

Review Article

# Perception of National Youth Service Corps Members’ towards Community Development Service in Adamawa State, Nigeria

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**Abstract:** Three research questions and three research hypotheses were postulated for the study. The study was a descriptive survey design. The population comprised all the Batch A corps members who served in Adamawa State in the 2018/2019 service year. Sample size was 160. The research instrument was self- developed by the researcher. The Research was validated by an expert in Guidance and Counselling and an expert in Test and Measurement; from Adamawa State University, Mubi. The reliability was determined by using test-retest method with reliability co-efficient of 0.89. Data were analyzed using mean, Spearman Rank Order, t-test analysis and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results showed corps member’s attitude to CDS was positive. The factors that inhibit effective execution of the CDS project by corps members include inadequate monitoring by National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) officials, poor management of finance, and lack of maturation by the CDS coordinators.

**Keywords:** Community Development Service (CDS), National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) corps members, attitude, challenges.

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## INTRODUCTION

Experts in Guidance Counselling, and one expert in Test and Measurement; and some of the question items were modified. The reliability was determined by test-retest method with reliability co-efficient of 0.89. The research instrument titled “Perception of Corps Members’ to Attitudes towards Community Development Service” (PCMACDS) was self - developed by the researcher. This questionnaire consisted of four sections A-D. Section A contained demographic information about the respondent such as sex, age, state of origin, higher institution attended, marital status and community development service joined. Section B contained 20 items relating to

perception of corps members towards community development service. Section C contained 15 items relating to corps members’ attitude towards community development service; while Section D contained 13 items relating to constraints to community development service Data were analyzed using inferential statistics such as percentages, frequencies, mean and Spearman Ranking, t-test analysis and. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

## RESULTS

Research Question 1: How do corps members perceive the community Development Service of NYSC?

**Table-1: Mean and Rank Order on corps members perceive the Community Development Service of the NYSC**

S/No	Items	Mean	Rank
5	Community development service is always tedious	2.90	1 <sup>st</sup>
3	I believe that CDS is for corps members who studied development courses	2.87	2 <sup>nd</sup>
12	I feel that CDS is not supposed to be compulsory for all corps members	2.87	2 <sup>nd</sup>
14	Community development project embarked on by corps members does not help the community in any way.	2.84	4 <sup>th</sup>
2	I perceive that CDS is usually carried out by government agencies	2.80	5 <sup>th</sup>
13	Corps members should be allowed to join any Community Development Project (CDP) at will.	2.78	6 <sup>th</sup>

16	I feel that every state government via the local government areas should sponsor each community development project initiated by CDS group.	2.76	7 <sup>th</sup>
9	I believe CDS should be carried out by community members.	2.76	7 <sup>th</sup>
7	I believe that CDS is not important for me because I am not a community developer.	2.73	9 <sup>th</sup>
20	I think CDS can improve my development initiatives, skill and competence.	2.73	9 <sup>th</sup>
10	I feel that CDS member should be given an incentive in order to propel their interest towards executive a given task.	2.72	11th
4	I am not committed to CDS because am not in my community.	2.71	12th
6	I don't like CDS because the community don't appreciate my effort	2.71	12th
18	I think the reason CDS is not effective is because CDS coordinators are not committed to the task	2.71	12th
15	CDS is not efficient because there is no fund allocated to it by NYSC Scheme.	2.69	15th
17	I feel that the CDS coordinators should strictly outline projects to be embarked upon by the group annually.	2.68	16th
11	I believe that CDS is for change agents in the state and not corps members.	2.67	17th
8	CDS is dangerous and risky because of area boys' attack.	2.68	17th
1	Community development services should be carried out by non government organization	2.64	19th
19	I don't think CDS can affect my life positively and that's why am not interested.	2.55	20th

Table1 presents the mean rank order of corps member's perception of the Community Development Service. The table indicated that item 5 which stated that community development service is always tedious is ranked 1st with a mean score of 2.90. Item 3 and 12 were ranked 2nd with a mean score of 2.87; and this indicate the corps members perceive the CDS as

significant on them. Since none of the mean score of the items fall below the mid-mean score of 2.50, then it can be said that the corps members positively perceive the community development service of the NYSC.

Research Question 2: What kind of attitude do corps members portray towards the CDS programme?

**Table-2: Mean and Rank Order of Attitude Corps Members Portray towards the CDS Programme**

Item No	Items	Mean	Rank
8	I come to CDS meetings at least once a month	2.86	1 <sup>st</sup>
10	I am not part of any CDS group	2.84	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1	I see CDS to be a waste of time for corps members	2.83	3 <sup>rd</sup>
12	I will like to improve on my attendance to CDS	2.82	4 <sup>th</sup>
14	I am not committed to CDS here because I am not in my state of origin	2.80	5 <sup>th</sup>
9	My CDS do not hold weekly meetings	2.78	6 <sup>th</sup>
13	My CDS group do not have any specified time foe wasting	2.77	7 <sup>th</sup>
5	I have a record of all the projects my CDS has carried out	2.74	8 <sup>th</sup>
3	I support my CDS group in all they do	2.73	9 <sup>th</sup>
6	I am not effective because I hate my CDS group	2.72	10 <sup>th</sup>
2	I am always involved in CDS	2.71	11 <sup>th</sup>
11	My attitude to CDS is fair	2.69	12 <sup>th</sup>
7	I am not fully involved in CDS because there is no pay for it	2.67	13 <sup>th</sup>
4	I attend my CDS meetings only during Payment Voucher signing	2.64	14 <sup>th</sup>
15	I always pay my dues/contributions for CDS project	2.57	15 <sup>th</sup>

Table 2 presents the mean and rank order of attitude corps members portray towards the CDS programme. The table indicated that item 8 is ranked 1st with a mean score of 2.86. Item 10 and 1 were ranked 2nd and 3rd with a mean score of 2.84 and 2.83 and this indicate the attitude corps members portray towards the CDS programme have significant on them. Since none of the mean score of the items fall below the

mid-mean score of 2.50, then it can be said that the corps members' attitude toward the CDS programme was positive.

Research Question 3: Which factors significantly inhibit the effective execution of the CDS project by corps members?

**Table-3: Mean and Rank Order on effective execution of the CDS project by corps members**

Item No.	Items	Mean	Rank
11	Inadequate monitoring item of NYSC officer	2.86	1 <sup>st</sup>
13	Poor management of finance	2.84	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4	Money consciousness among the group leaders	2.83	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1	Lack of good ideas is a major constraints to CDS operation	2.78	4 <sup>th</sup>
12	Lack of understanding among group member	2.78	4 <sup>th</sup>
8	Lack of interest by corps members	2.74	6 <sup>th</sup>
3	Lack of operational facilities	2.73	7 <sup>th</sup>
6	Lack of motivation/incentive by the CDS coordinators	2.73	7 <sup>th</sup>
9	Too many lines of action/project to be executed	2.72	9 <sup>th</sup>
5	Problem of leadership/mode of leadership structure/s	2.71	10 <sup>th</sup>
10	Fear of area boys attack/kidnapping	2.67	11 <sup>th</sup>
7	Lack of CDS operational fund/capital	2.64	12 <sup>th</sup>
2	Inadequate sensitization on CDS operations/functions	2.63	13 <sup>th</sup>

Table 3 presents the mean and rank order of factors significantly inhibits the effective execution of the CDS project by corps members. The table indicated that item 11 is ranked 13 with a mean score of 2.86. Item 12 is ranked and 4 were ranked 2nd and 3rd with a mean score of 2.84 and 2.83. Since none of the mean score of the items fall below the mid-mean score of 2.50, then it can be said that all the factors inhibit the

effective execution of the CDS project by corps members.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between the perception of male and female corps members towards community development service

**Table-4: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test value on the perception of male and female corps members towards community development service**

Sex	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	df	t-calculated	t-critical	Sig
Male	150	53.5	7.27	398	2.08	1.96	.006
Female	250	54.7	4.17				

\*Significant: (P < 0.05)

Table 4 shows that the calculated t-value of 2.08 and the critical t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated t-value is more than the critical t-value, thus, the hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is a significant difference between the perception of male and female corps members towards community development service

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between the attitude of single and married corps members towards community development service

**Table-5: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test value on attitude of single and married corps members towards community development service**

Status	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	df	t-calculated	t-critical	Sig
Single	261	39.5	6.75	398	2.28	1.96	.001
Married	139	40.9	3.72				

\*Significant: (P < 0.05)

Table 5 shows that the calculated t-value of 2.28 and the critical t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated t-value is more than the critical t-value, thus the hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is a significant difference

between the attitude of single and married corps member towards community development service.

Hypothesis 3: Corps members' types of community development service have no significant influence on their perceptions

**Table-6: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the corps member's types of community development service have no influence on their perception**

Source	SS	df	Mean Square	F-calculated	F-critical	Sig
Between Groups	157.809	3	52.603	1.71	2.37	.164
Within Groups	12184.101	397	30.768			
Total	12341.910	399				

Not Significant<sup>⊗</sup> P > 0.05)

Table 6 shows the calculated F-ratio of 1.71 and the critical F-value of 2.37 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The calculated F-ratio is less than the critical F-value. The null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, corps members' types of community development service have no significant influence on their perception.

## DISCUSSION

The findings of the study on research question one revealed that there is a positive perception of corps members on Community Development Service (CDS). This is in line with Angba, Adesope and Aboh [1] which ranked all the items of community project above mean average of 2.5. The findings of the study in research question two showed that the corps members showed favourable attitudes towards CDS programme. This finding corroborated the findings of Agumagun, Adesope and Matthew-Njoku [2] which showed favourable attitude towards CDS.

The findings of the study on research question three showed that the factors which inhibit the effective execution of CDS project by corps include Inadequate monitoring item of NYSC officer; poor management of finance; money consciousness among the group leaders; lack of good ideas is a major constraints to CDS operation; lack of understanding among group member; lack of interest by corps members; lack of operational facilities; lack of motivation/incentive by the CDS coordinators; too many lines of action/project to be executed; problem of leadership/mode of leadership structure/s; fear of area boys attack/kidnapping; lack of CDS operational fund/capital and sensitization on CDS operations/functions. This is in line with the study Lamidi, Benson and Adisa [3] whose findings on challenges on NYSC Community Development Service in Southwestern Nigeria listed as lack of good ideas; inadequate sensitization of NYSC Community Development Service (CDS).

The findings of the study on research hypothesis one showed there is a significant difference between the perception of male and female corps members towards the CDS. This finding disagrees with the findings of the study conducted by Agumagu, Adesope and Matthew-Njoku [2] and Angba, Adesope and Aboh [4], whose findings showed gender of respondents correlated negatively with attitudes towards the CDS programme.

The findings of the study on research hypothesis two showed there is a significant difference between the attitude of single and married corps members towards CDS. This study disagrees with the findings of the study conducted by Agumagu, Adesope and Matthew-Njoku [2] and Angba, Adesope and Aboh [1] who reported that marital status correlated negatively with attitudes of towards the CDS programme.

The findings of the study on research hypothesis three showed corps members' types of CDS have no significant influence on their perception. This finding is in disagreement with the findings of the study conducted by Agumagu, Adesope and Matthew-Njoku [2] which showed nature of service area correlated negatively with attitude towards the CDS programme. This is due to the fact that more respondents from the urban involved in the study were not comfortable with the CDS. The respondents who served in the rural areas seem to appreciate the CDS programme more than their urban counterparts

## CONCLUSION

The study concluded that corps members' attitude towards Community Development Service (CDS) is a positive one. Although there are underlying factors that inhibit the effective execution of CDS project by corps include inadequate monitoring item of NYSC officer; poor management of finance; money consciousness among the group leaders; lack of good ideas is a major constraint to CDS operation; lack of understanding among group member; lack of interest by corps members; lack of operational facilities; lack of motivation/incentive by the CDS coordinators; too many lines. of action/project to be executed; problem of leadership/mode of leadership structure/s; fear of area boys attack/kidnapping; lack of CDS operational fund/capital and sensitization on CDS operations/functions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adequate funding by the meaningful individuals, community, NGOs, local and state government so that landmark projects can be carried out by corps members.
2. Provision of enabling environment to corps members to execute meaningful activities.
3. Monitoring and evaluation of projects that are financed

4. Acquisition of training and entrepreneurship skills by the corps members so that they would be well equipped with diverse project activities to execute as Community Development Service (CDS).

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