

INFLUENCE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES OF MULTINATIONAL OIL CORPORATIONS ON SOCIO- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA

OKOJI, O.O.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ejesm.v6i6.1>

Received 29th January 2013; accepted 23rd August 2013

Abstract

The study examined the socio-economic empowerment of rural women as a correlate of community development programmes of multinational oil corporations in Niger Delta, Nigeria. The study adopted ex-post facto research design and random sampling technique was used to select 1126 respondents from the twelve communities. Two scales were used to collect primary data; these are Host Community Development Inventory (HCDS) $r = 0.71$ and Multinational Oil Development Inventory (MOCDI) $r = 0.74$. Data collected were analysed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis at 0.05 level of significance. Findings from the study revealed that the multinational oil corporations did not follow the principle of community development in the intervention programmes because the host communities were not involved in the projects identification, planning, execution and evaluation. Significant relationship did not exist in the economic development ($r = 0.702$; $N = 1126$, $P > 0.05$), vocational skills ($r = 0.005$; $N = 1126$; $P > 0.05$), educational development ($r = 0.025$; $N = 1126$; $P > 0.05$). It was therefore recommended that for the community development programmes of the multinational oil corporations to be successful, the host communities must be involved in the identification, planning, implementation and evaluation of the projects.

Key Words: Communities, development, livelihood, pollution, economic deprivation.

Introduction

The Niger Delta region is Nigeria's economic heartbeat and is situated in the south of the country (Derah, 2001). The region, rich with crude oil which has become the mainstay of Nigeria economy (Ekuerhare, 2001), is also known for its gas, hydrocarbon and water resources. These rich natural endowments have however not translated into concrete development of the region. Rather, the region has a catalogue of human and infrastructural problems that have been largely unattended to while its resources are being exploited (Fubara, 2002). Consequently, the region is at present, averred to be very volatile as multinational oil corporations, especially in the oil industry, have suffered increased aggression from host communities for their perceived ethical inconsistencies towards alleviating the numerous problems of host communities. The situation is such that, according to Darah (2001), the multinational oil corporations are perceived to represent imperial terror against the region. Multinational oil corporations have,

over the years, exploited the widespread ignorance of the people of the region, while the Niger Delta Environmental Survey of (1992) has indicated that the people are becoming increasingly enlightened about their rights as citizens. In the same vein the host communities have realised that multinational oil corporations realised huge amount of profit as a result of their oil exploration activities at the detriment of their economic deprivation and high poverty level (Niger Delta Environmental Survey, 1992).

According to (Ejibunu, 2007), local communities means of livelihood such as fishing and farming have been severely destroyed as a result of oil exploration activities of multinational oil corporations. Deforestation, air and water pollution, desertification and loss of arable land have contributed to high rates of disease and physical, mental and social ill-health (United State Energy Information Administration, 2007). Oil spills, either from pipelines which often cut directly through villages or from blowout at wellheads, are

major causes of pollution with its attendant public health implication. There have been over 6,000 oil spills totalling over 4 millions barrels between 1976 and 1996 (Akinbami, 2008). Many pipeline leakages might have been avoided if the pipelines were buried below the ground as in other countries and if ageing or damaged sections were repaired. Ageing and poorly maintained infrastructure also contributes to pipeline fire and explosion.

Concept of Community Development

Community development relies on interaction between people and joint action, rather than individual activity – what some sociologists call “collective agency” (Flora and Flora, 1993). “Development” is a process that increases choices. It means new options diversification, thinking about apparent issues differently and anticipating change (Christenson and Robinson 1989). Development involves change, improvement and vitality – directed attempt to improve participation, flexibility, equity, attitudes, the function of institutions and the quality of life. It is the creation of wealth – wealth meaning the things people value (Shaffer, 1989). In another perspective, community refers to a particular place where people who have the same ideology and also different background and ideology resides. Putting the two terms together, community development means that a community itself engages in a process aimed at improving the social, economic and environmental situation of the community (Shaffer, 1989). Community development improves the ability of communities to collectively make better decisions about the use of resources such as infrastructure, labour and knowledge.

Community development, as a concept, has been defined by various scholars. Such definitions include the following;

Community development occurs when a group of people in a community reach a decision to initiate a social action process to change their economic, social, cultural and environmental situation (Christenson *et al.*, 1989). Biggs (1999), defined community development is a process where people are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities and communities are integrated into the life of the nation enabling them to

contribute fully to national progress. Anyanwu (1992) defined community as a group of people spread over different places, who can still be closely in touch and able to plan and act in concert.

Conceptual Model of Context Input Process and Product for the Evaluation of Community Development Programmes of Multinational Oil Corporations. The CIPP model of evaluation was developed by Daniel Stufflebeam and his colleagues in the 1960s, out of their experience of evaluating education projects for the Ohio Public Schools District. CIPP is an acronym for Context, Input, Process and Product. This evaluation model requires the evaluation of context, input, process and product in judging a programme’s value. CIPP is a decision-focused approach to evaluation and emphasises the systematic provision of information for programme management and operation. In this approach, information is seen as most valuable when it helps programme managers make better decisions, so evaluation activities should be planned to coordinate with the decision needs of programme staff (Stufflebeam, 2007).

The CIPP framework was developed as a means of linking evaluation with programme decision-making. Its aim is to provide an analytic and rational basis for programme decision-making, based on a cycle of planning, structuring, implementing and reviewing and revising decisions, each examined through a different aspect of evaluation – context, input, process and product evaluation. Stufflebeam (2007) viewed evaluation in terms of the types of decisions it served and categorised it according to its functional role within a system of planned social change. The approach aims to involve the decision-makers in the evaluation planning process as a way of increasing the likelihood of the evaluation findings having relevance and being used. Stufflebeam (2007) thought that evaluation should be a process of delineating, obtaining and providing useful information to decision-makers, with the overall goal of programme improvement.

Context Evaluation

Context evaluation is used to evaluate the needs, questions, resources and opportunities under the specific environment. The main purpose of the Context Evaluation lies in the following; to describe the

background of the required intervention programmes, to define the expected beneficiaries and assess its needs, to clarify the problems and obstacles existed in satisfying the needs and to evaluate the success of the programmes. As a diagnostic evaluation method, it is used to define the gap between program objectives and practical influences (Stufflebeam, 2007). In this study, the context relates to the Niger Delta, Nigeria and the community development programmes of the multinational oil corporations. In applying the context evaluation under the CIPP model, (Akinbami, 2008) asserted that the needs and problems existing in the region prior to the intervention programmes of the multinational oil corporations include the following;

Oil exploration and spillage
Neglect by Government and oil corporations
Acute poverty and unemployment
Poor infrastructural facilities
Environmental degradation
High level of illiteracy
Deep rooted discontent and apathy
Lack of economic empowerment
Persistent agitations for development
Conflict.

Input Evaluation

Input evaluation helps evaluate the conditions and resources which are needed to achieve the goals as well as the appraisal of the relative advantages of the elected programme on the basis of context evaluation. Its main objective is to judge the feasibility and the effectiveness (Stufflebeam, 2007). Input evaluation provides answer to the following questions; what plan, procedures and budget are used to meet these needs? What is the possibility to achieve the goal? Why choose this Programme rather than other program? What is extent of the reasonable, legality and morality of selected programme? What about its potential success degree? To what extent do the budget funds satisfy the assessment needs?

In this study, the methods adopted by the multinational oil corporations to solve the problems of the Niger Delta, Nigeria are the community development programmes to host communities in the region. According to (Touching Lives, 2004), these programmes include provision of social amenities,

infrastructural development and human capital development for economic empowerment.

Process Evaluation

Process evaluation is to confirm or forecast the flaws on the program design or implementation, provide advice before the decision-making and give a continuous monitoring, inspection and feedback on the program implementation process (Xiong & Yang, 2008). Process evaluation focuses on evaluation and the use of various inputs to carry out intervention (Akinbami, 2008).

The process through which the multinational oil corporations executed the community development programmes to the host communities in Niger Delta, as revealed in this study is top – down approach. Through this approach, the multinational oil corporations exclude the participation of the people of the region from the determination of their felt needs and the implementation of the multinational oil corporations to improve their socio – economic welfare.

Product Evaluation

Product evaluation is the evaluation of the extent of results achieved, including: measurement, judgment, explained the achievements of the program, confirm the degree of the need to be satisfied. Xiong and Yang (2008) asserted that the Product evaluation provides answers to the following questions:

- (1) What are the observation results (positive and negative, the expected and unexpected)?
- (11) What degree does the result of the program meet the needs of the anticipated program object?

In applying the CIPP model to this study, it must be stressed that the choice and implementation of the multinational oil programme towards the development of the Niger Delta, Nigeria must have both intended and unintended. The basic idea here is that the programmes of the multinational oil corporations should be geared towards the development of the host communities. Thus, If the intended programmes are achieved then the programmes are adjudged successful by decision makers who will be guided to continue. If the outcomes are unintended, then decision makers will be guided to either modify

or terminate the programmes and come up with alternative process of development (Akinbami, 2008).

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and economic empowerment of rural women

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and vocational skill development of rural women

HO₃: There is no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and educational development of rural women.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study is to assess the influence of community development programmes of multinational oil corporations on socio-economic empowerment of women in Niger Delta, Nigeria. While the specific objectives are to:

Examine the influence of community development programmes of multinational oil corporations on economic empowerment of women in the region

To find out the extent at which community development programmes of multinational oil corporations have enhanced vocational skill development among women in the region.

Assess the influence of community development programmes of multinational oil corporations have contributed to educational development among women in the region.

Statement of Problem

The communities in the South-South region of Nigeria are accusing the multinational oil corporations of neglect in their socio-economic development in spite of the immense oil wealth accruing from their vicinity. The communities decry not only the severe land degradation, increasing poverty, misery and violence, but also the absence of social services such as schools, portable drinking water, electricity, medical care and roads provided. The consequences of this, among other things, are the growing insecurity of life and properties,

youth restiveness, hostage taking, sabotage and accelerated pace of poverty in the region.

Justification for the Study

This study is also important because the findings would assist the officials of the Multinational Oil Corporations to value the importance of socio-economic empowerment of women who constitute part of the host communities. If women are empowered through the community development programmes, peaceful relationship will prevail between the host communities and the corporations. Moreover, the findings of this study would help the Multinational Oil Corporations officials to implement development programmes that will be people-centered and designed specifically to meet the needs of the host communities.

Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive survey design of the *ex -post facto type*. This research design was adopted because the variables of the study are already in existence. Thus, the researcher could not manipulate the independent variables because they had already occurred.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The study adopted the multi stage sampling procedure comprising the purposive, stratified and proportionate sampling techniques respectively. In stage 1, the purposive sampling procedure was used to select the 12 communities in Akwa Ibom and Rivers states of Niger Delta, Nigeria. The reason for this was due to the heavy presence of the two multinational oil corporations in these communities. The stratified sampling technique was then used to divide the population into strata.

In the second stage, 12 communities were divided into strata along the existing wards in each of the communities, using the stratified sampling technique.

In the third stage, quota sampling technique was adopted to allocate quota (specific number) for women participants in each of the communities used for the study. The researcher adopted the simple random and proportionate sampling technique to select 1126 respondents who were used for the study.

Research Instrument

Two major instruments were used for data collection. These were: Host Community Development Scale (HCDS) and Multinational Oil Corporations Development Inventory (MOCDI). Both scales were developed by the researcher to gather information from host communities and officials of the multinational oil corporations on development programmes in the communities. The HCDS comprised of twenty items designed to gather information from women on various community development programmes which the multinational oil corporations have implemented in their various communities. The psychometric properties of the instruments are based on the validity and reliability of the research instrument.

Validity

The copies of the instrument were given to experts in the field of community education, community development sociology, measurement and evaluation, for critical appraisal. Through this process, the face validity, content and construct validity of the instrument was enhanced. Their suggestions were incorporated into the final draft of the instrument, before the administration of the questionnaires on the respondents and this helped to enhance the quality of the instrument.

Reliability

Test-retest method was conducted and the result was analyzed with Pearson product correlation co-efficient. In doing this, one hundred respondents were selected from Ogbo community in Ahoada East Local Government of Rivers State. Thus, the calculated reliability coefficient of Host Community Development Scale (HCDS) $r= 0.71$ while Multinational Oil Development Inventory (MOCDI) $r= 0.74$. This confirmed the high reliability of the instruments.

Result

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Figure 1 shows that 754 (67%) of the participants are farmers while 166 (14.7%) are civil servants. The artisans constitute 126 (11.2%) and the unemployed participants constitute 80 (7.1%). The implication of this is that the major occupations of the people, fishing and farming, have been affected as a result of oil spilling and gas flaring which contributed to high level of poverty in the communities. This corroborates the assertion of Babatunde (2010) that in the process of extracting oil in the past five decades in the South-South region, ecological devastation has left most of the people in the region desolate and poor.

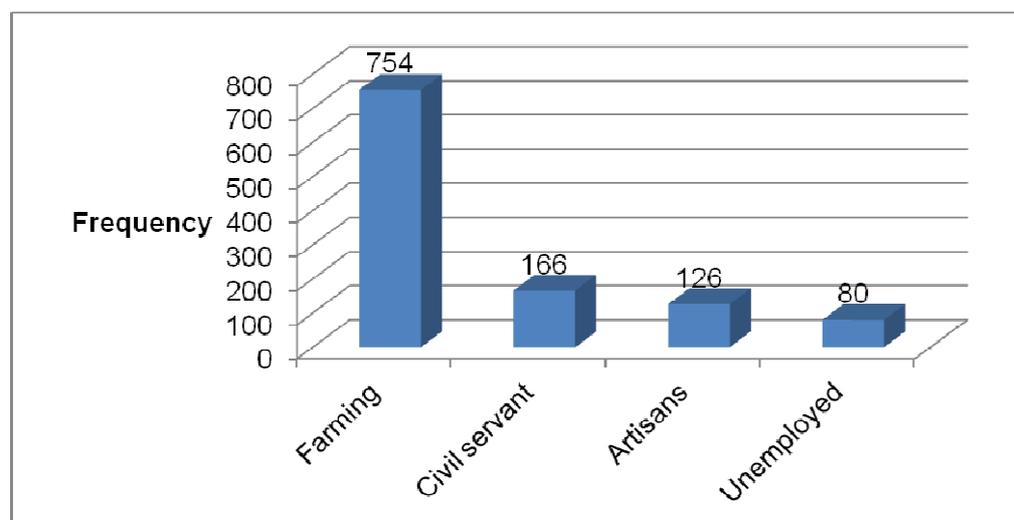


Figure 1 Occupational Distribution of Respondents

Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between the community development of multinational oil corporations and economic empowerment of rural women.

Table 1 Relationship between community development of multinational oil corporations and economic empowerment of rural women

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	N	R	P	Remark
Community development programmes of MOC	15.8135	3.5569	1126	0.702	-.011	n.s.
Economic Development	12.9725	4.4608				

It is shown in the above table that there was no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and economic empowerment of rural women ($r = .702$, $N = 1126$, $P > 0.05$). The null hypothesis is not rejected. This indicates that the community development programmes of the multinational

oil corporations had not influenced economic empowerment of rural women in the communities under study.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and vocational skills development of rural women.

Table 2 Relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and vocational skill development of rural women

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	N	R	P	Remark
Community Development Programmes of MOC	15.8135	3.5569	1126	0.005	0.866	n.s.
Vocational Skills	18.1048	6.0693				

It is shown in Table 2 that there was no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and Vocational Skills Development of rural women ($r = .005$, $N = 1126$, $P > .05$).

have no significant relationship with vocational skill development of rural women.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and educational development of rural women.

The Null hypothesis is therefore not rejected. This indicates that community development programmes of multinational oil corporations

Table 3 showing the relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and educational development of rural women

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	N	R	P	Remark
Community Development of MOC	15.8135	3.5569	1126	0.025	0.396	n.s.
Educational Development	13.2780	4.2698				

It is shown in Table 3 that there was no significant relationship between the community development programmes of multinational oil corporations and educational development of rural women ($r = .025$, $N = 1126$, $P > .05$). The null hypothesis is not rejected. This shows that community development programmes of the multinational oil corporations have not enhanced educational development of rural women in the two states.

Discussion

This study discovered that unemployment was very common among the women in the communities studied in the two states. The finding agrees with Ejibunu (2007) who noted that unemployment is very high among the people of Niger Delta as the oil corporations do not hire their employees from the region that produce oil, but from non oil producing regions of Nigeria. Fishing and farming forms the most dominant activity in the study area. The study revealed that 67% of the sampled populations are engaged in fishing and farming activities which has been affected by the environmental degradation caused by the exploration activity of the multinational oil corporations. This correlates with the findings of Babatunde (2008) that fishing, the lifeline of most of the people, has been made impracticable and unprofitable as a result of incessant oil spillage, which pollutes streams and rivers and this has affected their capacity to sustain them.

The findings show that the cost of living is very high in the two states and the devastating effect of oil spills on the agricultural produce is very high. This also correlates with the report of Okorie (2005) who asserted that most communities in the Niger Delta earn their livelihood from fishing and farming but with the damage done to natural resources, agriculture has suffered, food has become increasingly expensive and even scarce, and exportation of key crops such as palm products has decreased drastically.

It was revealed in the study that very small number of people benefited from the programme. This corroborates the report of the Touching Lives (2004) which opined that since the vocational skill development scheme started in 2001, only 600 youth from Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers States have benefited from the

programme. However, this can be attributed to ignorance, illiteracy and poverty that are more pronounced among the host communities in the two states.

The result shows that the intervention programmes of the multinational oil corporation have no significant influence on educational development in the region. In some tertiary institutions visited in the two states, basic infrastructural facilities such as chairs and tables, scientific equipment were lacking and this corroborates with the report of Balogua (2009) who asserted that the infrastructure vital for quality education is grossly lacking, thus leading to high school dropout rates.

Conclusion

Based on the objectives of and methods adopted in the study, it was observed that though the multinational oil corporations have reached out to their host communities through various community development programmes that centre round economic empowerment of the host community members, peace building and infrastructural development in their area of operations, community people were not involved in the efforts. As good as these programmes are, the study revealed that many people from the area of operations of these multinational oil corporations have not benefited from these intervention programmes.

The study further revealed that the multinational oil corporations operating in the Niger Delta of Nigeria, should empower the host community members economically through the expansion of the employment schemes.

Recommendations

The multinational oil corporations operating in Niger Delta of Nigeria, should create income and employment generation opportunities for the host community members, this will reduce the effects of social and economic deprivation, which compound development strategies and policies in the area.

Multinational oil corporations should encourage forms of community-based incentives, such as local credit lines for efficient resource users in areas, such as agriculture, which have the capacity to absorb many

workers and disincentives, such as sanctions for environmentally harmful practices.

The oil corporations should endeavour to check future occurrence of oil spills and where it occurs, they must compensate the community members appropriately.

References

Akinbami, S.O. (2008), Niger Delta Development Commissions Programmes and facilities as correlate of Development of oil producing communities of Edo and Ondo States Nigeria. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis submitted to the Department of Adult Education, Faculty of Education in University of Ibadan.

Babatunde, B. (2008), Effect of oil exploration on the socio – economic life of Ilaje – Ugbo people of Ondo state. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa, Vol 12 (5) p 61 – 84.*

Balouga, J. (2009), The Niger Delta: Defusing the Time Bomb. Ibadan University Press, Nigeria.

Biggs, S. (1999), Community Capacity Building in Queensland: The Queensland Government Service Delivery Project. Unpublished paper. Office of Rural Communities, Brisbane, Queensland.

Christenson, J.A. and Robinson, J.W. (1989), *Community Development in Perspective*, Iowa State University Press, Ames Iowa.

Darah, G.G. (2001), The socio – economic and political challenges of Niger Delta, In Ozo – Eson, P.I and Ukiwo, U(Eds.), *The Niger Delta Development Commission : Towards Development Blueprint*, Port Harcourt : Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS). PP 23 – 25.

Ejibunu, H.T. (2007), Nigeria’s Niger Delta Crisis: Root Causes of Peacelessness. EPU Research Papers, Issue 07/07, European University Centre for Peace Studies (EPU), Stadtschlaining/Austria, 1-6.

Ekuerhare, B. (2002), Sustainable development model for Niger Delta region, in Ozo – Eson, P.I. and Ukiwo, U .(Eds.), *the Niger Delta Development Commission: towards DevelopmentBlueprint*, Port Harcourt: Centre

for Advanced Social Science (CASS). Pp 87 - 89.

Flora, C.B. and Flora, J.L. (1993), “Entrepreneurial Social Infrastructure: A Necessary

Ingredient.” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, 539: 48-58.

Fubara, B. A. (2002), The politics of the Niger Delta, in Ozo – Eson P.I and Ukiwo U.

(Eds), *The Niger Delta Development Commission: Towards Development Blueprint*, Port Harcourt: Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS).

Niger Delta Environmental Survey – NDES (1992), Niger Delta Environmental Survey – Final Report Phase I (Vol. I) ERML, Lagos *Niger Delta Environmental Survey Phase One Reports, vol. 114.*

Okorie, A. (2005), Nigerian Oil: The Role of Multinational Oil Companies in the Development of Niger Delta, Nigeria. In Term Paper Quarter, E 297c. Pp 45 – 49.

Shaffer, R. E. (1989), *Community Economics. Economic Structure and Change in Smaller Communities*. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa.

Stufflebeam D.L. (2007), CIPP Evaluation Model Checklist (2nd Ed.) A tool for Applying the CIPP Model to Assess Long Term Enterprises.

www.wmich.edu/eva/ctr/checklist (Retrieved on 27th of December, 2011)

Touching Lives (2004), *Reports on Corporate Social Responsibility of Total E & P oil Corporations in Nigeria*. Published by the Corporate Development and Services Directorate of Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited.

US EIA (United States Energy Information Administration), (2007), Country Analysis Brief. www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Nigeria/pdf. (Retrieved on 1st of February, 2012)

Xiong, B. and Yang, Q. (2008), Research on Evaluation Model of International Trade Bilingual Education.

<http://www.seiofbluemountain.com/upload/product/2008jyhyoall.pdf>

(Retrieved on 3rd of February, 2012).