

NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN BIDA AGRICULTURAL ZONE, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the needs of woman and youth in Bida Agricultural Zone, Niger State. Primary data were collected for the survey using a semi-structured questionnaire. The menu of participatory options adopted for the survey are - focus group discussion (FGD) and community group discussion. Bida Agricultural Zone which falls in Niger South Senatorial District was purposively selected for the study. 25,600 randomly selected respondents participated in the study. Descriptive statistics was used in the analysis of generated field data. The study reveals that 10% of respondents are unemployed, 68% are majorly farmers, 3% consider their health care facility as not functional, 30% only buy new clothes, and about 40% rarely consume animal protein. Approximately 37% of respondents have pit latrines in their homes, 25% get their drinking water from rivers and streams, roughly 81% use the hospital when they fall sick. Whereas 34% of respondents have a functional bank account, less than 1% use them regularly. The study found the most important family support needs to be motorcycle (44%), the second, sewing machine (11%), and third, knapsack sprayer (8.3%). The most important Community Development Needs is road and drainage system (35%), second, streetlight (14.1%), and third, potable water (12.5%). Baseline data gathered in the course of this study will serve as benchmark for future activities that have bearing on the survey. Its outcome should guide policy-makers in choices of empowerment materials for women and youths in Bida Agricultural Zone because it is data driven.

Keywords: Empowerment; Baseline; Community development; Family support; Intervention

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment is a word used in recent times to show the lifting up of groups or individuals so as to improve their socioeconomic situation. All over the world, especially in developing economies where Nigeria falls, people are trapped in poverty and are barred from opportunities. Modern trend at lifting people out of poverty borders on improving the overall investment climate and or empowering poor people by investing in their assets (Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations (FAO), 2004). With this in perspectives, projects in forms of intervention that have relevance to rural development are initiated for deserving communities and persons

in poor countries of the world by governments, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations as the case may be.

The gap between the current condition and a desired condition is called a need (Sleezer, Russ-Eft, & Gupta, 2014). Needs are influenced significantly by group interaction and are not static, they change with time (Adegbola & Awagu, 2013). A needs assessment aligns resources with strategy set goals for future action, and provide data, insights, or justification for decision making. Specifically, a needs assessment identifies leverage points for making changes, prioritize actions, and provides baseline data for later evaluation of results; it ensures that interventions are relevant and address the needs.

Needs assessment is the collection and analysis of information that relates to the needs of affected populations that will help determine gaps between an agreed standard and the current situation (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2017); a systematic process of establishing priorities (Adegbola, Obarein, Akor, Oriowo, & Lijoka, 2019). Needs assessment is carried out when there are doubts as to what the most important needs are especially whenever there is likely to be a change in needs (Duvel, 2002); needs that are rated most important are the ones to be addressed (Berkowitz and Nagy, 2002). Needs assessment collects information about a people or group needs, wants, wishes, and desires (extensive or intensive). The assessments are influenced by the definition of need itself; discrepancy, democratic, analytic, or diagnostic (Stufflebeam, 1985), the sources of data, and the approach by which the data are collected and analyzed (Watkins, Meiers, & Visser, 2012). Discrepancy needs are based on the differences between the current and the ideal or the expected. Democratic needs are based on what most people prefer or select and are determined by majority rule. Analytic needs are determined by intuition, insight, expert consideration, or enlightenment. However, diagnostic needs are defined through causal analysis and research.

This survey is essential because understanding the needs of a people is essential in planning and executing empowerment programs. Categorically, this study is an overview on needs assessments of women and youths in Niger South Senatorial District with specific focus on family support and community development needs. With that in perspective, the outcome of the study will be a data driven needs for youth and women in Niger Senatorial district.

METHODOLOGY

Bida Agricultural Zone/Niger South Senatorial District is located in Niger State; the state is situated in the north-central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Niger State is the largest State in Nigeria with a vast land mass of 86,000km²; approximately 8.6 million hectares constituting about 9.3% of the total land area of the country (Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS), 2021). The State lies on latitude 8° to 11° 30' North and Longitude 03° 30' to 07° 40' East (Nairametrics 2013). The State shares a country border with the Republic of Benin (West) and State borders within Nigeria with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on the South-East, Zamfara (North), Kebbi (North-West), Kwara (South-West) and Kaduna (North-East).

Niger South Senatorial District is comprised of 8 Local government areas namely: Agaie, Bida, Edati, Gbako, Katcha, Lapai Lavun, and Mokwa (National Population Commission (NPC), 2010). Most of the inhabitants of Niger South Senatorial District are engaged in farming; cotton, shea nuts, yams, and peanuts (groundnuts) are cultivated both for export and for domestic consumption. While sorghum, millet, cowpeas, corn (maize), tobacco, palm oil and kernels, kola nuts, sugarcane, and fish are also important in local trade, paddy rice is widely grown as a cash crop in the area around Bida. Furthermore, cattle, goats, sheep, chickens, and guinea fowl are raised for meat this area.

Agaie LGA has an area of 1,903 km² and a population of 132,907 (NPC, 2010). It is on Latitude: 9° 0' 30.6468" N and Longitude: 6° 19' 2.2476" E (Latitude, 2021). Bida LGA has an area of 51 km² and a population of 188,181 (NPC, 2010). It is on Latitude 9°4' 59.9988" N and Longitude 6° 1' 0.0012" E (Latitude, 2021). Edati LGA has an area of 1752 km² and a population of 160,321 (NPC, 2010). The Local Government Area is on 9° 1' 39" N / 5° 37' 6" E (Latitude, 2021). Gbako LGA has an area of 1753 km² and a population of 127,466 (NPC, 2010). It is on Latitude: 9°24'00"N and Longitude: 6°02'00"E (Latitude, 2021). Katcha LGA has an area of 1681 km² and a population of 122,176 (NPC, 2010). The Local Government Area is on Latitude: 9°03'00"N and Longitude: 6°09'00"E (Latitude, 2021). Lapai LGA has an area of 3051 km² and a population of 110,000 (NPC, 2010). The Local Government Area is on Latitude: 9°03'00"N and Longitude: 6°34'00"E (Latitude, 2021). Lavun LGA has an area of 2,835 km² and a population of 209,917 (NPC, 2010). The Local Government Area is on Latitude: 9°12'00"N and Longitude: 5°36'00"E (Latitude, 2021). Mokwa LGA has an area of 4,338 km² and a population of 244,937 (NPC, 2010). The Local Government Area is on Latitude: 9° 17' 41.35" N and Longitude: 5° 03' 14.83" E (Latitude, 2021).

The survey was a cross-sectional survey. The assessment adopted for the study was the participatory rapid rural appraisal techniques (PRRAT) methodologies that ensures early/rapid feedback. Needs assessments are predicated on the compilation and analysis of data. The finest needs assessments require multiple sources of data, multiple kinds of data and more than one kind of data analysis (Sleezer, Russ-Eft, & Gupta, 2014). For this study, primary data were collected through interviews (individual interview) using semi-structured questionnaire; items on the questionnaire were developed on the basis of the objectives of the survey. The menu of participatory options are - focus group discussion (FGD) and community group discussion aided by use of a checklist. Key informant ("lay" key informants and "expert" key informants) interviews was also adopted for this study. The study purposively sampled 25,600 respondents; three thousand two hundred (3200) respondents (1600 youth and 1600 women) each was sampled from each of the LGAs that make up Niger South Senatorial District, Niger State. The target population is youth and women in Niger South Senatorial District, Niger state. Needs for this survey was determined democratically; democratic needs are based on what most people prefer or select and are determined by majority rule. Descriptive statistics was used in the analysis of generated field data aided by Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 20 (SPSS20) software.

The survey was executed concurrently in all the eight (8) LGAs that make up Niger South Senatorial District, Niger state. A total of eighty (80) enumerators were involved in data collection for a period of ten days, which is from 1st October - 10th October 2021. This period was considered long enough for data collection for the survey. Initial interaction with locals during the pre-visit exercise to the area earlier on guided the decision for empowerment materials listed on the research instrument, they include: Motorcycle, grinding machine, sewing machine, hair clipper, hair dryer, tricycle (Keke Napep), fertilizer, freezer, agro chemicals, electric generator, smoking kiln, sewing machine, washing machine, Solar Street light, irrigation pump, and knapsack sprayer. Respondents were also at liberty to list other items of need that are not included on the questionnaire.

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic information in a survey allow researchers gain background information on participants; they provide context for describing the participants of a survey and aid analysis of survey data. Traditionally, needs assessments surveys provide baseline information for future monitoring; an indispensable component of strategic planning.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Socio-demographic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	1812	29.4
Female	4344	70.6
Total	6156	100.0
Age		
Less than 30	2772	45.0
30-39	2460	40.0
40-49	690	11.2
50-59	150	2.4
60 and above	84	1.4
Total	6156	100.0
Marital Status		
Single	1698	27.6
Married	4134	67.2
Divorced / separated	48	.8
Widowed	276	4.5
Total	6156	100.0
Number of Dependents		
< 4	3204	52.0
4 to 6	1866	30.3
7 to 10	726	11.8
> 10	360	5.8
Total	6156	100.0
Level of Education		
No formal education	1110	18.0
Primary	684	11.1
Secondary	2814	45.7
ND/NCE	1080	17.5
HND	384	6.2
B.sc	78	1.3
PhD	6	.1
Total	6156	100.0
Major Occupation		
Farming	4164	67.6
Agro processing	186	3.0
Artisan	540	8.8
Sales of agricultural commodities	642	10.4
Petty trading	480	7.8
Others	144	2.3
Total	6156	100.0

Source: Field survey 2021

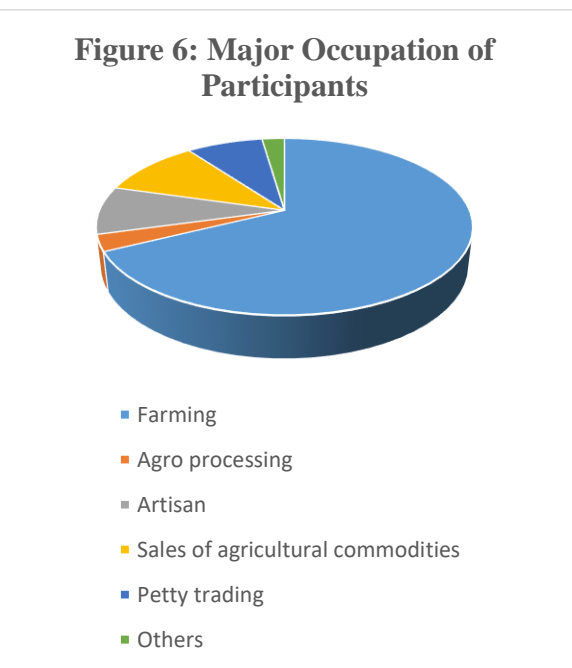
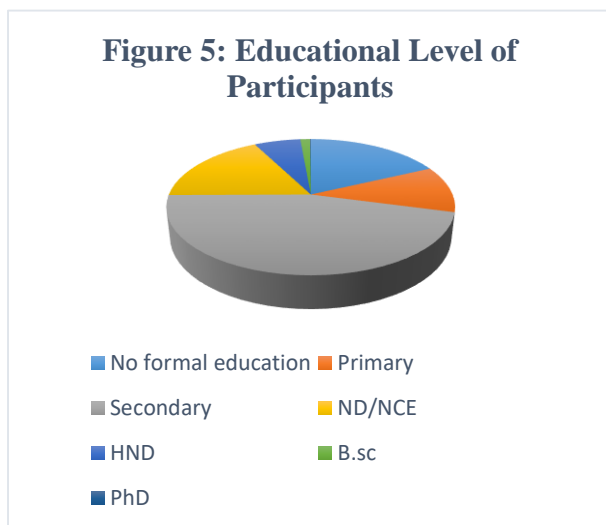
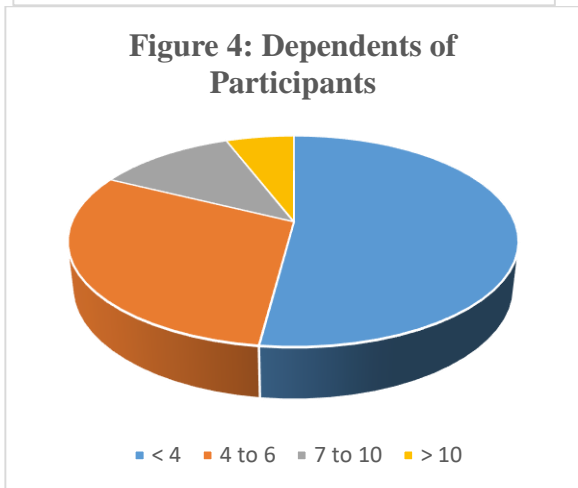
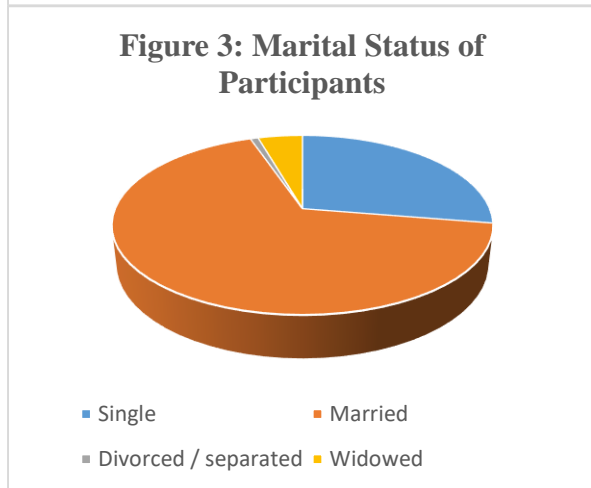
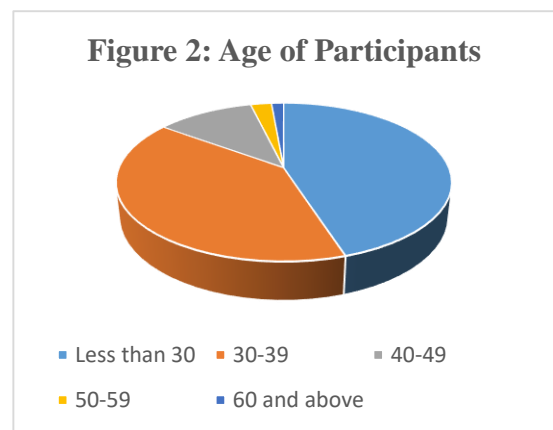
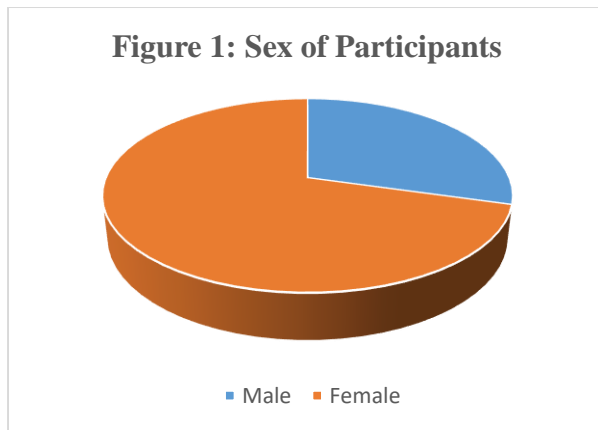


Table 1 revealed that 29% of participants are male while 71 are female. Whereas 85% of these fall in youth age category, 4% are widowed, 67% married, while 4% are either separated or divorced. 52% had less than 4 dependents, 30% had between 4 and 6 dependents, while about 6% had more than 10

dependents. 18% of participants have no formal education, while 24% can be considered to have a higher education. While 10% of respondents are unemployed, 68% have farming as their major occupation. Health care facilities are not in short supply as 83% have health care facilities in their

communities; only a meagre 3% consider these facilities as not functional.

About 60% of respondents buy clothes for families between one and twice in a year, while 37% do this between three to four times. 3% of respondents however buy clothes for families over five times within the year. Furthermore, 54% buy a mixture of old and new clothes for their families, while about 17% buy only old clothes (okirika). Nevertheless, 30% of respondents only buy new clothes for families. While about 70% of respondents eat three square meals, nevertheless about 40% rarely consume animal protein. 9% of respondent make new school uniforms for their dependents when the old ones are torn, 35% when uniforms are old, and 13% rarely make new uniforms.

About 37% of respondents have pit latrines in their homes, 41% use the bush, while 22% have water system in their homes. Furthermore, 25% of respondents get their drinking water from rivers and streams, 21% from government water agencies, 48% from wells, while a meagre 1% drink sachet water.

Roughly 81% of the respondents use the hospitals when they or family members fall sick, 12% treat with herbs, and 7% use the patient medicine shops. Whereas about 34% of respondents have a functional bank account, less than 1% use them upwards of five times in a year. Finally, 6% of respondents have upward of ₦ 500,000 as business capital.

Needs Assessment

Needs assessments are ideally conducted to help provide for people in need, but funding may not always be available to provide for all of their needs, hence needs are prioritized even when all needs are noted. Needs for this survey are broken down into two categories; family support needs (personal) and community development needs. Furthermore, the results were firstly done to reflect a combined result for all the Local Government Areas in Niger South Senatorial District of Niger state put together and was subsequently broken down to reflect results for individual Local Government Area in the Senatorial District.

Table 2: Combined/General Family Support Needs

Needs	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Motorcycle	2731	45.1
grinding machine	458	7.5
sewing machine	674	11.0
hair clipper	44	.6
hair dryer	13	.1
Tricycle (Keke Napep)	375	6.1
Fertilizer	464	7.6
deep freezer	320	5.2
agro chemicals	164	2.6
Generator	50	.7
fish smoking kiln	27	.3
washing machine	44	.6
knap sack sprayer	519	8.4
irrigation pump	248	4.0
solar street light	27	.3
Total	6156	100.0

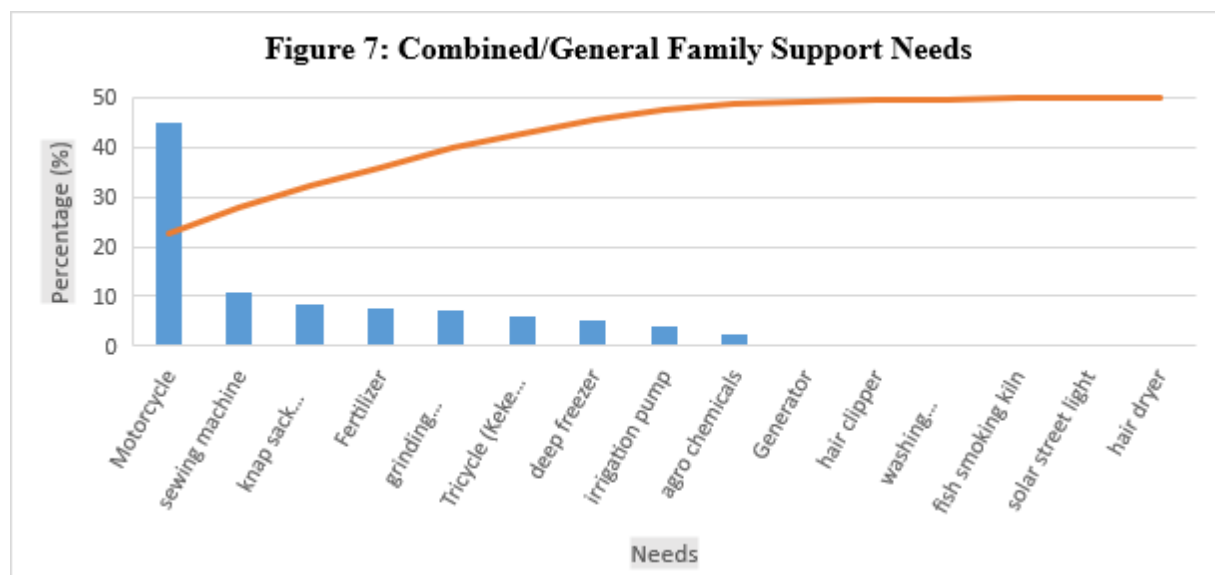


Table 2 revealed that the most important family support needs of Niger South Senatorial District is motorcycle (44%), the second is sewing machine (11%), the third is knapsack sprayer (8.3%), the fourth is fertilizer (7.4%), the fifth is grinding

machine (7.3%), the sixth is tricycle (keke napep) (5.9%), the seventh is deep freezer (5.1), the eighth is irrigation pump (3.9%), the ninth is agrochemicals (2.5%), and tenth is electricity generating set (0.7%).

Table 3: Combined/General Community Development Needs

Needs	Frequency	Percent
Road and drainage construction	2174	36.1
Water supply	788	12.9
Transformer and streetlight	889	14.6
School	391	6.2
Bank	109	1.5
Market	175	2.6
Agricultural inputs and equipment	631	10.3
Health care	583	9.5
Telecommunication network	367	5.8
Filling Station	49	.5
Total	6156	100.0

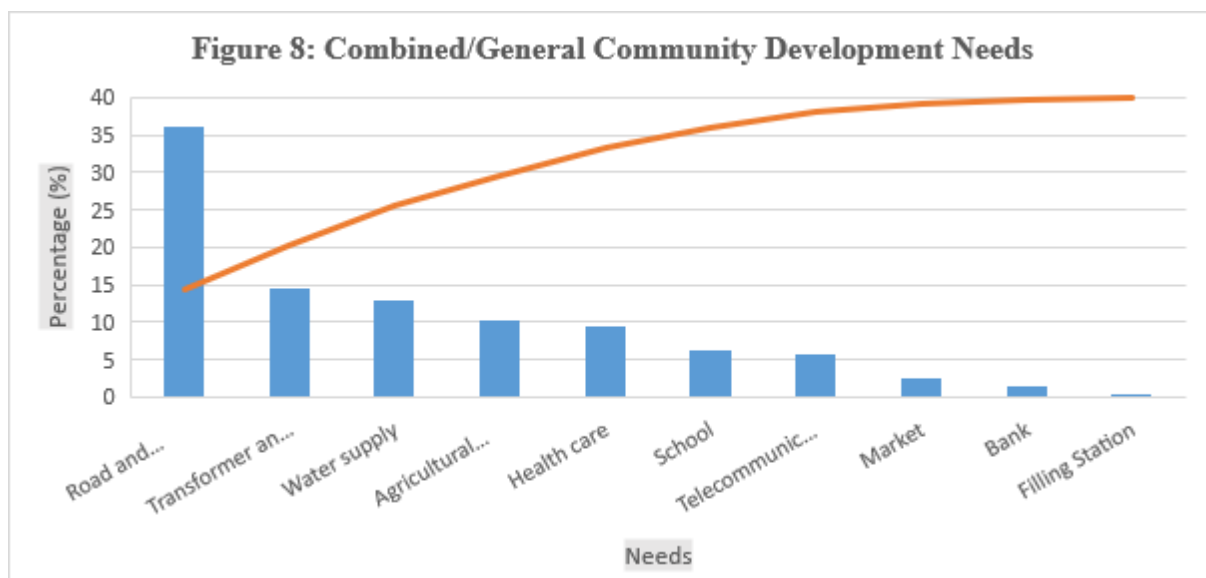
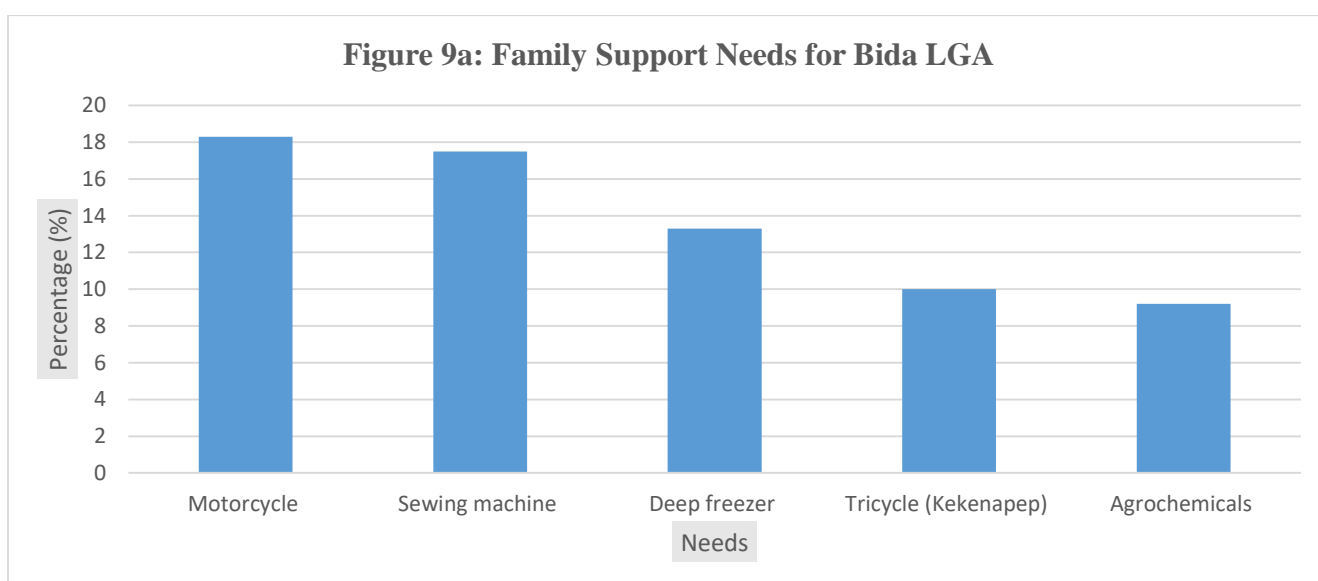


Table 3 revealed that the most important Community Development Needs of Niger South Senatorial District is road and drainage system (35%), second is streetlight (14.1%), third is potable water (12.5%),

fourth is agricultural inputs (9.9%), fifth is hospital (9.5%), sixth is female school (6%), and seventh is telecommunication facilities (5.7%).

Table 4: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Bida LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	18.3	1 st	Road and drainage	33.9
2 nd	Sewing machine	17.5	2 nd	Hospital	28.1
3 rd	Deep freezer	13.3	3 rd	Tertiary school	11.6
4 th	Tricycle (Kekenapep)	10.0	4 th	Transformer and street light	10.7
5 th	Agrochemicals	9.2	5 th	Potable water supply	9.1



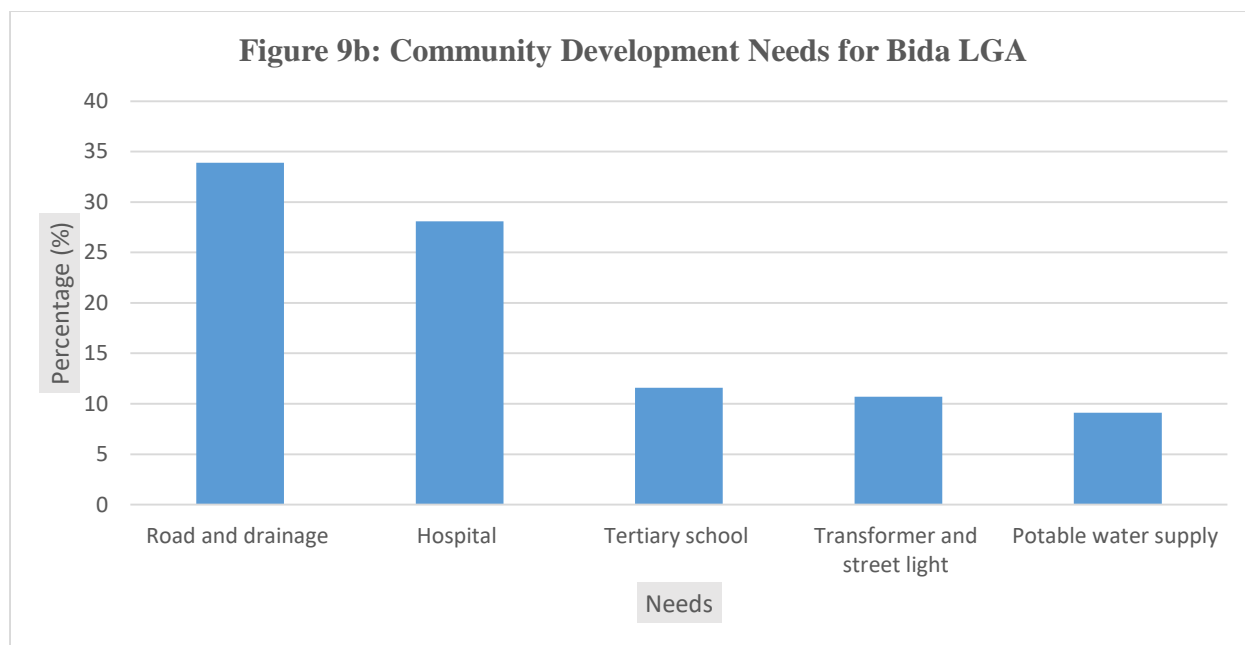
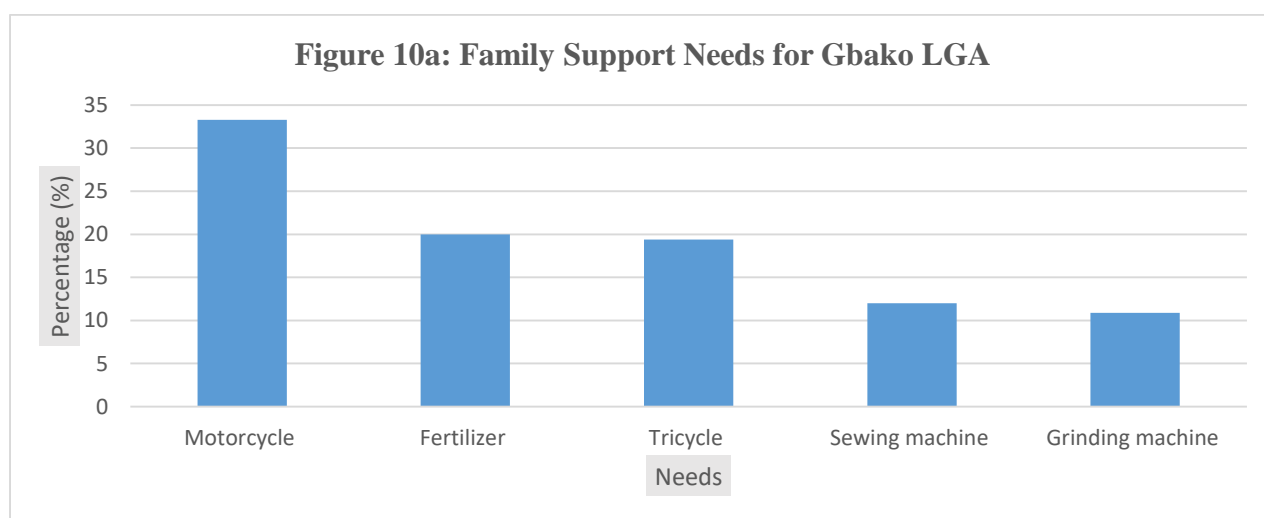


Table 4 revealed that the most important family support need for Bida LGA is motorcycle, the second is sewing machine, the third is deep freezer, the fourth is tricycle, and the fifth is agro chemicals. The first

community development need is road and drainage system, second is hospital, third is tertiary school, the fourth is transformer and streetlight, and fifth is potable water supply.

Table 5: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Gbako LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	33.3	1 st	Hospital	24.4
2 nd	Fertilizer	20.0	2 nd	Transformer and streetlight	20.5
3 rd	Tricycle	19.4	3 rd	Potable water supply	18.9
4 th	Sewing machine	12.0	4 th	Tertiary school	15.7
5 th	Grinding machine	10.9	5 th	Bank	6.3



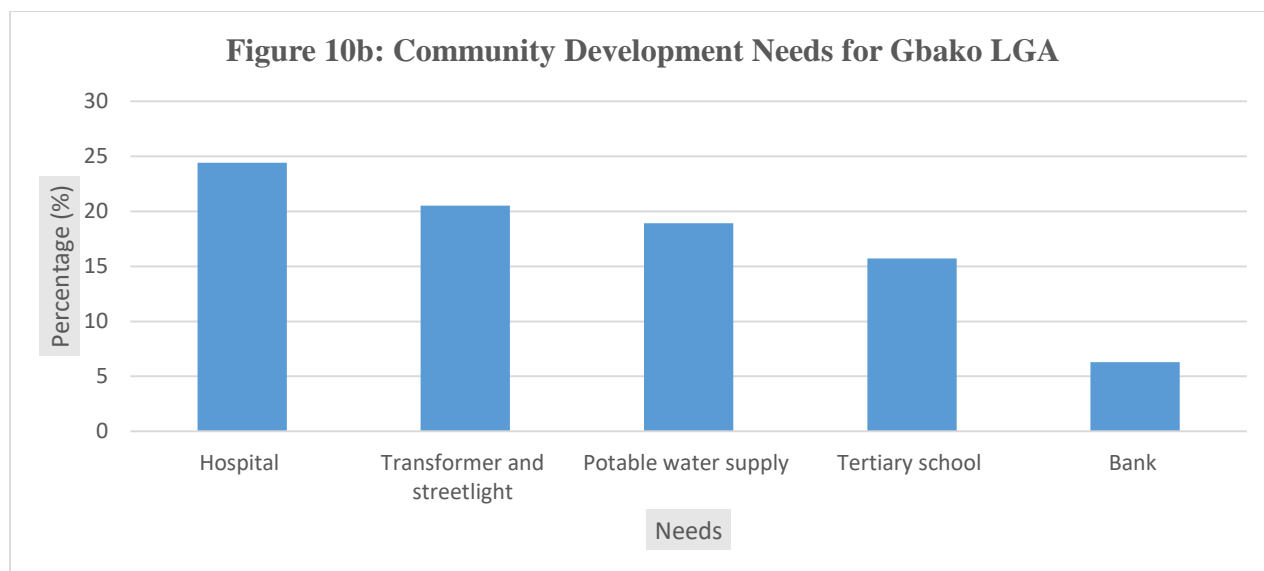
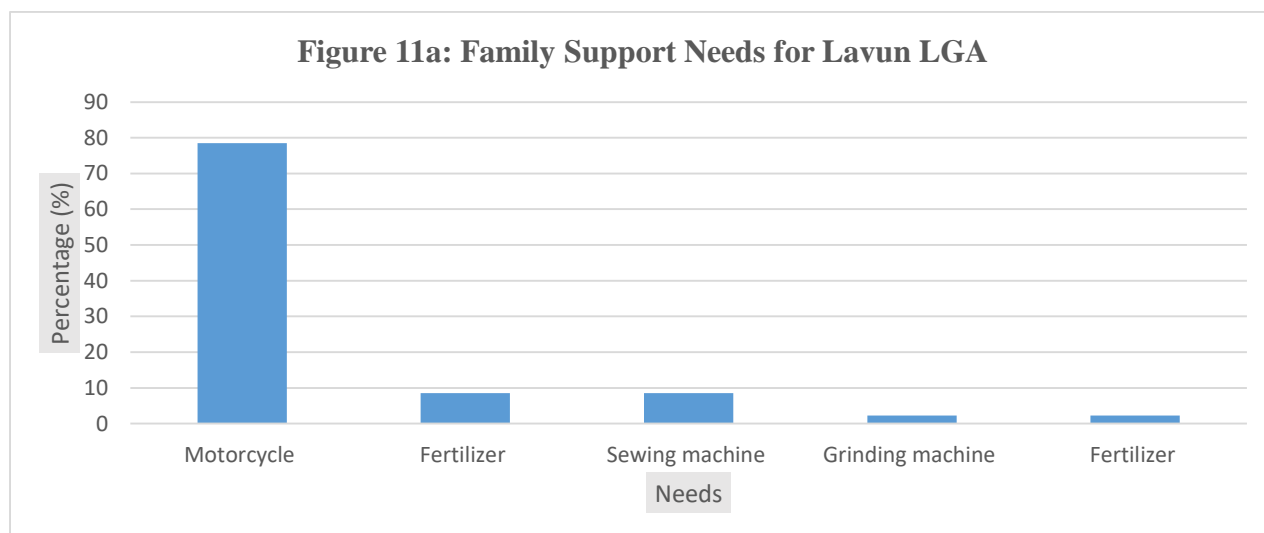


Table 5 revealed that the most important family support need for Gbako LGA is motorcycle, the second is fertilizer, the third is tricycle, the fourth is sewing machine, and the fifth is grinding machine.

The first community development need is hospital, second is transformer and streetlight, third is potable water supply, the fourth is tertiary school, and fifth is bank.

Table 6: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Lavun LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	78.5	1 st	Road and drainage	61.5
2 nd	Fertilizer	8.5	2 nd	Telecommunication facilities	19.2
3 rd	Sewing machine	8.5	3 rd	Tertiary school	17.7
4 th	Grinding machine	2.3	4 th	Transformer and streetlight	0.8
5 th	Fertilizer	2.3	5 th	Bank	0.8



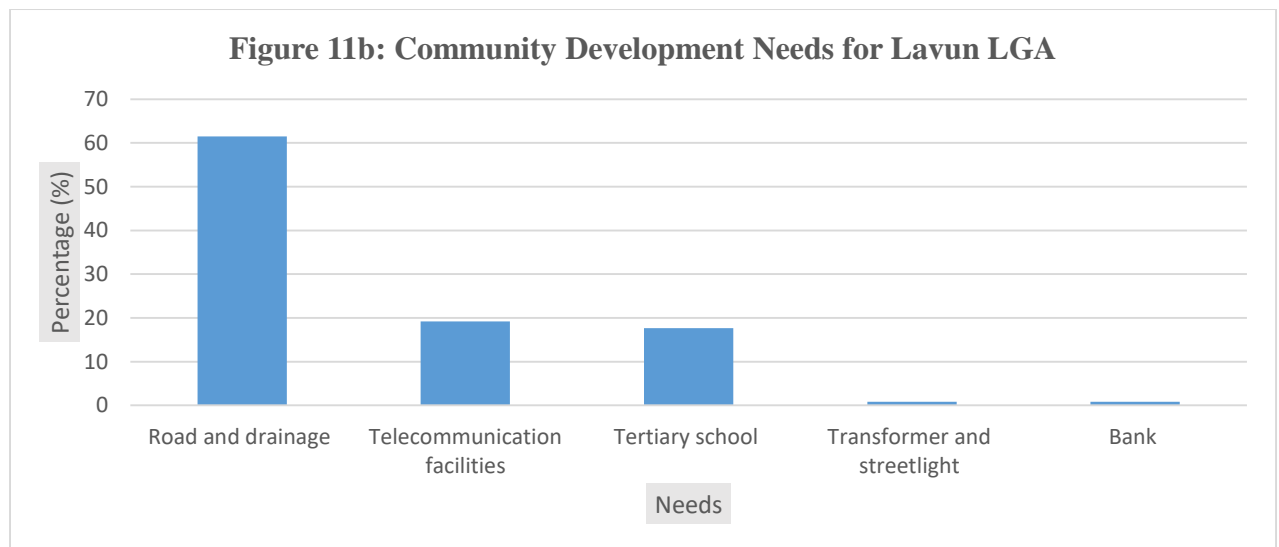


Table 6 revealed that the most important family support need for Lavun LGA is motorcycle, the second is fertilizer, the third is sewing machine, the fourth is grinding machine, and the fifth is fertilizer.

The first community development need is road and drainage system, second is telecommunication facilities, third is tertiary school, the fourth is transformer and streetlight, and fifth is bank.

Table 7: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Lapai LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	28.8	1 st	Road and drainage	50.8
2 nd	Irrigation pump	27.2	2 nd	Transformer and streetlight	18.9
3 rd	Fertilizer	13.6	3 rd	Agricultural inputs	13.1
4 th	Knapsack sprayer	6.4	4 th	Hospital	10.7
5 th	Sewing machine	5.6	5 th	Potable water supply	6.6

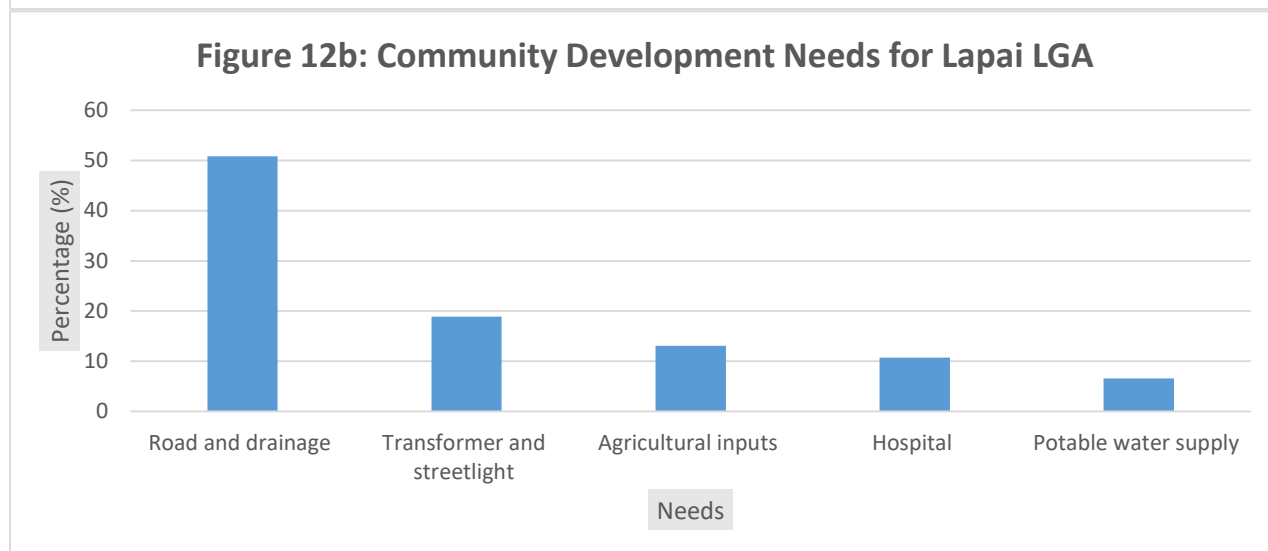
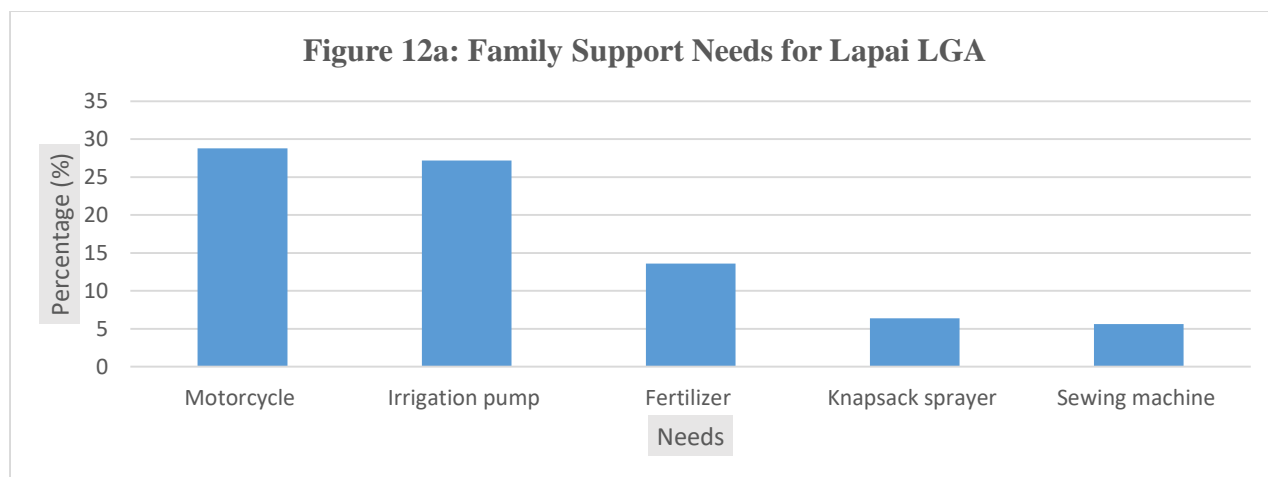


Table 7 revealed that the most important family support need for Lapai LGA is motorcycle, the second is irrigation pump, the third is fertilizer, the fourth is knapsack sprayer, and the fifth is sewing machine.

The first community development need is road and drainage system, second is transformer and streetlight, third is agricultural inputs, the fourth is hospital, and fifth is potable water supply.

Table 8: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Agaie LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	57.7	1 st	Agricultural inputs	58.0
2 nd	Deep freezer	15.3	2 nd	Road and drainage	33.9
3 rd	Tricycle	4.5	3 rd	Transformer and streetlight	4.5
4 th	Fertilizer	3.6	4 th	Potable water supply	2.7
5 th	Knapsack sprayer	3.6	5 th	Market	1.0

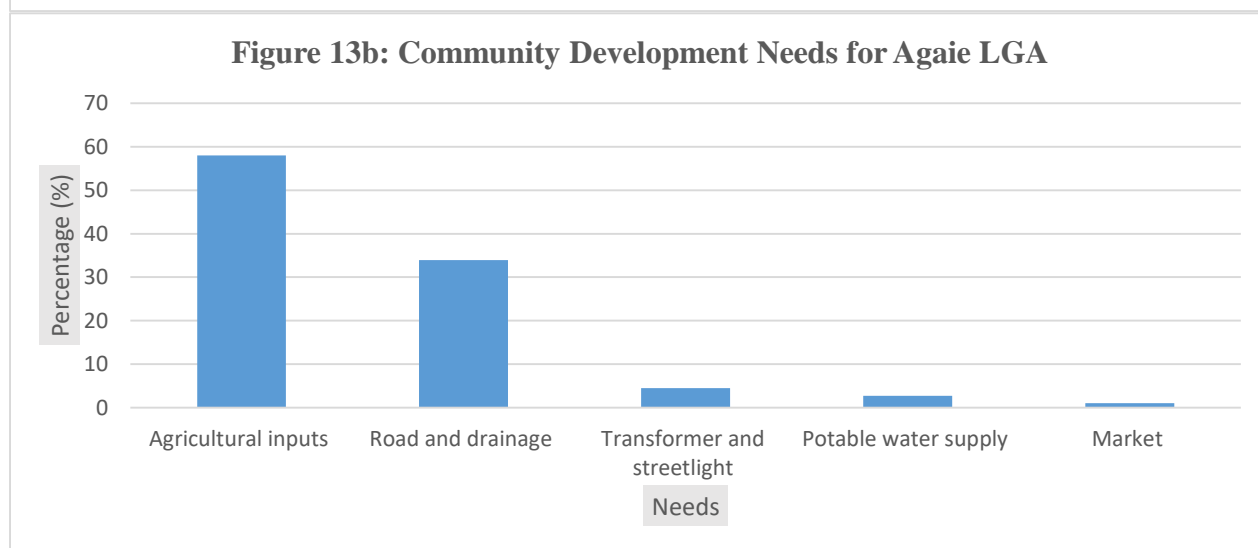
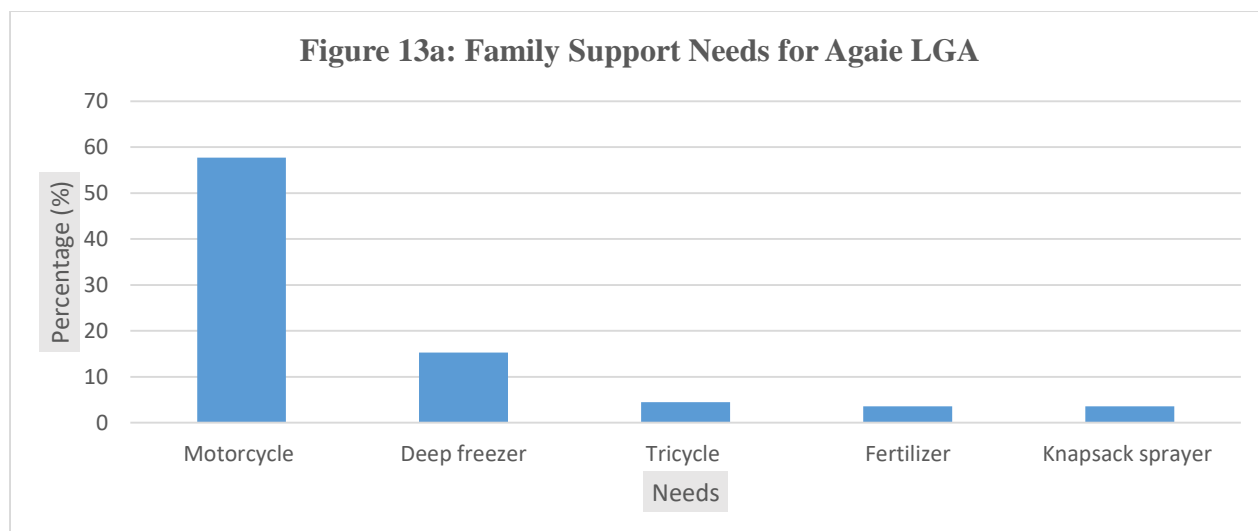


Table 8 revealed that the most important family support need for Agaie LGA is motorcycle, the second is deep freezer, the third is tricycle, the fourth is fertilizer, and the fifth is knapsack sprayer. The

first community development need is agricultural input, second is road and drainage, third is transformer and streetlight, the fourth is potable water supply, and fifth is market.

Table 9: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Katcha LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	49.6	1 st	Potable water supply	34.7
2 nd	Grinding machine	13.0	2 nd	Road and drainage	33.1
3 rd	Fertilizer	8.4	3 rd	Transformer and streetlight	16.1
4 th	Tricycle	6.1	4 th	Agricultural inputs	12.9
5 th	Deep freezer	6.1	5 th	Hospital	2.4

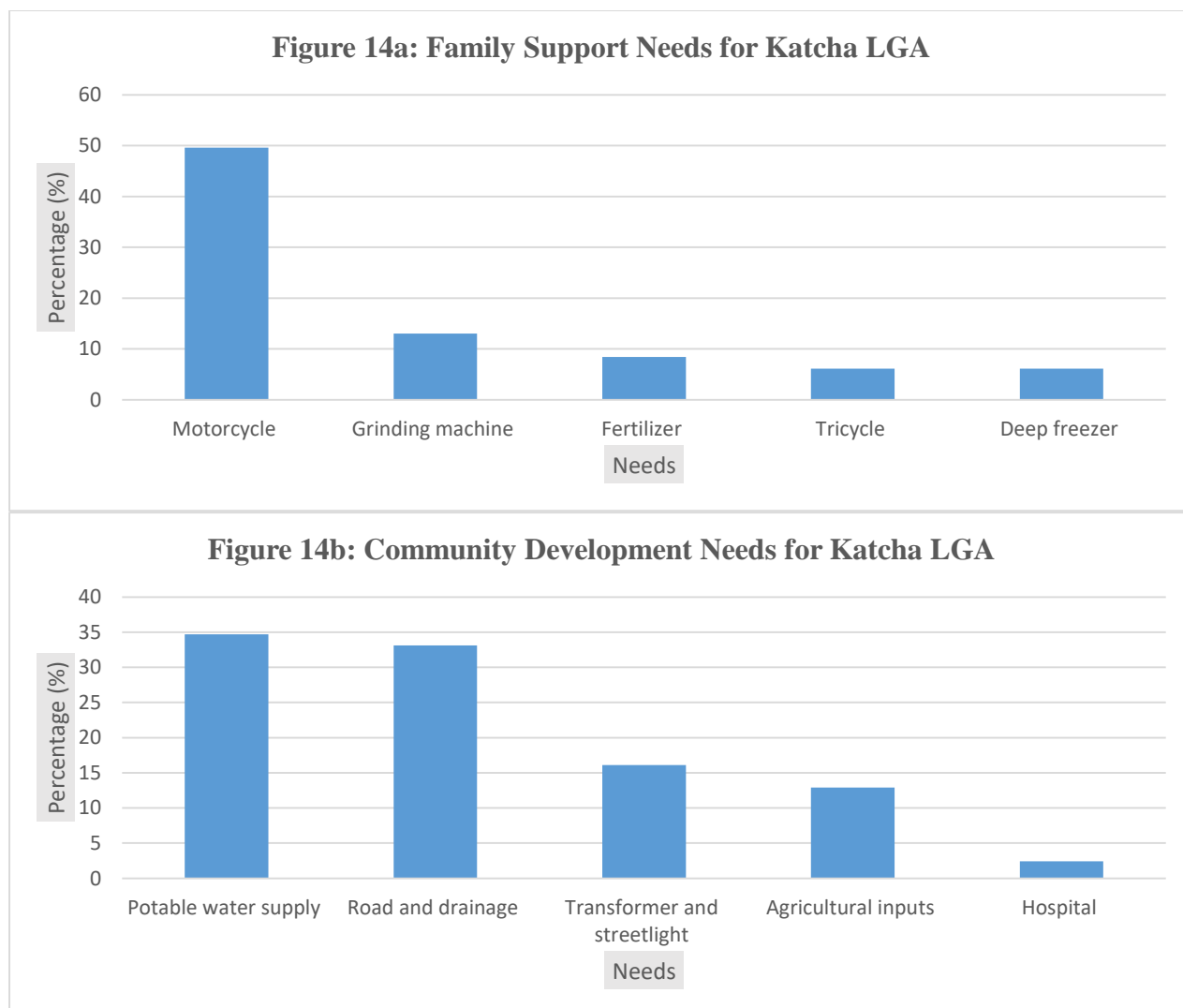


Table 9 revealed that the most important family support need for Katcha LGA is motorcycle, the second is grinding machine, the third is fertilizer, the fourth is tricycle, and the fifth is deep freezer. The

first community development need is potable water supply, second is road and drainage system, third is transformer and streetlight, the fourth is agricultural inputs, and fifth is hospital.

Table 10: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Mokwa LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	44.2	1 st	Road and drainage system	46.5
2 nd	Knapsack sprayer	31.0	2 nd	Transformer and streetlight	26.0
3 rd	Sewing machine	20.9	3 rd	Potable water supply	23.6
4 th	Hair clipper	2.3	4 th	Bank	1.6
5 th	Deep freezer	1.6	5 th	Hospital	1.0

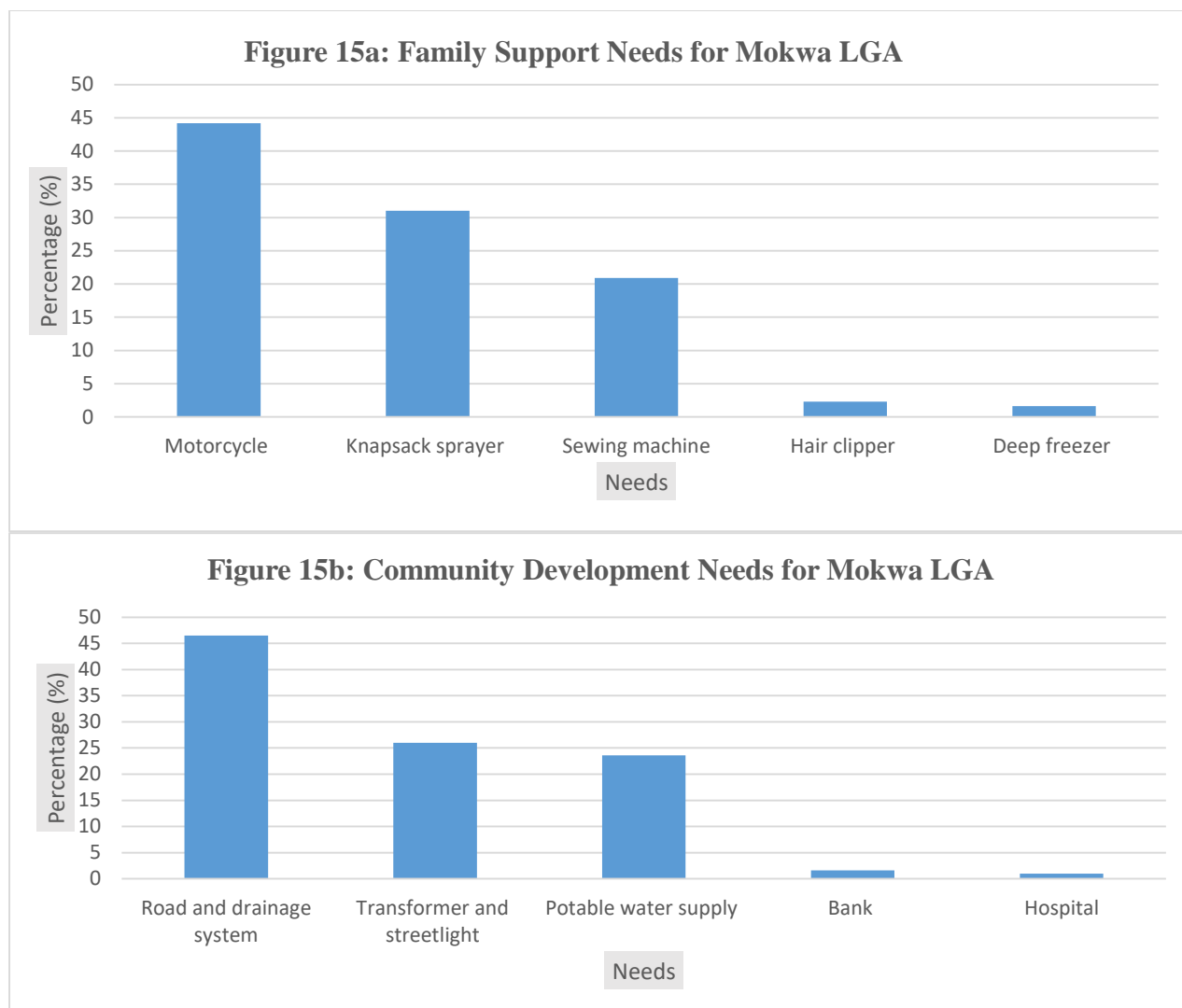


Table 10 revealed that the most important family support need for Mokwa LGA is motorcycle, the second is knapsack sprayer, the third is sewing machine, the fourth is hair clipper, and the fifth is

deep freezer. The first community development need is road and drainage system, second is transformer and streetlight, third is potable water supply, the fourth is bank, and the fifth is hospital.

Table 11: Family Support & Community Development Needs for Edati LGA

FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS			COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS		
Rank	Needs	Percent (%)	Rank	Needs	Percent (%)
1 st	Motorcycle	49.6	1 st	Road and drainage system	26.0
2 nd	Sewing machine	13.0	2 nd	Telecommunication facilities	21.4
3 rd	Knapsack sprayer	10.7	3 rd	Transformer and streetlight	18.3
4 th	Grinding machine	7.6	4 th	Market	11.5
5 th	Deep freezer and Fertilizer	5.3	5 th	Hospital	9.2

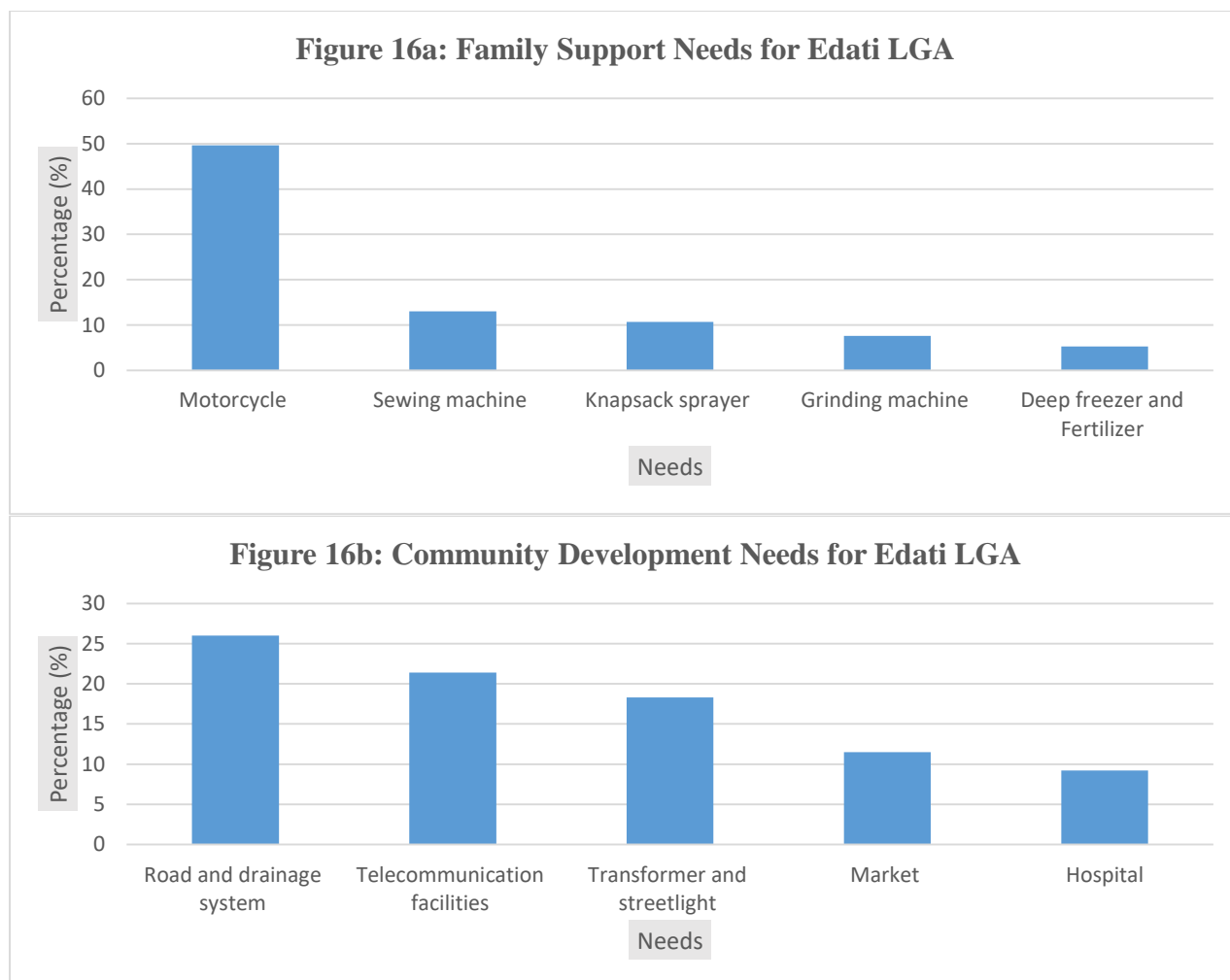


Table 11 revealed that the most important family support need for Edati LGA is motorcycle, the second is sewing machine, the third is knapsack sprayer, the fourth is grinding machine, while deep freezer and fertilizer tied as fifth. The first community development need is road and drainage system, second is telecommunication facilities, third is transformer and streetlight, the fourth is market, and fifth is hospital.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Empirical information depicting the socioeconomic situation of youth and women in Niger South Senatorial District, Niger state has been ascertained. Categorically, vast majority of respondents are married, less than 30 years old, have less than four dependent, and are secondary school graduates. Majority of the respondents are farmers, and have never benefited from any government empowerment schemes. Majority of the respondents buy clothes between one to two times a year; these clothes however are a mixture of fairly used and new clothes. Most of the respondents eat three square meals but rarely consume animal protein. Furthermore, most of the respondents lack toilet facilities and potable water. Greatest number of respondents go to the hospital for

treatment when they or family members fall sick. Again, most of the respondents do not have a functional bank account, and majority have a business that is worth about one hundred to five hundred thousand naira.

The survey data shows that the most important family support need for Bida Agricultural Zone is motorcycle, the second is sewing machine, the third is knapsack sprayer, the fourth is fertilizer, and the fifth is grinding machine. The study succinctly revealed that the most important community development need for Bida Agricultural Zone is road and drainage system, second is streetlight, third is potable water, fourth is tractor, and fifth is hospital.

Baseline information gathered in the course of this study will give a focus direction and serve as a benchmark for all future activities that have bearing on the survey. Furthermore, the outcome of this needs assessment should guide policy-makers and decision-takers in choices of empowerment materials for the distinct needs of women and youths in the diverse LGAs that make up Niger South Senatorial District and other districts in the State that possess similar characteristics as Niger South Senatorial District because it is data driven.

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