

An Empirical Study of the Social Economic Impact of Federal Polytechnic on its Host Community

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A polytechnic, sited in a metropolitan environment especially, is regarded among other things as a veritable citadel of learning and vehicle for social – economic emancipation of the people. Not only that the institution be a source of light into the darkness of ignorance, poverty and disease, but it will also provide gainful employment opportunities to its patrons, through its many linkages which will inevitably spring up overtime. Host communities to such institutions are usually seen as the primary beneficiaries, if the opportunities thus provided are effectively harnessed. The corollary also holds that if a gap exists by omission or commission, between the expected and actual outcomes regarding the project's impact on the host community, the credibility gap also widens. The wisdom in releasing their land for such projects. This study was undertaken to examine to what extent the Offa community was justified in hosting federal Polytechnic, vis-a-viz the economic impact that the latter is making on its host community. A survey research design was used while stratified sampling techniques were employed in selecting the sample, realizing the heterogeneous nature of the parameters employed. 50 questionnaires were distributed but only 34 were completed and returned which represented 68% response rate. Data collected were summarized using frequency tables while Pearson correlation analyses was further done to test the hypothesis that the establishment of Federal Polytechnic at Offa has not made any significant impact on the socio-economic life of Offa people. The finding showed that the impact so far made, is significant.

Keywords: Empirical study, host community, polytechnic, impact

Introduction

An act to establish polytechnics in various parts of the country to provide full-time courses in technology, applied sciences management and other fields of studies and to make provisions for the general administration of such polytechnics came into force on 25th July, 1979. The product of these polytechnics serves as technicians in our industries and companies.

Offa Town

Offa is an important town in Yoruba history, the town was founded by Olalomi Olofagangan, a hunter prince of Oranmiyan descent who first settled in Oyo before moving to Offa. He reigned between 1397 and 1448. Offa served as the headquarters of the Ibolu speaking people in the 18th century and its actions covered area like Oyan, Okuku, Ikirun, Osogbo, Ejigbo, Ilobu, Iresa/, Ede, Iwo to mention but few in the present day Osun State. Inhabited by one of the most industrious and educated people in Nigeria. Offa derived its name from Ofa (an arrow) used by

Olalomi Olofagangan for hunting. In present day Nigeria, Offa town is located in Kwara state with a population of 114,000 (as of 2005). The town is the second largest city in Kwara state (after Ilorin the state capital). The vegetation in Offa is savanna and the city is noted for its sweet potatoes among other food crops. The key religions practiced in the town are Islam and Christianity. Offa has a very rich cultural heritage in Yoruba land such as Onimaka, Moremi, Molepe, Ijakadi, festival and so on. The town lies along railroad from Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria, and Offa served as the railway terminus before the line was extended to Kano and Nguru in northern Nigeria. The tertiary institutions in the town include federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State College of Health Technology and the Nigeria Navy School of Health Sciences. There are also two private universities whose constructions are near completion. The present Olofa of Offa is HRM Oba Mufutau Gbadamosi Esuwoye ii, who upon assumption of office spent huge sum of personal money to give Offa a befitting and world rated Palace. In fact the palace has become of its size and architectural concepts. The praise name of Offa is "Ijakadi loro Offa" Yoruba phrase meaning

“wrestling is our game”. The city mescal is the peacock bird which is one of the most prominent exotic avian species. Offa people are industrious and enterprising. The town serves as commercial hub for its indigenes and the surrounding towns. The popular Owode market has grown to be ultra modern market. Due to the hospitality nature of Offa people, the town has grown in size and population. Offa is the headquarters of Offa local government, carved out of Oyun local government in 1991. It is one of the 16 local governments that constitute Kwara state.

A Brief History of Federal Polytechnic Offa

The Federal Polytechnic, Offa came into existence in 1992. A presidential pronouncement for its establishment was made at the Palace of His Royal Highness, Olofa of Offa, Oba Mustapha Olawoore Olanipekun Ariwaoye ii, by the then Military President, Ibrahim Babangida during a state visit in 1991.

Consequently, a local task force was then constituted by his royal highness, the Olofa under the Chairmanship of Alhaji Timiyu Olatinwo with six other eminent indigenes of Offa and Chief Ayotunde Raji as secretary. This local task force prepared the ground for easy take off of the polytechnic. It identified the premises of Olalomi comprehensive high school as a suitable temporary site and liased with identified landlords whose properties could be used by staff and students. The first Rector was Lady Engineer Taiwo Adeife Osemeikhian while Alh. Tunde Balogun was the Registrar. Other principal Officers include Dr. Rasaan Bello Deputy Rector, Mr. Olatore Deputy Registrar, Mr. P.K Adegbemi Acting Bursar, Mr. Olaoye Librarian. There are five schools at federal polytechnic Offa namely;

- School of Engineering
- School of Applied sciences
- School of Environmental sciences
- School of Information Technology
- School of Business studies each headed by a Director.

Besides, there are two staff schools (primary and secondary) to cater for the children of the polytechnic workers. The school also has three guest houses for accommodation of visitors to the school and relaxation of the workers.

Statement of the Problem

It is common to mention finance, as the most significant factor plaguing the Nigeria case, Musa (2009) would want to suggest reordering of our

emphasis, and in this regard, stemming of strike stands out as a major preoccupation, that is “getting the best out of our educational system” (Musa, 2009) whose product would not, as civil servants, engineers, with contractors to inflate contract swims for personal benefits; and would not be in any public office whatsoever to engage in corrupt practices. Cultism is a monster in the public polytechnic system which is believed in some quarters to be used by Chief Executives of Polytechnics to unleash terror on perceived enemies who might be students or lecturers.

Research Objectives

The objectives in this study are as follows;

- (1) To assess the socio-economic profile of the various strata of Offa community, in the areas of consumption expenditures, patronage of hotel and banking facilities, as well as rental of shops and cafeteria spaces on campus and the general business life of the community before the inception of Federal Polytechnic Offa, using frequency counts and percentages as applicable as performance constructs.
- (2) To assess the socio-economic profile of Offa community in the areas mentioned in (1) above along the same parameters, after the inception of Federal polytechnic Offa.
- (3) To do statistical Pearson correlation analysis between 1 and 2 at 0.1 level (2 tailed).
- (4) To present a valid conclusion and recommendation.

Scope of the Study

The study covers the impact of federal polytechnic Offa (Kwara State of Nigeria) in the following socio-economic aspects of Offa community life. Injection of consumption expenditure of Federal Polytechnic workers, patronage of hotels and banking facilities as well as transportation services located in Offa. Others include shop and cafeteria allotment on campus of Offa community, activation of business activities in Offa and general enhancement of the image and status of Offa with the attendant linkage effects in several socio-economic areas of human endeavors. The time frame by the study is the period 2002-2012.

Methodology

The population for the study consisted of elements of various strata in the city of Offa, who in the opinion of the researcher were beneficiaries of Federal

Polytechnic Offa from inception to date. These are pretty, small medium scale traders; landowners; hoteliers; bankers; contractors; transporters especially commercial motors cycles riders (okada); civil servants; and even the unemployed. About 50 respondents were sampled from the aforementioned strata using stratified sampling technique.

Instrumentation

Questionnaires were designed for data collection the instrument was validated for adequacy using a test-retest reliability test which revealed a high correlation between the two measurements taken on the same population at different times.

Result

Data collected through the questionnaire were distilled using frequency tables.

Table1. Respondents income levels before and after the establishment of federal polytechnics Offa.

Income	Before Fed. Poly	After Fed . Poly
₦-30, 000	19	12
₦ 30,0001-60,000	12	10
₦ -60,001-120,000	2	8
₦-120, 001-240,000	1	3
₦-250, 000	-	1
Total	34	34

Table1 Respondents income levels before and after the establishment of federal polytechnics were 19 but this number was reduced to 12 after. Those of income range N30,00 to N60,000 were 12 before but reduced to 10 after. The respondent who earned between

N60,001 and N120,001 was 1 before but increased to 3 after while only one person emerged on earning N250,000 and above after the establishment of Federal polytechnic Offa respectively.

Table 2. Sizes of business of the respondent before and after The establishment of Federal polytechnic Offa. Size of Business.

Size of the Business	Before Fed. poly	After Fed. Poly
No response	16	17
Small size	11	4
Medium size	7	5
large size	0	8
Total	34	34

In table 2 ,16 respondent before and 17 after the establishment of federal polytechnic did not respond. 11 of them had small size business before but reduce to 4 after. Those of medium size business were 7 before but reduce to 5 after. People had their business

size increased to a large size after Federal Polytechnic was established.

The most probable reason for the large number of “no response” before and after (16 and 17 respectively) was that those respondents were not in business in the categories mentioned.

Table 3 (a) category of business practice before.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid no Response	28	82.4	82.4	82.4
Supplier	4	11.8	11.8	94.1
Contractor	2	5.9	5.9	100.0
Total	34	100.00	100,00	

Table 3 (b). Category of business practice after.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Percent	16	47.1	47.1	82.4
Supplier	4	11.8	11.8	94.1
Contractor	14	41.2	41.2	100.0
total	34	100,00	100.00	

Table 3 indicates a large number, 28 before and 16 after Federal Polytechnic was established respectively probably because they are not in the kind of Business indicated. It is remarkable that when the

number of supplier remained 4 before and after Federal Polytechnic was established, contractor increased in number from 2 to 14 (before and after).

Table 4: Scope of transportation of the respondents before and after the establishment of federal polytechnic.

Scope of Transportation	Before	Fed. poly	After	Fed. poly
No response	28		16	
Within the city	5		2	
Campus shuttle	1		16	
Total	34		34	

In Table 4 above, while the number of transporters decreased within the city (from 5 to 2) before and after, the campus shuttle increased from 1 to 16 so

directly or indirectly it has provided employment for more people in the town and even in the revenue for Offa local govt.

Table 5 (a). Cafeteria Allotment on campus before.

	Frequency	percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SD	11	32.4	32.4	32.4
U	3	8.8	8.8	41.2
A	15	44.1	44.1	85.3
SA	5	14.7	14.7	
Total	34	100.00	100.00	

Table 5 (b). Cafeteria allotment on campus after.

	Frequency	percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SD	7	20.6	20.6	20.6
D	1	2.9	2.9	23.5
U	1	26.5	26.5	26.5
A	9	26.5	26.5	52.9
SA	16	47.1	47.1	
Total	34	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 5 indicates that only 58% of the respondents either agreed Agreed that cafeteria allotment on campus was done for offa community members before federal polytechnic was established. This figure rose to 73% after the establishment of the

federal polytechnic. Bearing in mind that a college (Olalomi comprehensive College) once existed on the campus before federal polytechnic came; the higher percentage was attributable to the impact of the polytechnic.

Table 6(a). Shop Allotment on campus before.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	12	35.3	35.3	35.3
U	3	8.8	8.8	44.1
A	14	41.2	41.2	85.3
SA	3	14.7	14.7	-
Total	34	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 6 (b). Shop allotment on campus after.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	7	20.6	20.6	20.6
D	1	2.9	2.9	23.5
U	2	5.9	5.9	29.4
A	8	23.5	23.5	52.9
SA	16	47.1	47.1	-
Total	34	100.00	100.00	100.00

the same argument in Table 5 above for Table 6 where 24% Agreed/Strongly Agreed that shop allotment was available on campus, after the

polytechnic establishment as against the 19% that agreed/ strongly Agreed before the polytechnic came.

Table 7(a). Banking facilities located around campus before.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	11	32.4	32.4	32.4
U	6	17.6	17.6	50.0
A	14	41.2	41.2	91.2
SA	13	8.8	8.8	--
Total	34	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 7(b). Banking facilities Located around campus after.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	9	26.5	26.5	26.5
U	4	11.8	11.8	38.2
A	8	23.5	23.5	61.8
SA	13	38.2	38.2	--
Total	34	100.00	100.00	100.00

In Table 7, 62% of respondents Agreed/strongly agreed to the presence of banking facilities around campus after the polytechnic came, as against the

50% that similarly responded for the period before the establishment of Federal polytechnic.

Table 8(a). Transport providers- small bus (Korope).

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	9	26.5	26.5	26.5
D	1	2.9	2.9	29.4
U	6	17.6	17.6	47.1
A	16	47.1	47.1	94.1
SA	2	5.9	5.9	--
Total	34	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 8(b). Transport providers especially small bus (Korope) After

	Frequency	Percent	valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	6	17.6	17.6	17.6
D	1	2.9	2.9	20.6
U	2	5.9	5.9	26.5
A	11	32.4	32.4	58.8
SA	14	41.2	41.2	--
total	34	100.00	100.00	100.00

In Table 8, the percentage that Agreed/strongly agreed to the presence of commercial small buses (Korope) increased from 53% (before the polytechnic

came) to 73% (after the establishment of the polytechnic.)

Table 9(a). Injection of consumption expenditure into Offa Community by federal polytechnic workers before.

	Frequency	Percent	valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	9	26.5	26.5	26.5
D	2	5.9	5.9	32.4
U	9	26.5	26.5	58.8
A	10	29.4	29.4	88.2
SA	4	11.8	11.8	--
total	34	100.00	100.0	100.00

Table 9(b). Injection of consumption into Offa community by Federal polytechnic workers after.

	Frequency	Percent	valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	9	26.5	26.5	26.5
D	1	2.9	2.9	2.9
U	4	11.9	11.8	41.2
A	5	14.7	14.7	55.9
SA	15	44.1	44.1	--
total	34	100.00	100.0	100.00

Table 9 indicate that percentage of respondent that Agreed/strongly Agreed to the fact that there were more increased from 41% (before) to 58% (after).

Table 10. Enhancing the socio-cultural development of Offa before.

	Frequency	Percent	valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid SD	8	23.5	23.5	23.5
D	5	14.7	14.7	38.5
U	2	5.6	5.9	44.1
A	6	17.6	17.9	61.8
SA	13	38.2	38.2	--
total	34	100.00	100.0	100.00

Table 10 talk about the polytechnic enhancing the social culture development of Offa community.

Respondents who Agreed/strongly Agreed with this view increased from 44% (before) to 55% (after)

Table 11. Relationship between economic benefits before and after federal polytechnic.

(a) Discriminative statistics

	Means	Standard Deviation	N
Economic benefits before Fed. poly	30.1176	10.3249	34
Economic benefit after Fed. poly	35.3824	12.5530	34

(b) Correlations

		Economic benefits before Red. poly	Economic benefits after Red. poly
Economic benefits before Fed. Poly	Pearson Correlation	1000 34	512**002 34
	Sip (2-tailed)N		
Economic benefits before Fed. poly	Pearson Correlation	512**00234	10034
	Sip (2-tailed)N		

**correlation is significant at the 001 level (2-tailed)

Table 11a) summarized the survey findings using both Descriptive statistics and statistical analysis. Table 11(a) shows an increase in the mean and standard deviation before and after.

Table 11(b) is the Pearson correlation analysis. The strength of relationship, or the association between two variables is typically measured by the coefficient of correlation, whose value range from 1 (perfect negative correlation) to + 1 (perfect positive correlation).

In this table the correlation coefficient r is 0.512 with is significant of the 0.01 level (2-tailed) ($r = 0.512, N=34, p < 0.01$).

Findings and Discussion

As stated earlier under the scope of the study, the areas of for investigation in this study are changes in the following: respondent income levels earned from their various business enterprises, participation in economic activities on campus, establishment of certain infrastructures, like bank and hotels in the community. Others are consumption expenditures incurred by polytechnic staff and the overall boost in the socio-economic staff of Offa. These changes were acclaimed to the next effect of the establishment of federal polytechnic Offa.

Specifically, it was found that the income levels of local populace increased, size of business enterprises changed from small to medium and large, while the status of business practices migrated from mere supply to contractor. On transport scene, the use of small bus (Korope) received a boost; partnership with polytechnic administration was enhanced in the cafeteria around campus received and boost while hotel sprang up to their own impact. Consumption expenditure of the polytechnic workers improved the economic activities of Offa community; lastly there is a significant enhancement of status socially and economically brought on Offa community as a result of the sitting of federal polytechnic at Offa.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Federal polytechnic Offa is of great benefit to Offa community, the landlords association was full of

praises to the polytechnic activity because hitherto many houses were under lock and key, this has become things of the past. Demand for accommodation in Offa has increased tremendously. The night market in the community that close sometimes before 8pm is always full of activities till past 10pm especially when the school is in session. The only staff school established in the school (Fed. Poly) could not serve all the workers of the polytechnic hence the establishment of more private nursery and primary schools and colleges in the community this provide job for teachers that are employed in such schools, The polytechnic provide halls for entertainment for weddings and burial ceremonies at token fees during the weekends for the community. This Para is concluding with the following recommendations which if implemented would go a long way in fostering a healthier mutual relationship and sensitizing the Offa community or the need for greater cooperation with the federal polytechnic administration towards an accelerated development of Offa.

A gown to town programs should be instituted on campus, which would show case the polytechnic to the community. Outreach activities to undertake would cut across the polytechnic programs that can be adopted to benefit the local populace.

There could be free blood checkups by the polytechnic medical centre, the polytechnic security outfit could give counseling services for the commercial bus driver (korrope) and motorcyclist (okada) and sponsor community based educational or cultural projects, even sporting events among the community members.

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