

# Community-Driven Development Approach and Conflict Management in Oil and Gas Host Communities in Akwa Ibom State

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***Abstract***—Different community development models have been experimented to help curb conflicts and fastrack community development. This study evaluated community-driven development (CDD) approach as an alternative conflict management strategy in Akwa Ibom State. Four specific objectives, four research questions and two hypotheses were stated to guide the study. The study was conducted in Ibeno, Eket and Eastern-obolo local government areas of Akwa Ibom State. Descriptive cross-sectional study was used. A sample size of 250 respondents was drawn from the population. Multi-stage sampling technique was employed for the study. Primary data was collected from the respondents using questionnaires, focused group discussion and interviews. The questionnaire was validated by three experts from Akwa Ibom State university. The reliability of the instrument was determined through the split half method. The instrument was administered on 30 persons from another oil producing community not used in the study. The data obtained were analyzed using Kuder Richardson 21, which gave a value of .88. Mean, frequencies and charts were used to answer the research questions and Pearson product Moment Correlation was used for testing the null hypothesis at .05 level of significance. Findings of the study showed that there were viable CDD projects in the host communities. The study identified welfare, empowerment, projects and rights-based approaches for CDD efforts. It was recommended that systematic monitoring and evaluation of program processes and outcomes are critical to ensure that programs continue to grow and adapt to changing conditions.

***Index Terms***—Community development, CDD Approach, conflict management, host communities, oil and gas companies

## I. INTRODUCTION

For many oil rich developing communities in South South Nigeria, the reality has been low economic growth, environmental degradation, deepening poverty and, in some cases, violent

conflict. While the ‘window of opportunity’ exists for the region’s mineral rich but poor economies to accelerate their development pathways, the oil and gas exploration in the Niger delta region of Nigeria is increasing the levels of political, social, technical and environmental risks (UNCTAD, 2007). The political, social and economic dimensions of the so-called ‘resource curse’ are well documented. There have been reported clashes between communities and the oil companies, friction between government agents and communities as well as inter and intra community clashes all related to oil and gas activities in the Niger delta region including in Akwa Ibom State. In recent times, these conflicts have taken very dangerous and unpredictable dimensions which has even attracted international outcry and federal government intervention (Abali, *et al*, 2020). There are many reasons to justify the agitation from oil and gas host communities and the actions and inactions of the government have only fueled the crisis. The attitude of the oil companies is also inexcusable. However, violence is still not the best way to resolve crisis, yet, it has become one way of getting the government to the negotiations table.

There is need to address transparency and accountability initiatives throughout the extractive industries value chain (Collier, 2007). The World Bank in its 2018 report conceptualized five core components for measuring accountability and transparency- (1) Award of contracts and licenses; (2) regulation and monitoring of operations; (3) collection of taxes and royalties; (4) revenue management and allocation; and (5) implementation of sustainable development policies and projects. This conceptualization essentially involves the community in three areas, depicting the role of community in the oil and gas operations and management. This world bank guideline as the enacted Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) cements the role of communities in oil and gas management. While the government and the oil companies may have stepped up investments in the communities, issues still abound, centering on the significance of the project to individual communities. What might be a need in one community may not be desired in another community. So, awarding a contract for the same project in all oil producing communities may be counterproductive, without having to talk to the community first, identify their needs and developmental objectives, involving them in the project, from startup, implementation to delivery. This is what guarantees community buy-in and widespread acceptance. This brought about the idea of community driven development (CDD).

Community development is the collective action taken to identify common needs of individuals in the community and address those needs without depriving anyone who belongs to a disadvantaged social group. Community driven development (CDD) on the other hand, is an umbrella term that refers to projects which actively include beneficiaries in their design and management. World Bank, refers to CBD projects where communities have direct control over key project decisions as well as the management of investment funds (Rao 2003). According to the International fund for agricultural development, IFAD, (2009), CDD is a way to design and implement development policy and projects that facilitates access to social human and physical capital assets for the rural poor and local communities, by creating the conditions for transforming rural development agents from top-down planners into client-oriented service providers; empowering rural communities to

take initiative for their own socio-economic development (i.e. building on community assets); enabling community-level organizations – especially those of the rural poor – to play a role in designing and implementing policies and programmes that affect their livelihoods; enhancing the impact of public expenditure on the local economy at the community level.

CDD gives control of decisions and resources to community groups. These groups often work in partnership with demand-responsive support organizations and service providers, including elected local governments, the private sector, NGOs, and central government agencies. CDD is a way to provide social and infrastructure services, organize economic activity and resource management, empower poor people, improve governance, and enhance security of the communities.

## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The relationship between the oil companies and their host communities tends to tilt more towards conflict despite the fact that most of the oil companies in the past have embarked on corporate social responsibilities in their host communities. Although the expectation is that the oil companies should intensify its development strategies, incorporate community contractors and ensure they are given contracts to empower them, it seem that project execution is rather too slow and the gestation period of projects are too long; hence, the restiveness being experienced. However, the reasons why some of these community development programmes failed to achieve the desired result is the use of directive approach and top-down approach to community development, in which a group of government professionals, experts or administrators come together to deliberate on the community needs and decide on projects to be embarked upon without the consent and involvement of the community members. This was evident in many past community development programmes and it greatly reduced the participation of the community members in project execution and also the sustainability of such projects (Nwosu, 2017). Thus, even with the colossal amount of money that has gone into implementing community development programmes, not much impact has been achieved (Anochie, *et al*, 2015), especially to contain incessant conflicts. The community driven development approach has been adopted for oil and gas host communities in Akwa Ibom State. However, it is unclear how successful it is in its implementation and if it is really sustainable.

### Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to assess the role of Community Driven Development Projects on conflict management in oil and gas host communities in Akwa Ibom State. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. Identify the viable community projects embarked upon by the oil companies in Akwa Ibom State.
2. Ascertain the level of participation of the community members in community development projects in Akwa Ibom State.

3. Determine the causes of conflict between communities and oil companies in Akwa Ibom State.
4. Determine the types of community driven development projects that can help to reduce the conflicts between host communities and oil companies in Akwa Ibom State.

#### Research Questions

These research questions guided the study;

1. What are the viable community projects embarked upon by the oil companies in Akwa Ibom State?
2. What is the level of participation of the community members in community development projects in Akwa Ibom State?
3. What are the causes of conflict between communities and oil companies in Akwa Ibom State?
4. What are the types of community driven development projects that can help to reduce the conflicts between host communities and oil companies in Akwa Ibom State?

#### Research hypotheses

Ho<sub>1</sub>: Youth restiveness in the host communities is significantly related to absence or lack of community development projects

Ho<sub>2</sub>: there is a significant relationship between non-involvement of host communities in community development projects and conflict in the Niger delta region

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Theoretical Framework

##### Structural Conflict Theory by Johan Galtung (1990)

This theory has been propounded by Johan Galtung (1990) on structural violence. It is also sometimes similar to transformative theory, which addresses the reactions of individuals, groups, cultures, institutions and societies to change. It further sees incompatible interests based on competition for resources, which in most cases are assumed to be scarce, as being responsible for social conflicts.

The main argument of the structural conflict theory is that conflict is built into the particular ways societies are structured and organized. The theory looks at social problems like political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, disease, exploitation, inequality etc., as sources of conflict. Structuralists maintain that conflicts occur because of the exploitative and unjust nature of human societies, domination of one class by another, etc. The exploitation of the proletariat and lower classes under capitalism creates conflict. Thus, capitalist societies are accused of being exploitative, and such exploitation is a cause of conflict. Capitalist conflict, to Marxists, will be resolved through a revolution where the bourgeoisie will be overthrown in a socialist revolution led by workers, bringing about the establishment of a socialist order led by the working people.

In relation to this study, adherents of the structural conflict theory will conceive militancy, pipeline vandalism, agitations and mayhem in the Niger Delta as a resultant aftermath of the perceived

structural injustice meted out to the people of the Niger Delta; first by the oil companies through their oil exploration leading to environmental degradation, then to the government who fail to protect the interest of the locals, and in the other hand by the representatives of the local who choose to enrich their personal pockets to the detriment of the entire community.

Conflict is no doubt a common feature in human existence. As long as people live together, there must be one form of conflict or the other. According to Ogbemi (2020), conflict has become an on going and regular phenomenon in human existence. It is unwittingly in most cases the determinant factor and what limits the conditions for human existence. Conflict theorists have distinguished two types of conflicts, namely conflict of interest and conflict of values of belief. The conflicts between oil producing communities and oil producing companies can be described as a conflict of interest which is a result of scarcity. The primary interest of the oil companies is to make profit, while the oil producing communities feel cheated and want to perfect their interest of being well compensated for the natural resources in their area. This is usually the primary cause of their conflicts. Although such conflicts have led to destruction of oil facilities, kidnapping and in some cases loss of lives, it cannot be necessarily described as such aggressive conflict behaviour, most blatantly in religions and ideological war.

#### Conflict Management

Conflicts arise when two opinions are contradictory and agreement yet to be reached. Conflict is inherent in every human society (Emuedo, 2010) as such it is not an avoidable pathological phenomenon but an essential ingredient in the balance and vitality of group life. Thus, conflict is the means to change and means by which social values of welfare, security, justice and opportunities for personal development can be achieved. What all of these suggest is that though conflict is part of any society, it does not necessarily have to be violent (Emuedo, 2010).

Conflict management has often been used as nearly synonymous with conflict mitigation, dispute settlement and conflict resolution. Although these are undoubtedly related terms and concepts; however, conflict management does not denote the same concept or idea as dispute settlement or conflict resolution (Azar, 1990) or even conflict control which is the chartered role of the United Nations. Given the fact of conflict, conflict management occupies an intermediate position between conflict and conflict resolution which either follows the settlement of the dispute that generated the conflict or is coterminous with it. Conflict management, therefore, in a natural sequence, follows a conflict and precedes its resolution. If at all there is going to be a resolution of the conflict, its management has got to precede it, and therefore, conflict management in the first place is inescapably essential for any conflict resolution.

#### Community Development

The concept of community development lacks a straight forward definition (Wopara, 2016). Community development has been conceived as the process that depends largely on the intentional actions of people in a locality coming together and interacting with the intent of solving their local problems, improving their quality of life, and shaping their future wellbeing (Theodori, 2008).

Community development can be either geared towards improving negative economic situations like poverty reduction, and income generation. Thus, Community development occurs when a group of people in a community reach a decision to initiate a social action process to change their economic, social, cultural and environmental situation (Christenson & Robinson, 1989 cited in Okoji, 2013). To Biggs (1999), community development is a process where people are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities and communities are integrated into the life of the nation enabling them to contribute fully to national progress. In light of the forgoing, community development entails that local people work together to solve their shared challenges with the aim of improving their quality of life. Thus, according to World Bank stipulation, the aim of Community Development Project (CDP) is to establish an effective and sustainable instrument to improve the living conditions and the economic status of disadvantaged communities.

#### Community driven development (CDD)

Community driven development (CDD) is defined as a community development method that empowers local community groups by giving direct control to the community over planning decisions and investment resources through a process that emphasizes participatory planning and accountability (Social Development Department 2006, emphasis added). The approach is thought to be “a way to provide social and infrastructure services, organize economic activity and resource management, empower poor people, improve governance, and enhance security of the poorest” (Ebong, 2019). Community-Driven Development (CDD) is a widely used aid delivery strategy that emphasizes community control over planning decisions and investment resources. It has seen increasing deployment for stabilization and development purposes for rural, urban and resource rich communities.

CDD operates on the principles of community and local government empowerment, decentralization, accountability, transparency, learning by doing or enhanced local capacity. CDD interventions ‘emphasize giving communities and locally elected bodies the power, information and skills to determine the best use of development resources’ (Emeribe, 2002). The underlying premise is that local communities are best placed to identify their development needs and the corresponding solutions to them (Collier, 2000). Also, by giving ‘control of decisions and resources to community groups’ (Babbie, 2010), CDD projects will better meet communities’ needs and enhance ownership. It is also hypothesised that engaging in CDD’s participatory processes will empower communities, increase capacity for local development and governance and improve social cohesion (Worpara, 2016).

CDD can also be applied as a product and as a process. Thus, CDD (primarily) as a means to deliver products and services to people and CDD as a means of changing processes of community engagement and development. Clearly all CDD interventions involve the delivery of resources to people. Similarly, it can be argued that the act of requiring that decision-making power be given to local communities may likely have some effect on various social processes in and across those communities.

According to Bennett and D’Onofrio (2015), whether the product is social infrastructure, a means to generate income, vouchers for poorer people to access services or some other output, CDD intended primarily as a mechanism for the delivery of a product to people focuses on the relative efficacy of the delivery mechanism and those aspects of the CDD process that support that delivery. The participation of community members in various stages of the CDD intervention is important to the extent that this yields a more appropriate delivery of the most appropriate product(s) to the most appropriate people. This engagement would therefore be focused around the revelation and articulation of preferences, the resolution of different views on product choice and the smooth delivery of products. The decision to invest in a CDD ‘product delivery’ approach could hinge on comparison with other delivery channels (such as capital investment projects or cash transfers) and the potential added value of this type of participatory delivery mechanism (Bennett & D’Onofrio, 2015).

#### Approaches to implementing Community Driven Development (CDD) Projects

In fragile situations, engaging citizens to oversee service delivery and creating mechanism to reinforce their participation is critical to improving services and social cohesion (Marcus & Vijayendra, 2021). Complex interventions like CDD have uncertain trajectories of change. Consequently, they do much better with very long-term engagement, good monitoring systems with feedback loops, and an adaptive approach to implementation. CDD also works best when the efforts at enhancing bottom-up engagement are actively supported by a capable central state that has the back of local activists who are confronting local elites. It thus requires a “sandwich” of capable institutions at the bottom and the top, and full integration with the relevant line ministries (Marcus & Vijayendra, 2021).

#### Measures that can help to ensure effective CDD practice among oil and gas host communities

Community Driven Development (CDD) approaches aim to empower people in poverty by putting investments and responsibility for decision-making in their hands. In so doing, CDD works to build opportunities, strengthen the people's voice to demand greater accountability of the institutions that are relevant to their livelihoods, and to promote sustainable development. To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of CDD policies, programme design, and implementation, the World bank (2003) identified the following principles to apply:

1. Make investments responsive to informed demand-Programme rules should facilitate informed choice so communities can select priority options and enterprises that are within their capacity and that they can afford to operate in the long run.
2. Build participatory mechanisms for community control and stakeholder involvement- Involvement of all stakeholders should be sought throughout all phases of the CDD project cycle.

3. Invest in capacity building of community-based organisations (CBOs)-Building the capacity of CBOs and fostering relationships with formal support institutions are productive investments in themselves, but should include explicit exit strategies.
4. Facilitate community access to information-Facilitating flows of information with all groups in a community in terms of programme contents and rules, linkages with government and markets, and good practices of CBOs is an essential component of CDD.
5. Develop simple rules and strong incentives supported by monitoring and evaluation. Community access to resources should be governed by simple rules and procedures that are easy for communities to interpret and apply.
6. Establish enabling institutional and policy frameworks-Fostering an enabling environment includes: (i) responsive decentralised local governments and inter-governmental arrangements; (ii) a conducive legal and regulatory framework that supports community action; and (iii) clear sector policies with well defined roles and responsibilities for key players in each sector.
7. Maintain flexibility in design of arrangements and innovation-Programme design should be reviewed and adjusted periodically, as necessary.
8. Ensure social and gender inclusion-Explicit gender-sensitive approaches are needed to ensure that CBOs incorporate the interests of groups that are often excluded, including women, minority groups, remote communities, and the poorest women and men.
9. Design for scaling-up-To have a broader impact on a country's poverty, CDD needs to spread simultaneously in many communities, while respecting the unique features of specific communities. This includes mobilising administrative and political support, adopting decentralised approval and disbursement processes, devolving responsibilities to communities, clustering programme activities, keeping procedures simple, monitoring and evaluating both processes and outcomes, as well as promoting networks among CBOs (World Bank, 2003).

Okoji (2013) assessed influence of community development programmes of multinational oil corporations on socio- economic empowerment of rural women in Niger Delta, Nigeria. The study adopted ex-post facto research design and random sampling technique was used to select 1126 respondents from the twelve communities. Two scales were used to collect primary data; these are Host Community Development Inventory (HCDS)  $r = 0.71$  and Multinational Oil Development Inventory (MOCDI)  $r = 0.74$ . Data collected were analyzed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis at 0.05 level of significance. Findings from the study revealed that the multinational oil corporations did not follow the principle of community development in the intervention programmes because the host communities were not involved in the projects identification, planning, execution and evaluation. Significant relationship did not exist in the economic development, educational development ( $r = 0.025$ ;  $N = 1126$ ;  $P > 0.05$ ).

Anochie, *et al.*, (2015) evaluated some oil companies in the development of Niger Delta region of Nigeria. They found that, oil economy has handsome beneficial effects, creating room for employment opportunities, educational and infrastructural development. Findings from their study

also show that there is need for some of the oil companies in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria to step up some of their social responsibility programme.

Igbara, *et al.*, (2014) examined corporate social responsibility and the role of oil companies in community development projects in Rivers State Nigeria. The authors collected data using a four-point Likert type scale questionnaire administered on 230 respondents drawn from 10 oil producing communities selected through simple random sampling techniques. The study found that education is the most needed in these communities as a total number of 128 (85%) of the respondents responded in favour of that. The next in rank is Job/Empowerment which scored 74%, followed by Infrastructure with 66%; Health ranked 4th with 63%, while Agriculture and security scored 52 and 46% to rank 5th and 6th respectively.

Nwosu (2017) conducted a study on corporate social responsibility of Exxon-Mobil in Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria and community-industry relations: A sociological jurisprudence prism. The study adopted survey research design to select 720 inhabitants randomly from host communities. The study revealed a significant relationship exists between factors in corporate social responsibility such as; participatory community development, promotion of social investment in healthcare, community economic empowerment, social investment in education, social investment in physical infrastructure, and community-industry relations and that factor in corporate social responsibility indeed predict community industry relations.

Alabi and Ntukekpo (2012) conducted a study titled; “Oil Companies and Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria: An Empirical Assessment of Chevron’s Community Development Projects in the Niger Delta”. The study, which was a descriptive survey, assessed the CSR efforts of one of the oil companies-Chevron, in three oil communities of Niger Delta. The researchers adopted a sampling technique that picked 150 opinion leaders from three communities who were purposively selected for participation in the study. The results indicate that although, the community development efforts of Chevron were actually on ground in the three communities, they were considered not satisfactory nor relevant enough to the needs of the community dwellers. Hence, the recommended a critical review of Chevron’s CSR efforts, involvement of the host communities in the conception and execution of such projects to ensure their relevance to the needs of the recipients.

Ebong (2019) researched multinational Corporations and Community Development. A Study of Total E and P Nigeria Ltd in the Niger Delta (2009-2019). The research design adopted was mixed methods research which entails utilizing Questionnaire, In-depth-Interview, Focus Group Discussion (FDG) and Observation as instruments for data collection. The study revealed that there is no variation in the strategies of Total E and P Ltd in community development in its host communities in Akwa Ibom and Rivers States; that the company adopts the strategy of entering MoU with the host communities, mobilization of local resources such as the use of local skills and contractors, that the rate of the involvement of the local people in the CD process is low, that the company has been able to fill the infrastructural gap in the host communities through the provision of electricity, health care, educational facilities and scholarships, and supply of portable water. The

study found some of the challenges of implementation of CD projects which includes youth restiveness, corruption, and government interference.

Kenneth, *et al* (2021) examined corporate social responsibility and management of oil related conflict in Host Communities of Niger Delta Region, Nigeria. The design adopted for this study is exploratory and descriptive research design and was conducted in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers State in Nigeria. The population of this study comprised of 15,245,247 residents in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers State in Nigeria. Findings from the study showed that there is a significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents on the level of relationship between IOC's and hosts Communities in Niger Delta Region, Nigeria.

#### IV. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Akwa Ibom State. The cross-sectional survey research design was selected for the study due to its ability to gather different views which concerns the oil and gas host community driven development programmes. Descriptive cross-sectional study was used involving a mixture of methods and different population sub-groups that is; the youth, males, females and local community officials. The bulk of indicators were also obtained from the review of literature, and where possible, narrative methods were used. The population of the study is the entire communities hosting oil flow stations and gas facilities in the identified local government areas. A sample size of 250 was drawn from the population. Multi-stage sampling technique was employed for the study. Cluster sampling was used to select each local government area used for the study. Purposive sampling was used to sample the 250 respondents using a ratio of 2-5-2 for Ibeno, Eket and Eastern-obolo local government areas. Primary data was collected from the respondents using questionnaires, focused group discussion and interviews. The questionnaire was validated by three experts from the Akwa Ibom State University. The reliability of the instrument was determined through the split half method. The instrument was administered on 30 persons from another oil producing community not used in the study. The data obtained were analyzed using Kuder Richardson 21, which gave a value of .88. Frequencies, charts and means were used to answer the research questions and Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used for testing the null hypothesis at .05 level of significance.

Presentation of findings

Research Question 1: what are the viable community projects embarked upon by the oil companies in Akwa Ibom State?

Table 1: Summary of Descriptive Analysis of Viable Community Projects embarked upon by the oil companies

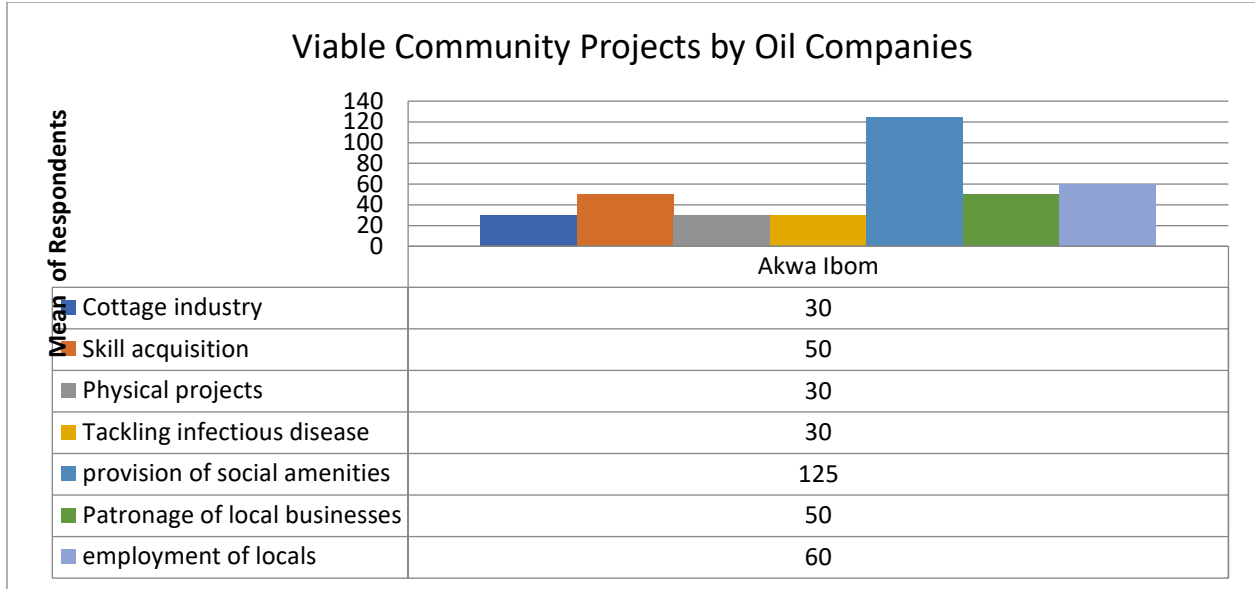


Table 1 shows the summary of the respondents on the viable community projects embarked upon by oil companies in Akwa Ibom State. The chart shows that the identified community projects includes cottage industries, such as palm processing plants, cassava processing mill as well as flour processing mill. The companies also embark on skill acquisition, tackling infectious diseases, provision of social amenities like portable water, boats, electricity and social facilities. They also patronize local businesses using the local content act as well as employing locals in the company. Research Question 2: what is the level of participation of the community members in community development projects in Akwa Ibom State?

Table 2: Summary of Descriptive Analysis of extent of participation of the community members in community development projects in Akwa Ibom State

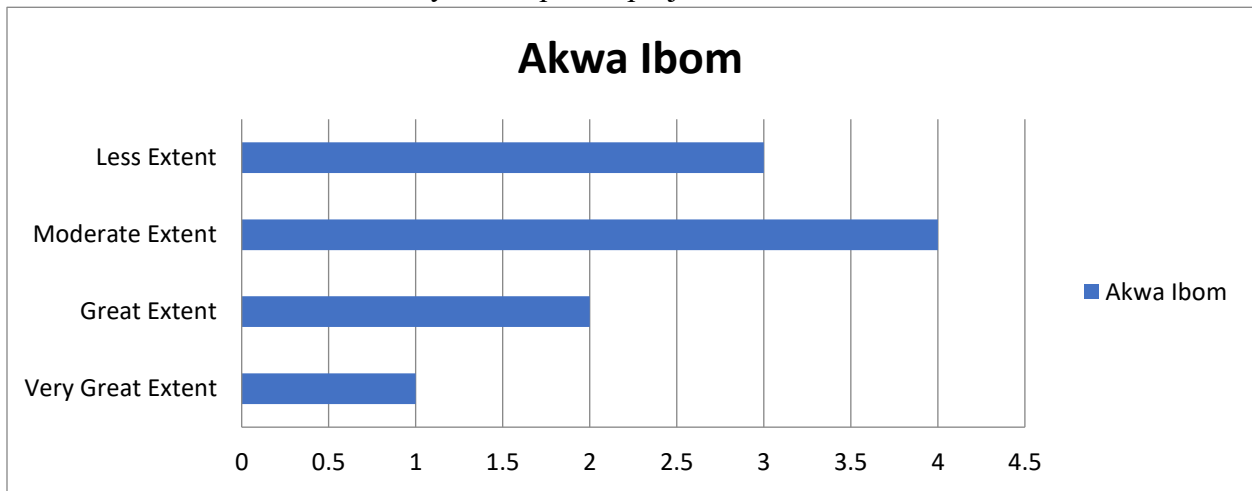


Chart 2 shows the summary of the respondents on the extent to which the community are carried along and involved in the community development projects in Akwa Ibom State. The result shows that the communities are moderately involved in the developmental efforts of oil companies.

Research Question 3: what are the causes of conflict between communities and oil companies in Akwa Ibom State?

Table 3: Summary of Descriptive Analysis of the causes of conflict between communities and oil companies in Akwa Ibom State

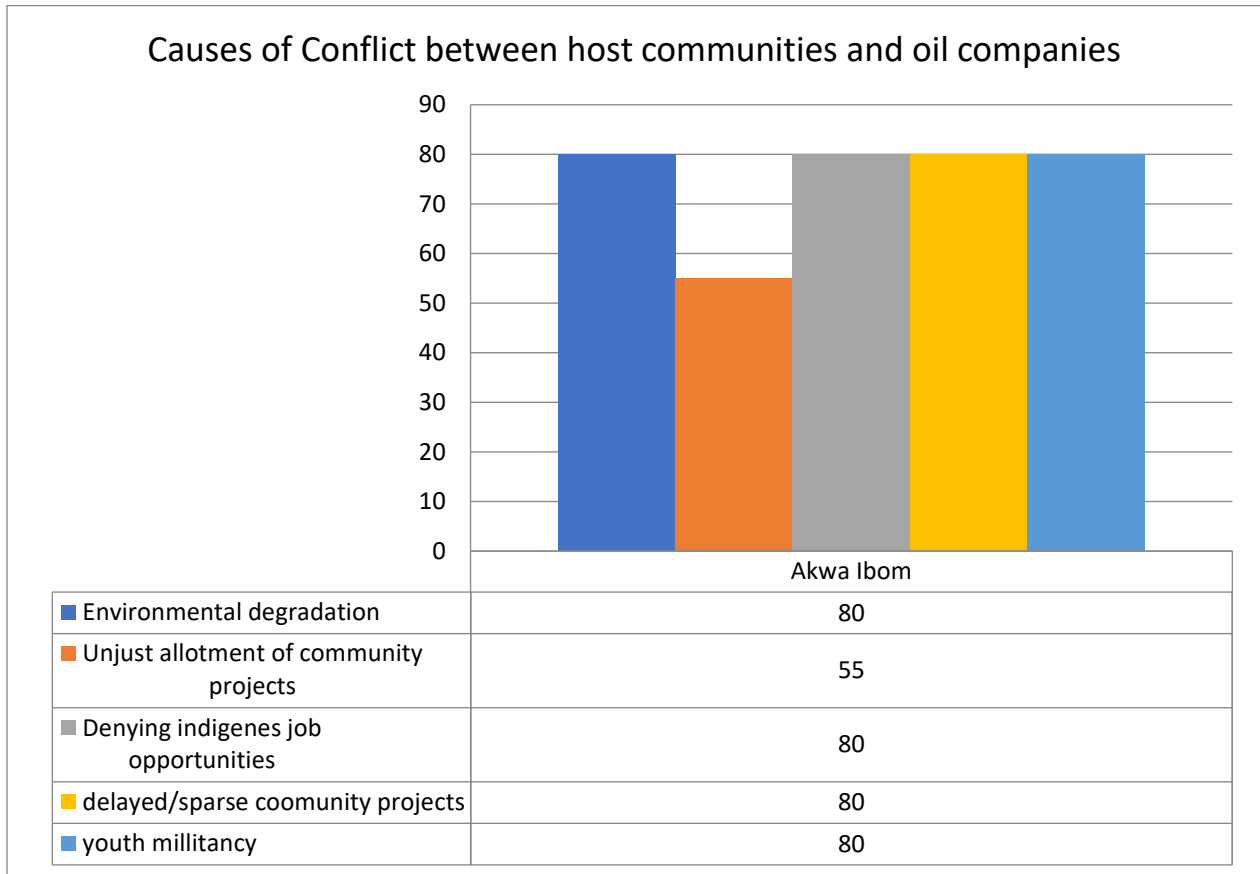


Chart 3 gives a summary of the sources of conflict between host communities and oil companies operating in Akwa Ibom State. The result shows that the identified areas were all responsible for conflicts between communities and oil companies. These include environmental degradation in the form of oil spill, erosion and land encroachment. Unjust allotment of community projects, denying indigenes job opportunities, delayed/sparse community projects as well as youth/community restiveness.

Research Question 4: what are the types of community driven development projects that can help to reduce the conflicts between host communities and oil companies in Akwa Ibom State?

Table 4: Summary of Descriptive Analysis of the types of community driven development projects that can help to reduce the conflicts between host communities and oil companies

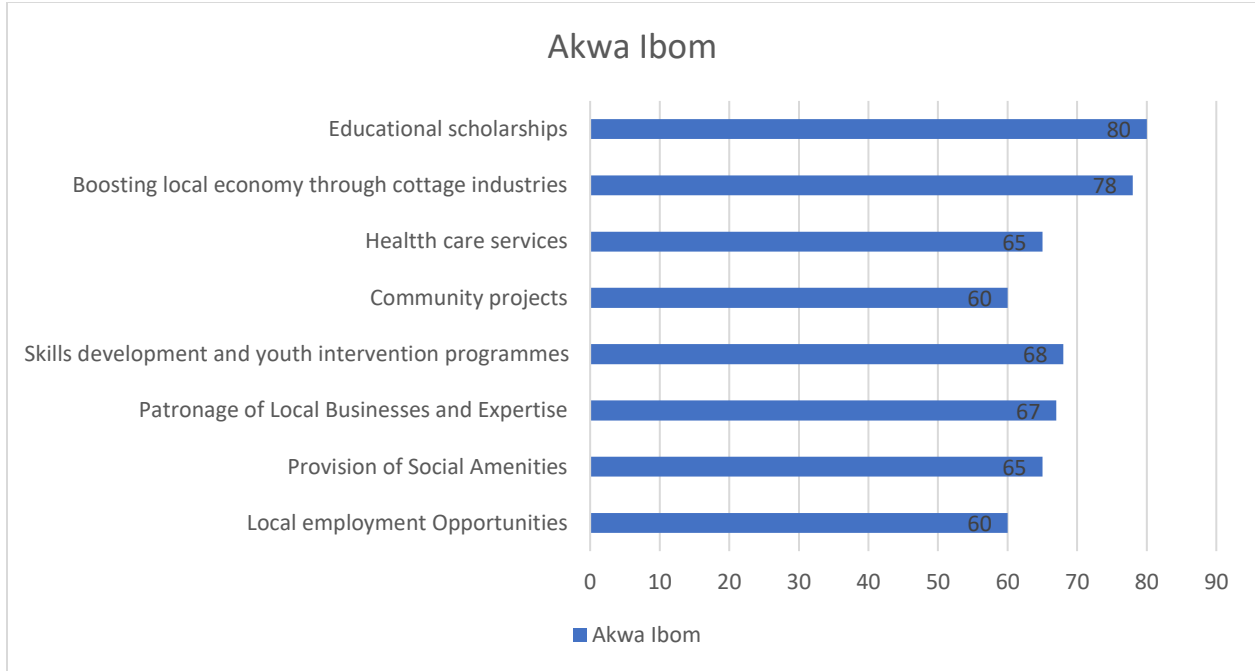


Chart 4 gives the summary of the histogram for types of community driven development projects that can help to reduce the conflicts between host communities and oil companies. The identified strategies include educational scholarships, boosting local economy through cottage industries, health care services, community projects, skills development and youth intervention programmes, patronage of local business and expertise through community contracting, provision of social amenities and local employment opportunities.

**Research Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were tested at .05 level of significance

Ho<sub>1</sub>: Youth restiveness in the host communities is significantly related to absence or lack of community development projects

Table 5: Summary of Pearson product Moment Correlation test for significantly relationship between Youth restiveness in the host communities and absence or lack of community development projects

Variables	$\sum X$ $\sum Y$	$\sum X^2$ $\sum Y^2$	$\sum XY$	r	rcrit	Decision
Youth restiveness	28773	1105007	1038746	0.64	0.087	Reject Ho
absence or lack of community development projects	28507	1049631				

Table 5 summarizes the PPMC significant relationship test. The result shows a correlation index (real) of 0.64, indicating a very strong positive relationship between Youth restiveness in the area and absence or lack of community development projects. The degree of freedom is 598 and at .05 alpha level, the critical r-value (rcrit) is 0.087. Since the real is greater than the rcrit, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, Youth restiveness in the host communities is significantly related to absence or lack of community development projects.

Ho<sub>2</sub>: there is a significant relationship between non-involvement of host communities in community development projects and conflict in the Niger delta region

Table 6: Summary of Pearson product Moment Correlation test for significantly relationship between non-involvement of host communities in community development projects and conflict in Akwa Ibom State

Variables	$\sum X$ $\sum Y$	$\sum X^2$ $\sum Y^2$	$\sum XY$	r	rcrit	Decision
non-involvement of host communities in community development projects	29330	1132730	1083011	0.78	0.087	Reject Ho
conflict in the Niger delta region	28837	1080155				

Table 6 summarizes the PPMC significant relationship test. The result shows a correlation index (real) of 0.78, indicating a very strong positive relationship between non-involvement of host communities in community development projects and conflict. The degree of freedom is 598 and at .05 alpha level, the critical r-value (rcrit) is 0.087. Since the real is greater than the rcrit, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant relationship between non-involvement of host communities in community development projects and conflict in the Niger delta region.

## V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study are discussed under relevant subheadings

### Oil Companies and Community Projects Embarked Upon

Result of analysis of the related research question shows the bar chart summary of the respondents on the viable community projects embarked upon by oil companies in Akwa Ibom State. The chart shows that the identified community projects include cottage industries, such as palm processing plants, cassava processing mill as well as flour processing mill. The companies also embark on skill acquisition, tackling infectious diseases, provision of social amenities like portable water, boats, electricity and social facilities. They also patronize local businesses using the local content act as well as employing locals in the company. This finding is supported by Anochie, Ude and Okolo, (2015) who evaluated some oil companies in the development of Niger Delta region of Nigeria. They found that, oil economy has handsome beneficial effects, creating room for

employment opportunities, educational and infrastructural development. However, findings from their study also showed that there is still room for improvement as there is need for the oil companies in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria to step up some of their social responsibility programme; this as it were would enhance to a large extent the development of the region.

#### Participation of the Community Members in Community Development Projects Embarked Upon by Oil and Gas Companies

Result of analysis of the respondents on the extent to which the community are carried along and involved in the community development projects in Akwa Ibom State. The result shows that the communities are moderately involved in the developmental efforts of oil companies. That corresponding hypothesis test shows that there is a significant relationship between non-involvement of host communities in community development projects and conflict in the Niger delta region. This finding is corroborated by Okoji (2013) who found that the multinational oil corporations did not follow the principle of community development in the intervention programmes because the host communities were not involved in the projects identification, planning, execution and evaluation.

#### Causes of Conflict between Communities and Oil Companies

Result of analysis and findings from the respondents based on the bar chart indicates the sources of conflict between host communities and oil companies operating in the region. The result shows that the identified areas were all responsible for conflicts between communities and oil companies. These include environmental degradation in the form of oil spill, erosion and land encroachment. Unjust allotment of community projects, denying indigenes job opportunities, delayed/sparse community projects as well as youth/community restiveness. This finding is in support of Igbara et al (2014) who posited after research evidence that the main causes of conflict between oil companies and their host communities were in the nature of community development projects embarked upon, the commitment to sustain projects and maintain already existing facilities. There was also the issue of oil spill and environmental pollution, of which the oil companies accuse communities of masterminding. This always leads to a standoff and clashes. This finding is also in tandem with Johnson, et al.(2010) who investigated causes of conflicts in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria as expressed by the youth in Delta State. The result revealed that deprivation of the indigenes of the dividends of oil proceeds which is under economic factor accounted for the greatest cause of conflict.

#### Community Driven Development Projects That Can Help To Reduce Conflicts between Host Communities and Oil Companies

Research question five answers community development projects that can reduce conflicts between oil companies and their host communities. Result of analysis from that the Chart gives the summary of the histogram for types of community driven development projects that can help to reduce the conflicts between host communities and oil companies. The identified strategies

include educational scholarships, boosting local economy through cottage industries, health care services, community projects, skills development and youth intervention programmes, patronage of local business and expertise through community contracting, provision of social amenities and local employment opportunities. This finding is in line with Nwosu (2017) who found that a significant relationship exists between factors in corporate social responsibility such as; participatory community development, promotion of social investment in healthcare, community economic empowerment, social investment in education, social investment in physical infrastructure, and community-industry relations and that factor in corporate social responsibility indeed predict community industry relations. This finding is further strengthened by Ebong (2019), who found that companies have to fill the infrastructural gap in the host communities through the provision of electricity, health care, educational facilities and scholarships, and supply of portable water. In addition, they have to expand their community liaison office to include project monitoring, expand community relations by setting up joint-management team involving communities and companies and support community efforts in finding solutions to social and economic challenges.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that the host communities are moderately involved in the developmental efforts of oil companies and non-involvement in community development efforts often leads to conflicts. It is concluded that Youth restiveness in Akwa Ibom State is significantly related to absence or lack of community development projects and there are too many interest groups and conflicting demands made by host communities making it impossible to please all, leading to conflicts.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made

1. For the community development programmes of the multinational oil corporations to be successful, the host communities must be involved in the identification, planning, implementation and evaluation of the projects.
2. Both parties- host communities and oil companies should set up a community-company liaison, that takes into considerations the long term needs of the community and they should draw up a plan towards its actualization, with responsibilities and obligations for each party.
3. Oil companies as matter of both corporate social responsibility and sustainability, should embark on meaningful projects in the community with datelines met.
4. Community slots for employment, local economy support through indigenous contracting should be honoured by oil companies and efforts should be aimed at sustaining such policies, because conflicts always arises, when such commitments are renegeed upon.

5. Community driven development CDD can be achieved with institutional strengthening, favorable policy environment, good governance and preparedness at the community level.

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#### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest."

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