

**AN APPRAISAL OF MICRO PROJECTS PROGRAM OF MPP6 IN  
ABIA STATE**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT PAPER**

**PRESENTED TO THE**

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**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to appraise the impact of Micro Projects Programme of European Union (MPP6) in Abia State on the living standard of the people. The introduction on the activities of micro projects programme in the Nine States of the Niger Delta tagged MPP3 and MPP6 respectively were traced. Attempt was made to review related literatures which formed the theoretical framework. This study, being empirical, primary data was collected through questionnaire administered to two hundred and thirty one respondents from the various stakeholders of European Union. The respondents were classified into six groups according to the nature of their work; whether they were Managers, Project Officers, Traditional Rulers, Other Officers, Liaison Officers or Community Liaison Officers. The various issues raised in the study, which were derived from the research questions, were analyzed considering the perception of each group. Three research questions were asked and three hypotheses developed. The data collected were presented and analysed using simple percentage, and the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). This study revealed that micro projects have significant impact on children/ women empowerment; there were significant relationship between micro projects and improved standard of living and there is significant relationship between micro projects and poverty reduction. Based on the foregoing, the following recommendations were made: The management of European Union and/ or other donor agencies should fashion out other measures on how to empower women and children who are most vulnerable in poverty conditions in Abia State; more development and sustainable efforts should be pursued in the provision of infrastructure in Abia State to improve on the living standard of the poor rural communities thereby reducing the menace of poverty and its attendant risks.

**KEYWORDS:** Micro projects, hypothesis, Analysis of Variance, State Project Manager, Project Officer, Traditional ruler.

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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out under my supervision by ***JIMONU UGONMA MERCY*** of the Department of Project Management Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri as a partial fulfillment for the Award of Masters in Business Administration in Project Management Technology.

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**Prof. G. E. Nworuh**

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**Supervisor**

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**Dean of Postgraduate School**

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**External Examiner**

## **DEDICATION**

This study is dedicated to my husband, Mr. B. C. Ezinma for his immense support, to my mother MRS H. I. Jimonu for her prayers, to my brothers, sisters and in-laws for their encouragement and finally to God Almighty for his wisdom, good health, foresight and strength in the course of this study.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

**INTRODUCTION:** MPP6 is an acronym representing Micro Projects Programme in six states of the Niger Delta comprising Abia, Akwa-Ibom, cross river, Edo, Imo and Ondo States. The overall objective of the programme is to improve the living standards of the poor rural population in 6 states of the Niger Delta, hence contributing to sustainable democracy and conflict prevention (MPP6 profile, 2004).

MPP6 is a social development programme that provides funds to implement community-based projects in the six states, especially in the sectors of water supply, village transport, health and education systems as well as income generation. As its sister project MPP3 (implemented in Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta states), it is being executed by a management unit, selected through international tender under the

overall supervision of the Federal Government of Nigeria. Communities participated actively in every phase of the project cycle: from its identification to its implementation and monitoring, till the final management. Beneficiaries contributed at least 25% of the cost in labour, in kind or in cash. This requirement was mainly to ensure that communities selected micro project to which they had a real commitment and could maintain after MPP6 had ended (MPP6 profile, 2004).

The importance of this is shown by the many abandoned projects around the Niger Delta. The project developed the capacity of local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community –Based Organizations (CBOs) to design, manage, implement and monitor participatory pro-poor development activities. It also developed appropriate ways to support governmental (notably state-level) poverty reduction initiatives where such support was demanded, feasible, and expected to yield sustainable benefits. Equally, the project supported mechanism for the co-ordination and mutual support of other donors, private sector and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) activity at

the state level. The project developed programme - wide and community- level participatory monitoring systems. In addition, communities had to select a local Community-Based Organization/Non-Governmental Organization, which played a critical and strategic role in facilitating the identification, implementation and evaluation of projects. However, once the works were completed, only the community retained the ownership of the projects. At the end of the five year programme, a total of 335 projects were completed in Abia rural communities, which must have significantly contributed in the fight against poverty (MPP6 profile,2004).

The programme also provided for full and detailed transparency process which included up-to- date and complete operation details of all micro projects, including names of contact person(s) and contractors, and of the programme as a whole was made publicly available through the internet, signboards, signposts as well as traditional media and networks. This enabled local governments, concerned citizens, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to know exactly how much had

been allocated to each village or community for the projects. Over the 5-year period of the programme about four hundred (400) projects are expected to be in place in Abia State. At the closure of the programme in April 2008, 335 projects were completed and handed over to benefiting communities.

MPP6 implementation tactics involves: community request for assistance, initial community mobilization and project identification through participatory needs assessment and project feasibility study, proposal writing, a project management committee (PMC)-representatives of the community constituted and the project screened for viability with a sustainable plan drawn by the PMC to ensure that the community has the capacity for project management on completion and hand over.

The rural sector can be defined in terms of size of settlement and of the dominant type of economic activity within such settlements. Using population as a basis for definition, settlement of 20,000 and above are usually referred to as urban and those below 20,000 as rural (Teriba, 1973).The 2006 National Census showed that Nigeria had a

total population of 140,004,000 people made up of 75% rural and 25% urban (National Statistical Office Latest actual Data,2006). Abia State had a population of 2,338,487 people comprising 78.25% rural and 21.75% urban. Thus, majority of Nigerians live in the rural areas. Using economic activity as a basis for definition, the rural sector can be distinguished from the urban sector in terms of output of goods and services and of employment generated within the two sectors. Economic activity in the rural sector depends directly or indirectly on the exploitation of land or natural resources. It centers principally on farming, animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, fishing, forestry, food processing and cottage manufacturing. In contrast, urban economic activity centers principally on non-agricultural occupations such as commercial and industrial activities ( Idachaba,1991). From the above statistics, we could determine why the MPP6 programme intervention efforts focus mainly in the rural and semi-urban areas. This will afford the programme the opportunity to touch on the lives of rural poor populace who are exposed to less economic activities, hence the high level of poverty among them. Most of these areas lack government

patronage because they do not have representatives in government and as such nobody speaks for them. European Union through MPP6 programme has exposed the insensitivity and non-responsive attitude of government at all levels in Nigeria, hence the clarion call on other donor agencies and international organizations to either collaborate with European Union in her laudable programme or intervene in other needful areas of poor rural communities of Niger Delta to ameliorate poverty conditions in the region and to enhance conflict resolution and sustained democracy.

Seeing that poverty cannot be totally eliminated in human existence, this study was limited to the appraisal of micro projects programme in Abia rural communities. This was to ascertain the impact of these micro projects on the living standards of rural Abia populace; and also determine to what extent these projects have empowered the women and children who seem to be mainly at risk in poverty-ridden environment.

## **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Abass (1993) asserts that it is common knowledge that most Nigerians who live in the rural areas (about 75% of them) are, by virtue of the circumstances of their habitat, subjected to serious handicaps and constrained to scratch the earth for a rather miserable living. In fact the general impression created in the minds of most Nigerians and foreigners alike who visit our rural areas is one of total abandonment and salutary neglect of the people who inhabit these places. For most these rural dwellers, electricity, portable water supply, clinics, health centres, and hospitals which are generally concentrated in the urban centres are just illusive luxuries. Quite a large proportion of rural dwellers still live in a state of nature, by-passed by the modernization influences and forces, which revolutionize progressive modern societies. The state of life of the rural population kills the enthusiasm of rural dwellers, dampen their morale, and mitigate their sense of motivation and initiative (Agbodike, 2011).

Indeed, in many respects, the outlook now appears worse than it did twelve months ago... for the poorest countries those with per capita incomes of less than \$200 the situation is particularly grave... In 1974, per capita income of one billion people living in these nations declines an average of 0.5 percent. For the hundreds of millions of them already severely deprived, it meant hunger and illness, and an erosion of hope.(Robert McNamara,1975).

The concept of rural development, as an alternative strategy to overall development, has become a worldwide currency and fashion in both the advanced and backward countries. Generally, it is believed that approaches to rural development have over time and space varied and consequently produced different results. Abass (1993) maintained that before any genuine approach to rural development is made vital socio-economic, political, moral or cultural issues have to be settled and resolved before it is even completed let alone implemented. Considerations should however be given to the nature and circumstances of the social ,political and economic systems,(within

specific conjunctures)as well as dominant class character and class struggles operating in the state.

There is hardly any state policy or programme that does not touch or have a direct bearing on the rural sector. For the past three decades, there has been a continuous and desperate search for the solution of virtually major development problems. The solution so far advanced has remained practically elusive, unserviceable and unrealistic. This situation has therefore posed serious challenges to the development strategies in Nigeria and undeveloped countries that have been caught up in the orthodox western socio-economic and political trap. (Abass, 1993) Invariably, the conditions of the peasantry or rural communities, in recent years, have consistently worsened or deteriorated as more and more Rural Development Programmes and strategies have been unfolded.

The United Nations Agency for Social and Economic Development posits that:

*“Rural development is the quantitative change or upliftment in the standard of living of the people in the rural areas, brought about through integrated approach*

*by both governmental and non governmental agencies and the people themselves.”*

Thus, without giving any correlations and taking into cognizance of vital intervening variables in a particular setting (and in a specific conjuncture) especially the political and economic power structure as well as international politics, the above definition is too simplistic. Since the so-called quantitative change or upliftment in the standard of living of people in the rural areas has not been realized or brought about in Nigeria, over the last three decades, then the activities of the agencies notwithstanding, the integrated approach to rural development needs a re-appraisal. On the other hand only misery and exacerbation of absolute poverty in the society have been compounded, and people hope eroded (Abass, 1993).

Abass further opines that despite the huge financial expenses and arduous struggles for social and economic development in Nigeria the rural development strategy pursued or adopted have been inappropriate irrelevant to the environment and needs of the people,

misdirected and misplaced, He argued that the living condition of the poorest strata of the people have been lamentably unmet leading to further and aggravated problem of poverty, pauperization inequality as well as creating a new breed of “peasantries”. Thus Nigeria’s experience in rural development is nothing other than the semi-urbanization of the rural areas with relative attendant urban problems. To achieve a realistic range of rural development strategy, there is a great need to develop practical and workable objectives that take into cognizance of all the forces and factors that militate against it. Until recently rural development had been perceived as a strategy mainly related to agricultural productivity and primarily tied to economic growth. In other words, increased agricultural productivity by itself would solve problems of rural communities and their inhabitants. There is therefore a need to develop a comprehensive package alternative to rural development strategy or theory based on a set of workable policies peculiar to the circumstances inherent in a given situation. In essence, there is a need to have long range rural development goals,

which is synonymous with complete transformation of the entire social and economic institutions, relations and processes of production.

This is a goal that connotes rural development not necessarily and simply as an agricultural and economic growth per se but a complete and continuous social and economic progress with an equitable distribution of resources and incomes for generating new productive ventures as well as wide-spread improvements in health, nutrition, housing with a broadened social relationship and harmony. Abass (1993) believed that an integrated approach to rural development involves some multi-sectoral efforts by the state which suggests the provision of infrastructural facilities like roads, dams, schools, electricity etc, introduction of new techniques , establishment of banks and other service agencies as well as organizing and mobilizing people for productive activities.

According to Lome Convention in June, 2000, multi-annual micro projects programmes are one of the instruments of European Union

(EU/ACP development cooperation). The objective is the development of people's economic and social situation in response to needs of local communities. The participation of local communities is outlined in article 252 of the convention according to two main criteria: the micro projects are to be undertaken at the initiative of the communities, and the communities have to contribute to their implementation in terms of services, cash or in-kind-all totaling to not less than 25% of the total project cost (Holland, 2002).

### **1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. to what extent do micro projects impact on the living standard of rural communities in Abia State.
2. To what extent do micro projects reduce poverty among the rural dwellers?
3. To what extent do micro projects empower children and women in Abia rural communities?

### **1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The specific objectives of this study are to:

1. Identify micro projects supported by MPP6 in Abia state.
2. Examine how the micro projects are approved and implemented.
3. Determine the significant impact of these micro projects on the living Standard of Abians
4. Determine what could be done to reduce poverty or have them totally eliminated through the provision of micro projects.
5. Investigate the extent to which children and women are empowered by these micro projects.

### **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY**

In the recent past, it could be recalled that the visibility of European Union micro projects in six states of Niger Delta was limited. In other words, information about their program and activities was not known among many people and communities. However, with this study more people are likely to be exposed to this information. Also, in future other researchers will start where this study stopped.

From the foregoing, the importance of this study lies in information sharing and acquisition of knowledge.

## **1.6 STATEMENT OF HYPOTHESES**

- i. Micro projects have no significant impact on children/women empowerment.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between micro projects and improved standard of living.
- iii. There is no significant relationship between micro project and poverty reduction.

## **1.7 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study was limited to EU-MPP6, Abia State Management Office (SMO) in Umuahia. Emphasis is on the impact of micro projects to the lives of the people of Abia State.

**1.9 ORGANIZATION OF STUDY:** The first chapter contains introduction, statement of problem, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, statement of

hypotheses, scope of the study, and organization of study. While the second chapter is concerned with review of related literature and their references. The third chapter is about the methodology. Presentation and analyses of data is contained in chapter four while discussions on findings, summary recommendation, bibliography and appendices are found in chapter five.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Nigeria must overcome an enormous challenge in order to achieve the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With Nigeria accounting for approximately 20% of Africa's population, Africa will not achieve the MDGs without Nigeria (Nigeria –

European Community (EC). To meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of halving a small proportion of the population living in extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015, a number of conditions need to be met. These include: growth of the Nigerian economy by at least 7% p.a for a sustained period, increased investment in human capital (Health and Sanitation), increased income and employment opportunities, provision of basic infrastructure to enhance the access and productivity of the poor, nutrition and family planning programmes and population control, and promotion of good governance, transparency and accountability.

In Table 1 below, the Federal Office of Statistics tried to x-ray to what extent Nigeria, as a nation, has gone in meeting the Millennium Development Goals target for the period 2002- 2005.

**NIGERIAN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT (2002  
2005)**

**Table 1**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>MD Target</b>
Impact	Proportion of		51.5%		51.3%	7.0%	

	population below \$1 per day.						
	Prevalence of under weight children (under-five years of age)		28.7%	30.7%		17.9%	
	Under-five mortality rate per one thousand.		20.1%			63.7%	
Outcome	Gross enrolment ratio in primary education		93.0%			100%	100%
	Primary completion rate		93.0%			100%	
	Ratio of girls to boys in -Primary education -Secondary education -Tertiary education.		Est. 60%	83.0%		100%  100%	
	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			35%	36.3%		
	Proportion of 1 year old children immunized against measles	35%	35%	31.4%		100%	

	HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women				5.2%		
	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source	60%		65%	68%	100%	70%

**Source:** World Development Indicator Database, Federal Office of statistics Nigeria

In the same report, we gathered that Nigeria has the third highest number of poor people in the world after China and India, and accounts for 6% (80million) of all poor people in the world. Nigeria ranks 158 of 177 countries in the 2005 Human Development Report, with a Human Development Index of 0.453. Income disparity levels are also high.

Although no exact data are available, according to estimates for 2003, about 70.8% of the Nigerian population lives in less than \$ 1 per day, and 28.7% of children below the age of five are malnourished (World Development Data Base 2004). However the percentage of

malnourished persons in Nigeria is considerably lower than the Western and Southern African average.

Poverty in Nigeria is linked to social, economic, political and environmental factors. The poor in Nigeria are predominantly rural, depend on renewable natural resources for their livelihoods, more likely to be female, very young or elderly, and are largely voiceless. Progress in poverty reduction has been slow and is advancing unevenly between states. Poverty statistics are not available for all states but efforts are now underway to gather state-level statistical data through the Core welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ<sup>S</sup>).

The Nigeria Country Support Strategy for the period 2002-2007 was signed in 2002 and focuses on two sectors:

- a. Water and Sanitation and
- b. State and local institutional and economic reforms.

Micro- projects and “Governance” make up the thematic orientation in the non-focal sectors. Relations between Nigeria and European Union were resumed after the 1999 elections which returned a democratically elected government. The European Community notified of an 8<sup>th</sup>

European Development Fund (EDF) allocation as a “Quick Start Package (QSP). Several of the interventions in the non-focal sectors have been approved during the 1999 and 2000 period under this QSP. Since support to all 36 states is not manageable for any single donor, a division of labour between donors (especially Department for International Development of British government DFID) was established, with other donors becoming involved in other specific states. As a result of the studies undertaken during the preprogramming mission for the 2002-2007 Country Strategy Paper (CSP), the European Community (EC) and the Federal Government selected the following six states for the in-depth EC support. Osun in the South West geopolitical zone, Cross-River in the South-South, Abia in the South-East, Plateau in the North-Central, Gombe in the North-East and Kebbi in the North-West.

Each day, a billion people do not eat enough to satisfy their hunger. Yet, this atrocious condition should not exist, according to the United Nations. Former United Nations Secretary – General Kofi

Anang on Sept. 8, 2000, angrily spoke to the assembly of the world's most powerful men and women.

“You have said that your first priority is the eradication of poverty.  
“

They had come together for the United Nations millennium summit, during which several of those leaders made frank comments on the problems of the world's poor. Extreme poverty is an affront to humanity, said the Vice President of Brazil. The Prime Minister of Great Britain went even further when he said

“There is a dismal record of failure in Africa on the part of the developed world that shocks and shames our civilization”.

Those two speakers made plain that the nations had disgraced themselves by failing to do what they could to feed starving humans. As proof of their desire to improve living conditions for all on earth, those attending the summit committed themselves to action in an eight-part resolution that included the following:

“We will spare no efforts to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected..... we resolve further: To half, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day, and the proportion of the people who suffer from hunger”.

In 2003, the Global Governance Initiative of the World Economic Forum began assessing what had been done to achieve the goals outline in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The official report, released on January 15, 2004 states “For all of its most important goals, the world is failing utterly to put forward the needed effort”. Regarding hunger the report states “The problem is not an absolute shortage of food in the world – there is enough to go around. “The problem is that available food and adequate nutrition do not get to those who lack money”. (Holland, 2002)

On the overall problem of performance of poverty, the report says “The responsibility for the lack – luster performance now lies mainly with governments, rich and poor. But a global economic system

designed by the wealthy is too often stacked against the poorest. The wealthy countries, despite much rhetoric, show little interest in reforming that system or in substantially increasing development assistance targeted to the poorest.

“In the face of this reproof, the politicians continue to debate rather than act and the governments continue to maneuver, each for its own advantage. Meanwhile, the world’s poor continue to live in empty stomachs.(Holland,2002)

A fact sheet from the World Economic Forum, entitled “From Aspiration to Action” warns that “vast swaths of humanity will face increasing hunger unless international trade policies are changed, national policies focus on hunger and successful local effort are multiplied. “And who needs to make better policies and more” successful local efforts? “The very governments that in 2000 publicly declared their determination to improve the lot of all humanity.

One broken promise may lead to disappointment; several broken promises lead to distrust. By not keeping their word to care for the poor, the world’s governments have reaped distrust.

Agriculture is the major occupation in rural sector and comprises small economic production units, predominance of traditional techniques of production, excessive fragmentation of holdings, and consequently, little mechanization of farm operations, limited use of chemical and biological technology, high dependence on rudimentary storage and effect is low productivity and income in the rural sector (Onyenwaku; 2004).

Access to basic human needs such as education, portable water, health care and sanitation are far less available in the rural areas. The problems of malnutrition, low life expectancy and high infant mortality are severe in the rural areas. Rural poverty is pervasive and persistent. It is particularly severe among female-headed households without an adult male. Most of the rural poor live in areas where arable land is scarce, agricultural potential is low, while drought, flood and environmental degradation are common.(Agbodike,2011)

Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor (fmawrd, 1992). It involves extending the benefit of development to the poorest

who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. The ambit of rural development is very wide. It includes generation of new employment, more equitable access to arable land; equitable distribution of income, wide spread improvement in health, nutrition and housing, maintenance of law and order, creation of incentives and opportunities for savings, credit and investment (William, 1978). It also involves creating wide opportunities for individuals to realize their full potential through education and sharing in the decisions and actions, which affect their lives. It is not sectoral but comprehensive. The primary objective of rural development is to develop and use available resources so as to increase productivity and income, increase employment, meet basic needs, reduce inequalities in income and wealth and to reduce the rate of rural – urban migration. (Abass,1993)

Rural development in Nigeria has followed the following sectoral strategies (Williams, 1978).

- a. Sectoral approaches addressed either to a whole sector such as agriculture or to a few projects within it.

- b. Co-ordinated approaches addressed to economic development of all sectors within a given area.
- c. Participatory approaches designed to involve the residents first in selecting local economic and social goals and then in pursuing them with some government assistance.
- d. Multi-purpose programmes, aimed at stimulating economic growth, fostering popular support for government and promoting security.

Agricultural development involves a positive change in the nature, structure and quantity of purchased inputs, changes in the productive capacity of land and labour, and changes in crop and livestock management practices. If agriculture must contribute positively to the economic development of rural Nigeria, unproductive traditional farming methods and small farm units which currently prevail must be changed to a market economy. This is synonymous with agricultural modernization, which involves changing to those practices that incorporate modern science and technology. The primary objective of agricultural development is to increase farm productivity and income as well as the standards of living of the people. According to Idachaba,

(1977), agricultural development in the Nigeria context should mean that our rural majority should have adequate food that meets basic nutritional requirements, comfortable shelter, and adequate social services, such as health, education, electricity and rural infrastructural facilities. All past and current agricultural policies and programmes of the central and state government in Nigeria are all geared towards agricultural development.

Rural infrastructure is defined to include the system of physical, social and institutional forms of capital, which aid residents in their production, distribution and consumption activities as well as enhance the quality of rural life (Idachaba and Olayide, 1980). They identified four major types of rural infrastructure to include: rural physical infrastructure, rural social infrastructure, rural institutional infrastructure and rural farm infrastructure.

- a. Rural physical infrastructure include transportation system such as feeder roads, access roads, rail roads, bridges, ferry services, boats ports, footpaths etc, processing facilities such as public processing facilities, machinery, equipment, buildings etc,

communication systems such as rural telephone services, postal agencies etc.

- b. Rural social infrastructure include health facilities such as hospitals, dispensaries, maternity, health centre etc, educational facilities such as primary schools, secondary schools, technical schools, vocation schools, adult education facilities etc, rural utilities such as rural electrification and power supplies and water supplies.
- c. Rural institutional infrastructure include rural organizations such as cooperatives, farmers' union etc, rural based projects such as community projects etc, financial institutions such as credit societies, banks, government credit institution, post office savings banks etc, agricultural extension services, crop – animal protection – control – grading services, and social conservative services.
- d. Rural farm infrastructure include storage facilities such as silos, warehouses etc, irrigation water facilities, land clearing and preparation systems, farm inputs supply systems and farm road development/improvement facilities.(Abass,1993)

The various categories of rural infrastructure have social overlapping effects on rural development. The social infrastructure enhances the health of the people, their awareness and standards of living as well as raising their productivity and stemming rural – urban migration. The physical infrastructure enhances easy transportation of agricultural commodities while rural institutional infrastructure increases productivity, income and the standards of living of farmers.

The term community development connotes that the people themselves exert their own efforts, joining with government authorities to improve their economic, social and cultural conditions (Williams, 1978). According to Higgins, 1959 community self-help development, is a

“process of social action in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning and action, define their common and individual plans to meet their needs and solve their problems, execute the plans with a maximum of reliance upon community resources and supplement these resources when necessary with services and materials from governmental and non-governmental agencies outside the community.”

It is a social voluntary union of individuals into a group for greater strength, which will enable them to organize and promote their social security and welfare. For most rural areas in Abia State, community development is the cornerstone of development. The approach appeals to peoples' sense of independence and political involvement. Thus it is a common phenomenon that those who would grudge paying a tax imposed by a government agency would gladly pay community levies for a development project.

Community development approach to rural development is a very effective means of capital formation in the rural areas. Individuals in the village have a deep sense of identification with the community, even when they are far away from these communities. The agents of community fund raising and development are villages, kindred meetings and development and welfare unions. (Durban, 1970)

Community development is not concerned with any one aspect of life such as agriculture, business, health or education; it is concerned with total community life and needs (Durban, 1970). Ideally, it involves all the members of the community and requires their fullest

participation in first making and then implementing decisions. People work together to shape their own future.

In Abia State, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are the agents of community development. The most active CBOs are the village/town unions, age grades, and women groups and youth associations. Community development projects in the state are wide and varied and encompass town/village halls, market development, road development and maintenance, construction of bridges and culverts, schools, hospitals/health centre, post offices, rural electrification and water supplies as well as the maintenance of law and order.(William,1978)

For effective rural development, it must be all round, well balanced, progressive and self-sustaining. Rural development has to be multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional. This is the integrated approach to rural development. Here, programmes of educations and training, health and nutrition, agriculture, rural electrification, cooperatives and the like are not conceived in isolation. Each programme is considered in relation to each other. This approach

is integral in the sense that all of its components are important and appreciated for the part they play both individually and collectively (Williams, 1978). Its primary objective is the mobilization of human and material resources for the creation of a healthy national economy whose benefits will be fairly shared among all the rural people. Integrated rural development demands active participation of the people concerned and effective communication systems.

In a paper presented by Abia State Ministry of Environment and Minerals Development at MPP6 Forum in 2004, it was observed that one of the greatest public health problems of serious environmental implication in Abia State is the frequent episodes of the disease of gastro-enteritis, sometimes called Cholera. This disease, which is closely associated with poor environmental and personal hygiene due to inadequate water supply and poor human waste disposal, has remained one of the greatest causes of poverty especially in our rural communities.

Among the reasons for this high rate of outbreak of this and other feco-water borne disease is lack of or inadequate portable water

supply, difficult, gully and extensive landslide and eroded lands. Worse still, is that most rural communities practice the open log system of latrine, open latrine system and indiscriminate disposal of human waste. This is the greatest source of pollution of the seasonal streams, especially with the first rains towards the end of dry season.

As a result of indiscriminate “freelance” defecation, there is a high rate of morbidity or illness due to such diseases that emanate from poor sanitation and inadequate water supply. This situation can only change with deliberate government and donor promotive action that is capable of galvanizing the communities into “self-help” and “own choice” sanitation improvement projects.

Aluko(2002) was of the view that the management of MPP6 believed that participatory monitoring and evaluation enables organizations learn from change, because it enables the management to judge whether the MPP6 development intervention efforts had succeeded or failed. She also held the assumption that participatory monitoring and evaluation provides an opportunity for the management

to focus better on their ultimate goals and objectives of improving poor peoples lives.

The participatory monitoring and evaluation, on the other hand, helps the key stakeholders in identifying and analyzing change so that a clearer picture can be gained on what is really happening on the ground. It is an empowering process, which put the management in charge, helps develop skills as it will allow them to celebrate success, and learn from their failures and realize that their views count.

Ajayi, (1992) once observed that ethnicity can in fact be used to promote nationalism such that could lead “a graduation of loyalties from family to community to linguistic group or state or to the nation”.

Babawale (2003) observed that “Today, crude oil has taken over from palm oil as the attraction for indigenous rulers and their masters – the transnational oil companies. For the peoples of the Niger Delta area, however oil represents the destruction of natural environment upon which they depend for survival. Their communal order, long violated by colonialists, has been further distorted by the exploitation of crude oil, which creates the condition for communal violence. Within

the political order created by colonialism, and nurtured by the Nigerian ruling class, the people are powerless. This is not helped by the fact that postcolonial state has further expropriated all rights to ownership and control of land and resources from the people.

From the peoples of the impoverished Niger Delta, the Nigeria state and its political leadership, in protecting transnational oil companies and expropriating the revenue from oil, have come to be seen as the problem for the people.

Confronted with this difficult reality, the Ogoni people in 1990, presented their Bill of Rights of the Nigeria State in which they noted that the “the Ogoni people before the advent of British Colonialism were not conquered or colonized by another group in present day Nigeria.; that in 1951, we were forcibly included in the Eastern Region of Nigeria where we suffered utter neglect; that we protested against this neglect... before the Wilkins Commission of Inquiry into minority fears in 1958; that successive Federal Administrations have trampled on every right enshrined in the Nigeria constitution to the detriment of

the Ogoni and has by administrative structuring and other obnoxious acts transferred Ogoni wealth to other parts of the Republic.

In the Niger Delta, for example, some Ethnic Groups have accused the Ijaws of expansionist agenda. Particularly, the Binis, Elemes, Ilajes Itsekiris and Ikwerres have separately accused the Ijaws of using the Egbesu Boys to acquire oil rich lands belonging to others. The Ijaws have consistently denied this allegation. However, the views of some Ijaw groups, particularly, the “Ijaw Ethnic Nationality Right and Protection Organization of Nigeria” is rightful. In one of such views they claimed that:

“We make bold therefore to assent here once again for the attention of all Nigeria in general and the Federal Government of Nigeria in particular that the territory in Nigeria stands historically demarcated in the Niger Delta region from the pre-colonial boundaries of the eastern Adoni-Ijaw in the present Akwa Ibom State through Rivers State, Delta State AND Edo State to the boundary between the territory and homelands of the Aroogbo/Apol-Ijaws in the present Ondo State and the Epe Local Council. of Lagos State in the south of the Federal Republic of Nigeria bounded by the atlantic oceans”.

## **2.2 CURRENT TREND**

Analysts argue that the exploration and commercial crude oil production having started in Olobiri in 1956, the expectation was that the entire Niger Delta region ought to have been developed. The thinking was that the situation in the region was a proof of the failure of leadership in Nigeria. Dr. Good-luck Jonathan had described the burning issue as a “National embarrassment that has caused sorrow to the people of the region”.

The former Vice President who spoke at a retreat titled “Our Challenge”, urged the South – South Law Makers to begin the campaign for re-orientation of the peoples values, rule of law, collectiveness, peace and unity among the people of the region.

He advised the legislators to “try and mobilize their colleagues in the National assembly to appreciate the problem of the area”.

The worry of most stakeholders is that without a reliable peace accord, government would find it difficult to implement master plan for the region. Besides, the recurrent upheavals in the Niger Delta would make it impossible for the oil companies to have stable production as the crises would alter international price of oil indiscriminately. The problem would continue to impact negatively on government's revenue and the economy. The cease-fire accord should be deemed indispensable by the government if national goals could be achieved (Aluko, 2002)

Today the state government see the 13% derivation fund as part of their statutory allocation. The state is just the custodian of the fund for the development of oil producing communities" (Senator Nomi Barighe Amange, 2009)

Government should embark on activities that would change the perception of the Niger Delta, that they are poor in the midst of plenty, hence the need for the urgent implementation of the master plan. The incessant turmoil in the Niger Delta led to the loss of many lives and over 12 billion dollars. The multinational oil companies operating in the

region have continued to explore ways to beat the restive youths or vacate the area. Investors avoided the area for fear of their investments.

Barighe Amange said “Let us go down to the root of the problem and solve it. Declare general amnesty, allow the boys to come out and stay with their mates in the community and use them to police the oil installations. Let’s send qualified ones abroad for crash programme that would make them useful and government should employ those who are employable; they will surrender their arms”.

A credible peace pact in Niger Delta is indispensable; for instance, recently, militants were said to have arrested two suspected pirates in Bayelsa who they handed over to government. The development followed peace agreement signed by Government and the militants, David mark (2009) expressed concern that the genuine agitation by the people of Niger Delta was being derailed by the awful activities of militants.

According to him “Government will no longer tolerate criminals terrorizing the people of the Niger Delta. There is genuine agitation for

development which the Federal Government is trying to address, but the activities of criminals must be handled decisively". Infrastructural development is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable economic development. The current state of infrastructure development is weak, particular with respect to electric power supply. Similarly, telecommunications, road network and recreation facilities are substandard in their functionality. Government, Donors and International Agencies should take appropriate steps to facilitate the participation of private sector and civil society organizations in providing and rehabilitating infrastructural facilities in Niger Delta Region in general. It is further recommended, that maintenance culture with respect to infrastructure be imbibed by both the public, private and civil society operations.

The goal of the National Gender policy is to build a just society devoid of discrimination, harness, the full potentials of all social groups regardless of sex or circumstances, promote the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and protect the health, social, economic and political well being of all citizens in order to achieve equitable

economic growth; evolve an evidence-based planning and governance system where human, social, financial and technological resources are efficiently and effectively deployed for sustainable development”.

Promoting gender equality is now globally accepted as a development strategy for reducing poverty levels among women and men, improving health and living standards and enhancing efficiency of public investments, especially in Niger Delta Region. The attainment of gender is not only as an end in itself and human rights issue, but as a pre-requisite for the achievement of sustainable development.

The master plan is designed to achieve the following:

- Diversify the region’s economy, by robustly engaging and activating sectors critical for sustainable development. These sectors include agriculture, information technology, tourism, industry and industrialization;
- Improve living standards for the people;
- improve government at the critical grassroots level, and at all tiers;

- improve infrastructure for economic growth and offer a better business environment which will usher in accelerated overall growth;
- usher in and sustain a better collaboration among stakeholders;
- Ensures an optimum utilization of available resources for greater impacts;
- Usher in a better environment and reduce/contain environmental degradation, by insisting and encouraging better practices in the oil and gas sector, as well as in project delivery, and
- Build a culture of better-informed people who will contribute to overall development initiatives, sustain development and ensure best practices in service and project delivery.

As stated earlier, one of the key derivables of the master plan has been the facilitation of cooperation among all stakeholders. This significant step was taken when, at a meeting called by President Yar'Ádua between the Federal Government, the nine state governors and the NDDC on Thursday, August 30, 2007, late president it was agreed

that all the budgets for 2008 related to the Niger Delta region must be cut according to the master plan.

Since then, and in discharging that responsibility, the key stakeholders in the region have worked out the best strategy for actualizing the provisions and prescription of the master plan. It was, indeed, groundbreaking that late Mr. President himself was driving the process through which every stakeholder- the local governments, the state governments, the oil companies, and other agencies (local and international) delivering services and projects in the region, including, of course, the Federal Government worked towards the successful implementation of the master plan. For the first time in the history of the Niger Delta, the governors of the region built a synergy with the NDDC, towards streamlining their 2008 budgets and other subsequent budgets for optimum delivery.(Amange,2009)

What does that signify? That showed a growing commitment to deliver on the programmes and projects that would facilitate sustainable development. It encouraged cooperation and partnership, which would eliminate duplications and maximize application of

resources. It encouraged good governance, an absence of which spelled doom to the development process.

This was a major breakthrough, indeed, because governance had remained, before now, a major challenge in the delivery of projects and services to the people. While the NDDC, through the different established processes of monitoring, had tried to uphold the best principles of practices, accountability, and due process (One would like to state here that NDDC, as one of the government agencies to adopt due process had established due process unit within the commission), it had been difficult to monitor other service and project providers.

Those who read the papers and follow the news on television must know about the challenges facing some of the past governors and public officials, not just from the Niger Delta, but Nigeria as a whole. Many of them are being investigated for corruption, some already indicted. As sad as these stories were, it was only a tip of the iceberg of rampant corruption, diversion of public funds and abuse of public trust, which had gone on for far too long. Even sadder is that

each story represents dreams that have died and opportunities that have been abused (Amange,2009).

Yet, the lesson from all that was the fact that important instruments had been put in place to encourage the practice of good governance. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) are putting in place far-reaching use of public funds in delivery of development. These they do through the enforcement of the rule of law.

Due to long years of poverty, both in economic and intellectual terms, it had become increasingly difficult for citizens to demand their right from those entrusted to provide for them. Instead, there are among students youths, the academia, and interest groups attitude which has encouraged the “any where-belle-face” kind of development of the past.

At the NDDC we encourage dialogue is encouraged with all groups, to help in advocacy and in boosting our processes; it is important for institutions of higher learning to maintain an open, interactive view of these processes, by contributing to the master plan

implementation. As I have always said, it is a dynamic document and can benefit from informed contributions.

The PSD forum is another platform for interaction with the academia. There is the need to build an all round, all embracing partnership with the key stakeholders in the region. The partnership covers the private sector, government, the academia and civil society, in order to present a broad platform for intervention. The forum offers two very important possibilities: that of collective action within a shared vision; and that of shared monitoring, to ensure that people do what they say they will do.

Although the integrated implementation of the master plan began in earnest in 2008, areas of immediate work were outlined in the implementation guideline. The Niger Delta Development Commission had begun working on some quick impact projects which were designed, amongst others, to address some very urgent development gaps in the following areas(Amange,2009):

- Education
- HIV/AIDS and Malaria

- Small business and development initiative
- Social and physical infrastructure
- Governance and Sustainable development
- Sports development
- Agriculture and Aquaculture
- Regional power supply (energy)

It is important to remember that:

Development can no longer be handouts. It is right and should be sustainable in a planned manner, in order to make meaningful impact. Having suffered for so long, the time is now for the people to find succour and rekindle hope.(Amange,2009)

All stakeholders need to:

- Exercise sufficient political will, commitment, compassion and resolve, in order to mobilize adequate funding and activate true sustainable development for the region.
- Pool resources together, within the framework of the master plan and a shared vision, in order to apply prudence and efficiency to project/service delivery.

- Develop greater capacity to collaborate and complement each other (including intensive institution capacity building for social service delivery)
- Demonstrate transparency, accountability, and resource optimization in governance.
- Commit to development intervention only within the common vision and framework of the master plan (subject to anticipated periodic review): and
- Insist on good governance at all levels.

The future of the Niger Delta represents a region that is prosperous, peaceful and pleasant. A process through which it can be realized must be facilitated. To do that, all must re-examine their sense of service and ask themselves a very important question: are they serving themselves, or are they serving the people on whose behalf they have been put in public trust? To answer this very important question, It would be proper to paraphrase the Rockefeller principle, which represents, the finest call to service. It says:

“I believe in the supreme worth of the individual and in his right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity an obligation, every possession a duty. I believe that a law was made for man and not man for the law; that government is the servant of the people and not their master... I believe that the rendering of good service is the common duty of mankind and that only in the purifying fire of sacrifice is the dross of free... these are the principles, however formulated... upon which alone a new world recognizing the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God can be established”.

NNDC is fostering a new culture of service. That is why NNDC undertakes far more projects than any other agency in the history of this country. Yet, that is not the measure of achievement, neither is that the best definition for sustainable development. The greatest victory lies in the letters and the spirit of Niger Delta Regional Development Master Plan and in the capacity and willingness to dutifully, honestly, and vigorously implement it, for the good of the people and the long neglected region.

At many gatherings, it is often stated that the Niger Delta plan will provide the desired significant improvement in the living conditions of the people and the general well-being of the region. The different tiers of Government, the Civil Society Organizations, development agencies such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and every

political ward of every Local Government Area of the Niger Delta have major roles to play. Scientific data, using sophisticated platforms and strategies, including Geographical Imaging Satellite System were gathered. The people were asked what they wanted and stock of what each community provided was taken, as well as the potentials existing in those communities. Every conceivable area of life and living was covered. And what was arrived at was an aggregate of the expectations, hopes, needs, and vision of the region. Let no one confuse you. What the Master Plan provided is the voice of the people and all stakeholders are urged, for the sake of the people, to buy into the Master Plan, because to do so is to listen to the voice of the people.

Unfortunately, funding remains a major challenge for service and project providers, as well as for a full implementation of the Master Plan. Immediate projections put the implementation at between 50(fifty) and 100(hundred) Billion Dollars. How to raise these funds remains a challenge. It is important to continue to push for full and integrated partnership and collaboration, with International community,

investors and donor agencies to buy into the master plan. The urgent need to develop the region, remains strategic to the survival of Nigeria, the West African sub-region and even Africa.

This was a key point made at the recent conference, in Houston, United States of America, of all Niger Delta Peoples' Congress. It is important to note that late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua championed the cause of the Niger Delta and encouraged partnership at the highest levels of Government. The inaugurated Peace and Reconciliation Committee was also a great step in the right direction. Yet, it is the responsibility of Niger Delta people to support these important steps and bring to the people the development they so rightly deserve, to which they have looked forward for a long time.

That is why the future is bright for the region. Gathered were present and future leaders of the region and leaders of this great country. Therefore, there is the need to seize the opportunity being presented to partner for sustainable development and foster good governance practices. No meaningful development can occur without them.

In this psalm of life, Henry Longfellow declares:

“Life of great men reminds us we can make our lives sublime, and departing footprints on the sands of time.”

To achieve this, all must embrace service to humanity, by upholding service to, and relationship with, people. Put hope in government, nurture hope in people and express faith in fatherland.

Embrace honour, peace, hard work, building partnership and offer vision, all of which are lofty ideals upon which a good society and a good future can be established.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.10 POPULATION OF STUDY:**

Subjects for this study include rural communities, the Local Government Community Development Officers, staff of MPP6, and Ministry of Rural Development, all in Abia State. Their estimated population is five hundred thousand people.

#### **3.20 STUDY SAMPLE: -**

As a result of limitations imposed by time factors and finance, the participation of a large number of people was not possible. Hence,

subjects were staff of MPP6 in the state, and officers in the local councils. Only volunteers will participate.

### **3.30 SOURCES OF DATA: -**

Primary sources: - The primary sources of data for this study were the questionnaire and individual oral interviews of the uneducated participants.

Secondary Sources: - The secondary sources of data were textbook, journals newspapers and related literatures.

**3.40 INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION: -** The tool employed for this study was mainly the questionnaire which contained both structure and unstructured question. The assumption was that most of the respondents were literate and so could express them in writing. As

a supplement, individual oral interviews were conducted. This enabled respondents who were illiterate to participate.

The questionnaire was in two parts A and B. Part A was constructed to seek information on personal data of participants, Part B was close – ended, Participants are requested to choose the appropriate answer to the questions which are based on the statement of hypothesis.

**3.50 DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** -The respondents were classified into the following

State Project Manger

The Project Officers

Account and other officers

The Liaison Officers (Community Development Officers)

Traditional Rulers of various communities

Community Liaison Officers.

### **3.6 WEIGHTS ATTACHED**

Options

Weights

Strongly Agree	5
Agree	4
Undecided	3
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	1

### **3.7 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used. The F-ratios were calculated and used to test the hypotheses.

#### **DECISION RULE**

Reject Null Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) if F- Calculated is greater than F-tabulated.

If F-cal is greater than F-tab, Reject  $H_0$  and accept Alternative hypothesis ( $H_A$ )

If  $F\text{-cal} < F\text{-tab}$       Accept  $H_0$  and Reject  $H_A$

If F- ratio calculated exceeds table value, the term is said to be significant..

The confidence limits were set at 95 percent.

### **3.8 SUMMARY**

This chapter specified the method of research, which explained the approach to the research study. The data sources and collection method are also stated.

Finally, the method of data analysis, ANOVA, was explained and the assumptions stated.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.10 DATA PRESENTATION

This chapter deals with the statistical analysis of the various data collected in the course of the study. The number of copies of the questionnaire administered to the different categories of respondents, the number of respondents and the percentage of responses are as shown in the Table 3

**TABLE 3**

#### PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES

Categories Of Respondents	Number Of Questionnaire	Number Of Respondents	Percentage Of Responses %
State Project Manager	1	1	0.43
Project Officers	3	3	1.30
Other Officers	10	10	4.33
The Liaison Officers	17	15	6.49
Traditional Ruler	100	80	34.63
Community Liaison Officers	100	76	32.90
	<b>231</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>80.08%</b>

In Table 3 above, 80.08% of the respondents completed and returned the questionnaire. The responses of the respondents were edited in order to select the ones that had information relevant for hypotheses testing. The edited respondents' responses are as shown in Table 4.below.

**TABLE 4**

**PERCENTAGES OF RELAVANT RESPONSES**

<b>Categories Of Respondents</b>	<b>Number Of Respondents</b>	<b>Number Of Relevant Responses</b>	<b>Percentage Of Relevant Responses</b>
State Project Manager	1	1	0.54
Project Officers	3	3	1.62
Other Officers	10	8	4.32
The Liaison Officers	15	15	8.19
Traditional Rulers	80	60	32.43
Community Liaison Officers	76	61	32.97
	<b>185</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>80%</b>

80% of the total number of respondents had relevant information that was required for the study.

#### **4.4 ANALYSIS OF HYPOTHESIS ONE**

Step I: Statement of hypothesis

H<sub>0</sub>: Micro projects have no significant impact on children and women empowerment.

H<sub>A</sub>: Micro projects have significant impact on children and women empowerment

TABLE 5

CATEGORIES OF RESPONDENTS FOR HYPOTHESIS ONE

	SAG	AG	UN	DA	SDA	TOTAL	%
(SPM) State project manager	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
(PO) project Officers	2	1	-	-	-	3	2
(OO) other Officers	3	2	1	1	1	8	5
(LO) Liaison Officers	4	4	1	3	3	15	10
(TR) Traditional Rulers	10	18	7	17	8	60	41
(CLO) Community Liaison Officer	12	20	2	18	9	61	41
Total	32	45	11	39	21	148	
%	22	30	7	26	14		100

Source: analysis of field survey data.

**TABLE 6**

	5	4	3	2	1		
	SAG	AG	UN	DA	SDA	Total	XI
State Project Manager	5	-	-	-	-	5	1
Project officer	10	4	-	-	-	14	3
Other Officers	15	8	3	2	1	29	6
Liaison Officers	20	16	3	6	3	48	10
Traditional rulers	50	72	21	34	8	185	37
Community Liaison Officers	60	80	6	36	9	191	38
Total	160	180	33	78	21	472	
XI	27	30	6	13	4		16

Source: Analysis of field survey data.

Note:  $b=6$ ,  $r=5$ ,  $n=30$ ,  $\alpha - 0.05$  (level of significance)

Where  $b$  = Number of rows

$r$  = number of columns

Therefore, sum of squares are calculated as follows:

TABLE 7

**ANOVA table for hypothesis one in table 7 below.**

Sources of variance	Sum of squares (SS)	Degree of freedom (DF)	Mean of squares (MS)	F-cal	(Ftab)
Due to	3510	r-1 5-1 =4	$\frac{3510}{4} = 878$		
Due to SSe	3588	(b-1)(x-1) (5x4) =20	$\frac{3588}{20} = 179$	$\frac{878}{179} = 4.90$	F0.05(4.20) = 2.87

**DECISION RULE:** The table value = F0.05 (4.20) =2.87 while Calculated = 4.90.

Since F-ratio is greater than F0.05 (4.20) and significant the alternative hypothesis was accept. It was then concluded that micro projects have significant impact on children/ women empowerment in Abia rural communities.

The standard error =  $\sqrt{S^2/n}$

/here n=number of observations = 6

$S^2$  = Residual or Error mean square = 179

$$\therefore \text{Standard Error of the treatment mean} = \sqrt{179/6} = \pm 5.46$$

#### 4.5 ANALYSIS OF HYPOTHESIS TWO

**TABLE 8**

#### **CATEGORIES OF RESPONDENTS FOR HYPOTHESIS TWO**

	<b>SAG</b>	<b>AG</b>	<b>UN</b>	<b>DA</b>	<b>SDA</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
State Project manager (SPM)	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Project Officers (PO)	2	1	-	-	-	3	2
Other Officers (OO)	4	2	-	1	1	8	5
Liaison Officers	4	4	2	3	2	15	10
Traditional Rulers (TR)	12	15	8	15	10	60	41
Community Liaison Officers (CLO)	15	16	3	18	9	61	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>148</b>	
<b>%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>100</b>

Source: analysis of field survey data.

**TABLE 9**

	<b>SAG</b>	<b>AG</b>	<b>UN</b>	<b>DA</b>	<b>SDA</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>XI</b>
State Project manager	5	-	-	-	-	5	1
Project Officers	10	4	-	-	-	14	3
Other Officers	20	8	-	2	1	31	6
Liaison Officers	20	16	6	6	2	50	10
Traditional Rulers	60	60	24	30	10	184	37
Community Liaison Officers	75	64	9	36	9	193	39
Total	190	152	39	74	22	477	
XI	32	25	7	12	4		15.9

Source: analysis of filed survey date.

Note:  $b=6$ ,  $r = 5$ ,  $n = 30$ ,  $\alpha = 0.05$  (level of significance)

Where  $b$  = number of rows

$r$  = number of columns

Therefore, Sum of Squares are calculated as follows:

**TABLE 10****ANOVA TABLE FOR HYPOTHESIS TWO**

Sources of	Sum of squares	Degree (DF)	Mean of squares	F-cal	Ftab
------------	----------------	-------------	-----------------	-------	------

variance	(SS)	freedom	(MS)		
Due to SStr	3530	4	$\frac{3.530}{4}$		
Dues to error	2810	$(b-1)(r-1)$ $5 \times 4 = 20$	$\frac{3810}{20}$	$\frac{883}{141}$ $= 6.26$	Fo.05 (4.20) $= 2.87$

**DECISION RULE:** The table value = 2.87 while F- calculated = 6.26.

Since F-calculated is greater than F0.05 (4.20) and significant, the alternative hypothesis was accepted and it was concluded that there was a significant relationship between micro projects and improved standard of living in Abia rural communities.

$$\text{The Standard Error} = \sqrt{S^2/n}$$

Where n = number of observations = 6

$$S^2 = \text{Residual or error mean of squares} = 141$$

∴ Standard Error of the treatment mean

$$= \sqrt{141/6} = \pm 4.85$$

## 4.6 ANALYSIS OF HYPOTHESIS THREE

**TABLE 11**

**Categories of Respondents for Hypothesis three  
Micro projects and poverty Reduction.**

	SAG	AG	UN	DA	SDA	Total	%
State project Manager (SPM)	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Project Officers (Pos)	2	1	-	-	-	3	2
Other Officers (OO)	4	2	-	1	1	8	5
Liaison Officers (LO)	4	4	2	3	2	15	10
Traditional rulers (TR)	12	15	8	15	10	60	41
Community Liaison Officers (CLO)	15	16	3	18	9	61	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>100</b>

Source: Analysis of field survey data.

**Weights are now attached to the options to make the data more qualitative.**

**TABLE 12**

	5	4	3	2	1		
	SAG	AG	UN	DA	SDA	Total	X1
State project manager (SPM)	5	-	-	-	-	5	1
Project Officers (Pos)	10	4	-	-	-	14	3
Other Officers (OO)	20	8	-	2	1	31	6
Liaison Officers (Los)	20	16	6	6	2	50	10
Traditional rulers (TR)	60	60	24	30	10	184	37
Community Liaison	75	64	9	36	9	193	39
Total	190	152	39	74	22	477	
X1	32	25	7	12	4		15.9

Source: Analysis of field survey data.

Note:  $b = 6$ ,  $r = 5$ ,  $n = 30$ ,  $\alpha = 0.05$  (Level of significance)

Where  $b$  = number of rows

$r$  = number of columns. Therefore, sum of squares are

Calculated as follows:

TABLE 13

**ANOVA TABLE FOR HYPOTHESIS THREE**

Sources of variance	Sum of squares (SS)	Degree of Freedom (DF)	Mean of squares (MS)	F – cal	F- tab
Due to SStr	3530	$(4-1) = 5-1 = 4$	$\frac{3530}{4} = 883$		
Due to Error	2810	$(b-1)(r-1) = 5 \times 4 = 20$	$\frac{2810}{20} = 141$	$\frac{883}{141} = 6.26$	F0.05 (4.20) = 2.87

**DECISION RULE:** The table value = 2.87 while F- calculated = 6.26. since F- cal is greater than F0.05 (4.20) and significant, the null hypothesis was rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_A$ ) was accepted. Hence, it was concluded that there was significant relationship between micro projects and poverty reduction. This means that the model is adequate and reliable for any analysis drawn from it.

The standard error =  $\sqrt{S^2 / n}$

Where n = number of observations = 6  $S^2$  = Residual or Error mean of squares = 141  $\therefore$  Standard error of the treatment means =  $\sqrt{141/6} = \pm$

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION, SUMMARY, AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.10 DISCUSSION**

This study has tried to prove those hypothesis statements. It is on these hypotheses that the questionnaire based. From the responses of participants to the items in the questionnaire, attempts will be made to accept or reject the hypotheses statements.

#### **HYPOTHESIS ONE**

Micro projects had significant impact on children and women empowerment.

Analysis of this hypothesis could be attempted by finding out the respondents responses as shown in table 4.3 in chapter four above.

Using the ANOVA Table statistical tool and having done the necessary computations, it was observed that F- calculated was

greater than  $F_{\text{tabulated}}$ . The decision rule as stated in step 3 of chapter four is to accept the null ( $H_0$ ) hypothesis if the  $F_{\text{calculated}}$  is lesser than  $F_{\text{tabulated}}$ . However, from the computation in table 4 above in chapter four, the  $F_{\text{calculated}}$  is 4.90 which is greater than the  $F_{\text{tabulated}}$  which at a degree of freedom of 4.20 and 0.05 level of significance is 2.87. Therefore, we accept the alternative hypothesis ( $H_A$ ) and conclude that micro projects have significant impact on children and women empowerment.

## **HYPOTHESIS TWO**

There is no significant relationship between micro projects and improved standard of living.

Analysis of this second hypothesis could be attempted by finding out the respondents responses as shown in table 4.6 in chapter four above.

Out of a total of 148 respondents, 38 strongly agree with the hypothesis while 38,9,37 and 22 respondents agreed, were undecided, disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Using the ANOVA Table statistical tool and having done the necessary computations as shown in table 4.7 in chapter four above, the following observations were made.

The decision rule as stated in step 3 above is to accept the null ( $H_0$ ) hypothesis if the F- value calculated is less than F- value tabulated. However, from the computation above, F- calculated is 6.26 which is greater than F- tabulated and which at a degree of freedom (df) of 4.20 and 0.05 level of significance is 2.87. From this result, therefore, we reject the null ( $H_0$ ) hypothesis and thus conclude that there is a significant relationship between micro projects and improved standard of living.

### **HYPOTHESIS THREE**

There is no significant relationship between micro projects and poverty reduction.

Analysis of this third hypothesis could be attempted by finding out the respondents' response as shown in table 4.8 in chapter four above.

Out of a total of 148 respondents, 38 strongly agreed, 38 agreed, a were undecided, 37 disagreed and 22 strongly disagreed respectively.

Using the ANOVA Table statistical tool and having done the necessary computations as shown in table 4.9 in chapter four above, the following observations were made.

The decision rule as stated in step 3 above is to accept the null ( $H_0$ ) hypothesis if  $F$ -calculated is less than  $F$ -tabulated. However, from the computations above,  $F$ -calculated is 6.26 which at a degree of freedom (df) of 4.20 and 0.05 level of significance is 2.87. From this result, therefore, we reject that the null ( $H_0$ ) hypothesis and thus conclude that there is a significant relationship between micro projects and poverty reduction.

## **5.20 SUMMARY**

The study was carried out with the sole aim of appraising the impact of micro projects programme in Abia State. For this study, questionnaire and individual oral interviews were adopted as instruments of data collection.

1. .

The study has tried to find out that micro projects had no significant impact on children and women empowerment. Furthermore the study also established that there is a positive and significant relationship between micro projects and improved standard of living as well as poverty reduction.

### **5.30 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings collected from the opinions of the participants to the questionnaire, the study therefore makes the following recommendations.

1. The management of European Union and/or other donor agencies should fashion out other measures on how to empower women and children who are more vulnerable in poverty conditions in Abia State.
2. More development and sustainable efforts should be pursued in the provision of infrastructure in Abia State to improve on the living standard of the poor rural communities thereby reducing the menace of poverty and its attendant risks.

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## APPENDIX 1

### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

Dept of project Mgt Technology

Federal University Technology

Owerri

Dear Respondent,

I am carrying a research on micro projects programme in Abia State – MPP6 as a case study. Your opinion is one of these I consider very authoritative if I am to arrive at valid conclusion in respect of this study. You are thereby requested to please make your contribution toward the accomplishment of this study by responding to the items on this questionnaire to the best of your knowledge. Information supplied by you will be treated most confidentially.

Thanks for your kind co-operation.

**JIMONU U.M**

**SECTION A**

Please, Check (v) the appropriate option and for complete where necessary.

1. Sex: (a) Male ----- (b) Female -----
2. Age (a) 15 – 25yrs (b) 26 – 35yrs (c) 36 – 60yrs.
3. Marital Status: (a) Married ----- (b) Single -----
4. Religion (a) Christianity ----- (b) Moslem -----(C)  
Traditional -----
5. Department:
6. Designation:
7. Name of Organization:

## SECTION B

You are requested to tick (v) the most appropriate answer to the following questions

A. Micro projects have empowered children and women in various communities in Abia State.

- (a) Strongly Agree (b) Agree (c) Undecided (d) Disagree  
(e) Strongly disagree.

B. Micro projects have improved the living standard of the people of Abia State

- (a) Strongly agree (b) Agree (c) Undecided (d) Disagree  
(e) Strongly Disagree.

C. Micro projects have reduced the underlying causes of poverty in Abia State.

- (a) Strongly Agree (b) Agree (c) Undecided (d) Disagree  
(e) Strongly Disagree.

Note: 5 – Strongly Agree

4 - Agree

3 - Undecided

4 - Disagree

1 - Strongly Disagree



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