

# Implementation of Resettlement Policy Strategies and Community Members' Felt-Need in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria

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## Abstract

Over decades now, development-induced displacement and resettlement have taken place in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. To address the displacement and the resettlement problems, different resettlement policy strategies like total, partial and integration have been utilized. Yet, the resettlement policy strategies experimented with seemed to have not yielded any positive results. This paper investigates the extent to which they have affected the felt-needs of the communities and determined which is/are the most preferred among the policy strategies by the community members and the challenges affecting the strategies from realising the goal of resettlement in the FCT. To achieve the objectives, the study used quantitative approach. Data were sourced from the respondents via questionnaire. Data collected were analysed descriptively and inferentially using means and t-test, respectively. Emerging findings indicate that total and partial resettlement is the most preferred by the community members because they influence their felt-needs positively. Total resettlement was found the most cherished by community members as it enables them to practice their ways of life freely without foreign cultural infiltration. Partial resettlement was also preferred because they felt that they should not be completely alienated from civilisation. However, integration was completely rejected. Among the challenges found inhibiting the effective implementation of the resettlement policy strategies in FCT include corruption, lack of funding, inadequate involvement of the community members in the implementation of resettlement policies among others. The study recommends the implementation of total and partial resettlement as policy strategies as well as mobilisation of adequate funds for resettlement exercise should be encouraged. Anti-corruption agencies should beam their search light on individuals and institutions saddled with responsibilities of implementing resettlement policy in the FCT since corruption was also found among the challenges confronting effective resettlement in the FCT.

## Key words

Resettlement, policy, community, felt-need, displacement, need

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## 1. Introduction

A significant proclamation made by the Nigerian Government in 1976, when it chose to move the Federal Capital of Nigeria from Lagos (in the beach front region) to Abuja (in the focal piece of the nation) was for a total migration of the whole occupants outside the new Federal Capital Territory, of around 8000 square kilometres. This was done to liberate the Territory from any primordial sentiment, and to empower the Government to take effective control, plan and build up the new city with no encumbrance. In any case, a cautious calculation later uncovered that the figure to be moved was much. As at then, the populace figure was around 300,000 individuals and the expense for the exercise was more than two billion Naira (Jibril, 2006). Thus, there was a re-evaluation that evacuating such a tremendous populace was believed to be rash and could have postponed the take-off of the scheme. It was then agreed that the occupants should remain, however, could be resettled within any area of the Federal Capital Territory, should their places of residence be involved in the city advancement plan. This arrangement led to the resettlement of individuals to neighbouring Nasarawa and the Niger States and eventually, aggravated the issues of squatters and Land Administration inside the FCT.

Generally, resettlement whether in the form of voluntary or involuntary always has its repercussion for the displaced persons and the organisation or government initiating the idea of resettlement. The group of people being compelled to pave way for "development" will unavoidably encounter a decrease in their standard of living. Notwithstanding the above mentioned, they remain to lose their abode and socio-economic and cultural assets. The displaced communities, for instance, will suffer from loss of economic opportunities as businesses lose their customer base, productive farmlands and other forms of livelihood will also be dismantled. The social fabric of these communities stands the risk of being torn apart; so also the informal networks and kinship ties that sustained them in times of need. These entire factors will definitely affect the livelihood of the people. But in any case, resettlement is a fact of life where the need be. It is an approach to development. It is an inevitable consequence of development. Of course, no society would want to be static or stagnated in one position.

If the need for resettlement is for developmental purpose and the benefit of the larger society, then it is inevitable for resettlement to take place. What matters most, in this case, is how the resettlement strategies are structured (i.e. the presence of efficient and effective frameworks to plan and implement it) so that it will have a reduced-adverse effect on the affected people and the environments. In line with this view, the government has initiated several policy strategies in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria to cushion the adverse effects of the resettlement programmes. Different policy ideas have been tried out towards the resettlement of the inhabitants of FCT between 1976 to 2015, barely four decades (Jibril, 2006). Strategies ranging from integration, total resettlement, and partial resettlement have all been experimented with (Jibril, 2006). However, it appears that FCDA does not have a consistent policy direction (Owei, 2015).

Research evidence, however, suggests that many of such initiatives have not yielded or brought positive outcomes (Jibril, 2006). The symptoms of this are prolonged and constant conflicts between the government and the indigenes of the FCT (Ahmadu, 2017). In most cases, government's attempt towards resettlement is faced with stiff resistance from the affected people. This means that the series of resettlement policies experimented with have not yielded any favourable result. Consequently, the major thrusts of this paper is to explore whether the resettlement strategy employed in FCT have influenced the felt-needs of the general population and to unveil why the implemented strategies being executed have been flopping over the years in the Federal Capital Territory Administration.

### 1.1. Hypotheses

*(Hi) There is significant disagreement in the group means for FCTA staff and members of the communities on resettlement policy strategies reflecting the felt-needs of the affected people.*

*(Hii) There is significant disagreement in the group means for FCTA staff and members of the communities on challenges affecting resettlement policy strategies in FCT.*

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Felt-Needs

Felt need is a fundamental and frequently used thought in the network of rural and community development. However, it is a controversial concept; often utilised by numerous scholars and practitioners of community development, but understood in a diverse way by most. The idea is individualised, contested and contextual, thus, little prospect to give birth to a single definition. The concept keeps on being chaotic and fervently debated. For Wade (2009), felt-needs are changes considered important by individuals to address the inadequacies they identify in their locale. The utilisation of the felt needs in rural and community development practice includes identifying needs, determining their significance, and building programmes based on ranking. Felt-needs, can in this manner, be seen to imply that enthusiastic inclination required for a change that will upgrade individuals' life which eventually makes them unite and energise them towards that change process, which they see as basic to them (Onyenemezu and Olumati, 2013). Felt-needs of individuals in community improvement efforts, as indicated by Onyenemezu and Olumati emerge from the absence of something or the craving to have something which is critical in the feeling of individuals from the community. The reality remains that felt-need is an impetus that spurs human activity. It spurs community inhabitants to play an active role in community improvement exercises. Regardless of how it is seen, felt-needs are what individuals "feel" or their needs. It may be taken to mean the sentiments of an individual or group of individual or needs to be shared by groups or the dominant part of individuals in the network. These may, in this way, be a person's or group's evaluation of the current circumstance, finding what is missing and potentially devise methods for getting them.

### 2.2. Resettlement Policy

For a superior comprehension of the idea of resettlement policy, it is legitimate from the outset to have a decent grasp of the word resettlement. Different nomenclature is used to describe resettlement. For example, such names as relocation and Development Incited Displacement (DID). Toeing this path, Dagnache *et al.* (2014) characterises it as a social procedure in which individuals leave their unique region of abode and settle in another zone. Also, it may be characterised as an intentional or automatic development of the extensive number of individuals from one place (which is generally the first settlement) to another (which is another settlement), and this development is not without outcome (Ogaboh *et al.*, 2010). Nkizue (2016) affirms that movement can be caused by two variables. These incorporate the migration that happens when the choice of moving is arranged and forced by an outer specialist and happens when there is no decision to remain which is known as automatic dislodging. Automatic migration can be caused by ecological degradation, natural events, clashes or development projects. Involuntary movement is contrary to deliberate movement, for example, provincial urban relocation which influences individuals that are eager to seek after new chances. By the preceding clarification, Croll (1999) characterises automatic resettlement as the constrained migration of whole families, which is planned to be permanent.

Resettlement, regardless of whether deliberate or automatic has two basic factors that must be seriously considered. These are the physical elements of resettlement and financial attributes of the resettled individuals (Nkizue, 2016). The Physical factors as listed by Corsellis and Vitale (2005) are infrastructural facilities, and social service buildings. Cernea (1988) emphasizes that the physical characteristics should be improved upon in the new location, or, at least, match with what is obtainable in the former location. The socio-economic factors on the other hand, focus on the impacts that tend to decrease the income of displaced people (Nkizue, 2016). Information regarding these factors, according to Correa *et al.*, (2011) are vital because they help in estimating vulnerability, defining mitigation measures and formulating the risk management strategies.

Drawing from the above explanation, resettlement policy, in this way, can be viewed as the sort of strategy that builds up the resettlement and compensation standards, authoritative game plans, and structured criteria to be connected to address the issues of the general population who claim or use land or assets, which individuals need to move or dislodge from their present spots of living arrangement or business so as to accomplish the set targets. As indicated by African Development Bank (ADB) (2003), the essential objective of the resettlement strategy is to guarantee that when individuals must be dislodged they are dealt with fairly, and that they share in the advantages of the projects that include their resettlement. The targets of the arrangement are to guarantee that the interruption of the vocation of individuals in the task's region is limited, guarantee that the uprooted people get resettlement help to enhance their expectations for everyday comforts, set up a component for checking the execution of the resettlement programmes. Above all, the resettlement arrangement ought to be arranged and dependent on a developmental methodology that tends to sort out issues of the livelihood and expectations for everyday comforts of the dislodged individual just as remuneration for loss of benefits, utilizing a participatory methodology at all phases of undertaking structure and execution.

A decent resettlement arrangement guarantees that pay for the full substitution cost for loss of terrains and different resources ought to be paid before project execution with the view to enhance the previous expectations for everyday comforts, salary gaining limit and productivity of the affected populace. The enhancement of these expectations for everyday comforts ought to likewise apply to the host communities. What's more, the necessities of the affected populations (landless, female-headed family units, youngsters, older, and minority ethnic, religious and semantic groups) must be at the focal point of the improvement approach (ADB, 2003). Much the same as compensation, financial advantages and expenses ought to likewise be contemplated while figuring resettlement policy. It ought to be connected to decide project feasibility with respect to resettlement. The full expenses of resettlement exercises relevant to accomplish the goals of the undertaking ought to be incorporated into the complete expenses of the project (World Bank, 2013). The expenses of resettlement, like the expenses of other project exercises are treated as a charge against the monetary advantages; and any net advantages to re-settlers (when contrasted with the "without-project" conditions) ought to be added to the benefits stream of the projects.

Economic and social concerns ought to be considered in deciding the necessities for remuneration if a resettlement ought to be made reasonable. Under the resettlement policy, uprooted populace having formal lawful rights to land or resources and the individuals who can demonstrate privilege under the nation's standard laws are considered and will be completely rewarded for the loss of land or different resources. Be that as it may the third classification of uprooted people who have no conspicuous lawful right or case to the land they are possessing in the project territory will be qualified for resettlement assistance rather than compensation for land (WB, 2012). By and by, at the base, under resettlement strategy, land, lodging, and foundation ought to be given to the antagonistically influenced populace, including indigenous groups, ethnic, religious and semantic minorities, and pastoralists who may have rights to the land or different assets taken for the undertaking.

### 3. Methodology of research

This study employed a survey research design due to its utility in empirical enquiry. In order to achieve the primary aim of this investigation, a questionnaire made up of 18 items replicated on the Likert-type five point range rating with response style of strongly positive to the issue or strongly Agree (SA), some extent positive to the issue or Agree (A), neither negative nor disagree to the issue or Undecided (U) some extent unfavourable to the issue or Disagree (D), strongly unfavourable to the issue or Strongly Disagree (SD), was designed and employed. The population of the study include the entire communities in AMAC which are 37, Bwari, 23 and Kuje Area Councils which has 24 communities. These put together give a total of 84 communities which constitute the population of the study from the community dimension. Twenty three (23) communities were purposively drawn from the three Area Councils, namely, AMAC, Bwari and Kuje. These are Jibi, Kubwa and Usafa from Bwari Area Council. From Kuje Area Council, Bamishi, Buzunkure, Kusaki, Yanga, Gbaukuchi and Pagiwere selected, and Ketti, Kuwiyizhi, Sheretti, Kabusa (farmlands only), Anaknayita, Waru (farm lands only), Abacha

Barracks, Takushara, Zhinda, Takafafiya(1), Wasa (farm lands only), Mararaba, Gofe, Takalafiya (2), Anaknayita, Burum, Saukamararaba, Yiyimitu, BurumGgagyi, Pezema, Zokoyakwo, Apo and Dakibiu were selected from AMAC and a sample size of 54 respondents were randomly drawn from community men leaders, the youth and the community women leaders. The choice of these areas is because for now they are the major affected areas in the FCT that have attracted the attentions of the government as a result of development pressure. The second category constitutes the entire staff of the Resettlement and Compensation Department of the FCDA with a total figure of 107 staff strength. The sampling techniques adopted were purposive and stratified sampling techniques. FCTA was divided into strata, and random sampling was used to get 100 staff of the technical division, crops and economic, monitoring and control and planning and logistics of resettlement, compensation department and the administrative staff who are directly involved in the resettlement activity. A t-test was used to test the hypotheses stated in the paper since two groups were involved. The analysis was done using SPSS.

**4. Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Question 1: *Do the policy strategies affect the community felt-needs?*

To answer this question, the responses to items number 1 – 9 in section A of the FCTA and community questionnaire titled: “resettlement policy strategies and the effects on communities’ felt-need” was subjected to frequency distribution, simple percentage analysis, mean score and standard deviation, as presented in tables one below.

*Table 1. Resettlement Policy Strategies and Effects on Communities’ felt-need*

S/N	Item Summaries	Response Categories													
		FCTA Staff							Members of the Communities						
		A	U	D	Total	Mean	S.D	Decision	A	U	D	Total	Mean	S.D	Decision
1.	Total resettlement reflects the felt-needs of the affected communities	67 67%	18 18%	15 15%	100 100%	3.76	0.045	Agree	48 89%	1 2%	5 9%	54 100%	4.17	0.042	Agree
2.	It is the partial resettlement that is compatible with their felt-needs	49 49%	42 42%	9 9%	100 100%	3.37	0.093	Agree	49 91%	0 0%	5 9%	54 100%	4.30	0.067	Agree
3.	Integration offers the most response to the communities’ felt need	78 78%	19 19%	3 3%	100 100%	3.93	0.112	Agree	10 18%	8 15%	36 67%	54 100%	2.33	0.056	Disagreed
4.	None of the above highlighted strategies have offered any meaningful response to the communities felt-needs.	66 66%	16 16%	18 18%	100 100%	3.32	0.098	Agree	40 75%	4 7%	10 18%	54 100%	3.89	0.084	Agree
5.	All the strategies were compatible with felt-needs of the communities.	60 60%	14 14%	26 26%	100 100%	3.47	0.102	Agree	38 70%	2 4%	14 26%	54 100%	3.59	0.086	Agree
6.	The relocates and host communities have been resisting resettlement because the policy strategies are not in tandem with their felt-needs.	44 44%	6 6%	50 50%	100 100%	3.04	0.085	Agree	11 21%	2 4%	41 75%	54 100%	2.14	0.095	Disagree

S/N	Item Summaries	Response Categories													
		FCTA Staff							Members of the Communities						
		A	U	D	Total	Mean	S.D	Decision	A	U	D	Total	Mean	S.D	Decision
7.	The relocates and host communities have been resisting all the policy strategies irrespective of the benefits attached.	71 71%	5 5%	24 24%	100 100%	3.68	0.104	Agree	46 85%	2 4%	6 11%	54 100%	4.04	0.040	Agree
8.	The existing policy strategies need improvement for it to reflect the felt-need of the community.	66 66%	7 7%	27 27%	100 100%	3.46	0.094	Agree	48 88%	2 4%	4 8%	54 100%	4.06	0.038	Agree
9.	For a durable solution to resettlement in FCT the resettlement policy options must capture the felt-needs of the people	58 58%	18 18%	24 24%	100 100%	3.48	0.110	Agree	38 70%	5 9%	11 21%	54 100%z	3.56	0.083	Agree
GRAND MEAN = 3.50 (Agree)								GRAND MEAN = 4.04 (Agree)							

**Source:** Field Survey, February, 2016

The foremost part of Table 1 above presents the opinions of the staff on the resettlement policy strategies and how they affected communities' felt-need. The result shows that total resettlement as a strategy for resettlement reflects the felt-needs of the affected communities. This is because 67 respondents representing about 67% agreed, while 15 respondents representing about 15% disagreed. This was further substantiated with the mean score of 3.76. Partial resettlement was also found compatible with their felt-needs. Forty-nine (49) respondents, representing 49% agreed, while nine respondents representing about 9% disagreed. The mean score of 3.37 shows that the views of those that agreed on stands. Integration also offered a promising response to the communities' felt need. Seventy-Eight (78) respondents representing 78% agreed, while three respondents representing about 3% disagreed. The mean score of 3.93 indicates disagreement with the statement. As regards whether any of the above-highlighted strategies have offered any meaningful response to the communities felt-needs, Eighteen (18) respondents, representing 18 percent and 55 respondents 55 percent disagreed and agreed respectively. The mean score of 3.32 is a confirmation of the position of those that agreed with the statement.

Also, the following alternative statement for the sake of emphasis also indicates that the strategies were all compatible with the felt-needs of the communities. Therefore, 26 percent and 60 per cent of the respondents disagreed and agreed with the statement respectively. Since the overwhelming majority agreed, it means that the resettlement policy strategies were compatible with the felt-needs of the affected people. As for the statement regarding whether resettles and host communities have been resisting resettlement because the policy strategies are not in tandem with their felt-needs, forty-four (44) respondents, representing 44% disagreed while Fifty (50) respondents, representing about 50% agreed. With the mean score of 3.04, it is agreed that resettlement strategies may not be fully in tandem with felt-needs of the communities.

From the analysis, it has been discovered that resettles and host communities to some extent have been resisting all the policy strategies irrespective of the benefits attached. On this note, 71 per cent of the respondents agreed with the statement, while 24 per cent disagreed. The inference from the mean score of 3.68 suggests that the communities have been resisting the policy options irrespective of the benefits the policies offered due to some perceived challenges embedded in them. Despite the response to the preceding, the majority of the respondents agreed that the existing policy strategies need improvement for it to reflect the felt-need of the community. This has been substantiated with the views of 68 per cent of the respondents that agreed and a mean score of 3.46, while few respondents represented by 27 per cent disagreed. On how to get a durable solution to resettlement in FCT, it was found that resettlement policy options must capture the felt-needs of the people. Fifty-six (56) per cent of the total respondents completely agreed with this statement. The mean score of 3.48 reinforced this statement, whereas, 24 per cent of the respondents disagreed. On this note, those that agreed with the statement have it.

Similarly, Table 2 above presents the opinion of the community members on the influence of resettlement policy strategies on the affected communities' felt-need. The result indicated that the total resettlement reflects the felt-needs of the affected communities. This is evident with the statistical outcome of 48 respondents representing about 89% who agreed with the statement, while five respondents representing about 9% disagreed. The mean score of 4.17 supports the opinions of the people that agreed with the statement. In specific terms, partial resettlement was considered by the respondents to be compatible with their felt-needs. The related statistical outcome of 49 respondents representing about 91% agreed, while five respondents representing about 9% disagreed. The mean score of 4.30 also supports the views of those that agreed with the statement. As regards whether integration offers the most needful response to the communities' felt need, 10 respondents representing 18% agreed while 36 respondents representing about 67% disagreed. With the mean score of 2.33, those that disagreed with the statement have it. The relocatees and host communities resist resettlement because the policy strategies are not in tandem with their felt-needs. Eleven (11) respondents representing 21% agreed while 41 respondents representing about 75% disagreed with a mean of 2.14.

As to whether the relocatees and host communities are resisting all the policy strategies irrespective of the benefits attached; 46 respondents representing 85% agreed, while six respondents representing about 11% disagreed. With the mean score of 4.04, it is agreed that communities are resisting the policy strategies irrespective of the benefits attached to it. It was also agreed that the existing policy strategies need improvement for it to reflect the felt-need of the community. In all, 48 respondents representing 88% agreed, while four respondents representing about 8% disagreed. The aggregate mean score of 4.06 indicates the existing policy strategies need improvement if they should be able to reflect the felt-needs of the people. Lastly, it was agreed that in order to achieve a durable solution to resettlement challenges in FCT, the resettlement policy options must capture the felt-needs of the people. Thirty-eight (38) respondents, representing 70% agreed while 11 respondents representing about 21% disagreed. With the mean score of 3.56, it is accepted that those that agreed with the statement are correct. In a comparative term, the evidence from both sides (FCTA staff and members of the community) using the grand means of 3.50 and 4.04 respectively indicates that the implementation of resettlement policy strategies reflects the felt-needs of the community. In fact, the communities overwhelmingly agreed with the statements as evident in the significant value of their grand mean of 4.04.

(Hi) *There is no significant disagreement in the group means for FCTA staff and members of the communities on whether resettlement policy strategies reflect the felt-needs of the affected people.*

Table 2. t-test result of FCTA staff and community members as regards the extent to which resettlement policy strategies tally with the felt-need of the communities

Variables	Total	Mean	S.D	T-test	t <sub>critical</sub>	D.F.	P – Value	Decision
FCTA staff	100	3.44	0.093	0.14	1.96	152	0.154	H <sub>0</sub> is accepted
Community members	54	3.47	0.069					

*Result Interpretation:*

The test was found to be statistically insignificant because there were almost the same response from community respondents ( $m = 3.47, SD = 0.069$ ) and FCTA staff, ( $m = 3.44, SD = 0.093$ ). This difference was insignificant for  $t$  at  $(152) = 0.14, P = .154$ . The mean difference between the FCTA staff and the community members in their view concerning how resettlement policy strategies tally with felt-need of the communities was 0.03. The null hypothesis is accepted. It indicates significant difference between the opinion of members of the community and FCTA staff regarding the extent to which resettlement policy strategies affect felt-need of the communities because the calculated t-test of 4.137 was greater than the t-critical of 1.96 and the p-value of 0.00 was less than the 0.05 alpha level at the 152 degree of freedom (d.f.).

Table 3. Barriers to Effective Implementation of Resettlement Policy

S/N	Item Summaries	Response Categories													
		FCTA Staff							Members of the Communities						
		A	U	D	Total	Mean	S.D	Decision	A	U	D	Total	Mean	S.D	Decision
10.	Lack of funds is a critical issue affecting implementation of resettlement policy in FCT	89 89%	2 2%	9 9%	100 100%	4.11	0.089	Agree	40 74%	4 7%	10 19%	54 100%	4.09	0.045	Agree
11.	There is lack of political will on the part of the leaders	91 91%	2 2%	7 7%	100 100%	4.24	0.096	Agree	47 87%	2 4%	5 9%	54 100%	4.28	0.027	Agree
12.	Feasibility studies are rarely carried out	78 78%	11 11%	11 11%	100 100%	3.94	0.078	Agree	43 80%	4 7%	7 13%	54 100%	4.04	0.022	Agree

13.	Corruption also affects the implementation of the policy	79 79%	8 8%	13 13%	100 100%	3.90	0.051	Agree	46 85%	2 4%	6 11%	54 100%	4.02	0.017	Agree
14.	Government uses threats and intimidation to force people out of their place of abode	93 93%	0 0%	7 7%	100 100%	4.24	0.097	Agree	47 87%	0 0%	7 13%	54 100%	4.00	0.032	Agree
15.	The fear of non-payment of compensation makes people to resist movement	82 82%	8 8%	10 12%	100 100%	4.05	0.110	Agree	45 82%	3 6%	6 12%	54 100%	3.88	0.037	Agree
16.	Government lacks staff with technical abilities to carry out resettlement policy successfully	76 76%	12 12%	12 12%	100 100%	3.92	0.084	Agree	44 82%	4 7%	6 11%	54 100%	3.96	0.040	Agree
17.	Lack of infrastructural facilities in the new sites also attracts stiff resistance to effective implementation	69 69%	5 5%	26 26%	100 100%	3.64	0.079	Agree	41 75%	5 9%	8 14%	54 100%	3.86	0.015	Agree
18.	The communities affected are not carried along in the implementation of resettlement policies	76 76%	10 10%	14 14%	100 100%	3.84	0.089	Agree	48 88%	2 4%	4 8%	54 100%	4.24	0.029	Agree
19.	Resettlement plans in FCT lacks clear definition of the beneficiaries of the relocation projects	78 78%	19 19%	3 3%	100 100%	4.02	0.097	Agree	43 80%	4 7%	7 13%	54 100%	4.00	0.021	Agree
GRAND MEAN = 3.98 (Agree)									GRAND MEAN = 4.04 (Agree)						

**Source:** Field Survey, February, 2016

Regarding whether feasibility studies are rarely carried out, from Table 3, 78 respondents representing 78% agreed, while 11 respondents representing 11% disagreed. It is agreed that feasibility studies are rarely carried since the mean score of 3.94 is above 3.00. In like manner, corruption also affects the implementation of the policy. Seventy-nine 79 respondents, representing 79% agreed while 13 respondents representing 13% disagreed. With a mean score of 3.90, it is agreed that corruption hampers the effective implementation of the resettlement policy. Again, it was agreed that the Government uses threats and intimidation to force people out of their place of abode. Ninety three (93) respondents, representing 93% agreed while, 7 respondents representing 7% disagreed. The opinion of the overwhelming majority which agreed has been substantiated with the mean score of 4.24. The fear of non-payment of compensation was discovered as a factor that makes people to resist moving to a new location. While 82 respondents representing 82% agreed, 10 respondents representing 10% disagreed. The agreement section was reinforced with the mean score of 4.05. It was as well uncovered that the Government lacks staff with the technical abilities to carry out resettlement policy successfully. Whereas 76 respondents representing 76% agreed, 12 respondents representing 12% disagreed. The mean score of 3.97 is in tandem with those that agreed. In another development, lack of infrastructural facilities in the new sites also attracts stiff resistance to effective implementation. Sixty nine respondents, representing 69% agreed, while 26 respondents representing 26% disagreed. The mean score of 3.64 is in line with the opinions of those that agreed. On whether affected communities are engaged in the implementation of resettlement policies, 76 respondents representing 76% agreed while, 14 respondents representing about 14% disagreed. With the mean score of 3.82, it is agreed that the affected communities are not carried along in the implementation of resettlement policies. Lastly, resettlement plans in FCT was considered by the respondents to lack clear definition of the beneficiaries of the relocation projects. Seventy eight (78) respondents, representing about 78% agreed while 3 respondents representing about 3% disagreed. With the mean score of 4.02 it is accepted that those who are supposed to benefit from the relocation are not properly identified and treated fairly.

The second half of table3 above presents the community members' responses on the barriers to effective implementation of resettlement policy. The result shows that lack of funds is a critical issue affecting implementation of resettlement policy in FCT. Forty 40 respondents, representing about 74% agreed while 10 respondents representing 19% disagreed. With the mean score of 4.09 it is apparent that funding is a barrier to effective implementation of resettlement policy. The result also shows lack of political will on the part of the leaders as a barrier. In this regard, 47 respondents representing 87% agreed while 5 respondents representing 9% disagreed. On the whole the mean score of 4.28 validates the opinion of those that agreed with the statement.

The statistical outputs of responses with respect to whether feasibility studies are rarely carried out before formulation and implementation policies indicate a yes answer to the statement. Forty three (43) respondents, representing 80% agreed, while 6 respondents representing 11% disagreed. The mean score of 4.04 demonstrates an agreement with the statement. Furthermore, it is overwhelmingly agreed that corruption also affects the implementation of the policy. Forty (46) respondents, representing 85% agreed to that effect, while 6 respondents representing 11% disagreed. With the mean score of 4.02, it is obvious that corruption affects the implementation of the policy. More so, the result reveals that the Government uses threats and intimidation to force people out of their place of abode. Forty seven (47) respondents representing 81% agreed while 7 respondents representing 13% disagreed. With the mean score of 4.00 the opinion of those that agreed stands. Fear of non-payment of compensation was also identified by the respondents as a factor that makes people to resist moving to their relocated area. 45 respondents representing 82% agreed with the statement, while 6 respondents representing 12% disagreed. The mean score of 3.88 substantiates the opinion of those that agreed with the statement. It was revealed from the table that the Government lacks staff with the technical abilities to carry out successfully resettlement policy. Forty four (44) respondents who constitute the vast majority representing 82% agreed with the statement, while six respondents representing 11% disagreed. The mean score of 3.96 upholds the views of those that said yes to the statement. More importantly, also, lack of infrastructural facilities in the new sites was also found to attract stiff resistance to effective implementation of the policy. Forty-one (41) respondents representing 75% agreed while eight respondents representing 14% disagreed. The mean score of 3.86 validates the opinion of those that agreed with the statement.

The affected communities, according to statistical result were not engaged in the conception and implementation of resettlement policies. Forty-eight (48) respondents, representing 88% agreed with the statement, while 14 respondents representing about 14% disagreed. The mean score of 4.84 strongly agreed with the opinion of those that were on the positive side of the statement. Lastly and similar with another statement in this section, resettlement plans in FCT according to the result lacks a clear definition of the beneficiaries from the relocation projects. Forty-three (43) respondents, representing about 80% agreed, while seven respondents representing about 13% disagreed. The mean score means score of 4.00 is in favour of those that agreed with the statement. Placing the opinions of the staff and the community members side by side, it can be concluded that both sides agreed that item 10-19 are the barriers affecting the implementation of resettlement policy strategies.

*Hi: There is no significant disagreement in the group means for FCTA staff and members of the communities on challenges affecting resettlement policy strategies in FCT.*

To test this hypothesis, the mean response of the communities and FCTA staff to the questions about barriers affecting implementation of resettlement policy in FCT in Table 3 was subjected to a t-test for two independent samples and the result is presented in table 4 below.

Table 4. t-test Result of Communities and FCTA Staff Regarding Barriers Affecting Implementation of Resettlement Policy in FCT

Variables	Total	Mean	S.D	T-test	t <sub>critical</sub>	D.F.	P – Value	Decision
FCTA staff	100	3.98	0.091	1.24	1.96	152	0.67	H <sub>0</sub> is accepted
Communities	54	4.04	0.029					

**Result Interpretation:**

The test was found to be statistically insignificant. This means no significant difference in the opinion of the two parties that are involved. This is indicated by the statistical outputs for members of the communities and the FCTA staff as follows respectively: members of the community ( $m = 4.04, SD = 0.029$ ) and FCTA staff ( $m = 3.98, SD = 0.091$ ). This difference was insignificant because  $t_{(152)} = 1.24, P = .617$ . The mean difference between the response of the communities and FCTA staff in their view regarding how barriers affect the implementation of resettlement policy in FCT was 0.06. The null hypothesis is therefore accepted as the calculated t-test of 1.24 was less than the t-critical of 1.96 and the p-value of 0.617 was greater than the 0.05 alpha level at the 152 degree of freedom (d.f.).

**5. Discussion of Findings**

The discussion is organised under the following headings embracing the various issues raised in the research problem statement and the hypotheses formulated.

**5.1. Resettlement Policy Strategies and the Felt-Needs of the Communities**

The result of the analysis showed an insignificant difference in the opinion of the community members and the staff of the



FCTA regarding the extent to which resettlement policy strategies affect the felt-needs of the people. This development led to the acceptance of the null hypotheses, and the rejection of the alternate hypotheses. Impliedly, the community members and the staff of the FCTA do have a uniform opinion on how the policy strategies affect the felt- needs of the community. In the first instance, the community members and the staff of the FCTA agreed that total resettlement as a strategy reflects the felt needs of the community. Those that support this statement overwhelmingly emerged from the community dimension than the staff of the FCTA. Some members of the communities appeared to be more comfortable with this option because with the total resettlement they will not mingle with the other foreign culture which may end up infiltrating into their culture. On the other hand, also, the government staff supported this strategy because they would prefer the indigenes resettled somewhere to enable them to freely practice their ways of life. Partial resettlement was also considered a good option among the resettlement policy strategies. Both sides also agreed that it would meet up with the felt-needs of the communities.

Perhaps some members of the communities who are much more enlightened agreed with this option because they felt that they should not be completely alienated from civilisation. It might be from this perspective that the government staff also agreed. However, the community members rejected integration as a good resettlement policy strategy. For them integration of the communities in the midst of the other settlers would not offer the best responses to the felt-needs of the communities. The reasons remain that some members of the indigenes would not want other peoples' cultures to infiltrate their own. However, the government staff supported this strategy partly because through the approach they would be able to interact with the indigenes on a day-to-day basis to strengthen a cordial relationship with the indigenes so that in the event of misunderstandings between the two parties, resolutions can easily be reached. It was further discovered that all the resettlement policy strategies experimented with in FCT had not offered any meaningful response to the community felt-needs. Respondents from both sides agreed to this effect. This is probably the reason while the problem of resettlement has been lingering in FCT. Because these strategies are not bringing out the desired results, communities in FCT have no other choice than to resist resettlement movements initiated by the government. This is irrespective of whatsoever benefits accruing to the resettlement strategies adopted. On this note, it was unanimously agreed that resettlement policy strategies need improvement to capture the desired needs of the beneficiaries. Consequently, the respondents vehemently agreed that for a durable solution to resettlement matters in FCT, resettlement policy options must capture the felt-needs of the people.

## 5.2. Barriers to Effective Implementation of Resettlement Policy

The result of the analysis also showed “no significant difference” in the opinions of communities and FCTA staff regarding factors that thwart effective implementation of the resettlement policy in FCT. This development led to the acceptance of the null hypotheses which states that there is no significant difference between the views of the community members and the staff of the FCTA on barriers affecting implementation of resettlement policy. On the following issues, both parties commonly agreed that they are factors affecting the implementation of resettlement policy in FCT. Funding was found as one of the fundamental barriers. This is evident as many resettlement projects have been abandoned or uncompleted for a very long time now. Apart from the funding, the political will on the part of the leaders to implement the projects are lacking. Several administrations have come and gone without the determination to get the issues of resettlement put in proper shape in the Federal Capital Territory. This could be attributed to the negligence on the part of the government to take resettlement a serious matter in the FCT. This is in line with the view of De Wet (2006) who asserts that most resettlement programmes are unsuccessful because the ‘right inputs’ like sufficient political will, necessary financial and administrative capacity which are important and instrumental in improving resettlement outcome may be lacking.

Apart from the lack of political will, corruption constitutes another obstacle to the realisation of the goals of resettlement in FCT. This manifests seriously in the area of over inflation of contract sums, conscious or deliberate increase of the number of households to benefit from the resettlement projects. Most at times, those that benefit from resettlement projects have no linkage in any way with the communities. Yet, they are listed among the beneficiaries as members of the community to the detriment of the original inhabitants. Again, because the government lacks the interest and the determination to settle the indigenes, they normally result to threats and intimidation to force members of the communities from their place of the original settlement. In this cases, the government use policy force and soldiers to intimate the inhabitants.

The consequence comes in the form of resistance from the members of the community. This further frustrates the effort of the government to effectively realise the goal of resettlement policy. Many resettlement scholars, such as Gutman (1994) and Bartolome *et al.* (2000) amongst others holds the view that one of the problems associated with development-induced displacement and resettlement is the lack of engagement of the affected population in the resettlement mitigation process. Despite the development of the resettlement action plan (RAP) as an instrument to mitigate displacement and resettlement

impact, the lack of sufficient resettlement planning depended largely on inadequate experiences in resettlement issues and the lack of project affected people's participation (Bartolome *et al.*, 2000). Consequently, a number of resettlement programmes that previously attempted to restore the displaced to their former economic and social conditions have proved ineffective. Communities also frustrate the implementation of the resettlement because on several occasions, they have been manipulated from their original place of settlement without adequate compensation or no compensation at all. Therefore, they always nurture the fear that if they are relocated, the government will tactically withdraw from the exercise without fulfilling their promises.

Moreover, the resettlement is also frustrated due to lack of staff with technical know-how. There is no way the goal of resettling in any society would be realised when qualified and technical staff like surveyors, Valuers, Engineers, Architect, Soil Scientist etc. are in short supply. Due to the inadequacy, the government always resort to contracting most of the projects to outsiders who execute them with reckless abandon. This is coupled with the lack of infrastructural facilities which are in dire need in most of the resettlement camps. Most at times, buildings are erected without such ways. Similarly, pipe born water is not connected to some of the resettlement camps. The main sources of water for the relocatees are boreholes sunk in most of the camps. Boreholes are not safe for drinking. Most of these negativities manifest especially because communities are not engaged in the conception and implementation of policies that affect their personal lives. Definite statistics regarding who should benefit from resettlement are lacking. This accounts for the reasons why most items for compensation are diverted to people other than the affected people in the FCT. These revelations, amongst others, affect effective implementation of resettlement policy in the FCT.

## 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The study pertinently concludes that the mounting challenges to the smooth implementation of resettlement policy in the Federal Capital Territory should not be ignored or wished away. This is because; the negative consequences of not properly resettling the indigenes would have extended negative multiplier effects on the overall development of Abuja. Based on the findings and conclusion, the next section provides the appropriate recommendations.

- a) Since members of the communities overwhelmingly opted for total resettlement, it means the government should implement that reflects the felt-needs of the people. This is because the indigenes of the Federal Capital Territory by nature do not feel free if they are in the midst of other tribes. Consequently, a resettlement area should be solely dedicated to them.
- b) Again, lack of enough funds is a critical issue affecting implementation of resettlement policy in FCT. The government should mobilise enough funds for effective implementation of resettlement policy in the FCT. It is not just enough to mobilise funds, but the government should also garner serious political will to implement the policy.
- c) Corruption also affects the implementation of the policy. Anti-corruption agencies should beam their searchlight on individuals and institutions saddled with responsibilities of implementing policy in the FCT.

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