

## Comparative Study of National Development Plans in Nigeria and India: Media Dimension

Maiwada Abdullahi Aliyu<sup>1</sup>, Aondover Eric Msughter<sup>2</sup>, Alikor Queen Nneka<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Theatre Arts, University of Abuja, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mass Communication, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, Nigeria

<sup>3</sup>Department of Public Relations and Advertising, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt

[Aondover7@gmail.com](mailto:Aondover7@gmail.com)

### Abstract

*This study is a comparative study of national development plans in Nigeria and India. Development is fundamental and pertinent in every society, and the approach used in attaining such development is very vital. Different countries, at one point in time, come up with national development plans which they believe will address the inherent problems in their society. It is in this context that the study examines the national development plans of Nigeria and India. The study is exploratory, as it utilises the descriptive research method whereby relevant literature and documents were consulted and analysed based on the existing literature. To achieve the goal of the study, the historical antecedent of the national development plan for the two countries was interrogated, as well as the various achievements and challenges of the development plans in both Nigeria and India. The paper dissects the areas of convergence as regards the level of success attained and the major causes that lead to the failures experienced during the implementation of the development plans. Based on the findings, the study discovered that the lack of involvement of the media in the development plans has affected the development plan, and the low level of effective consultation of people has significantly affected the development plans.*

### Keywords

Communication;  
development; India;  
national; Nigeria;  
plans



## I. Introduction

Development is the socio-cultural, political, economic, and spiritual well-being of society. In an indeed developed state, there is this assurance of a good quality of life, exercise of all human rights, and freedom to participate in the democratic process. Development can facilitate the quality of life, equity, and justice, as it takes into cognisance the well-being, growth, and advancement of individuals within the society. For development programs to be planned, implemented, and rated successful, both the rural and the urban areas must be inclusive. Nigeria and India are two democratic nations with different characteristics as regards population and other inherent factors within the system. However, the two nations, at some point, adopted some national development plans in a bid to enhance their developmental goals. Modernisation theorises that the development approach can be adapted from one country to another. Thus, it is apt to assess the area of convergence and area of divergence between the Nigerian national development plans and those of India for the strengthening of theory, methodology and general knowledge based on the subject (Yar'Adua et al., 2023).

National development, according to Odunola and Kolade (2012) connotes the sustainable growth and development of a nation into a more desirable one. National development is people-oriented, and its success is evaluated by the kind of impact it had in

improving the masses. Every national development plan is geared towards increasing availability and widening the distribution of basic life-sustaining such as food, shelter, health, and protection. This could be the reason why Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011) described it as the overall development of a collective socio-economic, political, and religious advancement of a country or nation. This is best achieved through development planning, which can be described as the country's collection of strategies mapped out plans by the government.

A nation can be said to have developed when the living standard of the citizens has improved with higher incomes, the provision of more jobs, better education, and greater attention to cultural and human values, which cannot only enhance material well-being but also more excellent individual and national self-esteem. Todaro and Smith (2003) observed that national development is aimed at expanding the range of economic and social choices available to individuals and nations by freeing them from servitude and dependence, not only on other people and nation-states but also on the forces of ignorance and human misery (Yar'Adua & Aondover, 2021).

#### Purpose and Objectives of the Study

The study aims to assess National Development Plans in Nigeria and India. To achieve this broad goal, the following specific objectives are set:

1. To examine the national development plans of Nigeria and India.
2. To ascertain the successes of Nigeria and Indian development plans.
3. To determine what led to the failure of Nigerian and Indian development plans.
4. To find out if there is a need for improvement in the area of communication policies.

## II. Review of Literature

### 2.1 Perspective on Development Plans in Nigeria

The development plan in Nigeria started in 1946 (Obikeze & Obi, 2004). The plan was supposed to run for ten years but later came to an abrupt end in 1951 due to the constitutional changes that introduced federalism. The plan ran concomitantly within the four regions of the federation through the West, East, North, and the Southern Cameroons. According to Okoli (2004), the plan was thwarted due to limited financial resources, severe weaknesses in the public policy-making process, and non-consultation with Nigerians as beneficiaries.

The 1951-56 plan was meant to last for five years. Unfortunately, the 1954 Littleton Constitution made Nigeria "a real federal system", and the bitter struggles for dominance among nationalist leaders, which resulted in the 1953 Kano riots led to the dropping of the plan that year. Obikeze and Obi (2004, p.232) reported that "this plan was not particularly different from the original one. Given the above developments, the 1956-62 plans were introduced." This led to the drawing of various national development plans to achieve different objectives at different points in time in Nigeria's development history, as examined thus:

#### a. First National Development Plan (1962-68)

The First National Development Plan (1962-68) required cooperation between public and private sectors between Federal and regional governments. It was a development initiative that was expected to supersede the colonial plans. It required a realistic study of the financial stands of both public and private sectors. The plan was to

avoid any Balance of Payments (BOP) crises; as such, past plans were studied to project for the future (Mojaye & Aondover, 2022).

Obiekeze and Obi (2004) remark that:

This plan equally emphasised agricultural, industrial, transport, and workforce development. Other objectives of the first National Development Plan included the achievement and maintenance of the highest possible rate of increase in the standard of living of the populace. It also aimed at a target saving of about 15 per cent of the GDP by 1975, an annual investment of 15% of the GDP during the plan period, and a GDP minimum growth rate of 4% for the economy (p. 234).

The plan, which was expected to last for six years, had a proposed total investment expenditure of ₦2,132 million. The public sector investment expenditure was ₦1,352.3 million, and the remaining investment expenditure of ₦780 million was to be made by the private sector. However, the subsequent crises that culminated in the thirty months of the Nigerian Civil War (1967-70) affected the implementation of this plan.

### **b. Second National Development Plan (1970-74)**

The Second National Plan (1970-74) was referred to as the "Oil-boom development plan" because it coincided with the period that Nigeria made high earnings from the sale of crude oil and allied products. Having emerged from a devastating civil war and so many lessons to learn, the objectives of the plan, according to Ugwu (2009), have to do with the reconstruction of facilities damaged by the war or fallen in despair and the rehabilitation and resettlement of persons displaced by the war, the rehabilitation and resettlement of demobilised armed forces personnel. The second national plan also intended to establish an efficient administrative service and an appropriate economic infrastructure, especially in the new states.

Egonmwan and Ibodje (2001, p.54) reported that "this plan involved a capital expenditure of ₦3.2 billion and an anticipated overall growth rate of 7% per annum. Resulting from the profligacy that characterised the oil boom period, the initial plan budget of ₦3.2 billion was revised upwards to ₦5.3 billion". As such, it is safe to argue that the Nigerian governing elite started the march towards economic regression during this period as a result of fiscal and financial indiscipline. (Andover, 2017). Total foreign investments were discouraged as the central government brought shares in major commercial houses like banks and insurance companies.

### **c. Third National Development Plan (1975-80)**

Inherent the objectives of this plan were similar to that of the preceding plan because both fell during the period of the oil boom. The plan was intended to curb inflationary trends and to suggest the country's attainment of a high development level. The search for a broader market for this plan witnessed the formation of ECOWAS as a strategy. Nigeria spearheaded the building of the \$27 million secretariats at Abuja, in addition to other contributions and activities in ECOWAS. Part of the convergence criteria was a durable monetary union and ultimate regional integration that harmonised Nigeria's fiscal, economic and legal policies with those of other member states (Onah & Ibietan, 2009).

Based on the review of the Third National Development Plan, Onah (2006, p.57) submitted that "agriculture and social development schemes (education, housing, health, welfare, etc.) have a direct bearing on the living conditions of the rural population, constituting about 70% of Nigerian population received only 5% and 11.5% per cent respectively of the allocations contained in the plan". The lean financial allocation reflected the need for more focus from the planners, which was a significant impediment to the plan.

#### **d. The Fourth National Development Plan (1981-85)**

The Fourth National Development Plan (1981-1985), like the ones before it, reaffirmed the long-term national objectives of the preceding plan. Ijaiya and Usman (2000, p.2) state that "this was also launched simply to consolidate the third National Development Plan, with much more commitment to petroleum resources." The industrial policy objectives of this plan were the promotion of export-oriented industries, enhancement of local value-added through the development of small and medium-scale industries, local sourcing of inputs, improving the efficiency of government-owned enterprises, and acquisition of technological skills. (Aondover et al., 2023). Other broad objectives included real income for all Nigerians, reduction in unemployment, power generation and supply, among others.

The total investment envisaged under this plan was ₦82 billion. Out of this amount, the public sector was to account for ₦70.5 billion, while the share of the private sector stood at ₦11.5 billion. The planned investment was expected to generate an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 7.2%. The manufacturing sector had a projected average growth rate of 15% for the plan period. The rate of growth was supposed to make a significant increase in the standard of living of the citizens at the end of the plan.

#### **2.2 Integrated Development Initiatives**

After the national development plans, which, for one reason or another, failed to achieve its objectives effectively, Nigeria came up with other initiatives like the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). The objectives of SAP are to restructure and diversify the productive base of the economy to reduce dependence on the oil sector and imports to achieve fiscal and balance of payments viability over the period. The program also aimed to lay the basis for sustainable, non-inflationary growth and to reduce the dominance of unproductive investments in the public sector by improving public sector efficiency and enhancing the growth potential of the private sector.

Osifo-Whiskey (1993, p.15) affirmed that "SAP rested on several pillars namely: deregulation of the value of the naira which was said to be over-valued, deregulation of interest rate which at SAP's inception was below 10%, removal of subsidies on government-provided goods and services". A corollary of the last pillar is the policy of privatisation and commercialisation, which was considered necessary on the dual account that the government was already over-bloated and unwieldy and that, by extension, its public enterprises and agencies were wasteful and inefficient. National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) is also another initiative that offered Nigeria an opportunity to experiment with a medium-term economic development plan from 2004 to 2007.

The strategies which drive the above goals, according to Daggash (2008, p. 32), are "reforming government and its institutions, growing the private sector, implementing a social character and value and reorientation." The Federal government had, in turn, encouraged States and Local Governments to adopt the NEEDS document to suit its peculiar purposes; accordingly, the equivalent of NEEDS in the states is called SEEDS, while in the local governments, they go by the acronym LEEDS. In giving practical expression to the NEEDS program, the Federal government was reported to have allocated a large percentage of capital expenditure to healthcare, education, agriculture, roads, water resources, power, and security in the 2004 and 2005 annual budgets.

Another thing was Vision 2020, which aimed to grow the size of Nigeria's economy from its current position of 41st to the 20th best economy in the world by the year 2020 and to be the African financial centre of choice by that same year (Ugwu, 2009).

This initiative is a carry-over by the late President Yar'adua from the Obasanjo civilian administration. It is said to be based on a proactive reaction to a 2001 "that if Nigeria and some other developing countries can mobilise their resources very well, it is expected that by the year 2025, Nigeria and countries like Egypt would have joined the biggest twenty economies in the world". It is expected that with positive economic management in Nigeria, its GDP growth will be more significant than that of Italy by 2015. Nigeria's economy would have been equal to the first 20 economies of the world (Ugwu, 2009). Building on Oyebode (2007), Ugwu noted that some of the benchmarks used in this statistics are the economic indices of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP).

### **2.3 Interrogating the Development Plan in India**

The idea of an economic plan was taken up by the Indian National Congress in 1938 when it formed the National Planning Committee under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. After independence, a Planning Commission was set up in March 1950 by a Cabinet Resolution with the Prime Minister as its ex-officio Chairman to formulate five-year plans for the economic development of the country (Kapila, 1988).

Since 1950, each National Development plan has marked a critical phase in India's development. The beginning and the end of a five-year plan are typically considered vital dates in national life. Each plan is typically designed to achieve specific primary objectives and provide for a scheme of investment. In the words of Nehru, as cited in Agrawal (1993) established that:

Planning is a continuous movement towards desired goals. Perspective planning is the essence of the planning process... long term planning does not mean planning in terms of five years only but planning for fifteen years and twenty years ahead, keeping in view the broad picture of the social structure. Economic policy is not made by economists or even politicians but is shaped by economic and political forces. As these forces shift, so does economic policy (p. 19).

For India, independence meant the transfer of power from an alien to the local political class. Planning, therefore, becomes more necessary to ensure orderly progress. It provides a framework of time and space that binds sectors and regions together and relates each year's effort to the succeeding years (Aondover et al., 2023). Planning lies in proposing bold initiatives to boost the economy. The basic planning tenets of the eight five-year plans so far have been growth, modernisation, self-reliance, and social justice (Prasad, 1997).

#### **a. First Five-Year Plan (1951-1956)**

The First Five Year Plan launched in 1951-52 was a 'ground preparing' exercise that gave priority to the achievement of economic stability and elimination of shortage of food and essential resources. The plan aimed at increasing the rate of investment from 5% to 7% of the national income (Aggrawal, 1993). When the First Five Year Plan was prepared, the Planning Commission made efforts to present a picture of economic growth of about 25 years on certain assumptions regarding population growth, the proportion of the increase in national income which would be available for investment within each stage and return of investment. One of the goals of the plan was to restore the economy that had run down as a result of the war, to resist the inflationary pressures that were prevalent, to build up the transport system, and to ease the food and raw materials position.

### **b. Second Five-Year Plan (1956-1961)**

The Second Five-Year Plan brought about some changes. Indian planners operated on the assumption of a low elasticity of export demand accompanied by a system of strict import allocation. The plan, to a more significant extent, calls for demand in the area of capital goods production (Chackravarty, 1987). The size of the second plan was a subject to which the Planning Commission gave much thought. The increase was due to the new emphasis on the development of heavy industries, such as iron and steel production, railways, etc. The plan laid particular stress on fastening industrialisation to strengthen the capital base and productive capacity. The plan aimed at increasing the rate of investment from about 7% of the national income to 11% by the end of 1961.

### **c. Third Five-Year Plan (1961-1964)**

This plan was formulated to secure an annual increase in national income of over 5% and achieve self-sufficiency in food grains and increase agricultural production to meet the requirements of industry and exports, as posited by (Dewett, 1984). The third five-year plan aimed at expanding primary industries to meet the requirements of further industrialisation utilise the possible ways and the primary power resources of the country, and ensure substantial expansion in employment opportunities. The third plan model was the same as that of the second plan except for the inclusion of a clear recognition of the definite limits to the fraction of investment that was allotted to capital goods sectors and the physical composition of the investment fund which to an extent determined the type of output that could be secured.

### **d. The Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-1974)**

The Fourth Plan was established to avoid inflation, improve consumption of local goods, reduce economic and social disparities, provide employment to all who seek them, and improve the tempo of development to enable quick progress towards self-reliance. It was at least 6% per annum (Dewett, 1984). The finalisation of the fourth plan was delayed on account of unavoidable circumstances created by the Indo-Pak war in 1965, two successive years of severe drought, devaluation of the currency, and a general rise in prices. Incidentally, three annual plans were formulated around 1966 and 1969. The average annual rate of growth envisaged stood at 5.7% (Aggrawal, 1993).

### **e. Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-1979)**

The plan had two broad aims: reducing poverty and achieving self-reliance. It was meant to address the level of consumption of the lowest 30% of the population. Another objective was the meeting of foreign exchange requirements, other than debt services charges, from the country's resources. This plan controlled inflation and stabilised the economic situation. After covering four years of implementation, new priorities and programs were launched. By achieving an annual growth rate of 5.2%, the new plan originated on a confident note towards a steady increase in the growth rate. The annual rate of GDP was 5 and 5.2% in 1970-71 prices and the percent income was 2.7 to 2.9 at 1970-71% (Yojna, 2001).

### **f. Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85)**

This plan primarily focused on the eradication of poverty. The strategy was to strengthen infrastructure in terms of agriculture and industry to sustain and accelerate growth in investment output and exports. The main thrust of the sixth plan included poverty alleviation, development of infrastructure, and expansion of investment and

employment outlets. According to Yojna (2001, p. 9), "By fully achieving the target of 5.2% annual growth rate, the plan showed a progressive prospect of reaching a higher growth trajectory."

#### **g. Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-1990)**

In this plan, the investment programs and the policy for the seventh and subsequent plans were related to the goals that India has for the year 2000 to usher its steps into the 21st century. This was calculated at the elimination of poverty and creation of a condition of near full employment, the satisfaction of the basic needs of the people in terms of food, clothing, and shelter, as well as the attainment of universal elementary education and access to health facilities (Aggrawal, 1993). Achieving this goal requires an action that enhances the momentum of economic expansion and technological development, the adoption of effective promotional measures to raise the productivity and incomes of the poorer section of the population, poorer regions, and poorer states, and measures in terms of population growth. In the Indian economy, the growth in the national income has primarily been determined by the trends and dynamics in agricultural production.

#### **h. Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997)**

The Eighth Five-Year Plan targeted the standards of living of the people, which opened new opportunities for a more prosperous and better life. It also aimed at reducing maternal mortality and improving fiscal management, leading to the generation of more revenues by the government. The plan also emphasised the evaluation of planned programs and projects. Kurukshetra (2002, p. 23) observed that "feedback through evaluation result is an important requirement for assessing the performance, comparing the intended with the actual operations."

#### **i. Ninth and Tenth Plan (1997-2002)**

This plan was initiated to provide a telephone on demand, achieving universal convergences, ensuring world-standard services, and emerging as a significant manufacturing base for telecom equipment and its exports. Also, rural connectivity was a vital component of the plan. The plan earmarked 13% of GDP to be invested in telecommunication infrastructure (Yojna, 2001).

The plan has to do with the creation of 50 million jobs in five years and the reduction in the poverty ratio to 21% from 26% by 2007. This can be achieved according to the plan by generating annual GDP growth of 8% during 2002-2007 along with annual Foreign Direct Investment flows of US \$ 7.5 billion. The plan also intended to increase the nation's literacy rate to 75% by 2007 while reducing both maternal and infant mortality by half at the end of 2007 (Kurukshetra, 2002).

#### **j. Eleventh Plan**

At this point, India had emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies, with a GDP of 9% by the end of the Tenth Plan. The savings and investment rates had increased, the industrial sector had responded well to face competition in the global economy, and foreign investors were keen to invest in India (Planning Commission of India (PCI), 2012-13). The broad vision for the 11th plan included several interrelated components like rapid growth, reducing poverty and creating employment opportunities, access to essential services in health and education, especially for the poor, extension of employment opportunities using the National Rural Employment Guarantee Program, environmental sustainability, reduction of gender inequality, etc. This plan started well, with the first year

achieving a growth rate of 9.3%; however, the growth decelerated to a 6.7% rate in 2008-09 following the global financial crisis. The economy recovered substantially to register growth rates of 8.6 per cent and 9.3 per cent in 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

#### **k. 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2012-17)**

As pointed out in the literature by PCI (2012-13, pp.4-6), "the Twelfth Plan commenced at a time when the global economy was going through a second financial crisis, precipitated by the sovereign debt problems of the Eurozone which erupted in the last year of the Eleventh Plan." This affected most countries, including India. India's growth slowed down to 6.2% in 2011-12, and the deceleration continued into the first year of the Twelfth Plan, when the economy is estimated to have grown by only 5%. The Twelfth Plan emphasises the priority of the economy to rapid growth while ensuring that growth is inclusive and sustainable.

### **2.4 Theoretical Framework**

This study is anchored on the Development Media Theory. Based on the theoretical postulation, the media are seen as the agent of national development in developed and developing countries. McQuail (1987) observed that the central thesis of the theory is that media in developed and developing nations should be used for the primacy of development tasks. Based on this assumption, the research considered development media theory apt.

Development Media Theory hinged on the perception of the press as a powerful instrument that can be used to achieve positive development in society. Its popular source or origin is the UNESCO International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems (Okoro & Agbo, 2003). Its basic tenets, according to Okoro and Agbo (2003), are that media carry out positive development tasks in line with nationally established policy, the media in developing nations should align their interest with news and information in other developing nations that are close geographically, cultural and politically, freedom of the media should be open to restrictions, according to economic priorities and development needs of society and media operation should be restricted in the interest of development.

The choice for using this theory is because the tenets of the theory are development orientated in nature. Therefore, the media should report development issues that will enhance and foster national development. The Development Media Theory, according to Folarin (2002), has already provided bearing for the concepts of development communication and development journalism. Therefore, the media must accept and carry out positive development tasks in line with nationally established policy. Freedom of the media should be open to economic priorities and the development needs of society. Within this context, the theory is relevant since the goal of this study is on the national development plans in Nigeria and India.

## **III. Research Method**

This study is predominantly based on information derived from secondary sources such as relevant texts, journals, magazines, newspapers, official publications, historical documents, and the internet, which served as tangible sources. The inquiry was strictly limited to recorded information about the national development plan of Nigeria and India that can be found in scholarly journals, books, the internet, and libraries. The method was used to evaluate findings with other existing findings on the subject matter. Consequently, the study adopted content analysis as its method of analysis. The method here is to sift the

findings in the works available for this research, check the consistency of the opinions of either the authors or the actors, and evaluate such findings or opinions with other existing findings in the literature. Through these methods, the study draws inferences from the data generated in the course of the study.

## **IV. Results and Discussion**

### **4.1 National Development Plans of Nigeria and India**

Both Nigeria and India recorded various degrees of success and failures in the course of their development plans. The Indian development plan recorded massive growth in both the public and private sectors. For example, energy, transport, and social services account for about 70% of the total outlay with individual shares of 19%, 16%, and 35% respectively, and compared to the 11th plan, their outlay increased by 110% and 112% respectively. Also, the rapid growth of industries in India commenced effectively with the Second Five Year Plan, and the net investment in the second plan was also on the increase. There was a 25% increase in the national income, rapid industrialisation with particular emphasis on the development of primary and heavy industries, and a significant expansion of employment opportunities to 10 million people.

In the case of Nigeria, improvement in budgetary planning and execution was discovered to have provided a platform for sustainable economic diversification, which is centred on macroeconomic stabilisation. This, according to the Central Bank of Nigeria (2006), had helped in declining government expenditure from oil revenue earnings. Corroborating, Bambale (2011) found that the reform programs, which included deregulation of the telecommunication sector, for example, had attracted over US\$1b a year in investment in the four years of the NEEDS first phase, increasing the number of telephone lines from about 500,000 landlines in 2001 to over 32 million GMS lines. Public spending in Nigeria was said to have reduced from 47.0% in 2001 to 35.4% in 2004, which resulted in a budget surplus of 7.7% of Gross Domestic Product for 2004, up from deficits of 4-5% of GDP in 2002-2003 (Onah, 2006).

In the Indian development plans, the country attained a higher level of success compared to the Nigerian development plans. This can be attributed to the development of the agricultural sector, a system of mass education, the development of indigenous industries, export-oriented strategy, and the Spartan discipline of their leadership. The Indian success can also be attributed to the existence of efficient bureaucracy, human resources development, encouragement of a dynamic private sector working in cooperation with the government towards a society-wide vision of development, institutional capacity building, and attention to the problems of governance, consistency, and policy stability, etc (Mimiko, 1998).

### **4.2 Failures of Nigerian and Indian Development Plans**

Nigeria and India registered some degree of failure in their bid to attain national development plans through various development plans. These failures are mainly a result of inevitable miscalculations or unforeseen contingencies and, in the case of Nigeria, misappropriation of funds meant for development. For instance, the first national development plan failed because fifty per cent of the resources needed to finance the plan were to come from external sources, and only fourteen per cent of the external finance was received (Osifo-whiskey, 1993). Also, in most cases, no executive capacity is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the plan. What people usually see are officials entrusted to such a position but without any meaningful executive authority. Some of the

previous development plans failed because there was little or no consultation with the general public. Other factors that led to the failures in Nigeria are problems of corruption, lack of capacity, and the need for adequate consultation and implementation mechanisms. There was also the problem of needing more monitoring and evaluation.

In India, some of the failures were due to overdependence on foreign loans, which usually come with certain conditions. For instance, the Second Five-Year Plan heavily relied on loans and grants from the IMF. India had also received grants from countries like the USA, the United Sovereign States of Russia, and other countries like West Germany and Japan. Just like Nigeria's fourth national development plan was characterised by colossal debt servicing, which resulted in different foreign loans obtained in the previous years and increased import bills amidst a drastic fall in crude oil export revenue, the Indian plan was affected by servicing in their subsequent plans. These factors no doubt limited the scope of the objectives.

#### **4.3 Failure in the Area of Communication Policies**

Similarly, Nigeria and India still need to recognise the critical role of communication and the media in the actualisation of their development plans. According to Lawal and Oluwatoyin (2011), for meaningful development to take place, there must be communication targeted at giving the masses necessary information which will enable them to participate fully in the development process. Development is a continuous process, therefore whatever is put in place today should maintain future progress and continuous development. Hence, the term sustainable development comes into play. To facilitate effective communication for national growth, there is a need to put in place a communication policy. The national communication policy should spell out the duties of the various media of communication in the country in terms of news coverage so that it aligns with the national interest and national development plans.

Therefore, communication, whether interpersonal, group, or mass communications is vital in public sensitisation and enlightenment. Communication is a vital tool that development policies can quickly get to the people whom the policy will affect. There are various approaches in which development communication policies and programs can be communicated to the people. For example, the participatory approach of development communication. Servaes (2011) remarks on the importance of the cultural identity of local communities and democratisation and participation at all levels international, national, local and individual.

### **V. Conclusion**

The study examined national development plans in the context of Nigeria and India. It analyses the differences and similarities in the area of success and failure. Virtually all the national development plans, including other initiatives and policies by Nigeria, were highlighted and discussed in the study. Also, the Indian development plans were brought to the fore. The findings of the study revealed that the communication policy in the country if properly implemented, is indeed suitable for empowering the growth and development of the Nigerian state. The study also analysed the reason behind the better success of the Indian plan over the Nigerian plan and provided reasons why both nations experienced a certain degree of failure.

## Recommendations

From the above findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. The study recommends that national communication policy should spell out the duties of the media for proper news coverage that aligns with the national interest and national development plans.
2. To facilitate effective communication for national development, there is a need to map out boundaries of operation to put in place communication policies that can foster national development.
3. The two countries should learn from their past mistakes so that they can be able to have an effective and working national development plan.
4. For further studies, forthcoming researchers in the area should focus on other years that were outside this study to expand the scope of literature in the area.

## References

- Akram M. (2017). A Critical Analysis of Access to Justice in Bangladesh, *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, Volume 6 Issue 8. Retrieved at January 14, 2023.
- Bari, H.M.F. (2016). An Appraisal of Victim Protection in Bangladesh, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Hum.)*, Vol. 61(2), Retrieved at January 14, 2021. Retrieved at January 18, 2023.
- Beqiraj J. and McNamara L. (2014). International Access to Justice: Barriers and Solutions (Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law Report 02/2014), *International Bar Association*, Retrieved at January 10, 2023.
- Faruk, Omar; Sahni & Kirchoff. (2020) Absence of Respect and Recognition of Victims in the Criminal Justice System in Bangladesh, *Firebaugh*, n 8. Retrieved at February 3, 2023.
- Islam, M.R. and Solaiman, S.M. (2003) 'Public Confidence Crisis in the Judiciary and Judicial Accountability in Bangladesh', *Journal of Judicial Administration*, Volume 13(1), Retrieved at February 15, 2023.
- Korishi, R., Biswas, B. D., & Rahman, M. (2022). Citizen's Charter in Public Services: Development, Principles and Practice. *Britain International of Humanities and Social Sciences (BIOHS) Journal*, 4(3), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.33258/biohs.v4i3.799>
- Kozhevnikov, V. V. (2021). About Law Enforcement. *Polit Journal*, 1(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.33258/polit.v1i2.446>
- Malik S. (2002). Perceiving Crimes and Criminals: Law Making in the early 19th century Bengal, *Bangladesh Journal of Law*, Volume 6. Retrieved at January 21, 2023.
- Schneider, H.J. (2001). Victimological developments in the world during the past three decades: A study of comparative victimology – Part 2. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, Volume 45(5), Retrieved at February 20, 2023.
- Transparency International's Bangladesh (TIB). (2007). National Household Survey of 2007 Retrieved at January 28, 2023.
- Uli Orth (2002). Secondary Victimization of Crime Victims by Criminal Proceedings, *Journal of Social Justice Research*, Volume. 15, No. 4, Retrieved at March 17, 2023.