ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SAPELE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

BY

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A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Declaration

I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the work in this thesis entitled Assessment of Community Participation in Rural Development Projects in Sapele Local Government Area, Delta State, Nigeria has been carried out by me in the Department of Geography, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. I am the sole author of this thesis. Thus, the work is original and is a result of my own research. All the sources used have been duly acknowledged in the text and list of references provided. No part of this thesis has been previously presented for another degree or diploma at this or any other institution.

_____ _____

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Certification

This thesis entitled "Assessment of Community Participation in Rural Development Projects in Sapele Local Government Area, Delta, Nigeria'' has been carried out by Nwabuzor Evelyn Ngozi and meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Masters of Science of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents, Mr and Mrs A.C. Nwabuzor and my siblings namely, Frank, Harrison, Raphael and Henry Nwabuzor who toiled for my education and sacrificed so much to ensure I attained a Master of Science degree in my life. I thank all of you.

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ABSTRACT

The rural poor are really non-beneficiaries of the enormous development efforts of the past three decades. This study is aimed at assessing community participation in rural development projects in Sapele LGA, Delta state. Data were generated from both primary and secondary sources. The study adopted a multi-stage sampling technique of which first, among the five districts, four were purposively selected while second stage, the communities in each district were arranged alphabetically and every third community systematically selected. The study made use of 381 samples which were proportionately distributed according to population size among the selected four districts. The study made use of descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The descriptive method involved the use of mean, percentages and frequency distribution for the summarization of the data. The Pearson Chi square analytical technique adopted to test level of significant relationship that exist between community participation and project planning process and implementation or result has a p-value of 0.0001 which shows a significant relationship. The findings also revealed that 60% of the respondents agreed that community participation is an effective tool for rural development projects. The study also established that community participation is an important element for speedy socioeconomic advancement of the rural communities. It is recommended therefore that beneficiaries of any rural development project should be mobilized and sensitized to benefit of community participation in Sapele LGA and rural projects generally, selflessness and service to humanity should be fostered by traditional authorities and NGO focusing on women should be deliberately organized to channel women empowerment and participation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Rural development from a general point of view is the process of improving the quality of life and economic wellbeing of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas (Moseley, 2003) which are also known as rural areas. However, despite strategies put in place in form of projects provided for rural people, many do not benefit because of their non-involvement in the project planning process and implementation hence, the emphasis on community participation in rural development project.

Rural development is more realistic when people participate in the process of infrastructure provision because at the heart of rural development projects are infrastructures and for the overall goals and objectives to be met, the principle for effective community participation must be adapted (Idachaba and Bankole, 2006).

Community participation as a development approach for rural socioeconomic development is an alternative to the top – down approach which has failed to yield the desired result because rural dwellers who are target beneficiaries were not carried along initially (Bankole, 2007). The term has been conceptualized in different ways in the literature as either public, people or citizen participation, however they all have the same focus, which is rural development (Oakley, 1991 and Afolayan, 2008). Participation is all about inclusiveness, social justice and common good which shows that rural development is community based when people in communities determine their needs and aspiration. This is because it is realized that by so doing large numbers of marginalized rural people can be ‘‘reached’’ effectively by the government and other types of developmental projects supported by international agencies like Food and Agricultural Organization and World Health Organization (WHO and FAO, 1991).

The improvement in living standard of people through popular participation is thus central to the concept of rural development (Adedayo, Taiwo and Medupin, 1991). Therefore, community participation serves as pivot for whatever successful process rural development is trying to achieve in rural communities.

Rural infrastructures are indeed the pivot of rural development because they increase rural productivity and income, improve rural living conditions and facilitate spatial integration of rural settlements into national development landscape (Bankole, 2006). Rural development is achieved through tangible projects and resource distribution.

Sapele local government area is an oil rich area yet cassava farming is a major livelihood activity for rural dwellers. Oil and gas alone have generated 40% of Nigeria's national GDP over recent decades but (Adesope, Agumagu and Chiefson, 2000) observed that the spate of youth disturbances is particularly serious in the oil rich region, perhaps because of the low level of rural development leading to illiteracy and inaccessibility to minimum basic facilities and services.

Improving rural development projects is one of the greatest challenges facing many rural dwellers at present. Although Sapele local government council have already executed and still have some on-going projects as strategies for rural development, the pattern and level of community participation in such projects are yet to be appreciable. Nhlakanipho (2010) also opined that the rural poor have not really participated in sharing the benefits from the enormous development efforts of the last three decades in proportion to their needs.

Unless the rural communities are given opportunities to participate in rural development interventions designed to improve their condition of living, the level of spatial inequalities among regions will tend to increase. It therefore becomes of research interest to analyse the processes involved in provision of rural projects in Sapele local government area, perhaps absence of community participation may be a factor in the under achievement of the desired objectives and this calls for the present study.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Rural development projects placed so much emphasis on participation of the communities or beneficiaries because of multiple merits of participatory approach hence some studies have been conducted on the subject. Olisa and Obiukwu (1992) saw community participation as an important element to speedy socio – economic transformation of rural areas therefore it cannot be over looked.

Afolayan (2008) examined community participation in infrastructure provision using medium sized communities in Kwara State. The study revealed that a high level of community participation in projects such as schools, electricity, roads, water, market/stalls, health facilities and town halls influenced the functional structure in medium sized communities. The United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP) Niger Delta report (2006) also referred to community participation as the process that unites the efforts of the people themselves with those of the government authorities.

Dzinavatonga (2008) investigated community participation and project sustainability in rural Zimbabwe using Sangwe communal land in Chiredzi as a case study. The author employed purposive sampling technique for interviews with key informants in the community and random sampling in selection of communities in the wards for the field survey. The author's findings revealed that there is a need for the government and non – governmental organization (NGOs) to facilitate the creation of a community based network programme that ensures the participation of the rural communities in project planning and implementation. However, facilitation does not mean the facilitators dictate to the communities what to do but provide the necessary conducive environment for the community to institute this community-based network programme. This is because it is through such network the rural communities participate actively in the realization of sustainable projects in Sangwe.

Ofuoku (2011) assessed the effect of community participation on sustainability of rural water projects in Delta Central Agricultural Zone of Delta State. Purposive sampling was used in selecting rural communities based on the presence of rural water projects while systematic sampling was used in selecting every fourth house to pick respondents. Ofuoku (2011) found out that where the water projects were funded by respective communities and other agencies, effective community participation was higher compared to those solely funded by governments.

Ogunleye and Oladeinde (2013) examined the role of community self – help projects in rural development of Kwara State using Irepodun LGA. Data gathered were analysed using Chi – square and correlation analyses. The study indicated that for an equitable distribution of self-help projects provided by the federal government as an essential tool for balanced socio - economic development of rural areas especially in Nigeria, rural dwellers' participation should be the focus.

What inspired this study is that the presence of rural development project is not strongly felt in most rural communities, Sapele local government area inclusive. This has resulted in the inaccessibility of most rural dwellers to some facilities and services. Also, most basic facilities are urban concentrated and rural dwellers denied (Oyebanji, 2000). For instance, out of thirty - five health facilities managed by the state Hospital Board in Delta state, only one is in Sapele urban centre and none in any of the rural community. More worrisome is that poverty has made lot of rural dwellers not to have means to access long distance services in the outskirt of the rural communities because most projects are sited in majorly urban centres (For example communities in Abraka and Asaba; Nigeria).

Various Nigerian government embarked on numerous developmental projects through agencies like Petroleum Trust fund (PTF), Oil mineral producing areas development commission (OMPADEC) etc. (McNeil 1993). The author pointed out that an average of one

third to over half of public investment was allocated to infrastructure sectors in developing countries.

Rural development projects have been embarked upon by many communities based on self – help informed by the realization that no government can meet all the needs of all the rural communities (Adedayo, 2000). Nonetheless, the government should make provision of these projects because the fact remains that there can be no meaningful rural development without the effective harnessing of the potentialities of the rural communities. Besides, numerous government policy directives at ensuring availability and accessibility of these services to all administrative units in the country have seemingly not yielded expected results in the study area.

Although community participation is at the centre of rural development and should be one of the foremost pre-requisites in development process both from procedural and philosophical perspectives, none of these studies (Olisa and Obiukwu, 1992; McNeil, 1993; Olawepo, 1997; Adesope et al, 2000; Adedayo, 2000; Oyebanji, 2000; Ofuoku, 2011; Ogunleye and Oladehinde, 2013) have focused on rural communities in Sapele local government area. In view of the statement of research problem, the following questions are posed: -

i. What types of socio – economic development projects are embarked upon by the communities in the study area?

ii. What is the contribution of the community to rural projects in the study area?

iii. What is the level of community participation in rural projects?

iv. How are the rural community projects maintained in the study area?

v. What are the constraints to community participation in rural socio-economic development projects?

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to assess community participation in rural development projects in Sapele LGA, Delta State. However, the specific objectives of the study are to:

i. characterize the types of community development projects in the study area.

ii. identify the forms of participation of the rural community in the development projects?

iii. examine how the community projects are being sustained/maintained in the study area

iv. assess level of community participation in socio – economic development projects.

iv. examine the constraints to community participation in rural development projects in the study area.

1.4 Null Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between community participation and projects planning process and implementation in the study area.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The spatial scope of this study centred on the assessment of community participation in rural development projects in Sapele local government area, Delta State. The rural communities include Amukpe, IbadaAmukpe, Okuovwori, Degbrode, Irhiabome, Ogiedi, Okuogbara, Ugbimidaka, Okuovu 1 and Obotie. The selection of communities is based on the alphabetical arrangement of Amukpe, Elume, Okokporo and Ugborhen districts; hence, every third (3^{rd}) settlement in each district was systematically selected for the study. The study focuses on community participation in socio-economic development projects since the creation of Sapele local government area in 1989. The extent of the work includes several

community projects in the study area, challenges encountered by community members, levels and forms of participation and effect of community participation on utilization of the projects.

Rural development projects included in this study are educational infrastructures, health services, markets and electricity projects. The fieldwork and secondary data used in the study span between the creation of Sapele local government area in 1989 to date.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Community participation is essential for rural development project of Nigeria and the developing countries in general because the idea is to improve the rural human condition. Community participation has also been perceived in various sectors of the economy to mean improvement in the quality of life of the rural communities which can be further classified as socioeconomic development which include education, health, water, electricity etc. (Obateru, 2003).

This study is necessary because findings will assist Sapele local government council, traditional authorities and other development agencies such as community workers to consider different approaches of involving rural dwellers in their rural development projects. Various stakeholders would identify the role which they might play at the beginning of the development process to prevent obstacles that lead to poor community participation. Community members would also contribute by suggesting strategies which the community leaders can use to regain and maintain the sustainability of the community.

However, since there is a renewed emphasis on rural areas lately, the reason for this study on community participation is unconnected with the important role rural communities play in rural projects because former framework adopted by some previous administrations have failed to achieve many of its aims due to the bureaucratic top-down approach (McCommon, 1993).The basic assumption is that development should trickle down from the growth centre (core)to periphery but failure in achieving this goal precipitated a new

framework that appreciates rural people as major stakeholder in their own development (Stohr and Taylor, 1981).This is often referred to as ‘participatory’, ‘local democracy’ or ‘bottom-up’ approach (Rafiu, 2007). The approach allows rural dwellers express their views and help define development course for the rural area in line with their expectations and plans. The bone of contention here is that development should commence from below (bottom) that is grass–root or rural areas as against the previous from above (Adefila, 2012).

The study Assessment of Community Participation in Rural Development Projects in Sapele local government area is also worthwhile because it will help identify missing link in rural development since it is realised that one influence of the rural development through participation is that it encourages outsiders to learn gradually from the rural people who are always happy to be involved in planning their development (Olawepo, 1997). He further noted that rural projects associated with rural area where participatory development is adopted should be encouraged because rather than development impetus originating from ‘top to down, the reversal of process is the case where development facet is suggested and undertaken by the communities in relation to their felt needs.

It is further hoped that the findings of this study serve as a frame of reference for the development programmes which are taking place in rural areas, be helpful to government, policy makers, development agencies in identifying the necessity of community participation in their project cycle, help in the modification and re – strategizing on how participation approach could be used in problem solving efforts towards improvement of the quality of rural life. The study will form a database for future studies and serve as important reference materials for planners, multilateral organizations, non - governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations and others interested in rural development particularly in Sapele, Delta state and the Niger Delta as a whole.

CHAPTER TWO

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter dealt with the concepts of participation, community development and rural development as well as the theoretical framework that informed this study. It also synthesizes literature that was reviewed by the researcher about participation and the subject community participation in rural development projects in Sapele LGA.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

2.2.1 Community Development

The concept of community development is viewed as an approach to community participation in rural development. To colonial administrators, community development is a means of improving rural welfare, training people in rural administration and extending government control through rural self-help activities (McCommon, 1993). The concept focuses on the method whereby the desired change in the strategy of rural development, could be brought about in the rural communities (Theron, 2005).

Community development is a process whereby rural dwellers are enabled to mobilise, manage forces and resources in rural communities by creating opportunities for democratic decision making, active participation and cooperation, self-help, development of leadership and utilisation of educational opportunities to promote the intrinsic potential and forces in the community as a whole (Roux, 1995).For community development to occur, people in a community must believe that working together can make a difference and organise to address their shared needs collectively (Flora, Spears and Swanson, 1992).

Community development often is associated with terms such as community capacity building, community vitality or empowerment. The concept also could be regarded as community education in some circles or community organisation in others. These diverse

terms narrow down to Community Participation i.e. active involvement of people at the rural community level to either oppose or support a rural development programme or project.

Community development is regarded as a method, a programme and a movement. The approach is aimed at enabling and encouraging communities to become involved with the necessary support from the private and government sectors, in improving and managing their own living conditions in all areas of development (Lombard, 2005). Hence, one of the cornerstones to democracy should be participatory decision making process because it could be of great benefit to those in government (Kumar, 2002 and Tshabalala, 2006). Community development cannot take place if there is no participation by the community because the role and concept remains a main indicator for community development and rural development.

2.2.2 Rural Development

Development experts and policy makers have engaged in many debates about this development dilemma questioning why abundant natural resources have so little impact on the quality of life of the rural people. This has also led to a number of questions on why community participation in rural development projects.

Development generally connotes change, progressing, advancement, improvement and rural development is a concept of this broader term. Hunter (1964) was among the earliest authors to use the term ‘rural development’. The writer considered this as the "starting point of development". Rural development focuses on reducing inequality and improvement of the quality of life of the rural people. Simply put, it is transformation.

Obinne in Ogidefa (2010) perceived rural development to involve creating and widening opportunities for rural dwellers to realize their full potential through sharing in decision and action which affect their lives while Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) states that rural development is used to refer to schemes aimed at improving the countryside or peripheral areas, with a characteristic agrarian population.

Rural development encompasses all aspects of human life in the rural area and deals with range of activities involving the mobilisation of resources in order to empower the people to break away from all structural disabilities that prevent them from enjoying better living conditions. It involves the development of the poorest sector of society, the sick, depressed, unemployed, less-educated, misinformed, and the disadvantaged (Katar, 1999 cited Robert, 1983).

It can be described as a work in progress, a process of transformation, a moving target and a continuing desire to be better. However, rural dwellers can only develop themselves by participating in rural development project planning process and implementation which affect their well-being (Katar, 1999 cited Robert, 1983).

One of the primary tasks of all governments is to improve the welfare of those in rural areas like Sapele LGA which in many countries including Nigeria are the majority of the population. The concept of rural development is the strategy that has been designed to embrace this need (Rivera, 1980).

2.2.3 Community Participation

Community participation originated about 40 years ago from the community development movement of the late colonial era in parts of Africa and Asia (Asian Development Bank, 2000). As a concept, participation was formulated in the 1970s in response to the growing awareness that approaches then employed for rural development, such as integrated rural development did not often lead to significant rural development because of little involvement of the rural dwellers in development projects undergoing. It is also important to note that these rural dwellers emphasized on are men and women from all walks of life too. Though they are classified as the minorities that their livelihood activities include farming, pastoral activity, artisanal employment, small business people, and the marginalized (Blair, 2000).

Participation is a process between rural dwellers and development partners which in most cases are government agencies, of which rural dwellers participate in analysing current situation, plan, implement and evaluate development activities (FAO, 1998).The World Bank (2004) definition states that it as a process through which stakeholder's influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affects them while Reid (2000) saw the concept as one key ingredient for an empowered community.

Participation can only occur when a community organizes itself and takes responsibility for managing its problems. In taking this responsibility, it means identifying the problems, developing actions, putting them into place and following through (Cheetham, 2002). Community participation in rural development projects is the main factor that can effect on processes of community development.

Without community participation, community development cannot be achieved. The role of community participation therefore has great value and this is endorsed in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) which states that development should be people driven (African National Congress, 1994). In this study, people's participation in community development activities is a process by which individuals are involved in initiating, deciding, planning, implementing and managing of rural development interventions provided. It is a process of social development in which people, as subject in their own environment, seek out ways to meet their collective needs, expectation and overcome their common problems.

The concept of community participation is one of the most important subject matters discussed in various disciplines that have and need human input in the development process such as in community planning (Moser, 1989), psychology (Chavis and Wandersman, 1990), health (Rifkin, 1985; Oakley, 1991), social policy (Croft and Beresford, 1992), community development and community work (Lackery and Dershem, 1992; Abbott, 1995) and tourism development (Aref, 2009).

Community participation is essential for the rural development in Sapele LGA because the approach is a form of mobilisation to achieve specific and generally project related goals (Abbot, 1991). Overall, participation in this literature has been used to describe many kinds of activities and processes carried out. Community participation therefore is viewed as a basis for project success.

Having examined community development, rural development and community participation, it is evident that the success of rural development projects is tied to these three because these are concepts that can embrace the need of rural dwellers in the rural communities.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The push for decentralisation has been the involvement of rural dwellers in development process. The underlying assumption is that placing more power and resource at the bottom (rural people) will enhance the development of rural communities because the rural dwellers have knowledge of basic amenities lacking (Bahl, 1995 and Bergh, 2004).

Their preferences are believed to give a more adequate picture or perception of their needs than relying on perception of the partnering agencies. It is also normatively assumed that satisfaction of basic rural needs should take precedence over all other development thought and initiatives (Martinussen, 1995). Again, if government officials are more accountable, rural dwellers will be willing to participate in planning and development process (Bahl, 1995 and Bergh, 2004).

This type of relationship between communities and development agencies has great impact because it considers the rural dwellers specific request. In this situation, the rural dwellers are more committed since their preferences are respected. Besides, the support from

these kind of development agencies has less bureaucratic procedure in comparison to those found in the top – down or government administrative system.

2.3.1 Approaches of the Paradigm Shift

The two approaches of the paradigm shift which are termed top – down and bottom – up are reflections of development perspectives at different times and each has its own characteristic (Rafiu, 2007) as regards to community participation in rural development projects.

2.3.2 Top – Down Approach is an approach that just as the name implies sees actual implementation of development interventions from the point of view of the authoritative decision. They feel that this authoritative decision should be the starting point for any form of participation in rural development intervention in the rural communities. These 'main actors' at the detriment of others are seen as the most relevant to producing desired effect (Matland, 1995). This approach makes the authoritative decision makers feel they are responsible to formulate the kind of statute that suits the existing problem in the rural community.

However, they are criticized because of their bureaucratic decision making and policy implementation aspect that are devoid of rural dwellers input. It also treats other project implementation process as if there is none other opinion concerning rural development solution.

2.3.3 Bottom – Up Approach is an approach put forward by Stohr and Taylor (1991) in rigorous search for solving rural problems of neglect, under – privileged and deprivation. It seeks to remove draw – backs of centre - down which concerns controlling the back wash effects of localization of economic growth and development (Adefila, 2012). In contrast to top – down, they acknowledge fact that implementation think about the rural development intervention to be provided and that rural dwellers also have a choice of forming their own opinion about the idea.

They can also receive and change any given programs in order that suits them, improve them or adapt them better to real circumstances. They not only recognise this behaviour but state that it is even positive to successful rural development project as workers connected with the actual situation have better judgement than the policy maker who do not have same information as they do. As Palumbo, Maynard and Wright (1984) puts it, 'if rural dwellers implementers are not given the freedom to adapt programs to rural community's conditions, it is likely to fail'.

Community participation needs moderate amount of autonomy to be able to discharge its responsibilities effectively because theoretically based, when participation is viewed against a framework that adopts all forms of participation from therapy of citizen, through consultation to control of which organization, planning background includes social theories and ideologies in the light of community members, a rural development will be achieved (Wellington, 2010).

In Sapele LGA, Delta state, Nigeria, it is truism that the gap between rural communities and partnering government agencies is immeasurable. The government officials are at one extreme and the rural dwellers at the other. The reason for this is due to facts that rural dwellers do not elect the government officials from the agencies, therefore their interest are not well represented. Instead, a representation of the government officials and their godfathers who selected them into the office is what is seen or played out.

Had it been that there was mutual collaboration between government agencies in Sapele LGA and rural communities, basic needs of the people will be adequately and properly articulated, developed and implemented to the benefit of the people. This is the basic needs theoretical approach meaning the provision of the people's minimum requirements. These needs can be wholly or partially achieved through infrastructures and amenities like water, health, shelter, food, etc.

Several theorists, including Abraham Maslow, Frederick Herzberg, David McCelland and Clayton Alderfer provided theories to help explain further that basic human needs stems from the understanding that all motivation comes from an individual's desire to fulfil or achieve a need (McClelland, 1965; Alderfer & Associates, 2010).Redmond (2010) also sees the basic human needs as the most important and broadest.

These basic human needs theory stipulates what rural dwellers needs are. The emphasis is on rural development from the rural dwellers perspective and their mental, physical and social well – being, rather than looking at economic growth in terms of GNP (Iyoha, 1999).

2.4 Literature Review

2.4.1 Philosophy of Community Participation.

Since Nigeria's independence in 1960, improvement in life of people living in rural communities has been a challenge and over 100,000 identified rural communities are largely characterized by subsistence economies with very low rates of economic growth (Nigeria 1986). The rural dwellers have low purchasing power and standard of living and examples of such are evidenced in the high level of backwardness in rural areas. Even the decision of the Babangida administration in 1992 to allocate 20% of federally collected revenue to local government planning and management did not bring about much improvement because the funds were left in the hands of the government alone.

The process of community participation in rural development projects enables a scheme with rural dwellers' support and with their active involvement; they are more likely to care about the end result. A shift in this understanding was what marked the strong passion for the participation approaches (Rahman, 1993; De Beer & Swanepoel, 1998; Estralla, 2000; Chambers, 2007; Green, 2007).

Also, the World Bank (1996) provides a basis for community participation in rural development projects as the following:

i. Rural people have a great amount of experience and insight about the community into what works and what does not and why.

ii. The involvement of the rural dwellers in the planning of projects can increase their level of commitment to the project.

iii. The involvement of rural dwellers can help develop technical and managerial skills and thereby increase opportunities for employment.

iv. The involvement of rural dwellers helps increase resources available for the programme.

v. The involvement of rural dwellers in a way brings about social learning for both planners and beneficiaries in the sense that the 'social learning' means development of partnership between the professionals and the rural communities, in which, each group learn from each other (World Bank, 1996).

Udoye (1992) indicated that participation should be both an object (what) and a process (how). As an object, it should be an induced change for the achievement of community improvement. As a process, it should be a well-articulated programme and effort to assist individuals to acquire attitudes, skills and concepts required for their democratic participation in the effective solution of a wide range of community improvement problems as possible, in order of priority determined by their increasing level of competence.

Community participation in rural development projects cannot be over emphasized in development discourse because it will enable rural people take part in planning and policy making, allocation and distribution of resources and management of services (Lombard, 1992). Moreover, it is believed that development is about advancement, enrichment and improvement of the lives of people (rural dwellers) in the rural community (Edwards, 1993). Todaro and Smith (2006) also agrees with Edwards that if a development results in robust

economic growth without improvement or change in the quality of life of the people (rural dwellers), something is wrong.

Theron (2005) viewed community participation as empowering people by developing their skills and abilities so that they can negotiate with the rural development system and make their own decisions in terms of their development needs and priorities. Reid (2000) saw the concept as one key ingredient for an empowered community. Ijere (1990) regarded the approach as the Bottom-top approach that will make rural dwellers prime movers of their own destiny, taking into cognizance economic and social growth.

The objectives include empowerment, building beneficiary capacity, increasing project effectiveness, improving project efficiency, and project cost sharing. The framework also identified levels of participation as information sharing, consultation, decision making and initiating action (Thwala, 2001). A proper understanding of participation can be better achieved when it is viewed against a theoretical framework based on decision making.

Participation occurs when a community organizes itself and takes responsibility for managing its problems. In taking this responsibility, it means identifying the problems, developing actions, putting them into place and following through (Cheetham, 2002). This is endorsed in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) which states that development should be people driven (African National Congress, 1994).

For community participation to realize its full potentials, some principles which have to be met are autonomy of citizens' initiation, involvement, working together, monitoring and evaluation among others (Centra and Mc Donald, 1997). Another document by Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Practice Program Office Atlanta, (1997) reveals that principle of community participation encompasses establishing relationship with the people, recognition of the cultural diversity of the people, identifying the interest of rural dwellers and mobilizing community assets to achieving it, engaging and organization of change agents to ensure flexibility and long term commitment.

The key for many developers therefore is that meaningful participation can result in speedier decision making and a more sustainable rural development, hence, meaningful community participation results in a development process that can tap into rural knowledge and additional resources, help to strengthen the community in which it is located, can shape designs to address rural issues, result in more appropriate solutions that are responsive to the environment and which satisfy rural demand. The broader concept of participation is central to the idea of the rural dweller and understood as someone with rights, aspiration and responsibilities in relation to other community members (UK Department for International Development, DFID 2010).

2.4.2 Basic Principles of Community Participation

The principles of community participation encompass establishing relationship with the people, recognition of the cultural diversity of the people, identifying the interest of rural dwellers and mobilizing community assets to achieving it, engaging organization and change agents to ensure flexibility and long – term commitment.

Falkirk council Scotland, (a unitary authority that provides all local government services for Falkirk council area in Scotland) proposed that the principles of community participation should include: Purpose, Involvement, working together, monitoring, evaluation and other indicators.

vi. Purpose: This is being clear about goals for the community to be engaged in.

vii. Involvement: This is making consultation open to all community members and also breaking barriers for some groups who may want to get involved but finding it difficult to respond e.g. the disabled, illiterates etc.

viii. Working together: This is treating all participants with respect which may require group representation showing how views in the community can be collected.

ix. Feedback: This is giving update of how community member's view made a difference.

x. Monitoring and Evaluation: This is checking from time to time to ensure that approach is making a difference.

xi. Method: There should be a timescale method for notifying community members of consultative meeting or gathering due to take place to ensure effective participation.

xii. Information: This is information sharing using clear and accessible language.

This statement was prepared to meet the terms of Part 2 Section 18 (4) (a) (i) and Section 19 (4) of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006 (Falkirk Development Plan Scheme Scotland, March 2013).

Bhagyalakshmi (2004) states that without information sharing, no development can take firm root because new opportunities can be provided when all the information needs of the community can be met to stimulate their awareness and improve their capabilities. Meanwhile World Bank (1996) indicates that reaching the poor requires working with them to learn about their needs, understanding how development decisions are made in their communities and identifying institutions and mechanisms that acquire opportunities and resources. In short, a community that gives up the ability to make its own decisions loses "some essential humanity" (Nekwaya, 2007).

That is why Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) assert that community involvement in rural development projects facilitates the reversal of the inequalities that have been developed under colonialism (and perhaps immediate post-colonialism) by helping people to engage in the process of identifying problems and acting on them. Community participation does not only take account of rural dwellers wishes but also makes good use of the rural dwellers contributions.

There is no doubt therefore that meaningful participation is about achieving the power to influence the decisions that affect rural dwellers livelihood. Brett (2002) also notes that participation guarantees that collective organizations serve rural needs and are based upon rural skills and compatible with rural cultures and thus help to eliminate foreign domination

and dependency from the development process. The author claims that rural officials through cooperation increase rural people's productivity, access to capital and give them better access to administration.

The success of any rural development project depends on the extent to which rural dwellers can be motivated. This again depends on how much their interest, their felt needs are taken into account and to what extent they are involved in the planning and decision-making process. This is why conclusion can be drawn on the fact that meaningful participation of the rural dwellers is concerned with direct access to the resources necessary for development, and some active involvement and influence in the decision affecting those resources (Burkey, 2000).

2.4.3 Modes and Levels of Community Participation

It is important that the modes of community participation in rural development process is known (Theron, 2005) because this is to ensure authentic community participation. The approaches become more relevant when the impact of participation is assessed in relation to a programme or rural development project, and the extent of participation becomes a central feature in this regard (Fokane, 2008).

Understanding the modes of participation is of great importance because these overlap with the levels of community participation and are necessary for community participation. Theron (2005) highlights these modes as follows:

- Anti-participatory mode - community participation is considered as a voluntary contribution by the community to a project, which will lead to development, but the public is not expected to take part in shaping the project content and outcomes.
- Manipulation mode - community participation includes community involvement in decision making processes, implementing projects, sharing in the benefits and involvement in efforts to evaluate such programmes.

- ❖ Incremental mode - community participation is concerned with organised efforts to increase control over resources and regulating institutions in given social situations for groups or movements excluded from such control and
- ❖ Authentic public participation mode - community participation is an active process by which the community influence the direction and execution of projects with the view to enhancing their well-being in terms of income, personal growth, self-reliance or other values which they cherish.

Development agencies and authors have distinguished different levels of participation and their typology has been positioned on a seven step ladder. This could be useful in analysing the extent of participation in rural development projects (Wilcox, 1994; Pretty et al., 1995; Kumar, 2002; Bretty, 2003).

One level on the continuum is not necessarily better than any other as different levels are appropriate at different times and contexts to meet the expectations and interests of different stakeholders (Wilcox, 1994). Oakley (1991) cites an analysis of a Danish funded rural water supply project in Tanzania, where participation had ranged from non-participation and manipulation over information and consultation to some degree of partnership and delegation of power.

Bretty (2003) conceptualises these levels in terms of 'weak and strong participation'. Accordingly, participation is termed 'weak' when "informing and consulting" is the level involved while strong participation means "partnership and control". The author argues that, in practice, agencies managing complex projects find it hard to move from the 'weak end' of the continuum and tend to assume that, intended beneficiaries will be consulted during the project design to take into account their felt needs and aspirations.

Skinners (1995) view when what individuals and communities were actually involved in within participative partnership, as a tool to categorize participation was looked at states that, for an effective participative structure, roles and responsibilities will be clear and

transparent. Skinner therefore suggests that rural communities adopt five roles with which rural dwellers will act if fully participating within a regeneration of projects or programmes. They include:

1. As beneficiaries of the project and users of services.
2. As consultees and representatives of rural opinions.
3. As the source of general community activity.
4. As the source for the delivery of regeneration projects
5. As potential long term partners in regeneration.

Through analysis of exchange of power and observation of these five roles, it is possible to make an assessment of level of community participation within any given project. Nekwaya (2007) pointed out that the best way to effective community participation is dependent on selecting and combination of appropriate approaches because this would help assess whether the community authorities actually allowed rural dwellers participate and make their own decisions.

2.5 Factors Influencing Community Participation

Rahman (1993) observes that participation has often been generated spontaneously, rural development in this instance deals with the range of activities involving the mobilisation of resources (human and material) in order to empower people to break away from all structural disabilities that prevent them from enjoying better living conditions (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008). The rural poor tend to define their plight in terms of lack of basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health care and education; powerlessness and inability to influence one's condition; social exclusion; poor governance; low community status and lack of awareness (Kiyaga-Nsubuga, 2004). (Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) outline the number of challenges facing community participation in rural development projects as follows:

2.5.1 Financial Incapacitation

In order for rural communities to play active role in rural development projects, it is necessary for rural dwellers to have access to resources. The weak financial position of rural people not only reduces their capacity to participate in rural development projects, but also affect the whole process of rural development (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008).

Inadequate resources negatively impact a rural community's ability to effectively influence and develop policy compared to other players in the policy making process. This creates an inequality whereby community that may be affected do not have the same opportunity to participate in and influence the process.

2.5.2 Lack of Awareness and Enlightenment

Dukeshire and Thurlow (2002) have indicated that the rural dwellers feel that there is a lack of access to information about government programmes and services. There is a desire to learn about and access information about government programmes and services that is understandable, concise and timely.

On the absence of rural representation in the decision-making process, Dukeshire and Thurlow (2002) asserts that living in a rural community which is like a democratic society means elected representatives are to speak on behalf of the people at the government level. Specific communities and groups of community members must also be considered in the rural policy-making process.

2.5.3 `Rural Socio-economic Structure

The improvement of the conditions of rural dwellers in various rural communities has been a critical challenge of socio-economic planning for development (Adedayo, 2000). This pathetic socio-economic position obstructs them from meaningful participation. Bear in mind that the rural population is associated with low levels of education, high illiteracy rates, poor infrastructure and communication means obstructing their civic competence (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008).

2.5.4 Political patronage

There has been general lack of political commitment on the side of the central government towards effective devolution of powers, which is evident in the continued influence and interference in the functioning of local government units (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008). These may vary in different forms and degrees from a decentralized, laissez-faire and free enterprise system to a fully centralized, strongly planned and controlled one. They may vary furthermore in regard to their degree of stability.

2.5.5 Constraints to Community Participation

Community participation takes place in a socio-political context (Kumar, 2002). As a result, implementing community participation in rural development project is not an easy exercise because the form which participation takes is influenced by the overall circumstances and the unique social context in which action is being taken (Nekwaya, 2005).

Nampila (2005) observes that community participation may not guarantee success. This occurs when community participation does not have clear goals and objectives and it is approached in an ad hoc and unsystematic manner. Community participation can actually be time-consuming.

Kumar (2000) notes that community participation can lead to delay and slow progress at initial stages of field work, thereby causing delay in the achievement of the physical, as well as financial targets. However, it should be remembered that obstacles to community participation are directly related to one's perspective of community participation (Oakley and Marsden, 1991).

Kok and Gelderbloem (1994) state that community participation can bring latent conflicts to the surface and it can delay project start-up, while increasing the demands on project personnel and managers. Gama (2000) and Hussein (2003) point out that socio-economic factor such as lack of effective civic education, illiteracy and poverty, which culminate in a tendency towards apathy, hamper community participation in both

development and political processes. Community members that are illiterate and not learned may be marginalised through professional and technical communication during the community participation process (Theron, 2002).

The interface between politicians and civil servants has also exhibited conflicts of roles and interest, factionalism, confrontation, intimidation and power struggles (Makaca, 1998 in Kakumba&Nsingo, 2008). Nekwaya (2007) also points out that stakeholders may use community participation as a platform to further their own agendas or secret motives.

It is not clear what actually should constitute a "good" decision when it comes to community participation. This can be problematic because findings would be interpreted wrongly; community participation slowing down the planning and implementation of a project and rural authorities would become impatient. This could also prompt them to ignore the processes underlying community participation.

2.5.6 Consequences of Community Participation

An example of consequences of planning without the people as documented by Mr Mashayamombe in the Herald, a document of FAO Corporate Document Repository on Participatory Rural Communication Appraisal of Harare on Saturday 22nd July, 1995 states that Guruve villagers in Nyangavi and Mupfurutsa rural communities resisted the construction of a $250 million German-funded irrigation scheme. The interviewer said villagers refused to entertain any negotiations on project, barred Agritex officers (officials of agency) from entering their territory and threatened to beat up anyone who visits their area in connection with the project. The reason for the action being that after a survey on how best project could be implemented had been completed; it was observed that project had been imposed on the rural community without carrying out a consultation with the rural dwellers (FAO, 1995).

The Green Revolution, a crash programme launched in 1980 by Alhaji Shehu Shagari's Administration that was aimed at boasting food production in a bid to provide food to every Nigerian had objectives that include:

i. Making the country self-sufficient in food production within 5 years.

ii. Returning the country to its pre-eminent crop production stage within 7 years. Unfortunately, this failed because the same government that instituted Green Revolution with the aim of making Nigeria self-sufficient as at 1985 embarked on a large-scale importation of rice from India and America, and essential food items for survival and sustenance (Otoghagua, 1999).

Again, the sole intention of the programme was food and crop production so that the physical hunger of urban areas and the impoverished foreign exchange account of the government might be replenished. The presumption was that once agriculture was improved, and the yields per acre were increased, the peasant farmers who constitute the major bulk of the producers would automatically have their economic and social standard improved. It was very clear that there was no mention of how the money extracted from these rural areas, would be channelled back to develop the area.

2.6 Effectiveness of Community Participation

Attempts have been made to develop tools to assess the effectiveness of community participation, taking into account many of the complexities. Increasingly, and especially in rural development research, there has been a search for validating measures, or indicators, which can discriminate whether policy action has been justified. Such indicators should, according to the European Commission (CEC, 2001), cover efficiency (economic output in terms of quality and quantity, competitiveness and viability, and institutional efficiency) and equity (viability of rural communities and the maintenance of a balanced pattern of development, access to resources, services and opportunities, and labour conditions).

Burns and Taylor (2000) provide tools and appraisal exercises for measuring the effectiveness of participation. They include:

i. History and patterns of participation.

ii. Quality of participation strategies adopted by partners and partnerships.

iii. Capacity within partner organisations to support community participation.

iv. Capacity within communities to participate effectively.

v. Impact of participation and its outcomes.

Similarly, Yorkshire (2000) provides a benchmarking system for measuring the effectiveness of community participation. Although developed within regeneration context, the principles behind the benchmark have general relevance to community participation. Wilson and Wilde (2003) describe the starting point for the research as being 'a recognition of the heterogeneity and elaborate nature of communities and the need for qualitative analysis that measures progress from diverse perspectives'. The resulting framework and benchmark is based on four themes represented.

Table 1: Benchmarks of Community Participation

1. Influence	2. **Inclusivity**
i. The community is recognised and valued as an equal partner at all stages of the process	i. The diversity of rural communities and interest is reflected at all levels of the regeneration process.
ii. There is meaningful community representation on all decision making bodies from initiation	ii. Equal opportunities policies are in place and implemented
iii. All community members have the opportunity to participate.	iii. Unpaid worker's/volunteer activists are valued**.**
iv. Communities have access to and control over resources.	
v. Evaluation of regeneration partnership incorporates a community agenda**.**	
3. Communication	**4. Capacity**
i. A two – way information strategy is developed and implemented.	i. Communities are resourced to participate.
ii. Projects and programmes procedures are clear and accessible**.**	ii. Understanding, knowledge and skills are developed to support partnership working.

Source: Adapted from Wilson and Wilde (2003)

This framework provides a useful means of understanding and appraising community participation, particularly since, to a degree, they take into accounts some of the complexities associated with categorization such as inclusivity and heterogeneity of the community, different dimension of power and issues of process and capacity (Wilson and Wilde, 2003).

This same way of reasoning can be found in the Local Government Reform programme and in particular the bottom – up planning process with regards to service delivery in Tanzania. The important aim of the bottom – up planning process among other things was to ensure rural participation in primary school and health care provision. A participatory community planning process methodology was introduced to be used to empower the people.

The government was eager to adopt the methodology because of the successful result associated with various participatory approaches since it was evident that the methodology led to success. Another village in Moshono area development projects that World Vision Tanzania (A Christian NGO) supported the restoration of school classrooms, laying of water pipe and construction of a tank at the water source recorded success because the projects were executed through community participation (Kelsall and Claire, 2003). At the end of the project, community members internalized the approach and even took new initiatives to improve their environments.

In Kilimani village in Rufuji District, a rural community where a water project was embarked on, lack of quality education resulted in poor quality of leadership and this posed as an obstacle to development. The community as a way of resolving the issue decided on a self – help community participation and trained these village leaders. As result, a successful implementation and execution of water project was realised.

In the positivist tradition, policy evaluation is undertaken to test the efficiency and effectiveness of specific community participation actions designed to achieve rural development benefits (Weimer, 1998). It states that for evaluation to work, policy objectives need to be unambiguously stated, and causal mechanisms need to be clearly understood. It has therefore become obvious that there can be no meaningful development without the effective harnessing of the potentialities of the rural dwellers.

It is not just a matter of involvement in project activities but rather the process by which rural people are able to organise themselves and through their own organisation, are

able to identify their own needs, share in design, implement, and evaluate participatory action (Kumar, 2002). Further, to appreciate the range of comprehension of different parts of the system and the stages at which policies of community participation impact, different kinds of indicators are required. These are process indicators which focus on policy implementation; output indicators which provide quantitative measurements of effects identified as resulting from the policy; outcome indicators which assess the extent to which policies achieve their stated objectives (Moxey et al., 1998). This clearly shows that public or participation resources for development assistance must be targeted on defined priorities.

2.7 The Merits of Community Participation

Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) had remarked that community participation ensures rural dwellers involvement in a wide range of administrative policy-making activities, including the determination of levels of service, budget priorities, and the acceptability of physical construction projects in order to orient government programmes toward community needs, build the entire public support, and encourage a sense of cohesiveness and humanity within the society. The common belief is that involving rural dwellers in rural development projects have the potential to boost their livelihoods and foster development in their area (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008).

The development efforts therefore should start by recognising rural dweller's potential, and proceeds to their enhancement and growth because Participation in rural development projects is now being sought for world over, not because it is a fad but there has been a consensus on the usefulness of participation in rural development projects/programmes.

Community participation empowers the primary beneficiaries of rural development programmes or project by helping them to break away from a dependency mentality (Burkey, 1993). Creighton (2005) also state that community participation promotes self-confidence and self-awareness. Nampila (2005) agrees that this heightened consciousness makes people

continuously aware of the reality about them and of their own capacity to transform it. When rural dwellers have the freedom to participate in rural development projects activities, it gives them dignity, self-respect and sense of belonging (Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, 1993).

Generally, rural development interventions are funded either by government or by donor agencies. Experience has shown that rural development interventions from external assistance projects usually fail to sustain the required level of development activity once support or inputs are diminished or withdrawn by funding agencies. Such scenario is evidenced in most non-functional/abandoned community projects in Sapele LGA.

Community participation is regarded as an essential prerequisite for the continuity of activities. The involvement of rural and utilisation of rural resources generates a sense of ownership over rural development interventions to rural communities. This sense of ownership is essential for even after external funds cease to flow (Kumar, 2002).

Community participation ensures that projects are developed according to the needs of the rural dwellers (Raniga and Simpson, 2002). This can improve the outcomes of rural projects in Sapele LGA through cost sharing, increased efficiency and effectiveness. Through community participation, resources available for rural development projects will be used more efficiently and fewer costs will be incurred if the rural dwellers themselves are responsible for the project (Kumar, 2002). Community participation encourages community self-reliance. The ultimate objective embraces all the positive effects of genuine participation by rural people.

Community participation increases rural dwellers control over resources and development efforts and enables planning and implementation. Community participation teaches communities how to resolve conflict and allows for different perspectives to be heard. In this way, learning is promoted and rural dwellers will be able to help themselves (Baum, 1999 in Nampila, 2005). Communities will be able to assess their own situation, organise

themselves as a powerful group and work creatively towards changing their and building up a new world Nampila (2005). This increased capacity of individuals, allow communities to mobilise and help themselves to minimise dependence on the state and this is bottom-up approach to rural development (Nampila, 2005).

Community participation contributes to the development of appropriate policy, legislation and regulations while at the same time promoting democracy, as is applied through the Batho Pele principles employed in South Africa. When rural dwellers participate in rural development projects, it assists them in identifying key issues of concern that need to be considered. These opinions from different role players help to create a balance of these issues and to identify creative solutions to problems like, for example, the partnership-in-planning approach.

If governments and rural development intervention agencies at all levels can be relevant to the rural community and rural dwellers are positively affected by the policies and rural development projects of such government and intervention agencies, it must assign roles and responsibilities to the rural dwellers and they will in turn work in partnership or collaboration. Oates (1993) contends that "there are surely reasons, in principle to believe that policies formulated for the provision of rural development infrastructure that are sensitive to regional of rural conditions are likely to be more effective in encouraging economic development than centrally determined policies that ignore these.

2.8 Approaches to Rural Community Participation

The methods highlighted therefore by Rural Research Branch of the Scottish Office Central Research Unit (1997) states that a wide range of techniques for community involvement or participation though have been developed and used but consulting the community on the right mechanism is a good starting point. Factors that are relevant to this decision, whether taken jointly with the community or by the agency alone are:

i. The size of the community involved.

ii. How much preparatory work is required before the community will be ready to participate fully.

iii. Practical considerations as outlined above, such as remoteness, availability of transport or social factors.

iv. The reason that the work is being done. For example, work which aims to provide rural dwellers with the skills and confidence to undertake their own development projects will require a different set of techniques to one which aims to settle rural differences over a planning proposal.

CHAPTER THREE

STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Area

3.1.1 Location

The study area lies approximately between Latitudes $5^{O}42^{''}$N – $6^{O}04^{''}$North of the Equator and Longitudes $5^{O}33^{''}$E – $5^{O}53^{''}$East of the Green Wich Meridian. It lies along the Benin River just below the confluence of the Ethiope and Jamieson Rivers which is 158km from the Escravos Bar and entrance to the Bight of Benin. It covers an area of about 347 square kilometres. It is a part of the larger Urhobo Kingdom made up of five (5) major districts namely Amukpe, Elume, Okokporo, Sapele, and Ughorhen (See Figures 2&3).

3.1.2 Climate

The climate is marked by two distinctive seasons; the dry and rainy season namely the dry season and rainy season. The dry season occurs between November and April while the rainy season begins in April and runs through to October. The month of July is a period for intensive farming activities (Imoroa, 2000).

In terms of humidity, itis situated in the tropics therefore experiences a fluctuating climate ranging from the humid tropical in the south to the sub-humid in the northeast. The lessening of humidity towards the north is accompanied by an increasingly marked dry season.

The average rainfall is about 266.5mm in the coastal areas and 1905mm in the extreme north. Rainfall is heaviest in July but in the month of August, there is a seasonal break commonly referred to as August – break.

The temperature increases from the south to the north. In Sapele, located in the south for example, the average daily temperature is 30^{0}C, while the temperature in Asaba, the north eastern area is 44^{0}C.

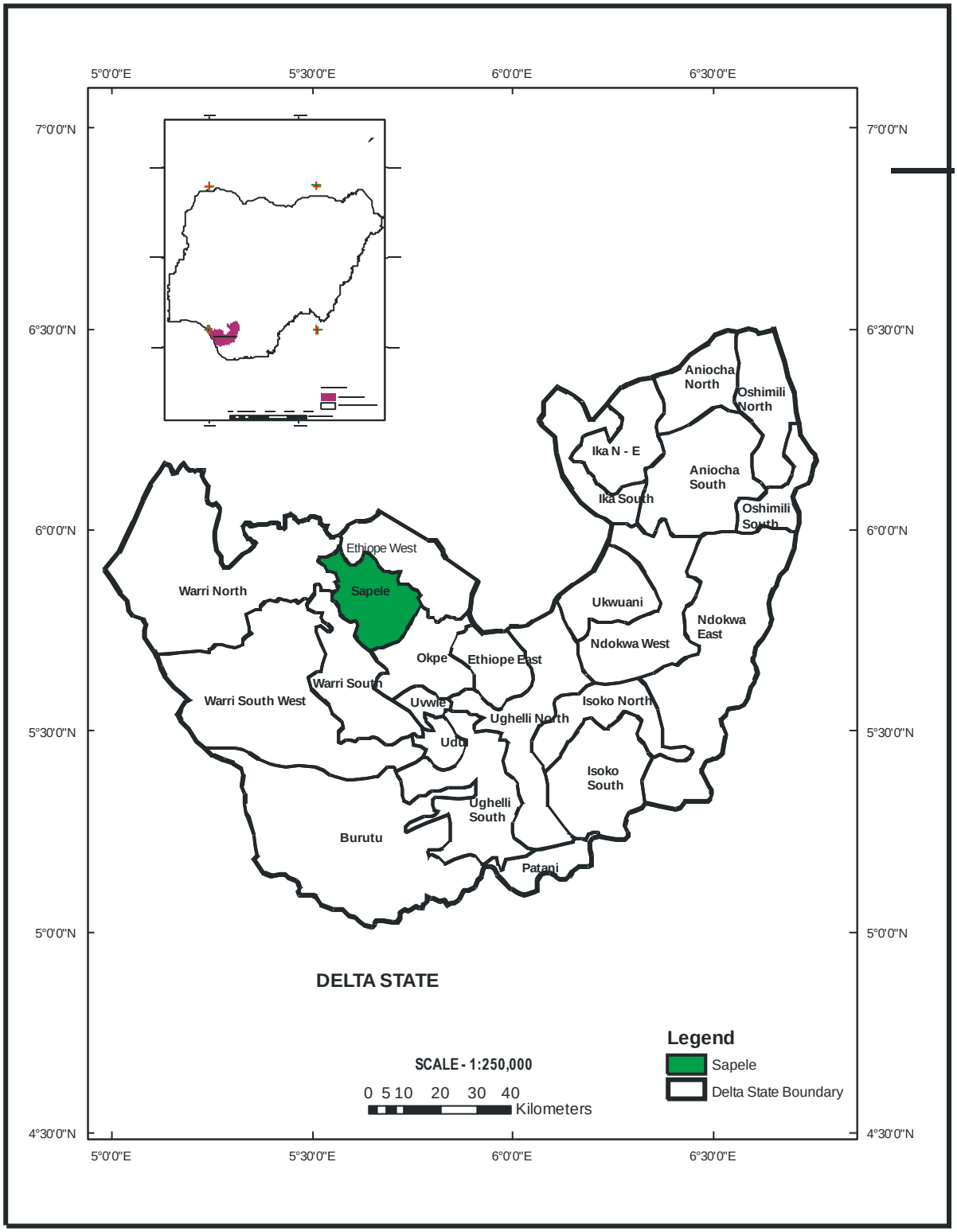


Figure 1: Delta State Showing Sapele L.G.A.

Source: Adapted from Administrative Map of Delta State

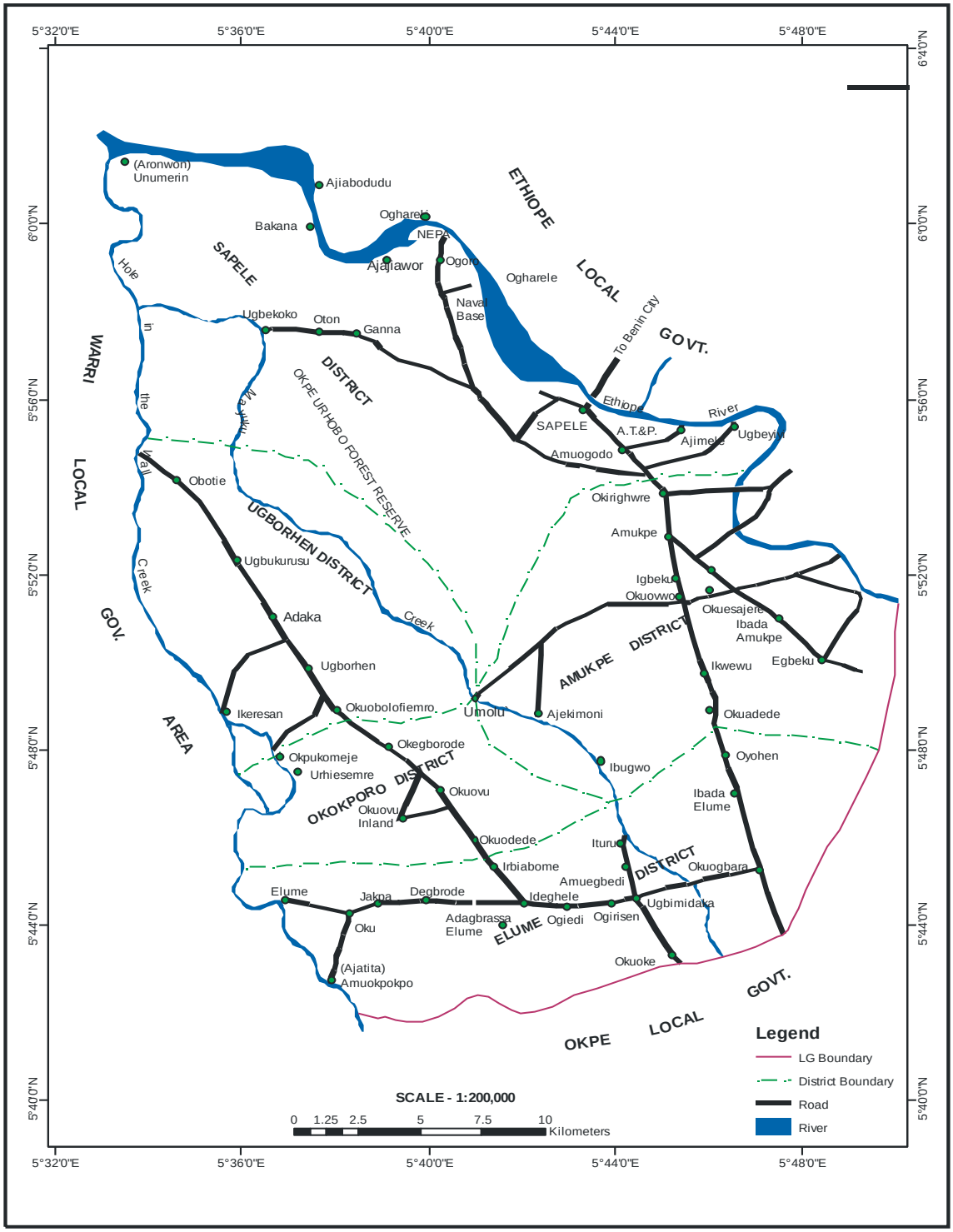


Figure 2: Districts and Communities in Sapele LGA

Source: Adapted from National Population Commission 2012

3.1.3 Relief and Drainage

The relief is characterized by lowlands. The freshwater swamp is the most common in the area. The upland and swamp also called the coastal plain lies between the flood streams and Benin lowlands. There are neither hills nor mountains. There are networks of rivers, streams and creeks. River Ethiope is the major river and it rises from a small town called Kwale and runs through Abraka Aghalokpe and finally drains into the sea via Benin River.

The rivers are prone to flooding especially during the wet season mainly because of heavy rainfall, high ground water table and flat floored valleys. Large stretches of most rivers, especially the lower reaches of the Ethiope, Warri and the Kiagdodo rivers are permanently waterlogged.

The whole of Sapele LGA is a low lying plain consisting of mainly unconsolidated sediments of Quaternary age. These sediments are partly of marine and partly of fluvial origin. The land elevation is generally less than 50 meters above mean sea level and there is a marked absence of imposing hills that rise generally above the general land surface (Albert, 2002)

3.1.4 Soil and Vegetation

The three types of soil found there consist of the alluvial and hydromorphic soils on the marine and lacustrine deposits found in the area closest to the Niger and Benin rivers; and the feral soils on loose sandy sediments in the drylands areas of the north and north-east. The feral soils are usually yellowish in colour (Imoroa, 2000). The soils are deeply weathered and nutrient – deficient, being derived mainly from unconsolidated sediments of sandstone. They are predominantly sandy. The proportion of sand in the top 10cm of the soil may be up to 90%.

Consequently, the soils are loose and poorly aggregated as they contain very low levels of clay and organic matter. The soils are intensely leached, base deficient and acidic in reaction. Soil pH in the top 20cm of soil profile is usually 5.0 and occasionally as low as 4.0.

The vegetation varies from the mangrove swampy forest with the evergreen trees type of vegetation along the coast to the savannah in the north east. The rain forest is floristically divers and structurally complex with several layers of trees. It was a major source of timber and the notable timber – producing specie include *Antiaristoxicaria, Milicia* (Chlorophora) excels, *Ceibapentandra* and *Piptadeniastrumafricanum* (Albert, 2002).

Extensive areas of swamp forest occur in the Urhobo – okpe forest reserve, south of Sapele and in the lower section of Jamieson and Ethiope rivers. *Rafia* palms especially *Raphiahookeri* and *Raphiavinifera* are dominant elements of the flora of the swamp forest. Today, much of the countryside is dominated by secondary regrowth vegetation with oil palms *(Elaeisguineesis)* and *Chromolaenaodorata*, farmland, rubber 'plantations' and patches of swamp forest along rivers (Albert, 2002).

3.1.5 Ecological Problems

The environmental setting has very serious ecological problems such as erosion and flooding. Coastal creek erosion affects the coastal areas resulting in loss of farm and residential land. Flash floods and flood pondages are major features of the drylands, especially in the urban centre of Sapele. In recent times, oil exploitation and gas flaring have further aggravated the ecological problems causing very serious environmental pollution. The consequences include the destruction of aquatic life and vegetation and reduction in soil productivity (Imoroa, 2000).

3.1.6 People and Occupations

The cultural identity of the people of Sapele L.G.A is manifested in their festivals, traditional marriage ceremonies and mode of dressing which is a pair of wrapper on which you have shirt-like attire, topped with a bowler hat. Their festival is Okere – juju. The music from singing and dancing dictates the dance steps which includes masquerade dance such as Oda. The art and crafts had their origin during the pre – colonial period and they include carvings, hand – woven cloths, table mats, ash trays, flower pots etc. while crafts such as

shoe – making, auto repairs etc. were introduced thereafter. Distilling of gin from palm wine obtained from both raffia and oil palm trees are widespread in the area and commonly called Sapele water.

The major livelihood activity is cassava farming which makes their major dish Starch and Owoh or (Palm kernel) Banga soup. The major tribes are the Urhobos with a population of 110,000 in 1991. Sapele is a major commercial and industrial centre. The African Timber and Plywood Company in Sapele, which produces plywood and veneer used to be one of the largest timber-processing factories in West Africa. It is also important for the processing of rubber. Sapele is the main centre of commerce in Urhobo land. Sapele has coastal ports and have long been established as centres of commerce since pre-colonial times. Sapele is important for wholesale and retail trade in electronics, hardware, light industrial and agricultural machinery, textiles, furniture and foodstuff (Imoroa, 2000).

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Reconnaissance Survey

The study carried out a reconnaissance survey of the study area in order to familiarize oneself with the community projects. The visit has assisted the researcher to make spot assessment of the community projects and acquired relevant information about the activities of the community with respect to development projects. Moreover, the survey has helped in determining the sampling technique most appropriate for the study. It also guided the construction of the research instrument for data acquisition. Some field observations were conducted about the projects.

3.2.2 Types of Data.

The types of data used for the research include:

i. Categories or types of projects implemented for rural development purposes.

ii. Projects provider/ownership.

iii. Resource mobilization for the community projects.

iv. Extent, levels and forms of community participation in planning and implementation of projects.

v. Constraints to community participation.

3.2.3 Sources of Data

The two principal sources of data used were primary and secondary shall in order to get multiple sources of data.

3.2.3.1 *Primary Sources*: The primary source of data collection included a structured questionnaire administered in the selected rural settlements of the study area which generated the necessary data for the study. In addition, interview was conducted with Key informants such as community leaders in order to explore issues related to community participation in rural projects of the study area. This helped to ascertain the impact of community participation on issues of rural socio – economic development. The services of trained field assistants (educated men and women, capable of speaking at least one of the languages) were also employed to help in administering of questionnaire and assist in the area because majority of the rural dwellers may not be formally educated.

3.2.3.2 *Secondary Sources*: The secondary information used for literature review were from published and unpublished works generated from existing material, internet based documents, journals, books and conference proceedings. Other sources include newspapers, reports from multilateral organizations on rural development, United Nations, Millennium development goals (MDGs), conference papers, thesis and dissertations.

3.2.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The study area has five major districts. The study adopted multi stage sampling technique. First, among the five districts, four were purposively selected namely, Amukpe, Elume, Okokporo and Ugborhen district. Second stage, the communities in each district was

arranged alphabetically and every third community was community was systematically selected for the study (see Table 2).

The administered sample size was based on projected population of the rural communities in the districts of the study area. Also, the sample size was obtained from Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample table in which population of between 25,000 and 50, 000, has a sample size of 381. The household constitutes the unit of observation for the study. As such household heads or any adult member of the household was selected as respondent.

Table 2: Distribution of Sample Size in the Study Area.

Selected Districts	Communities	Systematically Selected Communities	1991 Census Figure	Projection For 2013	Sample Size
Amukpe	Adabrasa				
	Ajekimoni				
	Amukpe	Amukpe	12, 982	23, 807	190
	Egbeku				
	Eko				
	IbadaAmukpe	IbadaAmukpe	559	1025	30
	Igbeku				
	Ikwewu				
	Okuovwori	Okuovwori	818	1499	32
Elume	Adagbrasa				
	Elume				
	Amukokpo				
	Degrode	Degbrode	334	612	17
	Elume				
	IbadaElume				
	Irhiabome	Irhiabome	163	298	12
	Ituru				
	Jakpa				
	Ogiedi	Ogiedi	339	621	14
	Ogirisen				
	Oku				
	Okuogbara	Okuogbara	117	214	10
	Okuoke				
	Oyohen				
	Ugbimidaka	Ugbimidaka	432	792	38
Okokporo	Okegberode				
	Okuodede				
	Okuovu I	Okuovu I	417	764	33
	Okuovu II				
	Umolu				
Ugborhen	Adaka				
	Ikeresan				
	Obotie	Obotie	77	141	5
	Ugbokurusu				
	Ugborhen				
Total			16, 238	29, 773	381

Source: Adapted from National Population Commission (1991) Census.

3.2.5 Method of Data Analysis

The analysis and presentation of data acquired from the questionnaire administered was descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistical technique involves the use of mean, percentages and frequency distribution for the summarization of the data.

The Pearson's Chi-squared formula is:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k} (o_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

Where oij=observed number of outcomes in the ijth cell
eij = expected number of outcomes in the ijth cell

$$e_{ij} = \frac{(o_{i.})(o_{.j})}{o_{..}}$$

$$o_{i.} = \sum_{j} o_{ij}$$

$$o_{.j} = \sum_{i} o_{ij}$$

$$o_{..} = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} o_{ij}$$

$$df = (r-1)(c-1)$$

r =number of rows
c=number of columns

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This Chapter Four examined the socio-economic characteristics of respondents, types of development projects available to the community and the sponsorship of the projects. The projects are market, electricity, health care, primary, secondary, town hall, roads and library. Efforts are also directed towards examining level of participation as well as the constraints encountered in providing them in the study area.

4.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Showing the socio-economic distribution for rural communities found in major districts in Sapele LGA. The variables used as input were considered based on investigation and availability of data acquired through survey. The variables are representation of inputs distribution acquired from selected rural communities found in the major district.

From the table, the percentages of personal characteristics from the four districts that make up rural communities in Sapele LGA shown in table 4.2 reveals that 55.2% (Amukpe), 65.9% (Elume), 60.6% (Okokporo) and 60% (Ugborhen) of the respondents are males while 44.8% (Amukpe), 34.1% (Elume), 39.4% (Okokporo) and 40% (Ugborhen) are females.

The age distribution shows that Amukpe (7.9% and 47.2%), Elume (50.5% and 13.2%), Okokporo (54.5% and 24.5%) and Ubgorhen (100%) of the respondents fall within the age range of 21 to 60. It is expected that, the longer one stays in a particular community, the better his knowledge of participation in development provision either through Government/NGO support, communal effort or partnership. To this end, the duration of stay of respondents in the community was considered as an important issue.

Table 4.2: Socio-economic characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Amukpe Freq	%	Elume Freq	%	Okokporo Freq	%	Ugborhen Freq	%
Age-group:-								
0-20	1	0.4	3	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
21-40	20	7.9	46	50.5	18	54.5	0	0.0
41-60	119	47.2	12	13.2	8	24.5	5	100.0
Over 60 years	57	22.6	4	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	252		91		33		5	
Gender:-								
Male	139	55.2	60	65.9	20	60.6	3	60.0
Female	113	44.8	31	34.1	13	39.4	2	40.0
Total	252		91		33		5	
Marital Status:-								
No response	5	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Single	11	4.4	29	31.9	10	30.3	0	0.0
Married	168	66.7	58	63.7	22	66.7	5	100.0
Separated	59	23.4	4	4.4	1	3.0	0	0.0
Widow/Widower	2	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Divorced	7	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	252		91		33		5	
Level of Education:-								
No response	0	0.0	2	2.2	1	3.0	0	0.0
Informal	59	23.4	5	5.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Primary	74	29.4	32	35.2	13	39.4	2	40.0
Secondary	71	28.2	52	57.1	16	48.5	0	0.0
Tertiary	48	19.0	0	0.0	3	9.1	3	60.0
Total	252		91		33		5	
Duration of stay								
1-5 years	2	0.8	15	16.5	8	24.2	2	40.0
6-10 years	3	1.2	2	2.2	1	3.0	0	0.0
11-15 years	14	5.6	9	9.9	3	9.1	0	0.0
16 yrs and above	233	92.5	65	71.4	21	63.6	3	60.0
Total	252		91		33		5	

Source: Author Field Survey (2014)

The study investigated the duration of stay in the community by the respondents. It shows that Amukpe (92.5%), Elume (71.4%), Okokporo (63.6%) and Ugborhen (60%) of the respondents lived in these rural communities for the period of 16years and above. It is believed that these group act as representatives of various rural organizational setting in the community and they particularly include traditional rulers, community leaders, elder state

men or women, household heads, women leaders, representatives of market women or youth etc. These ones are rural dwellers too but mostly initiators of the advancement and development of rural community projects and as observed by Adedayo (1985), participation is made possible through community organization in which among other things, leaders emerge or are chosen from within community'. Cheetham (2002) asserts also that participation can only occur when a rural community organizes itself. It was also revealed that the tradition in rural communities in Sapele LGA forbids females attending community meetings except their representatives. As a result; the (household heads) males are more involved in issues related to community participation in rural development projects. At rural gatherings like family meetings, societies, associations etc. they take account of the rural dwellers wishes through information sharing. An observation is that most traditional African cultural beliefs that forbid women from such gathering are still being practised in good number of rural communities.

4.3 Characterization of Community Projects

There are different types of project participated in by rural people. This is based on the peculiar need and the capacities of different communities in the study area. These include market, electricity, health care facilities and others. These projects vary in their characteristics, size, functionality and contribution to the different rural areas.

The major concern for these various types of rural development projects available in the districts revealed is premised on the fact that functional infrastructure provided has positive impact on development of the rural community. This section is thus a representation of functional community development projects available in Sapele LGA as indicated in Table 4.3 but for the purpose of this study, only a subset of these projects will be elaborated.

Table 4.3: Number and percentage of respondents that identified projects available in the rural communities.

Project	Amukpe (N252)		Elume (N91)		Okpokporo (N33)		Ugborhen (N5)	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Market	131	52.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Skill Acquisition	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bank	2	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Electricity	33	13.1	89	97.8	33	100.0	5	100.0
Motor Park	16	6.3	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Health facilities	70	27.8	12	13.2	9	27.3	5	100.0
Schools	36	14.3	78	85.7	28	84.8	4	80.0
Town Hall	58	23.0	86	94.5	32	97.0	5	100.0
Road	40	15.9	0	0.0	2	6.1	2	40.0
Library	70	27.8	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0

Source: Authors Field Survey 2014.

The total response of respondents on available projects in the rural communities in Sapele LGA shows that for Rural Electricity, Amukpe covers (13.1%), Elume (97.8%), Okokporo and Ugborhen (100%) of the distribution while the Health Care provided covers Amukpe (27.8%), Elume (13.2%), Okokporo (27.3%) and Ugborhen (100%). This implies that electricity and health facilities in Ugborhen district are functional while that of districts like Amukpe and Elume health centre is barely functional.

In other words, the level of accessibility to these amenities varies and is not consistent because while some rural communities enjoy maximum and consistency of supply others barely do due to infrequency and this was expected to be one of the tools that should help boost productivity level and welfare of the rural dwellers in these rural communities. The results of this inconsistency when related to the assertion of Afolayan (2008) states that no rural community can develop in a poor health condition of its rural dwellers.

Also for Town Hall, the table records Elume (94.5%), Okokporo (97%) and Ugborhen (100%) as being functional while Amukpe (23%) functionality is poor. From the assessment again, it is revealed that the town halls in Elume, Okokporo and Ugborhen are functioning optimally and this can as well be related to Afolayan (2008) which states that the town hall as

a type of infrastructure, when functional and good can be said to be satisfying the social and economic interest of the rural communities.

It is therefore noteworthy to state that despite the disperse nature of facilities in the study area, their availability cannot be denied. For rural community projects non-functional or performing below capacity, restoration is required just as noted by Ofuoku (2011) that rural communities in Nigeria have a lot of dysfunctional infrastructural facilities which needs to be revamped.

4.4 Forms of Community Participation

The success of community participation in rural development projects requires the active contribution of beneficiaries in various forms. This is important because it gives a sense of belonging of development initiatives. Forms of community participation revealed from the interviews conducted include manual labour, security, little funds etc. contributed by the rural dwellers.

Table 4.4: Forms of Community participation

Forms of Participation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Supply of Manual labour	229	60.1	60.1	60.1
Fund Raising	23	6.0	6.0	66.1
Provision of Security	113	29.7	29.7	100.0
Others	16	4.2	4.2	70.3
Total	381	100.0	100.0	

Source: Authors Field Survey 2014

From Table 4.4, the highest form of community participation revealed in the study area is the supply of manual labour which covers 60.1%. Various Rural development projects have been embarked upon by lots of rural communities based on self-help informed by the realization that no government can meet all the needs of the rural communities (Adedayo, 2000). Nonetheless, the government should make provision of these projects because the fact

still remains that there can be no meaningful or successful development without the effective harnessing of the potentials of the rural communities. Also since it has been established by Ogunleye and Oladehinde (2013) that the level and efficiency of self-help projects on rural communities normally influence the development of the rural areas, government should redirect its rural development towards capital and development projects in the rural areas and make rural dwellers be the focus.

A good example can be related to a revelation on a federal government primary school renovation that held in 2011 at Obotie, a rural community in Ugborhen. During the renovation, services of the rural dwellers employed include fetching of water, mixing of the cement etc. even though the renovation came after so much notification to the local government office in Sapele urban centre where the federal government office is situated.

4.5 Level of Community Participation

In this investigation, most of the respondents who answered to the affirmative were rural dwellers aware of rural development projects in the study area. For a successful achievement of rural development projects to be recorded is dependent on rural dwellers change of attitude and values (Afolyan, 2008). The desire to take part in decision making of a rural development projects where e.g. a project should be located, could be attributed to the need of having easy accessibility to facilities provided. This study therefore revealed some level of community participation in rural development projects of Sapele LGA

Table 4.5: Number and Percentages of Respondents who identified the stages of Community Participation (n=381)

Levels of participation	Amukpe		Elume		Okokporo		Ugborhen	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Planning process	311	81.6	62	16.3	6	1.6	2	0.5
Decision-making	311	81.6	63	16.5	5	1.3	2	0.5
Project funding	311	81.6	60	15.7	9	2.4	1	0.3
Project Implementation	311	81.6	50	13.1	11	2.9	9	2.4

Source: Authors field Survey 2014

From Table 4.5, it can be deduced that Amukpe (81.6%) has the highest level of community participation while Ugborhen (0.5%) recorded the least in all ramification. This is not surprising considering the differences in their level of education and years of livelihood as shown in table 4.1. The table also shows the disparities in the implementation of projects.

The result shows that rural dwellers suffer high levels of illiteracy which has become a cankerworm affecting the ability of rural people in Sapele LGA and the nation at large to participate in programmes capable of improving their economies. Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) had earlier remarked that lack of participation in development projects occur as a result of low level of education. Again it could be said that lack of political will, low group formation and poor governance continues to affect meaningful participation in rural development projects.

4.6 Constraints to Community Participation

Table 4.6: Showing Constraints to Community Participation.

In order to achieve other objectives of this study, an assessment of community participation in rural development projects in Sapele LGA, question on constraints to effective community participation raised was investigated. The responses which include Greed/Selfishness, Lack of Sensitization, and Lack of Unity etc. were indicated and represented in table 4.6.

Constraints to Participation	Amukpe (N=252)		Elume (N=91)		Okpokporo (N=33)		Ugborhen (N=5)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Poor Funding	1	0.4	3	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Greed/ selfishness	159	63.1	24	26.4	9	27.3	1	20.0
Lack of unity	84	33.3	59	64.8	19	57.6	1	20.0
Lack of sensitization	8	3.2	5	5.5	5	15.2	3	60.0

Source: Authors Field Survey 2014.

The constraints as revealed in this study are interrelated. In table 4.6, it was observed that Greed/Selfishness accounted for by the respondents of Amukpe district had the highest

percentage which is 159 (63.1%)out of the whole lot and this led to lack of Unity 84 (33.3%)in the districts. This perhaps could be explained by the high level of mistrust and mutual suspicion among community members when it comes to decision making of communal projects. These problems and poor funding which recorded the least percentage (0-3.3%) as shown in table 4.6 could contribute to delay in provision of development interventions. These issues can lead also to improper begetting, planning and implementation because the minimal resources that require proper utilization that would have been derived when they unite in pursuit of a common purpose or goal and will bring benefits to the communities has been significantly affected.

4.7 Analysis of Chi Square Results

The study put forward a null hypothesis that there is no significant association between community participation and project planning process and implementation. The results are presented in Tables below

Table 4.7.1: Test for relationship between community participation and Planning Process.

planning and implementation process	Planning, Decision making, funding and implementation									
	No response		Non-Govt. Project		Govt. Project		Joints Project		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No response	35	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	35	100.0
Yes	0	0.0	62	88.6	2	2.9	6	8.6	70	100.0
No	276	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	276	100.0
Total	311	81.6	62	16.3	2	0.5	6	1.6	381	100.0

Chi-square= 381 df=6 p-value=0.0001 Level of Significance 0.05

From the foregoing on the test for the research hypothesis Table, given the p – value of 0.0001, it could be concluded that there exists a significant relationship between community participation at all forms of community participation that is decision making, implementation, planning process and funding in the study area. This result corroborates with

Afolayan's (2008) observation that high level of community participation in projects such as schools, electricity, health centres, and markets influenced the functional structure of infrastructures in communities.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The study reported in this thesis assessed community participation in rural development projects in Sapele LGA. The Chapter in particular contains the summary of research findings, conclusion and recommendations.

5.2 Summary of Research Findings

The aim of this study was achieved through set objectives which are:

Characterization of types of projects in the study area; examination of the forms of participation by the community in rural development projects; assessment of level of community participation in socio – economic development projects and examination of the constraints to community participation.

The study revealed that more than 60% of the respondents that agreed that provision of rural development projects through community participation has been a concern of rural communities in Sapele LGA. For some of the projects provided, functionality is shortened due to poor sustenance.

Various reasons attributed to these include lack of government presence or neglect, inadequate funding, community negligence, that is, lack of care or interest on projects and non-involvement of community members during the project planning and implementation process. This invariably means that for any rural development project to be successful, the active contribution of beneficiaries through community participation is required.

The Pearson Chi-squared analysis concluded that rural dwellers in the study area were not impressed with the process involved in the provision of rural development projects and that a significant relationship exist between community participation and project planning process and implementation. Self-help also influences rural development projects.

Lastly, the study noted constraints encountered during the provision of these rural socioeconomic development projects. These constraints gathered from the respondents include greed, selfishness, lack of unity, lack of sensitization, poor funding.

5.3 Conclusion

In determining an effective community participation in rural development projects, a survey was carried out to achieve set objectives posed and previous studies reviewed as shown in the literature review in chapter two.

The findings revealed by respondents identified problems encountered by community members that hinder their participation in rural development projects during the planning and implementation stage. Also, it was noted that females in Sapele LGA do not attend community meetings that seek to share information regarding rural development projects because it is a taboo and this incidentally is still being practised in most African traditions till date.

Furthermore, the study discovered that the Paradigm Shift Approach that involve to a bottom-up approach to community development is strongly being adhered to in the study area. This indicates that there is need to strengthen the concept and practise of community participation in rural development projects and sensitize rural dwellers to key into it. This study therefore compliments earlier study by (Stohr and Taylor, 1981) that appreciate rural people as major stakeholder in their own development since the previous top-down approach has failed in achieving many of its goals due to several bottlenecks.

5.4 Recommendations

The provision of functional infrastructural facilities and services has great impact on the growth and socio – economic development of the rural community. Thus this work puts forward the following recommendations for all stakeholders in rural development:

1. Consultation with the rural dwellers, sensitizing and creating of awareness should be duly carried out because collective effort is what provision and execution of a successful rural development project requires.
2. It was discovered that the spirit of communalism previously associated with rural areas has been dwindled in Sapele LGA giving way for greed and mutual suspicion which hinder collective participation in projects. To address this, traditional authorities should be re-engineered to seeing themselves as the father of all community hence fostering the spirit of self-help, selflessness and service to humanity in their respective domains.
3. Lastly, women should be allowed to be actively and deliberately involved in community participation. This is because women participation in development is a current global best practise and Sapele LGA cannot be an exception. In this light, NGO focusing on women should be organized to channel women empowerment and participation.

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QUESTIONNAIRE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA

Dear Respondent,

I am an M.sc student of the above named university undertaking a research study on Community participation in rural development projects in Sapele local government area, Delta State and you are one of the carefully selected respondent. The exercise is purely an academic exercise so please answer truthfully all information provided and be rest assured that it will be treated as confidential.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

SECTION A

Respondents' Bio-data:

Name of community ----------

District ----------

Please provide information or tick { } appropriately for the following questions.

1. Sex: (a.) Male { } (b.) Female { }
2. Age in years: (a.) Under 20 { } (b.) 21 – 30{ } (c.) 31 – 40 { } (d.) 41 – 50 { } (e.) 51yrs and above { }
3. Marital Status: (a.) Single { } (b.) Married { } (c.) Separated { } (d.) Widow/Widower { } (e.) Divorced { }
4. Educational qualification: (a.) No Formal Education { } (b.) Primary { } (d.) Secondary { } (c.) Tertiary { }
5. How long have you lived in this community? (a.) 1 - 5yrs { } (b.) 6 - 10yrs { } (c.) 11 – 15 yrs { } (d.) 16yrs and above

SECTION B

Community Participation in Rural Projects.

1. Do you have an idea or knowledge of any rural projects in your community?

   Yes { } No { }

2. How many of these projects are available in the community? Market{ }Skill Acquisition Centre{ } Bank{ } Electricity{ } Motor Park{ } Health facilities{ } Primary School{ } Secondary School{ } Town Hall { } Any Other (Specify)

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3. Please fill table below:

Projects	Provider	Year started	Year completed

4. For projects not available in the community, what do you think is responsible?

   (a.) Lack of Government presence or neglect.

   (b.) Lack of funds.

   (c.) Non – involvement of the community.

   (d.) Community negligence (i.e. Lack of care or interest).

5. Do members of this community participate in rural development projects?

   Yes { } No { }

6. If yes, which of the project(s) stated earlier? ----------

7. Was the community involved at every stage of the project planning and implementation? Yes { } No { }

8. If No, please give reason? ----------

9. If yes, which of these stages was the community involved?

Participation/Stages	Joint Projects	Gov. Projects	Non-Gov. Projects
Planning process			
Decision – making			
Project funding			
Project implementation			
Not at all			

10. How was the community involved? Through (a.) Town Hall Consultation { }
(b.) Opinion Leaders { } (c.) Traditional rulers { } (c.) Clubs/Soc/Association { }

11. Can you kindly state the reason for this project implementation?

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12. Do you attend meetings targeted towards community projects? Yes { } No { }

13. Have you ever been involved in any community projects provided?
Yes { } No { }

14. If No, Please give reasons ----------

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15. From your observation, rate the influence of the community on the rural project?

Project Excellent	
70%	Good
55 - 70%	Average
40 - 55%	Poor
40%	

16. From your own observation, rate the performance of the projects that has been beneficial to the community.

Project Provider	Excellent	Good	Average
Community Alone			
Govt/NGO Alone			
Joint Projects			

17. In your opinion, was the community allowed to choose their desired project?

    Yes { } No { }

18. What problems do community members face during the planning and implementation of rural projects? ----------

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19. Was there any form of training or awareness for community on rural development project? Yes { } No { }

20. Is there any policy document on rural development that affects community participation? Yes { } No { }

21. In your opinion, do you think community participation is a veritable tool for successful rural development project? ----------

22. Do you think as a community member, you can play an important role in ensuring successful implementation of rural projects in your area? Yes { } No { }

23. In your opinion, which method can community authorities use to make community participation in rural project effective? ----------

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24. What can hinder or hamper the involvement of community members in rural development projects? ----------

25. How do you think community participation in rural development project can be improved upon? ----------

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Thank You