JOURNAL OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE
ISSN Print: 2992-2763 – ISSN Online: 2992-4618 | Vol. 2, Issue 3, No. 1 / September 2024
https://www.jopd.com.ng

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF TOWN UNION DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AKWUKE (ENUGU SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE)

Chukwunonso Francis Onoh PhD
ffecooh@gmail.com, conoh@noun.edu.ng
National Open University of Nigeria

Nwaduhu Beruck Oruchukwu
berucknwaduhu2017@gmail.com
National Open University of Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Throughout the latter half of the 20th century, town unions in Akwuke faced numerous challenges, including political instability, economic downturns and social changes. Despite these challenges, the unions remained resilient, continually adapting to the changing circumstances. The study investigated "the role of town union development in the development of Akwukecommunity." The specific objectives of the study seek to; determinehowperceptionof town union influenceparticipation in community development among rural dwellers inAkwuke community, examinethe influence of self-concept on town union participation in community development among rural dwellers inAkwuke community and investigate the influence of corruption on town union participation inAkwuke community development. The basic random sampling method was used as the sampling strategy for this investigation. Three null hypotheses were formulated and tested. Literature was reviewed according to the variables of the study and sample of two hundred (200) respondents was drawn from the population of two thousand (2,000). The respondents represented ten percent (10%) of the population and the research design adopted was the survey research design. The result showed that there was a significant influence of perception, self-concept and corruption on town union participation in community development projects. Corruption has a negative impact that undermines trust and participation, whereas positive attitudes and a strong self-concept promote active involvement. Based on the findings of this study, recommendations were made that: it is essential to consider the town union's perspective on community development initiatives, Town unions should strive to build and maintain positive perceptions to effectively drive community development. By fostering a positive self-concept among community members, Akwuke town unions can enhance engagement and drive effective community development. Addressing corruption is essential to building trust, legitimacy and a sense of collective responsibility among community members.

Keyword: Corruption, Community, Development, Peace and Town union**.**

Background to the Study

The desire to do something to improve community life normally implies some aspects of development.The execution of community development projects has become the major means through which various communities get assistance from government and governmental agencies for development.Community development, according to Erim, Asor and Akpama (2017) is the process by which people of the community identify their needs, band together and mobilize in order to address those needs and find solutions to their problems with the least amount of dependence on outside resources. Community development initiatives are innately capable of drawing development to a region. Nevertheless, despite the potential

advantages of these approaches, a lot of people have a hard time participating effectively. As a result of their negative attitudes, many projects in particular communities are either badly implemented or abandoned (Ering, 2006).

Furthermore, community development initiatives may be hampered by its corrupt practices, perceptions of problems and self-concept. The meaning and implementation of participation might vary, making it a complex notion. The context in which participation takes place affects how it is characterized as well. It is an end in itself for some, a question of principles for others, and a matter of practice for yet others. According to Dinello and Popov (2007), "participation measures the extent to which legal opportunities for mass participation are translated into tangible patterns of citizen behavior," underscoring the significance of participation in shaping people's behavior. the goal of community development is to effect positive changes that will improve the quality of life for community members, community members actively engage in projects that are designed to meet their perceived needs (Erim, Asor and Akpama 2017). Aldashev (2003) views involvement as a social behavior, while Rishi (2003) emphasized that attitude is a key component of social behavior and that changing one's attitude is necessary to alter one's behavior.

According to Rishi (2003), people's social acts or personal projects are influenced by their attitudes. If people have a favorable attitude about an event or an activity, they are more likely to change their behavior in a way that is more significant. It is generally acknowledged by other academics that residents who have a good attitude toward community development are more likely to participate in such programs (Kosecik and Sagbas, 2004, Suzanne et al., 2007).

Thus, it is more likely that the town union in the Akwuke community will support development initiatives and take part in them more if they have a good attitude toward community development. Thus, determining the degree or level of a citizen's participation in community development can be aided by understanding their attitude.

This study aims to evaluate the Akwuke town union's engagement in and attitude toward community development. In particular, the research aimed to:

1.Determine how perception of town union influence participation in community development among rural dwellers in Akwuke community.

2.Examine the influence of self-concept on town union participation in community development among rural dwellers in Akwuke community.

3.Investigate the influence of corruption on town union participation in Akwuke community development.

This study is restricted to the town union's perspective on involvement in Akwuke community development initiatives. The study was also restricted to the factors that were being examined, which included the town union's perception, self-concept and corruption in regard to community development initiatives in the Akwuke community.

Conceptual Review

Town Union

A town union is an organization established and owned by the members of the community that created it (Nwankwo and Okonkwo, 2009). Typically, the union takes its name from the village or town that formed it. For example, a town union established by natives of Nkanu residing in new towns or cities might be called the Nkanu Development Union. Similarly, a

town union formed by natives of Akwuke living in cities or new towns is named the Akwuke Development Union, as we have in the study. Town unions are the most prominent type of Community-Based Organization (CBO) in Nigeria today, with other examples including age grades and cooperative societies. These unions are typically formed by residents or indigenes of a town or village, both those living within the community and those residing elsewhere, who come together to promote the well-being of their hometown.

History of Town Union Development in Akwuke, Enugu South Local Government Area Of Enugu State.

The development of town unions in Akwuke, a community in Enugu State, Nigeria, can be traced back to the early 20th century. Akwuke formed town unions, as did many other communities in Eastern Nigeria, with the goal of promoting harmony and organising group efforts for communal advancement. In the beginning, these unions were unofficial assemblies of local leaders and elders who aimed to improve the welfare of their people and address shared problems. Like in other parts of the nation, town unions in Akwuke adjusted to the new political climate following Nigeria's independence in 1960. They carried on serving as important development agents, utilising the community's combined efforts to carry out a range of initiatives. Town unions strongly promoted literacy and the creation of educational institutions throughout the post-colonial era, which saw an increase in the importance of education.

Akwuke town unions have changed recently to accommodate the needs of contemporary society. Their operations have been impacted by globalisation and the introduction of technology, which has made resource management and communication more effective. In order to handle current difficulties, these unions now combine both conventional methods and cutting-edge organisational strategies. Town unions have played a significant role in securing funds from outside sources and lobbying the government on behalf of development initiatives. To strengthen the local economy, they have also concentrated on developing community members' capacities, teaching them a variety of skills, and encouraging entrepreneurship. Environmental sustainability is becoming a top concern, with programs designed to save regional resources and encourage environmentally friendly behaviour.

Perception of Town Union Influence on Participation in Community Development

The community's involvement in development initiatives is greatly impacted by the impression of Town union influence. Town unions are well-known Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) that are essential in organising resources, planning community development initiatives, and encouraging a sense of shared responsibility among members. Therefore, town unions leaders must strive to build and maintain trustworthiness, inclusiveness, effective communication, good leadership and social cohesion to effectively drive community development.

Influence of Self-Concept on Town Union Participation in Community Development

Town union involvement in community development is significantly impacted by one's self-concept. Positive self-concepts that are defined by a strong feeling of identity, affiliation, competence and social duty as well as by the existence of role models and alignment of personal values, promote active engagement in town union activities. Town unions can boost engagement and promote successful community development by helping individuals of the community have a good sense of who they are.

Influence of Corruption on Town Union Participation

Town union engagement is significantly impacted negatively by corruption. In addition to demotivating community members, it erodes trust and decreases accountability and transparency. It also causes resource misallocation. Town unions must place a high priority on honesty, openness and accountability in their day-to-day activities in order to promote engaged community development. Building legitimacy, trust, and a sense of shared duty among community members requires addressing corruption.

Theoretical Framework

Community Action Theory

The "community action theoretical model" serves as the theoretical foundation for this investigation. Paulo Freire introduced the community action theoretical model in 1973. He came to see that the entire state of political, social and economic dominance was directly responsible for the ignorance and sluggishness of the impoverished in his nation. He sees humans from two perspectives.

According to one perspective, people are just things that can be shaped and changed. According to the opposing viewpoint, people are autonomous subjects who have the capacity to transcend and remake reality. According to the principle, communities must work together to increase their capacity for development through education (Kulig, 2000). This idea implicitly holds that by learning about town union management, inhabitants of underprivileged communities can work together to achieve socioeconomic improvement (Boreham, 2004).

This indicates that participatory action approaches are an element of the community action concept. In other words, it leverages a community's assets to bring about change from within (Racher, 2007). By fostering community capacity, collaborating with communities and offering a framework for locals to have the knowledge and tools required to evaluate their socioeconomic circumstances, it seeks to bring about change (Lavery, 2005). After completing this, they will be able to organize, carry out and assess activities meant to enhance their circumstances. The Community Action Theory is highly relevant to the assessment of the role of town union development in Akwuke. By emphasizing education, collective capacity building, participatory action, utilization of community assets and a framework for socioeconomic evaluation, this theory provides a robust foundation for understanding how town unions can effectively contribute to the development of Akwuke. The theory is highly pertinent to the study of town union development

Empirical Review

Popoola (2013) investigated the significance of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) engaging in governance to accelerate socio-economic development, foster accountability, and prompt responsiveness from government officials. He argued that CBO participation in governance could promote effective representation and empowerment, thereby improving democratic outcomes and grassroots development.

Iheriohanma, Wokoma, and Nwokorie (2014) examined the leadership challenges and obstacles to community development in Nigeria. They identified various issues hindering the transformation of rural communities, despite their abundant human and material resources. These challenges include the lack of purposeful, critical and knowledgeable leadership, as well as issues such as the absence of rule of law, transparency, accountability, corruption and

electoral malpractices. They recommended that leaders should prioritize transparency and accountability, and emphasized the need to address both internal and external factors that hinder rural development. In essence, effective leadership is crucial for achieving sustainable development in rural communities.

Ugwoke and Ugwuanyi (2014) examined the involvement of communities in the management of secondary schools within the Nsukka education zone. They found that communities actively contributed funds for constructing school buildings. However, they observed that community members were not sufficiently included in the decision-making processes regarding the administration of secondary schools in the area. They recommended an immediate update to the National Policy of Education to clearly define areas where communities can participate in decision-making. Additionally, they advocated for increased awareness and education to encourage greater community involvement in school governance.

Wedam, Quansah, and Debrah (2015) investigated the impact of community participation on the development and management of educational infrastructure in Ghana. They found that community involvement directly correlates with increased school enrolment and improved access to and utilization of educational facilities. However, they highlighted significant deficiencies in the quality and condition of educational infrastructure provided by communities in many instances. They suggested ongoing education, awareness campaigns, and a thorough evaluation of stakeholder influence as crucial measures for improvement.

In his study, Bashir (2015) examined the role of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in fostering community development in Offa Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria. The research aimed to assess the contributions of CBOs to rural development and to identify the factors contributing to challenges faced by these organizations in actively participating in community development efforts. The study primarily relied on secondary data, supplemented by some primary data. Data analysis was conducted using simple percentage calculations to interpret the collected information. The main focus was to uncover reasons behind the perceived underperformance of CBOs in the area under investigation.

Okereke-Ejiogu, Asiabaka and Umunakwe (2016) used two hundred and sixteen (216) respondents to study the factors related to corruption that limit the success of community and social development projects in Imo State. They found that the following factors were detrimental to the success of these projects: theft (90.0%), untimely release of counterpart fund (80.8%), embezzlement of fund (79.9%), bloating of project cost (79.9%), elite capture (78.2%), and awarding contracts to friends or relatives (50.1%).

Nwobashi and Itumo (2017) investigated the relationship between democratic governance and the role of town unions in delivering basic education in rural areas of Ebonyi State. The study covered twelve rural communities spread across the state's three senatorial zones. Motivated by the ongoing debate among development scholars on the link between democracy and development, the research employed a mix of methods including questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), observation, and analysis of documents. The study utilized community action theory as its analytical framework and employed statistical tools such as percentages, contingency tables, histograms, and chi-square tests for hypothesis testing. The findings indicated that democratic governance has positively influenced the involvement of town unions in providing basic education in rural Ebonyi. However, challenges such as lack of awareness, illiteracy, and poverty among rural residents hindered the effectiveness of town unions in this regard. The study recommended that governments should allocate regular subsidies to town unions to help them raise sufficient funds for basic education projects. Additionally, leadership training programs should be

conducted regularly to educate and empower town union executives with global best practices in rural development.

Ezeibe (2018) conducted a study on the Political Economy of Town Unions and Rural Development in Nigeria, specifically focusing on the Southeast region. The research involved distributing 500 questionnaires in each of the five states within the Southeast geopolitical zone. The study found that town unions' engagement in rural development in Southeast Nigeria is consistently shaped by the interconnected relationships between financial influences and electoral processes, as well as the interplay between government policies and economic activities.

In their assessment of rural community development, Udu and Onwe (2019) focus on the activities of the Ebonyi State Community Based Social Development Agency (EB-CSDA) in reducing poverty in rural areas of Ebonyi State, Nigeria. They highlight the agency's strong performance in implementing micro-projects for rural communities through partnerships. However, despite these efforts, poverty persists as a significant issue in the studied community. This challenge is attributed to the agency's use of a group-based approach rather than directly targeting individual impoverished individuals.

Oke (2021) investigated the role of town union governments in fostering community development in Igboland, focusing on the Nrobo community. According to Oke, town unions emerged as significant agents of change in the socio-political landscape following colonialism. They became crucial in promoting self-help initiatives for community development during the post-colonial era, particularly evident after the Nigeria Biafra War. The formation of the Nrobo Progressive Union (NPU) in 1991 accelerated developmental efforts within the community. Despite their impactful contributions, town union activities across Igboland have generally received insufficient academic attention. The NPU, through diverse funding sources, successfully addressed various developmental needs in Nrobo, including social infrastructure and the preservation of cultural heritage. His study employed an eclectic analytical approach, combining data from different sources to present a comprehensive chronological and thematic analysis of these developments.

Amadi and Olewe (2023) investigated the role of town unions in promoting rural development across Southeast Nigeria. Their specific objectives included assessing the town unions' involvement in maintaining and rehabilitating rural roads, constructing markets and shops, and providing portable water supply in the region. The research employed a survey design with a population of 1,744,408, using the Freund and Williams formula to determine a sample size of 576. Data collected were analyzed using mean scores, and hypotheses were tested using chi-square analysis. The findings indicated a significant level of contribution by town unions in maintaining and rehabilitating rural roads, constructing markets and shops, and facilitating portable water supply in Southeast Nigeria. The study concluded that town unions play a crucial role in influencing rural development in the region. It was recommended that Southeast governors should promote the establishment of town unions and provide economic support to enable these unions to effectively drive development initiatives at the grassroots level.

Research Design

The survey research design was chosen for this investigation. Survey study design, according to Isangedighi, Joshua, Asim and Ekuri (2004), entails data collecting in order to precisely and impartially represent existent phenomena. Data for survey research is mostly gathered through questionnaires and interviews. Economic in that it allows conclusions to be drawn from and

generalizations made about a population that may be too costly to investigate fully is made possible by the survey research design.

Population of the Study

Thepopulationofthisstudyismadeupofalladultmalesandfemalesbetween20yearsto50yearsintwo communities vizAkwuke and aguwani that make up the village.

Because of their maturity and the presumption that they were aware of the data collection instrument, these individuals were deemed suitable for the study.

Sample /Sampling Technique

The basic random sampling method was used as the sampling strategy for this investigation. Giving each person in the population an equal and autonomous chance to be chosen was the goal. The primary goal of the basic random sampling technique was to create a sample that would produce research findings that could be applied to a sizable population.

The researcher used the hat and draw (balloting) method as her strategy.

Here, the researcher jotted down each community's number on a slip of paper, rolled each slip into a paper ball, thoroughly mixed the paper balls in a container (hat), and then drew the necessary number of communities without looking. The necessary sample for the investigation was also chosen at random.

The sample of this study was made up of two hundred (200) respondent srandomly selected from two (2) communities in Akwuke.

Abreakdownis shown in Table.

TABLE 1

Distribution ofpopulation ofthe study

S/N	Nameofcommunities	Total
1	Akwuke	1215
2	Aguwani	785
	Total	2,000

Source: Authors' Computations 2024.

TABLE 2

Distribution ofsampleofthe study

S/N	Nameofcommunities	Total
1	Akwuke	1215
2	Aguwani	785
	Total	2,000

Source: Authors' Computations 2024.

Instruments/Method of Data Collection

The researcher employed the modified four- p o i n t Liker the type questionnaires. The questionnaire had two sections, A and B. Section A dealt with demographic issues such as age, sex, marital status, qualification and occupationof the respondents.

On the other hand, section B dwelt on contextual issues of the research study which included various items on the variables under study. The questions were constructedonafour-point Likertscale e.g.

Stronglyagree (SA)

Agree (A)

Stronglydisagree (SA)

Disagree (D)

Validity of the Instrument

The questionnaire's components were chosen to accurately represent the factors being investigated. The produced items were first given to project supervisors and experts in research and statistics for screening before being used in the instrument. Ultimately, the relevant items were kept, while the irrelevant ones were removed. The validity of the item was assessed using the face and content validity.

Reliability of the Instrument

Table 3

	Variables	Category	Column
1.	Age:	18 – 25yrs…… 1	3
		26 – 35yrs……. 2	
		36yrs and above 3	
2.	Marital status:	Single ……. 1	4
		Married ……... 2	
		Divorce ……. ..3	
		Widow ……4	
3.	Educational qualification:	Non-formal education 1	4
		FSLC …… 2	
		NCE …….. 3	
		Any other …… . 4	
4.	Occupation:	Civil service ……... 1	4
		Teaching …… 2	
		Farming …….. 3	
		Student ……... 4	

5.	Perception:	Add the scores on items	1
		1-5 on section B of the	
6.	Self	Add the scores on items	15-
		6-10 on section B of the	
		Instrument.	
7.	Corruption	Add the scores on items	15-16
		11-15 on the section B of the	
		Instrument	
8.	Participation in community	Add the score on items	
	Development projects	16-20 0n section B of the	
		instrument	

Source: Authors' Computations 2024.

Procedure for Data Collection

The primary tool for gathering data was the questionnaire. Both of the two sampled communities that comprise Akwuke received administrations of the questionnaire. The purpose of the exercise and the significance of providing unbiased answers to the items were explained to the responders. Additionally, they were instructed to answer the questions honestly because the data they provided would be kept completely confidential and utilized exclusively for research purposes.

With the assistance of two study assistants, the researcher personally distributed the questionnaires. Two hundred (200) questionnaires were satisfactorily filled out and collected from the sampled communities at the end of the exercise.

Each item on the questionnaire was given a code or score after copies were gathered. A coding plan was created for each data preparation step by creating a tabular key for each instrument construct (See Table 3).

Method of Data Analysis

The following procedure was adopted for the analysis of research data on a hypothesis-by-hypothesis basis. Each hypothesis determines how the data analysis process is carried out. Here, each study hypothesis is reiterated, its variables are listed, and the proper statistical analysis method for testing it is provided. Every hypothesis was examined at the significance level of.05.

Hypothesis one

There is no significant influence of perception on town union participation in community development projects.

Independentvariable: Perception

Dependent variable: town union participations in community development projects.

Statistical technique: One WayAnalysisof Variance (ANOVA)

Hypothesis two

There is no significant influence of self-concept on town union participation in community development projects.

Independentvariable:	Self-concept
Dependent variable:	town union participations in Community Development Projects.
Statistical technique:	One WayAnalysisof Variance (ANOVA)

Hypothesis three

There is no significant influence of corruption on town union participation in community development projects.

Independentvariable:	Corruption
Dependent variable:	town union participations in Community Development Projects.
Statistical technique:	One WayAnalysisof Variance (ANOVA)

RESULTS/DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The statistical analysis of the data gathered from the respondents is presented in this chapter along with a discussion of the findings.

General description of research variables

The study looked into town union attitudes and involvement in community development initiatives in the Akwukwe community.

The study's three independent sub-variables were continually measured using a modified Likert-type scale with four points: strongly agree, agree, disagree, and disagree strongly. Each variable on the questionnaire had five items.

Using a four-point Likert-type scale, the dependent variable of town union involvement in community development projects was also assessed. The questionnaire had five items for the dependent variable. The survey used two hundred (200) respondents in total.

Presentation of results

Hypothesis one

There is no significant influence of perception on town union participation in community development projects

Independent variable:	Perception
Dependent variable:	Town Union Participation in Community Development project

Statistical technique: One Way Analysis of Variance(ANOVA) was Used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is presented in table 4.

Table 4

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the influence perception on town union participation in community development projects

Variation	N		X	SD	
High	25		16.68	2.506	
Moderate	45		18.84	0.506	
Low	130		21.89	1.079	
Total	200		21.28	1.890	
Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F-cal	P-val
Between groups	920.289	2	385.166		
Within groups	488.090	197	2.671	14.80	.000
Total	1408.379	199			

Source: Authors' Computations 2024.

*P<.05,df=2 and 197,Crit – F = 3.00

from Table 4, the calculated F-value of 14.80was found to be greater than the critical F-value of 3.00 needed for significant level with degree in of freedom 2 and 198. In this result, the null hypothesis was rejected.

This means that there was a significant influence of perception on town union participation in community development projects.

Hypothesis two

There is no significant influence of self-concept on town union participation in community development projects.

Independentvariable: self-concept

Dependent variable: Town union participation in community development projects

Statistical technique: One Way Analysis ofVariance (ANOVA)was used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 5.

TABLE5

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the influence perception on town union participation in community development projects

Variation	N		X	sD	
High	71		18.01	1.177	
Moderate	55		14.10	1.201	
Low	74		16.01	1.211	
Total	200		21.51	1.189	
Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F-cal	P-val
Between groups	930	280	2	328.153	
Within groups	477	090	197	2.688	.000
Total	1408.37	199			

Source: Authors' Computations 2024.

*P<. 05, df = 2 and 197, Crit – F = 3.00

From Table 5, the calculated F-value of 14.38* was found to be greater than the critical F-value of 3.00 needed for significant level with degree of freedom 2 and 197. In this result, the null hypothesis was rejected.

This means that here was a significant influence of self-concept on town union participation in community development projects.

Hypothesis three

There is no significant influence of corruption on town union participation in community development projects.

Independentvariable: Corruption

Dependent variable: Town unionparticipation in community development projects.

Statistical technique: OneWay Analysis of Variance(ANOVA) was used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is presented in TABLE 6

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the influence of corruption on town union participation in community development projects

Variation	N		X	sD	
High	25		16.68	2.506	
Moderate	45		18.84	0.506	
Low	130		21.89	1.079	
Total	200		21.28	1.890	
Source of variation	SS	Df	MS	F-cal	P-val
Between groups	920.289	2	385.166		
Within groups	488.090	197	2.671	14.80*	.000
Total	1408.379	199			

Source: Authors' Computations 2024.

*P<. 05, df = 2 and 197, Crit – F = 3.00

Table6, the calculated F-value of 14.89* was found to be greater than the critical F-value of 3.00 needed for significant level with degree of freedom 2 and 198. In this result, the null hypothesis was rejected.

This means that here was a significant influence of self-concept on town union participation in community development projects.

Discussionoffindings

The findings of the hypotheses that guided the investigation are discussed in this part.

Hypothesis one

The first hypothesis's outcome showed that perception had a big impact on town union involvement in community development initiatives. This hypothesis's results are consistent with those of Bolam (2005), who argued that sensitive project design is a necessary condition for effective involvement in order to prevent the stigmatization of underprivileged people. Participation must overcome negative public opinion, which is particularly evident for underprivileged populations.

Additionally, the findings of Umeh's (1995) study indicated that Osina Town Union members believed that self-help community development initiatives might not be successful in the presence of village conflicts, women's lack of participation, widespread illiteracy, and insufficient mobilization.

According to Nzama (2008), community perceptions of more community development initiatives are strongly positively correlated with the level of community participation in development.

Hypothesis two

The first hypothesis's conclusion showed that town union engagement in community development projects was significantly influenced by self-concept. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with Purkey's (1970) statement, as cited by Ukpong (2000), that a person who questions himself is akin to a man who joins the ranks of his enemies and puts his own arms on fire—he ensures his own failure by being the first to come to that realization. People have learned to see themselves as incapable of contributing to the progress of the community. However, self-concept is what the individual thinks of himself in relation to community development.

He may feel he is competent enough to initiate some self-help projects even though his potentials lie in the other areas. Erim, Asor and Akpama (2015) in line with the findings, noted that communal participation is the backbone to the development of any community.

However, Nkpogen (2004) in a similar study reported a result which significantly differs from the findings of the western world and afew others in sub-Saharan Africa, in his study the author found alow non-significant negative correlation between self-concepts and town union participation in community development projects.

Hypothesis three

According to the first hypothesis's result, town union involvement in community development projects was significantly impacted by corruption. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with the findings of Erim, Asor, and Akpama (2015), who stated that for community development initiatives to be sustainable, individuals must actively engage in the process. Ofoh (2008) said in the same vein that previous attempts at Nigerian development programs had been unsuccessful.

Nonetheless, there's a chance that their downfall is related to the widespread corruption among the populace.

Ofoh (2008) conducted a study on factors related to corruption and found that the following factors were found to be working against the success of community and social projects in the study area: theft, untimely release of counterpart funds, embezzlement of funds, bloating of project cost, elite capture, and awarding contracts to friends or relatives.

CONCLUSIONANDRECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the attitude of town union and participation in community development projects in Akwuke community. The analysis's conclusion showed that perception, self-concept, and corruption all had a big impact on town union involvement in community development initiatives in Akwuke community. Corruption

has a negative impact that undermines trust and participation, whereas positive attitudes and a strong self-concept promote active involvement. Town unions must put a high priority on openness, responsibility, and efficient communication in order to improve community development initiatives. They also need to make sure that community members feel deeply connected to and accountable for one another. By taking care of these issues, community involvement in development projects can become more robust and successful.

Recommendations

The study recommended that it is essential to consider the town union's perspective on community development initiatives. They must strive to build and maintain positive perceptions to effectively drive community development. Self-concept influences how individuals view their abilities, responsibilities, and roles within the community, thereby affecting their willingness to engage in collective efforts. By fostering a positive self-concept among community members, Akwuke town unions can enhance engagement and drive effective community development. Addressing corruption is essential to building trust, legitimacy, and a sense of collective responsibility among community members.

References

Amadi, S. C., &Olewe, B.N., (2023) Contributions of Town Unions Administration on Rural Development in Southeast, Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Social Development, 11(1), 1-13.*

Bashir, A.D. (2015). Evaluation of the contribution of Community Based Organisation (CBOs) to the development of communities in Nigeria (A Study of Offa Local Government Area, Kwara State). Unpublished M.Sc thesis submitted to the School of Postgraduate Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Boreham, N. (2004). A theory of collective competence: challenging the neoliberal individualization of performance at work. *British Journal of Educational Studies, 52(1) 517.*

Dinello, N. & Popov, V. (2007). Political institutions and development. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham.

Erim, C.M., Asor, L.J. &Akpama, S.I., (2015). Communal Participation Correlates and Implementation of Social Welfare Projects in Odukpani and Biase Local Government Areas, Cross River State. *British Journal of Education Vol.3, No.1, pp. 1-13.*

Ering, S. (2006). A Monograph in reading in Sociology of Development: Calabar: University of Calabar Press. pp: 85-93.

Iheriechanma, E. B. J., Wokoma, C. U. & Nwokorie, C. N. (2014). Leadership Question and the Challenges of Community Development in Nigeria. *European Scientific Journal, 10(35), 204-216.*

Isangedighi, A. J., Joshua, M.T. Asim, A.E.&Ekuri, E.E. (2004). Fundamentals of research and statistics in education and social sciences. Calabar: University of Calabar Press.

Kulig, J. (2000) Community resiliency: The potential for community health nursing theory development. *Public Health Nursing, 17(5), 374-385.*

Lavery, S (2005). The Community action model: A Community-driven model designed to address disparities in health. *American Journal of Public Health, 5(4): 611-616.*

Nwankwo, B.c., & Okonkwo, S.I (2009) "Enhancing Accelerated and Sustainable Rural Development through Community Participation: The community-based organization (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector", in E.A Egbo, M A Obi, M Okeke and I Erne (eds.) Rural and Community Development: Critical Issues and Challenges. Onitsha: Austino Publishing Company.

Nwobashi, H.N.andItumo, A. (2017). Democracy and Contributions of Town Union to Educational Development in Ebonyi State a Focus on Some Selected Rural Communities. Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, 8(4), 4761.

Oke, G. J., (2021) Town Union Governments and Community Development in Igboland: A Study of Nrobo Community. *Sapientia Foundation Journal of Education, Sciences and Gender Studies (SFJESGS), Vol.3 No.3 September, 2021; pg. 123 – 136*.

Popoola, F. (2013). Making Government More Participatory at the Local Level in Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development, 6(9), 101-106.*

Racher, F (2007). Running Head: The Community Health Action Model: Health Promotion by the Community. Vandon University Press, Lancaster.

Rishi, P., (2003). What actors think of Joint Forest Management: A perceptual analysis· 5(1):53-57

Udu, L. E. and Onwe, S.O. (2019) Approaches to Community Development in Nigeria, Issues and Challenges: A Study of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency (EB-CSDA). *Journal of Sustainable Development Vol. 9 No. 1, 296.*

Ugwoke, S. C. & Ugwuanyi, F. N. (2014). Community Participation in the Administration of Secondary Schools in Nsukka Education Zone. *International Journal of Research in Arts and Social Science (IJRASS), 7(2), 107-117.*

Wedam, E., Quansah, J. Y. D. & Debrah, I. A. (2015). Community participation in Educational Infrastructure Development & Management in Ghana, Education, 5(5), 129-141.