surface Water Resources

The drainage system of the study area is dominated by, apart from River Benue which all the rivers empty to, river Taraba, river Kam, river Donga, and river Lamurde. River types vary across the state and are often a product of geology, slope and human intervention. The Mambilla plateau is one of the most important hydrological units that is endowed with many natural resources, including water resources (Adebayo and Bashir, 2005). According to them, the water resources endowment of Mambilla has the potential of supporting large scale development in agriculture (crop production including irrigation and livestock production). This and that from Kashimbilla in Southern Taraba have the potential for hydroelectric power generation. The implementation and completion of the Kashimbilla projects is to alleviate poverty, generate employment opportunities and improve the standard of living in the nation. The River Lamurde has an extensive flood plain on both sides of the river and is endowed with enormous groundwater resources. The River Donga flows southward to other parts of the Taraba State with a volumetric flow remaining considerable even in the low water period, and that makes its water resources potentially vital for the socio-economic development of the State (Adebayo and Bashir, 2005). In addition, places like Mbaso, Balewa, Kusuku to mention, but few have deep valleys and steep slopes which have produced numerous perennial water channels. This has the potential of transforming the socio-economic status of Taraba State through an integrated water resources plan. The fish business in Mareyeno, Ibi remains a central and viable enterprise capable of providing employment opportunities in the rural communities. Unfortunately, floodplains of the state are grossly encroached and the density of tree stands is fast disappearing. With evidence of change in climate and anthropogenic activities, these situations increase the time of concentration of storm flow, leading to an unprecedented rise in water level that overwhelm bridges and water conduits along its paths, submerged properties and washed away farm lands (Temitope, Ibrahim and Alade, 2018).

Tourist potentials

The Mambilla Plateau in Taraba is a unique geographical region situated in Nigeria with a lot of potential for economic development. The relief of the Mambilla consists of a variety of fascinating features (hills, interlocking spurs, deep valleys, steep slopes, waterfalls etc.) which are potential tourist sites. In addition, the underlying rocks of the area are potential sources of industrial and strategic minerals (Adebayo, 2005). According to Adebayo, the temperate-like climate of the area is a great asset. This scenario makes the plateau environment conducive for man and livestock. The numerous rivers and streams that bisect the landscape are potential sources of water for agriculture and domestic purposes if properly harnessed. Another of nature's gift to the nation is the presence of waterfalls which are of hydrological as well as economic importance, as well as economic importance, as they present a potential site for hydroelectricity generation capable of serving the whole of north-east Nigeria. Oruonye and Ahmed, Garba and Danjuma (2017) discussed at length the tourist attractions, potentials, capacity, utilization, prospect and challenges of the Gashaka Gumti National park of Taraba. The team found out that between 2005 and 2015, the park received 6,713 local and 612 international tourists. The revenue generated for the same period was about N44m (\$144,000). However, presently, it will not be out of place to say that at the time of the compilation of this work, the dread of the ongoing Boko Haram incident in the rural areas of the state, do not allow the rural farmers to fully engage in their lawful task. Hence, the need to identify viable opportunities and key challenges limiting the growth of the communities. Vegetation, Arable and Grazing Land and their peculiarity in Taraba State



Vegetation makes up the most conspicuous element in the natural environment. The southern parts of the state fall within the Southern Guinea Savanna. For instance, Wukari, Takum, Bali, Ibi, Donga fall within the Guinea Savannah Zone with thick vegetation covered by tall grasses and trees, while the Sub - Sudan zone is marked by short grasses interspersed. The study area is blessed with climate and vegetation types that cut across the country, ranging from a more humid climate and forest vegetation in the south to a more seasonal wet and dry climate and savanna vegetation in the north. The Mambilla Plateau has the type of vegetation found in temperate regions, marked predominantly by soft pasture and a few scattered short trees (National Office of Statistics, 2015). The grassland vegetation in the state provides suitable pasture for large scale livestock production, especially on the Mambilla. The suitable ecological environment for large scale cultivation of tea is another potential and nature's gift to the nation. Of great value to the economic life of the people in the state is the suitability of the climate and the land to support tropical fruits (banana, kola nuts, pears, guava, avogado and pineapples. This is surprisingly in large production for both subsistence and commercial values. Almost all the LGAs are suitable for rice farming except Mambilla. The large landmass of the arable soil in the state is a great asset for mechanized farming. However, an assessment of the incessant flooding in the state carried out by Adelalu and Zemba, (2017) indicated that number one on the list on the general perception of the respondents who have lived more than 20 years and above in the study area followed that there has been increase in the rainfall intensity follow by deforestation. About 40% and 34% respectively are attestants to this. This corroborates the findings of Jjingi, Yuguda and Dauda, (2016). Adelalu and Zemba, added that floodplain encroachment accounts for 18%. Even though only 8% of the respondents adduced flooding to change in land use and land cover, the analyzed imagery shows that between the spaces of 16 years, (2000-1016) the present built-up area is fifth times of the capture in the year 2000 and that 16% of the vegetation cover has disappeared for other use. The imagery analysis of the same area using the same GIS technology in 2022 confirmed the shrinking rate of the vegetation in the land (Table 2).

Table 2: Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) classification and area extent change between 2000 and 2022 in Donga, Taraba State.

LULC classes	2000Area (km)	%	2012	%	2022	%
Vegetation	1770.9	51.7	1496.7	43.7	1200.8	35.1
Bareland	1380.3	40.3	1605.7	46.9	1810.1	52.9
Build up Area	34.3	1	83.7	2.4	181.1	5.2
Water Body	20.7	0.6	20.7	0.6	18.2	0.5
Rock outcrop	213.9	6	213.6	6.2	210.1	6.3
Total	3420.1	100	3420.1	100	3420.1	100

Source: Field work, 2022 classified Landsat Thematic Mapper satellite imageries.



Shrinking Resources and Implication for sustainability

In the face of lean resources cum ongoing inflation in the world natural resources liquid or solid, tangible or non tangible, will suffer. Because natural resources often times seems abundant in supply and relatively easy to access, they are often use as if they are inexhaustible! Many renewable resources can be depleted by human use depending upon the rate and quantity, pattern of consumption. Overconsumption can lead to depletion or extinction or destruction of a resource. Little time is given to soil rejuvenation or land fallowing by our land stakeholders of the state, the end result is degradation. Yearly flooding in Taraba state is not solely as a result of climate change. The anthropogenic temperament of nature has generated erratic rainfall with high rainfall intensity, a shortened rain season and serious flooding, expanded heat stress causing wilting of seedlings, increased reduction in yield and crop failure, fast decline of soil fertility, a consequent hike in the price of food crops, food insecurity on the increase and now herder- farmer crisis. Depletion without replacement can sap the land beyond resilience. Effiong (2011) posited that modification of land by human beings to obtain food, fuel and shelter and other essentials of life for thousands of years is far greater than ever in the history of humanity. In the study area, land degradation partly due to over grazing, over stocking and over cultivation, is a serious problem limiting agricultural production in the state, hence exploitation of the vegetation for food and fuel. The vegetation of the study area has been drastically reduced since the 1970s through the exploitation of natural forests for timber production or firewood (Madrid) and conversion to agricultural land without conscious effort of replacement. The region is vulnerable to climate change. The vulnerability no doubt has an alliance with land use and land cover change (Gabriel and Audu, 2017). These changes in land use along the banks of the river have resulted in a large scale transformation of the landscape, notable indeed and a thing of great concern. Oruonye, (2012) observed that the magnitude of this transformation of landscapes resulting from changes in land use along the floodplains of the river has been a matter of great concern because of the increase in the devastating effects of flooding in recent times in the area.

In Mambilla, given the peculiar physiographic characteristics coupled with land use and livestock activities, the Mountains/alluvial valleys that were once covered with gallery forest have gradually been destroyed to provide farm and range lands. According to Mubi and Adebayo, (2005), the scenario was composite vegetation containing mixed elements of rain-forest-cum-savanna mosaic in the northern parts of the plateau and derived Savanna with sub-statila patches of relic forest in the west. Today, even the undisturbed valley bottom where original plants (liana) that are common in the region have totally disappeared. Overgrazing and bush burning have been found responsible for the reduction in the rejuvenation of grasses (genus *Hypotticnia*) that once covered the area. In Jalingo along the catchment of river Lamurde, the vegetation falls under the Sudan Savanna vegetation (Bawden and Tuley, 1966). This Sudan Savanna vegetation can be subdivided based on structural and floristic composition into wooded savanna, plateau grass savanna/montane vegetation, and flood plain complexes. The wooded savanna vegetation type characterized by short grasses interspersed with short trees is found all over the region; however, intense cultivation, overgrazing and bush burning by local people have depleted the grass cover over large tracts (Barbour, 1982). The vegetation type of the study area has been adversely affected by human activities, leading to the clear-cutting of trees in many parts of the area. Artificial vegetation and a few economical trees have replaced natural vegetation, especially as we transverse the northern part of the State. The payback for the uncoordinated and uncontrolled exploitation is this yearly flooding in the state, especially along the major rivers in the state.



Taraba population, boosting factors and implications for sustainability

Taraba can be called home for all. Taraba as a state has been witnessing rapid population growth. Influx from the neighboring states has been things of notice. Arrival of new immigrants ready to settle in the state is on the increase. Population size, growth, distribution and movement determine the relationship between people and their environments. It needs to be pointed out that population growth adds to the challenge of achieving social and economic development and magnifies the scale of the investments and effort required to ensure sustainability. However, this is a human resource as per ready labor for productivity. Inducing factors for this influx are not farfetched. Relative peace in the state could be according to the immigration, apart from the receptivity of the people to strangers. The relative peaceful condition of the state during the insurgencies in the north-east was remarkable. Moreover, unlike other states with notable industries that serve as pull factors, Taraba is an agrarian state. The agrarian nature and the rich alluvial tract of soil found in most parts of the state have not only made Taraba State conducive for growing various food and cash crops but also a pull factor for many people all over Nigeria to settle. Vast available arable land for farming agricultural produce and rearing animals in a favorable temperate climate is worth nothing. The presence of foreign investors and those attracted by the cheap, available, illegal mining mineral resources scattered all over the state also encourage the continuous slash of the vegetation and exploitation of the environment thereby sapping the natural base. In addition to the above-mentioned potentials, it needs to be mentioned that the population structure of the state suggests abundant labor for the production of goods and services. When this is not properly harnessed, it can be a useful tool for environmental degradation. Considering management and harnessing of natural resources of any area, especially water and land resources, the population is a strong factor. The rapid growth of the study area has necessitated the expansion of the settlement and infrastructures to accommodate relative increases in population (Oruonye, 2015). An increase in has been witnessed in many parts of the local government areas recent especially after the incident of the resent insurgences in the North-East. For example, from 1999 to 2006, the population of Donga rose from 84,626 to 133,111 at the 2006 census, with an overall density of over 43 persons per square kilometers. Consequently, Iloeje, (1981) submitted that soil fertility which is obtained through the fallow period has been continuously shortened through increase in population and continuous cropping of the land. Increased population could generate increased pressure on the sustainability of land resources and environmental conditions. This can be done through the demand for new housing, schools, hospitals and transportation networks, among others, which invariably allow for cutting down virgin lands which in time past served as shock absorbers from the direct impact of rainfall on the catchments.

Shrinking Resources and Implications for the Communities

Since the creation of the state in 1991, various anthropogenic activities such as agriculture, deforestation, irrigations, dam construction have taken place especially along the river banks of the major tributaries of the river Benue in the state. The cumulative of these human activities (deforestation, encroachment, aggressive mining etc.) together with natural factors in some parts of the study area has led to environmental degradation in the state which seems to contribute to flooding. On the issue of flood hazard vulnerability of the people in the study area, the causative agent seems beyond rainfall. Land use change seems the culprit. The clincher seems to favor relief land use. Land use is fast changing in the state and could increasingly affect the landscape and consequently increase the vulnerability of the downstream users of the catchment area. The more devastation the landscape is, the higher the likelihood of irreversible and grave damage to



human and ecological systems downstream. The unplanned logging (deforestation), especially Madrid (Rose wood) and development (encroachment) along the river bank impact on the catchments and may further aggravate environmental degradation in the long run. The general findings of anthropogenic influence on the basin corroborates the assertion of Ezekiel, et al., (2020). Nature's gifts to the nation must be harnessed. Yes, Taraba resources are in abundance and must be tapped for the good of the citizens, but a holistic approach is expedient. Uncoordinated and uncontrolled exploitation of the environment has implications that cut across beyond the immediate communities. The trees that serve as carbon sinks are fast depeleting. Consequently, heat rises fast, tracking stress. The relationship between temperature rises bringing heat and students' learning performances have been studied extensively. A comparative study of Madrib deforestation and its effect on secondary school students learning performance in Jalingo and Ardo Kola was done by Karfe, (2018). He highlighted the effect of this not only on the communities but on students in the state. Orunye (2014) posited that in the past people collected wooden fuel right in their backyard, but today, they travel a long distance to collect wood fuel for their domestic energy use. He added that women now complained of increasing scarcity and the cost of fuel wood. This is an indication of long term dependence on the immediate environment (land and forest resources). This is why the present government has to declare war against exploitation of these resources for sustainable use.

What makes a sustainable community? What are the attributes of a sustainable economy? Efforts toward a sustainable community should gear toward minimizing waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery, and finally sustainably dispose of what is left. These scenarios are gradually taking root in Taraba. For instance, in fact, the slogan of "nothing is free in Lagos" is gradually finding its path to Taraba. Agricultural waste that finds its way into bins and waterways, as the economy bites hard, has become another source of money. Money in exchange for maize, cassava, yam peels etc. is no longer news. Cursory look and personal observation show that animal dung that "Ka ya kuri or Do n Allah" can make you path with 500 to 1000kg in some poultry firm in the state is a thing of the past now. Nothing goes for nothing. It is now a reality. These will, however, limit pollution and waste that occasionally find their path to the streams channel in the state.

Towards sustainable community development in Taraba: The Way Forward

The 3 tiers of governments have their role to play in harnessing God's endowment to the nation in the state for the masses. Marching forward with a fresh vision into the future Taraba, the executive order Number 3 of the present government of the state (prohibition of individual artisan mining activities and felling down of rose wood in the state) is a right step in the right direction into a sustainable community. Communities differ in terms of environmental problems, natural and human resource endowments, levels of economic and social development, and physical (i.e., geological and topographical) and climatic conditions (Jeffrey and Luloff, 2023). With this level of heterogeneous conditions in the state, it makes little sense to advocate a one-size-fits-all approach to sustainable development. However, sustainable development rooted in place-based communities and not an amenity –driven approach is a good option. This has the advantage of flexibility, bearing in mind that communities differ in terms of environmental problems, levels of economic and social development. This is a concept plan that allows for the design of policies that are sensitive to the opportunities and constraints inherent to each region. For instance, Gembu is exceptionally different from, let say, Wukari. Therefore, development plan and policy measures for Gembu may definitely not be the same with Wukari or Jalingo the state capital. The approach



advocates a concept plan suitable to the nature of the area, current characteristics of the activity and livelihood of the communities. Consumption patterns of the people in the communities, and standards of living are decisive factors of consideration for sustainable development. For a development to be sustainable, a framework has to be set up to incorporate the critical elements that are peculiar and specific to each region. In addition, as the state soars in population, promoting full and productive employment and ensuring empowerment and skill acquisition, particularly among women and young people, form another critical area for policy intervention (UN DESA, 2021). If this area is not holistically addressed, youths lay hold on any illicit job or activities to survive. The environment becomes the closest means of survival. The subjects of the communities revolt, and they may become political tools for destruction of life and properties and already shrinking resources that bring revenue to the state.

One of the challenges of managing the natural resources in Nigeria is the model of interaction between the central and the local governments. Taylor, (1996) has long noted that centralization of the management of natural resources in Nigeria contributes to protests in different parts of the country. The federal government should have a rethink on the right of states in Nigeria to control and manage the revenue accruing from the natural resources obtained in each land as expected of true federalism. This is in line with the submission of Adesopo and Asaju, (2004). All societies need to plan and manage the environmental and other resources they are dependent upon and in a way which allows them to adapt effectively to climatic and other conditions they face. This autonomy, if given a chance, however, with the demand for a percentage allowance to the federal purse, will go a long way to placate uproar in different parts of the nation.

Taraba is not an industrial economy state for now so air pollution emission is not the issue but water and environmental pollution. Areas like Barade way, Sabongari, Agwan Gadi, Tunduwada and maim Market to mention but few are eye saw whenever it rains. Evidence of road flooding (Adelalu et al, 2023) and debris on the water ways that limit free flow of storm water thereby causing erosion and defacing the streams and polluting rivers in the state especially the state capital. In his few weeks in office, the resource maintenance advocating governor of the state has employed hundreds of youths in the state to see to cleaning environment: evacuation of debris in the drainage, sweeping of the road planting trees etc. This step will not only put food on the table of some teaming unemployed youths, reduced criminality, and political thugry but limit pollution to level which do not damage natural systems.

CONCLUSION

Taraba state has the potential of transforming the socio-economic status of the northeast. This can be achieved through integrated water, mineral resources, agricultural and community development and the development of some other sectors such as tourism and processing industries. To have sustainable community development, therefore, begins at every home. Sustainable homes initiate sustainable communities. Every household can be the impetus for eco-conscious change. It is clear that a planning framework is central to engaging with, mediating and coordinating the range of actors that produce and use the built environment. Adoption of sound land management and production techniques productivity is crucial to sustainable productivities and harnessing of vegetation resources and other natural gifts to the nation in the state.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The present Taraba government is eco-conscious and seems ready to make proactive change in that regard. Hence, community cooperation to make it a reality is paramount. Sustainable practices that preserve biodiversity, that help to mitigate our consumption patterns and fundamental rethinking of our settlement in relationship to the environment should be things of concern to all. It is believed that the understanding of the pattern of the Taraba locale will provide an important step in policy formulation towards uplifting the living standards of the people in the state. This will create an enabling situation that will lessen the impact of human activities on the environment. The federal government should pay attention to this nature's gift to the nation by provision of skills for the teaming youths. This will direct attention to harming the environment. Germane also is promotion or better still, the inculcation of sustainable community into primary and secondary school curricula to plant the idea to pupils from childhood. Employing every means using all techniques, such as the invitation of guest speakers to speak or film shows on sustainable issues. Taking pupils on excursions to areas where sustainable ideas strive etc. Finally, to holistically harness the natural gifts of the nation and for sustainable communities to strive, the citizens of the various communities in the state are enjoined to create a conducive environment for development by living in peace and harmony with one another.



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