

# INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND HOST COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC BENEFITS: THE SAMUEL ADEGBOYEGA UNIVERSITY EXAMPLE

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## ABSTRACT

*Investment in education especially in private universities has become a dominant trend in Nigeria in the recent times and some factors have necessitated the location in rural communities. There is therefore the need to examine the impact of such investment on their host communities using Samuel Adegboyega University as a reference point. 100 households in the community were investigated using Probit regression to analyse the categorical variables such as ease of employment generation, growth in SMEs, community partnership and infrastructural development employed. Findings revealed that all these variables are significant and positive except for employment of male members of the household which is significant but negative. This implies that at the present the male- member of the households need higher education to achieve good pay in the university. The study therefore recommends that all large- scale investors in education need to inculcate the livelihood means of the host communities into their programmes in order to empower them and make them self-reliance.*

**Keywords:** Large- scale investment, Education, Nigeria, Host community, Livelihood

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Large scale- investments are gradually emerging in Nigeria and are paramount to the growth of the locality in which they are situated. Education is one of such areas in which large scale investment has been booming for the past years especially university education (Osagie, 2009). Odeleye (2012: 332) says "investment in education is fast becoming very significant because of new challenges being faced in the Nigerian environment and the discovery of education as an impetus to economic growth and development". The lifting of embargo on private ownership of university by the then head of state, General Abubakar Abdulsalaam led to individuals and corporate bodies entering into the

sector (Idumange and Mayor, 2006).

The benefit of investment in university is seen from the perspective of human capital development and meeting demand for higher education, which at present in the country is higher than supply. This benefit has never been examined from the perspective of the host- communities' benefits. Large scale investments are noted to have impact on the livelihood of the host communities (Osabuohien, 2014; Aigbokhan & Ola, 2014). The need to examine whether investing in university has impacts on the livelihood of host communities makes this study to focus on investigating the impact of Samuel Adegboyega University on her host-community. The university came into

existence in Ogwa community about four years ago. The community is a rural area of people mainly farmers with few literate (Samuel Adegboyega University, 2011).

It is against this backdrop that the broad objectives of this study is to investigate the impact of investment in private education in Nigeria and the attendant benefits to the host communities viz a viz employment generation, cottage industry promotion and existence of SMEs in the areas.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Conceptual Framework

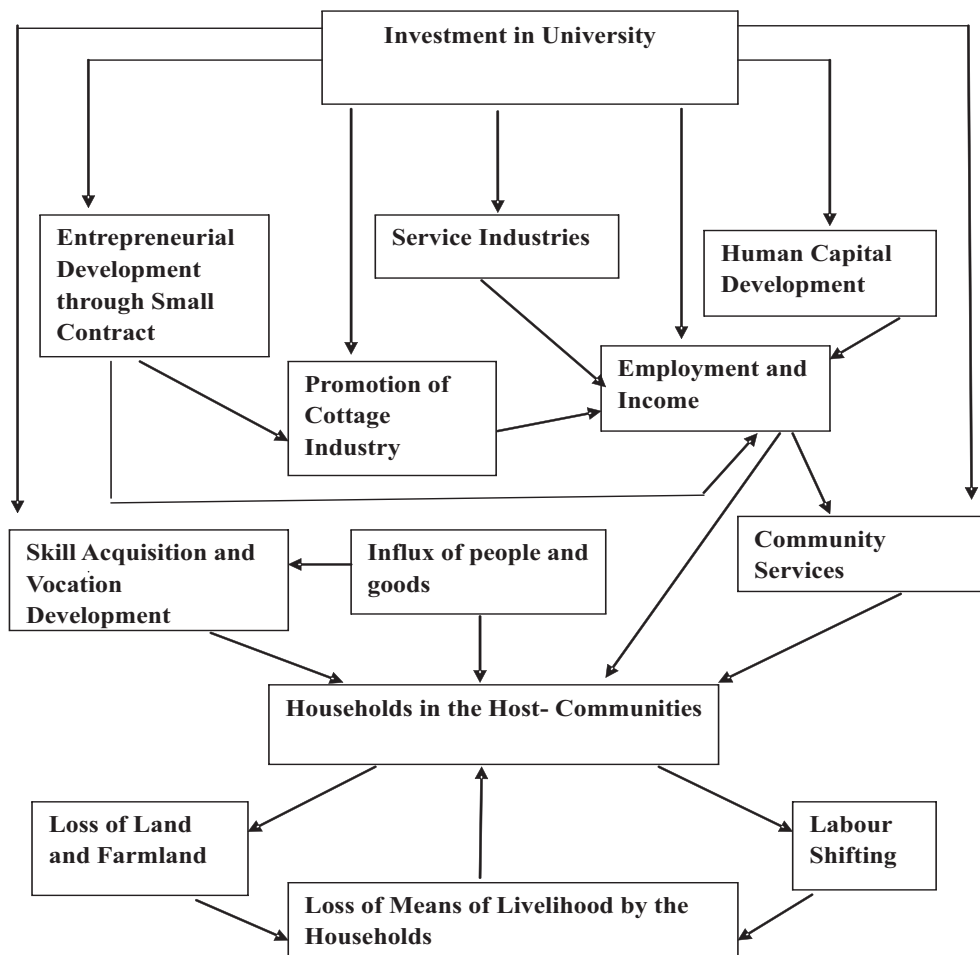
Large- scale investment in education has impact on the host communities, and it can therefore be said that large scale investment has direct link with livelihood of the host- communities (Aigbokhan & Ola, 2014). This relationship is of mutual benefits to both parties- the investors and the host- communities though there is possibility of one party deriving some benefits than other. Agu (2014:1) describes the relationship as follows:

*The relationship between universities and their host communities the world over ought to be a symbiotic one, a mutually-reinforcing intercourse characterized by inter-dependence and solidarity. It could not be otherwise since in addition to its core mandate of teaching and research, universities, and in particular Nigerian universities, are charged with the additional functions of national development and community service.*

The target in this study being the host communities, the host communities can derive some benefits from the presence of large scale investment in the education.

The existence of a university in a locality can lead to generation of employment; creation of cottage industries; human capital development, incoming of service industries etc. This is conceptualised into a framework which is provided as Figure 1.

Figure 1: Investment in University Education and Households' Livelihood



Large scale- investment in education can create livelihood for the people of the host communities. This begins with the construction of various buildings, which lead to some of the artisans and unskilled people in the community obtaining paid employment and this further leads to training of the unskilled people in some vocations as a result of the lack of artisans. They may acquire skill in bricklaying, carpentry, welding and painting which they can later make use of. The commencement of academic activities in the university leads to employment of both senior and junior staff.

The host communities have advantage in securing employment in junior categories because of lower entry requirements. They can secure employment as cleaners, messengers, securities and attendants. This shifts labour from rural agricultural sector and reduces farm hands. The presence of universities in the host- communities leads to engagement some service industry to provide essential services for the universities. This attracts industries such as banks, internet service providers, cleaning services, security services, etc. This generates employment and income for both professionals, skilled and unskilled people in the community.

Apart from the incoming of service industry, some members of the communities become contractors handling projects for the universities. This creates the growth of entrepreneurs in the host- communities. The universities may offer some services to their host- communities such as provision of social and recreational activities.

## **2.2 Empirical review**

Few literatures are available on large scale investment in education and as such information is not abounding on its impact on the host communities. Several studies (Ayodele, 2011 and Odeleye, 2012) have spoken on the impact of education on the

national economy and some such as Osagie (2009); Eze (2011); Igbinedion and Ovbiagele (2012); and Olaniyi, Oredipe and Komolafe (2012) have examined how investment in education has impact on the livelihood of the host- communities employing descriptive techniques. Agu (2014) affirms that UNN has improved the quality of life and standard of living of Nsukka community in every ramification.

Osagie (2009) reports the coming of Igbinedion University into Okada community, which has led to the transformation of Okada community from the village setting to a centre of business activity. The community was purely peasant at the inception of the university with no essential amenities. The establishment of the university in the community led to the creation of banks, schools, and catering services. The study conducted by Eze (2011) on the impact of UNN on the people of Nsukka community showed that the presence of a university in a community can lead to the establishment of essential service industries. His study showed that Nsukka community has gained rapid growth in terms of social and economic infrastructure. The once agrarian community of Nsukka has being transformed into modern society with essential facilities.

Employment opportunities come with investment in universities from the conception to operation of the universities people have jobs offered. Indigenes are the most beneficiaries of these employment opportunities. They obtain employment from both the university and other establishment operating in or outside the university. As Eze (2011) notes about Nsukka community, employment opportunities come in diverse ways for the people, they obtained jobs from all establishments in and out the university. Ehinmowo and Eludoyin (2010) emphasises that the presence of Adekunle Ajasin University in Akungba- Akoko community has led to influx of both

indigenes and non- indigenes which has resulted into income generation through employment.

Some social infrastructure in the universities can be of tremendous benefits to the communities that housed them. Olaniyi, Oredipe and Komolafe (2012) assert that TASUED Hospital provides medical consultation and treatment for the people of Ijagun and its neighbouring communities. Igbinedion and Ovbiagele (2012)'s study shows that Delta State University, Oleh; Delta State Polytechnic, Ozoro and Delta State College of Marine Technology, Bomadi have met the need of the communities they are situated through corporate social responsibility which include provision of education and health services.

Rapid increase in agricultural production has been witnessed through research in agriculture and extension services. Produce from farms is supplied to the market through university' farms. UNN has assisted Nsukka, Orba and Obukpa communities to have improved yields in their farms through agricultural extension service (Eze, 2011). In terms of entrepreneurial development, Covenant University opened an entrepreneurial village where students, staff and community people acquired skill and vocation. In this village, community people are offered the same opportunity to obtain gainful vocation and trade (Obayan, Awonuga and Ekeanyanwu, 2012).

The local market has also become well-organised through influx of non- indigenes that come in to participate and the periodic market system common in Akungba-Akoko has faded away into daily market with large participants from different places (Ehinmowo and Eludoyin, 2010). In the study conducted by Jenyo and Adebayo (2013), they found out that the presence of Federal Polytechnic, Offa in Offa community has led to a vibrant night market and the operation of the market has been extended to 10.00 pm which boosts trades and commerce.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

This paper is designed to be descriptive and analytical. This descriptive aspect involves collection of relevant statistics from Samuel Adegboyega University to assess her impact on the host community. Information is collected on the number of people employed by the university from the community; community service offered by the university to the community; the benefits accrued to the community through various service industries engaged by the universities etc. The sources of this information are employees' registry, records of community services provided by the university and records of university's various service providers.

The study investigates one hundred households in the community using multi-stage sampling method, and a questionnaire is designed to elicit information needed on households that have secured gainful employment in the university either through the university establishment or service industries, households that have benefited from community services provided by the university, households that have begun cottage business as a result of the presence of the university, and a number of women in the households that are employed by the university.

The study employs Probit regression technique to analyses the categorical variables. The data collected from one hundred households used for the study are converted into nominal scales which are scored either 0 or 1 since they are dummy variables.

#### 3.1 Empirical model

This section provides the explanation of the analytical aspect of the study. The Probit regression model is specified as:

$$PR(LH_i = 1) = (\epsilon_0 + \epsilon_i X_i + e_i) \quad (1)$$

This model is extracted from Moore (2013), O' Hallan (2014) and Osabuohien (2014) scholars who have carried out studies on Probit regression technique either from theoretical or empirical aspects.

**LH:** The livelihood of the households stands for the dependent variable in the model, and it is a categorical variable. This study defines the livelihood of the households as the extent to which households have access to basic essential of lives with the presence of the university.

**X<sub>i</sub>:** All variables assumed to have impact on the dependent variable are brought into the Probit model and are termed categorical variables. The assigned of values is based on the data obtained from the survey conducted. The following are the variables: employment of a member of the household, employment of the female member of the household, households with retail business, households that benefit from community service of the university, households that report loss means of livelihood through the establishment of the university, and households that benefit from other industries as a result of the university.

### **3.2 Definition of variables**

**Livelihood of the households (LTH):** Since the university has been in existence in the community for the past four years, the authors believe that the university should have had some economic impact on the households, which should have led to changes in their standard of living. The households that have experienced these forms of economic benefits are assigned 1 believing that the benefits received have improved their livelihood. The other households are assigned 0. This is done to measure the impact of the university on the livelihood of the people.

**Employment of a member of the household (EMH):** The authors believe that the employment of the member of the household increases the livelihood of the households. The households which reported that a member of the household is employed is assigned 1; otherwise 0. It is expected that the sign will be positive because employment of the member of the

household leads to increase in their earnings.

**Employment of a female member of the household (EFH):** The employment of a female member of a household leads to increase in income for the households especially those households headed by a female. This household is assigned 1 and 0 if the female member of the household is not employed. The expected sign is positive because the income earned by the female member is essential for the households.

**Households with retail business (HRB):** The presence of the university might have led to the establishment of retail or cottage businesses or the expansion of the existing ones. The authors believe that the emergence of the university will make some people to begin creative enterprises.. Therefore, the households that report having a retail business or starting a venture since the university came into existence is assigned 1; otherwise 0. The expected sign is positive because ownership of a retail or a cottage business will increase the livelihood of the households.

**Households that benefit from community service (HBC):** The University provides some services for the community. These include portable water for the community people and medical services to the community through her medical experts. Households that report access to these essential services are assigned 1; otherwise assigned the value, 0.

**Households that report loss of means of livelihood through the establishment of the university (HLE):** Since the university acquired several hectares of land from the community, some households experienced loss of some portion of land and farmland. The loss of land and farmland can lead to the situation where the households lose their means of livelihood. The households

that report this are assigned 0; otherwise assigned 1. The assigned value of 1 is meant for the households that did not experience any loss of land or farmland. The expected sign is negative because loss of land and farmland will lead to loss of economic livelihood.

**Households that benefit from other industries as a result of the university (HBU):** The existence of the university creates the necessity for some service industries to come into operation. Banks, telecommunication providers, and transportation service providers are some of the service industries that are already in operation in the university. These service industries are of benefit to the public through extension of service to them. The households that report benefitting from such services are assigned 1, otherwise, 0. The expected sign is positive because such benefits will enhance the livelihood of the households.

#### 4 EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE AND DISCUSSION

##### 4.1 Summary of Statistics of Selected Variables

The authors extract the mean and standard deviation of selected variables for comparison. The authors examine the variability of the statistics between households that experience improved livelihood (ILH) and those that do not (NLH). This information is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of statistics of variable of households with ILH and NLH

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	ALL		WITH ILH		WITH NLH	
		MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD
EFH	Employment of a member of the household = 1, 0 if otherwise	0.32	0.48	0.35	0.48	0.27	0.45
EMH	Employment of a female member of the household = 1, 0 if otherwise	0.18	0.39	0.21	0.41	0.15	0.35
HBE	Benefit from community service = 1, 0 if otherwise	0.51	0.50	0.58	0.50	0.41	0.50
HBU	Benefit from the activities of service providers = 1, 0 if otherwise	0.66	0.48	0.79	0.41	0.43	0.50
HLE	No loss of farmland = 1, 0 if otherwise	0.89	0.32	0.89	0.32	0.89	0.32
HRB	Enterprising = 1, 0 if otherwise	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.49	0.32	0.42

Source: Authors' Computation, 2015

The mean obtained from the participating households on the number of community people who are employed by the university shows the value is 0.32. This value is quite low and the reason for this low value can be traced to the fact that the community is mainly peasant with few educated ones. Even the mean value for the employed women is very low; 0.18. Few women are employed by the university from the community, and many of the women are illiterate that cannot take opportunity of jobs at junior and senior cadre.

One important fact this study has revealed is that the existence of the university has not led to the situation where households lose their land and farmland. The mean value of 0.89 indicates this fact. The university owns several hectares of land, which is quite enormous to affect farm activities in the community. The mean value of benefitting from essential services provided by other industries that emerged because of the university is 0.66. The university has enabled the people to have access to banking services, facilities available in a 3- star hotel, large market and good telecommunication network.

The mean value of 0.51 and 0.50 for households that benefit from community services of the university and households that have begun small scale businesses is relatively high, which shows that the existence of the University in the community has created substantial growth in the community. People have access to drinkable water, and this has relieved the problem of scarcity of water experienced during dry season.

##### 4.2 Regression Result

This section shows the result of Probit regression computed on the impact of large scale investment in education on rural communities. The information is provided in Table 2.

**Table 2 : Results from probit regression**

Variable	Dependent variable: the likelihood of large scale education on the host communities economic wellbeing						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
EMH	-0.044*** (0.436)	0.147*** (0.057)				-1.287 (0.436)	-0.132*** (0.427)
EFH	0.198*** (0.505)	0.0065*** (0.0647)		0.165*** (0.385)		0.752*** (0.501)	0.279*** (0.497)
HBE	0.410*** (0.297)	0.083*** (0.0751)		0.409*** (0.297)	0.618* (0.302)	-0.505*** (0.314)	0.335*** (0.287)
HBU	0.794* (0.315)	0.021*** (0.0357)	0.615*** (0.710)	0.783 (0.296)	1.047 (0.363)	0.994 (0.333)	0.815 (0.314)
HLE	-0.481*** (0.458)	0.0187*** (0.0404)		-0.489*** (0.450)	0.496*** (0.515)	1.395 (0.499)	
HRB	0.640* (0.313)	0.084*** (0.0413)	-0.045*** (0.700)	0.649* (0.297)	-0.866 (0.330)		0.547** (0.299)
LTH					0.060*** (0.334)	0.656* (0.316)	
Constant	-0.265*** (0.428)	-0.085*** (0.0672)	1.479*** (0.549)	-0.263*** (0.427)	-1.631 (0.534)	-1.787 (0.534)	-0.609* (0.272)
Pseudo R <sup>2</sup>	0.00304	0.1871	0.046	0.150	0.174	0.223	0.141
Log pseudo likelihood	-56.011	7.6507	-8.522	-56.016	-51.769	-53.883	-56.569
Obs	100	39	65	100	100	100	100

Source: Author's Computation

\*1% \*\*5% \*\*\*10% significant

In Column A, the Probit regression is computed for all participating households in the community. The results show that independent variables introduced to identify whether large scale investment in education has impact on the livelihood of rural communities are significant (See Table 2) at different levels. This shows that all these variables contribute to the

economic well being of the rural households. Employment of a household head of rural household (EMH) and households that report loss of means of livelihood (HLE) have negative signs.

The negative sign in employment of a member of rural household may have come from the fact that the employment of male headed household does not lead to

improved economic well being of his household. The lack of education of these households' heads lead to a situation where they obtain employment as messengers, gardeners and farm workers with little pay. The same Column A reveals that the employment of a female member of a household (EFH) is positive, which indicates that employment of a female member who head a household increases the economic well being of the household.

The negative sign in households that report loss of source of economic is as expected, though the numbers of the households that report loss of livelihood was very few. There was no compensation to these households because the community gave the land to the University free (Samuel Adegboyega University, 2011). This may have negative impact on their economic well being because those who lost their land were not compensated either by the proprietor of the university or the community.

The author examines the impact of the university on the households that are of less economic advantaged in the community. The Column B gives the result of Probit regression computed. All variables introduced are significant at levels higher than 10% and positive. This shows that the less economic advantaged households derived some economic benefits from the University. Through the university, the people have access to drinkable water, which is not possible during dry season, medical consultations and treatment from the university medical personnel through joint partnership on health, the University library and farm produce supplied by the University farm.

In the same vein, the author investigates the impact of the university on the economic advantaged households. The Probit regression result shows that four of the variables employed are removed for linearity purpose. The other two variables-households that benefit from other industries emerging as a result of the

university (HBU) and households that begin retail businesses (HRB). As given in Column C, both variables are significant and positive except variable on 'households that begin retail businesses' which is negative. This means the economic advantaged households have other sources of livelihood. It is only less economic advantaged households that benefit ownership of retail businesses.

Another point of interest for the author is to examine the impact of the University on the women members of the community. The Probit regression was computed to identify this impact on the women. The result is shown in Column D, and it can be seen that two variables exhibit expectations that are quite different. Households that report the loss of means of livelihood is negative but significant for the women. Women in this land are mainly farmers, and some of them might have lost their farmland which may have been the reason for this negative sign. The households that benefit from other industries is insignificant for women. This may have come from lack of women empowerment in the land, which makes them to form the bulk of poor people in the land.

The authors also investigate whether the employment of a member of the household in the community has significant impact on his livelihood. The result of the Probit regression computed is given in Column E and it can be seen that all variables are positive except variable on households that begin retail businesses (HRB). This reason may have been that those who are employed by the university from the community do not invest their earnings into productive business. Their earnings may have been used for consumption purpose alone which only lead to promotion of businesses of those outside paid employment. It is also not significant at 1%, 5% and 10%.

This further reveals that there is no significant relationship between



employment of a member of a household by the University (EMH) and the household that benefit from other industries (HBU). The reason for this insignificant can be explained from the fact that large members of the community currently employed by the University are illiterate with insufficient payment to meet their monthly need. Many of them should have done better if they maintain their farms.

The author investigates whether the existence of the university has led to the situation whereby 'small and medium scale enterprises' grow in the community. This makes the author to compute Probit regression which is shown in Column F. In this computation, the author makes 'households that begin retail businesses (HRB)' dependent variable and other variables independent.

The result obtained is as given in Column F showing that 'employment of a female of the household (EFH)' is significant and positive with 'households that begin retail business (HRB)'. Employment of a member of the household (EMH) and households that benefit from university service (HBE) have inverse relationship with households that begin retail business. All other variables are positive but insignificant. This finding shows the growth of retail business in the community can only be attributed to the employment of female member of the household (EFH). Two reasons can be given for this. The first, employed women may have invested their earnings into small and medium businesses. The second is that they have spent their earnings on consuming household goods, which has led to an increase in market demand, and necessitated the need for more retailers in the market.

Lastly, the author isolates households that report loss of means of livelihood through the existence of the university (HLE) from the Probit model. Land and farmland are the only loss reported by the community, and the author wants to

identify whether or not in the absence of this variable, there are other variables that are negative and insignificant. Column G of the regression table reports this finding and it is seen that only employment of male members of the household (EMH) is negative though significant.

This supports the earlier finding of Column A, which shows that the employment of the member of the household is negative. This clearly indicates that male members of the household fair better with other employment rather than working in the university. The main reason is that, 32 men are employed by the University and 89.4% of them work as messenger, cleaners, gardeners and farm workers.

One other variable that is insignificant is households that benefit from other industries emerging through the existence of the University (HBU). The only means of benefiting from the banks, hotels and other service providers is for the households to have source of livelihood. Many of the households are peasants and farmers. The insignificant comes as a result of the isolation of ownership of land and farmland in the model. In Column A, it can be seen that this variable 'households that report loss of means of livelihood through the existence of the university (HLE)' determines the income earning capability of the households and it has relationship with whether the households will be able to engage the service of these industries or not.

## **5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

This paper has examined the impact of large scale investment in education on the livelihood of the host communities. The study therefore considers the impact of Samuel Adegboyega University on the economic livelihood of the Ogwa people. The findings of the study showed that employment of the member of the households is significant but has a negative impact on the households. The

reason for this is that the male- members of the households are better off when they engage in other productive activities rather than working in the university. But the employment of female- members of the households is significant and positive and this comes as a result of the fact that the female earnings add to households' income which increases the economic livelihood of the households.

The findings of the study further showed that community benefited from social responsibility of the university. The value obtained is both significant and positive. The university extends provision of water, medical services, library service and farm extension service to the people. All these increase their economic livelihood and their health well- being. In addition, the findings of the study showed that services of banks, telecommunication service providers and hotels which come to render service to the university is of benefits to the community. The value obtained is also positive and significant.

Similarly, the findings of the study showed that the existence of the university has created the need for people to build houses for renting; pioneer cottage business; reactivating old trades and vocation; and expand the existing business. The influx of people and goods into the community through the university has increased the participants in the local markets and has led to the creation of 'less market' serving as a dual market to the existing periodic market. The variable measured (households that began retail businesses) is significant and positive. Lastly, it is seen that ownership of land and farmland has significant impact on households' economic livelihood of the people. The negative sign obtained confirmed this and shows that households who lost their land and farmland without compensation suffered economic hardship. Though they were few in number, the compensation should have cushioned the effect of loss on the households.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has shown that large- scale investment in education is paramount to the increased economic livelihood of the host- communities. Priority can be given to the promoters of such investment who have interest in locating them in rural areas. This has the potential of reducing youth migration to the urban centres and also drawing people from the cities to the rural communities. The human capital development in rural areas depend on access to high- quality education, therefore, there is need for government to assist the community to benefit from education provided by these investors. The high fee paying of such institutions when they are privately owned discourages enrolment of children or wards of rural women.

Large- scale investment in education is labour intensive and this will be of economic benefits to the rural households if the workers reside in the communities. Lack of social amenities and infrastructure may limit this and further increases urban areas congestion. In the beneficiary rural community, government needs to come in to provide essential social infrastructure such as electricity, housing estate, shopping mall, road, recreation centre and postal service. This creates economic of scale and empower such institutions to operate at reduced overheads.

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