

# The Effective Roles of Non- Governmental Organizations on Community Development; A Study of Ideato North.

Odukwe Emmanuel and Emeka Okpala

Department of Public Administration Madonna University, Okija Campus Nigeria.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received: 23 March 2017;

Received in revised form:  
12 June 2017;

Accepted: 23 June 2017;

#### Keywords

Non-Governmental organizations,  
Development activities.

### ABSTRACT

The study is conducted in order to identify the role of Non-Governmental organizations in community development in Ideato North LGA of Imo State. The objective of the study is to examine the role of non-governmental organizations in community development in Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State. Three research questions were raised for the study while three hypotheses were formulated. The survey research design was adopted for the study. The population size is 118,519 while the sample size is 100, and to get the sample size, the Taro Yamani formula was used. The questionnaire was the main instrument used for data collection. The data collected was subjected to simple validity and reliability tests. The analysis of the data was based on statistical frequency tables, and chi-square  $\chi^2$  technique was used to test the level of significance. Some of the findings were that non-governmental organization has helped in the rapid community development in Ideato North. Based on the findings, recommendations were made for improvement. Serious efforts were made by the NGO's to bring about a uniform development in the communities in Ideato North LGA of Imo State.

© 2017 Elixir All rights reserved.

### Introduction

Ideato North Local Government Area is amongst the twenty-seven local government areas in Imo State. It is made up of 18 autonomous communities which include Urualla, Osina, Kapulu, Obodoukwu, Isiokpo, Akokwa Uzii, Umualaoma, Awa-Izuogu, Iheme-Izuogu, Ejezie-Izuogu, Akume-Izuogu, and Uche-Izuogu.

As each community is large, it's responsibilities are necessarily in terms of development needs. Needs of communities differ both in importance and priorities — what constitute "development" in Osina may not constitute "development" in Isiokpo. A community may have as its priority "electricity supply" while another may have "water supply" as its priority. However, the important thing is that all the communities understudy agree on the need for an enhanced socio economic, political and cultural life of the community.

Agreeably, Government alone cannot provide these services Julius Nyereme had said that if people realize that their suffering is not the will of God, they will make efforts and sacrifices. It could have been this realization that spurred non-governmental organizations in Ideato North Local government into action. But while non-governmental bodies are making efforts towards improving the living conditions of Ideato North populace. It must be stressed that there is need for adequate government participation in this development bid. If these organizations in better rural community will materialize.

Credence is laid to this when one looks at the United Nations definition of community development. According to them, community development is the process by which the affects of the people themselves are united with those government authorities to improve the economic social and

cultural conditions of communities to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national process community development by this definition, ought to be a joint effort between government and the people of the rural communities.

### Statement of Problem

A common task facing developing and underdeveloped nations today, including Nigeria, is the development of rural area. Development of the rural areas or communities means an improvement or advancement in the socioeconomic, political and cultural life style of people. In most rural communities including Ideato North local government area, there is insignificant provision of basic human need like Hospitals pipe-born water, tared and motor-able roads, schools etc by government. This attitude on the part of government creates an impression in the minds of people that they are not part of the body politics.

Consequently, the people rely on what they can afford to fend for themselves. It is this quest for self-reliance that lead to initiation of community development project of community by non-governmental organization.

The problem of non-development of rural area spreads across all states of Nigeria but is more pronounced in Ideato North Local government area which is my area of study. In this community there is object neglect of provision of these facilities by government. Development activities are bome by non-governmental organizations like Town Unions, Churches, Age Grades Social Clubs etc with little or no contributions from government.

### Statement of Hypotheses

Ho: There are non contributions towards the development of Ideato North Local Government by the non-governmental organization.

HI: There are contributions towards the development of Ideato North local government by non-governmental organization

Ho: There are no experiences by the Non-Governmental organizations vis-à-vis development endeavours in Ideato North Local Government.

HI: There are experiences by the non-governmental organizations vis-à-vis development endeavours in Ideato North local government.

Ho: There are no ways of enhancing the role of non-governmental organizations in development of communities in Ideato North local government.

Hr: There are ways of enhancing the roles of non-governmental organization's in development of communities in Ideato North local government area.

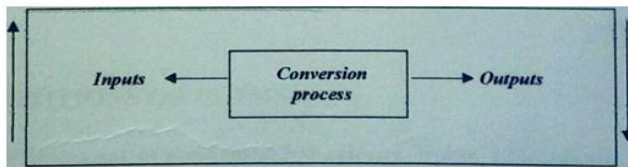
David Easton's analysis of political system emphasizes input, demand and supply, and the conversion process by which authorities deal with these inputs, the outputs that result and the feedback mechanisms that adjust outputs to inputs.

Easton looks at the way this system exist in the face of stress arising from within the system. Since the environment is affected by the administrative processes, it feedbacks new stimuli which affects the agency.

Then the agency starts reaching to the environmental changes.

In environment, inputs, theory emphasizes on the environment, inputs, conversion, output and feedback all these components have relation to inputs and outputs.

**Figure 1. Public Administration System: input, output matrix.**



Source: Ezeani, (2006)

Community Development Activities In Ideato North Local Government Area

Peter Wilmers described community development organizations, bodies primarily concerned to help and support their own members; organization aiming to provide a service to a group in need to tackle a specific problem. Whenever you call these agents of development non-governmental organization, voluntary agency, women association, social club, self-reliance agencies, age grade, welfare association, self-help organization community participation or whatever name they all have one thing in common that is "development" and represent what Nwosu and Nwankwo described as a "development strategy which relates mainly on a people's ability to brought about self generating and self sustaining socio-economic and political system which is problem searching, problem learning and problem solving.

Scholars like W. E. Tomasseti, AdepjuOkbikokun, R. Armstrong, Mabogurye A. L. SudenKomar-Shanna, Nwankwo and Nwosu and Peter Wilmers all agree that non-governmental organization play very significant role in community development. Hand risk Gradus started clearly that "voluntary (non-governmental) organization can provide a useful framework at all levels (local, regional and national) through which the participation of large number of people can be mobilized. The message is the same in United

States, Zambia, Tanzania, CarbanTromPagage-Indians to Nigeria, and even Ideato North local government.

One of the development projects in Ideato North local government area is the international market built by Umuopia-Akokwa community, Ideato North council. This project is being sponsored by the people of Umuopia progressive community. But the government seeing the good going on in the community released. One million naira to the community t encourage them for further development.

The European union micro-projects programme in water and sanitation on rural communities of Niger Delta region of Nigeria has helped to increase water supply at UmuagoUrualla by the provision of tanks, Jerry Cans and borehole.

In 1983, the Osina community, assisted by Osina Youths Association, started a N200,000.00 market development project presently, 21 line of 210 open shades have been completed and just into use.

In 1992, the federal government, in collaboration with UNICEF, SORD and the people of Isiokpo community embarked on the Isiokpo water scheme. The community contributed more than N50,000.00 towards this project which has been commissioned. The Akokwa community built a technical workshop at Akokwa secondary school. The project started in 1993, was estimated to cost N250,000. However, more than 279,180.00 has been invested in this project and the technical workshop has been completed and put into use.

At Isiokpo, a health centre estimated to cost about N350,000.00 is bong undertake by the community in collaboration with the IS10kpo welfare association. Already, a total sum of N97,000.00 has been expended. The dispensary block has been roofed and the maternity section is at foundation level work has presently, been suspended on this project.

Through communal efforts, the Isiokpo community embarking the construction of a community civic centre estimated to cost about N157 (00 00 has been invested in this project and work has progressed leaving its parenting.

The Obodoukwu community embarked on electricity project in 2000 estimated to cost about NI .5m presently, more than N90,000 has been spelt by the community. The project has been surveyed and the plan has been approved by the government while poles for HT and LT have been procured.

The community also embarked on the building of Obodoukwu Comprehensive Secondary School technical workshop, examination hall as well as provision of general furniture and equipment. This project stanced in 1986 and was estimated to cost about NI.5m. A postal Agency estimated to cost about N20,000 was embarked upon by Obodoukwu community in 1975. The community has put in about NI 1,000.00 into this project work on the Obodoukwu health centre in which she spend about N4,500 out of an estimated N500,000 for this project in 1998 has been suspended.

At Uzii, an electrification project estimated to cost about NI.5m is being embarked upon by the community through communal efforts. This project was initiated in 2005. More than N85,000 has been spent in this project poles have been procured, monitored and surveyed while engineers has been contracted to oversee the project. Government agencies have been contracted for necessary assistance. Work is still progressing.

At Umualaoma, a maternity hospital built by the community is been stepped and managed by Holy Rosary

Obodoukwu. The once in-charge of the maternity centre explained that the hospital stated functioning in 1982.

The Holy Rosary maternity hospital Obodoukwu has been providing invaluable service to communities within this area mostly expectant mothers.

### Presentation And Data Analysis

This section deals with the presentation and analysis of data collected. Data were presented and analyzed based on the responses from a well structured questionnaires and hypothesis of the study after which findings will be relayed. Data analysis follow data tabulation, chi-square method was used in testing the hypothesis.

The aim to enable the researcher detennine the role of non-governmental organization in community development.

### Questionnaires Distribution

A total number of 100 questionnaires were administered to the community dwellers of Ideato North local government and 90 questionnaires were completed and returned, while 10 questionnaires were not returned.

Therefore, response rate is total number of questionnaire distributed x 100/1.

Number of questionnaire administered 100

Number returned --- 90

Number not returned---- 10

Response rate---- - 90 x 100

Non-response rate 100 — 90 10%

From the above responses, 90% of the sample size returned their questionnaire, while 10% did not return. Therefore, out of 100%, 90% is significant to draw references.

Analysis of Data

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Part A: Responses from personal Data

**Table . Sex of Respondents.**

Sex	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Male	40	44.4
Female	50	55.6
Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

From the table above it is deduced that most of the respondents are female.

**Table . Marital Status of Respondents.**

Marital Status	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Single	60	66.7
Married	30	33.3
Total	90	100

Table. shows that most of the respondents are single.

**Table. Religious Denomination.**

Religious Denomination	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Catholic	35	38.9
Protestant		
Traditionalist		
Total	90	100

Table above shows that most of the respondents are Catholics.

**Table. Occupation .**

Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Student	40	44.4
Trader	30	22.2
Civil servant	20	
Total	90	100

The Table shows that most of the respondents are students.

### PART B

Question 1: Do the activities of the town unions, age grade etc benefit your community?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	30	33.3
No	60	66.7
Total	90	100

The table above shows that 30 number of respondents representing 33.3% disagreed that their communities benefit from the activities of town unions and age grades etc.

Question 2: Have the non-government organizations contributed towards the development of your community?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	60	66.7
No	30	33.3
Total	90	100

The above table shows that 60 respondents representing 66.7% agreed that the non-governmental organizations has contributed towards the development of their community while 30 respondents representing 33.3 disagreed that the non-governmental organization has contributed towards the development of their communities.

Question 3: Do you think that the introduction of some agencies for development will enhance faster the development of communities?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	80	88.9
No	10	11.1
Total	90	100

The table above shows that 80 respondents representing 88.9% agreed while 10 respondents representing 11.1% disagreed that the introduction of The table above shows that 75 respondents agreed while 15 respondents disagreed that the role of non-governmental organization in the development of communities in Ideato North can be enhanced through the provision of infrastructure and maintenance of roads etc.

Question 6: Has the non-governmental organization has contributed to the socio-cultural development of your community?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	60	66.7
No	30	33.3
Total	90	100

The table shows that 60 respondents agreed and 30 disagreed that the non-governmental organization has

contributed to the socio-cultural development of their communities.

Question 7: Has the non-governmental organizations executed any project in your community?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	80	88.9
No	10	11.1
Total	90	100

The table shows that the 80 respondents agreed while 10 respondents disagreed that the non governmental organization has executed any project in their community.

Question 8: Have any of the project been completed?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	40	44.4
No	50	55.6
Total	90	100

The above table shows that 40 respondents agreed while 50 disagreed that any of the project has been completed in their community.

Question 9: Do you think that communities now experience higher rate of development than before?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	60	66.7
No	30	33.3
Total	90	100

The above table shows that 60 respondents agreed while 30 disagreed that communities now experience higher rate of development than before.

Question 10: Is it hue that some communities within Ideato North Local

Government get social amenities more than others?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	60	66.7
No	30	33.3
Total	90	100

The table above shows that 60 respondents agree while 30 disagreed that some communities within Ideato North local government get social amenities than others.

Test of Hypothesis

The hypothesis formulated for this study will be tested using the chi-square test statistical ( $x^2$ )

Test of Hypothesis One

Ho: There are non contributions towards the development of Ideato North communities by the Non-governmental organizations.

The above table shows that 60 respondents agreed while 30 disagreed that communities now experience higher rate of development than before.

Question 10: Is it hue that some communities within Ideato North Local

Government get social amenities more than others?

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	60	66.7
No	30	33.3
Total	90	100

The table above shows that 60 respondents agree while 30 disagreed that some communities within Ideato North local government get social amenities than others.

Test Of Hypothesis

The hypothesis formulated for this study will be tested using the chi-square test statistical ( $x$ )

Test of Hypothesis One

Ho: There are non contributions towards the development of Ideato North communities by the Non-governmental organizations.

H1: There are contributions towards the development of Ideato North communities by the Non-governmental organizations.

Options	No of Respondents	o	F	O-e	(O-e) <sup>2</sup>	
Yes		60	45	15	225	5
No		30	45	-15	225	5
Total		90				10

The hypothesis was tested by the data collected from the responses

$$Df = 2 - 1$$

$$DF = 1$$

Where K is the number of options

They are tested using the chi-square test statistics ( $x^2$ ) and were tabulated in percentage in relation to their frequencies.

$$\text{Chi-square } (x^2) = \frac{(OF - Ef)^2}{E}$$

Where O- observed frequency

E- expected frequency summation degree of freedom

Level of significance = 0.05

$$x^2 = 10$$

Decision Rule

If  $x^2$  calculated is greater than  $x^2$  critical value, reject the null hypothesis.

I at 0.05 level significance = 3.841

Decision: At level significance and  $df = 1$ , the critical value of  $x^2 = 3.841$ . However  $x^2 = 10$  since the  $x^2$  calculated is greater than  $x^2$  critical value reject null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that states that "there are contributions towards the development of Ideato North Communities by the non-governmental organizations.

Test of Hypothesis Two

Ho: There are no ways of enhancing the role of non-governmental organization in development of communities in Ideato North local government.

H1: There are ways of enhancing the role of non-governmental organization in development of communities in Ideato North local government-

Options	No of Respondents	o				e
Yes		75	45	30	900	20
No		15	45	-30	900	20
Total		90				40

The hypothesis was tested by the data collected from the responses

$$(2 - 1) = 1$$

Where K is the number of options

They are tested using the chi-square test statistics ( $x^2$ ) and were tabulated in percentage in relation to their frequencies.

$$\text{Chi-square } (x^2) = \frac{(OF - Ef)^2}{E}$$

Ef -summation df degree of freedom

Level of significance 0.05  $e = 10$

Decision Rule If  $x^2$  calculated is greater than  $x^2$  critical value, reject the null hypothesis.

1 at 0.05 level significance 3.841

Decision: At level significance and  $df = 1$ , the critical value of  $x^2 = 3.841$ .

However  $x^2 = 10$  since the  $x^2$  calculated is greater than  $x^2$  critical value reject null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that states that "there are ways of enhancing the role of non-governmental organizations in the development of Communities in Ideato North local government area

#### Findings

From the findings, it was noted that majority of the communities in Ideato North has benefited from the service of non-governmental organizations.

The study has discovered that out of the numerous social services being required by the people of Ideato-North, what they want and valued most is the provision of health facilities, health facilities include cottage, hospitals, health centres, dispensaries etc. because of the aged people in the community.

This study also revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the government should support the NGO's financially. The study also reveals that NGO's have helped in improving the economic, political and socio-cultural life of the people of Ideato North local government area of Imo State.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, community development is very vital for national development. Therefore, it should not be seen as government responsibility alone but a joint effort of government, the community people themselves, individuals and the non-governmental organizations. Government should therefore put adequate machineries to support community development organisations.

The suggestions proffered to the problems faced by community development organizations should be addressed to allow for the expected development to take place.

#### Recommendations

Having considered the contribution of non-governmental organization to the development of community in Ideato North and the problems faced, the following recommendations are necessary.

1. Government and other non-governmental organization involved in community development should adopt the bottom-up approach in their community development programmes are meant for, should be allowed to participate wing their local initiatives.

2. Government should support Non-governmental organization with funds to enable them meet up the cost of

running their development projects and programmes to the local communities.

3. Government should provide transport facilities to community development agents including those of non-governmental organizations to allow for easy access to development areas.

4. The local communities should be encouraged to form community development associates through which assistance from government and non-governmental organizations can be rendered.

5. Community leaders who embezzle mds meant for community development projects should be brought to face the full wrath of law.

#### References

- Agu, A. O. (2008). *Research Methodology: A Practical Approach to Project Writing*, Onitsha: Najutel Nigeria Ltd.
- Baba, G. (1998): *Rural-Urban Integrated Socio-Economic Policies for Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria*. Paper Presented at the National Institutes Policy and Strategies.
- Bathern T. R. (1969): *Communities and their Development*, Oxford University Press.
- Biddle, W. W. and Biddle (1965): *The Community Development Process*, New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston.
- Ezeani, E. O. (2006), *Fundamental of Public Act Administration*, Enugu: ZikChuks Publishers, Snaap Press Ltd.
- Julius Nyerere (1989): *The Bamako Initiative Pan African Symposium*.
- Lawless, P. (1979): *Urban Deprivation and Government Initiative*, London: Faber and Faber.
- Long, N. (1977): *An Introduction to the Sociology and Rural Development*, London: Iravistak,
- Matena, C. (1995). *A Practical Guide to Operational Collaboration between Government and NGOs* Bulletin, Lagos: CNN-65
- Nwizu, G. (1997). *Organization Basic Problems, Principles and Theories*, Okigwe Macro Printing Press Publishers.
- Nwizu, G. (2011). *Method in Social Research System Analysis and Records Administration*, Okigwe: Macro Press.
- Nwosu, H. et al (1988). *Perspective on Community Mid-Term Development in Nigeria*, Jos: University Press.
- Obikeze, et al (2006): *Issues in Community Development*, 2nd edition, Onitsha, Book Point Ltd.