

The Role of Power Elites on Rural Transformation in Gombe State: An Assessment of Kashere Town

Ibrahim Abdullahi¹ Jamila Ali¹ & Umar Farouk Musa²

¹Department of Political Science, Gombe State University

²Department of Political Science, Bauchi State University

Corresponding author:umarfmusa@basug.edu.ng

Abstract

This study investigated the role of power elites in rural transformation in Nigeria with specific reference to Gombe State in which Kashere Town (2003-2011) is taken as area of study. The study assessed the level of impact of political office holders in transforming of Kashere. The study utilized primary source in which questionnaires were administered. The data obtained were presented and analysed using chi-square statistics and the hypotheses developed were tested with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 16.0). Elite theory was adopted as a framework of analysis. The study discovered that, Power Elite played a positive impact on the transformation of Kashere Town, The recommendations made are: Politicians in government (power) should introduce far reaching rural transformation agendas that aimed at improving the lives of rural inhabitants particularly those living in Kashere town. Politicians should also involve the beneficiaries of rural transformation right from the point of conception to implementation of projects. This will help reduce the vandalization and misconception by rural dwellers that rural development projects are government projects rather than their projects.

Keywords: Power elite, transformation, politicians, rural area, and rural inhabitants

Introduction

Rural transformation is one of the targets of world governments and policy makers as it is associated with overall national development. It is considered as the actions and responsibilities of politicians and bureaucrats who use the platform of rural areas for political leadership and representation at the national level. Rural transformation is regarded as a process of initiating policies and programmes that will improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of rural areas especially agricultural development policies and poverty reduction programmes. One of the earlier studies conducted on rural transformation in Africa is the one by Hunter (1964) who was among the earliest to use the expression *ruraltransformation* which he considered as the "starting point of development" characterized by subsistence. Rural *transformation* implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses so as to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with changes consequent upon (Mabogunje, 1980).

Rural areas constitute about 78% of the total population of Nigeria and mostly rely on agricultural activities for survival. More than

70% of Nigerians live in the rural areas, hence there is a need for the government to take the issue of rural development seriously, particularly issues related to the formulation and implementation of rural development policy (Nzimiro, 1990 population census). Only 4% of the total of national budget of 4.972 trillion was allocated to agricultural sector in 2011 and less than 10% of the total budget aggregately from 2011 to 2014. So also only 43% of rural dwellers have access to potable water, 70 % of rural roads are in poor condition, with 70% of them having no access to improved medical healthcare This shows that most of the rural people are suffering from chronic underdevelopment and acute shortage of infrastructure as well as basic necessities of life (Nkwede anSamuel, 2014).

Power Politicians make inputs in the policy formulation process because Political Party have manifestoes that determine the types of policies and programmes which they intend to achieve in government that would affect the lives of the people they will represent whether in rural or urban centres. Since most of these politicians stay in urban centres, they focus developmental projects in urban centres to the

detriment of the rural areas that provide majority of the resources and food for the nation. However, politicians still play a vital role in the development of rural areas particularly from the inception of democracy in 1999 to date through constituency projects, local politics, lobbying of national government to site projects in their communities such as universities, health centres, companies etc. and scholarship schemes for indigenes of the respective areas they represented. Rural transformation is therefore an all-encompassing programme that should target all sectors of the socio-economic lives of the rural people as pursued by local politicians and other political office holders that represent their various wards.

Gombe State is one of the 36 states in the country with 76.8% of the total population residing in rural areas (Adebayo, 2014). The state witnessed a great effort by the government between 2003 and 2011 in terms of rural transformation through rural electrification, construction of rural roads, bridges, schools, health centres and other infrastructures. Kashere Town is one of those areas considered as remote and backward in Gombe State before 2003 and which was said to have recorded significant transformation as a result of the commitment of its politicians.

Objectives of the Study

- I. To examine whether the significant transformation achieved in Kashere Town between 2003 and 2011 as a result of the efforts of its power elites
- ii. To assess the impact of rural transformation brought about by the power elites on the lives of the people of Kashere Town,

Hypotheses Stated

H₁: There is a significant relationship between the concentrations of the power elites in Kashere and the transformation of the area

Literature Review

Conceptual Clarifications

Concept of Rural Transformation

Rural Transformation is a process of improving

socio-economic needs of those who are dwellers of rural area ((Dakyes & Mundi, 2013). Rural transformation is the process of initiating policies and programmes that will improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of rural areas especially agricultural development policies and poverty reduction programmes. One of the earlier studies conducted on rural transformation in Africa is the one by Hunter (1964) who was among the earliest to use the expression *rural transformation* which he considered as the "starting point of development" characterized by subsistence. According to Mabogunje (1980), rural *transformation* implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses so as to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with changes consequent upon this. As stated elsewhere in another study Ogunnowo (1997) rural transformation is a process of mobilizing and harnessing human and material resources of all the rural populaces with a view to improving their socio-economic situations through qualitative and quantitative changes. In essence, rural transformation is a planned change in the living standards of the rural population and making the process of their development self-sustaining.

In another contribution, Chukwuemeka, Ugwuanyi & Amobi, (2013) argued that 70% of Nigerians live in rural areas which mean it is vital to give emphasis on socioeconomic development of these areas because they provide the platform for capital formation, market for domestic manufactures etc. The authors however, observed that, unfortunately over the years, the development strategies and efforts in Nigeria are urban based, neglecting the rural areas. Thus, efforts by the governments aimed at rural transformation have not resulted in meaningful development in rural areas.

Many programmes were initiated by various regimes for rural transformation in Nigeria including Directorate for Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Microfinance Banks all in order to transform rural areas through reduction of poverty, supply of infrastructure and improvement in the quality of life. But most of these policies were not achieved due to some impediment

(Chukwuemeka et-al, 2013. The impediments are neglect of rural areas, lack of integrated efforts, ineffective implementation, and poor commitment of the political representatives of rural areas. Therefore, for proper rural transformation to take place, government should give priority to rural development through diversification of the economy. The political representatives should identify developmental needs of their rural areas, enhance budgetary allocation and monitoring of policies and programmes on rural development (Chukwuemeka, Ugwuanyi and Amobi, 2013)

Matiki (2012) also presented the same view with that of Chukwuemeka et-al (2013) on the need for rural transformation. He lamented that previous programmes on rural development such as Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), Directorate for Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS), Local Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (LEEDS), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) etc. failed to achieve significant results in rural development. For a vibrant rural transformation to be achieved, there is need for sustained effort to raise agricultural productivity, creation of basic human needs, development of local politics, sports, industries and settlement. But, most importantly, two components should be given more priorities in rural transformation; agriculture and social infrastructure in addition to agrarian commercialization.

In a similar contribution, Adebayo (2014) argued that policies introduced by successive governments in Nigeria failed in rural transformation despite huge resources employed so far. He also stressed the need for developing rural areas which should be creating and widening opportunities for individuals to realize full potentials through education, balancing the pattern and direction of government for the benefit of both rural and urban areas. Adebayo (2014) also emphasized that local politicians play a great role in rural transformation by provision of education, transportation, public toilet, water supply, medical health services and law enforcement.

The main challenges only that could not allow for rural transformation to be effective are funding, corruption, poverty, poor infrastructure, illiteracy and impacts of local politics.

One more important model of rural development that was practically developed and implemented was the Tanzanian model or the *Ujamaa* based on African Socialism introduced by Tanzanian President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in the 1970s (Ake, 1996: 74). Nyerere embarked on an indigenous programme of rural transformation which is the large movement of rural settlements from remote areas to bigger settlement so as to have better and easy access to infrastructure and land allocation for peasant agriculture. Since the Tanzanian economy could not afford to supply enough amenities to all the nook and crannies of the country, the easiest way and cheapest is mass movement of people from smaller enclaves to bigger settlements where social amenities and subsidies for farming are readily provided. The programme was successful as Nyerere succeeded in forming about 5,376 settlements under *Ujamaa* with improved infrastructure and living condition (Ake, 1996: 75).

Through the above programme initiated by Nyerere, Tanzanian economy witnessed boom, increased agricultural output and overall improvement in GDP especially in the 1980s until the global economic recession hit the economy of Tanzania thereby retrogressing the success of the programme (Ake, 1996: 75).

Concept Power Elites

Power Elite are those who engage in the game of struggles for power and control of power through party politics to aspire for a given political office (Adebayo, 2014)). Politicians are elite and power interest mongers who sought to contest for political office and win in order to represent their people from both rural and urban areas so as to influence decision and policy making process to ensure that their interests and that of their communities are well represented. For the sake of this research, politicians refers to only those who contest for various political seats in elections and those who influence the decision/policy making process in government by the virtue of their political personality or sponsoring candidates in elections.

Smith (1996) postulated that politicians in rural areas must practice local democracy in order for rural transformation to occur. Local democracy needs economic development, political culture and civil society to function well. He identified the problems associated with decision in policy making for rural development from the way Multinational Corporations (MNCs) influenced decision at rural level. Most economic decisions are taken at national and multinational levels which affect rural areas. Such effects include lack of autonomy; diffused accountability of local bureaucrats serving in national civil services is inconsistent with democratic local government, striking how elected representation is diluted by other means of political recruitment chosen by central government.

Smith (1996) added that locally, politicians play the role of formal political participation and representation, class and power struggles. Local authorities provide essential infrastructure, self-help efforts for economic benefits, lobby central government to adopt developmental policies and development of the local economy.

Adebayo (2014) opines that, the rural politicians are influential in the process of transformation, Nathaniel (2014), perceives political leadership in rural areas as impediment to poverty alleviation and rural transformation because they collected resources meant for rural development on behalf of the rural people and appropriate it into their private pockets there by neglecting rural areas in abject penury.

There are many studies on this subject matter but these studies neglected the role played by power elites in rural transformation. This is the gap that the research seeks to fill as contribution to knowledge. Almost all the earlier studies have paid attention on how to develop rural areas through poverty alleviation and agricultural development (Nkwede & amuel, 2014), the neglect of the rural areas as well as the need to transform them (Chukwuemeka, Ugwuanyi & Amobi, 2013 and Morenikeji & Sanusi, 2011), other have focussed on the failure of past attempts at rural transformation (Matiki, 2012 and Adebayo, 2014), lack of political will by policy makers (Akpan, 2013), inactions of politicians (Smith, 1996). No single study pays attention to the role played positively

by power elite in rural transformation. This is the focus of this study.

In addition, no study of this nature is carried out in Gombe State with specific reference to Kashere as the area of study. Studies on rural areas were carried out in other places like Cross River (Matiki, 2012), Ebonyi (Nkwede & amuel, 2014), Taraba (Oruonye, 2013). This research will present another case study from Gombe on rural transformation which will be different from other areas so far studied in the field.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for this study is elite theory since the topic has to do with the role of power elites in building up their communities. These politicians are otherwise interchangeably known as "Elite" who while serving their communities at the same time organized themselves in to an interest group that seeks to utilize the advantage of public offices for private gain.

Assumptions of the Model

Vilfredo Pareto in this book "Mind and Society" argues that "persons of ability actively seek to comfort and aggrandize their social position". The elite group is divided in to governing and non-governing elite. These few that possess unique qualities such as skill, Material wealth, cunning and intelligence have the right to supreme leadership, while the bulk population (Masses) is destined to be ruled. Thus, social classes are formed. Mosca in a similar vein described the virtues of the ruling class as a representative of the elite in the following words.

In addition to the great advantage accruing them from the fact of being organized, ruling minorities are usually so constituted that the individuals who make them up are distinguished from the mass of the governed by qualities that give them a certain material, intellectual or even moral superiority; or else they are the heirs of individual who possessed such qualities. In other words, members of a

ruling minority regularly have some attribute, real or apparent, which is highly esteemed and very influential in the society in which they live (Mosca 1939 p.53).

Although Mosca on one hand gives the impression of an impregnable separation between the elite and the masses, and virtually blaming the Masses as the cause of predicament owing to their inability to properly comprehend and worry about or even challenge the status quo, Pareto on the other one believes that the masses have leverage to gradually but slowly penetrate the barrier to the elite stratum. The underlying premise of Mosca's proposition is that the masses though large in number are basically apathetic; hence elites that are fewer but well-coordinated are left to dominate the policy making process. To assert their dominance over the masses and subdue them completely the elite use the weapon of propaganda, which they mount continually by inculcating in the masses the belief that the elite are making huge sacrifice on the half of the entire society. By the same token the power elite use all sorts of bonds such as business interest, old school ties, and lineage or kinship to capture power and exert perpetual control over the masses who either lack such bonds or are prevented from taking advantage of cementing relationship via such bonds through elite manipulation.

Pareto, like Mosca, acknowledges the division of society into the elites and the masses. However, he refuses to accept the perpetuity of such division as he observes that eventually some leeway is created through perseverance on the part of the masses to break or soften the class barrier. He says, "In an effort to rise in to the elite of the upper strata, privilege members of the lower-class groups continually strive to use their abilities and thus their opportunities". Ultimately, "the best equipped persons from the lower class will rise to challenge the position of the upper class elite" and be recruited or co-opted into that class (Pareto, 1935). This brings into play the phenomenon referred to by Pareto as the "Circulation of elite". In other words, without stating it explicitly, Pareto has a provision for the formation of a "Middle-mass"

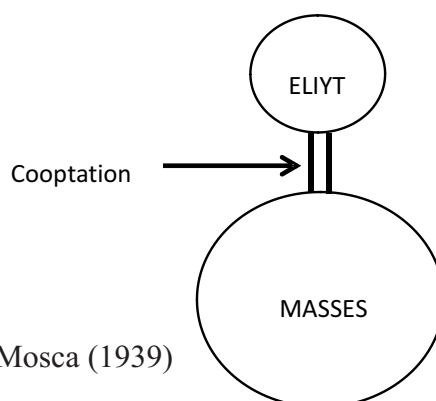
stratum among the masses, who ultimately could be co-opted into the stratum if they fulfilled some stringent conditions.

In utilizing the elite model to explain the role of politicians in the rural transformation of Kashere town, there is needed to examine the socio-economic status, as well as power relation within Kashere community so as to recapitulate the points raised earlier. The main propositions of the elite model can be summarized as follows:

- a. Society is divided in to the few who are cohesive, well-organized and self-protective and hence have the power to allocate values for society; and the many that are diffused and uncoordinated and hence do not have political power and also do not decide public policy.
- b. Elites are drawn mainly from the upper socio-economic strata of the society and they possess unique qualities that give them superiority over the masses, such as superb organizational skill, astuteness in political ability and military prowess.
- c. Elites are basically cohesive and always try to defend the status quo ante, so as to protect and preserve their undue advantage over the masses. The instruments used include coercion through the military, policy or militia groups; manipulation and domination of the education system to their advantage; control over the mass media and limiting the awareness of the masses about elite manipulation through all forms of obscurantism; and the indoctrination of the masses to come to terms with their deprivation through ideological propaganda.
- d. However, in order to create safety for themselves the elite avoid a situation that would overheat the masses and cause them to revolt. This is done by creating an institution framework that permit the gradual movements of non-elite to the class, which Gaetano Mosca and Pareto refer to as the circulation of elite. This, which is inevitable, must be slow but continuous so as to maintain stability and avoid revolution in society (Anderson, 1984; Dye and Zeigler 1981).

In other words, co-optation is the instrument through which the masses are appeased by elite. This is done through the giving of token compensation in the forms of material and non-material rewards to restricted, but influential, members of the masses by the ruling elite. The structure of the society under the elite theory will look like an hour-glass. The top circle represents the privileged elite while the lower circle represents the masses and the narrow passage between the two circles represent the

co-optation pipe which allows some limited number of Masses to be accepted to the elite club through the acquisition of educational qualification, political manipulation, labour unionism, electoral victories, and various means sanctioned by the elite club. Influence and power always flow from the elite at the top downward to the masses, through elite-biased public policy (Anderson, 1984; Dye and Zeigler 1981).



Constructed from Pareto and Mosca (1939)

Application of the Elite Model

In applying this Theory within the context of this study, it is pertinent to observe that, this Theory is Eurocentric and pro-capitalist agenda of imposing stooges worldwide who will continue to dominate the politics and the economy of the world for promotion of neo-liberal agenda internationally. In Nigeria today, there is a cartel of elite which conglomerated into a ruling class involving four major categories; politicians, traditional rulers, domestic bourgeoisie and technocrats who operate bureaucratic affairs of the state. This conglomeration creates elite conspiracy where they cycle power and control the economy since political independence in 1960 to date exclusively among them interchangeably. As it's clearly discovered that there is a direct link between the effort of power elite and the socio-economic/infrastructure development of Kashere town.

Since the return of democracy in 1999, Kashere has been able to produce a number of key politicians that hold strategic political offices in the state and national government. These politicians constituted a class of elite in Kashere town as Alhaji Mohammadu Danjuma Goje, happened to become a Governor of Gombe

State in the 2003 election. This opportunity gave them a mandate to consolidate more power in government to make inputs and assert influence in most of the policy formulation process of the State and directed more development projects to their locality based on their interest as elite and that of the community they serve. These politicians are what Riggs terms as "Elect" rather than "elite", to him the elite are defined exclusively in terms of the possession of power. Whereas the "elect" are those who hold high position in terms of all social prized values, not only power, but also wealth, learning, prestige, skill and so on. Therefore this study regarded elite as construct that encompasses the elect as conceived by Riggs (1964:126).

Population of the Study

The population of Kashere was approximately 5689 according to 2006 population Census and it is expected to increase annually by 3.5% according to the National Population Commission's projection (NPC 2006). Therefore, the population of Kashere is approximately 8001 as at 2016. It is out of this population that the sample size for this study was selected.

Sampling Size

The sample size was calculated using Taro Yamane's scientific formula (1962) which is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N: is the population (8001 was the population for the study as T 2016)

l: is constant

e: is the margin of error at 0.05%

n: is the sample size

$$n = \frac{8001}{1+8001(0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{8001}{1+8001(0.0025)}$$

$$= \frac{8001}{1+20.0025}$$

$$= \frac{8001}{21}$$

Therefore, the appropriate sample size for this study is 381 based on the elementary sampling theory (Taro 1962).

The sample size for this research is 381 respondents for questionnaire administration all chosen from Kashere community

Instruments of Data Collection

The instrument for data collection in this study is questionnaire which was administered to the sampled respondents by the researchers

themselves. The questionnaires were structured in simple English and close-ended and gathered information covering the objectives of the study. These instruments were designed in three sections: Section A carries questions on the demographic characteristics of the respondents which includes age, sex, occupation, educational qualification. Section B also dealt with questions which aimed at answering the specific objectives 1 and 2.

Method of Data Analysis

The data generated were analysed using descriptive statistics which involved the use of tables, frequencies; percentages to analyse the quantitative data collected. The data presentation and hypotheses testing was done using chi-square statistics with the aid of the statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS version 16.0).

Data analysis

The analyses and interpretation was done with the use of headings and sections which reflects the hypotheses and objectives of the study. Similarly, the data presentation and hypotheses testing was done using chi-square statistics with the aid of the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS version 16.0). For this study, 381 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents in the study area, only 353 were retrieved which represents 93%.

SECTION (A)

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1: Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Male	290	82.2
Female	63	17.8
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 1 shows the gender distribution of the respondents in Kashere. The sex distribution base on gender indicated that 82.2% of the respondents were male, while 17.8% represents the female. This shows that the majority of the

respondents were male, due to the fact that the nature of the area of study is such that accessibility to female respondents is difficult because of religious factor.

Table 2: Age Distribution of the Respondent

Option	Frequency	Percentage
18-25	161	45.6
26-40	134	38.0
41-60	44	12.5
60 and above	14	4.0
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 2 revealed the age distribution of the respondents, 45.6% fall between 18-25 years. Those that fall between 26-40 years of age represent 38.0%. Furthermore, those that fall within the age grade 41-60 represent 12.5% of the respondents, and finally, those respondents that fall between 60 years and above represent 4.0% of the total responses.

Table 3: Occupation of Respondents

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Civil service	112	31.7
Business	61	17.3
Farming	55	15.6
Students	107	30.3
House wives	18	5.1
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2016

Table 3 the analysis of occupational distribution of the respondents and it revealed the following: the respondents engaged in civil service in Kashere were 31.7%, those engaged in business were 17.3%, the number of those in farming occupation is 15.6%, while the student respondents constituted 30.3%, and lastly house wives constituted the remaining 5.1%.

Table 4: Educational Qualification of Respondents

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Primary certificate	40	11.3
Senior secondary school certificate	177	50.1
NCE/Diploma	61	17.3
Degree and above	30	8.5
Arabic education	45	12.7
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4 revealed the educational qualification of the respondents in Kashere. Those who obtained primary certificate constituted 11.3%, the respondents with secondary certificate were 50.1%, for the respondents who hold NCE/Diploma represent 17.3%, those who have Degree certificate and above were 8.7%, while the respondents who attended Arabic Schools were 12.7%.

SECTION (B)**Table 5: Respondents' opinion on the relationship between the concentration of power politicians in Kashere and the transformation of the area**

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	338	95.8
No	15	4.2
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 216

Table 5 shows the views of the respondents on whether the concentration of power politicians in Kashere has a significant relationship with its transformation. On this ground, 95.8% of the respondents agreed that the concentration of politicians in Kashere has a significant relationship with its transformation, while the remaining 4.2% of the respondents did agree.

Table 6: Respondents' assessment of the representation of local politicians in the state and national politics

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Very good	170	48.2
Good	125	35.4
Average	51	14.4
Poor	7	2.0
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 6 presents the respondents views on the assessment of the representation of local politicians in the state and national politics. In this regard, 48.2% of the respondents assessed the representation of their local politicians as very good; similarly, 35.4% of the respondents assessed the representation of their local Politicians as good, another 14.4% of the respondents assessed the representation of their local Politicians as average, while the remaining 2.0% of the respondents assessed the representation of their local politicians as poor.

Table 7: Respondents' view on how they relate the effort of politicians and the level of rural transformation in Kashere

Option	Frequency	Percentage
very good	225	63.7
Good	98	27.8
Average	28	7.9
Poor	2	0.6
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 7 indicates the perception of the respondents on how they you assessed the effort of the politicians and the level of rural transformation in Kashere, on this issue, 63.7% of the respondents assessed the effort of the politicians in bringing about rural transformation in Kashere as very good, similarly, 27.8% of the respondents assessed the effort of the politicians in bringing about rural transformation in Kashere as good, another 7.9% of the respondents assessed the effort of the politicians in bringing rural transformation in Kashere as average, the remaining 0.6% of the respondents assessed the effort of the politicians in bringing about rural transformation in Kashere as poor.

Table 8: Respondents' view on the level of rural transformation recorded in Kashere between 2003 and 2011

Option	Frequency	Percentage
very high	200	56.7
High	90	25.5
Moderate	50	14.2
Low	13	3.7
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 8 indicates that 56.7% of the respondents said the rural transformation recorded in Kashere is high between 2003 and 2011. The 25.5% of the respondents said it is high. The 14.2% of the respondents said the level of rural transformation recorded in Kashere between 2003 and 2011 is moderate. The remaining 3.7% of the respondents said that, the level of rural transformation is low.

Table 9: Respondents' opinion on whether the level of transformation in Kashere is satisfactory

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	322	91.2
No	31	8.8
Total	353	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 9 indicates that 91.2% of the respondents view that, the level of transformation in Kashere is satisfactory. While 8.8% of the respondents said that the level of transformation in Kashere is not satisfactory. Therefore, the level of transformation witnessed in Kashere is of a great significant, considering the fact that the percentage of the respondents who agree with the level of the transformation in Kashere as satisfactory.

Hypotheses testing

H1: There is a significant relationship between the concentration of the top political power elite in Kashere and the transformation of the area

Chi-square	295.550
DF	1

The calculated chi-square = 295.550

The table chi-square = 3.8414

Degree of freedom = 1

Rules for accepting or rejecting hypothesis:

If the calculated value (chi-square) is greater than the table value (chi-square), the hypothesis should be acceptable. Similarly, if the table chi-square is greater than the calculated chi-square, then, the hypothesis should equally be rejected.

Based on the above rule, the calculated chi-square which is 295.550 is greater than the table chi-square stands at 3.8414 under the degree of

freedom 1. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that: There is a significant relationship between the concentration of the top politicians in Kashere and the rural transformation of the area is accepted.

Conclusion

the conclusion reached that political power elite played a significant role in the transformation of Kashere as the area produced a number of high-ranking politicians and political office holders locally and nationally, in the period since the returned of democracy in 1999. The presence of

these politicians in Kashere more especially high ranking political office holders has given the area more advantages over all other rural areas in Gombe state in terms of other socio-economic and infrastructural development.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- i) Politicians in government (power) should introduce far reaching rural transformation agendas that aimed at improving the lives of rural inhabitants particularly those living in Kashere.
- ii) Politicians should involve the beneficiaries of rural transformation right from the point of conception to implementation of projects. This will help reduce the vandalization of rural development projects such as the solar powered, boreholes, and the misconception by rural dwellers that rural development projects are government projects rather than their projects.
- iii) The political representatives and leadership need to identify the development demand of their constituencies. Indeed, they need to articulate such needs and ensure that they become essential parts of the government's development agenda. Beyond this, they also need to monitor the implementation of rural development policies and programmes to ensure that quality projects are executed.

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