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INTERROGATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF NIGER-DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC) TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AKWA IBOM STATE

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ABSTRACT

Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2000 with a mandate to "facilitate the socioeconomic development of the Niger Delta region who has suffered long neglect resulted from the oil exploration in the region.This study entitled Interogating the contribution of Niger-Delta Development Commission on Socio-economic Development of Akwa Ibom State. The study is a survey design. A sample size of 400 was selected from the population of 3,427739. Both primary and secondary data were utilised in the study. Participatory theory propounded by McArdle (1989) was adopted as a framework of analysis.The data generated from the were analyzed with arithemetic simple percentage and linear regression through the application of (SPSS) Model version 23 to test the hypotheses.The paper noted that NDDC has not improved infrastructure in Akwa Ibom State. It also shows NDDC has not improved the welfare of the people. The study noted that corruption and non-inclusion of the stakeholders in the projects desighing and implementation has undermined the realization of NDDC mandates in Akwa Ibom State. Arising from the above, the following recommendations are made that: effort should be made to tackle the corrupt

tendencies among the contractors and those identified should adequately purnished to serve as a deterrent to others. The paper also recommended that adequate funding mechanism should put in place to enable the agency effectively execute the programmes that can better the lives of the people in Akwa Ibom State.

Keywords: Niger-Delta Development Commision, Socioeconomic Development

INTRODUCTION

The growth of a nation is often determined by the additional value made to its existing wealth, both human and material resource to the development wellbeing of her citizens. Development can be refer to as a process of increasing skills, capacity for self-confidence, greater freedom, self-discipline and material wellbeing which manifest in provision of basic infrastructures such as pipe borne water, hospitals and clinics, quality road network, education, electricity among others to improve the life of the people (Ekong ,2020). The economic development is tied with the welfare and the standard of living of the people in any given society.However, in the case of Niger-Delta Region of Nigeria; it is a different ball game (Uwafiokun, 2018). Niger-Delta Region is an oil producing area that hosted a number of multinational companies from different part of the world for oil exploration (Babalola and Dele, 2014). Oil exploration began at late 50s in Oloibiri, a small community in the present day Bayelsa State (Ali and Anthony, 2013).Today, record revealed that Nigeria is first among the oil producing countries in Africa and 12th in the world with the production capacity of minimum of two million barrels of crude oil per day (Agekameh, 2018).

Niger Delta region is characterized by farmers and fishermen who were more or less subsistence farmers, even when they have surplus of farm products to sale, they wouldn't due to the fact they don't have access roadnetwork to transport products to the cities (Kabari, 2017). Hence, they relied on riverwater as their major means of transportation through the use of local canoes. In like manner, health centers are very few and they are usually far from one community to the other, making it difficult for the people especially the pregnant women to easily access healthcare services in the region (Imoh, 2012). Worse still, the people in the oil area relied on the water from rivers, streams and dug wells water which are unsafe for human consumption due to water borne diseases (Eneh, 2011). There were much water surrounding the

people but all were not fit for human consumption due to seal of oil covered the water resulting from the oil spilage (Ajugwo 2013).The implication of oil exploration in the region is that the activity of oil production has worsening the socioeconomic lives of the people. Records indicated that poverty rate has remained on the increase in the Niger-Delta region particularly, Akwa Ibom State.(UNDP, 2006). The record also indicated that the region has the highest rate of youth unemployment in the country when compared with other zones with 9.5%, North-West 2.2%, North-Central 4.3%, South-East has 6.6%, and South-West has 4.5%, respectively (Eneh, 2011). Similarly, most of the primary and secondary schools within the oil area are inadequate and this has discouraged most parents from sending their children to school (Duke, 2019).

It is interesting to note that Oil and Gas sector remained the mainstay of Nigeria's economy contributing more than 90% of Nation's foreign exchange earnings and 83% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Agekameh, 2018). The country's annual budgets has always hinged on the revenue generated fro oil such that between 2015 and 2019, Nigeria's budgets were hinged on a crude oil output of 2.2 million barrels per day (Ekong, 2020). The oil revenue inflow to the Federation Account as at the first half of 2015 stood at N1.906 trillion, N2.05 trillion in the second half of 2015 and first half of 2016 respectively (Dele, 2014). Corroborating the above, (Baghebo, Ubi and Eucharia, 2017) noted 2017 budget was hinged on 2.2 million barrels per day. Regrettably, the oil activities by multinational companies operating in this region have crippled the socio-economic lives of the people in the region particularly Akwa Ibom State (Ugwu, 2017). The spillages and pollutions of oil activities have adversely affected crops, vegetation, animals and humans within the region.The Oil facilities such as pipelines are being laid and oil facilities are sited indiscriminately where the host communities live and farm not minding the consequences on the lives of the people (Duke, 2019).

Yet, records revealed that several commissions and boards, Parastatals and Ministries have been established before the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). For instance, following the Willink Report of 1958, the Niger Delta Development Board (NDDB) was created in 1960 but the board made minimal impact until the 30 months' fratricidal civil war (Idemudia, 2009). Niger Delta Basin

Development Authority (NDBDA) was established, like its predecessor agency, the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority was underfunded in a manner that the agency could not make any meaningful impact (Udensi, Udoh, Daasi and Igbara, 2012). Also, the Oil Mineral Producing Agency Development Commission (OMPADEC) was equally established in 1992 under Decree No. 23 by Babangida administration but due to some challenges including corruption and poor fu nding, the agency could not deliver on its m andates (Essoh & Harry, 2014). Hence, the creation of Niger Delta Development Commission (ND DC) in the year 2000 by President Olusegun Obasanjo to address the developmental challenges facing the Niger Delta region including Akwa Ibom State (Aniefiok, Ite, Udo, Ibok, and Sunda and Petters, 2013).

It is worthy to note that the federal government in her efforts in funding has maintained an upward review of financial allocation running into trillions to NNDC indicating that over N5trillion Naira has been committed to the agency between 2011 and 2019 on average allocation of N300b annually (Isidiho and Sabran, 2015). Similarly, records revealed that from1999 to 2019, the sum of N9.43 trillion as part of 13% derivation fund was paid to the nine oil producing states, Akwa Ibom State inclusive. More so, all the oil companies operating in the region were mandated to be paying 3% of their yearly budgets to NDDC coupled with upward reviewed of allocation of the agency such that in 2015, N53.89 billion was allocated to NDDC and subsequently moved up to N71.2billion in 2017, in 2018, it was increased to N87.2billion, in 2019, the allocation move to N100.19 billion respectively (Alphonsus and Mohammad, 2015). Thus, the paper sourght to examine the contribution of Niger-Delta Development Commission to the socioeconomic development of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

Statement of the Problem

Several efforts have been made by the successive governments of Nigeria aimed to put an end to the developmental challenges facing the oil producing states of Niger-Delta Region. For instance, Niger Delta Development Board (NDDB) was established in 1960, followed by Niger Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA) in 1976, Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) coupled with granting and approvel of 13% allocation such that from1999 to 2019, the

sum of N9.43 trillion as part of 13% derivation fund was paid to the nine oil producing states including Akwa Ibom State for the developmental needs of the oil region yet, the living condition of the people has remained poor in all indicators and hemce, motivated the establishment of Niger Delta Development Commission (ND DC) was created to address the developmental challenges in the Niger Delta region including Akwa Ibom State. Some writers like Oyetusi (2007) noted that NDDC has constructed a good number of classroom blocks especially within the areas that were lacking, and this has led to the increase in enrollment of children in the school system Some scholars like (Dele, 2014), (Essoh & Harry, 2014) have expressed their displeasure over the poor per formance of NDDC, noted that the agency h as not really performed, judging by the resou rces so far committed to NDDC for develop ment of Niger Delta Region particularly Ak wa Ibom State.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to examine the impact of NDDC on Socio-economic Development of Akwa Ibom State. While the specific objectives include to:

(i) Ascertain the extent to which Niger-Delta Development Commission improved on provision of infrastructural in Akwa Ibom State

(ii) Determine the extent to which Niger-Delta Developmen Commission has improved welfare of the people in Akwa Ibom State

Research Hypotheses

The following four null hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study.

H0:$_1$ Niger Delta Development Commissio n has not significantly improved infrastructu ral facilities in Akwa Ibom State

H0:$_2$ Niger-Delta Development Commission has not sig nificantly improved the welfare of the people in Akwa Ibom State.

Conceptual Clarification

Niger-Delta Region of Nigeria

Niger-Delta Region is the 3rd largest wetland followed by Mississippi in Africa. Niger Delta area is inhabited by a diversity of minority ethnic groups. During the 1990s these ethnic groups, most notably the Ijaw and the Ogoni established organisations to

confront the Nigerian government and multinational oil companies (Alphonsus and Mohammad, 2015). The minorities of the Niger Delta have continued to agitate and articulate demands for greater autonomy and control of the area's petroleum resources (Ayuba, 2012). They justify their grievances by reference to the extensive environmental degradation and pollution from oil activities that have occurred in the region since the late 1950s (Adelana, Adeosun, Adesina and Ojuroye, 2011). The minority communities of oil producing areas have received little or no currency from the oil industry and environmental remediation measures are limited and negligible Babalola and Dele (2014). The region is highly underdeveloped and is poor even by Nigeria's standards for quality of living standard.The Niger-Delta Region includes Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta Edo; Imo, Ondo and Rivers (Ihayere, 2014).

Table 1: Shows the number of states that made up the Niger-Delta Region and recognized by the Federal Government as oil bearing states

STATE	LANDMARKS	POPULATION
Abia	41877	195,400
Akwa Ibom	6806	3,427739
Bayelsa	11007	271,500
Cross River	21980	237,300
Delta	17163	198,700
Edo	17698	185,000
Imo	5165	144,400
Ondo	15086	164,600
Rivers	10378	249,100
Total	**112,110**	**31,224587**

Source: National Population Census (web) National Bureau of Statistics (web) 2016

Socioeconomic Development in Niger-Delta Region

The people of Niger Delta region are in such a very pitiable circumstance. It is based on the above view that Wiwa contends (1985) that the protection and promotion of rights of the Niger Delta citizens as well as other disadvantaged groups are essential for a conflict free Nigeria". Pinning it down to the Ogoni people, Wiwa (1985) cited in (Alphonsus and Mohammad, 2015) posits that his people Ogoni citizens are internally

colonised in the Nigerian Federation. According to him, during the first oil boom, Ogoni land's fifty-six oil wells accounted for almost 15% of Nigerian oil production. The past three decades as estimated, 30 billion petroleum revenue was realised from Ogoni land(Ihayere, 2014).Yet Oloibiun where the first oil was pumped in 1958 had no single motorable road all round season. Ogoni land is wrecked by unthinkable misery and deprivation (Ayuba, 2012). Only few Ogoni communities have access to electricity, there is one medical doctor per one thousand people, child mortality rates are the highest in Nigeria Nation, unemployment is 85% of the population and a greater percentage of the population are illiterates and close to half of the Ogoni youths have left the Niger Delta region in search of work. Life expectancy is barely fifty years. In the words of Saro Wiwa (1985) citited in (Alphonsus and Mohammad, 2015) that:

> "Economic conditions have deteriorated in the Niger Delta region, particularly in Ogoni land since the onset of oil production. That is to say, no progress in local development since 1960…and he finally summed up that systematic reduction of Federal allocation and lack of concern by the Federal and Government of the various states in the Niger Delta region".

Though in a few cases, social infrastructures like pipe borne water, electricity, motorable roads, school buildings, scholarship programmes and job opportunities among other things are provided for the oil producing communities, but such facilities are not commensurate with the impact of environmental pollution and degradation suffered by the oil producing communities, neither is it commensurate with the high profit they made from the activities in the region in (Iwejingi, 2013).

The most painful of all activities of the oil multinational corporations is that they have been implicated in the act of collusion with the Federal Government in the militarization of the Niger Delta region. They invariably divert the resources they should have used in the development of the Niger Delta region to security (Iwejingi, 2013). As to youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region, the oil multinationals are the worse off as the militant groups destroy their industries, installations, their workers are either kidnapped or taken hostage by the militant groups, Pipelines and other equipment are also vandalized. Records have indicated that over 60% of spills and leakages affecting its

installation are caused by acts of sabotage orchestrated by aggrieved youth in oil producing communities of the Niger Delta (Essoh & Harry, 2014).

Socioeconomic Development in Akwa Ibom State

Right from the inception of NDDC, studies revealed that the contribution of the agency towards the socioeconomic development of the Niger-Delta region including Akwa Ibom State held that NDDC have not lived up to expectations judging by the huge amount of funds committed to the agency and with its performance (Babalola and Dele, 2014). In iterms of capital development, Human development index shows that the region stood at 0.43 percent compared to similar oil producing communities like Gabon, Libya and Malaysia that are being placed at 0.668, 0.791 and 0.791 percent respectively (UNDP, 2013). The available report on socio-economic indicators revealed that Niger Delta region particularly, Akwa Ibom State is lagging behind in terms of development despite the existence of NDDC for more than two decades and still counting (UNDP, 2013).

Some writers like (Ayuba, 2012), Ekong (2014) all agreed that south-south has been rated with the highest rate of illiteracy resulted from poor access to education when compared to the South-West where there is not much oil deposit. Collaborating with the above Akinola and Adesopo (2019) noted that in some places, one primary school serve more than three communities putting the ratio of students at secondary education at 1 teacher to 14,679 students against 1 teacher to 8 students in one classroom(Ayuba, 2012).

Though, records indicated that a good number of projects have been executed in different communities in Niger-Delta particularly in Akwa Ibom State by NDDC. According to Alphonsus & Mohammad (2015) noted that due to the construction and renovations of road networks in some communities, the movements of goods and services have been made easier and faster in some communities where such projects were undertaken. Corroborating with the above Alphonsus & Mohammad (2015) noted that NDDC has constructed a good number of classroom blocks especially within the areas that were lacking, and this has led to the increase in enrollment of children in the school system.

Empirical Review

In this study, effort has been made to review some empirical research works under taken by various scholars. Some of the works were reviewed below:

Onyekwere & Nafisah (2019) studied

"Conflict and Development in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: A Panel Co-Integration Approach used in the study. The paper examined the direction of causality between conflict and development in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The famous panel Granger Causality/Block exogenous test was adopted to analyze panel data for conflict and development for two Niger Delta states from 2005 – 2013. The results show a bi-directional relationship (reverse causality) between conf lict and development. That is, while conflict in the Niger Delta, was as caused by underdevelopment of the region. The paper among other things recommended that for government to put an end to armed conflicts in the Niger Delta, that long term plan should developed and jointly implemented by both the government and oil companies located in the Niger Delta.

Ugwu (2017) investigated "Numerous Challenges that have Advertently Affected the Satisfactory Performance of the NDDC and its Projects in Ohaji/Egbema, Obowo and Oguta Communities in Imo State" The objective is to ascertain the performance of the commission in terms of infrastructural facilities. The study a qualitative design and content analysis was used to analysed the data generated from the secondary source. The findings show that the major problems facing the commission include: managerial, corruption and use of incompetent contractors for the implementation of projects in the Niger-delta region region. Therefore, the paper recommended for complete overhaul of the Commission by appointing Board members and management personnel that are competent with good track records of achievements and accountability.

Duke (2019) studied a research entitled "Contributions of NDDC on Infrastructural Development in Niger-Delta Region". The broad objective of the study was to find out the obstacles against NDDC projects in the Niger-Delta Region. The study adopted a descriptive design method and sample of 250 was used in the study. Chi-square statistical tool was used to analyze the data generated from the study. The study further revealed that the participation of community members in projects execution is low and this has implications on projects sustainability. Among other things, it was recommended that the benefiting communities should be involved in the project selection, planning, implementation and evaluation.

Kabari (2017) conducted a study titled .Impact of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on Socio-Economic Development of Rivers State: A Study of Selected Local Government Areas. The in its broad objective investigated the contemporary Niger Delta crisis and its socio-economic problems, as well as the underdevelopment status in the region on one hand, and the nation on the other hand to the discovery cum exploration of raw petroleum stores in huge amounts utilizing the resource curse hypothesis as a core interest. Secondary sources of data were utilized. The study found that the discovery of oil and its exploration in huge amount throughout the years has produced clashes as opposed to harmony between the host communities, the multinational corporations as well as the government on the other hand, and has generated intra and inter-communal crisis on the other hand. The study recommended that the Federal Government rather than conniving with the oil companies operating in the country to exploit the people of the region of their resources should instead cooperate with both the oil companies and the host communities to ensure compliance to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed by the oil companies and the host communities; as this will no doubt encourage the oil companies to perform their corporate social responsibilities to the people.

Kabari (2017) conducted a research on the "Impact of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on Socio-Economic Development of Rivers State: A Study of Selected Local Government Areas". The main objective of the study was to investigate the extent to which NDDC has contributed to human capital development in Rivers State; ascertain the contributions of NDDC towards poverty reduction in selected local government areas of the state; and investigates the extent to which NDDC contributes to the provision of social and infrastructure facilities in the study area. A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed to the participants, five telephone interviews and nine face to face interviews were conducted. The analysis of data generated for the study was based on percentage statistical tool. Findings revealed that most of the road, electricity and water scheme projects were implemented below the normal acceptable standards though, the water project was rated better when compare with the other sources of water in the area which were mainly streams, rivers, wells, and underground man made water reservoirs. The researchers therefore recommended that the competence of the contractors handling

those projects in the study area needs to be investigated and competent contractors with proven records of performance should be utilized for the commission projects. It was also recommended that the commission should be mandated by the Federal Government to stop awarding of new contracts until all the abandoned projects in the area are completed.

Theoretical Framework

This work anchored participatory theory which was propounded by McArdle (1989). The theory holds that the participation of beneficiaries in any programme or project initiated to better the welfare of the people and for such programme to be successful" the beneficiaries must be involved in from the initiation to the implementation stage. The theorist argued that the decisions relating welfare of the people must be a collective decision of the people themselves.

This theory is relevant to this study based in the fact that the it offers that programme or project especially such that are undertaken by NDDC in Niger Delta Region should be a people's orientated and reflection of the people's basic needs, which must be identified through government/agent with the involvement of the beneficiaries through which an informed and timely decision regarding such development projects could be made. The theory seeks to reverse the traditional tendency of development pattern of directing the people at the bottom to comply with orders issued at the top. This therefore accommodates the relevant stakeholders in a given process by applying the principles of inclusiveness.

Methodology

The survey design method was adopted in this study. The survey design method was considered most suitable and appropriate base on the nature of the study. This study was conducted in Akwa Ibom State. A sample size of 400 was selected from the population of 3,427739 was determine using the fomula of Taro Yamane (1967) formula. Both primary and secondary data were utilised in the study.The primary data include structured questionnaire designed in likert four (4) points scale while the secondary source includes textbooks, newspapers, project and all official documents relevant to the study. The data generated for this study were presented in tabular form with accompanying narrative. Both percentage (%) and simple regreesion analysis were used with the application of SPSS version 23 model of statistical package to test the hypotheses.

Results

A total number of 400 questionnaires were distributed out of which a total of 360 (90%) copies of the questionnaire was retrieved while 40(10%) of the questionnaire could not been retrieved in the study. Also, it shows that 280 which constituted (64%) respondents were male, while 100 (36%) was female showing that the majority of the respondents are male in the study. This indicated that more than three quarters of the sample falls between the ages of (21 – 30) years. 110 of the respondents which constitute (32%) falls between the age brackets (31-40 years). Also, 70 respondents constituted (28.95) were between 41-50 years. The study also indicated that 90 which constituted (24%) respondents are married, 180 (47%) are single. Again, 50 which constituted (137%) members are widowed, while 60(4.16%) are divorced in the study. More so, the study revealed that 130(34%) respondents were unemployed, 120(32%) was farmers 50 (13%) are civil servants and 60 (16%) are traders from the study area.

Table 2: Showing the respondents responses on the extent to which Niger-Delta Development Commission improved on provision of infrastructural in Akwa Ibom State

s/n	ITEAM	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%
1	NDDC has equipped health centers with drugs in rural communities in Akwa Ibom state	70	19	50	14	110	31	130	36
2	NDDC has contributed in contruction of health centers in Akwa Ibom state	50	14	30	8	100	28	150	42
3	NDDC has improved environmental safety of the rural communities in Akwa Ibom state	70	19	50	14	110	31	130	36
4	NDDC has contributed in construction of new classroom blocks in Akwa Ibom state	90	25	50	14	110	31	110	31
5	NDDC has contributed in construction of rural roads in Akwa Ibom state	85	24	75	21	80	22	120	33
6	NDDC has influenced the steady electricity in Akwa Ibom state	80	22	70	19	110	31	100	28
7	NDDC has improved the means of transportation in Akwa Ibom state	80	22	50	14	130	36	100	28
8	NDDC has improved created more skill acquision centers in rural communities in Akwa Ibom state	73	20	62	17	122	34	103	29
9	NDDC has improved means of communication in rural communities in Akwa Ibom state	69	19	76	21	108	30	107	30
10	NDDC has contributed in provision of instructional materials among secondary schools in Akwa Ibom state	94	26	65	18	99	28	102	28

Field Survey: 2024

Table 1-10 which assessed the extent to which Niger-Delta Development Commission improved on provision of infrastructural in Akwa Ibom State. the second responses indicated that 70 (19%) respondents strongly agreed, 50 (14%) respondents agreed, also, 110(31%) respondents disagreed while 100(31%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has equipped health centers with drugs in rural communities in Akwa Ibom state. the second responses show that 50 (14%) respondents strongly agreed, 30 (8%) respondents agreed, also, 100(28%) respondents disagreed while 150(42%) respondents strongly disagreed that the establishment NDDC has contributed in contruction of health centers in Akwa Ibom state. the third responses show that 70 (19%) respondents strongly agreed, 50 (14%) respondents agreed, also, 110(31%) respondents disagreed while 130(36%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has improved environmental safety of the rural communities in Akwa Ibom state. the forth responses show that 90 (25%) respondents strongly agreed,50 (14%) respondents agreed, also, 110 (31%) respondents disagreed while 110 (31%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has contributed in construction of new classroom blocks in Akwa Ibom state. the fifth responses show that 85(24%) respondents strongly agreed, 75 (21%) agreed, also, 80 (22%) respondents disagreed while 120 (33%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has contributed in construction of rural roads in Akwa Ibom state. The sixth responses show that 80 (22%) respondents strongly agreed, 75(21%) respondents agreed, also, 110(31%) respondents disagreed while 100 (28%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has influenced the steady electricity in Akwa Ibom state. the seventh responses show that 80 (22%) respondents strongly agreed, 50 (14%) agreed, also, 130(36%) respondents disagreed while 100 (28%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has improved the means of transportation in Akwa Ibom state. the eight responses show that 73 (20%) respondents strongly agreed, 62 (17%) respondents agreed, also, 122 (34%) respondents disagreed while 103 (29 %) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has improved created more skill acquision centers in rural communities in Akwa Ibom state. the ninenth responses show that 69 (19%) respondents strongly agreed, 76 (21%) respondents agreed, also, 122 (34%) respondents disagreed while 103 (29 %) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has improved means of communication in rural communities in Akwa Ibom state. the tenth responses show that 94 (26%) respondents strongly agreed, 65 (18%) respondents agreed, also, 99 (28%) respondents disagreed while 108 (28 %) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has contributed in provision of instructional materials among secondary schools in Akwa Ibom state.

Table 3: Showing the respondents responses on extent to which Niger Delta Development Commission has improved welfare of the people in Akwa Ibom State

s/n	ITEM	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%
11	NDDC has influenced job creation for the youth in Akwa Ibom state	70	19	50	14	150	42	110	31
12	NDDC has been given steady scholarship to the people in Akwa Ibom state	60	17	80	22	90	25	130	36
13	NDDC has improved on the provision of grants for business to the people in Akwa Ibom state	80	22	85	24	95	26	100	28
14	NDDC has improved on the provision of free medical scheme to the ageing people in Akwa Ibom state	60	17	80	22	100	28	120	33
15	NDDC has empowered the unemployed graduates in Akwa Ibom state	50	14	90	25	105	30	115	32
16	NDDC has constructed shelters to the victims of oil spilages in Akwa Ibom state	75	23	90	25	95	26	100	28
17	NDDC has provided food commodities to the people in Akwa Ibom state	80	22	90	25	110	31	80	22
18	NDDC has influenced the daily income of the people in Akwa Ibom state	65	18	75	20	90	25	130	36
19	NDDC has improved the standard of living of the people in the communities in Akwa Ibom state	90	**25**	80	22	90	25	100	**28**
20	NDDC has contributed to improved on the income per-capita of the people in Akwa Ibom state.	75	20	90	25	95	26	100	**28**

Field Survey: 2024

Table 3 Determined the extent to which Niger-Delta Developmen Commission has improved welfare of the people in Akwa Ibom State. the eleventh responses show that 30 (9%) respondents strongly agreed, 20(6%) respondents agreed, also, 150 (45%) respondents disagreed while 120 (36%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has influenced job creation for the youth in Akwa Ibom state. the twelveth responses show that 60 (18%) respondents strongly agreed, 20 (6%) respondents agreed, also, 120 (36%) respondents disagreed while 120 (39%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has been given steady scholarship to the people in Akwa Ibom state. the thirteen responses show that 70 (21%) respondents strongly agreed, 110 (15%) respondents agreed, also, 100 (33%) disagreed while 100 (31%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has improved on the provision of grants for business to the people in Akwa Ibom state. the fourteenth responses show that 40 (12%) respondents strongly agreed, 70 (21%) respondents agreed, also, 90 (27%) respondents disagreed while 130 (39%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has improved on the provision of free medical scheme to the ageing people in Akwa Ibom state**.** the fifteenth responses show that 75 (23%) of the total respondents strongly agreed, 65 (19%) respondents agreed. Also, 85 (26%) respondents disagreed while 95 (29%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has empowered the unemployed graduates in Akwa Ibom state. the sixteeth responses show that 40 (12%) respondents strongly agreed, 50 (15%)

respondents agreed, also, 100 (31%) respondents disagreed while 140 (42%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has constructed shelters to the victims of oil spilages in Akwa Ibom state**.** the seventeenth responses show that 60 (18%) respondents strongly agreed, 40 (12%) respondents agreed, also, 120 (36%) respondents disagreed while 110 (33%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has provided food commodities to the people in Akwa Ibom state. the eighteenth responses show that 60 (18%) respondents strongly agreed, 40 (12%) respondents agreed, also, 120 (36%) respondents disagreed while 110 (33%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has influenced the daily income of the people in Akwa Ibom state. the nineteenth responses show that 60 (18%) respondents strongly agreed, 40 (12%) respondents agreed also, 120 (36%) respondents disagreed while 110 (33%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has improved the standard of living of the people in the communities in Akwa Ibom state. The twenteenth responses show that 60 (18%) respondents strongly agreed, 40 (12%) respondents agreed, also, 120 (36%) respondents disagreed while 110 (33%) respondents strongly disagreed that NDDC has contributed to improve on the income per-capita of the people in Akwa Ibom state.

Test of the Hypothesis

H0:$_1$ Niger Delta Development Commission has not significantly improved infrastructura facilities in Akwa Ibom State

Hi:$_1$ Niger Delta Development Commission has significantly improved infrastructural facilities in Akwa Ibom State

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig
1	.904[a]	817	817	46056	604	4.581	.000

The summary of result of hypothesis one indicated that the P.> value of 4.581 at 0.05 alpha is greater than the sig. value of .000, Since the P> value is 4.581 at 0.05 alpha variable which is greater than P< value of.000. We therefore rejected the null hypothesis (H0) and retained the alternative hypothesis (Hi). This by implication means that Niger Delta Development commissio n has not significantly improved infrastructura facilities in Akwa Ibom State. This result shows

that given at the 0.05 significant different, therefore, it shows that the researcher is 95% confident that the right decision has been taken.

Test of Hypothesis (2) Two

H0:$_2$ Niger-Delta Development Commission has not significantly improved the welfare of the people in Akwa Ibom State.

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Hi:$_2$ Niger-Delta Development Commission has not significantly improved the welfare of the people in Akwa Ibom State.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
1	.955[a]	.912	.912	.33040	.955	3.916	.000

The summary of result of hypothesis two indicated that the P> value is 3.916 at 0.05 alpha which is greater than Sig< value of.000. Since our P > value of 3.916 at 0.05 alpha is greater than p< value of .000 we rejected the Null Hypothesis (H0) and retained the alternative hypothesis (HI). This implies that there is no significant relationship between the two variables. This by

implication means that Niger Delta Develop ment Commission has not significantly impr oved the welfare of the people in Akwa Ibom State.This result shows that given at the 0.05 significant different, therefore, it shows that the researcher is 95% that the right decision has been taken.

Discussion

This research work, Niger-Delta Development Commission on Socio-economic Development of Akwa Ibom: A study of selected local governments focused on the examination of contribution of NDDC to the development of the state. However, to ensure that the goal of the study is achieved, four specific objectives were formulated which guided the study. The study therefore revealed that:

Conclusion

This study focused on the impact of Niger-Delta Development Commission on Socio-economic development of Akwa Ibom State. This study concludes that NDDC would have impacted on the socio-economic lives of the people of Akwa Ibom people, if effective implementation strategies were adopted by the agency.

Recommendations

Arising from the findings, the following recommendations were made which include:

that effort should be made to tackle the corrupt tendencies among the contractors and those identified should adequately purnished to serve as a deterrent to others. The paper also recommended that adequate funding mechanism should put in place to enable the agency effectively execute the programmes that can better the lives of the people in Akwa Ibom State.

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