



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***IMPACT OF NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PUBLIC
UTILITY PROJECTS TOWARDS COMMUNITIES IN IMO STATE
NIGERIA***

ISIDIHO ALPHONSUS OKPECHI

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BERILMU BERBAKTI

**IMPACT OF NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PUBLIC
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NIGERIA**

By

ISIDIHO ALPHONSUS OKPECHI

**Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science.**

March 2015

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my late parents Ichie Titus Isidiho Uhegbu and Lolo Louisa Chidoro Isidiho Uhegbu for their love for Education and Learning and unquantifiable sacrifices to ensuring that all their children are educated despite the fact that they could neither read nor write their names.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Fulfilment
of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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March 2015

Chairman: Prof. Dato' Mohammad Shatar B. Sabran PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

This research explored the Impact of Public Utility Projects mainly roads, water and electricity sponsored by Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on selected Communities in Imo State Nigeria. It discussed the emergence of the Commission, the master plan, the environmental conditions in the region which led to the setting up the commission with mandate for regional development, eradication of poverty and regeneration of the region through the provision of the basic infrastructural utilities. The study tried to understand if these projects were the needs of the communities, the impact of these projects, and identify the problems faced by these projects. The participatory theory and the holistic theory were used to highlight the assumptions of the study. Mixed method research was used, and data analyzed using the SPSS version 20. Secondary data collected from books, magazines, journals, newspapers and other publications were used as indicated in the quoted references. The importance of the study was that it examined the relevance of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to the selected communities.

The finding shows that the roads, water and electricity projects have significant impact on these host communities, 73.6% indicated that these projects were needed, but only 57.5% said they were benefiting from NDDC projects. Looking at the proportionate distribution of the participants benefits on the particular projects they are benefiting from, greater percentage of the proportion (27.9%) are benefiting from roads while 21.2% and 17.7% are benefiting from water and electricity respectively, this gives a total of 66.8%. The communities explained that before the NDDC roads, they used to trek many kilometers as the roads were muddy and not motorable but with these newly constructed roads they can enter buses to their destinations. The economic impacts of the projects were explained in their increase in income. Before the projects, the farmers could not bring their products out for sale but now they can transport their products to

the markets and make higher income. With the electricity and good roads, the artisans could handle more works and so other professionals. On average, there was more than 50% increase in their monthly income. The women and their siblings now spend less time fetching drinking water as the boreholes are closer instead of trekking long distance to the streams; this has saved a lot of time which they now utilize in other productive activities. Good drinking water has improved health of the communities by reducing incidents of water diseases like cholera, diarrhea etc. and modern toilet facilities are now in use and improved the general sanitation of the communities.

The communities now less frequently go to hospital and cases of water borne diseases have reduced drastically according to the respondents. This research contends that the NDDC completed public utility projects on roads, water and electricity in the selected communities have really improved the life of the people. However, the non-completed projects need to be completed as to increase their benefits. The study will help the Nigerian government, policy makers, the stake holders and the general public to see the need to complete the remaining projects since it is increasing the communities' standard of living. Also the study would help all concerned to formulate and implement strategies including scholarships, youth's awareness and empowerment that would reduce or eradicate youth's militancy, oil theft, kidnapping and other illegal activities within the region.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

IMPAK NIGER DELTA PEMBANGUNAN SURUHANJAYA PROJEK UTILITI AWAM KE ARAH MASYARAKAT DALAM NEGERI IMO NIGERIA

Oleh

ISIDIHO ALPHONSUS OKPECHI

Mac 2015

Pengerusi: Prof. Dato' Mohammad Shatar B. Sabran PhD

Fakulti: Ekologi Manusia

Penyelidikan ini mengkaji kesan Projek Utiliti Awam, terutama jalan raya, bekalan air, dan elektrik yang ditaja oleh Suruhanjaya Pembangunan Delta Niger (NDDC) terhadap beberapa komuniti terpilih di Imo Nigeria. Kajian ini membincangkan kemunculan suruhanjaya tersebut, pelan induk, keadaan alam sekitar di rantau ini yang menyebabkan penubuhan suruhanjaya tersebut dengan mandat untuk pembangunan wilayah, pembasmian kemiskinan dan pertumbuhan semula rantau ini melalui peruntukan utiliti infrastruktur asas. Kajian ini cuba untuk memahami sekiranya projek-projek ini merupakan keperluan komuniti tersebut, impak projek tersebut, dan mengenal pasti masalah yang dihadapi oleh projek tersebut. Teori partisipator dan teori holistik digunakan untuk mendapatkan jawapan bagi andaian kajian ini. Kajian kaedah campuran telah digunakan dan data dianalisis menggunakan SPSS versi 20. Data sekunder dikumpul dari buku-buku, majalah, jurnal, surat khabar dan penerbitan lain juga digunakan seperti yang dinyatakan dalam rujukan petikan. Kepentingan kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji kerelevanan Suruhanjaya Pembangunan Delta Niger (NDDC) terhadap komuniti terpilih.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa projek jalan raya, bekalan air dan elektrik mempunyai impak yang besar ke atas komuniti terbabit, 73.6% sejumlah menyatakan bahawa projek-projek tersebut diperlukan, manakala 57.5% menyatakan bahawa mereka mendapat manfaat daripada projek NDDC. Melihat kepada distribusi keselarasan faedah yang diperolehi partisipan terhadap projek tertentu yang mereka dapat manfaat daripadanya, bahagian peratusan yang lebih besar (27.9%) mendapat manfaat daripada projek jalan raya, manakala 21.2% dan 17.7% masing-masing mendapat manfaat daripada air dan elektrik yang keseluruhannya berjumlah 66.8%. Komuniti tersebut menjelaskan bahawa sebelum projek jalan raya NDDC dilaksanakan, mereka berjalan berkilometer kerana jalan raya berlumpur dan tidak boleh dimasuki

oleh kenderaan bermoto, tetapi dengan terbinanya jalan raya , kenderaan bas dapat memasuki destinasi tersebut. Impak ekonomi projek-projek tersebut dapat dilihat dari segi peningkatan dalam pendapatan mereka. Sebelum projek –projek tersebut dilaksanakan , para petani tidak dapat membawa keluar produk mereka untuk jualan ,tetapi kini mereka boleh mengangkut produk mereka ke pasaran dan perkara ini meningkatkan pendapatan mereka. Dengan terbinanya jalan raya dan adanya elektrik yang baik, tukang-tukang dan para profesional boleh mengendalikan lebih banyak kerja. Secara purata, terdapat peningkatan lebih daripada 50% dalam pendapatan bulanan mereka. Wanita dan adik-beradik mereka kini menghabiskan masa yang singkat untuk mengambil air minum disebabkan lubang gerek yang dekat,berbanding dengan trek yang lebih jauh untuk ke sungai; perkara ini telah menjimatkan banyak masa dan mereka boleh menggunakan masa tersebut untuk aktiviti-aktiviti lain yang lebih produktif. Air minuman yang bersih telah menyebabkan kesihatan komuniti bertambah baik dengan pengurangan kejadian penyakit air, seperti taun, cirit-birit dan lain-lain, malah kemudahan tandas moden kini digunakan dan ini meningkatkan sanitasi umum komuniti tersebut.

Kini, komuniti tersebut semakin berkuronge pergi ke hospital dan kes penyakit bawaan air juga telah berkurangan secara drastik. Kajian ini juga menegaskan bahawa, projek utiliti awam NDDC yang telah siap telah meningkatkan taraf kehidupan rakyat. Walau bagaimanapun, projek –projek yang terbengkalai masih perlu disiapkan supaya ini dapat meningkatkan faedah bagi komuniti tersebut. Kajian ini akan membantu kerajaan Nigeria, penggubal dasar, rakan taruh dan orang awam untuk memastikan keperluan untuk menyiapkan projek-projek yang selebihnya bagi meningkatkan taraf kehidupan komuniti. Kajian ini juga akan dapat membantu setiap pihak yang terlibat untuk merangka dan mengimplemenkan strategi, termasuk biasiswa, kesedaran belia dan memperkasakan yang dapat mengurangkan atau membasmi kegiatan belia dalam militia, kecurian minyak, penculikan dan aktiviti haram lain di rantau tersebut.

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The encouraging and friendly warm reception I received on my first encounter with a lecturer in UPM to be precisely Dr. Abdul Rahim Abdul Samad of the faculty of Economics and Management highly motivated me into relaxing and remaining focused in my study in this great institution, Universiti Putra Malaysia. I remain grateful to this humble gentleman to the core.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 3 March 2015 to conduct the final examination of Isidiho Alphonsus Okpechi on his thesis entitled "Impact of Niger Delta Development Commission Public Utility Project towards Communities in Imo State Nigeria" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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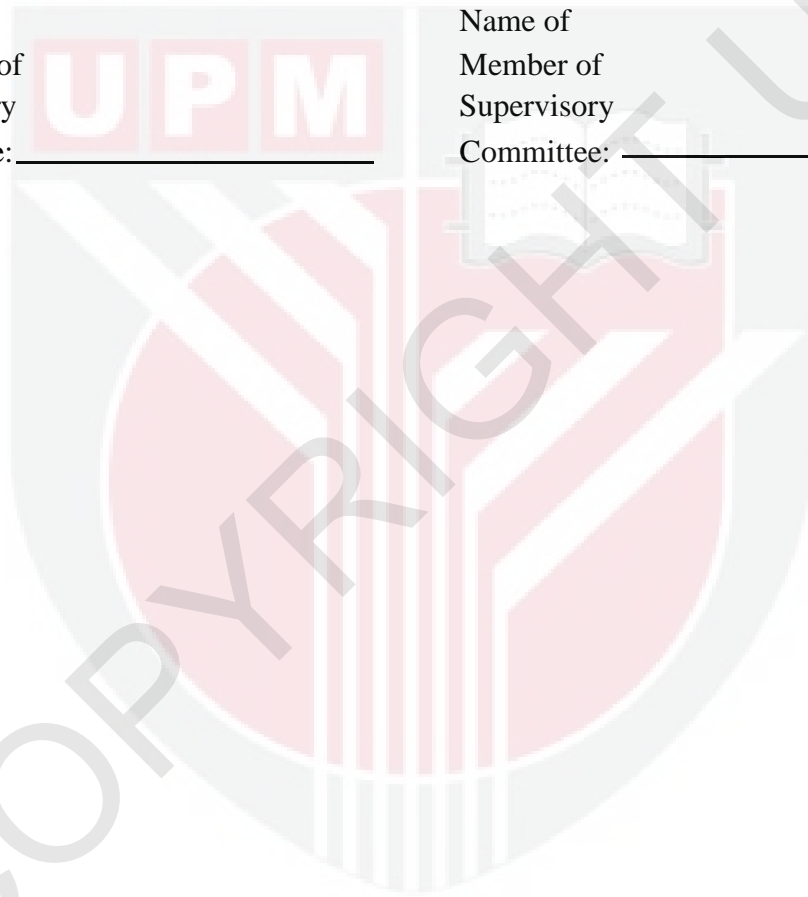


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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACDF	African community Development foundation
ADP	Agricultural Development Projects
ANSEA	Analytical Strategic Environmental Assessment
BLP	Better Life Programme
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CCAT	Community Coalition Action Theory
CD	Community Development.
CDA	Community Development Academy
CDB	Cluster Development Board
CDD	Community -Driven Development
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
CEHRD	Center for Environment, Human Rights and Development
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DFID	Department for International Development
DFPRI	Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure
DPMS	Directorate of Project Monitoring and Supervision
DOE	Malaysia's Department of Environment
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crime Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
FEAP	Family Economic Advancement Programme
FEPA	Federal Environmental Protection Agency
FSP	Family Support Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information System

GMoU	Global Memorandum of Understanding
GPMG	General Purpose Machine Gun
HIV/AIDS	Higher Immuned Virus/ Higher Immuned Deficiency Syndrome
IA	Impact Assessments
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IDA	International Development Association
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internal Displacement People
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IEG	Independent Evaluation Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMB	International Maritime Bureau
IOC	International oil companies
J MTF	Joint Military Task Force
L.G.A.	Local Government Area
LNG	Liquidified Natural Gas
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta
MOSEIN	Movement for the Survival of the Ijaw Ethnic Nationality.
MOSOP	Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NAPEP	National Poverty Eradication Programme
NCNC	National Council for Nigeria and Cameroun
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission
NDE	National Directorate of Employment
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
NEPA	National Electric Power Authority

NDPVF	Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force
NDV	Niger Delta Vigilante
NDVI	Normalized Different Vegetation Index
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NNPC	Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation
NWP	National Water Policy
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OGJ	Oil and Gas Journal
OMPADEC	Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission
PAIR	Preliminary Assessment of Impact Report
PBN	People's Bank of Nigeria
PCDP	Pastoral Community Development Project
PCRv	Project Completion Report Validation
PEP	Poverty Eradication Programme
PHCN	Power Holding Company of Nigeria
PIA	Participatory Impact Assessment
PP	Peoples Participation
PRA	Participatory rural Appraisal
PSP	Hydro Private Sector Participation in Micro-hydro Power Supply
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPDC	Shell Petroleum Development Company
SPSS	Statistical package for Social Sciences
Tcf	Trillion cubic feet
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations

UK United Kingdom

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

World Bank



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The understanding of community, community development and impacts of projects on host communities is of great importance globally. Sabran (2003) defined community as “any collectivity of individuals, groups, subgroups and /or institutions or their representations which share time, space and resources for mutual concern”.

The Community Development Academy (CDA 1997) sees community as “interactions among people for mutual support”. Similarly, Persons, Warren and Sandra et al (1972) viewed community as a social system with people living together in relationship with one another who share services and facilities, has a common psychological identity with a common communication network, share the same interest, needs, values and functions. According to Rashid (2013), traditional definition of community see it as a group of people living in a common location and they are organized around common values with social cohesion and interaction, in a shared geographical location, generally in social units larger than a household. (Ibid), argue that community can be seen as a group of people living in geographical location, intermingling among themselves within a long frame and creating a strong bond or relationship among them. She also argued that community in the recent time attaches more not only to location but interest and values; hence we talk of virtual internet community, community of Heads of State and Governments, Community of Vice Chancellors of Universities etc.

Also Aref et al. (2010), understood community from the traditional point of view as they refer it to a group of individuals living or working within the same geographical area with some shared cultures or common interests. In like manner, Ivanovic (2009) utilized the sociologist understanding of community as they use two concepts in defining community and these are territorial and relational concepts. While the territorial concept see community to be defined on geographical frontiers, such as name, borders, type of people, landmarks and other identifiable features, the relational concept see community as a group of people connected by friendship, association and communication. And Mahoney et al. (2007) shares the views of the territorial concept of the sociologist, defining community based on geographical location.

In addition, Fred Milson (1974) after observing Asians in Bunogham United States assembly every Sunday at the train station and go for meeting, explained that community means a group of people who sense that they share belief, culture, problems and socio-economic positions despite the fact that they do not reside in the same geographical location but are conscious of a relationship, conscious of its limitations and conscious of its differences from their similar relationship. According to Vincent (2009) a community could be seen as involving interaction among people living in a particular

area with common interests or not minding their residency, a collection of people with shared interests.

However, the modern understanding of community has seen that the community has gradually developed from the traditional definition where location and boundaries are of major importance to a more advanced community where interest, values and visions are more pronounced. All efforts in defining community have the general understanding of community as people sharing common interest, values, vision and interaction. In this study, the researcher utilizes the same understanding in defining the communities of the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria as a group of people who have tribal and biological connections (may or may not be physically residing in the region) with this region, and who share common views, values, visions, interactions and goals. This definition by the researcher puts into cognizance the citizens of Niger Delta Region in diaspora, some of whom are indigenes of this region biologically but have not for now set their foot in the region due to circumstances, but they may be aware of the trend of events in their biological home.

1.1.1 Community Development

Then what is community development? The Marxist ideology of community development is most distinct as they see it as “being in-the world consists of being with others, caring for others and being cared for by others” The idea of having a caring society sounds more theoretical than practical considering the real world situations. Various writers have defined Community Development with special interest in their own circumstances. Huie, (1976), Christenson, Robinson Jr. (1989) explained that Community Development is the process of making people and their community a better place to live and work by improving their socio-economic and environmental conditions and eradication of poverty. United Nations (1995) stressed that “community development can be tentatively defined as a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and the fullest possible reliance on the community’s initiative.” This definition has greater emphasis on participatory approach and the people’s initiatives in the projects and programmes that would help them to achieve better living.

Oberle, Darby, & Stowers, (1975) see community development to mean group of people who gets together with the purpose and efforts to “increase in the life chances of some people without a decrease in the life chances of others”. Voth, (1975) in his own view see community development as a group of local people or community who “attempts to improve its social and economic situation through its own efforts using professional assistance and perhaps also financial assistance from the outside and involving all sectors of the community or group to a maximum”. Flora and Flora, (1993) sees Community development as combining the idea of “community” with “development”, and interaction between people and jointly rather than individually and this is what the sociologist call “collective agency”. The collective goal of this interaction is to improve their living conditions and that of their future generation with the help of professionals

and may have financial assistance from outside. Hence the community creates room for external involvement in the development of their community through financial Aids, technical and technological assistance and innovations.

According to Olowu & Ayo (1985) Community development is the combination of people's efforts with those of government authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities in line with the living pattern of the nations in their enjoyment of the benefits of life and more also contribute their own quota in the progress and development of the nation. In this view, we are not only looking at what the community gains from their collective interaction and the assistance from other authorities but also what the community contributes to the national progress and growth. That comes to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. "What you do for America and not what America does for you".

Sanders (1958, 1970) define contemporary community development as "the linkage of community organization, which stresses local action and use of local resources, with economic development, which emphasizes national planning, careful allocation of resources, and systematic movement toward well-defined goals." But the contemporary community development now has expanded emphasis on not only mobilization of local resources but the addition and acquisition of even external resources, technologies and Aids towards actualization of developmental goals. Sanders viewed community development from four perspectives. Firstly, Community development is a process moving by stages from one condition to the next and the emphasis here is on what happens to people. Secondly, Community development is a method; a way of working toward the attainment of a goal, here the emphasis is on an endpoint. What is the achievement at the end of the whole exercise? Thirdly, he sees Community development as a program; whereby if procedures are carried out, activities will be accomplished, the emphasis is on activities.

Finally, community development may be viewed as a movement, a cause to which people become committed; the emphasis is on inciting to action.

In his own assessment of the definition of community Development (Sabran 2003), stated that the "primary objective of community development is to initiate, structurally direct and sustain the actions of communities for the general wellbeing and such actions and implementations must be backed by the community themselves for effective and positive change", hence he identifies the cores of community development as a process, method, programme and movement. In the other hand, A Statement from the Community Development Foundation (UK) defines community development as follows: "Community development is a structured intervention that gives communities greater control over the conditions that affect their lives". The idea here is that community development does not work with individuals or families, rather works with the group and organizations with emphasis on the participatory. The community must help themselves too and does not rely solely on external forces to move forward. The external forces are to help in actualization of the community's dreams and the community must agree to the process of development. Community development does

not only look at the working at the grass roots, but also at how key institutions respond to the needs of rural communities.

African community Development foundation UK(ACDF) in her mission statement explained what community development is all about “improve livelihoods, life chances and wellbeing in African communities by enhancing the capacity of individuals, communities, civil society, social enterprises, NGOs, businesses and local institutions to alleviate poverty, and improve the standards of living through self-reliance.” The definition takes into cognizance the need for building a lasting, sustainable capacity for self-reliance as the community collaborates with the stakeholders in achieving a need-driven and pro poor human right principles as specified in the UN charter. In defining community development, it is important to understand sustainability of communities as this is a new paradigm in understanding the modern communities and development. Chris Maser’s definition of community development shares the (ACDF) mission statement as he sees community development efforts are centered on “the capacity of people to work collectively in addressing their common interests” (Maser, 1997).

It became necessary to develop model(s) to be able to really understand and evaluate community development projects, various community development professionals came up with different models.

Cawley (1989), emphasized on the problem-solving approach which entails a systematic approach to identifying needs, establishing shared goals and objectives, and working collectively toward the effective implementation of an agreed upon agenda. Planning, process and social action models, which are all aimed at making the life of people in the community better off. (Rothman (1972), and Christenson, (1989) ideas are the same, saying that all community development writings are centered on “betterment of people.” He also notes that most articles defined community development as “people initiating a social action process to improve their situation through a variety of methods such as self-help, technical assistance, and conflict.” Jones and Silva (1991) also agrees that most community development models identify problem solving as the core element which is in line with the Cawley’s understanding.

Also Gordon, (1993), and Walzer, et al, (1995), Ayres, et al, (1990) mentioned the community visioning and strategic planning as a new dimension to community development which helps to assess the impacts of projects. There is need to shift from visioning to new developmental goals, sustainability and community comfort; Kretzmann and McKnight (1993), Flora (1997), the millennium development goal (MDG). United Nations Environment Programme (2010) is now emphasizing on green economy and millennium village projects which is to help villages in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Aalborg charter and Agenda 21 define sustainable communities as “places where people want to live and work, now and in the future”. The “diverse needs of existing and future residents are met, sensitivity to their environment, and contribute to high quality of life. They are self and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good service to all” (ODPM, 2006, P.12). Sustainability debate has moved on from the ecological and

environmental to the social and economic such that “social sustainability” has emerged as a term in its own right (Turkington and Sangster, 2006). From all these literatures, one would conveniently argue that community Development is a continuous and evolving process.

1.1.2 Successful Community Development Programmes in Africa

It would be of importance here to cite below one or two successful community development projects in Africa. Moleleman (2013) analyses the long term community development investment in Ncera Community in South Africa (Ncera Macadamia Farming Project). The project is aimed at utilizing the land to create jobs and sustainable economic opportunities.

The project was successful and created 104 jobs, trainings and skills and sustainable development for the black farmers in the community.

Also successful community development project is the British Council Nomadic Community Education Programme, in the northern part of Nigeria from 1997 to 2002, and was managed by the British Council on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID). British Council (2005) “It was aimed at improving the quality of, and increase access to basic education, particularly for women and girls. The projects improved primary schools and adult education centers and built community capabilities to manage educational development.

1.2 Location of Nigeria

According to National Population Commission of Nigeria (2006), Nigeria is one of the most populous countries in Africa with a population of about 140 million people as at the last population census in Nigeria in 2006. By 2010 projection, the population of Nigeria is 158,423,000 and by the July, 2011 the estimated population of Nigeria by United Nations was 162, 471,000 which indicates that it is a growing population of about 2.5 percent annually. The official Federal Government of Nigeria geographical location and features of Nigeria gives the detail location and area as stated below: Nigeria being Situated in the West African rich forest zone, it is located on the African map between latitude 40 and 140 north of the equator and longitude 30 and 140 east of the Greenwich meridian. Nigeria has an area of 923,768 km² and entirely within the tropical zone. And surrounded on the South west by Benin Republic, Republic of Niger on the North, on the North-East borders are Lake Chad while also extends into the Republic of Niger and Chad and touches the northernmost part of the Republic of Cameroun and the Atlantic Ocean in the south. The two major rivers are Niger and river Benue with a confluence at Lokoja (Mbachu 2012). And the two major seasons are the rainy season; April to October and from November to March is the dry season.

The glaring features in Nigerian are soil degradation, rapid deforestation, urban air and water pollution, desertification, oil pollution- water, air, and soil. It has suffered serious damages from oil spillage, loss of arable land and rapid urbanization. The temperature ranges from 37 degrees centigrade in the south to as high as 45 degrees centigrade in the north. Nigeria was one of the British colonies and gained her Independence in October 1, 1960. The Southern and Northern protectorates were amalgamated in 1914 and history has it that this was when Nigeria as an entity was formed for easy administrative and exploitative tendencies and they “continued to develop along different lines” and “the colonial foundation of the Nigerian state ensured its premature integration into global capitalism. The creation of the two protectorates were seen by writers and students of politics to facilitate the sole raison d’être for colonialism – exploitation of capital and surplus value, and calls this the “extractive role” of the state (Osaghae, 1998).

1.2.1 Political and Economic Structure of Nigeria

As explained by Olowu (1990) “extreme centralization” has resulted in the virtual abrogation of truly federalist institutions and values, the destructive competition for the control of the central government machinery, the loss of financial coherence and discipline at the federal level, the extreme dependence of the states and localities on federal developmental patronage and financial largesse and, thus, the persistent communal compression for new, federally-funded units of state and local government . And Suberu, (1996) emphasized that since independence in 1960, the most widely lamented features of the Nigerian federal system has been the overcentralisation of power and resources. The British colonial masters also delineated Nigeria into three major zones /regions based on the three major languages and for political and administrative reasons, hence we had the Eastern region predominantly inhabited by the Igbos , the western zone / region inhabited by the Yoruba speaking tribe (Yorubas) and the Northern zone / region occupied by the Hausa speaking people (Hausa).

In line with the regionalism, the economic power of the country was based on major agricultural products viz. Cocoa from the west, Palm oil from the East and ground nuts from the North (the Northern Pyramid) and each region had economic powers over the revenues. The North was more of desert while the south was the rich vegetation and forest and rich in natural crude oil. It is this southern region that later emerged as part of the Niger Delta Region.

Therefore the south became the main resource base of the country as other sources of revenue were abandoned due to the huge funds being generated from the sale of millions of barrels of crude oil daily. This mono cultural approach to export led to the neglect of the agricultural sector and blocked the linkage between the agricultural sector and the industrial sector which led to lots of economic problems. As a result the industries collapsed and the economy became import oriented instead of local production. The socio-economic implications of such neglect of the agricultural sector led to persistent high unemployment in Nigeria both the highly educated professionals and semi educated as there are no industries to absorb them and the lack of linkage strangulated

other sectors that would have employed the youths and mass number of graduates produced annually by the universities (Akinyemi et al 2012).

The structure of the Nigerian communities sees both men and women divided into groups; the youths and the elders. Some of the elders are given more recognition based on their age and active contributions to the development of the communities. The consequence of Youth Movements and exposure to western education and cultures have really affected the communal life of the youths who sometimes challenges the authority, position and recognition of some elders and are signs of restiveness and democracy coupled with the fundamental human right. In fact, it is the deeds of these youths that led to the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) which is the Centre point of this research after a lot of similar commissions have failed to address the issues of the Niger Delta Region. Nigeria's economy is a multi-sectored one as it has nice agricultural base, minerals and crude oil. Oil revenue accounts for more than 80% of the federally generated revenue. The production of Rubber, groundnuts, cocoa and palm oil was generating reasonable revenue in the early stages of Nigeria's development. It is on record that Malaysia's palm seeds originated from West Africa most likely Nigeria because both countries has similar climate and today Malaysia is the highest palm oil exporting nation followed by Nigeria and Papua New Guinea growing over one Million Hectares (theoilpalm.org).

Table 1.1 Summary of Physical and Socioeconomic Characteristic of Nigeria

Location	Between 4°N and 14°N, and between 3°E and 15°E
Total area	923,768 (CIA 2011)
Population	167 million (2011 estimate) (John-Anigbogu (2011)
Population growth rate	2.55 (CIA 2011)
Languages	English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani and more than 200 others
Climate	Varies from tropical in the center, equatorial in the south and arid in the north.
Mean maximum temperatures	30° C–32° C in the south and 33° C–35° C in the north.
History	The political entity known as Nigeria officially came into existence on January 1914 when southern Nigeria and northern Nigeria was amalgamated
Constituent units	6 Geo-political zones and 36 provincial states headed by governors with executive powers.
Politics	The federal government made up of an executive arm headed by a president; he presides as both Chief of State and Head Government and is elected by popular vote to a maximum of two four-year terms. A federal judiciary led by the chief justice of the federation and the legislative arm which comprises of the senate and the House of Representatives
Major environmental issues	Rapid urbanization and industrialization, waste management crisis, air, water, and soil pollution Oil spills, gas flaring, deforestation, and desertification. etc.
Human development index rank 2011	156th (UNDP 2011)
Life expectancy at birth	51.9 years (CIA 2011)

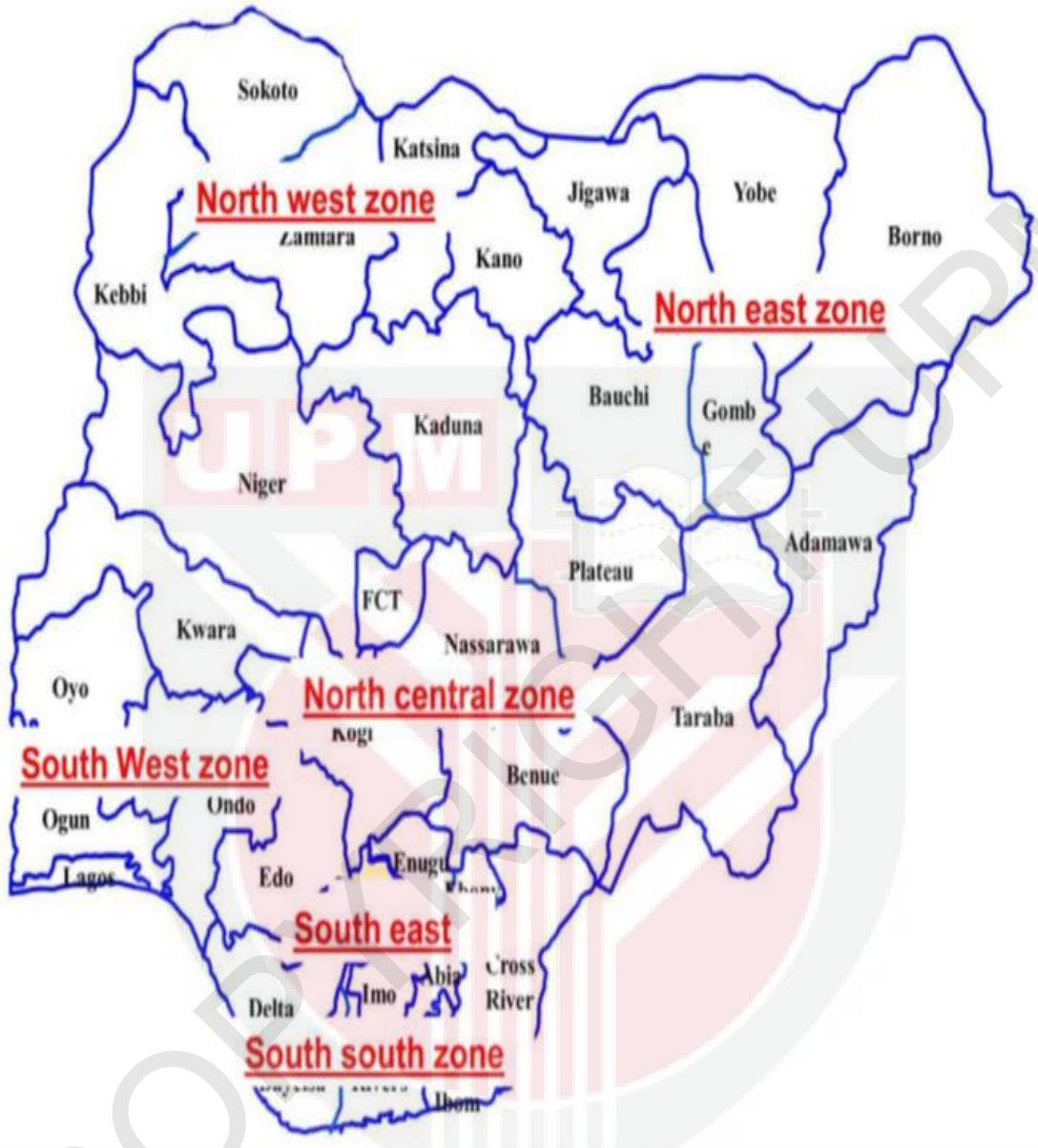
Sources: Mbachu Ikechukwu (2012).

TABLE 1.2: Inflation Rate (CPI) in Nigeria, 2007-2011

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Inflation Rate (%)	4,462.9	6,530.6	3,191.9	5,396.1	8,879.0

Source: Central Bank of Nigeria Annual Report – 2011

Figure 1.1 Map of Nigeria showing the different geopolitical zones (GPZ)



Source: Gudlavalleti (2008) in Mbachu Ikechukwu (2012).

1.3 Problem Statement

There has been lack of good and motorable roads, good drinking water, electricity, very poor schools and learning environments, poor health conditions, unemployment and non-empowerment coupled with insecurity of lives and property in the Niger Delta Region which led to the youth hostility and agitations (Uyigue & Agho 2007, Iledare & Suberu 2010, Akpomuvie 2011). In a move to solve these problems, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was set up to seriously address these issues and some abandoned projects by the commission are also causing a lot of discomfort among the communities.

There has been various studies on the social and environmental impact of oil exploration and oil companies operating in the Niger Delta (Adekunle 1998, Baghebo et al 2012, Ajugwo 2013, Ihayere 2014), but little or nothing has been specifically done on assessing the impact of NDDC projects on the community development generally and specifically in Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Obowo Local Government Areas of Imo State Nigeria. Hence this research is to fill the gap and be able to really examine and understand the impact of the commission's public utility projects in these communities especially in the areas of roads, water and electricity in fulfillment of the master plan of the commission. These public utilities when constructed help to solve the prevailing poverty, socio-economic, environmental and cultural problems of the communities under study. In other words if these projects are not implemented, the problems of poverty, pollution, deprivation, hostilities, agitations and other social-environmental ills would still be on the increase in the Niger Delta Communities.

The provision of basic public utilities like good motorable roads, good drinking water, electricity and other infrastructures has been a global problem in developing rural communities (Uduma & Arciszewski (2010). However, the problems of communities go beyond public utilities and includes socio-cultural, economic, environmental and even political which has translated to low standard of living, poverty, unemployment, occupational displacement and violence (Nwankwo 1995, Ashiomanedu 2008, Ebegbulem et al 2013). Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was set up specifically to address the problems of the Niger Delta Region and despite the huge sum of money that has been released to the commission, not much has been done to alleviate these problems as the communities continue to cry of neglect, in other words the Commission has not lived up to expectations.

The high level of corruption, mismanagement, sharp practices among officials of the commission has made the impact of the commission unsatisfactory (Idumange 2011, Olukayode 2011)). With reference to these problems, this study therefore is to explore and understand the extent to which these public utility projects on roads, water and electricity have been executed and their impact on the host communities. The study would also find out from the participants the level of citizenship participation in the conceptualization, design through implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these projects. The study would also explore the human capital development in these communities through the implementation of NDDC projects and the problems faced by

these NDDC projects. Ajugwo (2013) Drinking water is contaminated, and sheen of oil always visible in the local water surfaces in the Niger Delta Region.

Researchers have said that the hydrocarbons and chemicals present in the oil is a carcinogenic risk to people's health in the Niger Delta Region.

PMNEWS Nigeria, March 5, 2013 page 1, Chief Jemide while presenting the report to President Good-luck Jonathan (President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria), said his committee uncovered large number of projects abandoned by the NDDC. Specifically, Chief Jemide said his "Committee discovered that over 46 per cent of projects awarded by the NDDC in Cross River, Edo and Rivers states between 2005 and 2011 were abandoned". Vanguard Newspapers, March 05, (2013) stated "President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja said that the administration would end corruption; ensure probity and accountability in the Niger Delta Development Commission. Jonathan made the promise when he received the report of the Presidential Monitoring Committee on the NDDC by the Chairman, Chief Isaac Jemide. The report indicated that the NDDC abandoned many projects and engaged in unjustifiable astronomical variation of contract sums".

Punch Newspapers of February 14,(2012) wrote that "over a month since the new Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission directed contractors handling various development projects in the region to return to site and ensure their completion, none of the contractors that abandoned their contracts in Assa/Obile in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State has complied with the directive". "The electricity, solar water and road contracts awarded to contractors over four years now have since been abandoned at various stages even after receiving mobilization fees". Of what use are development projects when they are not completed by the contractors? Elombah (2014). "NDDC STINKS: Reckless Looting and Fraud by the Managing Director, Executive Directors and Board Chairman". This is part of the complains going on about the level of corruption and looting in the Commission.

Writing on corruption, Joseph Nye (1967) argues, corruption is the acts which deviates from the normal duties of a public role because of private-regarding pecuniary or status gains; or violates rules against the exercise of certain types of private-regarding influence directly or indirectly. Onosode (2000), has described the serious effects of the oil exploration in his words as an "ecological war in which no blood is spilled, no bones are broken, no one is maimed; but men, women and children die; flora, fauna and fish perish; air, soil and water are poisoned; and finally the land and its inhabitants die". Osuntokun (2000) explains that the problems of Nigeria are "structural and this goes also to the heart of the Niger Delta problem". The disregard of the structure of the region has led to the formation of various bodies by every government in power to find solutions.

Prior to the formation of NDDC, the Movement for the survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) which was formed by late freedom fighter Sir Ken Saro – Wiva were the group agitating for the development of the oil producing communities. The Federal Government of Nigeria saw their actions and agitations as sabotage and Ken Saro –

Wiva and Eight others of the MOSOP were arrested, tried and killed by hanging in 1995. The killing of these men led to local and international awareness of the sufferings of the oil rich Ogoni land and in fact made the youths to be more aggressive and hostile to the oil workers in their land. They started kidnapping and killing some of the oil workers. The Nigerian Military formed the Joint Military Task Force (JTF), which have been fighting with the militants since 2006 when the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) started its violent activities. MEND and other militia groups have been able to withstand the military in several clashes they have had because of their access to sophisticated weapons which they use in attacking oil platforms and facilities. According to Whelan, (2007), “the militia groups are using highly sophisticated weapons and operating with almost impunity, and calls for urgent need by the government and all stake holders to see how to control this to avoid the whole exercise degenerating to tribal war”. This report by an international independent security expert goes on to explain the warlike situation in the Niger Delta region which would have a devastating effect on the Nigerian polity and the world at large.

Similarly Michael Watts(2007) wrote that in the Niger Delta militarization cannot guarantee peace and security, naked force, even with the best of American technical advisers and electronic gadgets, is not sufficient to guarantee safety and risks sliding more deeply into a low grade civil war and continued violence and attack on oil installations. The militancy and youths restiveness is attributed to the consciousness of exploitation being perpetrated against the people, and the struggle to change the status quo. As in Daily Trust Newspaper of Tuesday, January 28, (2014), “MEND has claimed responsibility for the attack on Tug boat belonging to the Nigerian Agip oil company and the abduction of the captain and engineer”, the problem of kidnapping and militancy in the Niger Delta has not stopped and the Nigerian Government have not been able to control this despite efforts to curb the menace.

However, there is a general feeling that the non-performance of NDDC, the oil companies and the government in the selected Niger Delta communities is causing the youth restiveness in the area and that NDDC is not making adequate and satisfactory impact in some communities in the supply of the basic needs of the people especially water, electricity and good tarred roads. Also there is a public view that the awarded contracts were either abandoned, poorly executed or in some cases not done at all while NDDC records show that they had been completed and commissioned. The non-performance of the commission (NDDC) is mostly attributed to the high level of sharp practices and corruption in the commission which is a sample of the general corruption in the Nigerian Economy, and not the non-release of enough funds to the commission as claimed by NDDC. These problems are too many and dimensional and this study has decided to concentrate on some research questions relating to the communities under study.

1.4 Research Questions

This study solicits to answer the following research questions;

1. Are the roads, water and electricity projects accepted by the communities as their main needs (priorities) as proposed in NDDC projects?
2. What are the impact of the road, water and electricity projects sponsored by NDDC in the three host communities of Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Obowo Local Government Areas?
3. What are the problems faced by these NDDC projects in the host communities under this study?

1.5 Research Objective

The general objective of this study is to explore the impact of NDDC projects in the selected communities of Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Obowo Local Government Areas in Imo State Nigeria.

The specific objectives are:

1. To understand if the roads, water and electricity projects are accepted by the communities as their main needs (priorities) as proposed in NDDC projects.
2. To explore the impact of Roads, Water and electricity projects in improving the well-being of host communities of Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area, Oguta and Obowo Local Government Areas all in Imo State.
3. To identify the problems faced by these NDDC projects in the host communities under study.

1.6 Significance of the Study

1. Theoretically, the study would help to emphasize the importance of the participatory and holistic theories as theories utilized in this research and encourage its adoption in further developmental projects as evidence has shown that most projects without people's participation have not been successful as is the case of the NDDC projects on roads, while the water and electricity projects has been successfully executed in some communities especially the Oguta local communities in Imo State.

2. The research is important as to actually find out the impact (negative and positive) of the huge amount of money the Federal Government of Nigeria releases every year to Niger Delta Development Commission especially as it relates to roads, electricity and water projects and still the host communities complains of neglect and this has led to youths protest and hostage taking (kidnapping of Foreign and local workers) of workers

attached to the oil companies and government officials by the youths and militants in a bid to make money.

3. The study would be relevant in guiding the authorities both government and the commission on evaluating the need to investigate the projects abandoned and reasons for such and call the contractor to order and possibly take appropriate legal actions. Also Government needs to increase the budgetary allocation to the region in subsequent annual budgets; unfortunately the staffs of the commission were reluctant in releasing the figures showing amount of funds the commission spends annually as this is highly politicized. Even the staff could not release to the researcher the value of each of the contracts and this explains the sham in activities of NDDC. The socio cultural and environmental impact of these projects derived by this study would help the government and stake holders in finding a more acceptable media of reconciling the cultural and environmental negative effects of the projects and appeasing the indigenes through adequate compensation of their loss of economic crops, livelihood and cultural integration.

4. The policy implication of the study is the needs to mediate and disarm these militancy groups to reduce inter communal rifts and kidnapping and asking for ransom/ killings, oil wells and pipe lines vandalized and illegal oil bunkering. There has been continued fighting with highly sophisticated weapons between the Federal Government troops and the oil bunkering groups. The data on gender analysis and level of education would inform the government on the types of programmes to implement in these communities so that the youths would be empowered for self-reliance and sustainability.

1.7 Scope of Study and Limitations

This study looks into the projects of NDDC in the host communities in Imo State Nigeria since the inception of the commission in 2000 to date. Imo State is made up of twenty seven local government areas. The study covers specifically three local government areas in Imo State Nigeria. These three local Government Areas are OHAJI/EBBEMA Local Government Area, OGUTA and OBOWO Local Government Areas. Also the study covers only three of the public utility projects (road, water and electricity) sponsored by NDDC despite the fact that there are other public utility projects by the commission, these three are very important and pivotal of growth and development. The total population of Imo State as at 2006 census was 3,934,899; male population was 2,032,286 and females were 1,902,613. While the populations of the three local government Areas were as follows: Obowo L.G.A 118,114 people, Oguta 143,008 and Ohaji/Egbema L.G.A 182,538, giving us the total population of the three local Government Areas under study as 443,660 people.

Table 1.3 Population of the three local governments under study

LGA	Male	Female	Total
Ohaji/Egbema	94644	87894	182538
Obowo	60150	57964	118114
Oguta	74308	68700	143,008
Total	229,102	214,558	443,660

Sources: National Population Commission – 2006.

1.8 Conceptual and Operational Definition of Terms

1.8.1 Community Conceptual definition: Community as any collectivity of individuals, groups, subgroups and /or institutions or their representations which share time, space and resources for mutual concern (Sabran (2003), Aref et al. (2010).

Operational Definition: For this study, community is defined as a group of people living in the Niger Delta Region generally and specifically in Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Obowo communities in Imo State Nigeria who share common views, virtues, goals and interest.

1.8.2 Community Development

Conceptual Definition: Community Development is the process of making people and their community a better place to live and work by improving their socio-economic and environmental conditions and eradication of poverty (Sabran 2003).

Operational Definition: In this study, Community development is defined as a process and efforts of people in Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Obowo in Imo Sate Nigeria, and mostly united with Government and other agencies to improve the socio-economic, cultural, environmental and security conditions to better their life in these communities, eradication of poverty and also contribute their own quota in the progress and development of the nation.

1.8.3 Participation

Conceptual Definition: Participation is the active engagement of stakeholders and the people(minds, hearts and energy) in their own developmental activities from the very beginning of project identification, prioritization, planning, implementing, evaluation and monitoring(Chambers 1992, Bopp and Bopp (2006).

Operational Definition: In this study, participation is defined as the active involvement of the people of Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Obowo communities in the implementation

of NDDC projects starting from the project identification through evaluation and monitoring.

1.8.4 Empowerment

Conceptual Definition: Empowerment is the ability of individuals to acquire control politically, socially, economically and psychologically. (Zimmerman and Rappaport 1988).

Operational Definition: For the purpose of this study, empowerment means gaining authority by individuals or groups in these communities under study to have access to political, social, economic and psychological support that would help them in structuring their own life and be able to manage their own resources effectively with little or no dependency on others and government. However, the scope of this study is not to access the level of empowerment in these communities.

1.8.5 Monitoring

Conceptual Definition: Monitoring can be defined as: “a continuing function that uses systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an ongoing development intervention with indications of the extent of progress and achievement of objectives and progress in the use of allocated funds”. (World Bank, 2006).

Operational Definition: In this study, monitoring means the continued and organized system of seeing that the projects are executed in line with the standardized specifications and that the objectives of the projects are achieved to the satisfaction of all stakeholders and the communities.

1.8.6 Evaluation

Conceptual Definition: Evaluation is the process of determining the worth or significance of a development activity, policy or program to determine the relevance of objectives, the efficacy of design and implementation, the efficiency or resource used, and the sustainability of results. (World Bank, 2006).

Operational Definition: Evaluation in this study means the reassessment of the developmental projects after completion to ensure it is well executed and to the satisfaction of the communities and the stakeholders in line with the approved design and ensuring sustainability.

1.8.7 Project

Conceptual Definition: Project means the execution of construction works or of other installations or schemes, other interventions in the natural surroundings and landscape including those involving the extraction of mineral resources.

Operational Definition: Project in this study means the construction of public utilities specifically roads, water and electricity in the communities under study.

1.9 Organization of the study

This research is organized into six chapters. Chapter one consists of background of study, statement of problem, research questions and objective of study, significance of study, scope and limitations of study, conceptual and operational definitions of terms and organization of study. Chapter two is the literature review which explains the theoretical and conceptual framework and reviews some literatures relevant to the study. Chapter three is on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) which is the center of this study as the chapter discusses the NDDC, the master plan, economic activities in the region, the environmental impact assessment procedures, list of projects handled by the commission and the impact of these projects in the communities. Chapter four contains the research methodology which is the research design, population and the sampling of study, location of study, data collection and preliminary data analysis. Chapter five consists of data analysis, results and findings. Chapter six consists of Summary, Conclusion and recommendation for further study, bibliography and appendix of the research.

1.10 Conclusion

The chapter highlighted the background and location of the study, the problem statement and research questions, the objectives of the study emphasizing the community development theories and as they relate to the Niger Delta Development Commission sponsored projects on host communities. It also discussed the purpose, the significance and the limitations of the study. Also the chapter gives the conceptual and operational definition of terms used in the study and finally the organization of the study.

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