COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR NIGER DELTA IN NIGERIA

Otega Okinono (95285)

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ABSTRACT

The need for community development sustainability is vital for nation's progression, transformation and general well-being of a respective community. Nevertheless, its impact on community members particularly in rural communities remained a major issue that has not been adequately addressed. This scenario also captured in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria where so much effort has been put in by the government in the region yet not much has been achieved. Therefore, this study is intended to examine the challenges and catalyst for community development sustainability in the Niger Delta region. A mixed methodology was employed in this study to elicit an in-depth and meaningful data on Niger Delta community's participation to facilitate development sustainability. The in-depth interview was employed in the qualitative study using 19 interviewees from across six selected communities from three states in the Niger Delta region and three key officers from the NDDC making a total of twenty-two interviewees. Survey was used for only community members using 300 questionnaires which were administered using the cluster sampling technique. The pick and drop-off technique was used for data collection and 284 questionnaires representing a total response rate of 94.7% were returned. The interviews were thematically coded thereafter analysed using the Nvivo 10 software while the SPSS version 20 was used for the quantitative data analysis. The results from both findings were triangulated and the findings show that three fundamental elements: *Community*, *developmental agency* and *government* were identified as crucial for community developmental sustainability. The findings from the study demonstrate that the role of community members is key element in achieving community developmental sustainability whereas the approach and strategies adopted by government and developmental agencies motivates community participation and involvement in developmental programs. The research findings elicit the pertinent role of community participation on development sustainability, and proposed a framework that promotes community development sustainability. The study concludes that government reactiveness towards developmental goals; adequate funding and relationship of community members with developmental agencies are salient issues that needs adequate attention in developmental plans.

Key words: Community development; community participation; community involvement; developmental agency; developmental strategy.

ABSTRAK

Kelestarian pembangunan komuniti adalah penting bagi transformasi dan kemajuan bagi sesebuah Negara. Walaubagaimanapun impak pembangunan komuniti khususnya komuniti luar bandar masih menjadi isu besar yang belum mendapat perhatian dan penyelesaian sepenuhnya. Senario yang sama juga berlaku di Lembah Niger, Nigeria di mana walaupun telah banyak program pembangunan dilaksanakan oleh pihak kerajaan tetapi impak terhadap tahap kelestarian pembangunan komuniti setempat masih sedikit. Justeru kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji cabaran dan katalis kepada kelestarian pembangunan komuniti di Lembah Niger. Pendekatan metod kajian yang pelbagai digunakan untuk mendapatkan data yang sesuai berkaitan dengan penyertaan komuniti di Lembah Niger dalam usaha untuk meningkatkan kelestarian pembangunan komuniti di lembah tersebut. Untuk itu sejumlah 22 responden yang terdiri dari 6 komuniti pilihan dari 3 negeri dalam daerah Lembah Niger dan tiga pegawai NDDC telah ditemuduga. Manakala survei digunakan khususnya untuk mendapatkan data kuantitatif dari ahli komuniti yang terlibat dan 300 kaji selidik telah diedar dengan menggunakan teknik sampling kluster. Kaedah *pick and drop-off* teknik digunakan dan sejumlah 284 soalselidik lengkap (94.7%) telah diterima. Hasil temuduga telah dikod secara tematik menggunakan perisian Nvivo 10 dan sementara itu SPSS versi 20 telah digunakan untuk menganalisa data kuantitatif. Dapatan kajian daripada dua metod kajian telah ditriangulasikan dan dapatan kajian telah menunjukkan 3 elemen penting iaitu komuniti; agensi pembangunan dan kerajaan telah dikenalpasti sebagai faktor penting dalam kelestarian pembangunan komuniti. Juga dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa tanggungjawab warga atau ahli komuniti adalah merupakan faktor utama di dalam mencapai kelestarian pembangunan komuniti. Sementara itu, kesuaian kaedah dan strategi yang dilaksana oleh kerajaan dan agensi pembangunan boleh meransang penyertaan mereka di dalam menjayakan program seumpama itu. Sehubungan itu, kajian ini telah dapat mencadangkan satu *framework* yang boleh dijadikan sebagai pemangkin kepada penyertaan warga komuniti di dalam usaha pembangunan komuniti mereka. Dapatan kajian ini juga menunjukkan kepentingan penyertaan warga komuniti untuk mencapai kelestarian pembangunan komuniti yang berjaya.

Kata kunci: Pembangunan Komuniti, penyertaan komuniti; penglibatan komuniti, agensi pembangunan dan strategi pembangunan.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the Almighty God, the most gracious, ever loving

and faithful father for His mercies and kindness towards me

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

LEEDS   Local Government Economic and Empowerment and Development Strategy

NDDB   Niger Delta Development Board

NDDC   Niger Delta Development Agency

NEEDS   National Economic and Empowerment and Development Strategy

NEPAD   New Partnership for Africa's Development

OMPADEC   Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission

PPP   Private Public Partnership

SEEDS   States Government Economic and Empowerment and Development Strategy

UNDP   United Nations Development Programme

WSSD   World Summit for Sustainable Development

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Since the transition to civil rule in 1999, the Nigerian government has concentrated on development of the Niger Delta communities due to the region's immense contribution to the country national revenue. Based on Mähler (2012) classifications, the initiatives of Nigerian government can be viewed from three dimensions. These include: the derivation formula (regulation of distribution of oil revenue), the establishment of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and the creation of Ministry of the Niger Delta (which launched the Niger Delta Technical Committee and amnesty programme). All these initiatives are meant to address the poverty and underdevelopment of the region, especially the NDDC that has been mandated with the responsibilities of both infrastructural and human development of the region (Nwagbara, 2016; Okafor, 2011).

The establishment of the NDDC in year 2000 and the commission master plan in 2005 shows the government commitment to developmental initiatives in the region. However, NDDC's master plan with all the noble programmes initiated by government to achieve both infrastructural and human development in the region is not sufficient to meet the developmental challenges of the region (Ukeje, 2015; Ugoh, 2010). The ineffectiveness of NDDC programmes and master plan have been associated with the host communities not been sufficiently and explicitly integrated in their community developmental projects and initiatives (Nzeadibe, Ajaero & Nwoke,

2015; Ezeokoli, 2013). Therefore, this study focuses on how NDDC programmes can explicitly incorporate community participation and involvement to enhance the achievement of community development in the region.

1.2 Background of the Study

The Niger Delta is located in the South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria with the area of about 70,000 square kilometres. It covers coastline of 560km which is about two third of the entire coast line of Nigeria. With the discovery of oil by Shell BP in Oloibiri area of the Niger delta in 1956, the region became the centre of attraction to the country and multinational oil companies. As rightly stated by Chilaka and Nwaneke (2015) and Ibaba (2005), the Niger Delta is not only under developed, but it is also experiencing a crisis of developmental inability with very low infrastructural development, high poverty rate at an estimation of 80%, and high unemployment with 70% of the communities unemployed. Access to basic social amenities is very limited.

Evidence from various researches supports the claim that environmental degradation occasioned by oil spillages has made life utterly difficult for the indigenous people (Yeeles & Akporiaye, 2016; Luiselli, Amori, Akani & Eniang, 2015; Agbiboa, 2013; Olatoke, et al 2012; Aghalino, 2011; Eweje, 2006). The destruction of farmland, fishponds and rivers has drastically changed the economic life of the once dependent and productive region for the worst (Ukeje, 2015; Mmom & Igwe, 2012). The discovery, exploration and exploitation of oil have brought poverty, state violence and a dying ecosystem (Kaur, 2013). Inspired by the existential realities in the region, certain segments of the Niger Delta populace began to make demands on the Nigerian

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state and multinational oil companies operating in the region to improve their well-being. Rather than addressing their demands, the people of the Niger delta region were compounded with negligence and abandonment (Adebayo, Jegede & Ogundele, 2015). Therefore, it is not surprising that the consciousness of exploitation, marginalisation, disempowerment and underdevelopment made the Niger Delta a region of deep rooted frustration and manifestation of violent agitations.

The marginalisation, poor infrastructural and human development progress of the Niger Delta has not gone unnoticed by successive governments in Nigeria (Adeyeri, 2012; Odoemene, 2011). Since the late 1950's, the Niger Delta has been recognised as a region in need of special developmental attention (Enuoh, 2015). A number of special agencies have been created by the federal government to address development in the region. These have included Willinks' Commission in 1956, NDDB established in 1960, the Niger Delta Basin Development Commission established in 1965, and the Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission established in 1992. All these agencies woefully failed to impact on the lives of the people due to corruption, cross-current of military and partisan politics, mismanagement, lacks of funds and a host of other factors (Ojakorotu, & Morake, 2010).

With the inception of this present republic in 1999, the federal government established a new body called the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to offer a lasting solution to the socioeconomic difficulties of the Niger Delta region (Ahonsi, 2011) which successive governments have grappled with but to no avail. To achieve its mandate, the key programmes of NDDC include physical and infrastructural development, the economy, human and institutional resources, human and community

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needs and environmental remediation and stability, technological advancement etc. The people of the Niger Delta have seen one government sponsored development agency after another, without any significant changes or solutions to the issues and lives of the local communities, and quality of their delicate physical environment (Akpomuvie, 2011).

Therefore, there is a great demand for a new development alternative that considers the relevance of the local people at the core of all development initiatives and actions in the area. A people centred approach to development, planning and management involves people's active participation in decision making on issues that relates to their livelihood and aspirations. This helps them to realise their potentials, and play active role in the socioeconomic transformation of their communities. Community involvement and participation paradigm would help not only to achieve the goals of physical and socio-economic development, but also empower the local people who are undoubtedly the most important factor in the development process in the Niger Delta region (Akpomuvie, 2011). This is because community members are much more knowledgeable on the needs of the community and they can devote enormous energy and resources in the development of their respective community. Hence, this study aims to explore community participation and involvement to achieve community development through NDDC activities in the Niger Delta region.

1.3 Problem Statement

There have been huge efforts by Nigerian government to reposition the Niger Delta region not only as the revenue generation hub of the county, but also as the pace setter

for economical regeneration and prosperity, human development, social, and political stability.

Consequently, right from 1956 when oil was discovered until 1999, it was observed that many agencies and developmental commissions were established by the Nigerian government to address developmental issues in the Niger delta. The most recent is the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) established in the year 2000 to readdress the failures of past developmental agencies. The main target of the NDDC is to facilitate rapid and sustainable developmental projects within the region especially on ecological and infrastructural developments. However, not much impact has been felt in the region especially on the well-being of the people. Whereas, the major goal of community development is building a viable and sustainable community member for the wider good of the society.

Based on Hasna (2007), the aim of sustainable development is to develop viable and systematic strategies that addresses economic, social and environmental aspects of human functioning. Studies have indicated that the programs and projects initiated by the NDDC has not been able to achieve this goal. Aghalino (2012), argued that most of the activities of the NDDC were completely unresponsive to the needs and aspirations of the Niger Delta people due to the ad-hoc nature in their system of operations. Likewise, Mboho and Iyang, (2011) noted that, the inability of the NDDC in meeting the needs of communities within the Niger Delta region could be attributed to mismanagement, lack of community participation, top-down approach and inadequate funding of the agency. Similarly, Okolo (2014); Kadafa, Zakaria, & Othman (2012); Wilson (2011); Akinwale and Osabuohien (2009), asserted that despite the enormous

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effort of NDDC to ensure an effective robust master plan however, the implementation has been ineffective and has not achieved the desired results due to lack of relevant theoretical underpinning and non-involvement of communities in the implementation and post-implementation stages of the plan.

More recently, Nigeria government has improved her efforts by granting amnesty to the militants in the region and establishment of the Niger Delta Ministry to formulate and coordinate policies for the development and securities of the region (Isidiho & Sabran, 2015; Ogege, 2011). These bodies are meant to create a socially, economically, politically, ecologically stable and peaceful environment, particularly the NDDC that is borne with both the responsibility of infrastructural and human development. However, government has failed to address the major root causes of unrest and violence in the region which are contributed to the continuous destruction of the region environment attributed by the oil-related exploration, unemployment, human and infrastructural development and education (Nwagbara, 2016; Agbiboa, 2013; Duru & Ogbonnaya, 2012; Davidheiser & Nyiayaana, 2011; Ibaba, 2011).

The 2013 United Nation Development Programme report indicated that the human development index of the region is at 0.433 whereas other oil producing communities in Gabon, Libya and Malaysia are placed at 0.668, 0.791, and 0.791 respectively. Likewise, Enuoh and Eneh (2015) and Eneh (2011) as shown in Table 1.1 highlighted that the region has a low rate of youth literacy, and secondary education on access to school compared with the South-West where there is no oil deposit. While Niger Delta has 87.9 percent on youth literacy and 70.3 percent on secondary education access to school, the South-West has 94.7 percent and 87.5 percent respectively.

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Table 0.1

Access to Social Amenities and Level of Unemployment across the Six Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria

Parameters	Niger Delta (South South)	South West	South East	North West	North Centre	North East
Unemployment (19-24)	9.5	4.5	6.6	2.2	4.3	3.2
Access to school	70.0	87.5	58.9	70.3	70.6	70.1
Access to safe water source	45.5	73.1	40.3	50.2	48.5	80.3
Access to medical care	44.6	72.3	36.5	54.2	60.1	47.3

Source: Adapted from (Enuoh and Eneh, 2015; Eneh, 2011)

On unemployment, the region was reported to have the highest; while the region has 9.5 percent, North-East has 3.2 percent, North-West has 2.2 percent, North-Centre has 4.3 percent, South-East has 6.6 percent, and South-West has 4.5 percent respectively. Likewise, access report shows that only 45.5 percent of the people of the region have access to safe water source while North-West has 50.2 percent, North-Centre has 48.5 percent and South-West 73.1 percent respectively. Similarly, the 2010 Niger Delta Environmental Survey report inserted that there is only 1 primary school to 3,700 people which is serving 3 or more communities. The ratio of secondary school was at

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1 to 14, 679 people which is 1 school to 8, or more communities. Despite the appreciable strategies employed to ensure lasting solution in the region many scholars have continuously criticized some of the strategies. For instance, Nwagbara (2016) and Aghedo (2013) argued that post-amnesty in Niger Delta failed because the programme was not targeted toward community and individual development, but on militant's enticement to achieve disarmament. Similarly, Dode (2012) recommended the need for government to cultivate community participation and involvement in developmental agenda in the region. He concluded by identifying lack of strategic method, greed and bad governance in Nigeria as factor contributing to the region underdevelopment, unemployment and poverty in the midst of her rich natural resources. Likewise, Davidheiser and Nyiayaana (2011) maintained that there is continuous unrest and violence in the region due to government failure to incorporate deeper strategy of peace building. They argued that community participation and involvement in developmental activities are vital tools in restoration of peace to any warring community, and also in facilitating and sustaining developmental activities. More recently, Okolo (2014) concludes that NDDC working plan is capable of resolving the infrastructural and human underdevelopment problem of the region if only the commission can re-strategize her approach on community development.

Likewise, studies by (Howard & Wheeler, 2015; West, 2015; Babalola, 2014; Eversole, 2014; Agwu, 2013; Aghalino, 2012; Eneh, 2011; Cavaye, 2006; Sen, 2005), have been conducted in Nigeria and across the globe on community development. They emphasised on how community development can be achieved by identifying factors such as Social networking, grassroots-participation, community involvement, human development, collaboration, engagement, empowerment, planning, environmental

remediation, commitment, enlightenment as catalyst for community development. However, no empirical study in Nigeria, especially on the Niger Delta region has been conducted on how community participation and involvement can be facilitated to achieve sustainable community development. To that effect, this study is intended to explore how community participation and involvement can be facilitated to further enhance existing framework for community development sustainability in the Niger Delta region.

1.4 Research Questions

Following are the research questions for the research:

i. What is the level of community participation, community involvement, common passion, active responsibility among the Niger Delta populace?

ii. What is the relationship between community participation, community involvement, common passion, active responsibility and community development sustainability?

iii. What is the mediating role of community participation, and involvement on the relationship between common passion, active responsibility and community development sustainability?

iv. How to develop community participation and involvement framework to foster community development?

1.5 Research Objectives

Parallel to the research questions above, below are the specific research objectives:

i. To investigate the level of community participation, community involvement, common passion, active responsibility among the Niger Delta populace.

ii. To examine the relationship between community participation, community involvement, common passion, active responsibility and community development sustainability;

iii. To determine the mediating role of community participation and involvement on the relationship between common passion, active responsibility and community development sustainability;

iv. To develop community participation and involvement framework to foster community development.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Development: Is the process of making favourable and acceptable decisions that will enhance the overall well-being of individuals and group within a particular environment. It entails the ability to discover harness and utilise available resources within an environment.

Community: Set of people living within a defined geographical location and sharing similar attitude and cultural heritage.

Community development: The act of improving the quality of life both infrastructural and lifestyle of the people in a community.

Sustainable development: The state of maintaining the attained improved quality of life without compromising the desire of the future generations.

Community participation: An act of being part of an activity which involves taking a defined role in the activity.

Community involvement: The act of being actively committed to an activity by deeply involving in the process of transformation.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study is generally about sustainable community development in marginalised communities particularly on communities with rich natural resources. These communities are important because they provide revenue which other communities in the country enjoy. More specifically, the study focuses on Niger Delta region which is located in the South-South part of Nigeria as shown in Figure 1.1.
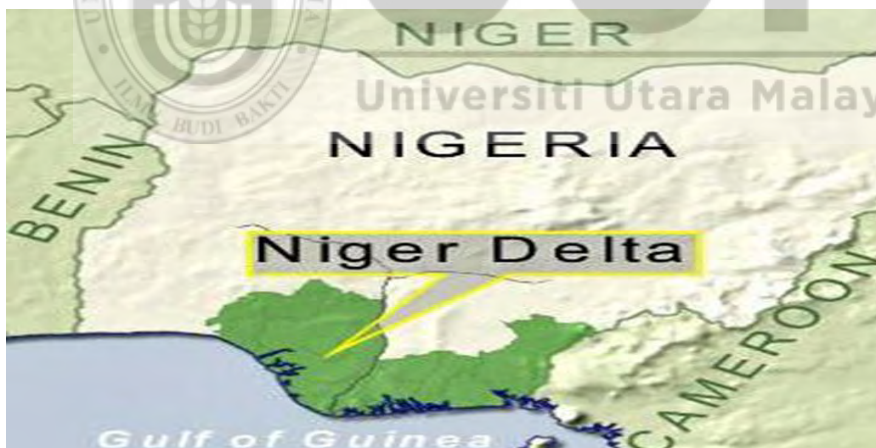
Figure 0.1: Niger Delta location in South-South Nigeria

This region is known for high oil resources which contributes huge revenue source for Nigeria economic. Figure 1.2 shows the nine states that made up the region namely Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers.

Figure 0.2: The Nine States of the Niger Delta

The presence of natural resources especially the oil deposit should be a blessing community to the Niger Delta region, regrettably this natural endowment has turned out to be a curse to the region since its discovery in 1956. This is because the inhabitants of the region have been subjected to untold hardships through oil environmental degradation, waterways and air pollution and other negative activities that are inimical to the existence and survival of the people of the region as a result of oil exploration and exploitation. These have caught the attention of not only Nigeria government, but also international bodies. This has led to many local and international initiatives whereas the establishment of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is one of the bodies' setup by the federal government of Nigeria to foster community development in the region. There are other states and local agencies existing in the region which were established for developmental purposes, however, the NDDC is the only federal constituted agency by the Nigerian government to oversee the overall development of all the states that make up the region. Therefore, this study is directed toward the activities of the NDDC in promoting sustainable community development in the Niger Delta region. The study focused on community participation and

involvement as a tool to achieve both infrastructural and human development in the region.

1.8 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study can be viewed from three dimensions namely; the theoretical, practical and methodological dimensions which can be employed in understanding the level of community development sustainability particularly in Nigeria oil producing communities.

1.8.1 Theoretical Contribution Perspective

Various theories and approaches have been used in addressing issues of community development, nevertheless no particular theory or approach is universally accepted as most appropriate in its application to all locations and circumstances. The outcome of this study strengthened the position of existing community participation and involvement framework to foster community development. It contributes to existing knowledge of community development from the Nigeria perspective. Secondly, this study aims to bridge the literature gap in the knowledge of community development within Africa and Nigeria in particular. Specifically, the study reviewed various theories and approaches that have been used in addressing issues of community development, nevertheless no particular theory or approach is universally accepted as most appropriate in its application to all locations and circumstances. Basically, the foundation of this study is anchored on three theories and a model combined to have an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon and dynamic nature of community in relation to community participation and involvement in development activities within their immediate environment. These include; the *Social Capital Theory*, *Marginality*

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and Mattering Theory, *The 6 I's of Community Development Theory* and *The Stages Model of Community Development*

Social Capital Theory establishes that cultural and economic elements are function of socal networks based on trust, openness, transparency and cooperation which are vital in community participation and involvement in order to achieve sustainable community development. This concept offers a unique understanding into susaintainable community development through the provision of richer theoretical explannation.

Similarly, Marginality and Mattering Theory gives the understanding on what is meant by community marginalization which usually leads to underdevelopment and povertry within the marginalized community. The theory further suggests roles that community members either individually or collectively can play in order to build sustainable development within their community. The 6 I's of Community Development Theory further provide richer meaning into the roles that marginalized community members can play in order to build sustainable community development. The theory emphasizes that community sense of belonging will promote community passion and active responsibility which will affect their participation and involvement on community matters and issues. Whereas, the Stage Model of Community Development identied the four distinct and predictable phases involves in building sustainable community development by marginalized community members. Thus, the combination of those three theories and one model.

1.8.2 Practical Contribution Perspective

This framework serves as a guide on the activities of government, multinational organization and non-governmental agencies (at both federal and state levels) to achieve sustainable community development in any marginalized communities of the world. Specifically, this study enables the implementation of sustainable development in the marginalized oil communities in the Niger Delta region. It also acts as pivot for smooth, efficient and successful implementation of community projects in order to achieve community development. One of the uniqueness of the framework is the provision of mobilization to community developmental agencies to eliminate unjust hierarchies of skill, knowledge and economic factors within marginalized communities in order to support sustainable community development. It will reposition community members on how to handle challenges with their community in order to sustain their livelihood. This is based on empowerment participation and involvement when primary stakeholders are capable and willing to passionate and actively partake in the developmental process. This leads to joint sustainable community development decision making on the community at large. While both the developmental agencies (either government or/and non-governmental agencies) are equal partners in the development effort, whereas the primary stakeholder are the community members themselves because they are the most affected. In summary, community members are considered as the primary stakeholder in this study and thus ownership and control of the process sustainable community development should rest in their hands.

1.8.3 Methodological Contribution Perspective

This study utilizes mixed method research for collection, interpretation and discussion of study findings. This research integrated both quantitative and qualitative research methods in order to provide in depth understanding of the research problem which either of the method can achieve in isolation of other method. The mixed research methods provide the study a robust and rich finding during the data collection and interpretation. The quantitative research method used questionnaire, while the qualitative method employed in-depth interviews, observation and documentation analysis. In addition, the mixed research method offset weakness found in each of the two (quantitative and qualitative) mixed methods because for generalisation of this study finding, the quantitative is most suitable, while for deeper comprehension of community members' needs and requirements, the qualitative research method is the most suitable. In addition, the research method used for this study provided a stronger triangulation in the data collection. Data triangulation was done by employing four major sources of data collection namely questionnaire, in-depth interview, observation and documentation.

1.9 Structure of Thesis

The structure of this thesis is divided into eight chapters which are provided below:

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter established the concept and fundamentals of the study. It started with brief background of the study and stating questions and objectives of the study.

Chapter 2: Issues and Problems in Niger Delta region of Nigeria

Deeper examinations were made on the Nigeria region known as the Niger Delta which is the study location. The relevance of the region to Nigeria economics side by side with rate of development in the region were presented in this chapter. More details on history, issues and problems facing the region with government efforts on sustainable community development were also highlighted.

Chapter 3: Literature Review

This chapter presented previous studies review on all the identified variables used for this present study. Generally, the chapter covered on existing literature within the study domain whereas more attention was focused on community development framework in Africa and Nigeria in particular.

Chapter 4: Research Methodology

This chapter explored the rationale behind the usage of mixed mode research methodology for the study. Details of the research methodology were discussed in line with activities that were taken during the study analysis and reporting.

Chapter 5: Quantitative Analysis

The chapter present detail analysis on the quantitative research methodology approach used in this study. It covers demographic information of the study respondents to data analysis with designated testing which helped to answer the research questions of the study.

Chapter 6: Qualitative Analysis

The qualitative research methodology approach was adopted in the study to provide answers to the research questions presented in this Study. More specifically, the chapter covers analysis on each of the study variables.

Chapter 7: Discussion of Findings

The chapter covers full discussion on both findings attained from qualitative and quantitative analysis of the study. These discussions were tailored along with the four research questions presented in this chapter.

Chapter 8: Conclusion and Recommendations

This chapter summarized the results of this study by eliciting it's the research contributions and implications to the body of knowledge. In addition, limitations and future extension work on the study were well discussed in the chapter.

1.10 Summary

This chapter introduced the study, and stating the core problem and objectives of the study. A detailed background into the work had also been presented, which will be further discussed in the next chapter. Chapter Two covers the history, issues and problem in the study region to provide better understanding on the region.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Community Development Concept

Human beings are generally conscious of positive changes. This is because development brings about improvement in choices and standard of living. It creates diversification both economically and socially. The concept of development involves improvement, transformation, revolution, and enhancement that is targeted on people lifestyles. This concept was supported by Shaffer and Kipp (2006) when they inserted that development creates wealth for the people which are based on peoples' values and not monetary. The true fact, development exceeds an increase of wealth and income, it emphasises on the welfare of individuals (UNDP, 2006). Development is measured based on the quality of life that one's experience living within and between communities. As individuals living in a community, we have choices to make on what is favourable and acceptable (Group, 1998; Cobinnah, Black & Thwaites 2011). These choices are form through the interaction of people within a geographical location which is generally referred to as community (Obst, Smith, & Zinkiewicz, 2002). Bucholtz (1999) identifies community as set of people with common identity and bounded within a geographical location. Barton (2000) explained community as an interaction between people that share sense of belonging within the same locality.

Likewise, Idemudia and Ite (2006) defined community as a group of people with similar cultural heritage within a location. Thus, based on these definitions, this study maintainsthat community is a set of people living within a defined geographical

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location and sharing similar attitude and cultural heritage. Hence, the tangible reflection of development can be measured from the people within that community which can take the form of infrastructure and lifestyle. Gibbon, Labonte, and Laverack (2002) supported this point that Community development is the act of improving the situation of a community and institutions within the community. Jones and Gibson (2011) pointed out that development is rooted in the advancement and quality of life within a community. This implies that the community is both the means and end of achieving community development. Without the people there will be no development.

The basic concept of community development can be seen from various definitions given by scholars. For instance, Christenson and Robinson (1989) argued that community development is all about local people within a community setting and the action to change their living standard. This living standard can be their cultural, social, environmental and economic power. Minkler, Wallerstein and Wilson (1997) described community development as the process of solving problems and challenges confronting the underdevelopment of the community. Also, Simpson, Wood and Daws (2003) expressed that community development is a process that creates and increases the atmosphere where individual within the community can exercise their full capability and potential to enhance productivity and advancement in their lives. In other word, each individual within the community impact on others to create a chain of advancement in their communities.

Similarly, Brown and Keast (2003) suggested that community development do not only involve the people of the community but government, nongovernmental and also religious groups. It is the process by which the local community unites with other bodies

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(government and non- governmental) to improve their living conditions. Likewise, Shaffer and Kipp (2006) mentioned that community development is when there is generation of opportunities and wealth to ensure the survival of people within a locality. Merino and Carmenado (2012) explained community development as a course of working towards a defined goal for the advancement of people within that community. Raymond and Cleary (2013) concluded that community development is the act of recognizing and controlling local resources with access to opportunities in generating sustainable growth for her people.

The concept of community development involves community building, vitality, capacity, empowerment, economic development and self-sustainability. All these concepts express elements of ownership, collective responsibility, participation and improved condition. Therefore, it can be concluded that community can develop only when the local community members agree to the process of change. It is a structured intervention method that gives the local larger preference over the conditions which can be used to improve their community. This gives priority to the powerless and disadvantage members to control their own affairs. The process ensures suitable atmosphere where people are motivated to take control of the social, political, economic and environmental challenges confronting them. Hence, it can be argued that there is wide difference between community development and growth. Growth might imply increases in investment and jobs while development involves management of the elements of growth. Consequently, development can never occur without growth whereas growth can occur without development.

Additionally, Dale and Newman (2010) noted that where community development occurs then local community members are encouraged to get involve and participate in genuine development that will affect their lives positively. However, recent studies conducted are seen to be more concerned with community development and sustainability. The need for community survival without depending on foreign interventions while ensuring that their local resources is managed is highly dependent on how they are able to satisfy their current and future needs (Pharr, Coughenour & Gerstenberger, 2014; Seidel, 2013). Communities are interested on how development and growth can be sustained and maintained for continuous flourishing of the socio-economic activities, safe and healthy environment and good public infrastructures in their local environment. Nevertheless, the commitment and valve associated with community sustainable development are not always understood and allowed by other stakeholders (Lucena, Schneider & Leydens, 2010). This is because the interest of the local community always contradicts with the government agencies and organizations saddle with the responsibilities of change. African communities portray a very good example of this phenomena where government is found to be out of phase with implementation of developmental programmes that can sustain her citizens (Pillay, 2004; Nesom,2011).

2.1.1 Sustainable Community Development Concept

The concept of sustainable community development refers to a respective environment which can provide the present and future needs of the community members within its natural resources (Connelly, Markey & Roseland, 2013). This the case where community members' needs are continuiously met both socially and economically while the community members preserve the environment's ability to support it

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(Idemudia, 2014). The concept was first promoted in Brundtland report of 1987, entitled *Our Common Future*, advanced the idea of sustainable development which is grounded in value and shared well-being both inside and crosswise over eras (Burton, 1987). Sustainable development was therefore received as an overall goal by Governments at the Earth Summit of 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, together with an arrangement of Rio Principles and a worldwide activity arrangement such as the Agenda 21, which included numerous objectives and focuses on educating the mass world wide on the Millennium Development Goals (Bulkeley, Jordan, Perkins & Selin, 2013). More recently, the MGDs was reinforced by introduing the sustainable development goals which encomaases divesre sets of developmental agenda that emphassis on seuring, maiantaing and continous enhancement of the socil systems (Nawn, 2015).

Sustainable community utilizes its assets to address current community issues while guaranteeing that sufficient assets are accessible for future eras. It looks for a superior personal satisfaction for every one of its inhabitants while keeping up nature's capacity to work by minimizing waste, forestalling contamination, advancing proficiency and creating nearby assets to revive the neighborhood economy. Choice making in a sustainable community originates from a rich city life and shared data among community members. A sustainable community looks like a living framework in which human, characteristic and financial components are related and draw quality from one another (Nawn,2015). Sustainable community development creates huge job opportunities, reliable with more sustainable examples of advancement, exist in numerous monetary segments.

One of the high point of sustainable community development is where the air and water are secured and safe for consumption. Water supplies meets the local demand; everybody appreciates access to privately supplied protected and sound sustenances, natural life thrives, and the scene is satisfying. Within the community, full support and a soul of collaboration invade choice making. Individuals have an effect over their community's future. The community revives the downtown area, diminishes sprawl, and advances local personality and pride. Open transportation adequately diminishes blockage and contamination from autos, lessens transportation costs, and enhances access to occupations and administrations. The community has set up a specific living standard for all workers. A solid accentuation on instruction and preparing for all advances an enhanced personal satisfaction and encourages future well being for the community's future generations.

However, poverty, insecurity and corruption were identified as the most factor limiting against sustainable community development especially among many Africa countries (Picard & Lelei, 2015). This is because the continent is considered as one of the poorest and least developed with lack of infrastructure and technologies, most food insect, and most indebted among other continents (Fuseini & Kemp, 2015). Those factors are undermining sustainable community development and economic growth upon the continent especially Nigeria which has the highest population in the continent. Hence, the issue of sustainable community development is impreative not only to Nigeria but the whole of Africa in order to have a secure and rich future for future generations.

2.1.2 Existing framework for community development

Community development generally aims to produce positive changes to the lives of people within the community. Many frameworks developed for community development made use of existing local resources within the community. While some focus on combination of government agencies and private organizations involvements in achieving community development, others aim at only the community members as a tool of change to their immediate environment. One of such is the appreciative inquiry (AI) Bushe (2013) gave a detailed explanation on appreciative inquiry as a means of implementing community development. He defined it as a way of investigating the community challenges by engaging community members on gainful thinking that can determine the best approach and design to achieve the desire developmental changes in their community. This approach does not require the use of coercion, incentive and persuasion to achieve developmental changes. This approach is based on the collective decision and conscious efforts by communities in organising, identifying, appreciating and stimulating new ideas for transformation of human society (Laszlo & Cooperidder, 2010). Various studies indicate and suggest the adoption of AI as a useful tool in enhancing and promoting positive change and community development in society (Gyan & Poudel, 2012; Koster & Lemelin, 2009). The five principles of appreciative inquiry were given by Cooperider and Whitney (2001) as constructionist, simultaneity, poetic, anticipator and positive principles.

According to Bushe and Kassam (2005) constructionist principle believe that force actions are determined by interaction. This means that community structure is based on people's beliefs and interaction. The best way to bring about meaningful development

is by exploring on community member's beliefs which include their norms and values, and mode of interaction. The principle of simultaneity connotes that people always talk about things they are thinking whereas their thinking is a product of needs. Therefore, by engaging community members in meaningful discussion, the respective communities will express their concerns and participate in a more meaningful way on developmental programmes.

The poetic principle involves using meaningful sentiment words to inspire and enliven the experiences of community members. This is because people express their lives through interaction to each other on a daily basis. Anticipatory principle depicts that peoples' daily action is guided by their expectations in the future. The summation of expectations of community members make up the community future, and this future in turned can only be seen if each member is given the opportunity to express their minds. Positive principle means that positive social bonding is a catalyst to sustainable development. This implies that community members with positive intentions are catalyst to sustainable development in the community.

Cooperrider and Whitney (2001) argued that appreciative inquiry is used in other to discover, dream, design one's destiny. Community members that are motivated and greatly influenced by community culture are agent of development that can radically bring the desire changes in the community. It critically explores community member experience and expectation in building a desired community that will be sustained by the people. However, the framework has its criticism, for instance Egan and Lancaster (2005) and Miller et.al. (2005) observed that a community that is based on positive thinking alone will fail in utilizing some opportunities and improvement as a result of

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negative experiences. This means that negative experiences are also factors to be considered in community development because they depict what the community people dislike.

Consequently, Oliver (2005) argued that appreciative inquiry failed to acknowledge the fact that what is positive for some community members might be negative for others. Therefore, the five principles of appreciative inquiry can be generalized for all community members. Bright et al (2011) pointed out that exploring positive future might not directly evolve the past experiences (negative or positive). However, the past is needed to build a desirable future. Likewise, Fineman (2006) maintained that behind every positive imagination lies a negative image. Hence, the positive experiences cannot be discussed in the absence of the negative experiences.

Rothman and Tropman (1987) proposed three frameworks of community development namely Locality Development (Bottom-up); Social Planning (Top-down); and Social Action (Inside-out). They used three frameworks to explain how community members can be involved and engage in developmental activities in their community to bring about the desired changes they anticipated. Pavelova (2011) and Zastrow (2009) discuss locality development framework as a means to engage and involve large numbers of various personalities in a community on community development. It is regarded as bottom-up approach because the community members make the overall decision for the community. They assert that meaningful community development can be best achieved when large numbers of the community are involved in the problem solving process.

Collver (2013) mentioned that community members are the most important factor and plays a vital role as a catalyst of positive change in problem solving process to ensure sustainable development in the community. He further pointed out that community

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members' contributions, views and ideas are highly important to achieve development. The interest of each member in the community should be taken as the overall interest of the community. Rothman (1995) expressed that in order to achieve sustainable development; attention should be given to community group dynamism because the medium through which development is achieved in a community is vital to ensure the sustainability of the development. However, the framework has been criticised on its focus on consensus and self-help, whereas there is also unity in diversity. Shucksmith (2010) disagree that it might lead some community members to place their personal interest over the general community interest which might result to pride and un-cohesive behaviours.

The second framework by Rothman and Tropman (1987) is the Social Planning. This is directly opposite to locality development because it is a top-down framework of community development. Minkler, Wallerstein and Wilson (1997) emphasized that social planning depicts the technical perspective of problem confronting community development. In addition, only technical and professionals can profoundly offer sustainable solutions. Tones and Tilford (1994) added that in this framework, experts are required to provide guidance on process of achieving community development and little or no input is required from the community members unless required by the experts. However, it is regarded as the elitist framework of community development where only the views and voices of the experts and professionals are taken for developmental changes in the community.

Social action believes that part of the community is being marginalized and the framework was designed to motivate such people to stand up for their fundamental

human rights. It empowers community members that are marginalized to press their right lawfully. This can be in form of community practices, distribution of political power, resource control, social institution and other benefits which are be contested for within the community (Rothman & Tropman, 1987). Due to the nature of the developmental needs that is based on part of the community, hence the framework is called 'inside-out'. However, the framework is not generic because it only focuses on social justice, marginalization, oppression and equity. It does not directly address community development, but community problems which are created by people's perception and needs (Tones & Tilford, 1994).

The Village Earth Framework is another community development tool which was conceived in 1993 at the International Conference on sustainable village-based development in Colorado (Johnson, 1993). It was designed to track the increasing global poverty and to stimulate stable and sustainable community development. The framework was targeted on provision of support services, training and consultation with development of appropriate technologies to advance and sustain community development especially in rural areas (Rafael & Boglio, 2008). The rural areas were planned to become financially independent and self-sustained over a period of 5 to 15 years depending on other factors (population, location, barriers etc.). However, Thomas (2001) observed that the framework favours the elitists more than the masses in a given community because NGO which usually operates top-down style in their implementation whereas NGOs were the ones empowered by the framework which is centred on provision of infrastructure and services rather than on self-empowerment. Similarly, Richins (2009) developed a framework based on tourism to promote community sustainable development which also includes economic, cultural,

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ecological, cultural and socio-economic community sustainability. Cox and Espinoza (2005) proposed a framework on how career lifestyle can promote community development. They address the issues of psychosocial and economic factors during natural disaster and catastrophic transitions in a community.

More recently, Eversole (2015) developed the knowledge partnering framework in her work titled "Knowledge Partnering for Community Development" where she emphasised development as a process created by institutions and people. This framework is centred on the belief that community have the potentials and skills to enforce positive changes within their community. Hence, there is need to establish development partnership whereby community members are empowered and given the right platform to collaborate and share ideas that will bring about their desired aspirations and needs of the community.

However, the most prominent framework of community development among the Africa-American and in Africa generally is the *Faith Based* (Davis, 2013). These are the strategies used by faith based institutions to promote community development. Faith based institution usually form a mutual relationship with community members by positively affecting their living standard and provision of infrastructure to make life easier for the communities (Bullock, 2006).

Yanek, Becker, Moy, Gittelsohn and Koffman (2001) argued that there is need for government and non-governmental agencies to collaborate with faith based institutions in addressing concerns and problem confronting communities because these institutions are very close with members of their communities and are capable of providing the

physical and spiritual needs of the communities. However, it was observed that the good intentions of these faith based institutions have by-products. Many of these institutions use community development to promote their religious beliefs and try to impose these beliefs on their host communities. Therefore, it poses a danger for government and non-government agencies to encourage this framework especially in Africa where there are many secular countries like Nigeria.

2.1.3 Issues of Community Sustainability Development in Africa

The major goal of community development is building a sustainable community member for the wider good of the society. Based on Hasna (2007), the concept of sustainability revolves around the themes of ecological, economic, social and technologic functions. Although, Africa is blessed with lots of natural resources both on-shore and off-shores, however, the people of the continent still remain among the underdeveloped and poor countries of the world (Hilson & Garforth, 2012; Anyanwu & Erhijakpor, 2010). Hence, it was argued that Africa countries can only improve the welfare of her citizens through sustainable development that is supported with political stability, peace, and with upholding institutional, human and organizational capability building to address the core problem of the continent that is corruption and poverty (Seyfang, & Longhurst, 2013; Palmer, 2013; Elliott, 2012).

Many African countries are still facing different issues in their quest for development after years of independence. In 2002 the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) emphasized the need for Africa countries to step up their developmental efforts and focus more on sustainable development. As a result, Africa countries have improved related commitments by adopting New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) plan and WSSD framework for sustainable development (Folke, et al., 2002).

NEPAD was established to provide initiatives and support to Africa countries for the smooth implementation of the plan and framework on sustainable development in the continent.

Although few African countries are able to measure little success however, large percentages of the continent countries are still underdeveloped (Elliott, 2012). Over twelve years of implementation of NEPAD and WSSD framework in Africa, the impact is still regarded as mixed particularly on achieving tangible results. Jacobsen and Nielsen (2014) observed that while few African countries are experiencing important changes, many are still underdeveloped. This is evident in researches and reports (UNDP, 2013; Matunhu, 2011; Rudi, Azadi, & Witlox, 2012; Lagi, Bertrand, & Bar-Yam, 2011) depicting a level of stagnancy and decrease in quality of life in the continent.

Likewise, Ferguson-Brown (1996) developed a social welfare approach to enhance community development strategy in Africa. This approach believes that there are poor people in any given society, and it is the duties of both government and nongovernmental agencies to care for them by providing the fundamental needs to them (Hawkins & Weis, 1985). Zastrow (2013) suggested that social welfare approach is a vital means of empowering the poor in any community. However, Cannan and Warren (2013) observed that this approach assume that poverty is natural, and there is no ideal solution rather than to manage it. They argued that poverty and underdevelopment is not natural and should not be managed, and sustainable solution should be implemented.

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Chibgu (2013) proposed modernisation approach as a strategic approach of community development in Africa. He argued that by investing in modern technologies and inventions, communities in Africa can experience rapid sustainable development. Nevertheless, the approach does not recognise preservation of rural heritage in Africa communities. Development in general can be holistic if the interest, values and morals of the communities are given priority in the development processes. He further suggested that the concept of rurality which is interpreted as rural environment should be given consideration and priority in planning and implementation of developmental programme. This supported Buccus, Hicks, Hemson and Piper (2008) argument that indigenous communities should be integrated and engaged to achieve sustainability development in their communities.

Consequently, African governments must learn to develop a robust framework that will be locally driven and targeted directly to their citizens (Lehmann, Van Damme, Barten, & Sanders, 2009). This is vital if countries are serious about accompanying the set goals of sustainable development in the continent. Based on UN economic report for Africa (2010) the need to strengthen national and regional institution in order to implement, evaluate and monitor community sustainable development plan is vital. Likewise, Africa governments have been challenged to integrate and incorporate sustainable development agenda as major strategies in their countries developmental plans. This was also supported by Hanson (2009) that Africa governments need to strengthen their legal, technical, financial, human resources and institutions to suit their sustainable development implementation agenda. Therefore, it necessitates the need to further research on community sustainability development policies and programmes and strategies that is being implemented in the continent.

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2.1.4 Community Development in Nigeria

Nigeria is a classic example of Africa countries having issues and challenges with integration of sustainable developmental strategies to transform her citizens (Eweje, 2006). During the colonization eras, commercial gains were used to realize community resources in order to achieve community development. The three regions of the country namely North, West and East were allowed to tapped into its local resources and use it for her individual regional development (Suberu & Diamond, 2002). However, development was not evenly distributed while some regions were far ahead, others were lacking behind because of the disparity in resources (Frynas, 2005). This implies that there was unequal developmental advancement across the nation which made some geopolitical regions totally marginalized.

This led to a decentralized approach, where the federal government coordinates the various community developments by introducing the third tier of government known as Local government administration (Vaughan, 1995). This was born out of passion to further engage the masses and improve on community or grassroots development. Community or grassroots development is vital because majority of Nigeria population can easily be reached through this means. Part of government efforts to improve the quality of life of her citizens and to foster community development includes the development of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS-I), State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS-I) and Local Government Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS-I) which was based on UNDP assistance framework (UNDAF, 2014). This framework (as show in Figure 2.1 while Figure 2.2 depicts the institutionalized framework) came to

operation in year 2003 where the Federal government formulated NEEDS-I for her developmental operations. SEEDS-I was strategically developed for state level implementation, whereas LEEDS-I was proposed for local government.
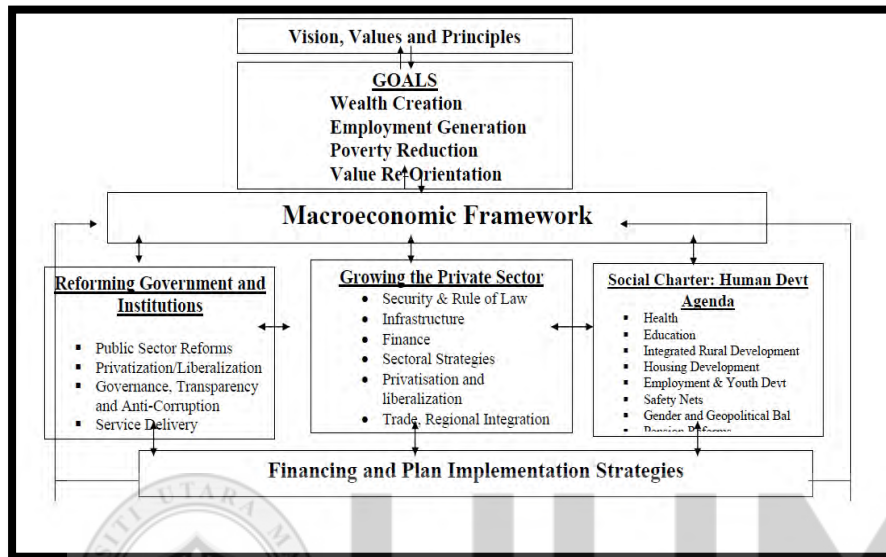
Figure 2.1: NEEDS-I framework (Akpobasah, 2004*)*
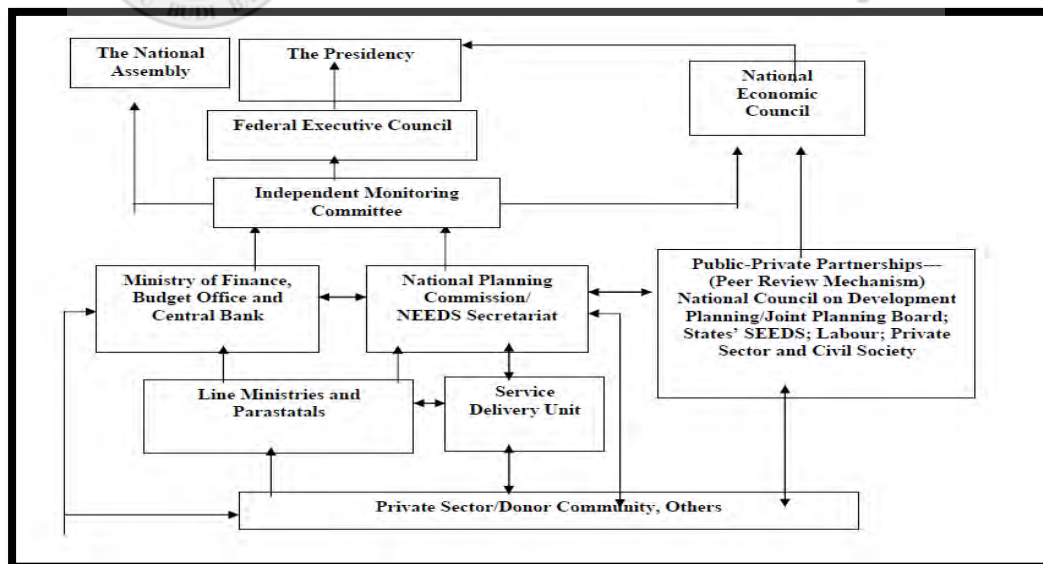
Figure 2.2: Institutional Frameworks for Implementing NEEDS-I (Akpobasah, 2004).

However, since 1960 when Nigeria got her independence till date, the government has made enormous efforts on community sustainable development yet most communities are still in deplorable state (Gureje, Lasebikan, Ephraim-Oluwanuga, Olley & Kola, 2005).

Anyanwu (1992) pointed out that lives in Nigeria rural communities portrays a high level exploitation, exploration, diseases, illiteracy, neglect and marginalization. Olowu (2003) argued that despite government enormous injection of funds into community development in Nigeria, nevertheless many Nigeria communities still lack adequate provision of social infrastructures, social services, employment generation, low life expectancy, high birth and death rate, diseases and malnutrition. He suggested the need to focus on local governance, and not local government which means that federal government should empower all the local government to be fully active in the running and management of her people.

Similarly, Khemani (2006) identified insufficient funding as a major challenge facing the local government as the third tier of government to achieve meaningful development in Nigeria. He also observed that state governors usually hijacked funds meant for local development and diverts it to further their personal electioneering campaigns. Adebayo (2014) assert that there is need for government to do more by re-orientating value structure and integration of private initiatives in order to achieve her desired target on community sustainability development in Nigeria. He emphasizes empowerment and education as a means of changing the society moral value and clamour for all-inclusive method of governance to achieve community development in Nigeria. These studies have clearly indicated that Nigeria government is putting

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enormous efforts in the developmental of her communities; however, there are many challenges and difficulties militating against these efforts. Therefore, this study seeks to explore other means by which Nigeria government can achieve community sustainable development particularly in Niger Delta region.

2.1.5 Issues of Community Sustainability Development in Niger Delta

With the discovery of oil in Oloibiri in 1956, the need to use this precious resource for Nigeria development as whole and Niger Delta in particular has being an issue on Nigeria government. Niger delta region has the highest residue of oil with a production of 2.6 million barrels of oil per day. The region contributes to over 95% of Nigeria's foreign exchange, 85% of the country's annual revenues and roughly 40% of the gross domestic product (Babatunde, 2012). This ranks Nigeria as the largest oil producing nation in Africa and the 11th in the world (Okumagba, 2011, Okpo & Eze, 2012, Ojo, 2012 & Obi 2014).

Like all other parts of pre-historical environment, the pattern of existence and livelihood in the Niger delta of Nigeria is fishing and farming. The natural environment has been there for centuries without any human interference that may undermine the living standard of the people (Okonta & Oronta, 2001). The practice of farming and fishing automatically become the profession of the inhabitants of this geographical location of the Niger Delta region from the earliest time. However, the discovery of oil tempers the traditional occupation of the people in the region which gradually became precarious due to the activities of multinational oil companies (Baghebo & Nwabgara 2012; Emuedo & Emuedo, 2014).

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The prospecting for oil in this part of Nigeria from the 1950s increasingly made live more difficult for the natives. Onakuse and Eammon, (2007) are of the view that despite the contribution of the region to the national economy, it is worrisome to see that the level of standard of living in the area is far below what is expected. One would have expected that the multinational oil companies prepared a ground for alternative means of sustenance; instead most of their operations undermine the existence of these communities where oil was discovered. With the discovery of oil and attendant problems of desertification, oil spillage, environmental degradation and water pollution, life become precarious for the inhabitants of Niger delta (Oyebamiji & Mba, 2013).

One of the major challenges facing the region is environmental degradation due to oil spillages which has made life extremely difficult for the local people. The destruction of farmland, fishponds and rivers had radically altered the economic life of the once reliant and reproductive region for the worst (Agbiboa, 2013; Olatoke, et al 2012; Aghalino, 2011; Eweje, 2006). Most of the palliative measures put in place by many regimes and governments were completely unresponsive to the people's want and needs; and also were ad-hoc in nature. What follows naturally in this scenario is the agitation by the oil producing communities for positive government intervention which yielded no result. In this case, the people resulted in sporadic attack on government and multinational oil companies' assets in the region and consequently the agitation of people did not go unnoticed (Okonta, 2005).

The first protest by the Niger Delta people dates back to 1957 in Ogoniland-an oil producing community in Bayelsa State. This was as a result of the consciousness of the

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people of the exploitation, marginalization, disempowerment and underdevelopment of the region. This drew the attention of international bodies which motivated the Nigerian government to take drastic action. The marginalization, poor infrastructural and human development progress of the Niger Delta has not gone unnoticed by successive governments in Nigeria. Since the late 1950's, the Niger Delta has been recognized as a region requiring special developmental attention (Osuoka, 2007). A number of special agencies have been created by the Federal Government to address development in the region. The first of its kind was the Willink's Commission which was set up in 1957 to investigate and look into the problems. Another agency was also set up in the name of Niger Delta Development Board (NDDB) established in 1960. Thereafter Niger Delta Basin Development Board, established in 1965 and the Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission, established in 1992 were also established to address the developmental needs of the people of Niger Delta. All these agencies failed woefully to impact on the lives of the people due to corruption, cross-current of military and partisan politics, mismanagement; lack of funds and most importantly the use of wrong approach in solving the problem of the region (Jack-Akhigbe & Okuowa, 2013).

Thus from 1957 until 1999, many agencies and ad-hoc commissions set up by government to address development issues in the Niger delta have continued to perform below expectation. The democratic dispensation which started in 1999 under President Olusegun Obasanjo established NDDC to address the developmental issues, health and education were given prominence that have been abandoned for decades by previous agencies (Okumagba and Okereka, 2012). To achieve its mandate, the key agenda of NDDC is sustainable development which includes programmes such as physical and infrastructural development, the economy development and institutional resources,

human and community needs and environmental remediation and stability and technological development Ebeku, (2008).

2.1.6 NDDC and Sustainable Development

Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was established in December 2000 following the federal government initiation of a master plan process for political and social development to achieve speedy and total transformation of the Niger Delta into a zone of equity, prosperity and tranquillity (Emerhi, Nicolas & Wolf, 2001). The rationale behind the formation of NDDC is to arrest developmental deficiency that has pervaded the socio-political terrain of Niger Delta since the discovery of oil in 1956. Expectedly, the commissions and departments there were formally created were woefully underperformed which signalled the agitations on the part of people in the region. Thus shortfall created by the inefficiency and decadence in the political structures in Nigeria political landscape cannot be adequately arrested unless home-grown mechanism is put in place. This is the primary concern for the establishment of NDDC. It is therefore established to cater for oil producing communities as a result of the lingering crisis and abysmal performance of the various commissions in the region.

In 2001, NDDC requested for top development priorities of the Niger Delta states which generally cut across nine states namely; Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers states (Barret, 2008). The unstable nature of Nigeria economic and political landscape has made the oil economy inefficient for decades which have greatly hampered the development of the Niger Delta region (Luqman, 2011). It would have been expected that NDDC restores the region back to its vibrancy.

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However, the national economic mirage which has bedevilled Nigeria for decades impinges on the activities of NDDC. Although, it is a lofty plan on the part of federal government to better the lots of the Niger delta people; its activities are pseudo-socio in arrangement to better the political elites in the region. The assertion is based on the premise that ordinary people have never been lifted to the position of authority in the commission and it is very rare to see ordinary people holding important political positions. If this occurs it testifies that ordinary people are not represented and the purpose of the establishment has been jeopardized from the incipient (Ndem, Micheal, & Awa,2012).

Notwithstanding the accusations above, NDDC clearly aims to function as a channel through which income, political and economic dividends will be redistributed in the Niger delta. Redistribution of democratic and economic dividends cannot be achieved in a grossly inefficient political structure. NDDC itself is a weapon and not an antidote of poverty alleviation. It is a weapon because federal government uses it to benefit its political ally and at the same time uses it to punish its political adversaries (Omojimite, 2011). One would have expected that NDDC plays a neutral role in the development of Niger delta development. Another issue of concern is that most of the personnel of NDDC are automatically from the Niger delta region. One would expect that they will know the terrain and provide necessary developmental focus that will cater for the needs of their people. Unfortunately, this does not happen and it lends credence to the socio-political terrain that pervades the Nigerian system.

The main focus of NDDC is to promote physical and social economic development, identify factors militating against development in the Niger delta and to liaise with oil

companies in dealing with environmental issues in the Niger Delta (Nwilo and Badejo, 2005). The question now is why is so difficult for the commission to come up with those programmes that will uplift and enliven the condition of Niger delta people? Is the commission really representing the interest of the Niger Delta people? These questions are now doubt begging for concrete and definite answer. And in the absence of no evidence to defend this, then the activities of the NDDC should be subject to proper auditing.

In order for NDDC to achieve its set goals some major areas of interests were identified such as development of social and physical infrastructures, technology, economic and environmental remediation and stability and human development. Nevertheless, little has been achieved in human development especially in the area of education (Akpomuvie, 2011). The functions of NDDC include formulation of policies and guidelines for the development of the Niger Delta area. Conceive, plan and implementation in accordance with the set rules and regulations, projects and programmes for the sustainable development of the Niger Delta in the areas of transportation, health, industrialization, agriculture and fisheries, hunting, urban development, water supply, electricity and telecommunication. The Niger Delta area needs to be surveyed in order to ascertain measures which are necessary to promote physical and human development and a host of others.

2.1.7 NDDC Master Plan and Activities

The NDDC is a government intervention agency to create both infrastructural and human development in the region of Niger Delta. The agency management comprises of the following heads and unit directors:

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- Managing Director

- Executive Director Administrative and Finance

- Executive Director Executive Project

- Director Education, Health and Social Services

- Director Administration

- Director Legal Services

- Director Finance and Supply

- Director Planning Research and Statistic

- Director Utility, Infrastructure Development and Water Way

- Director Youth, Sport and Woman Affair

- Head Inter Audit Department

- Head Procurement Unit

- Head Corporate Affair

- Head Information Technology

- Head Security Unit

- Head public Private Partnership

Nigeria government only provide fund through the ministry of finance by budgetary allocation monthly. Whereas the management of the commission ensure utilization of fund and oversee the commission activities (Luqman, 2011). The commission management is overseen by a governing board making up of chairman, managing director, executive director project and executive director administrative and finance. All the position in the commission is by government appointment; however, the position of the managing director is designed rotational among the nine states that make up NDDC. This rotational arrangement was designed in alphabetical order (Abia, Awa

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Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers states) to enable rotation of power among the member states (NDDC Master plan 2005).

NDDC vision is to offer lasting solution to the socio-economic difficulties of the Niger Delta while her mission is to facilitate rapid sustainable development in the region by creating economic prosperity, social stability, ecological regeneration and peace is aim at establishing the region as a strong and progressive community by which there will be no anxiety about means of life and work. Additionally, the commission focus on total eradication of poverty, illiteracy and diseases. The commission seek to achieve this by implementing her mandate in all member states. Projects are conceptualized, developed and implemented based on expert opinion, community suggestion and interested party's contributions. Award of projects are done by merits and ability to delivers gainful impact to the local community (Garuba, 2013).

For a commission or any ad-hoc institution to be formed there might have been proposal in place to ensure the successful implementation and execution of programmes that will toe the line of the ordinary people's needs and aspirations. Thus the establishment of NDDC was greeted with much-needed admiration in the Niger delta region which put a sigh of relief to the faces of the ordinary- Niger delta people. By the time NDDC was founded in 2000 the people of Niger delta were full of ecstasy thinking that their sufferings have become a thing of past. The NDDC annual report (2012) lists a number of key achievements in infrastructural development projects across the Niger Delta, such as roads, Bridges, water supply, canalization, schools and hospitals. A trace of human development programmes are also in place which includes youth empowerment programmes and skill acquisition programmes. The human and capital resources

invested in the establishment and operation of NDDC have made Niger Delta people to believe that their messiah has come to relief them of developmental agony being suffered for decades. The programmes of NDDC soon fall short of people expectations (Akanji & Oyitso, 2012).

Nevertheless, there have been criticisms from various angles on the activities of NDDC. Such criticism ranges from corruption, mismanagement to lack of funds etc., (Sanya, 2006). The UNDP Report (2006) on the Niger delta region indicates that the human development index in education and life expectancy is below 0.5 which is very low compared to what is obtainable in the other part of the globe where oil is produced. The NDDC is hampered from delivering its objectives by a number of factors. These include mismanagement, corruption, political interference, lack of community participation, top-bottom approach, inadequate funding etc. (Higgins, 2009). Also, Mboho and Iyang, (2011) are of the view that the inaccessibility of fund by local people has affected the functional capacity of NDDC. Although, much funds have claimed to be invested in the NDDC, but little results are evident in the Niger Delta region in terms of both physical and human development (Dopkesi & Ibiezugbe, 2012).

In general terms, human development represents the investment people make personally to enhance their economic productivity (Akpomuvie, 2011). Human development is the process of enlarging peoples' choices. The most critical ones are leading a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living (Mahbub, 2006). Additionally, choices include political freedom, guaranteed human right and self- respect (Sen, 2005). According to Babalola (2003), the rationality behind investment in people is based on three arguments:

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1. that the real generation most be given the appropriate part of the knowledge which has already been accumulated by previous generation;

2. (ii) that the real generation should be taught how existing knowledge should be used to develop real products, to introduce the processes and production methods and social services; and

3. (iii) that people must be encouraged to develop entirely real ideas, skills, expertise, knowledge, products, through creative approaches. The term human development therefore, denotes both the process of peoples' choices and the level of achieved wellbeing.

The most important reason for the establishment of NDDC is to ensure the overall development of society of Niger delta. This is premised on the paradigm which spells out the importance of people as the focus of development in the society. Human development is measured by range of indicators such as longevity, education and a decent standard of living (UNDP, 1996).

It is vital to note that human development in the Niger delta as a whole is in disarray and in a pandemonium state. The presence of infrastructural facilities in the Niger Delta area does not translate to the well-being and the uplift of the people. The basic infrastructure to facilitate economic and human development is almost not available. This is attributable to the nonchalant attitude of government to policy implementation and proper action plan for development programmes (Oviasuyi and Uwadais, 2010). According to Mahbub (2006) a nation's wealth is not contingent on its income alone, but how such wealth is able to transcend the goals and interests of the people through access to basic necessities of life. Human development therefore, is the ability of

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individuals to be able to maximize their potential through freedom of choice for self-fulfilment in life. Akpabio and Akpan, (2010) contend that despite the substantial fund generated from oil in the Niger delta region the level of development does not commensurate with people's standard of living. Human development goes beyond economic well-being; it should be able to capture the needs and interests of the people in order to equip them by enhancing their choices and exercising freedom on matters that affect their lives. The real wealth of a nation therefore is premised on how well the individuals are able to maximize their capabilities through access to basic needs of life.

Human development therefore is the ability of the individuals to have freedom to choose the mode of life that will enable them to become what they aspire for in life (Chandler, 2013). A meaningful assessment of human development in the Niger Delta region should take into consideration important issues such as access to education. UNDP (2006) reported that there is a disconnection between availability and utilization of educational skills and knowledge in the area of expertise in the Niger Delta. The report also indicates that the educational system in most part of oil producing communities is grossly affected as a result of improper coordination of investment that will affect positively the educational needs and interests of the people of Niger Delta Region. Alongside the education, the development planning in any area or community must involve the people in decisions that affect them. This is to ensure that developmental programmes are tailored towards the needs and wants of the people and not otherwise. This will enable the people to situate their problems holistically based on their interests and values (Alkire, 2002).

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According to Paki and Ebienfa (2011) one of the major root causes of the inefficiency of the intervention agencies was traced to the faulty foundations on which these agencies were established. They attributed this to lack of autonomy by these agencies in the area of revenue allocation and implementation of projects. Their major duty is basically supervision of projects that they do not have any idea of its origin. They also identified corruption and lack of political will, insufficient funding and poor monitoring projects. The writers of this article, therefore concluded by recommending the involvements of indigenes of the communities in execution of developmental projects instead of bringing in projects that are alien to the existing culture of the people.

One of the core areas of development by NDDC is education. Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training and research. The importance of education on human development has been brought out in many studies of economic growth and development (Ayara 2002). Economics regard expenditure on education and training as investment in human development. People cannot be separated from their knowledge and skills the way they can be separated from their financial and physical assets. Nkang, (2013) further noted that formal education is not the only way to invest in human development, that informal education through on the job training is an important avenue for people to acquire skills and knowledge. In other words, education be it formal or informal is a salient ingredient in helping individuals adapt to change and also earn a living (Eva 2010). This is also supported by Offiong and Cocodia (2011) by emphasizing on the need of the people to choose the type of education that is most relevant to their needs. The lack of this constitutes a stumbling block to human development.

It is recognition of this that NDDC has directed attention to the provision of schools, scholarships bursary, and skill acquisition programmes to engender human developments in the Niger Delta region. It is however recommended by Abraham (2011) that apart from giving opportunity for education, people should be trained to be effective and functional in the society. This is what he termed as "functional education." In his own study Oyefusi (2010) hypothesized that there is a connection between unemployment and level of violent in the Niger delta. This he contends that people with low level of education and without job exhibit higher tendency to violent act. And those with higher education exhibit restraint from violence in the Niger delta. If this research hypothesis is anything to go by, it suggests viable connection between education and the need to provide employment for the trained people.

Similarly, NDDC explore capability and individual development as a means of sustainable growth in the region. Capability is the ability to perform or achieve certain actions or outcomes through a set of controllable and measurable factors, features, processes or services (Sen, 2005). There is no gain saying that human development can only be achieved when consideration is given to what people are actively capable of doing or becoming if given the opportunity. Individuals are considered as an end, with the ability for choices and freedom among a multiplicity of values (Dopkesi, 2012). Developmental agencies such as NDDC should support the development of capabilities, but not influence their functioning given individuals freedom to choose how to exercise their capabilities for themselves.

To date, development choices have failed to galvanize people into optimally productive

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activities most especially in display of skills and expansion of their abilities. The human development agenda is a people-cantered development that seeks to remove obstacles that prevent people from achieving their full potentials and to empower people particularly at the grass root and on the margins of society towards reducing inequalities of all kinds, including those relative location, gender and generation and to enlarge people's choices in the political, economic, social and cultural realms (Reid, 2013). A human development agenda could transform the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerate and politically peaceful. This will ensure development that is rapid, just, equitable and sustainable.

Human development is another target area of NDDC. The human development agenda for the Niger Delta is borne out of lack of confidence of the people in the government as a result of the past failures and lapses displayed by the various agencies both past and present set up by the government. The proposed agenda by NDDC though might not be the final solution to the underdevelopment of the region; however, it will go a long way to reduce the level of agitations and resentment going on in the region. This agenda aims to accomplish two goals; first to be on physical development; while the second is to address those constrains that tend to distort human development (NDDC Master Plan, 2012). Enshrined in the NDDC master plan are the various areas to be considered in this new agenda. These include;

- Peace as the foundation for development;

- Governance based on genuine democracy and accountability;

- An improved and diversified economics the lever of progress;

- The environment as a basis for sustainability and

- An integrated approach to dealing with HIV and AIDS.

These agenda are to promote not only infrastructural development, but also human development which is paramount to the people of the Niger Delta. Opukri and Ibaba (2008) identify factors militating against the ingenuity of the people of Niger delta area. They are of the view that no government policies can reduce, or ameliorate the suffering of these people unless the oil companies are compelled to adopt the most modern equipment in the extraction of oil in the area. The most important problem created by the environmental degradation is the displacement of the people internally from their original locations. This has therefore resulted in the loss of commercial vigour of the people, and their natural homeland has become a thing of sorrow. What supposed to add value to their living standards has turned to be profanity.

It should be noted at this point that the displacement should not be overstated; rather what happens in the Niger delta area is a national phenomenon which is applicable in other parts of the country. The environmental degradation purportedly caused by the oil companies should not be solely attributed to the displacement of the people (Mba, 2014). Ordinarily, the economic underdevelopment in the country itself is a poor indication which dictates the mobility of the people. It is wrong therefore to pinpoint environmental degradation as the only factor responsible for internal displacement of the people in the Niger Delta. Other factors such as economic hardship, seeking for greener pasture and adventure can spur internal displacement in a particular geographical setting (Olugbile, and Coker, 2010). This study thus contributed to the existing knowledge on the impact of community member decision making on development in the Niger delta. Akpomuvie (2011) in his findings identified lack of active participation of the indigenes in oil producing state in implementation of projects.

This is in line with the findings of Ololajolu (2000). He attributes the failures of the intervention agencies to ineffective system of operation of governance whereby there is no absolute control by the agencies in the allocation of revenue. This finding also supports the works of Paki and Ebienfa (2011) in their analysis of the operations of the intervention agencies in the Niger Delta. Akpomuvie (2011) therefore made some recommendations and suggestions by monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes created for the enhancement of the lives of the people of the oil producing areas. The articles assessments are relevant to this study because it will create an insight on the dynamics and operations of the intervention agencies, their impacts and lapses, and also to identify the areas that have not been given much attention in the Niger Delta region in the area of human capital development.

Despite the enormous effort of NDDC to ensure an effective robust master plan however, the implementation has been ineffective and has not achieved the desired results due to lack of relevant theoretical underpinning and non-involvement of communities in the implementation and post-implementation stages of the plan (Okolo, 2014; Aghalino, 2012; Kadafa, Zakaria, & Othman, 2012; Wilson, 2011; Akinwale, & Osabuohien, 2009). Wilson (2011) asserts that NDDC strategic master plan is not adequate to meet the socioeconomic development of the region. He therefore calls for an all-inclusive systematic approach. More recently, Okolo (2014) concludes that NDDC working plan is capable of resolving the infrastructural and human underdevelopment problem of the region if only the commission can re-strategize her approach on community development. To that effect, this study is aim at exploring how community participation and involvement can be used to foster community development through the programme of NDDC in the region.

2.2 Community Participation and Sustainable Community Development

The word participation is a rich idea that fluctuates with its application and definition. The way participation is characterized additionally relies upon the connection in which it happens. For some, it is a matter of standard; for others, practice; for still others, an end in itself. Frequently the term participation is modify with descriptive words, bringing about terms for example, group participation, subject participation, individuals' participation, community participation are all well-known types of participation. Participation can be seen as the demonstration of sharing, or partaking in a sorted out occasion which along these lines stressing the privileges of people and the decisions that they make so as to take an interest.

Community participation involves community members collaborating, coperating, sharing, and collective actions toward the greater good of their community or to achieve defined goals for developmental growth of their community. The community development approach accentuates self improvement, the equitable procedure, and neighborhood authority in community rejuvenation (Hammel, Jones, Gossett & Morgan, 2015). Most community development work includes the participation of the groups, or recipients included (Speer, Peterson, Armstead & Allen, 2013). Along these lines, community participation is an essential segment of community development and mirrors a grassroots or base up way to deal with critical thinking. In social work, community participation alludes to the dynamic intentional engagement of people and gatherings to change risky conditions and to impact strategies and programs that influence the nature of their lives or the lives of others (Shani & Pizam, 2012).

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One of the real points of community development is to support participation of the community. Undoubtedly, community development has been characterized as a social procedure coming about because of subject participation (Zhu, Dholakia, Chen & Algesheimer, 2012). Through native participation, a wide cross-segment of the community is urged to distinguish and verbalize their own particular objectives, outline their own techniques for change, and pool their assets in the critical thinking procedure (Smylie et al 2015).

It is generally perceived that participation in government plots regularly implies close to utilizing the administration offered, or giving inputs to bolster the venture (Groves, Munday & Yakovleva, 2013). This stands out from more grounded types of participation, including control over choices, needs, arranges, and usage; or the unconstrained impelled, or helped development of gatherings to accomplish aggregate objectives (Marston, Renedo, McGowan & Portela, 2013).

The most essential and entangled issue bearing on nearby level arranging and development is community participation. Effective community participation might prompt social and individual strengthening, monetary development, and sociopolitical change (Kenny et al, 2013). For instance, Adomokai and Sheate (2004) studied on community participation on decision making particularly to environmental degradation in Niger Delta region of Nigeria. They observed that both government and nongovernment agencies do not involve host community in identification and implementation of developmental projects that is meant to transform their life. In fact, most community members were found to be ignorant of their rights to participate in agencies programmes while some were facing the problem of language barriers in

communicating their needs to the agencies because the workforce of these agencies were not made up of local experts.

Similarly, Agwu (2013) studied on community participation and sustainable development in the Niger Delta. He maintained that sustainable development cannot be achieved in the region unless communities' project and development plans are design and executed by the host communities. His result supported the fact that only sustainable development can improve the lifestyle of the people of the region which can be achieved by community participation and involvement. Additionally, it was declared that community members should be given contracts for the execution and implementation of developmental plan.

Nettles (1991) explained community participation as the working together of community members by planning and operating developmental plans whereby all individuals are actively co-opted in the operation. Ramirez-Valles. (2002) suggested that community participation can be on voluntary and non-voluntary bases and it is when individual contribute meaningfully to the development of their communities. Therefore, when community members are actively and fully participating in the development of their community, it creates positive attitude and enormous zeal in the accomplishment and sustainability of development.

One of the benefits of community participation was identified by Irvin and Stansbury (2004) as giving power and control to community members in deciding and implementing development programmes that will best fit them. Arnstein (1969) gave a detail explanation on the application of community participation in her work titled. A

ladder of citizen participation. Participation was classified into eight levels namely manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen control. These were further subdivided into three where manipulation and therapy are grouped as nonparticipation; informing, consultation and placation are tokenism; partnership, delegated power and citizen control are citizen power. Furthermore, she explained that nonparticipation is a situation where the view and opinion of community members are not regarded whereas tokenism allows only hearing their views but active involvement is not allowed. Citizen power depicts a level where community member's views are heard and active involvement is expected. In another major work Uphoff (2000) proposed a framework on community participation and involvement where he mentioned four elements namely decision making, implementation, benefits, and evaluation. A similar study by Bracht and Tsouros (1990) concluded that people participate in developmental programme when they observe it to be affecting their lives (socially, economically, politically and mentally). Therefore, due to the wide usage of community participation on issues of both sustainability and community development this present study used it concept to explore community developmental initiatives in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

2.3 Sustainable Development Concept (The triple bottom line approach)

The concept of sustainable development has been interpreted by various scholars in different ways. Nevertheless, the core aim of sustainable development views development from the balance of the environmental, social and economic facets of society (Connelly, Markey & Roseland, 2013). It is a combination of the environmental, social and economic human activity in transforming human society. Basically, the concept of sustainability centres on how the needs of present and future generations are

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fulfilled with regards to enhanced quality of life, which includes access to medical care, social services and also social well-being of people within society. This definition fits within the context of the Niger Delta region as conceptualised by scholars who have studied on community development sustainability in the Niger Delta region (Akpomuvie, 2011; Omadjohwoefe, 2011; Akpabio & Akpan, 2010; Ite, 2007; Jike, 2004).

The first true conception of sustainable development was launched at the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in 1972 in Stockholm. Thereafter, it became popularized globally in the Brundtland report of 1987, entitled "Our Common Future", advanced the idea of sustainable development which is grounded in value and shared well-being both inside and crosswise over eras (Burton, 1987). Sustainable development was therefore received as an overall goal by government at the Earth Summit of 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, together with an arrangement of Rio Principles and a worldwide activity arrangement such as the Agenda 21, which included numerous objectives and focuses on educating the mass worldwide on the Millennium Development Goals (Bulkeley, Jordan, Perkins & Selin, 2013). Here, the concept of sustainable development was enunciated as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

In recognition of this, countries across the globe have intensify their efforts in adopting this concept as a driving force for economic, social and environmental activities for improving human society (Savitz, 2012). This approach therefore, is imperative for enhancing and sustaining natural resources within a community. It will further stimulate communities on how to usurp available resources within their communities through

shared vison and collaborative efforts as a means of developing their community and enhanced wellbeing of community members. Based on Rogers and Ryan, (2001), one of the ways of achieving sustainable community development is the ability of communities to collectively engage all segment of the community in the planning process to facilitate community participation in developmental activities. In achieving this, he therefore proposed the triple bottom line approach that accessing community performance, socially, economically and environmentally within the system.

The triple bottom line is an accounting concept that was coined by John Elkington in 1994. It comprises of three parts: social, environmental and economical aspect of the social system. It is used for evaluating performance that emphasises on the integration of social well- being, environmental protection and economic sustainability goals (Hall, 2011). Fundamentally, the initial focus of the triple bottom line involved how to facilitate and sustain business activities within organisation. However, the use of this concept has extended to a more tasking aspect of evaluating social, economic and environmental performance in enhancing the level of performance within a business environment. This approach therefore is a vital tool in assessing community's level of performance in sustainability of the social, economic and environmental activities. The triple bottom line approach can be used as a driving force in facilitating community development sustainability in the Niger Delta that creates opportunities for community members to collectively operate, appraise their level of engagement and performance and how it impacts of the environment and community well-being. It is generally perceived that communities will be willing and eager to engage in developmental activities within their communities when given the right platform and opportunity to operate.

2.4 Community Involvement and Sustainable Community Development

The role of community members in community development is vital because they are the ones that are mostly affected by both positive and negative implementations of any plan or agenda. They are rich in knowledge and information on their community hence, they are found to be passionate and energetic about issues affecting their community Eversole, (2012). When they are designated to developmental issues in their community, they must display enormous commitment and loyalty to the successful implementation of these developments. This display of commitment and loyalty was referred to as *community ownership* by Warren and McFadyen (2010). They argued that positive attitude and display of zeal by community members in order to achieve successful development is an act of community ownership. They also maintained that this zeal and positive attitude is what sustains any development or project in communities. Similarly, Thomas, et al (2012) asserts that sustainable community development can only be achieved when community members are not only involved in the process but also assume and take active responsibilities. This implies that there is different between community involvement and community ownership. Although McMillan and Chavis (1986) had suggested that community involvement and participation leads to community ownership. This is because it is only when one is involved and allow to take-up active role that he can have the sense of belonging which is a form of ownership.

Similarly, Moser (1996) classifies community involvement into two namely top-down and bottom-up initiatives. They are two opposing initiatives where government or agencies and the communities have controlling power verse vice (Fraser, Dougill,

Mabee, Reed & McAlpine, 2006). Menge (2000) pointed out that top-down initiative is characterized with leadership development, equal employment, training, social responsibility initiatives, retention and recruitment programmes, linking diversity to business goals, and culture-change initiatives. The upper level leadership are more focused in by expert and professionals to profound solution to the entire community. Fullan (1994) explained that bottom-up initiative allows community members to decide on what is best to improvement their livelihood rather than for an expert or professional making that decision for their community.

However, both initiatives are found to be insufficient for sustainability development because delegating control powers to people is not an easy task, and it requires great caution especially in Africa (Castella, et al., 2007). This is due to lack of trust in their decision judgment of community members especially within bottom-top initiative. The two differs from each other where one is chosen by the community members, while the other is chosen by experts and professionals that presume to be knowledgeable on community development. These initiatives are found to be time wasting and costly to implement (Wu, & Gong, 2012). Consequently, it was suggested that both initiative is colaborative to improve on decision making in the community. Therefore, this present study adopts community involvement as one of the key variable to examine issues of community sustainable development in Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

2.5 Active Responsibility and Sustainable Community Development

As defined in previous section, community is made of group of people with common values and interest within a defined geographical location and sharing similar culture, lifestyle and mentality. In other word a community is define by its wholeness

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incorporating diversity which has many subunits like individuals of different ages, educational backgrounds, ethnicities and incomes (Adler, Heckscher, McCarthy & Rubinstein, 2015). Usually, individuals become members of a community either by geographic residence, or employment opportunity. Either ways, individuals within a community have freedom of association and wills. Individual rights mean they possess the liberties to pursue goals and life without intrusion from other members of the community. However, these rights are expected to promote good image of the community which defines the concept of community active responsibility (Campbell, 2012).

Community active member's responsibility has existed for over centuries in the society which can be linked back to the ancient Rome where the citizens are expected to actively contribute to the society (Streit, & Mussler, 1995). Community active responsibility depicts community members' duties or obligations to her community and includes cooperation, respect and participation. The concept goes beyond thinking and acting as individuals to common beliefs about shared interests and life. This is because each individual is part of a larger community. Family, neighbors, tribe, village, city, county, state, region, country and the world form a larger community in the life of every human being. At the same time, full human potential cannot be reached if individuality is suppressed by society (Ackah-Baidoo, 2012).

In addition, in all free societies or communities there is a constant and unavoidable tension between individual rights and community responsibilities. Every right has a corresponding duty. It is the responsibility of the individual to watch over her community to make sure that standards and objective are beneficial to human life

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which is connoted by the concept of sustainable community development (Rosenthal, 2012). Community members are expected to be concern about the needs and issues within her community. More importantly they are expected to have the capacity to act together towards future progress and able to solve issues and challenges collectively (Pesch, 2014). The active responsibility of community member working together to change directions and pursue benefits for the common good of the large community has huge impact on the sustainable community development. In every case, people voluntarily came together with a shared sense of purpose for the common good and with the intent bring developments to their communities. This usually happen by forming alliances with found like-minded members of the community with goodwill in order to multiply their strength to achieve their set objectives within the community.

In the vast literature very few studies have explored community active responsible with community development sustainability. Examples of such studies includes Pesch (2014), Daly (2014), Rosenthal (2012), Patten (2013) Wahlstrom and Louis (2008), Kapelus (2002), Besser and Miller (2001) and Youniss and Yates (1997). Specifically, Besser and Miller (2001) pointed out that each time community member stands up for developmental ideal, or acts in order to improve the lot of their community, it usually draw huge attention both from government and non-governmental agencies including the international bodies. This implies that institutions have greater honour for any communities that their members are actively involves in developmental initiatives. In view of few studies that explored this concept on community sustainable development, this present study examined the impact of community active responsibilit as a means for enahncing sustainable community development in the oil rich region of the Niger Delta Nigeria.

2.6 Common Passion and Sustainable Community Development

Community passion defines degree of seriousness and share vision that community members have on community developmental issues. This term is normally used interchangeably with *community interest* whereas both might not have the same meaning. Community interest according to Robinson (1994) occurs when community members spare their time on community developmental initiatives or issues while Goldstein (2002) explained community passion as the fundamental values put on community initiatives and issues by community members. Hence, this study made used of community common passion which connotes the collective consciousness of community members to share and participate willingly on community developmental initiatives.

This term was first introduced by Jarrett, Sullivan and Watkins (2005) where it was observed that common passion can foster commuity youth participation and involvement in achieving community sustainable development. Therefore, it can be seen that when community members share a common passion, and there are available resources to achieve their plan then such development will be sustainable. However, Hamdi (2010) argued that it is not in all cases that community members share common passion and interest before achieving development. Sometimes, diversity might lead to sense of belonging in community and social identity. The most important element is giving control and decision making to community members because they are the ones that are mostly affected. This is because neither governments, nor non-governmental agencies have the capabilities to solve and sustain all the difficulties and problems within a community. Hence it is vital to involve community members in issues that affect them (Laverack, 2011).

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Generally, evidences presented in this review suggest that there are lots of studies on community participation and involvement whereas there are dearth of studies on community active responsibility and common passion. Likewise, the review revealed that there is significant relationship between the role community participation and involvement, active responsibility by community members', common passion play in sustainability of community development as shown in Figure 2.3, while Table 2.1 presents the framework concepts.
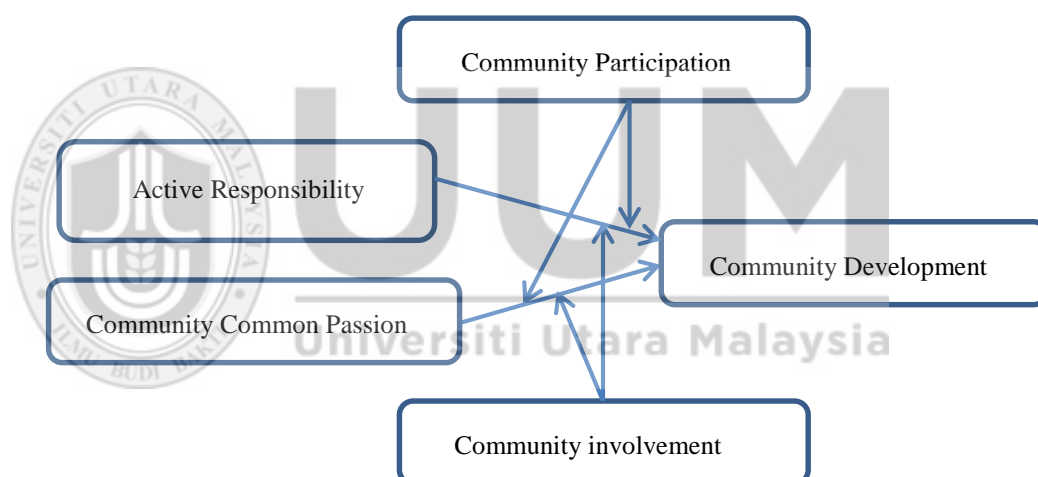
Figure 2.3: Research Framework

Table 2.1

Research Framework Concepts

Variables	Concept	References
Community Involvement	This is the act of being actively committed to an activity by deeply involving in the process of transformation	Sharmin, Khan, and Belal (2014); Hart, (2013); Alabi, and Ntukekpo, (2012); Mansuri and Rao, (2004); Haythornthwaite, Kazmer, Robins and Shoemaker, (2000); Minkler, Wallerstein and Wilson, (1997). Israel, Schulz, Parker and Becker, (1998);

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		Macaulay, et al (1999); Putnam, (1993).
Community Participation	This is an act of being part of an activity either fully or partially committed. The individual might not be given a defined role or active position in the activities.	Saidu, Samah and Ma'arof. (2014); Adesiji, Omotesho, Komolafe, Oni, and Adereti, (2014); Abdullahi, Raheem, and Saliman. (2013); Mubyazi and Hutton. (2012). Muthuri, Moon, and Idemudia, (2012); Adetoro, Lawal and Jenyo-Oni. (2011); Manzo and Perkins, (2006); Botes and Van Rensburg, (2000); Campbell and Jovchelovitch, (2000)
Active Responsibility	Having a defined duties and obligation in the process of development	Hart, (2013); Platteau and Abraham, (2002); Kelly, Sung and Farnham. (2002); Macaulay, et al (1999); Inglis, Alexander and Weaver, (1999); Foster, et al (1997); Youniss (1997); Fawcett, et al (1995); Maton and Salem (1995)
Common Passion	Shared common goal, interest, loyalty and zeal by community members	Shaw, (2008); Kim, Lee and Hiemstra, (2004); Wang and Fesenmaier, (2004); Wenger and Snyder, (2000); McMillan, (1996); Jewkes and Murcott, (1996)
Community Development	This is the act of improving the quality of life both infrastructural and lifestyle of the people in a community	Maconachie and Hilson, (2013); Alfred, (2013). Cannan and Warren, (2013); Udensi, Udoh,, Gibson and Igbara, (2012); Pinkerton, (2011); Christens and Dolan, (2011); Ledwith, (2011); Gilchrist, (2009); Nikkhah and Redzuan, (2009); Phillips and Pittman, (2008); Westoby, (2008)

2.7 Theoretical Underpinning

Over the years there have been various efforts to enhance and develop communities using different approaches; however, there is no specific approach that is universally applicable to all situations. Generally, community developers are more concerned with improvement at the community level which is usually done in collaboration with government agencies, institutions and non-governmental organization (NGOs) towards sustainable community development. They are more focus on personal experience and social phenomenon as method, or approaches for sustainable development of

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communities. This is because community development work is dynamic and muddled

due to constant changes in social phenomenon in different communities. Dodge (1980).

Consequently, community development theories are wide and cover many disciplines

which are the reason why community development depends on other inter-disciplinary

theories as theoretical underpinning for their work. Also some theories in community

development are based on other inter-related domains like social work practice,

marketing and economics which makes community development theories to be inter-

woven in nature (Trickett et. al., 2011). Therefore, this study will make use of three

theories and one model as theoretical underpinning to further understand the concept of

the research. *Social Capital Theory* (Putnam, 1993), *Marginality and Mattering*

(Schlossberg, 1989), *the 6 I's of Community Development* (Eckel, 1994) and *Stages*

Model of Community (Peck, 2010) are adopted to provide theoretical foundation for the

study due to their wide usage in many community development researches. Although,

in the domain of community development there are various theories and models that

can be used to study development in a community; however, these three theories

provides better understanding into the phenomenon of community dynamism and

marginalization that is characterize with Nigeria communities especially the Niger

Delta communities.

2.7.1 Social Capital Theory (Putnam, 1993)

Theory of Social Capital was introduced by Bourdieu (1983) but promoted as sociology

theory by Putnam (1993). The theory revolves round the value and benefit of social

networks. Theses values and benefits refers to the collective advantages derived from

known people making up the network and the accomplishment by the influence of such

network which is known as norms of reciprocity. Additionally, Coleman (1988) asserts

that social capital has two functionalities. These include: (1) the social structure (2) the actors within that social structure. However, he pointed out that the second functionality (the actors) determines the development level within any community. Hence, the social structure is meant to facilitate community development which must be acted upon by the community actors as shown in Figure 2.4.
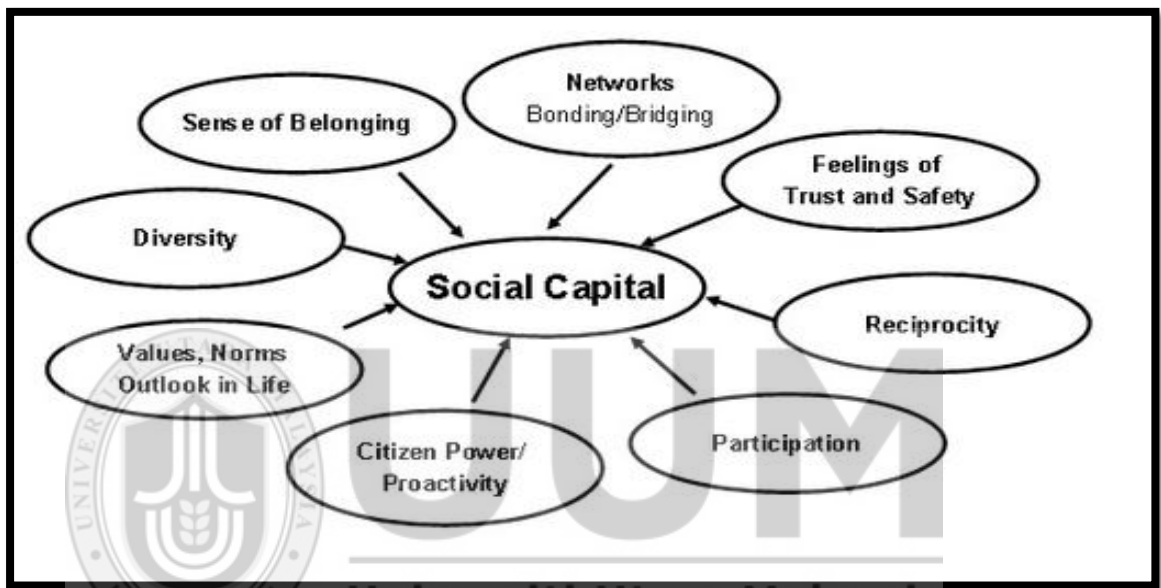
Figure 2.4: Social Capital and Community Development (Woolcock & Narayan, 2000)

Jin and Kim. (2014) tested the variable of trust and neighborliness as a factor of social capital theory. They concluded that trust and neighborliness as a factor of Social Capital Theory enhance participation amongst telethon viewers in altruistic activitie in South Korea. Hence, the social capital positively influence participation of the telethon viewers. Similarly, Araten-Bergman, Tal and Stein (2013) explored the relationship between social capital, employment status, community participation, and living condition among Israelis with disabilities. They made use of 274 participants self-reported disabilities using quantitative research method and SPSS for both data collection, and data analysis respectively. It was discovered that there is a meaningful

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increase in level of social capital for employed participants. Hence, social capital have a significant relationship with network-building, social and vocational integration.

These result supported Jeffrey, Bridger and Theodore (2006) that trust and norms of reciprocity as a factor of social capital theory promotes community development. However, they argued that there is need for an interactive approach as an alternative. Furthermore Snyder (2002) criticized that the Theory of Social Capital promotes racism and do not support multiculturalism. Similarly, Leenders, Gabbay, and Fiegenbaum (2001) and Westermann, Ashby and Pretty (2005) pointed out that the theory can lead to anti-social activities if the actors are negatively motivated. However, the theory is widely used in community development (Wates, 2014; Campbell, et al 2013; Hart, 2013; Poortinga, 2012; Ansari, Munir & Gregg, 2012), therefore it is applicable for this study.

2.7.2 Marginality and Mattering (Schlossberg, 1989)

In the year 1989, Schlossberg proposed the Theory of Marginality and Mattering, that emphasis sense of belonging that determines participation which positively influences performance and achievement. The success of any developmental plan is based on the sense of belonging of the host community. In this model, sense of belonging is represented with mattering which is the feeling that one belongs to a community. While he further explains marginality as the feeling that one is odd or not fit to a community. He concluded that when community members feel that they are part of the community, they tend to be more zealous and persistent with development and the sustainability of such development. Otherwise, they will be feeble and reluctant on developmental plans

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within the community. Consequently, they might engage in anti-community activities, or be confrontational with their community leaders and governments.

This theory was used by Chaves (2006) to explain issues with community student. He concluded that marginality and mattering is an important factor in determining student engagement and involvement in university community which directly affect their academic performance and involvement in university development. Similarly, Heald (2008) used the Theory of Marginality and Mattering to explore the conflict and crisis in Manitoba community of Canada. He concluded that Manitoba community is being marginalized due to government nonchalant attitude to the community since it was settled by the Ukrainian immigrants. It was further argued that mattering leads to community participation and involvement and can be used to suppress marginalization which is a vital element in building sustainable and liveable community.

These arguments collaborate with Boele, & Wheeler (2001) and Ikelegbe & Opukri (2012) study that the incessant crisis and underdevelopment in the Niger Delta of Nigeria is attributed to the issues of mattering. This is caused by the Nigeria government neglect and marginalisation of the locals in participation and involvement in the management of the benefits accrued from their resources. Likewise, Moen and Lambrechts (2013) asserts that despite the Niger delta region huge contribution to national economy, it does not reflect in the region socio economic life style which has led to a rift between the local people and the oil producing corporations due to the environmental neglect and non-involvement of the people in project development and execution. Hence, this theory is applicable for community development issues particularly within the Niger Delta region.

2.7.3 The 6 I's of Community Development (Eckel, 1994)

This theory depicts that community development can only be achieved when community members collaborate and are committed to the design and implementation of the respective developmental plans. The theory defined authentic community as a true and healthy community where components like common interest, joint purpose, self-determination, social interaction and social influence are obtainable. The six factors are introduction, interaction, involvement, influence, investment and identity. These six factors ensure that control is vested on community members in order for them to have sense of belonging and valve to be able to contribute positively to the sustainable development in their community (Eckel, 1994). Also community members are expected to be more open to changes that will affect their life positively. The need for honest communication and rewards becomes vital in ensuring sustainable development in the community.

Cavaye (2006) pointed out that the 6 I's of community development is based on the planning strategy of the community. He maintained that planning is vital to effective community development and community members usually show commitment in such developmental plan before giving up if it fails to benefit their lives positively. Moreover, Eddy (2013) applied this principle in addressing leadership transition in America community college where he concluded that strategic planning enhances any developing community. This is in line with Idemudia (2012) findings that Nigeria policy makers lack strategic planning in executing community development initiatives to enhance sustainable community development particularly in the Niger Delta region. This argument supports Omotola (2007) and Ite (2007) studies that NDDC master plan

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failed due to lack of strategic planning and implementation as a result of insufficient involvement and participation of community members. Likewise, Joab-Peterside, Porter, and Watts (2012) argued that lack of understanding and strategic planning in implementation of developmental initiative are the reasons behind Niger Delta conflicts. Therefore, these studies justify the relevance of the application of this theory to community development.

2.7.4 Stages Model of Community (Peck, 2010)

This theory differentiates the different functionality concept in a community. It provides a balanced philosophical believe on how sustainable development can be achieved in a community. Peck (2010) proposed that community can be developed when there is adequate understanding of the four stages namely pseudo community, chaos, emptiness and authentic or true community. In pseudo community there is general feeling that things are okay and the people are content with the level of development whereas opposite is the case. However, government and other agencies try to avoid conflicts by propagating that the people are content with the level of development. Chaos stage defines the resultant experience that occurs when pseudo community failed which will lead to community members expressing their frustration and anger on government and other developmental agencies. At this stage, community members are aware of the differences and they are not content with the situation any longer.

The third stage is emptiness where community members embrace the generality benefits of the community and members will be balanced and content with developmental changes in the community. The authentic or true community exist when

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there is levelled understanding and involvement in community development plans. The model gives a better understanding on how to achieve a balanced and sustainable development within a community by paying close attention to these four stages of community. This model is similar to Tuckman (1965) group development model where he defined developmental changes in five stages namely forming, storming, norming, performing and mourning. Miller (2003) further explained that the model subdivides community development into five stages and these stages are characterized by three elements namely sequential, developmental and thematic. The sequential defines that development occurs in an orderly form. Developmental implies that each stages have its own concerns, issues and processes to be observed for development to be sustainable while thematic means each stages have its own dominant themes (reflective task and reflective relationship). Hence to understand how to develop and implement any community development there is a need to critically comprehend these stages. In a major study by Marcus et al (1992), they employed the use of Stage Model of Development to ascertain the level of community participation and involvement in community development. Their findings illustrate that the extent to which individual actively participate in any activity is a function of their involvement in well strategized and planned programmes.

2.8 Summary

This chapter explores in details concepts and understanding of community development and its implications globally, Africa, Nigeria and within Niger Delta region. It examines the activities and master plan of NDDC as government intervention agency to foster development in Niger Delta and its initiatives on community participation and involvement. The chapter ends with identification of underpinning theorises for the

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study. Thus, this chapter provides a theoretical understanding on which community development framework can be developed based on community participation and involvement while chapter three will explore the research methodology for this purpose.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the various methods required to achieve the research objectives for this study. It also discusses the methods for answering the research questions such as the research design, study population (research respondents), sampling technique and the research design for the mixed methodology used in this study.The chapter is also intended to present the resaerch procedures and processes for data collection and analysis that was employed in this study.

3.2 Research Paradigm

Research paradigm reflects on the philosophical foundation and focus from various perspectives that are required in every research (Morgan, 2007). It stresses ontological and epistemological foundation upon which a research rest. This may be in form of model, ideology and conceptual clarification. The adoption of a paradigm depends on the nature of a research. Like other research methodology, a mixed method approach has its own merits and advantageous, and weaknesses. Although a mixed method is strong for research triangulation, there are controversies on what paradigm is suitable for a mixed method approach (Amaratunga, Baldry, Sarshar, & Newton, 2002). These issues emanated from 1970's and 80's paradigm dichotomy due to the criticisms of the positivist paradigm whose propositions where based on the constructivism as an alternative to the positivism paradigm (Hall, 2012).

Similarly, other alternative approaches such as the post-positivism, constructivism-interpretivist, transformative-emancipatory and the pragmatism approach evolved from different school of thoughts to address the divergent views and controversies that have already existed (Creswell, Vicki & Plano Clark,2007; Hall, 2012, Tashakkori & Teddlie,2003).

The issue of which best philosophical foundation to anchor a particular research is always a pertinent research challenge face by most research. It requires careful planning (Pettigrew, Woodman, & Cameron, 2001). Hall (2012) argued that despite the different philosophical views established by different scholars to adopt the most suitable philosophical foundation, the adoption of a particular paradigm must be justifiable and used to explain a social phenomenon or the topic under studied. Likewise, Johnson and Onwuebguzie (2004) posited that the adoption of philosophical bases for a mixed method approach is its ability to offer a realistic and practical solution to both quantitative and qualitative inquiry. Subsequently, Hanson, Creswell, Clark and Creswell, (2005) submitted that the researcher has the prerogative to choose the appropriate paradigm for a particular research depending on the respective research problem addressed in a particular study.

This research aligns its philosophical approach with the pragmatic perspective which corresponds with the nature of this study. The pragmatic school of thought stresses on the use of both quantitative and qualitative method for inquiry. This study is not restricted to a particular method of inquiry. It emphasizes on the use of diverse approaches to investigate the under studies social phenomenon derived from various

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sources based on divergent views and opinions (Creswell, 2003). This approach has gained popularity amongst scholars especially in the area of mixed method approach due to its philosophical assumptions and approaches in addressing social phenomenon (Teddlie, & Tashakkori, 2010). The pragmatic school of thought draws on the assumption of "what works" using different approaches in understanding and addressing an issue rather than emphasizing on what it should be. This approach offers researchers opportunity to view social issues from various angles based on the assumption that social actions occur within the ambience of social, political and historical context (Creswell, 2012). This approach therefore has been advanced by social scientists in empirical studies to address social issues using mixed method approach.

There are basically three philosophical foundations on which every empirical study is guided. These include: epistemology, ontology and methodology. This study is guided by the pragmatic assumption that provides researchers the opportunity to address a social phenomenon from different points of viewing and perspectives based on the role played by various stakeholders within the research area to establish meaning and the reality of the issue under studied. While, the ontological is premised on the assumption that reality is not detached from the views and perspectives of various stakeholders which can be highly subjective. Conversely, this study is guided by the epistemological assumption that there is a connection between the respective stakeholders and the nature of knowledge acquired in ascertaining what is true or false. The epistemological assumption on which this study is guided by knowledge of community members and how this knowledge influences their attitude and perception towards sustainability of development programs in their respective community.

3.3 Research Design

A research design is generally a guide that informs researchers on data collection and analysis through systematic procedures (Rea & Parker, 2014). It offers detail information of the method and process as needed by the researchers (Bell,2014). Kothari (2004) outlines three basic types of research designs namely: exploratory, descriptive and hypothesis testing.

Exploratory studies include literatures, in-depth-interviews, focus-group and case analysis while descriptive includes cross sectional and longitudinal design. However, this study employed the exploratory and descriptive research study due to its nature of investigation and method of data collection. The exploratory approach is normally pursued to know more about an issue to generate a particular theoretical framework (Sekaran & Bougie, 2011). Descriptive approach is used when the researcher wishes to describe variables that are of use to a particular phenomenon (Shields & Rangarajan, 2013). However, this research adopts mixed method of data collection which used both quantitative and qualitative methods (Creswell & Plano-Clark, 2007). It builds on the strength of both methods (quantitative and qualitative) to produce an analytical result that are comprehensive, rigor robust in clarification and understanding (Day, Sammons, & Gu, 2008; Creswell, 2012). This study made use of quantitative because of the need to generalize its result. Creswell (2002) argued that when the need to generalize arises then quantitative research design is the most suitable. It also made use of large data to draw the generalization conclusion to provide answers to the research questions (I,II, III and IV) outlined for this research. Quantitative research offers quantification of the data and research findings and uses score instrument and numbers to assess the

frequency and magnitude of trends of large data which will be used for research generalization.

While qualitative research method uses words, experiences, expressions and observations of small data to gather information on a particular phenomenon. In-depth interviews avail the opportunity to collect data which bring forth in-depth enquiry, descriptions, meaningful answers and concise quotations. Such data captures personal perspectives of community development in the Niger Delta region. Similarly, McCracken (1988) asserted that face to face in-depth interview is capable of descriptive and analytic purposes of its ability to explore the thinking and perspectives of a given respondent. It also provides in-depth information and clarifications on issues. Hence, face to face in-depth interview was used to provide answer to research question I, II and IV.

Mixed research method draws the strength of both research methods to provide a more comprehensive and holistic understanding of the phenomenon under studied (Greene & Caracelli, 1997). Similarly, Creswell (2012) argued that mixed method is applicable when one type of research method is not adequate to provide comprehensive result to the research question. This argument is also supported by Creswell and Plano-Clark (2007) that mixed method can be used to provide alternative perspective to a single research method. Miles and Huberman (1994) maintained that the use of more than one research methods ensure triangulation of result. Mixed method research ensures enhancement, elaboration, comparison and complementation of result which might be very difficult with other research design and approaches (single method approach). Therefore, this study made use of the convergent mixed research design. This is a mixed

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research method that enables the combination of both quantitative and qualitative research methods to provide answer to all the research questions. Figure 3.1 shows the research design that was employed by this study, while figure 3.2 indicates the mixed method design flow that emanated from the research method adopted in this study.
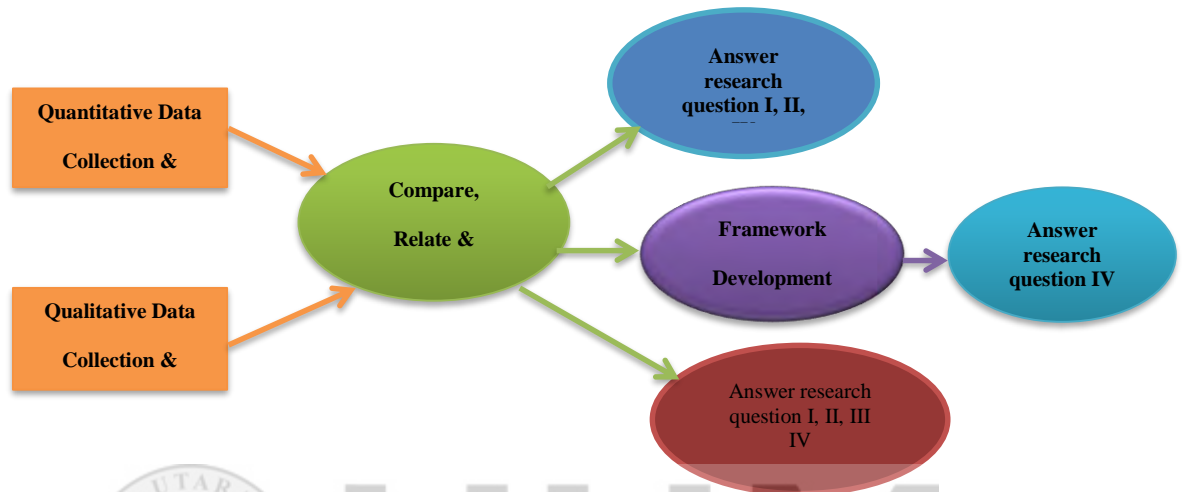
Figure 3.1: Convergent Parallel Mixed Research Design (Creswell, 2012)
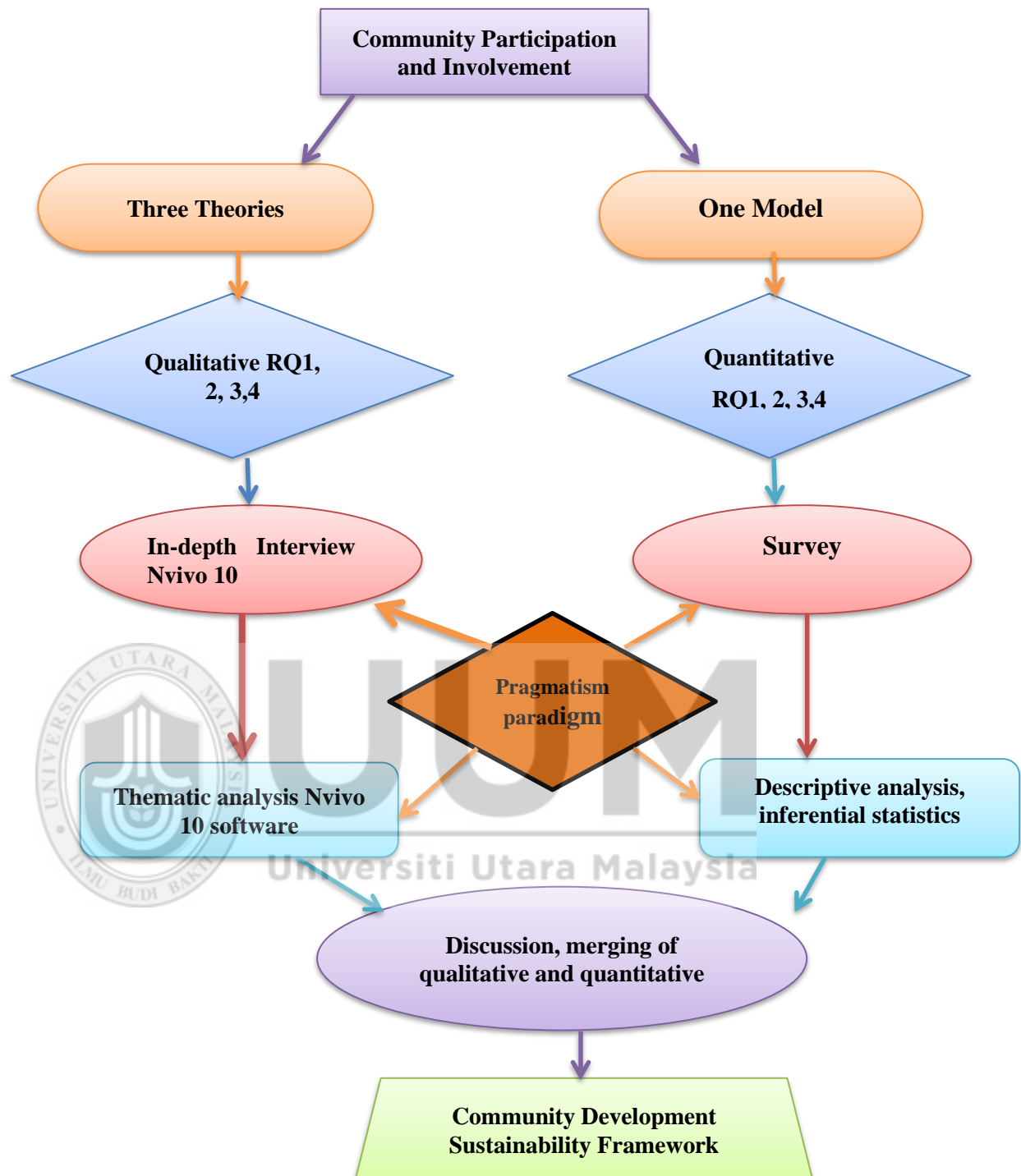
Figure 3.2: Mixed method design flow

3.4 Study One: Qualitative Approach (In-depth Interview)

The qualitative approach for this study was adopted because it is exploratory and subjective in nature. Within this research, the qualitative design adopted relates to people perspectives, opinions and experiences of the respondents and how this influences their attitude towards sustainability of developmental activities with their communities. This nature of study requires an in-depth investigation by the researcher in order to have a broad and in-depth understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. Interviews are usually the most appropriate technique for data collection in studies of this nature. In-depth interview was employed in order for the researcher to elicit valuable and meaningful information from the respondents. Based on Boyce and Neale (2006), in-depth interview technique is used in conducting qualitative study which avails the researcher opportunity to interact face-to-face with the targeted audience to gather detailed information on a particular subject matter. Similarly, Creswell, (2012) asserted an open-ended approach allows the researcher to ask the respondents various questions that will help to facilitate and obtain detailed information and facts during the interview process.

In addition, Rice and Ezzy (1999) describe in-depth interview as a popular method to get adequate enquiries in community phenomenon. It has also been referred to as a method in which the subjects of inquiry in the social science research can talk of their own experience through using the mode of expression they know how to use best which is their local language (Dilley, 2004). Likewise, Yin (2013) pointed out that, for an adequate and in-depth understanding of a phenomenon in qualitative studies involving community development studies, case-study research design with the interview are crucial. Therefore, this study utilized the qualitative research method with in-depth

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interview to adequately investigate the level of community involvement in developmental programs and how to enhance community development sustainability and transformation within members of the community in the Niger Delta Region, Nigeria.

3.4.1 Research setting

The Niger Delta region is located in the south-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria with the area of about 70,000 square kilometres. Geographically, it covers 560km coastline of Nigeria which is about two-third of the entire coastline of Nigeria with a population of over 10 million people (Ebegbulem, Ekpe & Adejumo, 2013). The Niger Delta region comprises of nine states namely; Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. Topographically, it is characterized by wetlands and dry lands with distinctive ecological zones, mangrove swamps, freshwater swamps and lowland forest occupied by mostly rural communities whose primary source of livelihood is dependent on the environment. The region is endowed with both natural and human resources accompanied by a high deposit of oil. Before the advent of oil, the primary occupation of the inhabitants was basically fishing and farming which was their main source of livelihood and sustainability (Ejumudo, Edo, Avweromre, & Sagay, 2012). Consequently, the occupational and social activities of the local people were distorted and hampered due to the activities of the oil exploratory corporations operating within the region. It also led to the displacement of their natural setting which made life uncomfortable for the local people (Duru, 2013; Okonta & Oronta, 2001; Oluduro & Oluduro, 2012; Ogege, 2011). The study purposively selected three states and two oil producing communities from each of the states with a total of six communities. Although, the Niger Delta communities have similar characteristics in

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terms of occupational background, there are some dissimilarity in topography and historical antecedents as indicated below in the historical background of each state and the communities selected in this study.
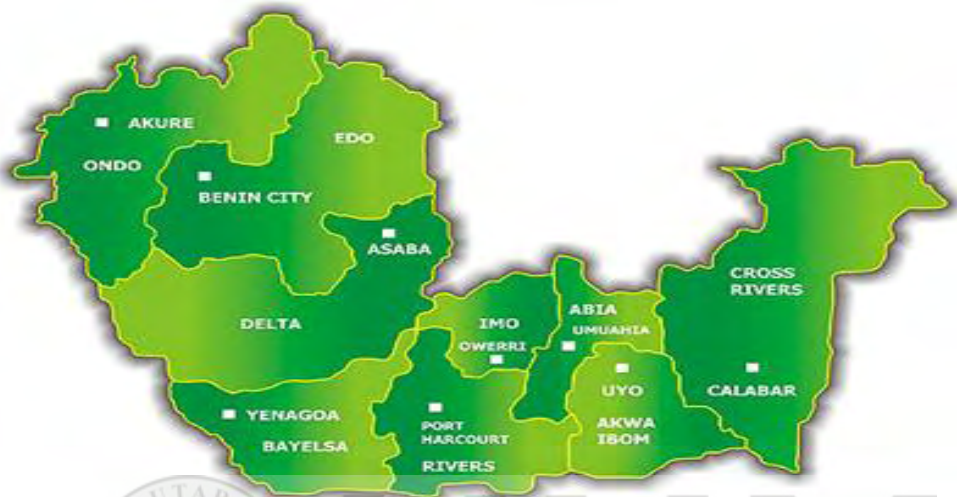
Figure 3.3: Map showing the nine oil producing State in the Niger Delta Region

3.4.1.1 Bayelsa State

Bayelsa state is geographically located within latitude 4°15' North and latitude 5°23' south and longitudes 5Â°22' West and 6Â°45' East. The state is bounded by Delta State on the north, Rivers State on the east, and the Atlantic Ocean on the western and southern parts (Sawyer, Ordinioha, & Abuwa, 2013). It is a multi-ethnic state comprising of ethnic group such as Ekpetiama, Atissa, Biseni, Kolokunu and Igbriran. The state capital is Yenagoa. The major language spoken is Ogbia, Epie-Atissa, Nembe and Izon. Like other parts of Nigeria, the official language is English. This state was created in 1996 from Rivers State (Frynas, 2001). This region is endowed with natural resources such as palm oil, mangrove, crude oil, natural gas timber, etc. It has one of the largest deposits of oil and gas in Nigeria. The main occupation of the people is

fishing, farming, trading, palm wine tapping palm oil milling, etc. Although, the local people in the rural areas mainly engage in subsistence fishing.

3.4.1.2 Akassa Community

Akassa is a kingdom in Brass Local Government area in southern Nigeria located in Bayelsa State. It is made up of 19 major towns and 120 satellite settlements occupied predominantly by the Ijaw people. It is located along the Nun River and the Atlantic coast (Kenneth, & Tarilanyo, 2013). The major occupation of the people is fishing. Similarly, they also engage in other activities such as trading, farming, transportation, construction of canoe and basket weaving. Although, the exploration has hampered these activities which was their major means of livelihood (Ajibade, & Awomuti, 2009).

3.4.1.3 Oloibiri Community

Oloibiri community is a small town located in the eastern part of the Niger Delta region in Nigeria with its headquarters in Ogbia Local Government Area in Bayelsa (Ibeanu, 2006). The is town is endowed with both natural and human resources such as palm oil, cocoa, cotton, groundnut, rubber, timber which were also exported in the past. However, there has been a sharp decline in exportation of these cash crops after the discovery of oil in 1956 (Raji, & Abejide, 2013).

The main occupation of the inhabitants is fishing and farming. Oloibiri community is known for her historic and significant antecedents to the Nigeria oil and gas industry. The first exploration of oil in Nigeria started at Otuabagi/Otuagidi in Oloibiri and produced in commercial quantity by Shell B.P in 1956. The first completed oil well in

Nigeria was executed in Oloibiri community. Similarly, the first oil export from Nigeria in 1958 came from Oloibiri (Oviasuyi, & Uwadiae, 2010). This gave Nigeria international recognition in the global landscape. Nevertheless, the present Oloibiri community has been deserted and left unattended after many years of oil exploration (Odukoya, 2006).

3.4.2 Delta State

Delta State is situated in the south-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria with a latitude 5°00North and latitude 6°30' North and longitude 5°00 East and longitude 6°45' East with a total land area of 16,842km. It is bounded in the south by the Bight of Benin, South East by Bayelsa and Rivers, East Anambra, to the North by Edo and North West by Ondo State. It is divided into 25 local government areas with its state capital in Asaba (Enaruvbe, & Atafo, (2014). The major ethnic groups are the Urhobo, Izon, Isoko and Itsekiri. It was created in 1999 from the then Bendel state. Delta state is rich in natural and mineral resources such as crude oil, coal, limestone, Silica, Clay lignite, mangrove forest and rubber tress. The people of this region engage in variety of activities which include fishing, trading, farming and hunting, rubber tapping, making of raffia and industrial activities. One of the prospecting industrial activities is mining of mineral resources. Though, the main occupation of the local people is fishing and farming (Igben, 2011; Ojeh, Origho, & John, 2012). Delta state is known as one of the highest oil producing state in Nigeria due to the huge deposit of oil in the region (Iroaganachi, & Ufere, 2013). The oil producing local government areas are Warri North and South, Burutu, Isoko North and South, Ughelli North and South, Okpe, Ethiope East and West, Sapele and Ndokwa East and West.

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3.4.2.1 Afiesere Community

Afiesere community is an oil producing community located in the western Niger Delta, with its headquarters in Ughelli North Local Government Area in Delta State, Nigeria. It is predominantly occupied by the Urhobo ethnic group (Atakpo, & Ayolabi, (2009). Afiesere community is blessed with natural and human resources such as oil and gas, palm oil, rubber trees, timber and more recently, a high deposit of metals like Zinc, Lead, Iron, Nickel, Manganese and chromium were also discovered in Afiesere (Kaizer, & Osakwe, 2010).

Oil was discovered in Afiesere in 1966 and drilled by Shell British Petroleum in 1968 (now known as Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC). Afiesere community has an oil field located towards East of Warri and also sharing boundary with a community called Eriemu in the Northern part of Delta state. Afiesere community has about forty-two oil wells still operating (Alens, 2014). Although, the presence of the oil company like SPDC operating within the community has impacted on the lives of the community members in terms of human development and social amenities (Amodu,2012).

3.4.2.2 Koko Community

Koko is a cosmopolitan town surrounded by water in Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State. It is the administrative headquarter of the local government. It is also an oil producing community with a seaport used by both the inhabitants and oil multinationals operation offshore as a means of transportation. This community is known as one of that ancient town that played a significant role in the colonial era in slave trade. This made the community a tourist centre that attracted people from other

parts of Nigeria for commercial and recreational activities. The area is mainly occupied by the Itsekiris and Izons. The major occupation of the inhabitants is fishing, hunting, trading, farming, and dyeing of clothes, weaving of nets and canoe carving.

3.4.3 Rivers State

Rivers State is located in the southern part of Nigeria. It is bounded in the south by the Atlantic Ocean, North by Imo, Abia and Anambra, East by Akwa-Ibom and West by Bayelsa and Delta states respectively (Okon, 2014). The state was created in 1967.It is covers 11,077 square kilometers with 5% by people while 75% by water (Kio-lawson, John, & Chikagbum, 2015). The state is known for its massive deposit of crude oil and natural gas. Although, characterized by frequent rain and mangrove forest. The major occupation of the rural dwellers is farming and fishing that spreads across the southern part of the region. It is made of 23 Local Government Areas with the headquarters in Port-Harcourt. It is a multi-ethnic state consisting of kalabari, Okrika, Ogoni, Ikwerre, Ibani and Opobo ethnic groups. It is currently the second oil producing State in Nigeria (Mmom, & Ekpenyong, 2015).

3.4.3.1 Bonny Community

Bonny is an island located in Rivers State in southern Nigeria, on the Bight of Bony. It is one of the Local Government Areas in Rivers State and traditional headquarter of Bonny kingdom. The community is divided into two segments: The inland which is occupied by indigenes and non-indigenes and the hinterland predominantly occupied by the local community members. The major occupation of the local community is fishing. One of the significance of this community is the prominent role it played during the colonial slave trade and other economic activities and also the first point of contact

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of Christianity by the British Colonial Masters. This region has a high deposit of crude oil and gas. It also produces a unique type of crude oil known as Bonny Light oil which is exported through the seaport located in the region. Presently, the regions enjoys infrastructural facilities such as roads, electricity, water and also job opportunities due to the presence of several oil multinationals operating in the region through their corporate social responsibility.

3.4.3.2 Omoku Community

Omoku is a town located in Rivers State bounded in the south by Delta State and to the East by Imo State. It is the Headquarter of Ogbia/Egbema and Ndoni Local Government Area (Amodu, 2012). It is richly endowed with high deposit of natural and human resources such as petroleum, natural gas, minerals and forestry. This has made the region as one of the highest producer of oil and gas in Nigeria. Likewise, the presences of oil multinationals like Agip Oil Company, SPDC and Total Oil Company operating in the region (Oyejide & Adewuyi, 2011). The major occupation of the local inhabitants is fishing, faming and hunting. Although, these activities have been drastically affected by oil exploration and spillages in the region. This has altered the natural setting and made life uncomfortable for the local people (Okoli, 2006). Nevertheless, the presence of these oil companies through their corporate social responsibility has provided social amenities and job opportunities for the community members (Imomotimi & Collins, 2014).

3.5 Research Preparation Process

Interview preparation is crucial in facilitating the processes adopted during discussion with the participants. Two categories of respondents were interviewed in this study

which includes: The respective local communities, and key officials from the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). This study adopted the process of preparation recommended by McNamara (2009). The first stage was to visit the community traditional head that assisted in identification of each group in the community and the group leaders. Secondly, we met with each of the group leaders and intimated them on aim of our visit and also enlightened them on the purpose of the interview. We also assured them of confidentiality due to the sensitive nature of the study by presenting to them a consent letter (See Appendix I). Also, the nature and format of the interview was explained to them to enable them prepare during the course of discussion. Finally, each of the respondents was asked to suggest ways by which the interview process can be organised and successfully pursued. This process assisted the researcher to identify the target group that are representatives of their communities who have adequate understanding of issues within their community, and are willing to engage in the interview process (Creswell, 2007). The interview protocol was conducted based on flexibility of questions to obtain detailed and meaningful information from the respondents while providing them opportunity to express their views. Some follow up questions which emanated from the discussion were also used in line with the research questions. This technique according to Creswell, (2007) is needed in order for the researcher to obtain optimum responses from the respondents. As for the NDDC officers, the researcher identified the key officers through the NDDC website. Nevertheless, not much information on key respondents who would be able to give detailed information on community issues was available. Hence, the researcher decided to visit the NDDC main office located in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State. The key officers used in this study were identified by the Head of Operations who enlightened the researcher on the different hierarchical positions in the Commission and also their

various roles and duties where he identified the key officers that may be of interest to this study. He also noted that officers in charge of community issues generally are positioned in all the nine Niger Delta States. He assisted by contacting the three key officers after getting an official letter from the researcher stating the aim of the study (See Appendix B). This approach assisted the researcher in identifying the key respondents who are the Heads of the Community Relations Department in each of the States who were contacted at different times. The researcher explained the purpose of the study and subsequently, was given appointment at different times for the interview session. This approach helped to facilitate the interview process.

3.5.1 Sample Design

This study utilized the purposive sampling technique for selection of the research respondents. Purposive sampling is the deliberate selection of samples frames based on some criteria as determined by the researcher (Yin, 2011). The first step in the sampling procedure is the selection of the three states namely; Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States respectively. The criteria for selecting these three states is based on the level of oil deposit, level environmental hazards in terms of oil spillages, and intensity of agitation in the Niger Delta Region. Bayelsa state is the third largest oil producing state in region which is also the first place where oil was discovered. Delta state is the second largest oil, while Rivers State is the largest oil producing State in Nigeria. Secondly, six communities namely Afiesere, Koko, Akassa, Bonny, Omoku and Oloibiri were purposively selected. The rational for selecting these communities were selected because they were the most affected by the exploitation of oil in the Niger delta region due to the level of environmental hazards and degradation (Kimenyi, Deressa, & Pugliese, 2014). For instance, Oloibiri was the first community in Niger Delta that oil

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was discovered in Niger Delta region while Afisere was the second town that oil was discovered in Nigeria after Oloibiri. Furthermore, the interviewees were purposively selected based on the following criteria:

1. The interviewees were recognized by community traditional head and community members as group leaders of each of the groups within the community;

2. The interviewees were identified and recommended to the researcher by community traditional head and community members as their representatives; and

3. The interviewees were certified by the traditional ruler (head) of community as the recognized representatives of community.

The interviewees from NDDC were selected based NDDC leadership hierarchy, designation of officers and their relationship with community. Therefore, nineteen (19) interviewees which include community leaders, youth leaders, women leaders and opinion leaders were purposively selected from six communities in three selected states in the Niger Delta region while 3 key officers from NDDC were also selected making a total of twenty-two (22) that was used for this study.

3.5.2 Data Collection

The in-depth interview was employed as the primary means for data collection. The researcher used open-ended questions which provide an opportunity to collect detailed and concrete information about the interviewees' opinions, perceptions and experiences on how community development can be sustained. Open-ended questions as observed by Turner (2010) create an atmosphere of flexibility that enables the interviewees to fully express their opinions and views. Similarly, interview guides consisting of 12 questions were used to make sure that all the research objectives were properly

addressed, and provide interviewees the opportunity and freedom to express their views and opinions of their understanding about the issues posed to them. This approach also allows the interviewer to follow up with future probing questions that emanates from the previous questions asked (Seidman, 2012).

The interview guide for this study can be seen in (Appendix III & IV) for both community and NDDC officers respectively. Based on Kajornboon (2005), an interview guide comprises the title of the study, the questions and issues to be addressed by researcher in the course of the interview and should be explicit and precise. In addition, the existing literatures, memoirs, correspondence, meeting proceedings, round table discussion and NDDC classified documents were used in gathering information for qualitative data. Approximately, each of the interview session lasted for 18minutes. The longest lasted for 1hour 25minutes. The researcher made use of digital voice recorder for all the interview sessions with the consent of the interviewees. Notes were also taken to support the recording. Likewise, observatory approach was also administered with notes taken of situation on ground in regards to evidence of NDDC impacts within the communities. Voices recording for interviews have been noted as one of the most appropriate device for gathering precise information (Yin, 2011). Before undertaking the study, experts' opinion in this area of study was sought to ensure that the results obtained from the study is worthy representation of respondents' views and experiences (Whittmore, Chase, & Mandle, 2001). This study was conducted between March, 2015 to November, 2015.

3.5.3 Data Analysis

The data obtained from the interviews conducted were thematically and systematically analysed. The thematic analysis was used to analyse the data while the Nvivo 10 software was used to facilitate the process of sorted and coded items from the data. The first step was to transcribe verbatim all the recorded interviews and thematically sorted out. Thereafter, the transcribed data were coded. Coding is one of the relevant steps in qualitative analysis that enables the researcher to put together the transcribed data by giving it a meaning (Basit, 2003). The researcher adopted the three stages involved in coding which are; open, axial and selective coding (Strauss & Corbin, 1990). The first stage is the open coding whereby the researcher categorised all the concepts into different segments which were used as the unit of analysis. Subsequently, axial coding was done. Here, the researcher did a critical appraisal and re-examination by making some modification through adding and deleting items that do not represent the interviewees' opinions and views and also linking the relationship between the different categories. The last stage of coding is the selective coding which involves rearranging all the coded items and different categories. Here, the researcher thoroughly went through the all the data to identify concepts that do not align with the research questions been addressed. This process allows the researcher to merge those items that depicts the same meaning, and eliminate those not relevant to the research questions been addressed. From the thematic analysis, 6 themes, 22 sub themes and 63 sub-sub themes were generated as indicated in Table 3.1. The sub-sub themes were later analysed using the responses from the interviewees to support the study discussion.

Table 3.1

Summary of all the Themes, Sub Themes and Sub-sub Themes

S/N	Themes	Sub Themes	Sub-Sub Themes
Theme One	Community Participation and Involvement	❖ Challenge	▪ Abandonment of projects. ▪ Lack of adequate funding. ▪ Lack of adequate planning. ▪ Favouritism. ▪ Leadership problem/style. ▪ Community attitude. ▪ Political interference.
		❖ Catalyst for community participation and involvement	▪ Building trust. ▪ Expected benefits. ▪ Sense of ownership. ▪ Adequate consultation. ▪ Collaboration. ▪ Effective Interactive system. ▪ Enlightenment of Community members. ▪ Capacity building and empowerment.
		❖ NDDC and community relationship.	▪ Need assessment of community members. ▪ Pacification of community members. ▪ Lack of involvement. ▪ Inaccessibility of community to agency. ▪ Lack of enlightenment of community members. ▪ Ineffective communication system.
Theme Two	NDDC impact on community development sustainability	❖ Infrastructure development.	▪ Pilling construction in community ▪ Construction of water jetty ▪ Building of canals in community ▪ Construction Of roads.
		❖ Rehabilitation and re-orientation.	▪ Resettlement of displaced community members. ▪ Scholarship awards to Community members. ▪ Enlightenment campaign Against violence.
		❖ Empowerment	▪ Economic empowerment of Community members. ▪ Partnership with other stakeholders. ▪ Sporting activities for youth's development in community.

		❖ Social amenities	▪ Provision of telecommunication system. ▪ Provision of Hospitals. ▪ Availability of Pipe borne water. ▪ Electrification of community.
Theme Three	NDDC role in resolution of conflict	❖ Re-orientation. ❖ Capacity building. ❖ Quick impact.	▪ Pacification of community members. ▪ Sensitization of community members. ▪ Contract allocation to community members. ▪ Training of community members. ▪ Upgrading of health Care facilities. ▪ Minor road work. ▪ Renovation of infrastructural facilities.
Theme four	Community Develop-ment Sustain-ability	❖ Benefits attached ❖ Commitment to developmental projects by stakeholders.	▪ Access and usage to developmental projects. ▪ Sense of belonging By community members. ▪ Satisfaction of community needs. ▪ Sense of ownership by Community members. ▪ Use of local resources. ▪ Quality assurance of developmental projects. ▪ Inspection and monitoring of projects. ▪ Evaluation Of developmental projects. ▪ Maintenance Culture. ▪ Provision of adequate security.
Theme Five	Factor influencing Community Interest	❖ Relevance of projects. ❖ Relationship amongst community members.	▪ Benefits attached to the projects. Consultation with community members. ▪ Need assessment of community members. ▪ Acceptability of developmental projects by community members. ▪ Unity of purpose amongst community members. ▪ Discretion by instituted authority.

Theme Six	Community Active Role/Responsibility	❖ Commitment of community members to developmental projects	▪ Effective Communication. ▪ High achievements. ▪ Accountability of Community Members. ▪ High Input.
			▪

3.5.4 Ethical Consideration

The ethical bases for this study were guided by the works of Cooper and Schindler (2003) and Creswell (2012). Taking into cognizance the ethical rules and standards in interview process, the researcher ensured that the interviewees were rightly informed about the aim and nature of the research. Interviewees were also given opportunity to decline before, or after the interview process. A consent letter duly signed by the researcher indicating strict adherence to confidentiality and protection of the interviewees' anonymity was also made available to the interviewee to establish trust between the researcher and the interviewees.

3.6 Methodology Two: Quantitative Approach (Survey)

3.6.1 Introduction

The second methodology adopted in this study is the quantitative research method. The quantitative research method involves a systematic collection of data from population or samples of population (Creswell, 2013).

3.6.2 Research design

The research design using the quantitative approach contained detailed discussion of population and sampling, instrumentation, sampling frame, data collection and analysis and test of reliability. Each of these elements is discussed in detail to achieve the objectives of the study.

3.6.3 Population and Sampling

The population of the study covers the entire states in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. There are nine states that make up the Niger Delta region. Namely; Abia, Akaw-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross-River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers. The three states (Bayelsa Delta and Rivers) were identified for this study based on geographical terrain; deposit of oil and the level of agitation were purposively selected for the study.

3.6.4 Sampling Frame

The sampling frame consist of six communities selected from three satates of the Niger Delta in view of the factors higlighted in the population. The communities include Afiesere, Koko, Akassa, Bonny, Omoku and Oloibiri. Specifically, two communities were selected from each of the three states. These include Akassa and Oloibiri from Bayelsa, Afiesere and Koko from Delta and Bonny and Omoku from Rivers states respectively. The communities were purposively selected based on geographical terrain, deposit of oil and level of agitation. For example, Afiesere community is located in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta state, and it was the second town that oil was discovered in Nigeria after Oloibiri. Koko community is in Warri North Local Government Area of Delta state. Both Agana community in Andoni Local Government Area and Bonny Island community in Bonny Local Government Area are in Rivers state. While Oloibiri in Ogbia Local Government Area and Akassa in Brass Local Government Area are in Bayelsa state. Oloibiri was the first community in Niger Delta that oil was discovered in the Niger Delta region. The respondents include farmers, market women, youths, fishers, community opinion leaders, traditional rulers. These groups of respondents were selected because they were the most affected by the exploitation of oil in the Niger delta region.

3.6.5 Instrumentation

The insturment for the survey was developed based on literature. The items of measurement were adapted from Dokpesi, 2010.The instrument that was used by this study is questionnaire. A close-ended questionnaire survey with non-probability basic sampling was developed. The study administered questionnaires to 300 respondents using cluster sampling method as the sample technique for selecting respondents while 50 questionnaires were administered to the respondents in each community The items were all measured on five point likert scale raging from strongly disagree to strongly agreee. The researcher conducted a content validity on the instrument to ascertain its reliability . The instrument was sent to three academic experts who went through the questonnaire and suggested some valuable contributions which have been incorporated in the instrument before they were adminstered. The instrument was duly certified by all the experts as valid and relevant to the objective of the study (See Appendix V). Cluster sampling was used in identifying the different groups because the communities are grouped into various clusters such as farmers association, women asssociation, youth group and e group for the elderly people. However, the population for each group was not obtained due to non-availability of the actual number of each group. Therefore, the *snowballing* sampling method was used to administer the questionnaires to the respondents from each group. This is an approach whereby the reseacher identify the leader of each group who inturn identified the most suitable persons that could serve as respondents within their group. This is based on the level of commitment and knowledge of the respondents on community matters.

3.6.6 Instrument Development

The study instrument was adapted from Dopkesi (2010). The instrument measured the perception of community members on the impact of activities of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on oil producing communities. Total numbers of thirty-five (35) items were adapted and modified to suit this study. Each item was measured through the five point Likert type scale ranging from "1 = Strongly Disagree" to "5 = Strongly Agree". Table 3.2 represents all the items and the measurement of the constructs. For example, there are four (4) items measuring the construct community participation, seven (7) for community involvement, four (4) common passion, four (4) active responsibility and twelve (12) items measuring sustainable development respectively as indicated in table 3.2

Table 3.2

Measurement of Sustainable Development

Construct	Items	total	Source
Community Participation	1. What is the level of community engagement in NDDC programmes and activities	4	Adapted from Dokpesi, 2010
	2. NDDC projects and activities are people oriented		
	3. The programmes and projects of NDDC are based on the needs of community		
	4. What are the factors that hinders community participation in developmental programmes		
Community Involvement	5. Community members are allowed by NDDC to fully take part in the planning and execution of development programmes	7	Adapted from Dokpesi, 2010
	6. How would you rate the level of efficiency of members in contributing decision making of programmes by NDDC?		

	7. Community members are encouraged by NDDC to be committed to the process of development carried out in the community		
	8. Community members are given specific role to play in developmental programmes and projects by NDDC		
	9. Community members are actively involved in developmental programmes		
	10. How would you rate the level of awareness of NDDC as a developmental agency in your community?		
	11. How would you rate the level of commitment of NDDC to the development of your community?		
Common Passion	12.Collective interest and zeal by community members can encourage their level of partaking in developmental programmes and projects	4	Adapted from Dokpesi, 2010
	13. Shared interest in development plans by members of host community will increase their level of participation and involvement in developmental programmes		
	14. The desire and commitment by community members can increase the level of their engagement towards improving their community		
	15. The level of acceptability of a particular project programmes will determine the level of their involvement		
Active Responsibility	16. When community members are given specific role to play in the process of transforming their communities will enhance their level of participation	4	Adapted from Dokpesi, 2010
	17. Active roles of community members in development activities will increase their level of community		
	18. Commitment of host communities to developmental projects and activities is important for the accomplishment of such projects/activities		
	19. When community members are allowed to be in charge of executing developmental programmes and projects their level of involvement will increase		
Sustainable Development	20.Community participation and involvement can be used as an instrument to facilitate sustainable community development	12	Adapted from

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21. How would you access the level of execution by NDDC projects in your community?	Dokpesi, 2010
22. Which of these programmes by NDDC can improve the living conditions and wellbeing of community members	
23. Projects/Programmes carried out by NDDC can transform the lives and conditions of community members	
24. The projects and activities of NDDC has helped to improve the living conditions in the community	
25. The programmes and activities of NDDC have helped to reduce the recurrent agitations in the Niger Delta	
26. Community participation and involvement in the Niger Delta region will reduce agitation and unrest in the region	
27. The following projects and programmes are executed by NDDC in my community	
28. The following human capital development programme(s) are initiated by NDDC in my community	
29. The programmes and activities of NDDC have helped to reduce the recurrent agitations in the Niger Delta	
30. The failure of NDDC in developing the Niger Delta region can generate further agitation and unrest in the region	
31. The programmes and activities of NDDC have helped to reduce the recurrent agitations in the Niger Delta	

3.6.7 Measurement Scale

Table 3.3
Measurement Scale of Variables used in the study

S/N	Variables	Coding Variables	Measurement Scale
1	Community Development Sustainability	CDS	Interval
2	Community Participation	CP	Interval
3	Community Involvement	CINV	Interval

| 4 | Common Passion | CPA | Interval |
| 5 | Active Responsibility | AR | Interval |

3. 7 Data Collection

To ensure quick return of the questionnaires, the study adopted the drop-off and pick procedure through self-administration of the questionnaires. Having interacted with various leadership from each group during the in-depth interview session, the researcher requested the leaders of each group to assist in distributing the questionnaires amongst the most suitable respondents earlier identified. This facilitated data collection process. The researcher had no direct contact with the respondents. The questionnaires were retrieved by the leaders of the various groups who in-turn submitted them to the researcher. A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents and 284 were returned and received.

3.8 Data Analysis

The study employed both descriptive and inferential statistics for data analysis. SPSS soft ware version 20 was used for data and multivariate analysis. Particularly, SPSS was used for preliminary analysis, realiability test and multiple regression analysis. All the meausrement scale are on ordinal scale except the demographic variables which were used for descriptive statistics. Both norminal or ordinal scale were used.

3.9 Reliability and Validity

To ascertain the reliability of the data, normalty test was carried out to acess the Skeweness and Kurtosis, non-response bias and factor analysis. All these measures reflects the goodness of fit of the data to the model. From the various test conducted,

the data has met all the requirements for further multivariate analysis which is the multiple regression analysis.

3.10 Framework Development

Based on the results obtained from both research methods (quantitative and qualitative), a framework of community development was developed. All the themes formulated were used in the development of the framework. Expert opinions and pervious work done in the domain of community development were employed to validate the framework. This was used specifically to provide answer to research question IV

3.11 Summary

This chapter illustrates the strength of this study using the mixed method approach which was elaborated both in the procedure and processes for data collection and analysis. This study also was guided by the pragmatic paradigm that fits the mixed method approach. With regards to the in-depth inteview in the selection of interviewees, the purposive and cluster sampling method was adopted; while the survey used the snowballingtechnique. Six Communties were purposively selected from the three states across the Niger Delta region. For the indepth interview, 19 interviewees were selected from community, and 3 key officers from the NDDC. While for the quantitative part, 300 questionaires were adminstered with 50 questionaires sent to each community. The study lasted between March through November, 2015. Data were analysed using the Nvivo 10 software for the qualitative data, and SPSS software version 20 was used to analyse the quantitative data respectively.

CHAPTER FOUR: QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of the qualitative method based on the data collected from successive in-depth interviews conducted with nineteen (19) respondents from six oil producing communities in the Niger Delta and three key officers from the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in south-south Nigeria. The interview was carried out within one year between 2014 and 2015. The major aim of the interview is to provide answers to the four research questions stated in Chapter One which centre on community development and sustainability. The ultimate goal of community development is building a sustainable community with the people as focus of development for the good of the entire society which is the centre goal of any government. According to Pavlovskaia (2013), the concept of sustainability revolves on a balance of society ecologically, economically, socially and technologically for current and future needs Similarly, Sianipar, Yudoko, Adhiutama and Dowaki, (2013) posit that sustainability is the ability to meet the immediate needs of the community without compromising the needs of future generation. In the same vein, Tkacik, (2015), asserted that there is need to incorporate primary stakeholders' holders and developmental agencies in order to achieve sustainable development agenda.

Similarly, Ekanem, Nwachuwku and Etuk (2014) asserted that sustainable community development can be successfully achieved when members of community are involved

in developmental plans and implementation. Based on Green and Haines (2015), the role of community members is crucial in community development because they are the focus of the end product of any developmental agenda.

However, many countries of the world especially in Africa are still facing the challenge of sustainable development after years of independence (Kessides, 2014). Although, Africa is blessed with natural resources yet, the continent is still rated among the underdeveloped and poor countries in the world (Hilson & Garforth, 2012; Anyanwu & Erhijakpor, 2010). This led to the world summit for sustainable development (WSSD) in 2002 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) plan as a blue print for development that stressed on the need for Africa countries to steer up their developmental efforts and concentrate more on sustainability of developmental agenda. Few African countries have been able to record commendable successes through the adoption of the WSSD and NEPAD, however, a large number are still struggling with the issue of sustainability (Gelil, 2011). Nigeria is a good example of countries that are still experiencing challenges of sustainable development. Despite various policies and developmental strategies employed by the Nigerian government, there is no commendable improvement on the physical and socio-economic wellbeing in most communities in Nigeria especially in the Niger Delta region (Abiona & Bello, 2013). Studies have identified the need to examine the role of community members in developmental initiatives to identify the factors militating against community sustainable development in the Niger Delta (Tayo, 2015; Iheriohanma, Wakoma & Nwokorie, 2014).

Therefore, for this present study community participation and involvement were identified as the major catalyst for enhancing community sustainable development in

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developing countries and globally, as previously revealed in Chapter Three. In light of this, it therefore becomes essential to assess the various strategies adopted by developmental agencies by the Nigerian government especially in the Niger Delta regions in community development programmes in order to understand how community participation and involvement has been employed especially in the Niger Delta region. One of the relevance of this study is its unique contribution in the methodology which was employed in exploring those factors that enhances community participation and involvement whereas other studies particularly within Nigeria context have not explored this possibility. Therefore, findings that are based on community participation and involvement for sustainability development are presented below.

4.2 Interviewees' Background

The study conducted series of interviews with community group leaders who are representatives of the community and also community opinion leaders in each community. The opinion leaders were selected in the study because they are seen as those individuals who do not have any political affiliation and also do not engage in partisan politics. Their views are seen to be devoid of bias towards any particular group or political party as the case may be. They were selected based on the following criteria which have been previously discussed in Chapter Four:

1. The interviewees were recognized by community members as group leaders of each of the groups within the community;

2. The interviewees were identified and recommended to the researcher by community members as their representatives;

3. The interviewees were certified by the traditional ruler (head) of community as the recognized representatives of community; and

4. The interviewees willingly consented to participate in the interview.

Similarly, interviewees from NDDC were selected based on NDDC leadership hierarchy, designation of officers and their relationship with community. This was obtained through the NDDC website. Therefore, three key NDDC officers who are the head of community relations (CR) department representing NDDC in the three states were selected for this study. The 22 interviewees comprise respondents from both community and NDDC which is presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1

Demographic Analysis of Interviewees

Serial no	Gender	Occupation	Education Level	Community	Position
INT.1	Male	Self employed	BSc/HND	Akassa	CDC Chairman
INT.2	Male	Self employed	Secondary	Akassa	Youth leader
INT.3	Female	Trader	Secondary	Akassa	Women leader
INT.4	Male	Self employed	BSc/ HND	Oloibiri	Opinion leader
INT.5	Male	Self employed	BSc/HND	Oloibiri	Youth leader
INT.6	Female	Trader	Secondary certificate	Oloibiri	Women leader
INT.7	Male	Self employed	BSc/HND	Afiesere	Opinion leader
INT.8	Male	Self employed	PhD	Afiesere	Opinion leader
INT.9	Male	Self employed	Secondary certificate	Afiesere	CDC Chairman
INT.10	Female	Trader	Secondary certificate	Afiesere	Women leader
NT.11	Male	Self employed	Secondary certificate	Koko	Youth leader
INT.12	Female	Trader	NCE	Koko	Women leader
INT.13	Male	Self employed	MSc	Bonny	Youth leader
INT.14	Female	Trader	NCE	Bonny	Women leader

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INT.15	Male	Self employed	BSc	Omoku	Opinion leader
INT.16	Male	Civil servant	Secondary certificate	Omoku	Youth leader
INT.17	Male	Self employed	BSc	Omoku	Opinion leader
INT.18	Male	Self employed	Secondary certificate	Omoku	Opinion leader
INT.19	Female	Trader	NCE	Omoku	Women leader
INT.20	Male	NDDC staff	MSc	NDDC Rivers	Head CR
INT.21	Male	NDDC staff	BSc	NDDC Delta	Head CR
INT.22	Female	NDDC staff	BSc	NDDC Bayelsa	Head CR

Source: *Developed from the study data (2015)*

Based on the data from the 22 interviewees across the six communities and NDDC staffs from the three states, further analysis was done. Figure 4.1 revealed the gender distribution of the study interviewee. The gender distribution reflects that the number of male respondents were more than the females. It should be noted that the respondents were interviewed on the basis of key positions assigned to them in both community and NDDC. However, it is observed in the gender distribution that there is gender disparity of females to key positions within the region.
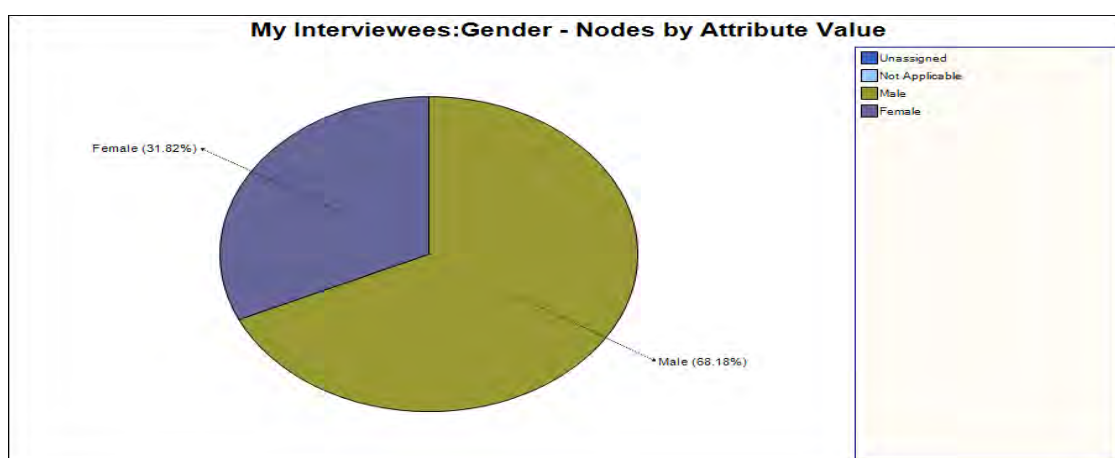
Figure 4.1: Gender Distributions of Interviewees

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More so, majority of the respondents are self-employed, six traders and one civil servant from community and the three NDDC key officers as shown in Figure 4.2 below. This finding reveals that there is lack of employment within the region which might be associated with restiveness and agitations within the Niger Delta region.
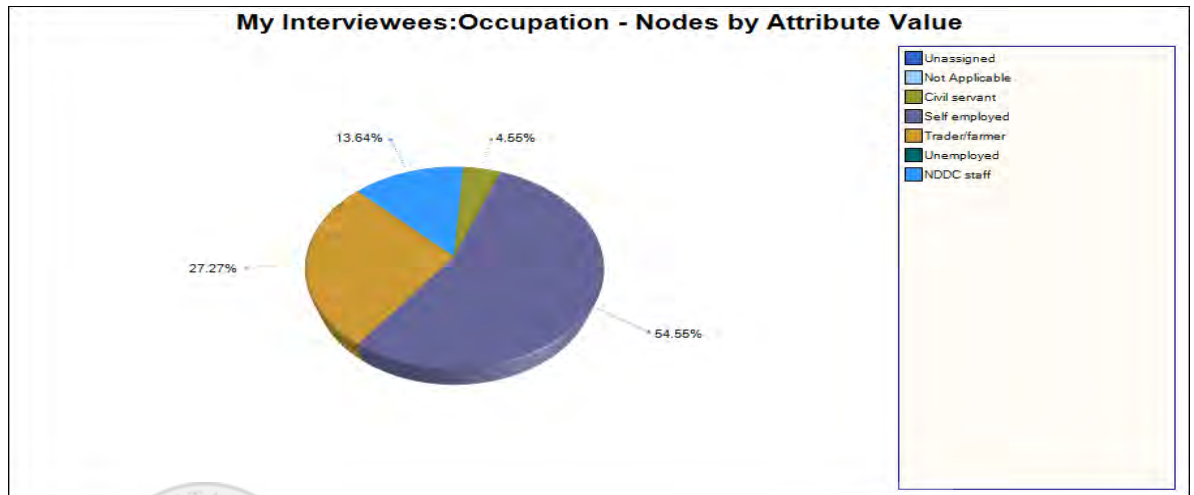
Figure 4.2: Occupational Distribution

Likewise, analysis done on the level of educational attainment of interviewees as indicated in Figure 4.3 below revealed that most of the interviewees' highest qualification is secondary certificate followed by National Certificate Education (NCE) while only few have BSc certificate. This depicts that most of the highly position professionals in this region are not educated which further reflects that low level of access to tertiary education in the oil producing communities might be the reasons for youth restiveness within region.
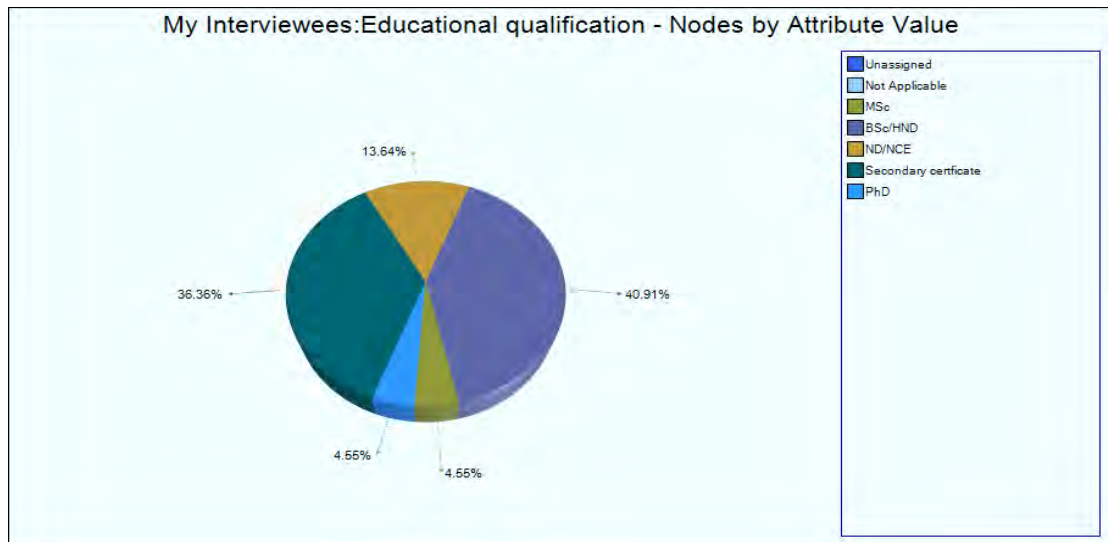
Figure 4.3: Educational Qualification

Figure 4.4 highlights the number of interviewees that were accessible in each of the community during the interviewee process. The highest number of interviewees is from Omoku community, followed by Afiesere, and Oloibiri, Koko and Bonny respectively.
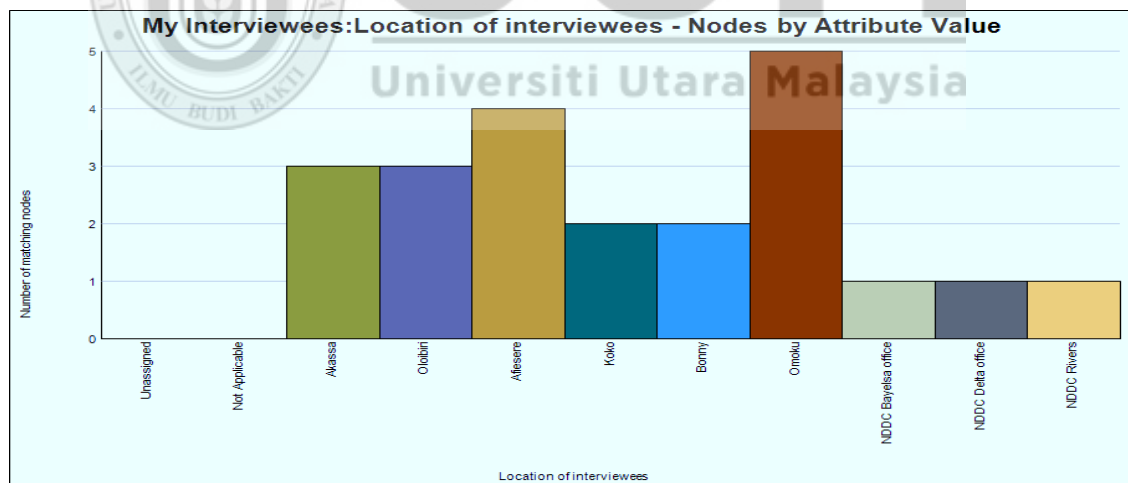
Figure 4.4: Accessible Interviewees

4.3 Coding and Thematic Analysis of Data

Based on the interview protocols used for this study, the interviewees from communities and NDDC were asked about the level of community participation and

involvement in NDDC developmental programmes, the challenges encountered by parties, the relationship between community and NDDC and how community participation and involvement can be enhanced to foster development sustainability. Interview protocols consisting of eleven questions with voice recorder were used during each session to make sure that all the research objectives were properly addressed at the same time giving interviewees the opportunity and freedom to express their views and opinions of their understanding about the issues posed to them. The results from the transcribed interviews made up of 169 pages from the six communities while 79 from NDDC of the data collected. Approximately, each interview session lasted from 18 minutes to 1hour 25minutes. The data were verified through experts' validation to ensure that the results obtained from the study are true representation of interviewees' views and experiences to certify the reliability of results based on Whittmore, Chase and Mandle's (2001) suggestion.

Subsequently, the transcribed interviews were inputed into the Nvivo 10 QSR data management program. A detailed processing of data coding and identification of the themes, sub-themes and the sub-sub-themes was carried out. The themes developed are systematically explained one after the other together with appropriate models highlighted in the next sections. Buttressing the literatures reviewed and the gaps identified in this study calls for a holistic understanding and approach in addressing the fundamental issues in sustainability of developmental programmes. Meanwhile, the approach and strategies used by community developers are mostly based on social phenomenon and personal experiences for community sustainable development. This is premised on the assumption that community development is unique and mixed as a result of the constant changes in social phenomenon which varies from one community

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to another (Dodge, 1980). Similarly, the analysis of data using the Nvivo 10 software revealed that factors that could enhance community participation among include: Trust building, enlightenment, collaboration, consultation and sense of ownership enhances the level of community participation in developmental programmes. More so, the data analysis also established the significant role community members play in the process of development within their immediate environment. Interestingly, the data obtained also offers new understandings on the reason behind interviewees' attitude and response towards developmental programmes. The findings also offer possible solutions in addressing issues with community development and sustainability.

4.4 The Role of Community Participation and Involvement for Sustainable Community Development

Community participation and involvement are fundamental for successful implementation of any developmental agenda (Muthuri, Moon & Idemudia, 2012). According to Rosenthal, (2006), Ukiwo (2008) and Makachia (2014) community development sustainable is attainable when community members are co-opted into pre and post stages of developmental initiatives. Similarly, McDonald, 2011 and Zeldin, Camino and Calvert (2012), stressed that when community members are given the opportunity to make decisions on issues that affect their lives, it enhances their level of participation and involvement. The role of community members therefore is fundamental in community development because they are the most affected with both the positive and negative consequences of development strategies and execution. Community members however, are seen to be more enthusiastic and zealous in issues that affect their community because they have vast understanding of their community thus; the role of community therefore in implementation of developmental plans cannot be over emphasized. However, such role can be hampered due to several factors as

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identified in this study which are in line with some previous studies such as Lachapelle and McCool (2012) and Campbell et. al., (2013). In view of this, the in-depth interview conducted in this study revealed the factors that could enhance community participation and involvement which hitherto has been identified as catalyst, as well as the impediment to community for sustainable community development in the Niger Delta Nigeria. Figure 5.5 summarizes the all the themes, sub themes and sus-sub themes obtained from the data collected through the qualitative method.
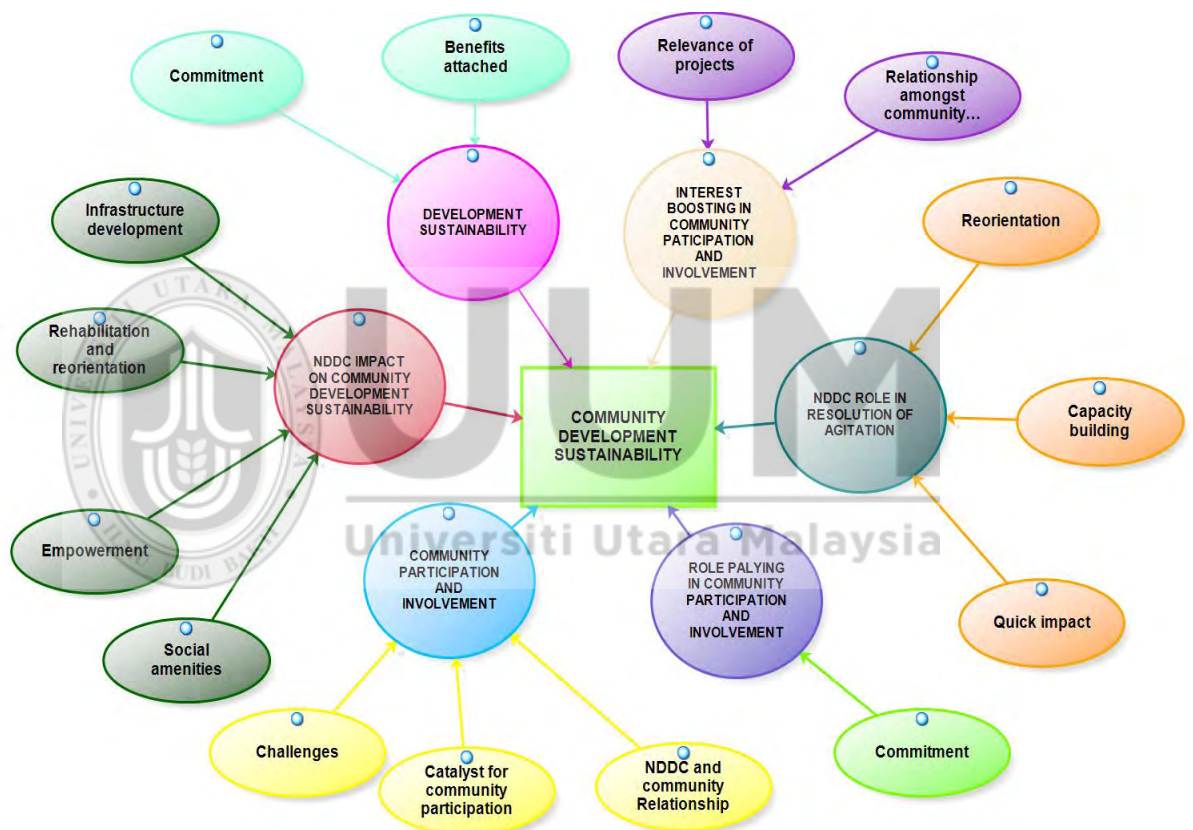
Figure 4.5: Main themes and sub-themes for community participation/Involvement framework for sustainable development

4.4.1 Theme one: Community Participation and Involvement

The findings from this study's interviews depicts that the role of community members in developmental strategies is a major catalyst to enhance community development sustainability. This is because when community members are incorporated into developmental initiatives; it enhances their participation on providing relevant

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knowledge, skills and abilities (Urquhart, Cornelissen, Lal, Colquhoun, Klein, Richmond & Witteman, 2013; Bainbridge, Tsey Andrews, McCalman & Brown, 2013). Similarly, Capt, Oliver, & Engel, (2014), posited that the participation of community members in developmental plans have not been without some challenges which are usually caused by inaccessibility to information, relationship between development agency and community members, lack of adequate representation of community members in decision making and lack of awareness of developmental plans (Cloke, 1988). From the study interview analysis three major subthemes were revealed under community participation and involvement which are grouped as challenges, catalyst and agency community relationship. This result is illustrated in Figure 4.6 which depicts community participation and involvement framework. The following subsections discussed the framework in details, for example subsection 4.4.2 focused on issues and challenges in community participation and involvement, subsection 4.4.1.2 discussed about catalyst for community participation and involvement, while subsection 4.4.1.3 presented the relationship between the NDDC as an agency to the community.
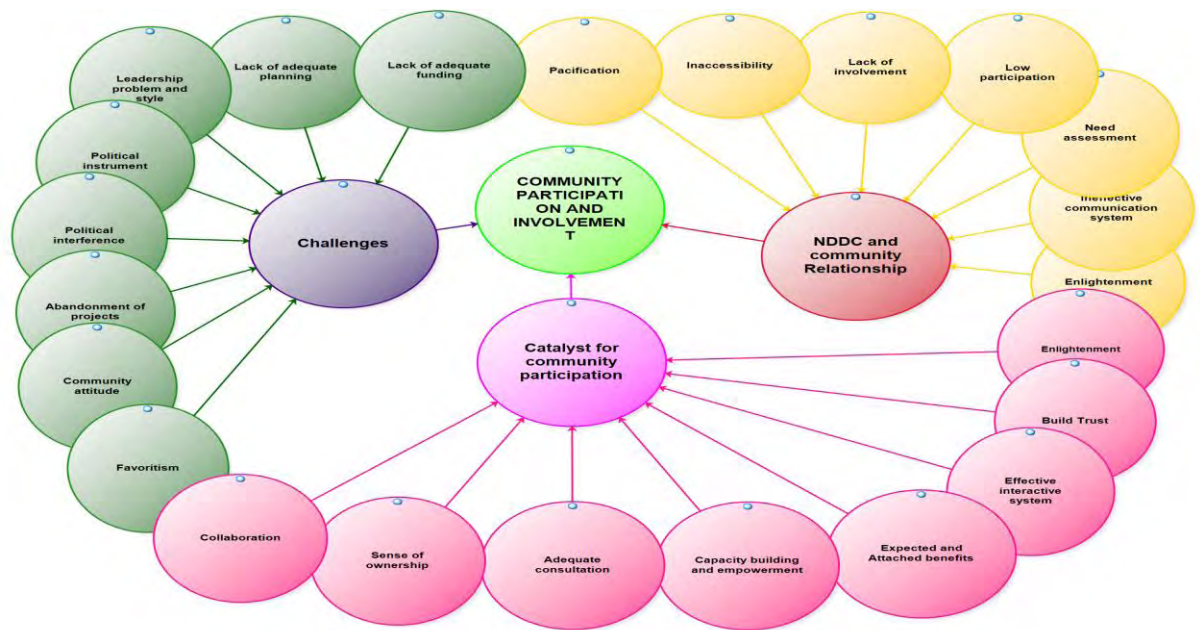
Figure 4.6: Theme One: Community Participation and Involvement for Development Sustainability

4.4.1.1 Challenges to community participation and involvement

Though, government, non-governmental agencies and policy makers are beginning to see the need for community participation and involvement in development strategies for effective and successful implementation (Kohl, Craig, Lambert, Inoue, Alkandari, Leetongi & Lancet, 2012 and El Arifeen, Christou, Reichenbach, Osman, azad, Islam & Petres, 2013, Prager, Nienaber, Neumann & Philips, 2015). However, there are still some challenges and impediments that hinder community participation and involvement. Shaw, Danese and Stocker, (2013) noted that there is need for development planners and policy makers to understand the impending challenges that could be encountered in the implementation of developmental goals from within and also at the community level (White, Sivakumar & Pulwarty,2014). The understanding of these issues can help both the community members and developmental agencies in more effectively on the planning and implementation stage of developmental initiatives (Zaff, Donlan, Jone & Lin, 2015). Therefore, the evidence from this study finding

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shows that community participation and involvement are crucial to achieve successful developmental goals; however, there are some barriers both from government agencies and the community. This study identified seven factors that can hinder community participation and involvement in developmental initiatives as indicated in the Nvivo outcome in Figure 4.7 below.
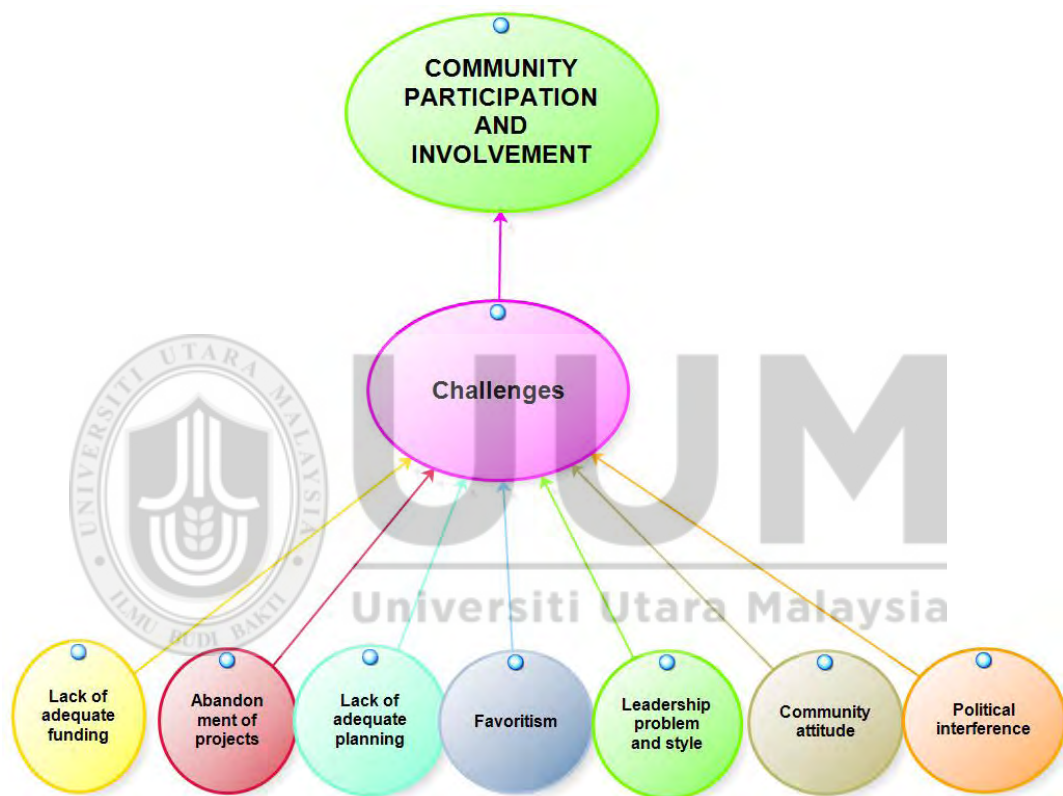
Figure 4.7: Challenges to community participation and involvement

Evidently, several studies (Nzeadibe, Ajaero & Nwoke, 2015; Osher, Amos, Jones & Coleman, 2015; Greenfield et al, 2015; Davies, Wood & Stephens, 2002; Benson, Leffert, Scales & Blyth, 2012; Brown, 1995) have examined the role of community members in developmental initiatives. They revealed that there exists a close connection between attitudes of the members in the community on their participation in developmental projects in their communities. However, the involvement of different

parties in decision making towards achieving a predefined goal by community members is crucial to sustainability of community (Dvarioniene, Guauskiene, Gecevicius, Trummer, Selada, Maques & Cosmi, 2015). This therefore gives value to both, the team work and individual efforts in building and sustaining a better community. Hence, the need to examine affecting factors on community members' role in developmental initiatives becomes pertinent to sustainable development. Thus, this study discovered that seven factors affecting community participation and involvement includes abandonment of project, lack of funding, inadequate planning, favouritism, problem with leadership style, wrong attitude from community member and political interference. Each of these militating factors was further explored in the following subsections in order to give more clarification and explanations on them.

4.4.1.1.1 Abandonment of Projects
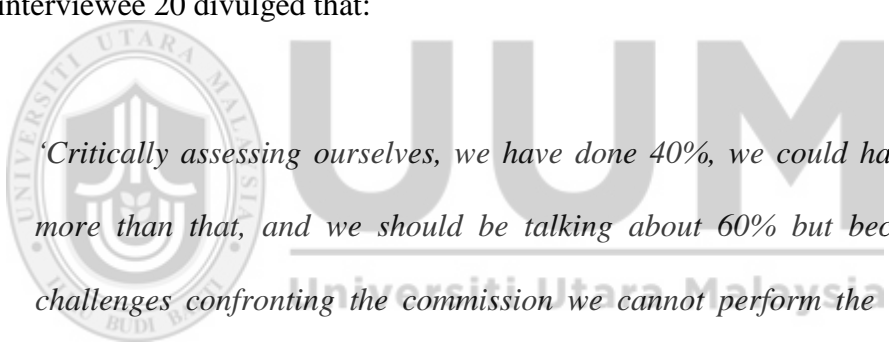
The abandonment of projects by developmental agencies is one of the challenges to sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. Significant numbers of interviewees confirmed that abandonment of developmental projects is one of the major hindrances to sustainable development. This was strongly shared by interviewee 11 who happened to be a youth community leader. He inserted: "In my community NDDC has done some projects but we cannot use some of them because they are not completed project and not working". This claim was also confirmed by interviewee 17 who is a community opinion leader and stressed that:

> *"The other thing we benefited is the uncompleted hospital that has not been commissioned after building they just left it there; it is not functioning and abandoned water project. As for the area of skill acquisition, it is on, but it does*

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not go round, some are given based on who you know, while others don't get,

this is not good."

Stating the fundamental challenge to sustainability of development projects, interviewee 18 who is also community development opinion leader noted that, "In most cases NDDC can just start a project and dump it half way. This depends on who is in charge in NDDC office. That is why community does not feel the impact of NDDC projects".

Corroborating the views as expressed by community member, the NDDC officer who was interviewee 20 divulged that:

'Critically assessing ourselves, we have done 40%, we could have achieved more than that, and we should be talking about 60% but because of the challenges confronting the commission we cannot perform the way we are supposed to perform".

Meanwhile, interviewee 22, another NDDC officer identified lack of adequate funding as one of the major constraints to sustainable project. She acknowledged that "… yes there are some abandoned projects scattered all over because there is no enough funding to complete them. This is our major challenge." Based on the responses of the interviewees on the causes and implication of project abandonment to sustainable development, it shows the level of commitment of government to developmental agenda for sustainability. This study's findings in respect to community sustainability established the role of government in addressing issues of community

underdevelopment especially in the area of adequate implementation and execution of developmental initiatives.

This finding corroborates the positions of Ingwe, Mboto and Ebong (2012) and Agbu (2012) that most developmental projects in Nigeria especially in the Niger Delta region were deficient due to abandonment attitudes. Similarly, Walter, Mboto and Ebong (2012) and Agbu (2012) reiterated that most developmental projects in Nigeria especially in the Niger Delta region are deficient due to abandonment. Stating the implication of this, Paki and Ebienfa, (2011) affirmed that projects abandonment do not only hinder sustainable development but also reduces the level of commitment of community to developmental projects and programmes. For instance, Amadi and Abdullah (2012) noted that the constant agitations by the youth in the Niger Delta is because, most of the developmental programmes and activities do not impact positively on the lives of the community members.

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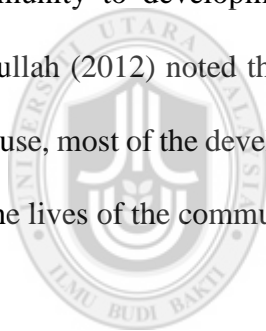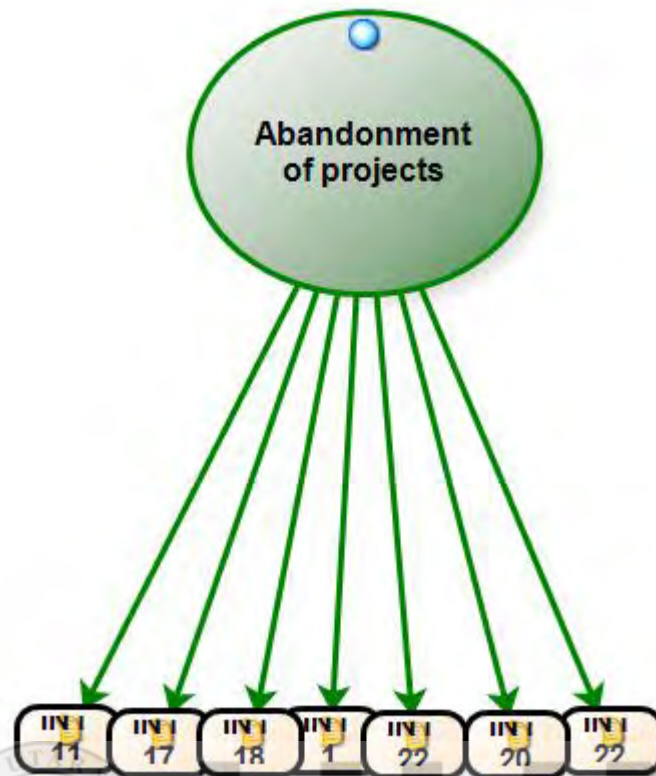
Figure 4.8: Abandonment of Projects

4.4.1.1.2 Lack of Adequate Funding

Similar to other research, his study has also identified insufficient funding as a major challenge to achieving meaningful sustainable development in the Niger Delta (Jcak-Akhigbe & Okwuowa, 2013). As expressed by the interviewees, the activities of developmental agency in the Niger Delta are basically hampered by inadequate funding. Therefore, Nwoko, (2014) and Festus & Ogoegbunam, (2015), stated that majority of the projects executed in most of the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta are not sustained due to insufficient funding by the government. Buttressing this view interviewee 21, NDDC officer noted that; "…so when it now comes to implementation, the money is the problem". It was further revealed by interviewee 21 that:

"The coming of NDDC emerged as a result of so many agitations, to calm down the agitation as a result of seemingly underdevelopment in the Niger Delta. Incidentally, NDDC is not the only organ that has been, before NDDC there were other organs just immediately before NDDC, there was OMPADEC (Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission), OMPADEC was on ground carrying out the same mandate NDDC is doing now. OMPADEC was folded up because they believe OMPADEC was not doing enough, which was why NDDC was established. When NDDC came up, they inherited both the assets and liability of OMPADEC, so the quest for development in the Niger Delta has been on before the birth of NDDC. The resources of the nation come from the Niger Delta but the Niger Delta is backward in terms of development. If you ask me, one on one, has the coming of NDDC actually addressed this wide gap of development? I would tell you No, Reason being that, what led to the failure and extinction of the previous bodies and agencies that was put up before NDDC is the same thing that is still affecting NDDC which is lack of funding (Int. 21)."

In the same way, interviewee 22, another NDDC officer reiterated thus "…the ideology behind the establishment of the NDDC, but which was unable to function properly due to financial constraints".

While another NDDC officer interviewee 20 divulged that:

"The ideology behind this entire programme was to train these people and empower them. But because of the lack of funding, only a few percentages of them were able to be empowered, majority of the group were left which also is as a result of lack of funding. NDDC has a wonderful mandate but because of lack of funding we cannot execute all these projects (Int. 20)."

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Figure 4.9: Lack of adequate funding

4.4.1.1.3 Lack of Adequate Planning

Planning is the systematic organization of activities through deliberate actions in other to achieve desired goals. It is a conscious effort that involves the preparation of successive moves and actions that in other to achieve some specific results (MacDonald, 2014). Planning therefore is crucial for effective execution and implementation of developmental agenda (Asha, 2014). Although, the NDDC has a developmental master plan designed for the effective implementation of developmental initiatives, however, most of the developmental activities in the Niger Delta are not sustainable due to lack of coordination and adequate planning (Nzenweokwu, 2012). Corroborating this view interviewee 10, community women leader asserted that, "NDDC are not organized in all these projects they are doing. They start a project today

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tomorrow they are off; we don't see them again". Yet, interviewee 16, youth leader observed that, "The way NDDC operate will show to you that they are not organized people if you look around you will see so many uncompleted projects". This claim was also shared by interviewee 4, community opinion leader thus:

"In fact, we are surprised the way NDDC carry out their programmes. Most of the projects you see here are half done while some have been left uncompleted. This is shows they do not plan most of these projects well to know when and how to finish before coming to community. That is why community is not benefiting from them (Int.4)."

Meanwhile, interviewee 21, NDDC officer disclosed that, "Yes we have a plan. NDDC has a robust development master plan which was designed through collaboration of all the stake holders for the development of the Niger Delta". More so, interviewee 20 who is another NDDC officer reiterated the relevance of the NDDC master plan although faced with some challenges. He admitted that:

"The NDDC master plan also called the developmental blue print is a well-organized plan with defined and specific goals but we are unable to effectively utilize the master plan due to lack of adequate planning lapses in the bill. (Int.20)."

He therefore noted some of the lapses in the NDDC master plan as the major cause in the actualization of the commission vision and mandate. He revealed that:

"The problem with the NDDC bill is that they combined both ecological issues with oil producing areas, unlike the previous boards that did not include the oil producing areas. As I speak now Cross River is not oil producing State because

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of the dispute over land territory with Akwa-Ibom. Before now Cross River was

a member of Niger Delta region because it was producing oil but right now

because the area has been taken over by Akwa-Ibom State, they no longer

produce oil but still operating as oil producing and still under Niger Delta. You

cannot remove them, so you see where the problem lies (Int. 20)."

He further added that:

"Now let us come to NDDC, because of the so much responsibilities it was

saddled with, in developing people who have been neglected for a very long

time, how to go about it becomes a problem, where do we start from, if you look

at road infrastructure, zero, if you look at health sector zero, if you look at

communication and electricity nothing to write home about. If you look at water,

school, even the economy of the Niger Delta people, nothing, the only source of

income was fishing. All these problems were there even before NDDC came on

board. These were the problems confronting the commission, so where would

the commission start from. This made planning and execution very difficult

(Int.20)."

Therefore, the evidence from this study's interviewee indicated that although, NDDC has a developmental plan, however, there seems to be foundational issues with the structure of operations of the system. This is why most of their projects and activities are not sustained with the region.
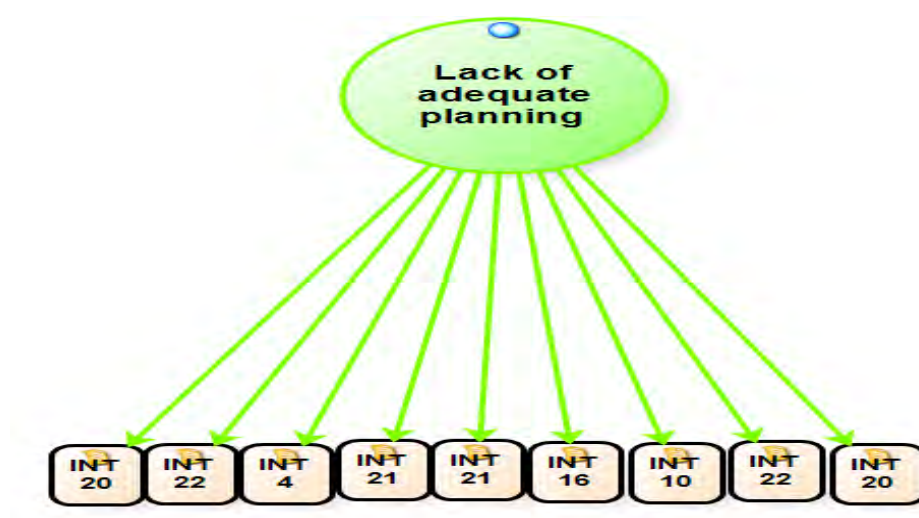
Figure 4.10: Lack of adequate planning

4.4.1.1.4 Favouritism

Favouritism is a central aspect of human behaviour which is a situation whereby people often help members of their own group or community more than members of other groups (Fu, Tarnita, Christakis, Wang, Rand & Nowak, 2012). Similarly, Hodler and Raschky (2014) emphasized that favouritism happened from the action of political and community leaders choose policies and project that mainly benefit their preferred regions. He therefore called it *phenomenon regional favouritism* and sees it as a form of rent seeking and possibly corruption. In line with this, the study's interviewees also noted that favouritism is one of the major reasons for the tension in the community. For instance, Interviewee 11, 1 and 18 youth community leader, CDC chairman and opinion leaders respectively observed that, "If your person is not in NDDC nothing will come to your community". Similarly, interviewee 16, community youth leader stressed that," The communities that benefit most in NDDC programme at one time or other has one of their sons as top person in NDDC". While, interviewee 9 and 17 a community CDC

chairman and opinion leaders also noted that, "There is no equal distribution in NDDC project across the Niger Delta communities. NDDC tend to favour some people". Buttressing the above claims, interviewee 21, NDDC officer revealed that:

"We have some limitations when it comes to allocation of projects to communities. This is because, after we draw the plan here, its approval comes from the National Assembly and most times it is been altered form there. So there is nothing we can do (Int.21)."

He further added that, "Most of the projects allocated are been influenced by political elites to favour their own communities. It is what I call game of interest" (Int.21).

However, interviewee 21 NDDC officer yet argued thus, "Communities are never satisfied with what you give them. No matter what you do you can never satisfy them, they will keep coming, so when this happens, we do the ones we can and postpone the others".
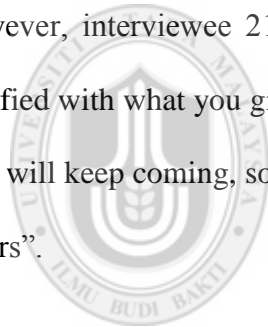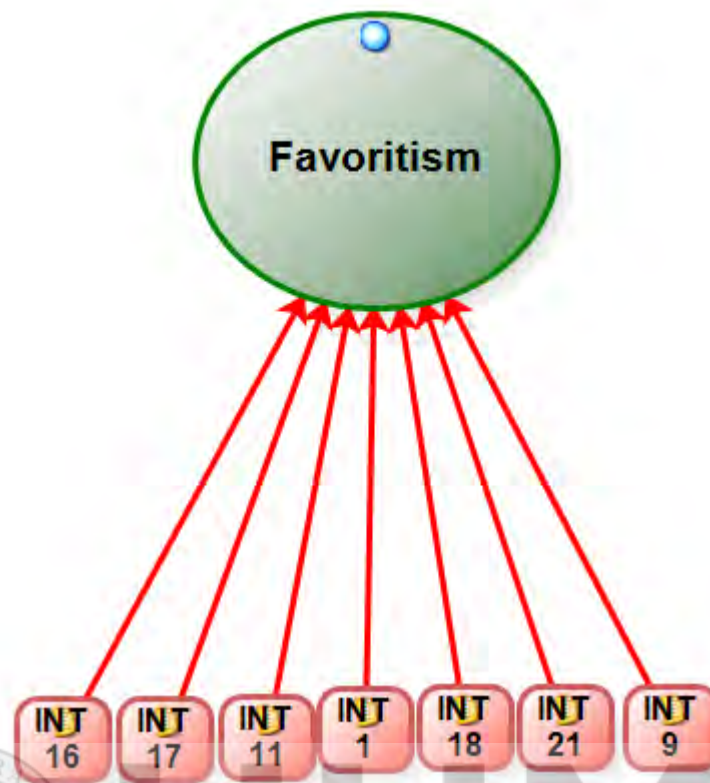
Figure 4.11: Favouritism

4.4.1.1.5 Leadership problem/style

As identified by the interviewees, leadership style in NDDC and both the community

level is one of the major barriers to achieving meaningful sustainable development in

the Niger Delta region. This assertion corroborates the views of Ololajolu (2000), Paki

and Ebienfa (2011), that most of the developmental failures in the activities of NDD is

due to ineffective administrative system of governance with no autonomy given to the

agency in allocation of revenue and projects in their system of operations. This affects

the mode of operations of the agency in allocation and implementation of

developmental projects across the region. While at the community level, inconsistency

in leadership style and pattern was also identified as one of the challenges to sustainable

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development in the Niger Delta region. Corroborating the above claims, interviewee 8 an opinion leader reported that:

"Because of the long-time negligence, the system before now was also hijacked by few leaders in the community who take little money from the oil companies operating here and government and silence the other people in the community. It is now the communities are waking up to see that these things most stop. If you know you are coming to represent us and you cannot give us what we want, we don't want you to represent us, they are now waking up to it. We are now realizing that if we must learn to do something, we must communicate (Int. 8). "

Likewise, Interviewee 9 community CDC chairman lamented thus:

"One major problem we have in our executive is the time frame/tenure given to incoming executives to work who may not actually have enough time to finish all their plans before another executives comes in. Change in leadership and insufficient time given to executives to work is a problem for us in community (Int. 9)."

Reiterating the above claims interviewees 1,5,18 and 13 community CDC chairman, youth leader, opinion leader and another youth leader remarked thus "The leadership pattern in most communities are not stable and effective". While interviewee 7, community opinion leader noted that "Good leadership style is key to effective functioning of any establishment or group".

In the same way, interviewee 20, NDDC officer confirmed that:

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"Leadership problem in the community is also affecting us. You will train one set of CDC, build their capacity to understand the workings of the system, by the time they are working with NDDC the next thing you see is that they have been removed and a new set has come so you have to start all over."

Likewise, interviewee 21, another NDDC officer reiterated that; "lack of interest on the part of the communities and the representatives. Many a time the representatives are seen to be failures to the people and you cannot break the position of the representatives".

Meanwhile, NDDC officers also expressed similar challenge in their administrative structure and operations where there exist administrative bottle necks and lack of autonomy. For instance, interviewee 20, NDDC officer revealed that:

"We have administrative bottleneck, bureaucracy is a big problem of the commission, also corruption, because of the political influence, they are appointing anybody to the board, and they have not been looking at competency. So the place is manned by inexperienced and unqualified people. So, all these have really affected the system (Int.20)."

Likewise, interviewee 22 another NDDC officer further added that; "The boards could not do much because of lack of managerial ability and then the government too was not serious in sustaining those boards" (Int.22).
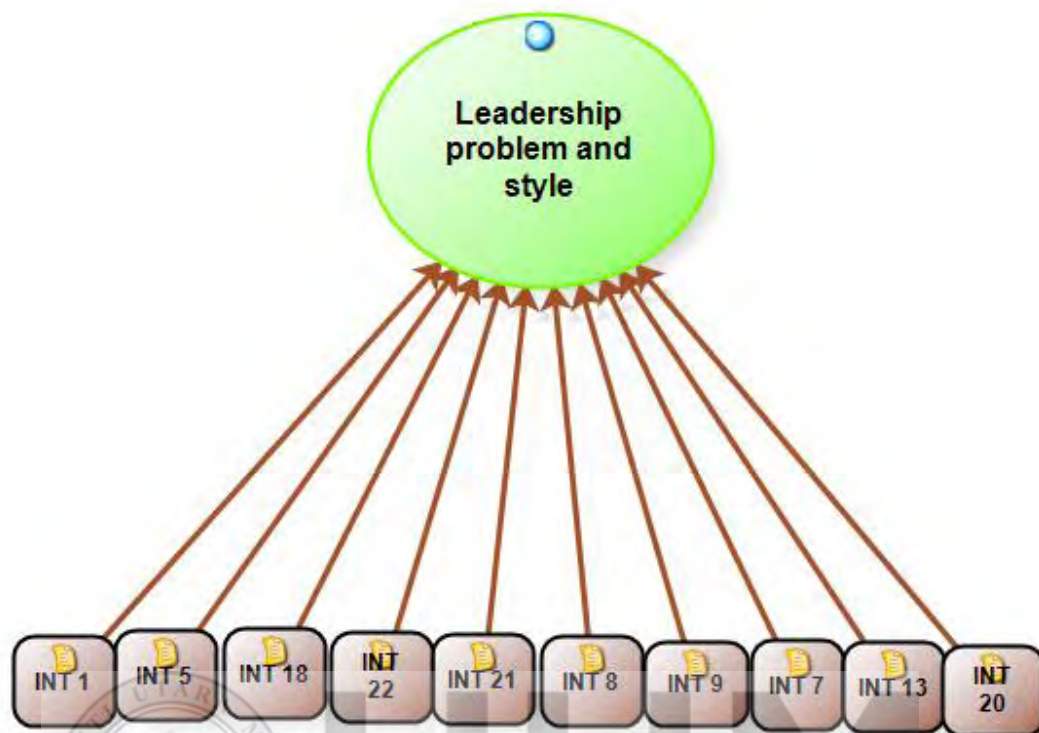
Figure 4.12: Leadership problem/style

4.4.1.1.6 Community Attitude

The qualitative analysis also identified community attitude as one of the impediment to sustainable development. Community attitude plays a significant role in determining their level of participation and sustainability of developmental activities. According to Lee, Lee and Li (2012), it is important to understand the perception and attitude of community members towards developmental drives in other to facilitate their level of involvement and commitment. Similarly, Shafiei, Wira, Samari, and Ghodrati (2013) in their study noted that the perception of beneficiaries of development projects influences the level of implementation and sustainability of such projects. They however suggested that there is need for government to create a platform that will increase peoples' level of awareness to enable them buy into developmental goals and

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activities. For instance, interviewee 8, community opinion leader reported thus: "The mind-set of some of our youths have been polluted by the character of political elites who are supposed to be their role models"

This claim was affirmed by interviewee 22 NDDC officer thus:

> *"Most times these communities don't even show interest in some of all these programmes even when they do no commitment. For example, when we go out for skill acquisition and training programmes in communities, after the training we give them some materials called starter packs to start with, at the end you find out that they don't even use these materials they sell them. So when this occur there is nothing NDDC can do (Int. 22)"*

Similar view was also expressed by Interviewee 21 NDDC officer that:

> *"It can be very frustrating when communities are not in support of whatever you want to do for them. If it is a violent community, they might even chase you away but when you make them part and parcel of any development programme they will take it as their own thing. But there are times you have problem in trying to educate them on a particular programme (Int.21)."*

Reiterating this assertion, another NDDC officer interviewee 22 stressed that; "…like I told you but even at that there are times we want to involve communities in what we are doing but they seem not to be interested because of their mind set".

Stating the fundamental assumption that social values influences on individual's perception, interviewee 21, NDDC officer also noted that:

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"...this is because the society has shifted from dignity in labour to getting quick money without dignity. In those days, people want to work and have money with pride, but these days nobody want to work because there is plenty money in oil and politics. To call them back to come and work in the community is a problem (Int.21)."

He further inserted:

"...the how is because of the fact that even though we are in the 21st Century, because of the backward developmental integration, our ideology is still tied to the fact that, we see people who are doing well and just begin to imagine how to be like that person without thinking of how that person started instead we look at the person current State and Status. This is one of our major challenges. That is why most of the youths do not want to work. It is all about quick money (Int. 21)."
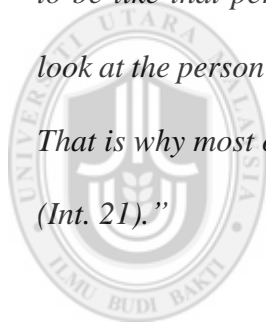
Corroborating the observation of NDDC staff on community attitude, interviewee8, community opinion leader divulged that; "Most times the attitude of some of our youths are not encouraging especially those of them that are not enlightened".

While, interviewee 13 youth leader shared that: "As executives, at times we do have confrontations from some of the youths especially when any project is going on here" He further noted that; "I think it is because they lack awareness. That is, I why I said NDDC should come and educate them". Buttressing this claim, interviewee 18 opinion leader observed that "Sometimes the attitudes of some of our youths do not encourage investors to come invest in communities".

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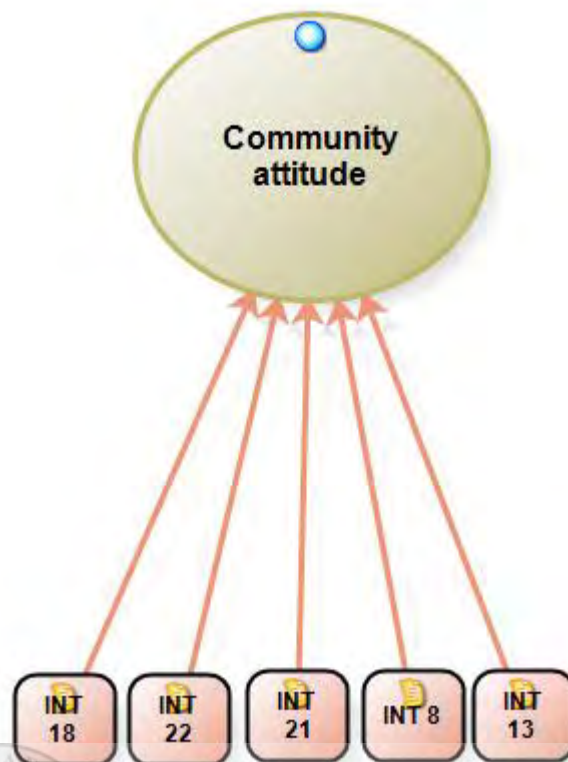
Figure 4.13: Community attitude

4.4.1.1.7 Political Interference

Political officers are elected by citizens of a country to formulate policies that will be used for the economic growth, development and overall betterment of its citizenry. Whereas, the implementation of such policies are the responsibilities of administrators appointed by the government in the different sectors of the economy. They also offer advisory services to politicians on decision making (Roger, 2013). Therefore, both politicians and administrators have significant role to play in service delivery and sustainability of developmental projects. However, studies have indicated that most of the developmental projects and activities in Nigeria are truncated by undue interference of political office holders (Ajie & Wokekoro, 2012; Urien, 2012; Ozohu & Abdulhami, 2013).

Existing evidence from the study's interviews indicated that one of the major impediments to effective implementation and sustainability of developmental projects in Niger Delta is the constant interference of politicians in the affairs of developmental agencies. This was clearly stated by interviewee 22, NDDC officer who divulged that; "NDDC is manned by a lot of challenges, but the most pressing one hindering our work is the interference of politicians".

He further revealed that:

> *"For the Federal government there is so much contributing influence on the commission so much that the activities of the commission is controlled by the political class. Well this is not surprising because NDDC was a political creation; they created it so they will control it (Int. 22). "*

Additionally, interviewee 22 remarked that:

> *"...contracts are politically influenced; it is the same political thing we are talking about. All these contracts are awarded from the Federal level, they are given to their people up there, at the end of the day these contractors do nothing and when this happens, nothing is done to them(Int.22)."*

Likewise, interviewee 20, another NDDC officer noted that:

> *"Allocation of projects is based on the current play, is purely interest, no permanent way, it is only interest that is permanent. The interest of the controlling power referred to as the political class. That is what we call "power play of interest (Int.20)."*

He however added thus:

> *"In NDDC what we do is drawing the budget and projects while the approval*
> *comes from Abuja. But by the time it gets back to us, so many alterations have*
> *already been made by the people at the top. This is a big problem for the*
> *commission (Int. 20)."*

In the same way, interviewee 21, NDDC officer yet reported that; "Politicians have so much interfered in the operations of the commission to the extent that they appoint inexperienced and unqualified people who they think can represent their interest in the commission. This is our biggest problem".

He further summarized the challenges faced by the commission thus:

> *"In summary, the challenges of the commission start with (1) The interference*
> *from the Federal level, the State and even the attitude of community. (2)*
> *Funding (3) Administrative bottleneck that is bureaucracy (4) corruption, (5)*
> *Appointing mediocre to be in the NDDC board (Int.21)."*

These evidences from the study's findings suggest the role of political office holders is crucial in developmental initiatives. However, it becomes an impediment when policies and developmental goals are influenced to favour political allies and for self-gratifications.
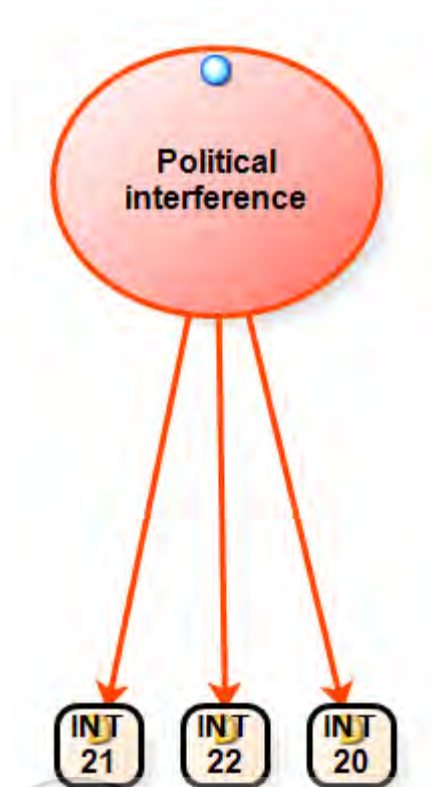
Figure 4.14: Political interference

4.4.1.2 Catalyst for Community Participation and Involvement

The active involvement of community members in the designing and implementation process of developmental enhances their level of commitment and loyalty. This act of commitment according to Warren and McFadyen (2010) was referred to as sense of ownership. The interviewees identified all the key factors that can enhance community participation as shown in Figure 4.15.
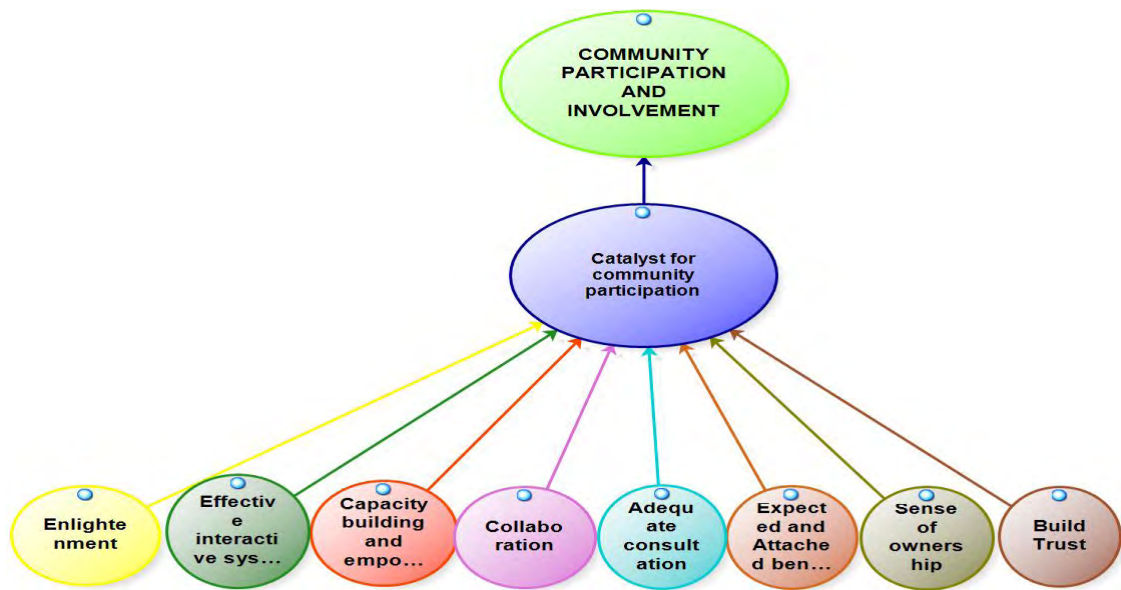
Figure 4.15: Catalyst for community participation and involvement

4.4.1.2.1 Building trust

Trust building is a vital tool that helps in enhancing the successful implementation and sustainability of targeted goals and initiatives. It is a binding force that strengthens human relationships which facilitates individual's commitment towards achievement of a particular goal (Lachapelle & McCool, 2012). Several studies have indicated the need for trust building as a means to foster community participation in achieving meaningful and viable developmental plans (Giami, Orji & Worgu, 2015; Egunlusi, 2014; Schmidt & O'Riordan, 2014 Ikuomola, 2013; Samari & Shafiei, 2012). This assertion was buttressed by the interviewees on the need for reinforcement of confidence building between developmental agencies and community.

According to interviewee 16, community youth leader expressed that; "We have lost confidence in NDDC, we cannot trust them again because they don't keep to their promises". This claim was supported by interviewees from 15 opinion leaders, 6 women leaders and 4 other opinion leaders thus; "When you tell people in the

community that NDDC is coming no one is interested because, they have failed us severally". While interviewee 13, youth leader noted that; "The only way NDDC can make community interested in their activities is to learn to keep to their promises". In a similar way, interviewee 18, opinion leader suggested that; For NDDC to win back community confidence is to establish a good relationship based on trust and sincerity. They should learn to keep to promises".

On the other hand, interviewee 22 NDDC officer shared that:

> *"The problem we have is that; most times it is difficult to carry community members along. When you go to them, most of them don't seem interested in what we are doing". He further added that: "...that is why I said we should establish a relationship with community members that will build their confidence in what the commission is dong. It is what I call confidence building (Int.22)."*
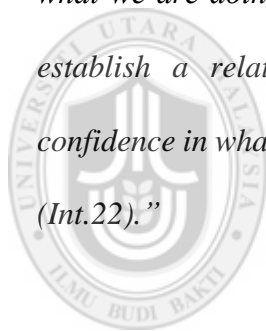
However, interviewee 21, another NDDC officer argued that: We have tried as a commission to win the minds of the community people but most times their attitude towards our programmes is very poor. They are not interested in talking or educating them. They are only interested in immediate gratification.

He further noted that; "Like I said before you can establish a good relationship with someone, that person must be ready to listen to you. But most community members are not interested in this at all. They are not patient to listen (Int. 21).
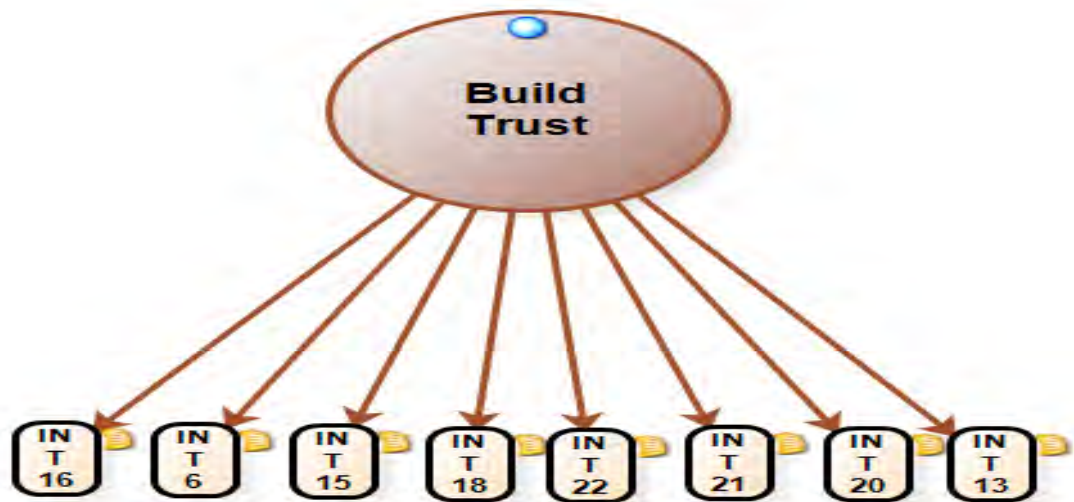
Figure 4.16: Building trust

4.4.1.2.2 Expected Benefits

The focus of developmental agenda is to bring about feasible and sustainable projects that can improve on the lives of individuals' in terms of goods and service deliverables to those residents within the designated area (Frediani, Boni & Gasper, 2014). Thus, it is expected that the outcome from targeted goals should be able to add value to the lives of individuals. Expected benefits therefore are the potential effects of projects on the well-being of individuals within an environment (Sheldon & Hoon, 2013). According to Bamberger (2014) and Terrapon-Pfaff, Dienst, Konig and Oritiz (2014), the level of community participation in developmental projects will increase when there are anticipated benefits attached to such projects. This was expressed by interviewee 9, CDC chairman who posited: "…yes it will, because if community members know that the project will benefit them, they will be happy to be part of that project and they will want to participate because they will benefit from it".

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Similarly, interviewee 3 women leader emphasised that; "community members will be committed to any project they know will improve their lives. That is why I said NDDC should do projects that will change the living conditions of community". Reiterating this claim, interviewee 11 youth leader stated "When you are expecting something good from any action it will encourage you to be part of that thing".

While interviewee 14 another women leader observed that; "as you can see, most of the projects done by NDDC are not benefiting us that is why most times when they come we don't show interest because we know nothing serious will come out of it".

Nevertheless, interviewee 22, NDDC officer noted that:

"As a commission, we are trying to see that community benefit from our programmes but most times, we are unable to meet up with their expectations because of some constraints we are experiencing especially in finance".

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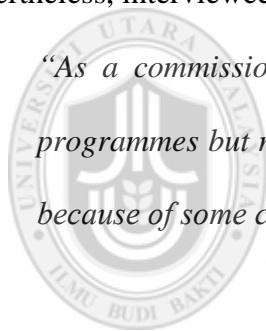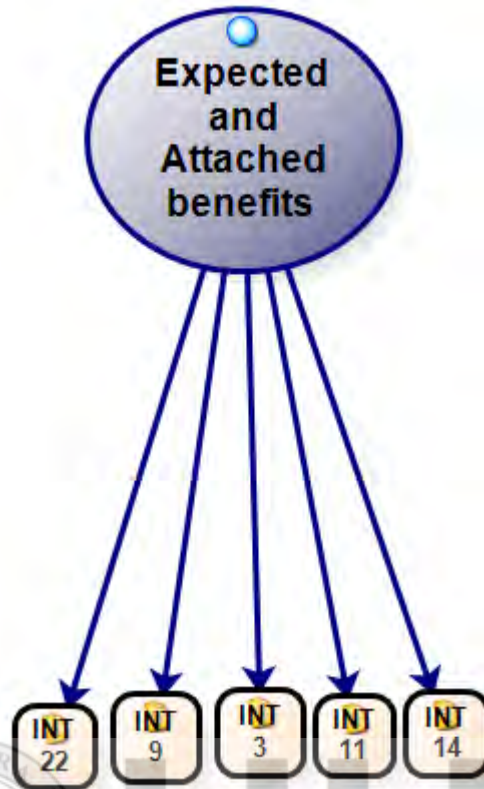
Figure 4.17: Expected benefits

4.4.1.2.3 Community Members' Sense of Ownership

According to Brown and Crossley (2014), sense of ownership is a feeling of possession one has over a variety of things. It creates a sense of responsibility, loyalty and commitment towards a particular thing. Dommer and Swaminathan (2013), affirms that, sense of ownership is the feeling of control people exhibit towards a particular item and the anticipated benefits from it. However, the value of such items increases over time by virtue of how much control one has over such item. Likewise, Olckers and Plessis (2012) stated that ownership towards a particular object is determined by the level of connection between individuals with their immediate surroundings. Sense of ownership is the state that community member takes actions to guide and protect the way, and manner decision is taken about their community (Mzimakwe, 2010).

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Based on the finding of this study, it was discovered that sense of ownership is a key catalyst in sustainable community development. The issue of control and influence was expressed by interviewee 5 youth leader from the community thus:

"As I said, this community belongs to us and other unborn children. Hence, we must take actions and handle these actions. Only our actions and decisions on what government is doing for us that will make all these projects last (Int. 5)."

Specifically, interviewee 8, community opinion leader expressed a similar concern that:

" When community members are allowed to be in charge and take decisions on issues that affect their community and well-being, it will increase their level of participation thereby making the project go faster. They will also like to protect the project so that it will last for the upcoming generation to benefit from it (Int.8)."

Reiterating this assertion, interviewees 9, 15 and 11 community CDC chairman, opinion leader and youth leaders respectively noted thus "People will only be interested to be part of what they will benefit from".

These respondents' views depict that sense of ownership and control on developmental projects is a catalyst for sustainable development. However, it was discovered that community ownership cannot be realized unless there is perceived benefit from the proposed project. Perceived benefit refers to the mutual gain community stand to derive from such projects. This was pointed out by interviewee 14 women leader, that, "…Definitely it will, but it depends on if that project or programme will benefit them.

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You don't expect people to get involved in something that they know will not benefit them it does not make sense". This concern was also stressed by interviewee 21, one of the NDDC officers that:

> *"But on the other hand if a community is not benefitting or getting any reward from the project they will not be interested. For example, when you install a project and it is working people will be going there and you will see the direct impact on the people (Int.21)."*

Therefore, it was revealed by the respondents that perceived benefits lead to the community member sense of belonging which is a unique catalyst for sustainable community development and transformation. It is important that in other to build any sustainable development, community sense of belonging must be considered as a prerequisite for community participation to ensure sustainable community development.
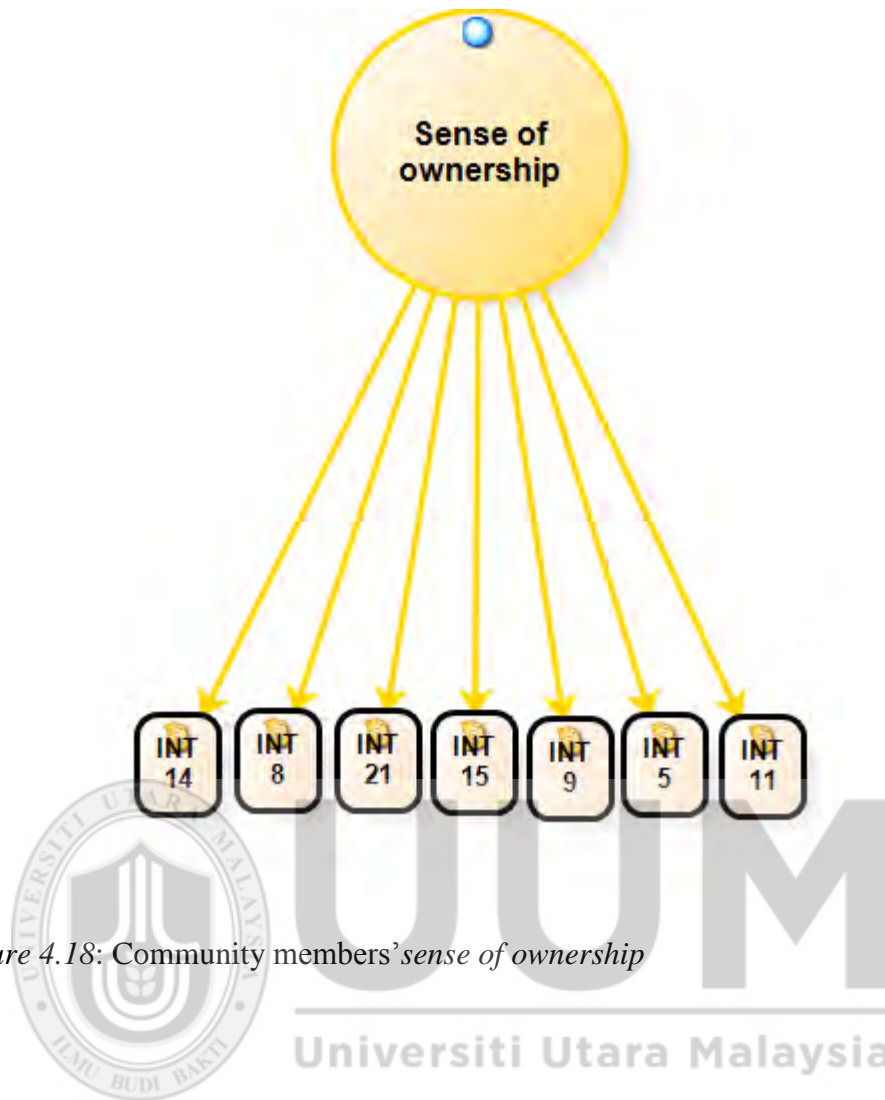
Figure 4.18: Community members'*sense of ownership*

4.4.1.2.4 Adequate consultation with Community Members

The findings from the study's interviewee indicated that the understanding of
community needs and aspiration is a prerequisite for building sustainable community
development. However, this can be achieved through diverse means one of which is
community consultation. Community consultation gives voice to each of the
community members to point to their needs and desire for the community that will
directly transform to sustainable community development (Osman & Baker, 2014).
This was stressed by interviewee 1, CDC chairman from the community that:

> *"If NDDC want to embark on any project, they should visit the community and*
>
> *ask them what they want, plan with them and allow them to contribute in*

whatever they (NDDC) want to do. If you do not involve the community people

in what you are doing, it will not make sense to them. Development should be

involve the people, if it is not people-centred; it is not development (Int.1)"

In the same way, interviewee 3, a woman leader from a community lamented that:

"No, I say no, NDDC does not consult with us. Even if they have built roads,

and other things they do it on their own, they didn't meet with us before doing

them to know if that was our major need at that time. What they are supposed

to do is to organize a town hall meeting, gather the people ask them what they

want and ask they can tell them to either do it this way or another way (Int. 3)."

In fact, this study revealed that community consultation leads to local democracy whereby community members see themselves as agent of change agent to foster sustainable development in the community. Also, community consultation gives positive attitudes of community members toward sustainable community development (Eversole, 2012).

The positive attitude and local social equality makes community member input not to be minimised and ensure that they buy into the ethos of sustainable community development (Aghalino, 2012). The significance of this were expressed by interviewee 17 opinion leader thus:

"We are not happy with the way NDDC is treating us that is why we are not

interested in what they are doing. We feel neglected because NDDC did not put

us into consideration before doing anything even if they are coming to develop

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our community, they should make us part and parcel of what they are doing so

that we can suggest to them what we actually need (Int.17)."

Similarly, interviewee 16 youth leader emphasised that:

"I will say it a million times, NDDC do not meet with us before coming to

execute any project. They don't care about us and what our needs are. We don't

even see them during the work it is only the contractors that we see (Int. 16)"

However, a contrary opinion was shared by interviewee 20, NDDC officer who claimed

that the commission tried all possible effort to consult with host communities before

embarking on any project within their communities. Hence put the blame on

community's impatience and uncaring attitude towards embracing community

consultation. He narrated thus:

"We try to carry community along, but I must tell you the truth, it's not easy to

carry people along especially those in rural areas. Most times when we call for

town hall meetings, community members do not seem to be interested, you need

to put extra effort for them to attend. Some will even ask you if there are some

benefits attached when they attend the meeting. So you see it is not easy for us

as an agency (Int.20)."

Nevertheless, it could be seen that both parties agreed that community consultation is a

catalyst for sustainable community development although both parties were shifting

blame on each other. Thus, this study also showed that community consultation

enhances community approval and commitment on projects done in their community.

Community consultation brings community engagement that is a unique feature in

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sustainable community development. It makes community members to avoid resentment, and adversarial relationship because community members will speak out their mind on the sustainable community project that will benefit them and their future generations (Warren & McFadyen, 2010). This was buttressed by interviewee 4, an opinion leader that:

> *"We do not see NDDC, how do you expect us to play any role in their projects? It's not possible, you must see the agency then discuss with them before you can accept any role they want to give to you. So the first thing is to see them (NDDC) first then discuss with, tell us what they want to do before we can play any role (Int.4)."*

Consequently, an NDDC officer interviewee 22, revealed that, "…This is because we don't plan with them; our efforts are truncated by some people by creating community conflict for us which is really affecting execution projects". He further suggested that:

> *"NDDC is trying to see how to carry community along but most times we are faced with a lot of challenges especially in the area of finance. What I think will help to address this challenge is for the government to show more commitment to what NDDC is doing so that we can involve the community more in our activities(Int.22)."*

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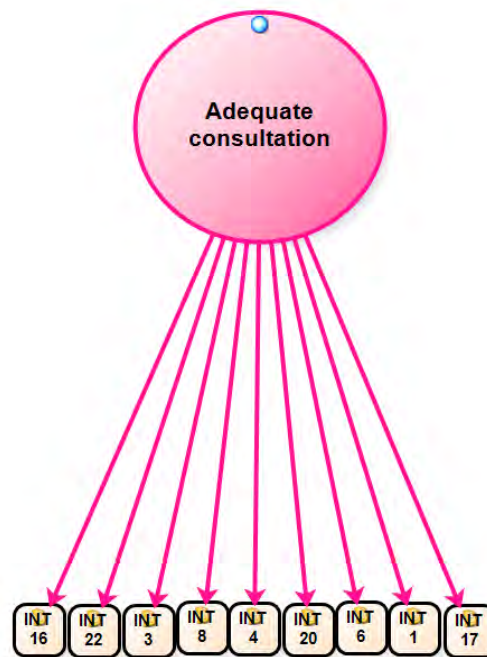
Figure 4.19: Adequate consultation with community members

4.4.1.2.5 Collaboration with Community

The findings from the study depicts that community collaboration is working together of various parties in achieving a predefined goal for the betterment of the community. This gives value to both teamwork, and individual efforts to build a better community. It especially shows that community members are the most valuable entities who can unleash creative ideas that are a primary catalyst in sustainable community development. This was expressed by interviewee 18 community opinion leader thus:

> *"NDDC should come to the community and tell us what they want to do, and then we sit together and plan with them. If they do this, it will make community members to be interested in what NDDC is doing. Because if NDDC involve Community they will be ready to work and cooperate with NDDC if they come here and even suggest to NDDC what to do to make the work go faster but they don't. That is the problem (Int.18)"*

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Likewise, interviewee 16 youth leader noted that; "Like NDDC that we don't see, we cannot contribute to whatever they are doing. So for development to be faster and well done becomes the effort of both the community and the agency".

While Interviewee 13, a community youth leader reiterated that; "If NDDC involve community members in what they are doing, it will create a peaceful atmosphere for work because members of community will see the project as their own, and they will be willing to contribute meaningfully".

However, an affirmative and contrary view was expressed by interviewee 21, NDDC officer that:

> *"Collaboration is very vital for effective implementation and NDDC is trying to work with the community. Nevertheless, the attitude of the community in most cases is discouraging when we call for town hall meetings. Most of them are reluctant to attend unless you assure them that they will be given some stipends after the meeting (Int.21)."*

While interviewee 20 another NDDC officers noted that:

> *"...if we work directly with the people in the supervision of projects, they will be more interested and invariably appreciate the quality of the project, and the possible outcome but most times we are not doing this very well (Int20)."*

Similarly, community collaboration creates a win-win situation (Quist & Tukker, 2013). It creates opportunity for community members to understand the intention of government for their community. This creates flexibility in the implementation of the

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community development project and removes complications that might be caused by community members. It creates an environment where community members are challenged to do their best to ensure that developmental projects are sustained in their communities. This was summarized by interviewee 17, opinion leader from the community that:

"Community development can only sustainable when both NDDC and community work together. But how can we work with them when they don't carry us along in what they are doing? NDDC should come to the community, tell us what they want to do, and then we can plan and work together for a smooth, peaceful and successful work. But NDDC does not do this that is why most times you see some of the angry youths trying to protest during execution of NDDC project (Int.17)."

This view was also emphasized by Interviewee 5, a community youth leader that:

"NDDC should come to Koko community, meet with the elders, and youth leader, women leader, and even traditional ruler call for a meeting. Tell us what their aim of coming is, and what they want to do. When we have listened to them, we can now tell them how we see the whole thing, tell them what we need and what we need urgently. Then we can even suggest to them how to go about it to make the work faster and smooth because we are from the community, and we knew how to do our things likewise the method we use. We can also help them organize youth to help them even they will not pay them because the projects will benefit everybody and nobody will want to be a hindrance, even the community will not give such person the room to misbehave (Int.5)."

In the same way, interviewee 9, a CDC chairman buttressed this view that:

"When you don't make the community part of what you are doing, you must be

ready to face opposition from them because they will feel neglected. This is what

NDDC is doing that is why the youth restiveness is still going (Int. 9)."

It could be seen from this study that community collaboration resolved problematic community issues and further strengthen sustainable community development. This finding corroborates the study of Ngah, Zakaria, Hussin, Noordin, Mustaffa and Sawal (2012) where they proposed strategic approach of stakeholders' collaboration with the local people as a tool for effective decision making and problem solving that would bring about desired changes. However, there is need for an interactive and open platform with the indigenous people in identifying the nature of the challenges faced by local people and how to solve them. Collaboration therefore, creates an enabling environment by giving confidence and belief on community projects to generate far-reaching benefits for community members. It also gives confidence to community members that their contributions will be recognized and appreciated which will negate the belief that community diversity is disadvantageous to achieve sustainable community development (Akpomuvie, 2011, Zhang& Hamilton, 2010).

In summary, the study clearly indicates that successful collaboration foster more successful participation and strengthens sustainable community development. Furthermore, it is established by this study that community collaboration is grounded in community networking, cooperation, partnership and coalition that facilitates sustainable community development.
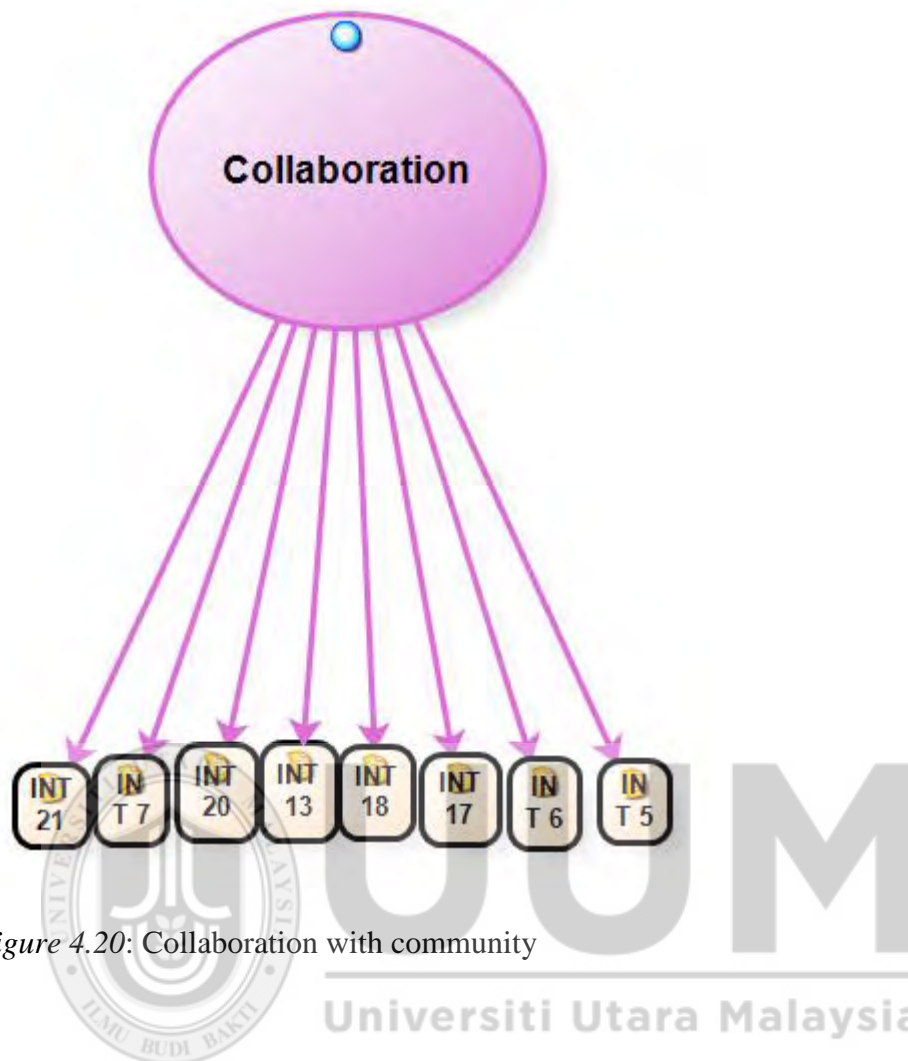
Figure 4.20: Collaboration with community

4.4.1.2.6 Effective Interactive System

The establishment of an effective communication system is crucial for successful implementation of developmental agenda. An effective communication system creates positive atmosphere and reinforces positive attitude between two parties in achieving the set goals (Leonard & Potter, 2015). Proper coordination of developmental initiatives depends largely on effective dissemination of information. An effective communication system has the ability to communicate information from the top to bottom with feedback from both parties (Akbar, 2015). Therefore, the need to establish effective communication system was identified by majority of the interviewees as a catalyst to enhance community participation and involvement in developmental activities.

Confirming this view, interviewee 9 CDC chairman asserted that: "efficient communication helps to strengthen the relationship between two parties. That is why NDDC need to establish a workable and reliable mode of communication to improve the level of community awareness". Likewise, interviewee 13, youth leader reiterated that; "The only way community can work properly with NDDC is when there is effective flow of information between NDDC and the community". While interviewee 9 CDC chairman further noted thus; "Communication is very important for effective project execution because, it will inform the community about NDDC intensions. Here in our community we do not even know how to reach NDDC officials to lay our complaints". He further suggested that: "NDDC should build a system of communication that will enable community members to access them when the need arises".

However, interviewee 20, NDDC officer indicated that:

> *"We have a particular department called community relations department that is responsible for community issues especially in addressing in conflict resolution and communication relations. Most time we go to communities to enlighten them on the need for peaceful co-existence with neighbouring communities and how to present their grievances instead of using violence (Int.20)."*

He further noted that:

> *"But you see, most times these youths are so impatient that they don't even want to listen to you, some might even go violent when you tell them the true situation*

of things. In cases like this, we have no choice than to leave that vicinity and

ask them to come to our office to lay their complaints (Int. 20)."

Additionally, he reiterated that; "NDDC has a department that attends to community issues but you see, communities most times are not patient at all to listen to you. They are only concerned with immediate action which is not possible".

He further revealed that:

> *" NDDC is trying in reaching out to communities but we still need to do more. A good communication system needs adequate funding and the commission do not have that kind of money for now. That is the financial constants I am talking about (Int. 20)."*
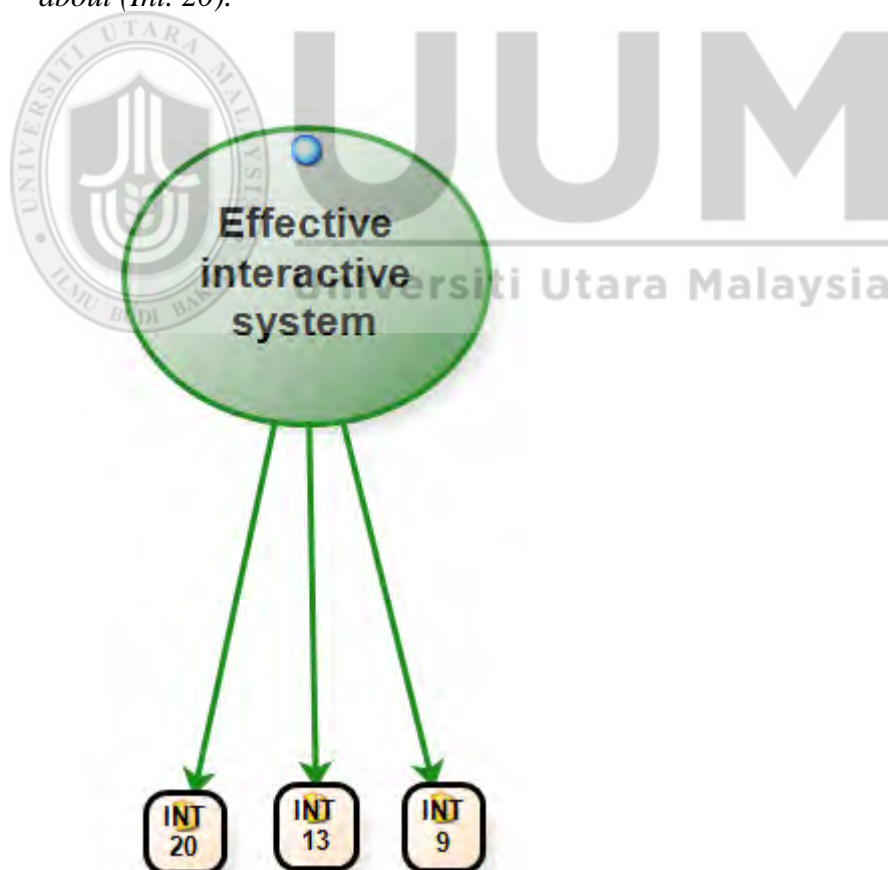
Figure 4.21: Effective interactive system

4.4.1.2.7 Enlightenment of Community Members

Enlightenment which is also referred to as awareness emerged as one of the medium
through which community members' access ongoing activities within their community.
Enlightenment creates opportunity for local people to appreciate and understand the
essence of any developmental initiative, and also inspires them to collectively
contribute positively in improving their community (Abugu, 2014). This assertion was
buttressed by interviewee 4 opinion leader that:

> *"You can't enhance the participation of a community if they are not informed;*
> *you must make them understand that one has to know before you doing. You*
> *cannot do without knowing. And so they must know (Int.4)."*

Similarly, a woman leader, Interviewee 6 from the community stressed that, "We are
not aware of what and how NDDC do their things, we only see their bill boards. Here
in Oloibiri community we don't know if something like NDDC even exists".
Consequently, another opinion leader interviewee 7 from community revealed that:

> *"A man that is not informed is deformed, as I am talking to you; we are putting*
> *so many things on the ground. The community is writing a new constitution.*
> *What brought this new constitution? It is to be able to pick people who can*
> *really represent the community and do the right thing. I agree that both the*
> *youths and NDDC are not really doing the right, now the people who are*
> *representing the community have some fault in this regard, they don't know*
> *what to do. What am trying to say is that they do not even have their own master*
> *plan to present to the government as to tell them this is what we want. Now we*
> *are going into that in this community (Int. 7)."*

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The study therefore shows that it is an informed individual that will possess the adequate motivation to enhance sustainable community development. This depicts that dissemination of information, positive consumption and perception of the community-based development project is a strong catalyst for sustainable community development. This was indicated by interviewee 15 opinion leader from the community shared that:

"... yes, lack of information, the government is not informing the people. The government does not integrate or mix up with the people. The people are ignorant. Only a few people like us are privileged to get information. Most of them don't read newspapers. They lack awareness (Int.15)"

While interviewee 9, CDC Chairman emphasized the need for community enlightenment thus:

"Initially when NDDC was first established, they were coming to community to enlighten us on their programmes but for a long time now they have not been coming that is why you see that most community members do not know if NDDC still exist. That is to tell you how important information is, not just to community members alone but to the general public (Int. 9)"

Nevertheless, interviewee 20, an NDDC officer though supported the community views on the importance of enlightenment but at the same time blame the community leaders thus:

"Enlightenment of community members is a key factor that increases the level of community involvement in any developmental project going on in that community. However, NDDC has some constraints in trying to enlighten

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community especially on the need for them to embrace new developmental

initiatives (Int.20)."

Meanwhile, another NDDC officer interviewee 22 revealed that the commission has not done well recently in enlightening the community members due to financial constraints. He noted that:

"Yes, you are right, it is supposed to be part of our programme but because of funding thing again, we cannot reach out properly to the people, and in most cases what we usually do is sensitization programme some few years ago (Int.22)"

She however noted thus:

"For now have no such way on how to measure the level of awareness. I cannot out rightly say if all the communities are aware of NDDC. Although, we have a national outreach programmes on television done on weekly basis and we assume people should use that as a forum to know about NDDC (Int.22)."

In view of this, interviewee 21, NDDC officer further suggested that:

"If I have opportunity to do a project that cuts across 2-3 communities, in an entry process of meeting, I will bring all the representative of all the communities, there I will tell them about our NDDC, about our programmes, about our objectives and even how to benefit more and at the end of the day I will leave my phone number with them to call me whenever, they need any information. With this, I am sure community members will have a positive

attitude and perception and be willing to work and contribute towards NDDC

programmes in their community (Int.21)."

Hence, this study maintains that enlightenment enhance community members' visualization and makes them come together in unity for the common good of their community. Without enlightenment, the community members will be left in the dark on developmental community agenda that will deprive them of the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to their community.
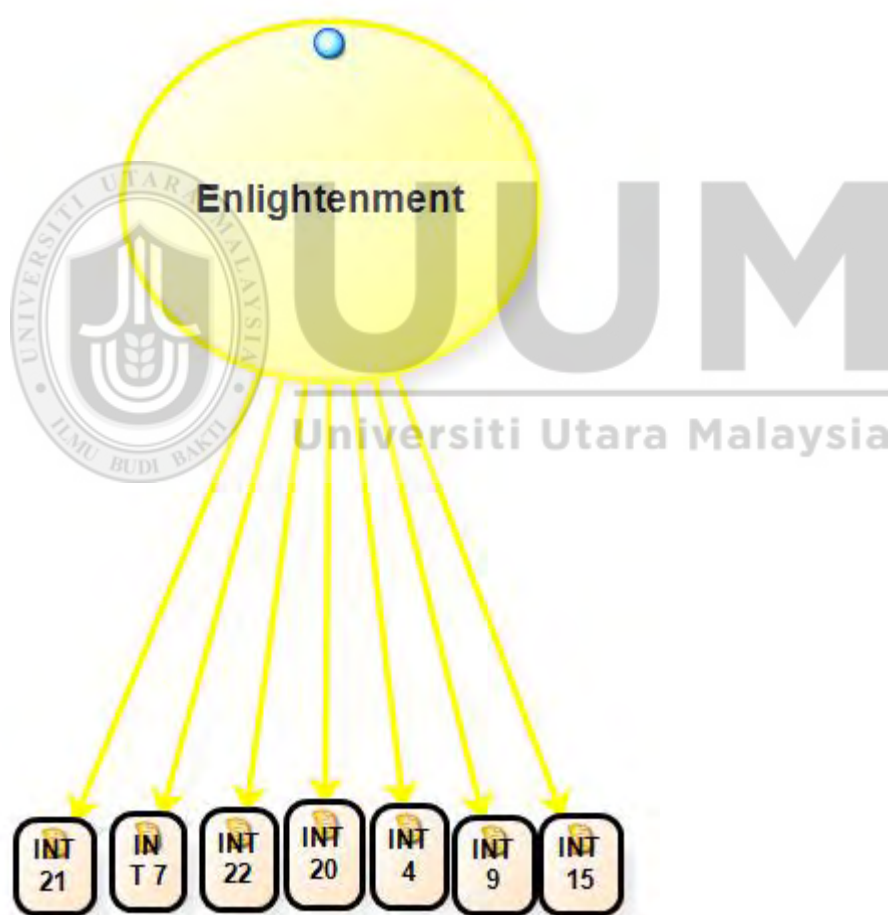
Figure 4.22: Enlightenment of community members

4.4.1.2.8 Capacity Building and Empowerment

Studies have indicated that capacity building and empowerment creates positive atmosphere whereby community members collectively contribute to the improvement and sustainability of their community (Brower, 2011; Narushima, Wong, Li and Sutdhibhasilp, 2014). This view was expressed by the majority of the respondents in the community that, there is no economic empowerment, self -actualization and capacity building in NDDC programmes. For instance, interviewee 5 community youth leader lamented thus:

> *"NDDC has not come to Oloibiri to train the youths on any skill acquisition. No jobs for the youths, the people are suffering. Most of our youths cannot sustain themselves after school. NDDC should come to the community, train the youths, and establish them. NDDC can even set up a small industry where the youths can work using the knowledge they have acquired. This will help reduce the suffering of the people and also make them useful to themselves and the Community (Int.5)."*

Similarly, interviewee 15 opinion leader stated that:

> *"NDDC has tried when you talk of roads and also transformer in this community, though not sufficient for us while some are abandoned. Most of their programs have not empowered us at all. Most people here are suffering. Government is making money through our oil and they are not developing the community (Int.15)."*

This is in line with interviewees 8 opinion leader, 5 youth leader and 19 women leader thus, "People should be trained to the extent that they can manage what they have within their environment to make them live a comfortable and good life".

Also, interviewee 7 opinion leader suggested thus:

"Government should encourage people to engage in micro business, I have told you before that the government should encourage micro-economy development. How do you encourage that? You see look into entrepreneurship skills and ideas that will be turned to money and train these youths to do them and push them to do them successfully (Int. 7)."

While interviewee 18, another community opinion leader noted that:

"The only way we can benefit from NDDC programme is when they come to community, work with us, we tell them what we want , then we will be able to gain from them not just coming to do projects that we don't benefit from(Int.18)."

When community members team-up by working in unionism, it depicts that everybody regardless of social and academic status is useful and important to contribute individually and collectively to the empowerment of the community. This shows that there is strength in diversity of members in the community; the greater the diversity then, the richer the vision and the more improved the community. However, this is expressed by interviewee 7, opinion leader that:

"...NDDC should train community members by building their capacity to the level where they will be able to stand and do things on their own without waiting

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for the government. For example, in Afiesere we are trying to organise a
workshop where the youths will be trained on how to use their talents and ideas
positively to make a living for themselves but government has to, also encourage
them by assisting the with money to start off no matter how small. This will
engage and make the youth desist from any act of violence (Int.7)."

This view was also supported by interviewee 1, a CDC chairman who stressed the need for empowerment thus:

"Empowerment is the key to development because when everybody has
something tangible doing in the community, they will be happy and be willing
to contribute to the development of the community. How will someone who
cannot even feed himself and family listen to you? A hungry man is an angry
man. That is why community members need to be empowered so that they will
not become liability to community and society (Int.1)"
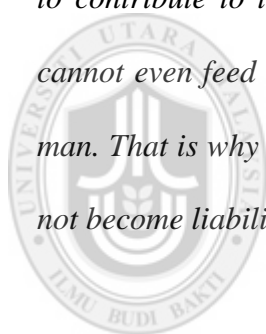
Emphasizing the need for capacity building and empowerment for sustainable development, Interviewee 7 community opinion leader captured that:

"You see all over the world the fastest way to progress in development is
through human resource potential. There are many countries all over the world
that have more resources but they are backward because the human resources
are not developed (Int.7)."

Meanwhile, interviewee 16, youth leader lamented that:

"The way NDDC do their training is not the best. Like here in Omoku, we do
not feel the impact of NDDC training, as there's nothing to show for it after the
training. What I mean is that community are not empowered at all. That is why

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when we hear that NDDC is coming to train us; nobody is interested in their programme. NDDC do not even come to ask community what exactly they need before coming (Int.16)"

This perspective corroborates with the views of interviewee 20, NDDC officer who acknowledged that:

> *"Empowerment is one of the focuses of NDDC because it will help to reduce the level of youth restiveness in the region. We acknowledge this fact, but like I have always said lack of adequate funding is affecting our performance because you need money to train and also empower after training (Int.20)."*

He further noted that; "This is the type of capacity building I am saying, you cannot do this kind of training without spending so much money on them. This is what I mean by deliberate capacity building in terms of knowledge and economic empowerment (Int.20).

Whereas another NDDC officer interviewee 21 in a contrary view blamed community members' attitude thus:

> *"NDDC is trying to see how community members can be self-reliant through some of our programmes like skill acquisition training that cuts across different areas like welding, carpentry, tailoring and even scholarship awards to study outside Nigeria despite the lapses of underfunding that we have. But community members are not encouraging us at all. After training we give them starter packs and even give some soft loan to start with but at the end some will sell the materials while for the loan they hardly pay back (Int.21)"*

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Yet, interviewee 20 NDDC officer also admitted that:

"To the best of my knowledge not because am working in NDDC but it's the truth. NDDC is really trying in the area of empowerment and capacity building in the Niger Delta like in my state Delta state, we have covered a wide range of communities but you see we cannot cover all the communities because the areas are many and we do not have enough fund to do this that is why some of the communities are still complaining that they have not felt our impact (Int.20)."

While interviewee 22 another NDDC officer suggested that:

"In my own view I think Capacity building and empowerment is the only way through which we can attain peaceful atmosphere and rapid development that will improve the condition of the people because when people have something meaningful they are benefiting from, it will make them happy and they will be willing to protect it (Int.22). "
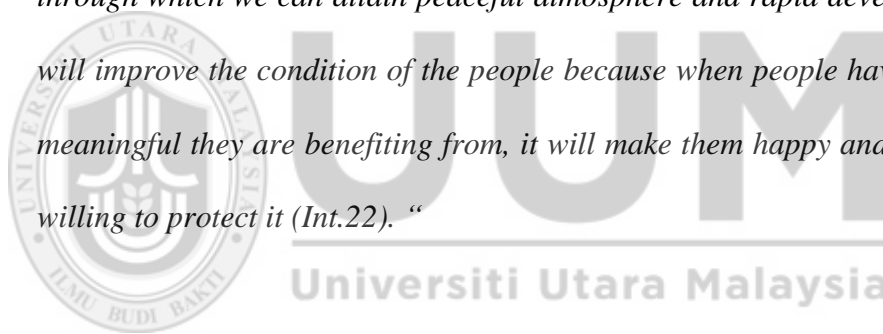
As a result of this, interviewee 17 an opinion leader from the community reiterated the need for NDDC to work with the community to know what they need before embarking on any project. He affirmed that:

"Here in my community, we don't see NDDC. The only people we see are the contractors. As for the empowerment, I have not seen any. NDDC should try and visit community, ask them what they need whether infrastructure or skill acquisition training, then community can plan with them, tell them what we need, then we can work together to see how everything goes on smoothly not this one that NDDC is doing we don't see them, we don't even have any idea of what they are doing (Int.17)."

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Likewise, the organization of community through capacity building and empowerment will create more positive environment where community members' will enjoy quality life. This will lead to sustainable community development where community members are consulted and engaged in discussion, decision and actions around the community needs and problems.
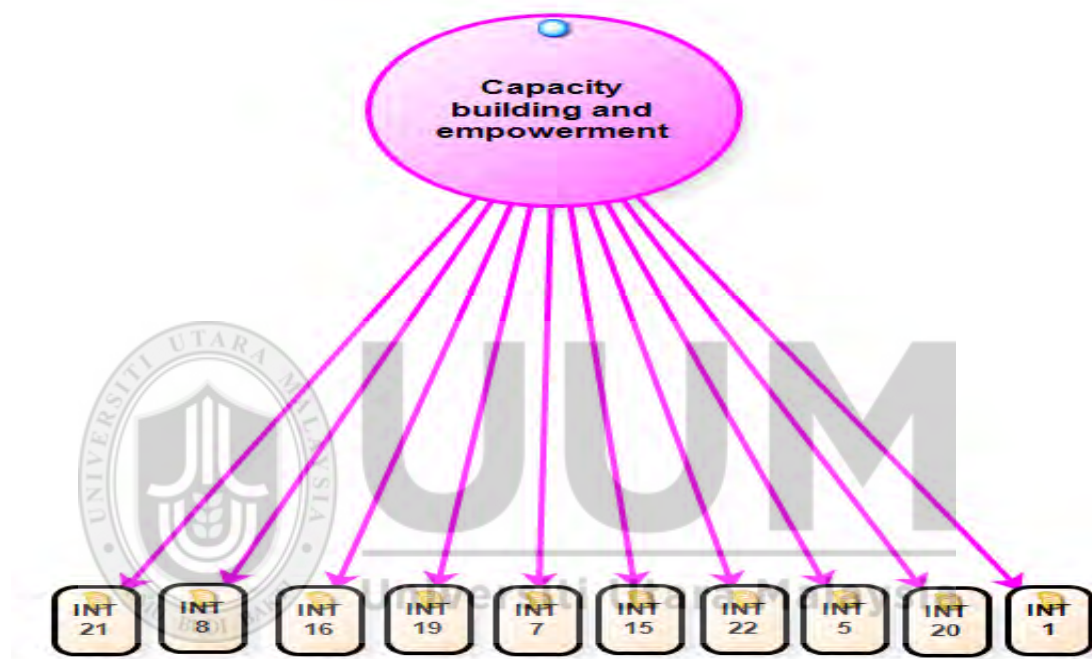
Figure 4.23: Capacity building and empowerment

4.4.1.3 Community Relationship with Development Agency

Building sustainable community is attainable through the establishment of network of relation between community and developmental agency built on trust, mutual understanding, equity and respect. More so, this social connection creates a forum that inspires community members to collectively work together with developmental agency in achieving their desired goals (Dale and Sparkes, 2010). Nevertheless, such relationship is strengthened based on the level of involvement of community in contributing in issues and decisions that affects their life (Beehler, 2011). Therefore, it

is evident from the study's interviewees that mutual relationship and trust between community and development agency plays a significant role in building a sustainable community development. The study indicated all the factors that can hinder community relationship with developmental agency.
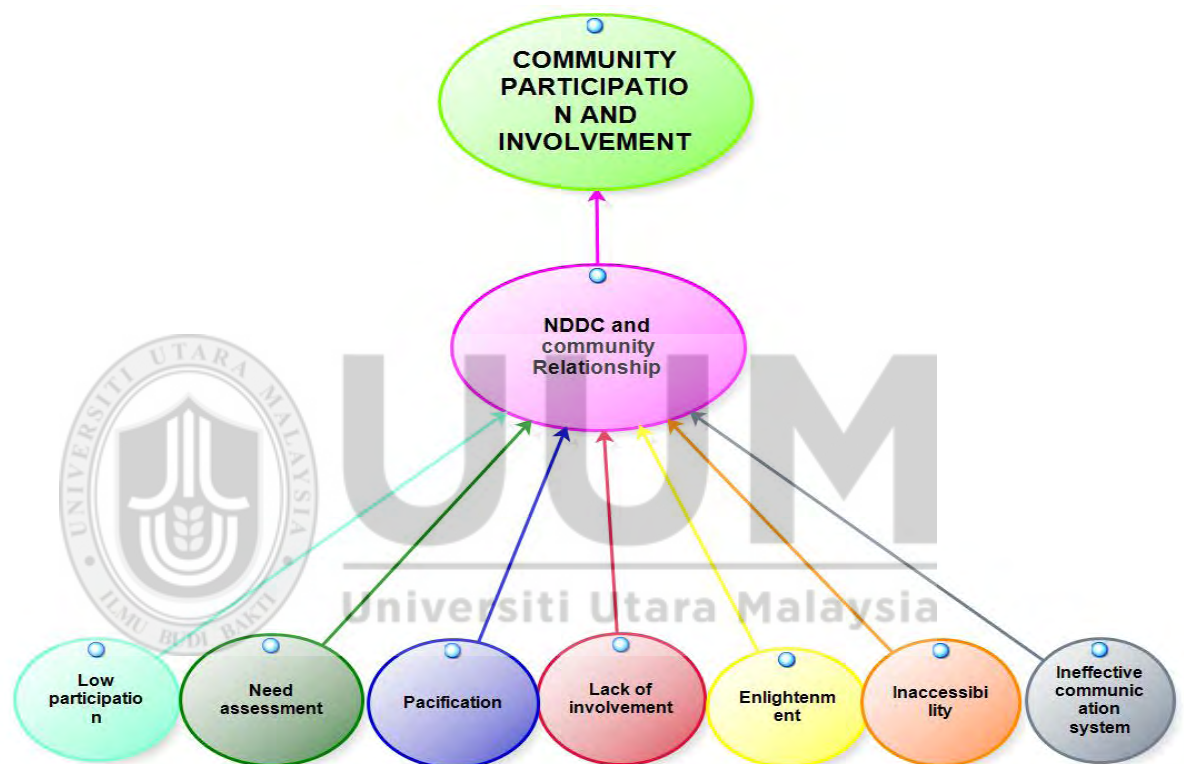
Figure 4.24: Community relationship with development agency

4.4.1.3.1 Low Participation

Community participation is an act of being fully, or partially committed to an activity. However, people are willing to take part in any activity when they realize such activity will positively impact on their lives (Shields, 2015). Studies have indicated that the participation of community members in developmental initiatives is crucial to increase out-put and productivity and its sustainability (Prager, Nienaber, Neumann & Philips,

2015). One of the benefits of community participation as identified by Melo, Turnhout and Arts (2014), is giving opportunity to community members to be part of implementing programmes that will best befit them. While De Vreede, Warner and Pitter (2014), contends that when community members are allowed to fully participate in the development of their community, it creates positive attitude and commitment in the accomplishment and sustainability of developmental activities.

The findings from the study's interviewee support the above assertions. Although, the interviewees responses depicted that the level of community participation in developmental activities in their community is low. This was clearly stated by interviewee 3, women leader that:

> *"What I see the youths doing is the manual job and they are paid on a daily basis. For example, during construction of roads, the youths assist in digging and doing concrete works. Apart from that no other thing as for the women some of them help in fetching water (Int. 3)."*
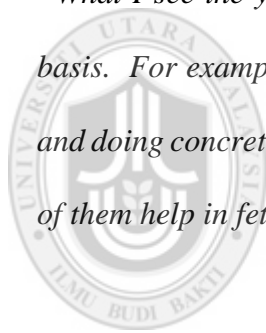
While another interviewee 4, opinion leader divulged thus:

> *"We were not given any special role to play by NDDC; we don't even see them during projects execution in our community. It is the contractors that allocate some manual jobs to youths and pay them immediately the work is done (Int. 4)."*

Reiterating this claim, interviewee 6, another women leader asserted that; "Communities only assist the contractors in manual jobs and it is done by the youths. We also make sure that nobody disturbs them while working. That's all we do as community nothing more".

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While interviewee 11, youth leader shared that:

"According to the way they are doing it, they will just come from Port-Harcourt,

where they award the contracts from, and the engineers and contractors will go

and see the eldest person in the community to inform them they want to do a

project and after that, they execute the job. So what we do is corporate with

him. We also negotiate with him about giving some of our youths some work to

do in the contract so that they will not disturb him (Int. 11)."

Also, another community opinion leader, interviewee 18 narrated that:

"The only role I see us play is; to give the contractor a safe environment to work

to avoid troubles. We also give the contractor security because they have come

to work in our community so that nobody will disturb. It is not NDDC that give

us this role. All the jobs are done by the contractors except they (contractors)

want to give some jobs to the community through the CDC like this road when

it was done; the contractors sublet some of the jobs to community members

through the CDC (Int. 18)."

While NDDC officer, interviewee 20 reported thus:

"The only thing we are doing as a directorate is that whenever the plan is out

from wherever the board have planned it from, we plead with community to

accept whatever is given to them so that they won't miss out totally and later

they can ask for what they need and this seems to be working a bit that is we try

to pacify them, show them how they can write to management and we also guide

them on how they can channel their needs to management. At the end some are

given attention while some are not given attention. Generally, there is a high

level of understanding; we are able to manage them except in few cases.

Although, this is not the best option of planning with them, it is better for us to plan with them from the start instead of going to them to mitigate when they are already annoyed. But when we plan with them, all these things won't be there. This approach of not planning with them makes the commission spend more money (Int. 20)."

Likewise, interviewee 21, another NDDC officer noted that:

"I think for community participation, the level has increased, because they have come to appreciate the projects of NDDC even though we still have one or two issues in that direction. Because sometimes when some of our projects are given to community as part of compensation, you see the people coming out to say, this is an opportunity to have my national share. For example, road construction, when brought to community they embrace it and before you know it, they are springing up structures coming in the right direction, so that they can benefit. As for the involvement, because they have appreciated the quality of the development, they try to embrace and by accommodating the contractors and people from NDDC that came to work within their environment. This is for Delta state particularly where I operate (Int. 21)."
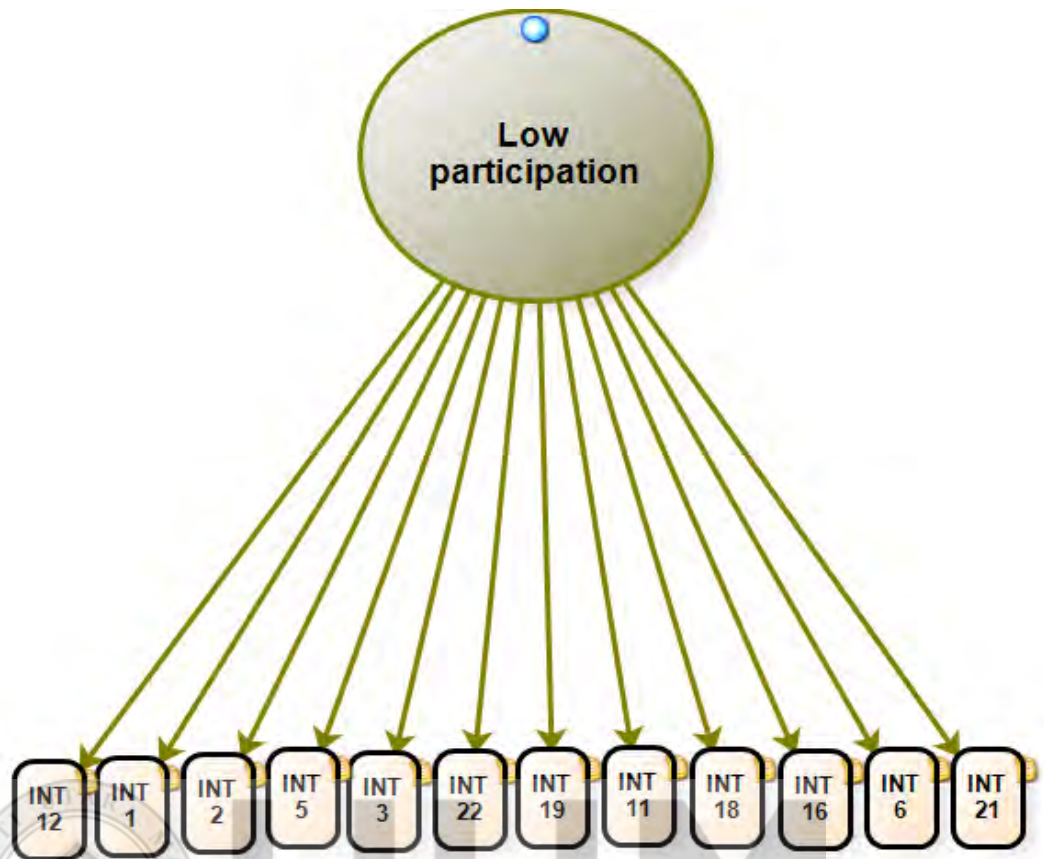
Figure 4.25: Low participation

4.4.1.3.2 Assessment of the Needs of Community Members

As identified by the study's interviewees, the appraisal of community needs and demands through adequate consultation is vital for development sustainability within the community. Lovejoy and Saxton (2012) asserted that, the attainment of developmental goals towards sustainability is achievable when the needs and demands of the target population are clearly identified through adequate consultation and involvement of community members. This corroborates the views of interviewee 18, opinion leader who stressed the need to consult with community members in other to identify their needs. He noted that; "NDDC do not consult with us before bringing any project, If NDDC want us to value what they are doing they should ask us what we want, that is only when their programmes will be useful to us".

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Also reiterating the implication of the practice of NDDC in implementation of projects, interviewee 4 one of the opinion leaders lamented that; "how can we feel the impact of NDDC when they don't ask us what we want before doing their thing? In the same way, interviewee 3, women leader disclosed that:

> "Here in Akassa community, NDDC has never come to ask us what we need before doing anything. The only time we saw them, not even NDDC staff but contractors was when they came to do any project which we are not even aware of before they came. So how can they know is what we want? I don't understand (Int.3)."

While interviewee 18 opinion leader further suggested that:

> "NDDC should try and come down to community, ask us what we want, not just sending contractors down to the community without even informing us and even asking us if that's what the community need. Not just coming to impose anything on us. It is not good at all (Int.18). "

This assertion was confirmed by interviewee 20, NDDC officer thus:

> "Their pressing needs are not the things we are going into and once you are not useful to somebody, the person will not take you seriously". He further suggested that, "So what we should do is to prioritize the needs of these people sit with them, when we get with the priority from them, we now work with the priority list. That is the need assessment of the people (Int.20)."

Buttressing this claim, interviewee 21 captured that:

"The communities sometimes give us the list of what they want, the ones they write to us we work on those ones but if along the line some of these projects are removed and some added like I said earlier, when the budget comes out that is what we will work with. Whether the one you requested for is there or not we will let you know but in most cases out of all the programmes and projects you want might not be according to how it was listed by them (Community), so we let them know that it is not the fault of the contractors or the commission. So before the contractor goes there, we go to the Community to first talk to them and each of them and even book a date with them before we bring the contractor. So when you talk of implementation, the community is not left out, they are there (Int. 21)."

He further added thus:

"…we meet with them; there is what we call CDC workshop. Severally, we invite the chiefs, women leaders, and youths, call them for meeting. Even communities go beyond that by writing to us, to tell us what they need and we consider them. Between you and I, I think we (NDDC) are not doing that too in the right way, in the sense that some of these projects we give to the communities don't even know them, (Int.21). "

Reiterating this assertion, interviewee 20, NDDC officer indicated that:

"… we meet them ask them what they want. That is what we call "Needs Assessment". What are those things you want NDDC to do for you? But in case of writing this entire budget, some of the things you put there change because by the time the budget will go to Abuja and come back most things would have

been removed and other things added. But and in the process of removing and

adding, and the budget comes, you don't even have the opportunity to take it

back even if you want to add a project that was removed (Int.20)"

In the same way, interviewee 22 another NDDC officer, noted thus:

"… What we should be doing as a commission is to prioritize the needs of these

people sit with them, when we get with the priority from them, we now work

with the priority list. That is the need assessment of the people (Int.22)."
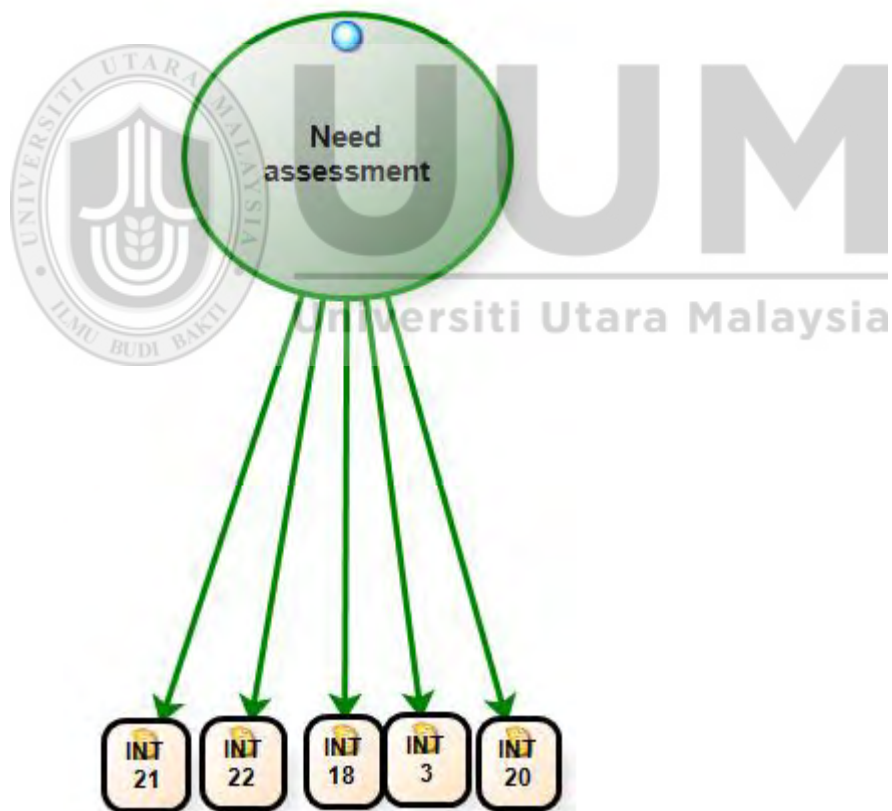
Figure 4.26: Assessment of the needs of community members

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4.4.1.3.3 Pacification of Community Members

As identified by the interviewees, one of the strategies employed in calming the aggrieved youths in the Niger Delta region is through pacification. This approach is used by both community and the NDDC. Ojakorotu, Gilbert and Th, (2010) identified pacification as one of the remedies for addressing conflicts in the Niger Delta. From the study's interviewee, significant number of interviewees revealed that most times, the level of agitations and protest was minimized through constant appeasement of the youths to avoid disruption of social and economic activities in the region. This view was captured by interviewee 7 opinion leader thus; "The elders in the community most time have to calm down the youths by pleading with them to be patient".

Likewise, interviewee 8 another opinion leader, noted that:

> *"One of the duties of the CDC is to talk to the angry youths when we notice that their agitation for some pressing needs in the community are getting out of hand. We make them understand that violence is not the best way to address issues. This has really helped us a lot here in Afiesere community as I speak with you (Int. 8)."*

Buttressing these claims, interviewee 20, NDDC officer revealed that:

> *"Our own is to talk to them to have understanding telling them to be patient and accept whatever is given to them now so that they won't miss out totally and later they can ask for what they need and this seems to be working a bit that is we try to pacify them, show them how they can write to management and we also guide them on how they can channel their needs to management. At the end some are given attention while some are not given attention (Int. 20)."*

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In the same way, interviewee 22 reported that:

> *"There was a time some angry youths came here making so many demands*
> *which of course cannot be addressed at the same time. All we did was to gather*
> *them together, explained to them how the commission operates. We also*
> *pleaded with them to be more patient and advised them to go back home. They*
> *listened and left. But mind you it doesn't always go like this (Int.22)."*
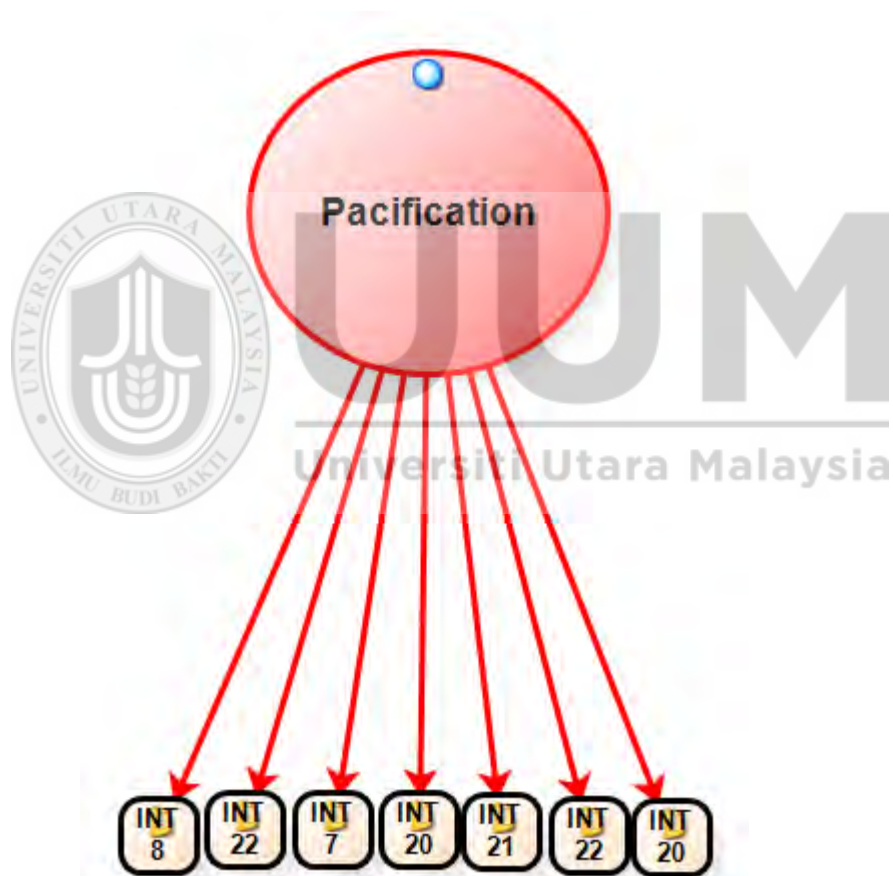
Figure 4.27: Pacification of community members

4.4.1.3.4 Lack of Involvement

When community members are being actively committed to an activity by deeply

involving in the processes of formulation and transformation, it increases the level of

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achievement and sustainability (Hart, 2013; Sharmin, Khan & Belal, 2014). The integration of community members in developmental plans is crucial for an effective and rapid sustainable community development. This is premised on the paradigm which defines the individual as the focus of development. Therefore, the role of community members is vital because they are the end product of developmental agenda besides; they have an in-depth understanding and knowledge of how to usurp their socio-cultural environment to the betterment of their community Eversole (2012). Similarly, Thomas, Narayanan, Wheeler, Joseph and Ramanathan (2012) posited that when community members are given the opportunity to contribute and make decisions on issues that affect their lives positively, it stimulates new ideas and commitment towards development goals. This implies that there is bound to be developmental failures when community members are not properly integrated into developmental plans and strategies

Likewise, Xu and Li (2015) and Agwu (2013), affirmed that unless community members are actively involved in projects design and implementations, it will be difficult for developmental projects to be sustained in that community. For example, Talò, Mannarini, and Rochira (2014) and Vishwakarma and Pathak (2013) studies on community participation and involvement identified decision making process particularly as a vital factor. They observed that local communities are not involved in identification and implementation process of developmental projects that is meant to transform the life of community members.

This assertion was buttressed by interviewee 17 one of the opinion leaders thus:

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"But we don't see them, so we don't even know what they are doing. How can you work with people you don't see? According to the way they are doing it, they will just come from Port-Harcourt, where they award the contracts from, and the engineers and contractors will go and see the eldest person in the community to inform them they want to do a project and after that, they execute the job (Int.17)."

The view expressed above was also evident in interviewee 1 CDC chairman, of the implication of non-involvement of community members. He noted that: "The effect is this, if community is not part of the project, the job will be half done, the job that they are supposed to complete will be half done because community members are not carried along (Int. 1). Likewise, interviewee 11 a youth leader remarked that, "we are ready to work with them if they are coming to develop our community but we don't see them how can we work with them?

Reiterating the above statement, interviewees 5, 6 and 12 youth, women and opinion leaders noted that "We are not included in all that NDDC has been doing". However, interviewees 2, 3 and 8, youth, women and opinion leaders echoed thus "Our level of involvement in NDDC program is very poor". While interviewees 4 and 9, opinion and women leaders suggested that "The only way community can plan with NDDC is when they come to us". In the same vein, interviewees, 14, 13,16,9 and 12 women, youth, and CDC chairman captured thus "There is lack of Community involvement in NDDC programs in the Niger Delta".

Corroborating the opinion of community, interviewee 20 NDDC officer revealed that; "…the only thing we are doing now as a directorate is that whenever the plan is out

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from wherever the board have cooked it from we go to community, appeal to them to accept whatever that is given to them".

Likewise, interviewee 22 another NDDC officer affirmed that:

"Like I said when you make community to be part of what you are doing, they tend to have a sense of belonging and responsibility. This will make them participate and want to be part and parcel of the project, but when you don't plan with them and carry them along, they will not be interested. NDDC though has not farewell in this regards due to some of the constraints I told you (Int. 22)."

While interviewee 21, NDDC officer shared thus:

" ... like in execution and implementation what I personally, when I go to community I always tell them, we have a project for this community, NDDC consultants and engineers will always come in to check on the contractors but (Community) are the owners and end benefactors of this project, put in and show in your interest, get at least 2 to 3 member of the community that can stand as the "eye" of the community and work directly with the NDDC people, because if they work directly with the people in the supervision they will invariably appreciate the quality of the project, and the possible outcome by this are they not part of the implementation and execution?(Int. 21)."

Likewise, interviewee 22 observed thus:

"Well, to a large extent it is minimal but not that it is not there, the truth of the matter is that the development of the region is supposed to be a bottom-up

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approach by way of the community telling us what they want. NDDC is having

the money fine, but if you give people what they want they will enjoy it more

than throwing it at them (Int. 22)."

She further added that:

"The role they are given is based on the "Local content arrangement" By local

content arrangement, we mean during a project, the people within that

environment, should realize that they should be part of that project, so they will

check if they have professionals amongst them that can fit into that area, then

we can absorb from them(Int.22)."

Similarly, interviewee 20 another NDDC officer revealed thus:

"…the chances for improvement are slim. Why? Because, we have tried as a

directorate, we have come up with well-structured and thought out programme,

we have related to the communities, we relate with the communities more than

any department in the commission. We have day to day interaction with them,

get their complaints. For the various programmes, we have contacted the

community on various programmes. If we (NDDC) plan with them, it would

have been better, you cannot stay somewhere and plan for someone in their

absence, how you would know exactly what they need and their priority (Int.

20)."

He therefore suggested that:

"So what we should do is to prioritize the needs of these people sit with them,

when we get with the priority from them, we now work directly with them. We

have recommended to management that let us not just sit someone and plan for

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these people, for example if you take street light to a community and what they

need is road, they will not appreciate it, they might even turn you down. They

will always act like this because we don't plan with them. How can you just

bring something to someone without planning or discussing with the person? If

you plan with them, their level of non-cooperation will reduce. If you plan with

them, they will tell you their problem and when you say you are coming to work

with them, they will embrace you because you have come to solve their problem

(Int.20)."

While accessing the level of NDDC approach in their developmental activities, interviewee 22 remarked thus:

"Well, for now NDDC is using the top –down approach as I said earlier but not

in all cases. Sometimes, they use the bottom-up approach. The percentage is

supposed to be 60% - 40%. Let the top be 40% and down 60% (Int. 22)."

Affirming this claim, another NDDC officer interviewee 20 reiterated that:

"Critically assessing ourselves, we have done 40%, we could have achieved

more than that, and we should be talking about 60% but because of the

challenges confronting the commission we cannot perform the way we are

supposed to perform (Int.20)."
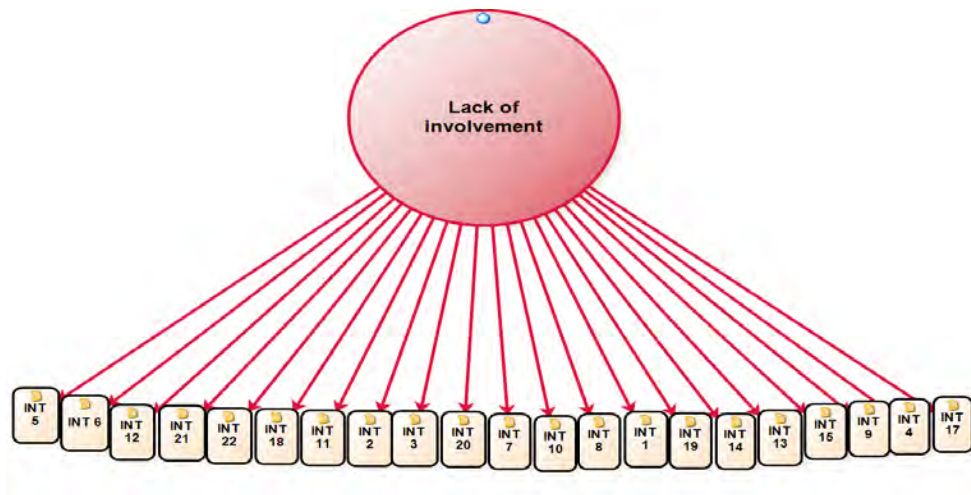
Figure 4.28: Lack of involvement

4.4.1.3.5 Inaccessibility of Community to Agency

When community members are not given opportunity to access information and matters that concerns their well-being, it creates room for resentment, disloyalty and distrust. This no doubt, it affects the relationship between community members and developmental agency (Zhou, 2011). Buttressing this claim, interviewee 13, youth leader expressed that:

> *"We cannot go and waste our time there when we know that nobody will answer us. Even if we have to go who do we see, who do we talk to, what do we tell them? You see that is the problem (Int. 13)."*

In the same way, interviewee 17 opinion leader echoed that:

> *"That is what I have been saying. We can't have access to them. Some of the elders and youths even visited NDDC headquarter office but were not attended to. So, you see we really have a big problem in drawing their attention to our plight (Int.17)."*

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Also reiterating the implication of inaccessibility as constraint to community involvement in developmental initiatives, interviewee 19, and women leader observed that:

> *"NDDC is not giving us attention and this is really affecting us because we cannot tell them what we need and also on some of the things we observe here. For example, the water project built by NDDC some years ago has not been useful to us because it has not been commissioned. So how do we tell them it is not working when we cannot see them? That is why we don't take NDDC serious again in this community we have lost hope. (Int.19)."*

Meanwhile interviewee 20 NDDC officer confirming the above claims revealed that:

> *"Most times the pressure we get from community is too much and we cannot answer all of them at the same time. But we try our best to answer some at the end some are given attention while some are not given attention (Int.20)."*

In essence, the above analysis depicts two issues: (1) that there is communication gap; (2) that no viable and reliable communication channels. These two issues might lead to frustration from both parties; government and community people. In this manner there is need to evolve a strategy upon which communication gap can be bridged. In a case where there is communication gap between government and the people, one may assume there is latent conflict to be resolved. The only mechanism by which such conflict or community issues can be resolved is through "listening mechanism" which government can contrive to accommodate views from community (Dukeshire & Thurlow, 2002). This in turn will enhance constant exchange of information between both parties.
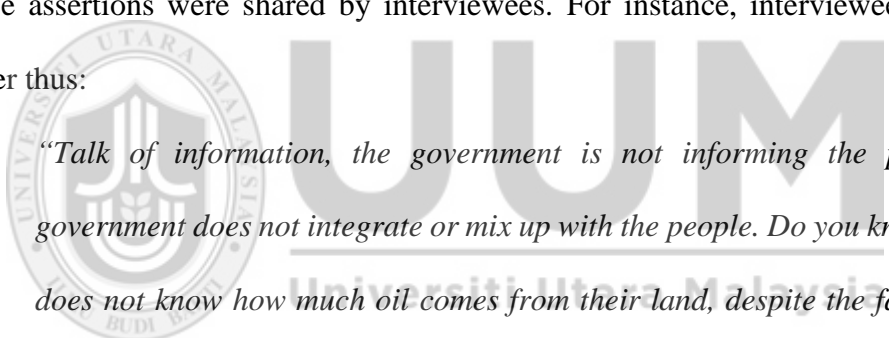
Figure 4.29: Inaccessibility of community to agency

4.4.1.3.6 Lack of Enlightenment of Community Members

Enlightenment plays a vital role for rapid dissemination of information within and across different locations (Gregg & Wetzel, 2012). It enhances people's level of awareness about past, and current issues happening within and around their environment (Witoszek, 2002). However, the channel and mode of information disseminated vary from one locality to another. This is because, the aim of the information source and the message content as it affects the targeted population are usually not the same across different locality (Pan, Wang, & Lai, 2015). Therefore, there is need to put into consideration the appropriate channel or medium of information that is peculiar to a particular locality. For instance, Amadi and Mac Ogonor (2015) and Onu, Surendran and Price (2014) on community enlightenment on developmental

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programmes in the Niger Delta, observed that lapses in NDDC awareness campaign can be attributed to lack of strategic approach in reaching out to community members. Also Ossai and Uzochukwu (2015) and Michael et al (2014), affirmed that the attitude of most of the people in the rural communities in the Niger Delta towards developmental drive is due to lack proper enlightenment. While Daniel (2014) ssuggested that there is need for community members to be adequately educated on the need to embrace developmental initiatives for the sustainability of their environment. Enlightenment therefore is crucial for the successful actualization of developmental goals.

These assertions were shared by interviewees. For instance, interviewee 8, opinion leader thus:

> *"Talk of information, the government is not informing the people. The government does not integrate or mix up with the people. Do you know Afiesere does not know how much oil comes from their land, despite the fact that they have 45 oil wells? The people are ignorant. Only few people like us are privilege to get information. Most of them don't read newspapers. They lack awareness (Int. 8)."*

Additionally, interviewee 2 youth leader noted that:

> *"We are now realizing that if we must learn to do something, we must communicate. But let the government communicate with those that are on ground and let them know how things are happening because a lot of people are not aware and when you are mentioning NDDC few people know what NDDC want to do for them, the community in general don't even know? The people need to be educated (Int.2). "*

While interviewee 4, another opinion leader reported thus:

"We are creating a platform where we want to give repeated seminars to the youths, women and men. We also want to form a very big background, we are not talking about violence, restiveness, and guns and fighting, these are things done by minds that are not matured. We are going to talk about deliberation if we have something's with the government and let's talk by telling them what we need (Int.4)."

In the same vein, interviewee 18 opinion leader captured that:

"Yes because we have more people that are not enlightened. So there is this mentality in Nigeria that, if the few enlightened ones cannot have their way the join the majority. We are making a new constitution that says 3 principal persons in the executive must be a graduate that is, the president, secretary and one other person (Int. 18). "

Yet a youth leader interviewee 11, stressed that; "There is lack of information, information is the key, secondly, if you are a leader and you want to carry people along, you must sensitize the people, make sure you do the right thing at the right time". While interviewee 1, CDC chairman suggested thus:

"Is by listening to the people, organizing seminars where people can bring their opinion. If all these things are being done things will be ok and they should try and carry the people along"

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A similar view was shared by interviewee 9, CDC chairman that: First is awareness, and then the local government should inform the people of the community about NDDC through seminars and training. They should reach out to the people. If you don't tell people what your intentions are how can they know what you want to do? (Int.9).

Reiterating this view, interviewee 14 women leader remarked that; "The government wants to make change, change cannot come without knowledge or awareness so majority of Nigerians are not informed".

Meanwhile, Interviewee 7 community opinion leader emphasizing the need for enlightenment remarked that:

"Lack of awareness and enlightenment can lead to lack of interest and involvement by the community. Any agency that wants to make its presence felt in any community must first of all consult, enlighten, dialogue and seek the community acceptance of that project. The approach used by most agencies now is 'over board sighting' of projects which are now unsustainable; In short, the projects are not even functioning, not to talk of sustainable. They must make sure the people are informed, seek their acceptance of the project and involve them. Most of the agencies not only NDDC should do more of Bottom-up Approach that is, starting with the natives (Int. 7). "

Meanwhile, interviewee 22 NDDC officer stated that:

"...by first educating them on the working of the commission/system, then tell them where NDDC is constrained and tell them not to see NDDC as an enemy

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and then you can make suggestions with them and educate them that it is the

responsibility of all of us to work things out by sharing ideas together (Int.22)."

Nevertheless, interviewee 21 divulged that:

"For now have now I cannot out rightly say if all the communities are aware of

NDDC activities, although, we have a national outreach program on television

done on weekly basis and we assure people should use that as a forum to know

about NDDC(Int.21)."

In the same way, interviewee 22 further emphasized thus:

"It is the campaign that really matters. That is the sensitization we are saying,

meet with them, and talk with them. Even some of the people that have attended

the workshop they go back and tell the other people the benefit of it. So those

they came to know of it, started feeling interested, whenever such thing is

coming, they want to get involved with NDDC (Int.22)."

However, she revealed that:

"...we cannot reach out properly to the people, in most cases what we do is

sensitization programme some few years ago. if I have opportunity to do a

project that cuts across 2-3 communities, in an entry process meeting, I will

bring all the representative of all the communities, there I will tell them about

our programmes, about our objectives and even how to benefit more and at the

end of the day I will give them my phone number to call me whenever they need

any information. But you see it is not like that now in NDDC because of lack of

funding (Int. 22)."
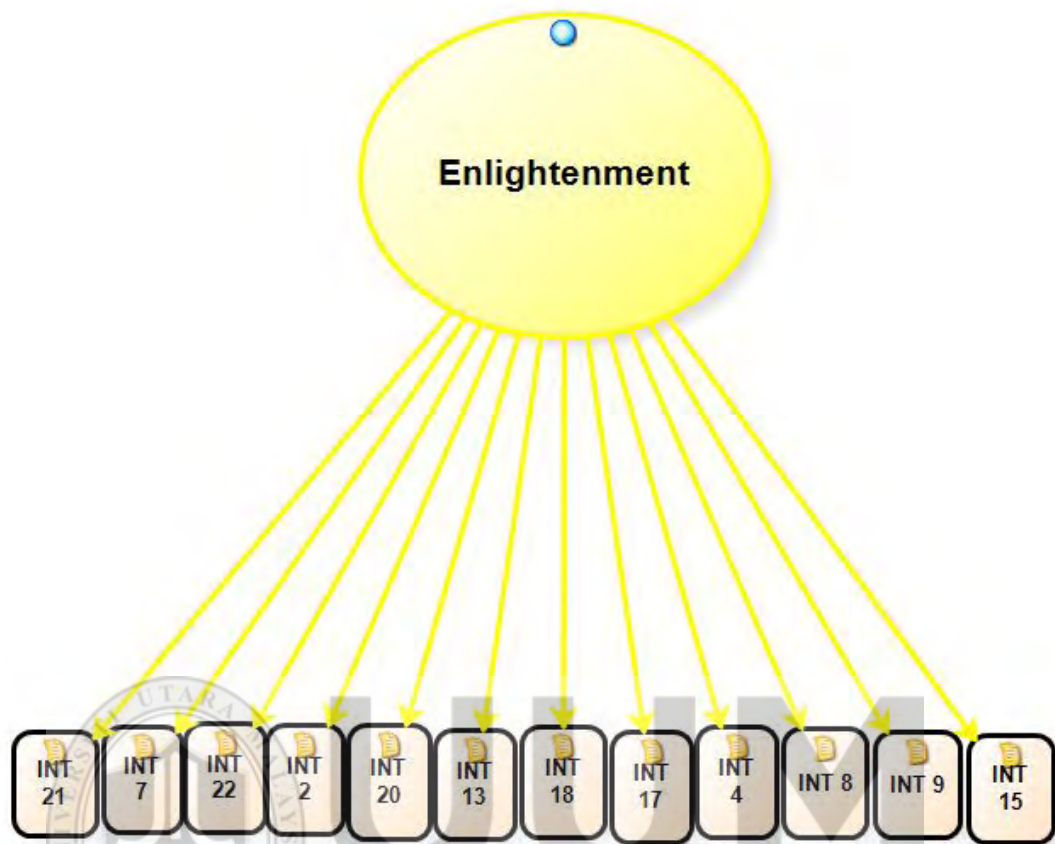
Figure 4.30: Lack of enlightenment of community members

4.4.1.3.7 Ineffective Communication System

Failure to adequately inform community members about the details of developmental projects can cause significant delays, and disruptions in the successful implementation of projects. When community members are well informed it gives them a concise and in-depth understanding which will enhance their level of acceptability (Turker, 2014). Based on the study's interviewees, poor communication system was identified as one of the major constraints by community members in accessing developmental agency. Majority of the interviewees lamented that most times they do not know how to communicate to NDDC to present some of the pressing issues in their communities. While some claimed that, the constant protest and agitations in the region is a way of

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drawing the attention of government to their plights. These claims are in line with previous studies such as Ayapere (2015), Ujoh and Ifatimehin (2014) and Austine, Sunday and Raymond (2014) on the Niger Delta conflict and peace building. They noted one of the major reasons for open confrontation by the aggrieved youths is poor communication system through which the youths can channel their grievances. Corroboration this claim, interviewee 1, CDC chairman noted that; "The problem we have with NDDC is communication gap. Most times we do not know who to meet and how to reach them to lay our complaints". This view was further buttressed by interviewee 7, community opinion leader thus:

"I have noticed that NDDC do not have a good communication system whereby people from the community can reach them. Severally we the executives have gone to NDDC office in Port-Harcourt but came back lamenting that there was nobody to complain to. That is why you see most of the youths demonstrating in order to be heard (Int.7)."

Similarly, interviewee 4, another opinion leader revealed that:

"NDDC do not have a good channel of communication. When you go to their office, they give you a form to fill and indicate your complaints but after that no response from them even when you go back there nobody to ask questions. So this is one of the problems we have with NDDC (Int.4)."

While interviewee 9, CDC chairman, suggested thus:

"NDDC should try and improve on their method of communication with community by putting in place an office that will specifically handle community

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issues and this should be done in the different local headquarters in each state.

Am sure this will reduce the level of agitation by the angry youths (Int. 9)."

However, interviewee 20, NDDC officer argued that:

"NDDC has a programme called community outreach programme. We use this as a forum to inform and enlighten community members about our programmes and activities. But you know what? Most times when we come go out to communities they seem not to be interested, only few of them respond especially when immediate benefits are not attached (Int. 22)."

Meanwhile another NDDC officer interviewee 22 revealed that:

"We have different medium through which we communicate to communities through their executives. This type of programme involves a lot of money and the commission do not have enough funds to adequately and effectively run such programmes (Int.22)."
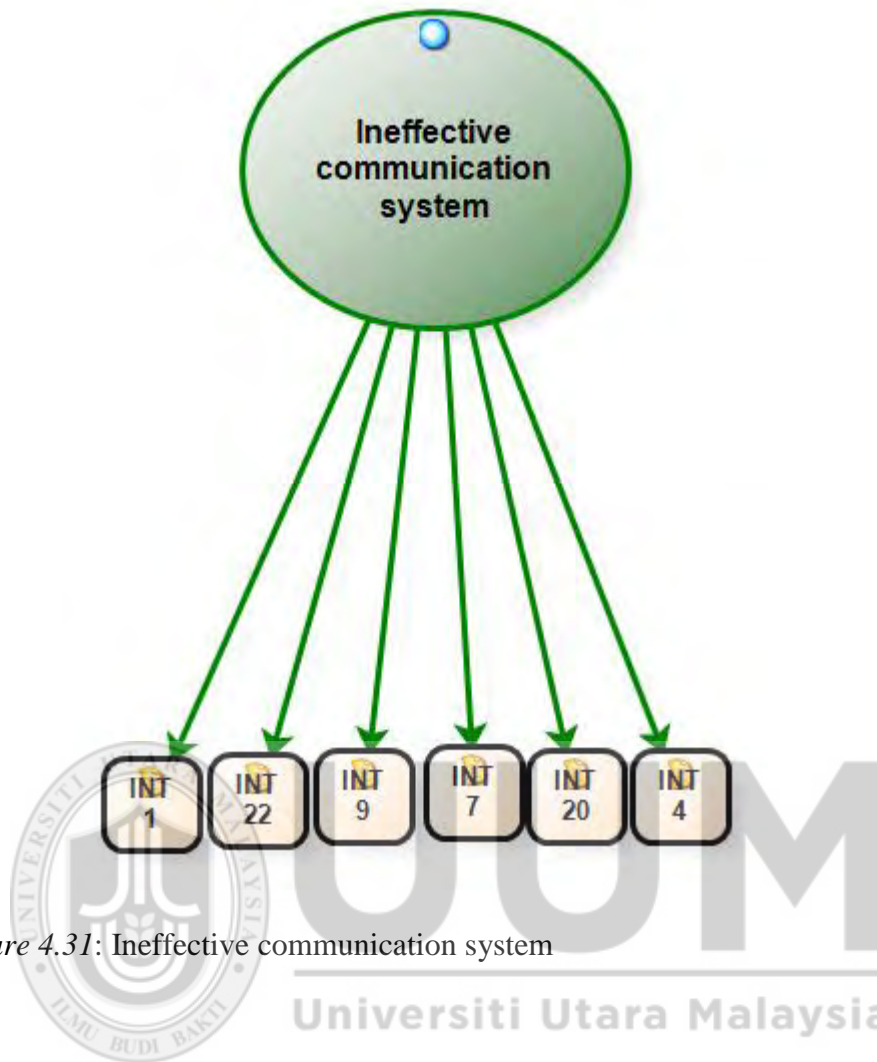
Figure 4.31: Ineffective communication system

4.4.2. Theme Two: Impact of Developmental Agency (NDDC) on Community Development Sustainability

The central goal of community development is to build sustainable community member for the general good of society. The concept of sustainability is the ability to harness the ecological, economic, social and technological to enhance the overall well-being of the people for a better society without compromising the needs of the future generation (Ujoh & Ifatimehin, 2014, Rogers, 2014, Hasna, 2007). Therefore, sustainable community development is guaranteed when adequate consideration is given to the preservation of natural environment, and safety of the local people in implementation of developmental initiatives (Rogers, 2014). More so, community development

initiatives are sustainable when the goals and plans are tied to needs and aspirations of the local community in the context of social, economic and environmental resources. This process will in turn assist in integrating and harnessing the different components of community in achieving the targeted goal.

The findings from the study's interviews demonstrate community sustainability is achievable when developmental goals are able to transform the overall well-being of community members. The interviewees identified those key elements that can enhance the well-being of community members as illustrated in Figure 5.30.
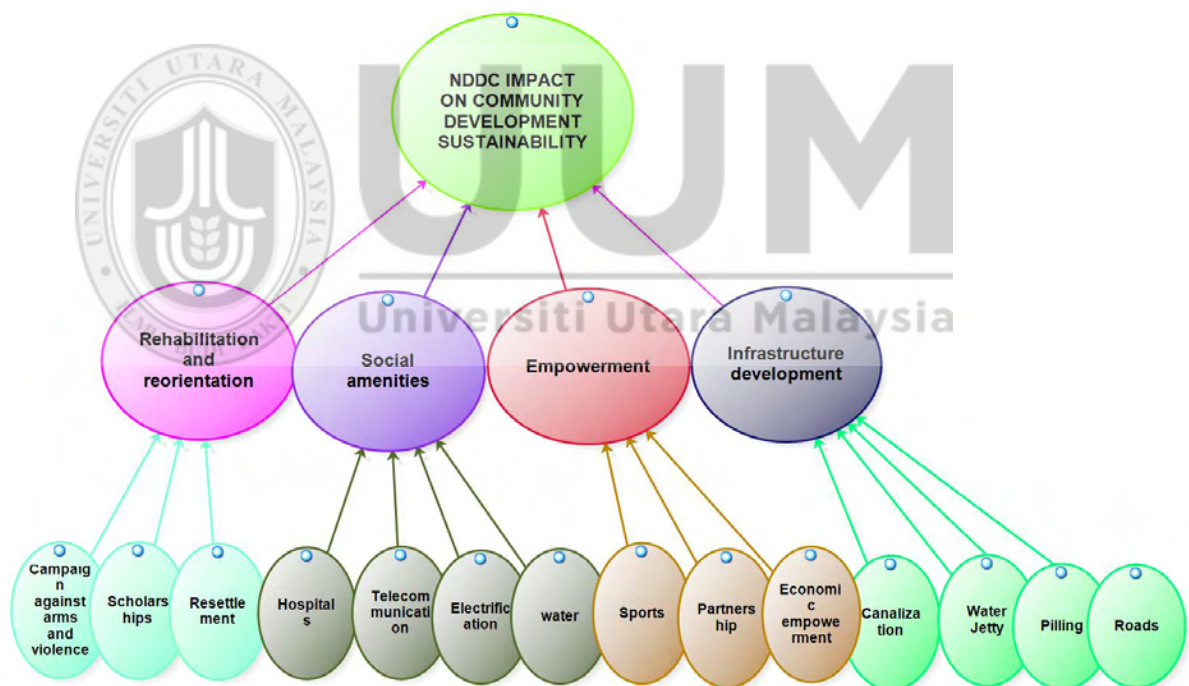
Figure 4.32: Impact of developmental agency (nddc) on community development sustainability

4.4.2.1 Rehabilitation and Re-Orientation of Community Members

In any community sustainability remedy, Panel (2013) stressed the need of integrating such communities into the process of development. Therefore, it is important for NDDC

to integrate the community in the entire rehabilitation and reorientation program. This concern is picture in Figure 4.31 as the community rehabilitation and re-orientation issues identified in the study.
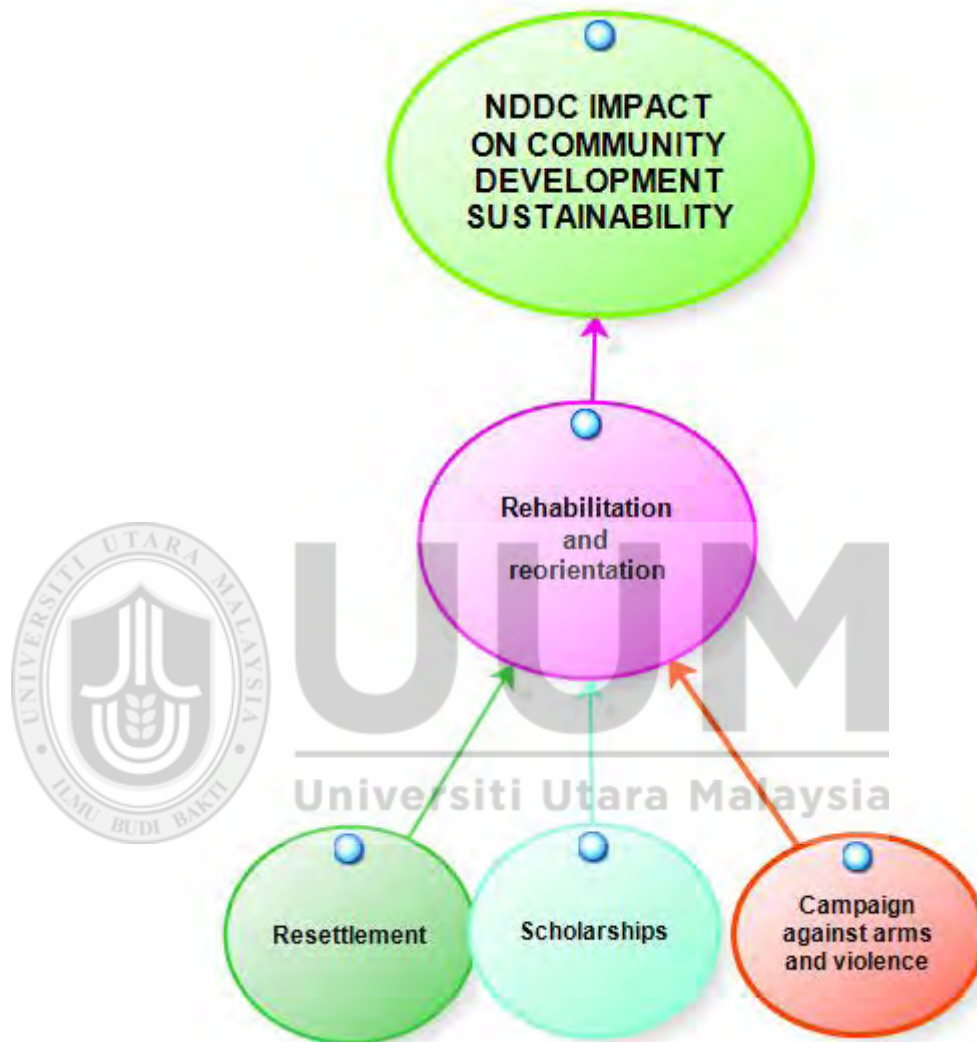
Figure 4.33: Rehabilitation and re-orientation of community members

In particular, the interviewees from NDDC identified some developmental programmes targeted towards reintegrating the youths, and educating community members on the need to embrace developmental initiatives. This was clearly stated by interviewee 20, NDDC officer thus:

> *"In trying to rehabilitate the youths, the commission came up with a deliberate plan to absorb so many of the youths into skill acquisition, we first started by gathering the protesting youths, engaging them, by giving some of them scholarships, contracts, empowerment programmes. We also organize workshops and seminars where we enlighten them on NDDC activities (Int. 20)."*

Corroborating this claim, interviewee 22 another NDDC officer, noted that:

> *"The truth is that many of these youths have been rehabilitated, some sent abroad while other were given the skill acquisition training, thereafter the federal government came up with a more robust plan of Amnesty programme. So with all these programmes and activities most of the youths have been reintegrated into the society (Int.22)."*

She further stressed that; NDDC is a part of this development by way of training youths, channelling their ideas towards positive things. NDDC is training youths based on different skills, (Int.22).

While interviewee 20, another NDDC officer highlighted some of the challenges encountered by NDDC in executing some of these programmes. He disclosed thus; "Because of the lack of funding and also most times when you even train community members and give them loan or starter packs you will not see them again and they will not utilize them ". She added that:

"Another problem, we encountered was that the money they got from these contracts they use it in buying more arms. They re-armed themselves the more, and the group started splitting into different groups (20)."

In a contrary view interviewee 11 community youth leader argued that; "As for the training, skill acquisition and employment nothing is done by NDDC most of the youths are still roaming about the community doing nothing".

Likewise, interviewee 2 youth leader lamented that:

"NDDC did not have any impact in our side. As you see me am doing this ferry work to take care of myself, so many of our youths are not working even the graduates, no job everybody is struggling to survive (Int.2)."

While interviewee 16, another youth leader reiterated that:

"We do not feel the impact of most of the programmes because most times NDDC do not consult with community members to know exactly what area is of importance to us. They just come here and start doing things the way they like (Int. 16)."

4.4.2.1.1 Resettlement of Displaced Community Members

Displaced community members are groups of people in the Niger Delta who have been forced, or obliged to leave their homes, or places of habitual residence as well as farm land as a result of degradation and oil spill. According to Tajudeen and Adebayo (2013), resettlement of displaced people is important because it is a condition in which all are assured the option for a voluntary, safe, and dignified return to their homes, land or

resettlement into new homes and communities. The findings from the interviewees' responses depicts that, the crisis in the Niger Delta due to the constant oil exploration in the region has affected the natural environment resulting into displacement of the local indigenes. Majority of the interviewees lamented that government is not giving adequate attention to the plight of the affected communities. This was echoed by interviewee 9 a CDC chairman who observed that; "If you go round some communities in the Niger Delta, you will see that some of the people are still suffering from the effect of the past crisis especially in the area of accommodation". While interviewee 11 youth leader lamented that:

> *"If you look round this community, you will see that some of the houses are burnt and others destroyed. This was caused by one of the crisis we had in this community when the youths were protesting. We thought by now NDDC will help the community build some of these houses but nothing (Int. 11)."*

Similarly, interviewee 18, community opinion leader expressed concern over the activities of oil exploration. He remarked that "…The continuous drilling of oil has not only polluted the oil producing communities but has made most of the inhabitants homeless". He further added that "… for example the oil spillage that occurs in most of these communities have affected the water, farm lands and the whole environment to the extent that they find it difficult to survive".

The above claims were identified by the NDDC officers as some of the challenges of oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region. However, they argued that, NDDC has not relented in addressing some of these issues despite the challenges faced by the commission. This claim was expressed by interviewee 21 NDDC officer thus:

"The commission has made severally moves in ameliorating the sufferings of the people especially those areas that were grossly affected. So what we did when the board was first established was to make provision by engaging the youths, empowering the women and men to sustain themselves while other initiatives were been made by the board (Int.21)."
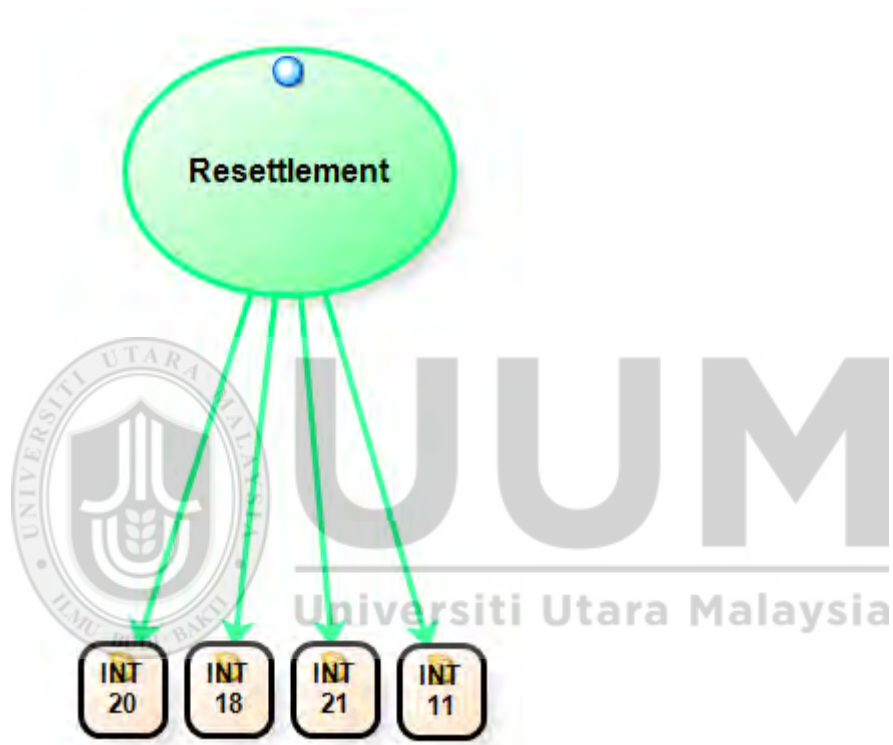
Figure 4.34: Resettlement of displaced community members

4.4.2.1.2 Scholarship Awards to Community Members

In view of the enormous challenges confronting the Niger Delta people, the need for scholarship for education of members of the community has been identified as a mean for sustainability of peace in the area. Already, there is an increased quest for higher educational qualification to meet up with the standard of leaving required in such society. However, according Omeje and Abugu (2015) lack of finance and poor economic climate has given rise to a number of dropouts in schools thereby, limiting

the sustainability of such environment through education. Therefore, as a way to sustaining peace, many of the Interviewees have called for support through scholarship.

This concern was indicated by interviewees 11, youth leader, 7, opinion leaders and 18 other opinion leaders thus "One of the pressing needs of the youths in the Niger Delta is financial support and scholarship to empower them to become useful to their community and society". In the same way, interviewee 9, CDC chairman stressed that:

> *"What we need for our children is support from NDDC in training the youths and giving them scholarship to further their education for those who are interested in going to school. NDDC has done some of these things but they need to do more (Int.9)."*

Another opinion leader interviewee 17 acknowledged the awards of scholarship by NDDC, however, he argued thus:

> *"Yes NDDC has given scholarships to some of the youths in different communities across the Niger Delta, but the question is how many of these youths are employed after such programmes? This is where the problem lies (Int. 17)."*

He further suggested that; "The best way to empower the youths is not just the training or award of scholarship, Government should make adequate provision for jobs for the youths on completion of such programmes" (Int.17).

Meanwhile, interviewee 20 NDDC officer reported that:

> *"The commission has done well in the area of scholarship across the Niger Delta by sending some of the youths abroad to further their education in both*

Masters and PhD programmes while some are trained in the area of skill

acquisition (Int.20)."

Also interviewee 21, another NDDC officer asserted that:

"NDDC has really done well in the area of scholarship award to community

members especially the youths. Every year selected youths are sent abroad for

training and also to further their education. I can categorically tell you that we

have done very well in this area (Int.21)."

However, interviewee 22, another NDDC officer revealed thus:

"Yes, NDDC do give scholarship to community members across the Niger Delta

region. But I must tell you this, some of the complaints you hear from some

communities of being neglected is not the fault of the commission but the

interference of politicians who always interfere in the affairs of the commission.

This is one of our major challenges (Int.22)."

Buttressing this claim, interviewee 20 asserted that:

"NDDC is also giving scholarships to those who are academically sound to go

further. You will find out some of these youths carrying out this protest are well

educated but they are not engaged So they create room for themselves by way

of this agitation, a way of engaging themselves. So NDDC re-channel

development of the youths by training them academically, skill acquisition, and

different skills (Int.20)."

However, he noted thus:

"Like I told you, politicians have hijacked most of the activities in NDDC so we do not have autonomy of how project selection even in the implementation process even in the awards of scholarships. Most times ours is to monitor (Int.20)."

Figure 4.35: Scholarship awards to community members

4.4.2.1.3 Enlightenment Campaign in Community against Violence

As part of the strategy to entrench sustainable peace in the Niger Delta, it becomes necessary for enlightenment campaign against violence and change of the narrative about the Niger Delta. People should talk about positive things about the Niger Delta; enlighten the populace through campaign seminars to change the idea and approach from violence to peaceful agitations (The Nation, November 21, 2014). Based on this view, interviewee 20 NDDC officers stated thus:

"We talk to them to be patient and wait for things to work out gradually not by violence but by peaceful consultation. We also use this medium to appease them to be patient and also make them feel happy by building a kind of confidence in them that things will work out not immediately but gradually (Int.20)."

He further remarked that:

"...Knowledge in terms of increasing their level of reasoning because some of them are illiterates. For example, the people we work with are the CDC chairmen, women leader, and youth leader. In those workshops they bring out their own ideas and we reason with them then at the end of the day they are better informed (Int.20)."

While another NDDC officer, interviewee 21 inserted:

"We enlighten them about NDDC vision, and mission. This include offering a lasting solution to the socio-economic difficulties of the Niger Delta, while the mission which is the mandate proper is to facilitate the rapid, even sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, and economically regenerative and politically stable (Int.21)."

He further noted thus; "However, there is need for us to appreciate where we are as a people, our value system and where we are going to be in terms of development" (Int. 21).

Figure 4.36: Enlightenment campaign against violence

4.4.2.2 Availability of Social Amenities

The ecological devastation occasioned by oil exploration has rendered farming and fishing, which are the main occupations of the rural people of this region, useless. As noted by Ebegbulem, Ekpe and Adejumo (2013) not only farming and fishing, major occupations of these mostly riverine minorities decimated, but their territories have continuously lacked basic infrastructure and amenities: electricity, roads, schools, hospitals, portable water, etc. In line with this, most of the interviewees also suggested that as part of the sustainable development, there is a need for social amenities such telecommunication, provision of hospital, pipe born water and electricity for the communities as depicted in figure 4.35.

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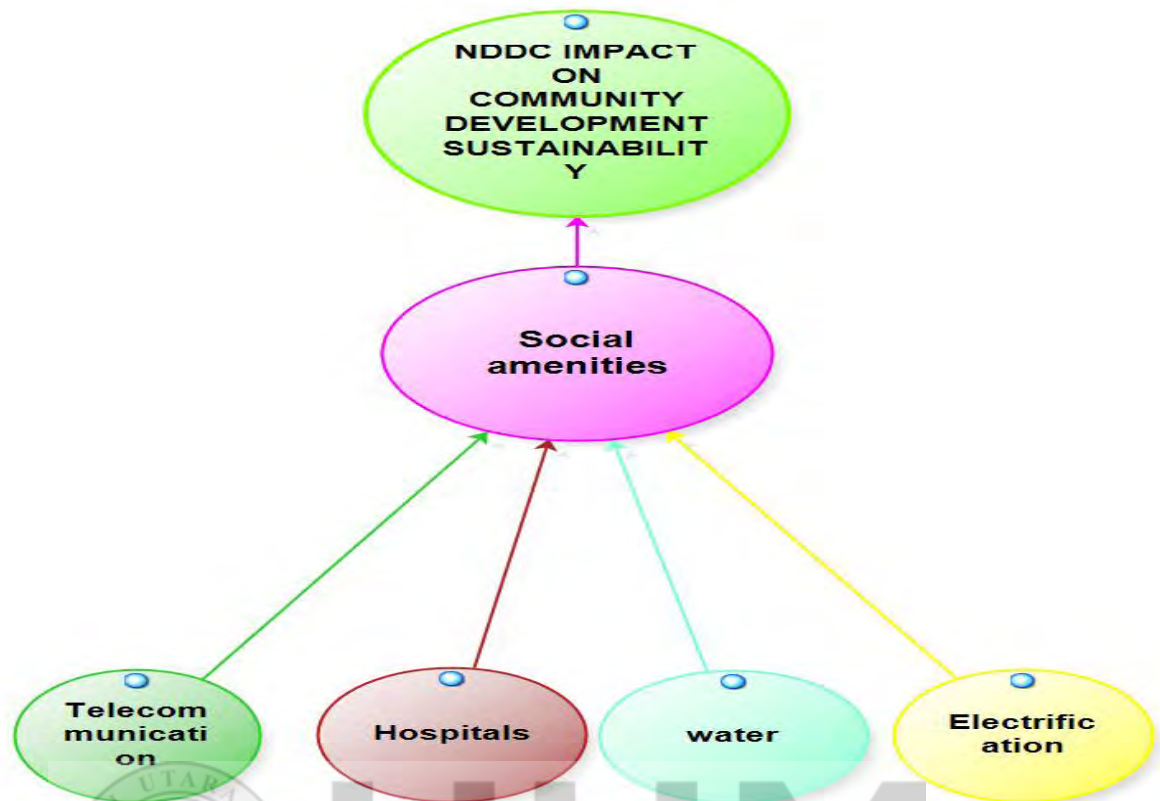
Figure 4.37: Availability of social amenities

4.4.2.2.1 Provision of Telecommunication System

In view of the fact that information and telecommunication play an important role in almost every human activity, the need for this facility in the Niger Delta is obvious. Communication values in the development process as well as community sustainability have been a topic of extensive discussion. Adequate and prompt Information dissemination and accessibility have the capacity to reduce tension and misinformation among restive communities. Therefore, ICT facilities have great capacity to provide much needed information for target groups (Etebu, 2009). This claim was identified by Interviewee 20, NDDC officer thus:

> *"Communication became difficult because of the environment they find*
> *themselves. That is why NDDC has made deliberate efforts to put in place some*

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communication network to facilitate social and economic activities of the rural

people (Int. 20)."

Similarly, another NDDC officer interviewee 22 noted that:

"Communication companies are partners with us, like GLO a mobile

communication network, setting up communication mast in the rural areas.

Today, through NDDC almost all rural areas in the region are connected to

communication network subsidized by NDDC (Int.22)."

Buttressing the above claim, interviewee 17 community opinion leader asserted that; "Yes, NDDC has tried in the area of communication. Like that mast over there was built by NDDC".

Meanwhile, interviewee 2, one of the youth leaders noted thus:

"We have good communication system like MTN, GLO, Etisalat etc. We do not

know if NDDC is part of this, what we hear is that, it is the federal government

that has made this possible (Int.2)."

Likewise, interviewee 9, CDC community chairman emphasized that:

"To the best of my knowledge, the mobile communication you see operating in

this community is not through NDDC but the government. I don't know if NDDC

has done in other communities but here am not sure because it cannot be hidden

if they have executed any such thing here (Int. 9)."

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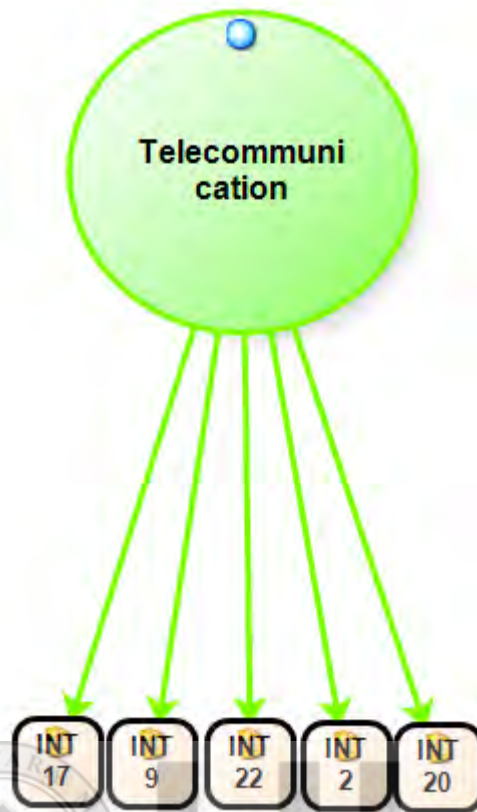
Figure 4.38: Provision of telecommunication system

4.4.2.2.2 Provision of Hospitals

Following the health hazard that have resulted due to sustained oil exploration in the

Niger Delta, it has become necessary for provision of hospitals and other health care

facilities in the region that would bring quality healthcare closer to the people and

enhance their capacity in healthcare delivery. Most importantly, the need to build the

capacity of the people to run the hospital is necessary as a way of empowering them.

Though, the NDDC apart from providing equipment and drugs is also rehabilitating

hospitals and health centres as well as building new ones but much is still needed in

view of the enormity of the state of the health condition of the people. Stressing the

importance of health care, Igboanugo and Martin (2011) posited that, a well-trained and

supported workforce is vital for achieving satisfactory health service provision in the

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Niger Delta. However, a health centre with skilled workers without an adequate supply of specialized equipment still amount to nothing. Healthy societies can develop economically as well as socially when the required facilities in accordance with the prescribed standards are put in place. This view was affirmed by majority of the interviewees including the NDDC officers on the need for improved health care facilities in the Niger Delta region.

According to interviewee 20 NDDC officers indicated that:

> *"Due to the effect of gas flaring and other explorative activities in the Niger Delta, the commission has made conscious efforts in the area of health care delivery such as free medical care, free drugs and renovations of some dilapidating health care centres (Int.20)."*

Also, interviewee 22, another NDDC officer reiterated thus; "… hospitals have been built in some communities while some were being renovated". She further revealed that: In the area of adequately equipping these health centres is another challenge due to lack of funding I have been telling you".

More so, another NDDC officer interviewee 21 divulged that; "The commission has not relented in the area of health care for the Niger Delta indigenes because of the peculiarity of the region. Hospitals are built and equipped according to the financial capacity of the commission". He added that; the inefficiency of some of these health centres is due to underfunding of NDDC (Int.21).

However, interviewee 7 opinion leader lamented thus; "Here in Afiesere, we don't have any hospital built by NDDC, we have to go to the next town when we need medical care. This is very bad, what happens if there is an emergency"?

While interviewee 17 community opinion leader noted that; 'We have one health centre built by NDDC but most people do not go there because it is either they don't have drugs or no nurse on ground to attend to patients". In addition, interviewee 5, youth leader lamented that; "we don't have hospitals here, the only abandoned one is more than 30 years and was not built by NDDC".
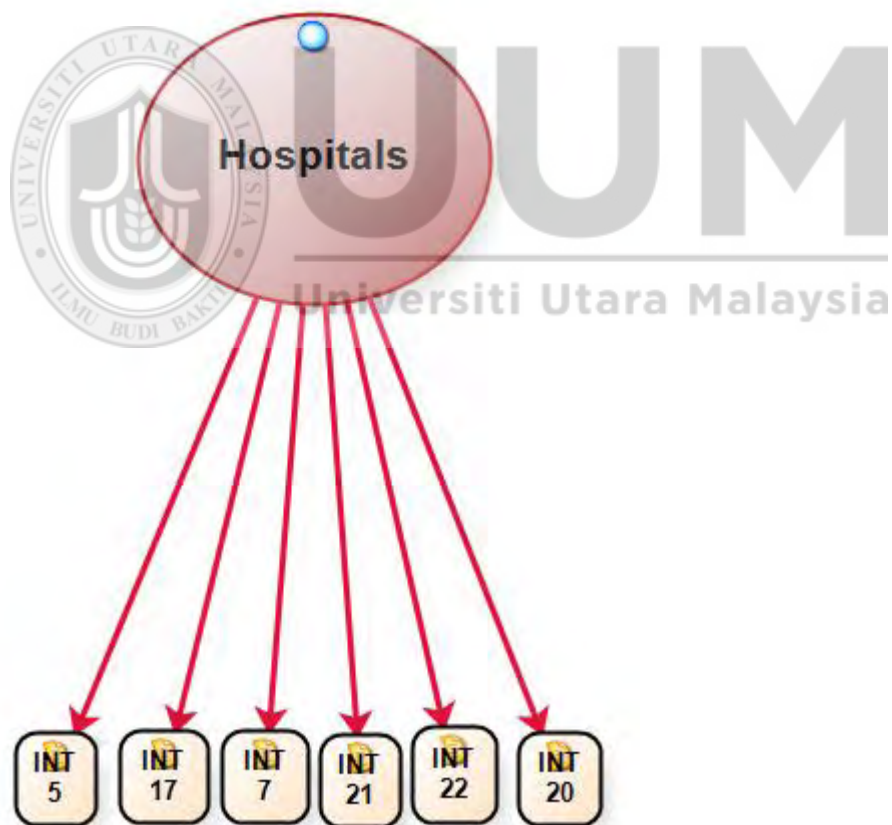
Figure 4.39: Provision of hospitals

4.4.2.2.3 Availability of Pipe Borne Water

Water problems that are observable in most Nigerian cities include the poor distribution in time and space in relation to the needs of urban residents (Efe & Mogborukor, 2014). The findings from the study's interviewee depicts that the activities of oil exploration have affected the source of water supply in most communities in the Niger Delta region as a result of oil spillage and other environmental hazards. This was categorically stated by interviewee 18, opinion leader who reported thus:

> *"The activities of the drilling companies have really polluted the rivers and streams which is the major source of water supply in most of the rural communities and the government is not helping the communities at all in this regards. Although, here in Omoku community we have pipe borne water, while so many out there do not have (Int.18)."*

In the same way, interviewee 6, women leader expressed thus: "…Here in Oloibiri, we have pipe borne water but before you get that in your compound you have pay to digging of bore hole. This is not done by NDDC". More so, interviewees 5, youth leader, 19, women leader and 9, CDC chairman, lamented thus; "Most of the water tank done by NDDC are not working". While interviewee 5, youth leader stressed that; "As I said earlier as for the water tank, it is there but nobody is using. It has never been used because it was never commissioned and nobody has ever gone there to use it.

Emphasizing on the need for pipe born water in the Niger Delta region, especially in the oil producing communities, Interviewee 3, women leader stressed that:

> *"Water is life and when people are deprived from the source of life that means you are subjecting them to death especially when their main source of water*

has been tempered with. This is the scenario of most of the rural communities

producing the oil used to service the Nigeria economy (Int.3)."

Nevertheless, interviewee 21 NDDC officers indicate that:

"NDDC has commissioned some water projects across the Niger Delta

communities and we are very much aware that they are working but how

effective I cannot say. But here in Delta State where I operate I don't think we

have much problem with supply of water (Int.21)."

However, interviewee 22 divulged that; "Yes, NDDC has executed water projects in most of the rural communities but I must tell you the truth, because of financial constraints, we are unable to meet up with the demands of all the communities".
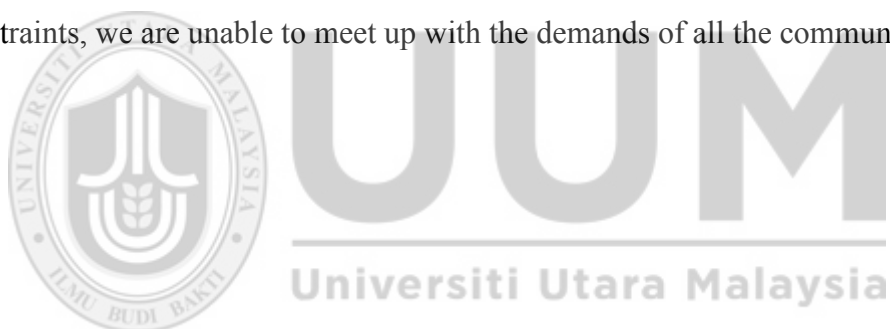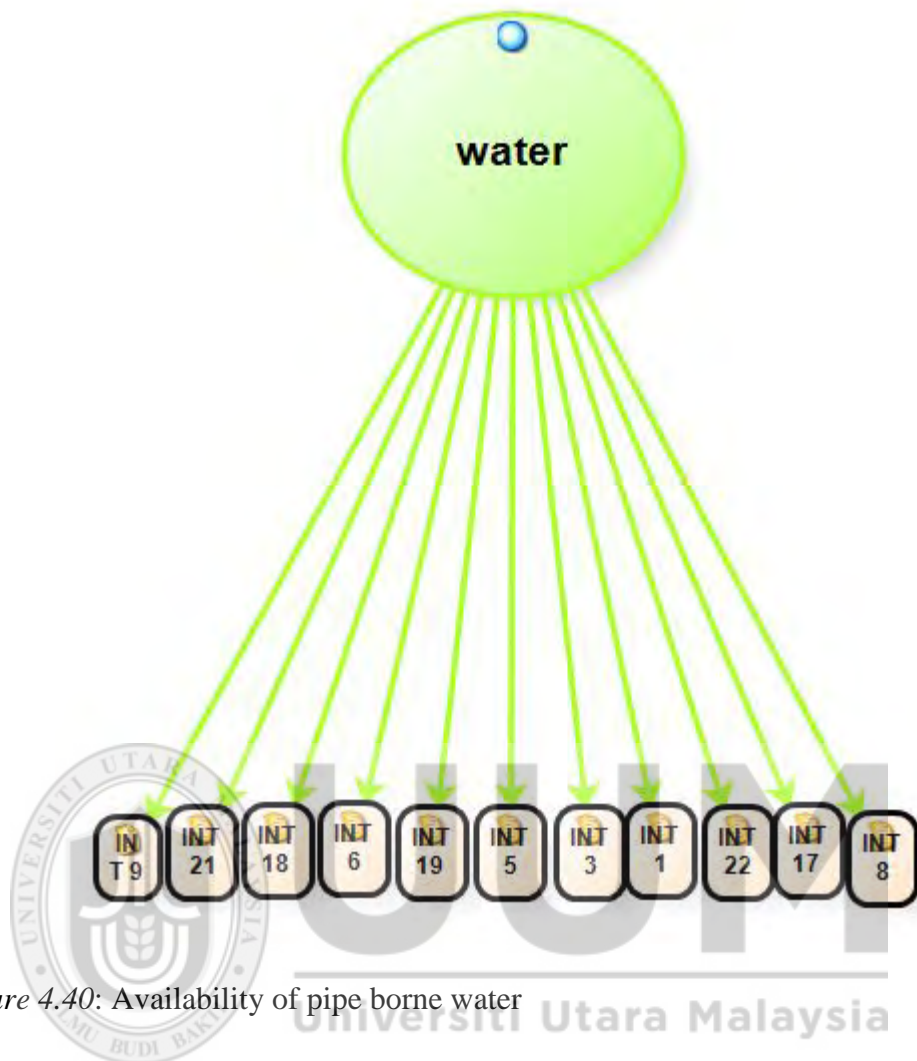
Figure 4.40: Availability of pipe borne water

4.4.2.2.4 Electrification of Community

Having been identified as a mean to promoting the welfare of community and improve the economic status of the people, electrification of community in the Niger Delta has become a vital need towards rehabilitation and sustenance of peace. The importance of electrification of the community was corroborated by Afa (2013) who stressed that socio-economic development processes rotate around suitable and sustainable power supply. In fact, it is the core of operations as well as the engine of growth for all sector of the economy. It also determines the living standard of the people. This view was expressed by interviewee 11, youth leader who lamented thus:

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> *"One major problem we have in Koko community is electricity. You see since you came now, no light even when they give us the light it does not last 5 hours before it goes off and we lack transformers, this one you see here is over 20 years though, it is still working. That one you are seeing there is serving almost ten kilometres. How do you think this will work all these households? No way (Int. 11)."*

Buttressing this claim, interviewee 6 community women leader reiterated that:

> *"As for electricity it is not constant at all. We hardly get light. We have to buy iced blocks from Yenagoa, the State capital or we run generator to cool our drinks and water before selling. This is really affecting our business (Int.6)."*

In the same way, another women leader interviewee 12, noted that; "Light is our major problem here and its really affecting our business especially those of us who have shops and need to cool our drinks and water". Reiterating this assertion, interviewees 9 CDC chairman, 18 opinion leader and 5 youth leader echoed thus "Light is a serious problem that needs NDDC attention". Meanwhile, interviewee 15 another opinion leader revealed thus "Here in Omoku we have some transformers but they are not enough to cover the whole community".

Interviewee 22 NDDC officer argued that; "NDDC developmental inputs and effects are seen all over the area across the State. For example, lights, transformers".

While another NDDC officer, interviewee 21 revealed thus:

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"I wouldn't say all the communities have benefited in terms of electricity because that will be over exaggeration. The truth is that because of the interest and powers that be, it is not all the communities in Delta State that has been opportune to have or feel the impact of the commission because, the Nigerian system and the Nigerian power play has not evolve to the level that you can now say let give Afiesere Community this and it will remain or probably somebody that is a power broker is not from Afiesere can pull the strings up there to make Afiesere benefit, so you see, on that basis I will not say it is all the communities, but if you ask me, all the regions in Delta that cuts across the 3 senatorial distracts, I will tell you we have done remarkably well (Int.21)."
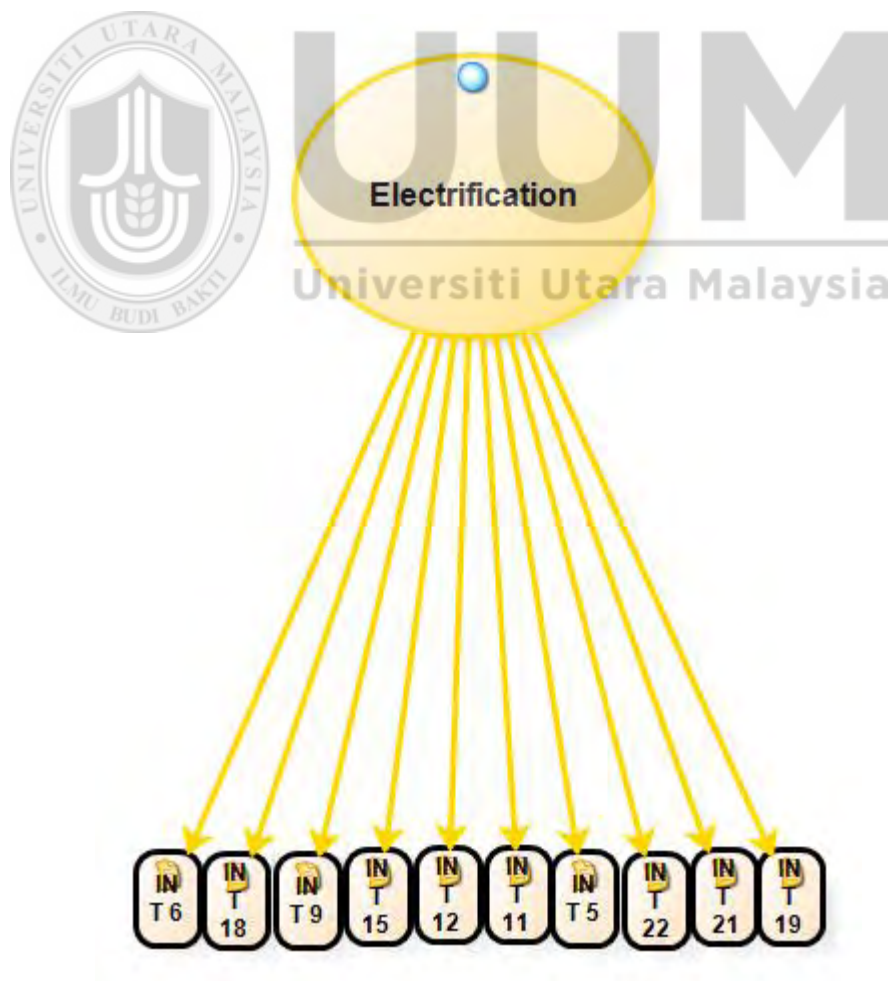
Figure 4.41: Electrification of community

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4.4.2.3 Empowerment of Community Members

Empowerment of community members is vital step towards development because it can create a very positive impact on the lives of many of the community members. In most cases, after empowerment some of the members who are 'liabilities' on themselves and the community, will be able to make something positive with their lives. Studies have indicated that empowerment creates positive atmosphere whereby community members collectively contribute to the improvement and sustainability of their community (Nzeadibe, Ajaero & Nwoke, 2015, Ekanem & Inya ng, 2014, Narushima, Wong, Li & Sutdhibhasilp, 2014). The findings from the responses of the interviewees depict the essence of empowerment to both the individual and the society. They interviewees identified some key factors that can enhance the socio-economic activities of rural communities in the Niger Delta region such as economic empowerment while Figure5.39 shows interviewees reflection on empowerment.
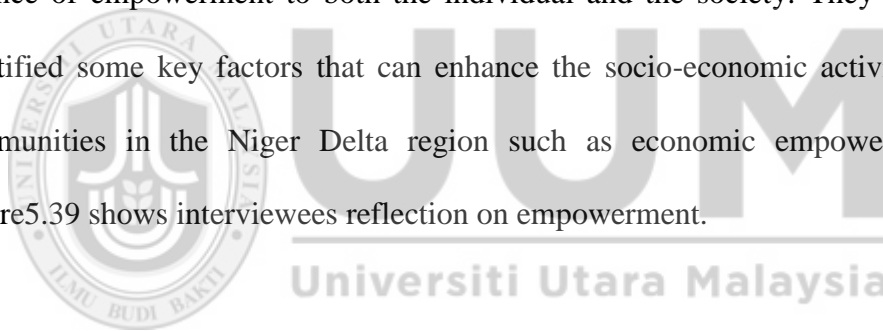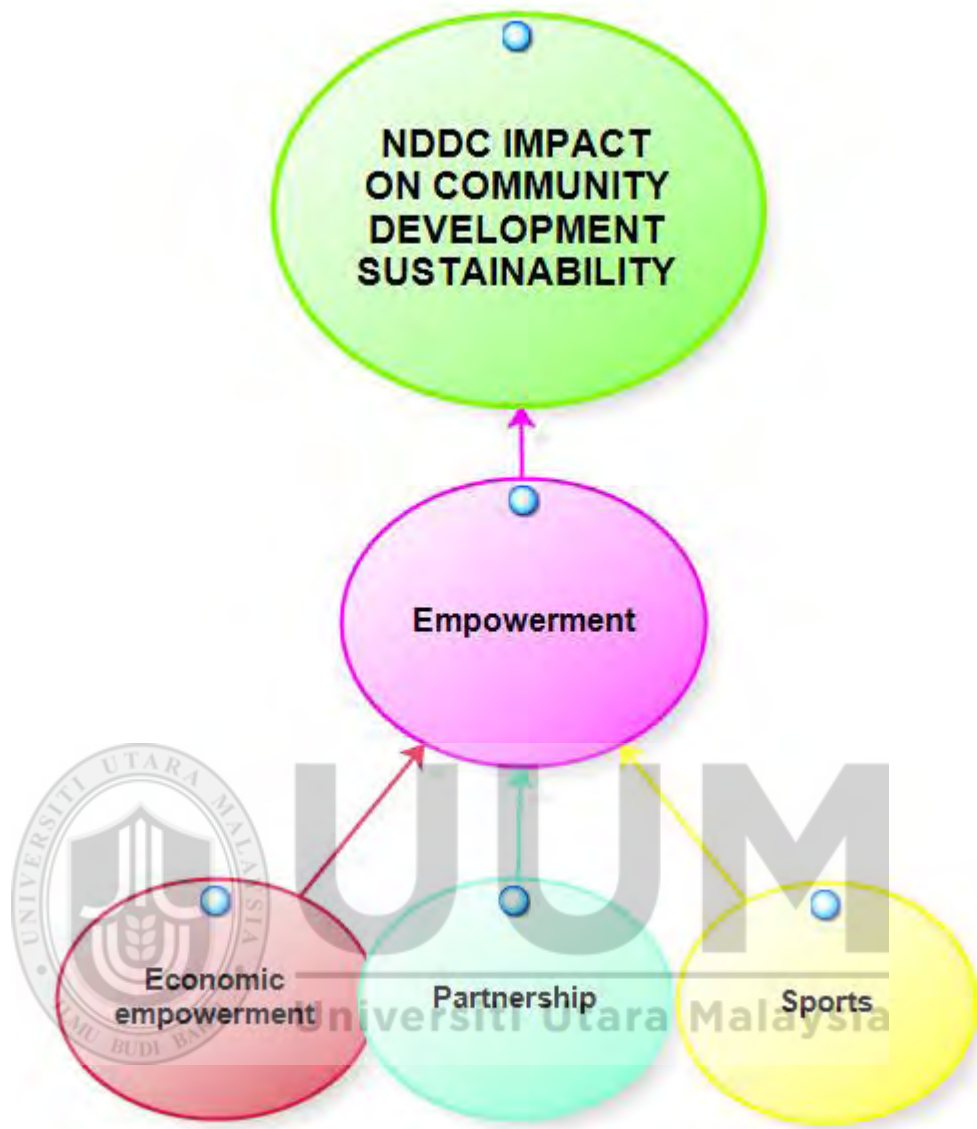
Figure 4.42: Empowerment of community members

4.4.2.3.1 Economic Empowerment of Community Members

Recognition of the economic interests of community in addressing the environmental issues of the Niger Delta and as a means of tackling unemployment, poverty and restiveness in the region is vital. According to Jones (2015) economic empowerment is a major component of women as well as men's total empowerment and liberation.

This is in line with interviewees 7, opinion leader, 10, women leader, and 15, another opinion leader remarked thus, "People should be trained to the extent that they can manage what they have within their environment to make them live a comfortable and good life"

Highlighting some of the consequences of training without empowerment, interviewee 1 CDC chairman leader observed thus:

"We hear all over the place NDDC empowerment programmes and activities, this is a very good way of developing the local communities in the Niger Delta especially the youths. Most of these programmes are waste of money and time because after training nothing to show for it (Int.1)."

While interviewee 16, youth leader noted that; "Do you know the effect of training without empowerment? It can lead to frustration, anger and also some of the youths might end up going back to the creeks "(Int. 16).

Reiterating this claim, community youth leader interviewee 11 stated that:

"We have come to see that all these programmes are just jamborees, waste of time and resources. Of what use does it make when you train a person and you do not empower the person? Empowerment is not just training, but how to survive with what you have learnt that is the essence (Int.11)."

Likewise, interviewees' 4 and 5 opinion and youth leader remarked thus "Empowerment is key to national development". This view was supported by interviewee 2, another youth leader that "We the youth need empowerment from government so that we can help ourselves and community".

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These perspectives corroborate with the views from NDDC officer interviewee 20 who indicated that:

> *"Empowerment is one of the focuses of NDDC because it will help to reduce the level of youth restiveness in the region. We acknowledge this fact, but like I have always said lack of adequate funding is affecting our performance because you need money to train and also empower after training (Int.20) "*

In the same way, another NDDC officer interviewee 21 revealed that:

> *"The ideology behind this entire programme was to train these people and get them started with Starter Park but because of the lack of funding, so a few percentages of them were able to be empowered especially in the area of human capacity training. While some of the groups were left as a result of lack of funding (Int.21)."*
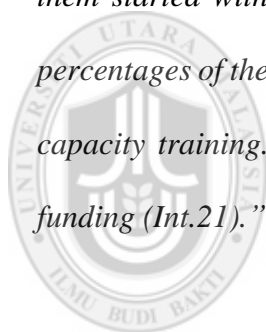
Whereas NDDC officer interviewee 20 in a contrary view blamed community members' attitude that:

> *"NDDC is trying to see how community members can be self-reliant through some of our programmes like skill acquisition training that cuts across different areas like welding, carpentry, tailoring and even scholarship awards to study outside Nigeria despite the lapses of underfunding that we have. But community members are not encouraging us at all. After training we give the starter packs and even give some soft loan to start with but at the end some will sell the materials while for the loan they hardly pay back (Int.20)."*

Emphasizing on the attitude of community members as impediment to impact of NDDC empowerment scheme, interviewee 22 NDDC officer observed thus:

> *"These entire empowerment programmes will not work because of these mind sets confronting them. Nobody wants to work; everybody wants quick money. Even when you give them loan they will not pay back and also will not do what you give them the money to do (Int.22)."*

She noted further that; "They have been exposed to oil and politics money so to redirect their attention to this type of labour that there is dignity in labour becomes an issue" (Int.22).

This claim corroborates the views of interviewee 20, who reiterated that:

> *"This is because society has shifted from dignity in labour to getting quick money without dignity. In those days, people want to work and have money with pride, but this day nobody want to work because there is plenty money in oil and politics. To call them back to come and work is a problem. So in most communities, there are very few people to sustain the agricultural work in the community (Int.20)."*
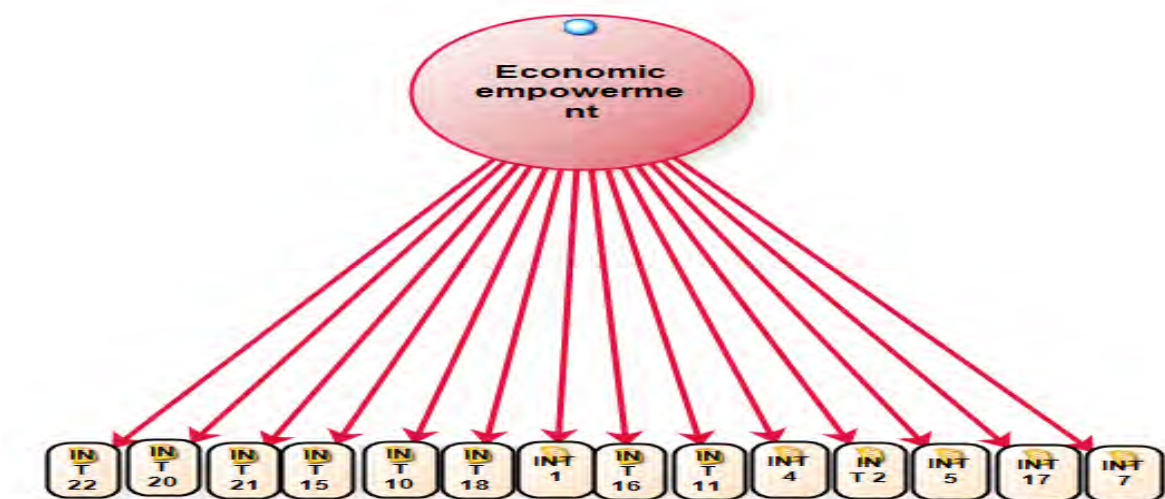
Figure 4.43: Economic empowerment of community members

4.4.2.3.2 Partnership with Other Stakeholders

Both government and non-governmental agencies have adopted partnership approach as one of the ways of achieving sustainable peace and development in the Niger Delta. This approach is used as a platform for supporting development programs and activities for community empowerment and well-being (Rao, Vlassoff & Sarode, 2014). It also creates a forum where community members can share ideas and skills with other stakeholders that will contribute meaningfully to the development of their community since they have a better understanding of their immediate environment. According to Nwankwo (2015) and Wilson (2014) emphasized the need for all stakeholders to work together for efficient and effective implementation of projects. Likewise, Isidiho and Sabran (2015) asserted that when community members are given opportunity to be involved in the decision making with other stakeholders in the development of their community, it strengthen relationship and peaceful co-existence amongst all parties. Partnership therefore is a binding force that unites individuals within a group and creates a serene atmosphere for successful collaboration and peaceful dialogue. This view was expressed by interviewee 20 NDDC officer thus:

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"Communities are also stakeholders in our partnership programme. That is why the development of the Niger Delta should be a holistic approach where the Federal, State, Local government and even the communities will be partners to speed up development (Int.20)."

He however indicated that:

"So what we are now doing is the partnership arrangement, partnership with other developed standardized organization to do something. So we have got rice farm, cassava farm, it is no longer under the care of the people again but we do a kind of partnership, we teach them on how to fish, farm and at the end of the day we try to set them up. But only very few persons are interested because nobody wants to work again, they want free oil money. Nobody is interested in carpentry, auto-mechanic, fishery they are all interested in quick oil money and politics because this is where money is coming from (Int.20)."
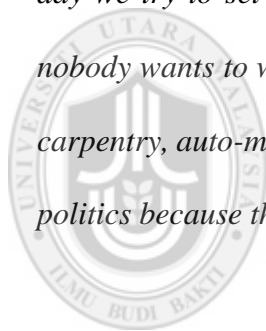
Also another NDDC officer interviewee 22 revealed that:

"NDDC went beyond that by forming what is called "PSD" planners for sustainable development, this involve leaders and stakeholders of the region and that gave birth to the master plan, that master plan is not for only NDDC, it is for all stakeholders to know what to do, so that there would be no duplication of projects and also no vacuum. If that one is not there, you see that what the state government is doing, the NDDC will come up also to do such programmes and other organization (Int.22)."

She further noted that:

"The PSD is used as a forum to harmonize development projects to avoid any

form of opposition especially from communities. Initially, this was going on fine,

governors, chairmen of Local government including community leaders were

attending this meet, but now it is failing. The idea behind this forum is to ensure

the stakeholders that there is sincerity in the system (Int.22)."

Likewise, interviewee 21, another NDDC officer echoed that:

"The Master Plan was drafted in 2003 and from 2004-2005 it came up proper

and the ideology was now being replicated into all the 9 Niger Delta States

down to the grassroots for everybody to appreciate, the ideology was actually

a Tripartite (3 fold) Arrangements. That is "Public Private Partnership

Arrangement" (PPP). The ideology is that NDDC as an organ will be able to

plan for each State and Community for each year to know what they need in

order not to duplicate projects/programmes already done by either the State

government or any other agency or company within that State or community.

The Master Plan was so planned to cut across all the States to touch all facets

of life ranging from Agriculture, Environmental issues, health sector, human

and infrastructural development (Int.21)."

Stating one of the key challenges to the actualization of the partnership program,
interviewee 20, NDDC officer observed that:

"However, the local and state government did not see themselves as partners in

the development. They get their allocations and they don't plan with NDDC but

rather sees NDDC as a competitor. They see NDDC as a Federal government

thing. So therefore, they felt NDDC is responsible to do something. So this is

also a big problem. Whenever NDDC is planning and they are called to come and make their input you don't see them, they don't come. They see themselves as a different government and NDDC as a different government. The most important problem we have is the community, because they are hungry, they never see any good idea, idea is nothing to them, planning is not important to them, all what they are after is to get money from NDDC, so they are not cooperating (Int.20)."

In a contrary way community opinion leader interviewee 15 argued:

"NDDC is supposed to be our development partner as part of their social responsibility to ameliorate the sufferings of the people, that is the essence of the board but most of the people are not benefiting, NDDC do not work with us that is why most of their projects have not really changed the state of our community (Int.15)."
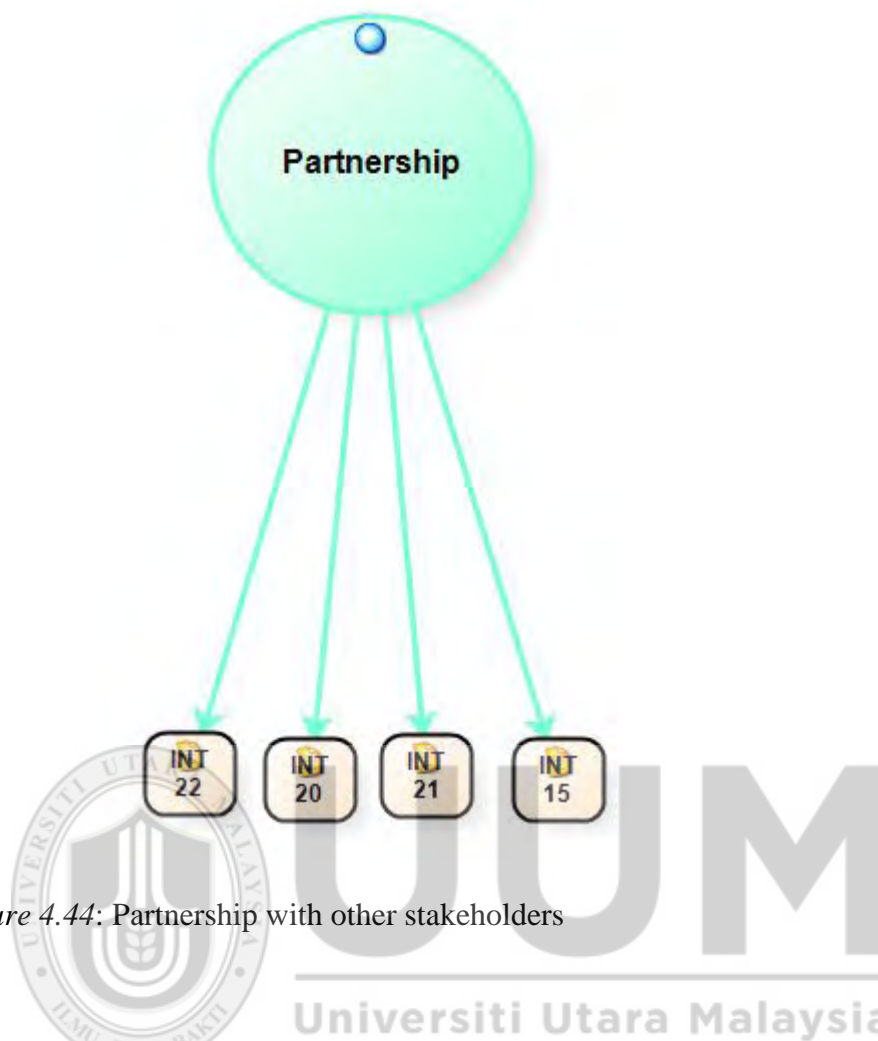
Figure 4.44: Partnership with other stakeholders

4.4.2.3.3 Sporting Activities for Youth's Development in Community

The development and sustenance of community is a vibrant process involving all sections of the community, comprising the often-overlooked youth group. The key component to this process is found in the creation and maintenance of channels of interaction and communication among diverse local groups that are otherwise directed toward their more individual interests. Previous research supports the strategy that participation in community activities is associated with behavioural well-being among adolescents (Brennan, Barnett, & Baugh, 2007). In view of this, the Interviewees disclosed that engagement of the youth through sports is a strategy that can bring about sustainable peace to the region. For instance, interviewee 20, NDDC officer indicated that:

"Embedded in the vision of NDDC is a promotion social and recreational activity to engage the youths and also to channel their minds towards creative activities like football, in door games and other sporting activities (Int.20)."

Similarly, another NDDC officer interviewee 21 stated thus; "One of the targets of the commission is how to engage the youths in the region in other to dissuade their minds from violent activities and we have come up with some recreational activities like sports and other social activities".

Also, interviewee 22 noted that; "Our programmes and activities also promoted sports just to absorb some of the jobless youths who were agitating at that time".
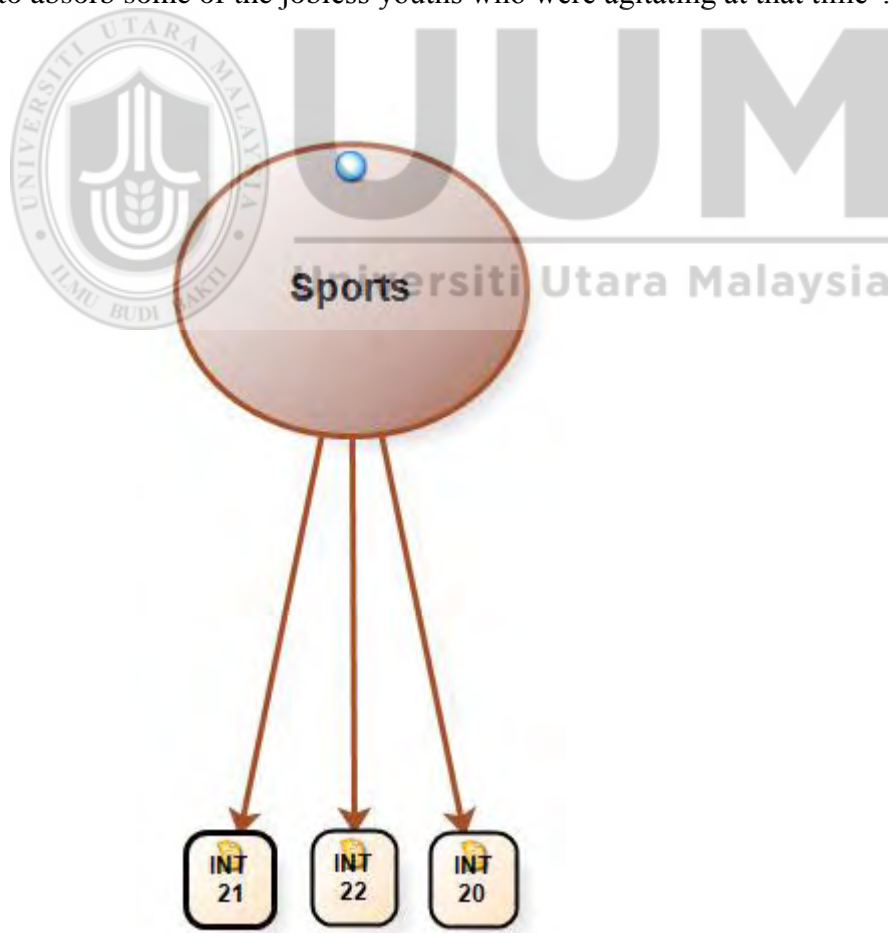
Figure 4.45: Sporting activities for youth's development in community

4.4.2.4 Availability of Infrastructural Facilities

Infrastructure plays a vital role in fostering economic growth and well-being of individuals in society Rose (2015). Infrastructures are the basic facilities and structures serving a region necessary for effective functioning and improvement of societal living conditions, such as roads, bridges, water supply, electricity and telecommunication (Awuzie & McDermott, 2012). The quality of a nation's infrastructure is a reflection of its economic strength (Onu, Surendran & Price, 2014). Thus, the consistent availability of clean and portable water, electricity, roads and effective communication network are basic pre-requisites of a productive and viable system (Olaseni & Alade, 2012). In other words, lack of infrastructures does not only affect economic growth but also impedes on the well-being of people in a society.

Therefore, evidence from the study's interviewee revealed that one of the major causes of poor living condition in the Niger Delta is due to the absence of sustainable infrastructures. According to majority of the interviewees both from community and NDDC officers, NDDC has made available infrastructural facilities across the Niger Delta region. However, communities noted that most of the projects have not impacted on their environment and well-being. Some of the infrastructural facilities identified by both NDDC officers and community members are construction of pilling, water jetty, canalization and roads as shown in Figure 4.43 below.

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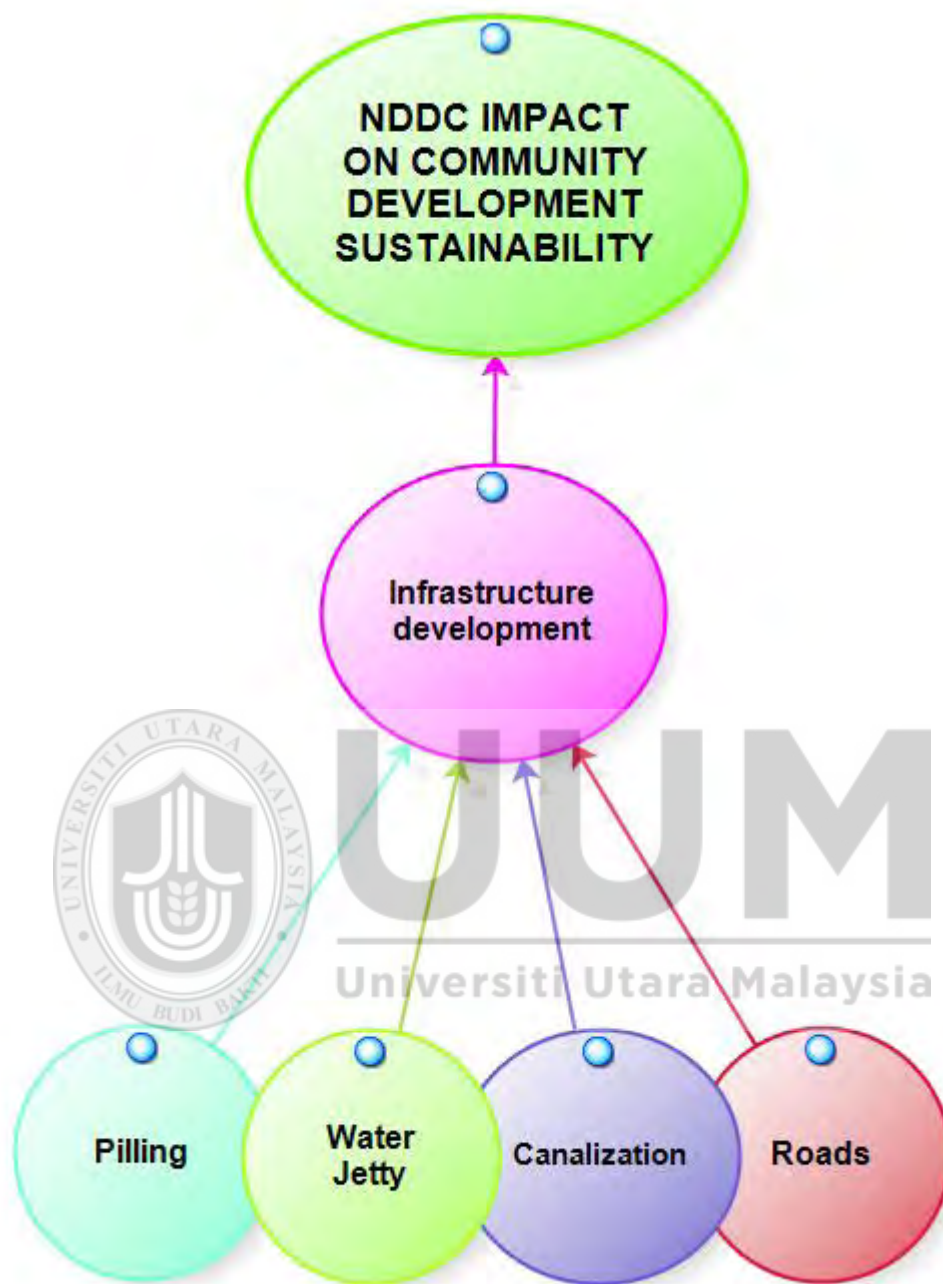
Figure 4.46: Availability of infrastructural facilities

4.4.2.4.1 Piling Construction in Community

Piling is the installation of pieces of hard woods and steels into the ground as a support

for large and heavy structures such as bridges and building. It is also used for protection

and the prevention of erosion in wet land and coastal regions (Ohimain, 2011). The

process and techniques of installation depends on the topography of the location and

soil composition (Adejumo, 2013). The Niger Delta is characterised by wetlands, mangrove forest, lowlands, fresh water and coastal boundaries. These areas are predominately occupied by the rural communities who solely depend on the natural environment as primary source of survival (Ebgbulem, Ekpe & Adejumo, 2013). Several studies (Musa & Mynett, 2014; Nwankwoala, Amadi & Warmate, 2014) have indicated the need for piling in the Niger Delta region due to its vulnerability to the sea shore. The findings from the study's interviewee depict the need for piling construction for improved socio-economic activities and well-being of community members. Although, interviewees affirmed that there are constructed piling structures, however, most of them have been abandoned while the completed ones are insufficient in meeting the demands of the inhabitants. This was affirmed by interviewee 1 CDC leader who narrated thus:

> *"Sea shore pilling is very important because of the erosion but our annoyance is that the contractors who were giving the job came over 2 years ago left and recently they came back dropped some materials for pilling by the seashore and promised coming back to do the job that is the proper pilling and promise they will bring a pilling machine instead of the manual they have been using but they did not come and (NDDC) did not come to see if they have completed the job (Int. 1)."*

Similarly, another community youth leader interviewee 11 revealed that:

> *"... especially the piling. You see how close the river is to the road. But I don't really know, when they started the project, we were all really happy but that these people want to save our roads, but suddenly they shut down and they all went back to their office, the piling was not completed. In fact, they did not even*

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do one-quarter (1/4) of the job. It is still there abandoned. You can go there and

see for yourself (Int.11)."

Also, interviewee 12 community women leader stressed thus "…None, not at all. NDDC has not done any tangible project here, whether physical or human capital project. NDDC has not done serious work here as you can see what we need is piling to help prevent erosion". Similarly, interviewee 2, youth leader observed that "Most of the piling works done by NDDC are not completed, they leave them half way".

On the contrary, NDDC officer interviewee 20 argued that; "To the best of my knowledge, NDDC has done well in the area of this pilling thing we are talking about especially in the riverine communities but you see communities keep complaining it's not enough (Int. 20).

In the same way, another NDDC officer interviewee 22 observed thus:

"Let's take shore protection for example in the riverine area. There are some

communities in these areas that are by the riverside, so the river floods the

communities rendering the people homeless. NDDC has done this shore

protection project to prevent the water from sea from entering into the

communities that are surrounded by water thereby protecting the land, which

is a very good one (Int. 22)."

While another NDDC officer, interviewee 21 divulged that:

"Yes, NDDC has done a lot of pilling construction work across the Niger Delta

in the riverine communities but I keep saying this, because of the financial

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constraints we have in this commission most of those facilities lack adequate

maintenance because it cost a lot of money to build and also to maintenance

(Int. 21). "

Figure 4.47: Pilling construction in community

4.4.2.4.2 Construction of Water Jetty

Jetties are constructed structures that stretches from the land to the sea. They are used to protect the shorelines from heavy tides and currents from the sea (Qin, Wu, Yin & Xiao, 2012). They are used to create safe access to coastal regions and also for delivery of goods (Kundu & Bhattacharya, 2013). Based on the views of the interviewees, construction of water jetties was identified as one of the major infrastructural facilities needed by the local communities especially those communities surrounded by water. By virtue of the nature and occupation of the Niger Delta people which includes fishing and farming, water jetties are used as means of transportation to connect with other neighbouring communities (Jiang & Gao, 2015). Nevertheless, community members lamented the insufficient provision of jetties and abandonment of existing ones. This

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was clearly noted by NDDC officer interviewee 21 thus; "NDDC has constructed of jetty which has helped in the opening of water ways to facilitate movement for community members (Int.21).

Corroborating this claim, interviewee 1 CDC chairman stressed that; "The only area I know we are benefiting is the jetty and we are happy (Int.1). Also, another community youth leader interviewee 2 noted thus; "Like the pilling of the seashore and the landing jetty is ok but not completed we lack landing jetty here. We need it so much because that is one our major means of transportation and business (Int. 2). These claims was expressed by interviewees 3 and 11 women and youth leader respectively thus; "The area we have benefitted from NDDC in some little way and still benefiting is the landing Jetty" (Int.3 &11).

Meanwhile another women leader interviewee 12 echoed that:

> "Well, as for the shore protection and jetty, we need them very much than electricity and roads. But NDDC should put more efforts. We need more jetty and more transformers to get light. As for the roads, we can manage for now, but let them do more jetty for us because this is what we use for our businesses to get money (Int.12)"
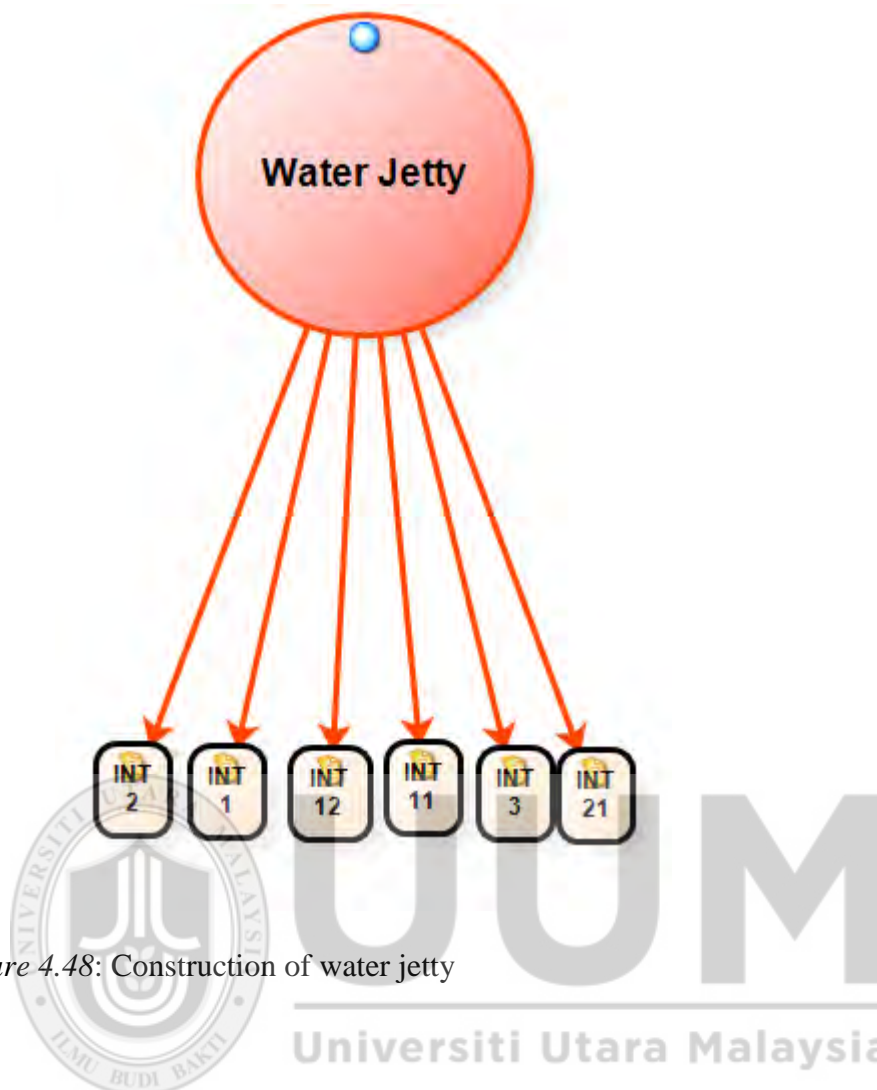
Figure 4.48: Construction of water jetty

4.4.2.4.3 Building of Canals in Community

A canal is a long narrow pathway of water flow deliberately constructed by man for irrigation and access route to bigger area of water. It is also used for connecting boats docked to bigger waters. Canalisation is used mostly by communities located by the rivers whose main means of transportation is the water. This helps to reduce the distance of moving from one community to the other especially for traders and business men and women (Kundu & Bhattacharya, 2013).

This claim was rightly noted by interviewee 20 NDDC officer thus:

> *"For example canalization, the Niger Delta problem is also canalization. Communication became difficult because of the environment they find themselves. So with the canalization movement from one place to another became easier. Roads were open up (Int. 20)."*

While interviewee 11 community youth leader reported that:

> *"They wanted to pile the community, that is building canals to prevent erosion and water from the river from entering the community but you know government and the way they do their things, they fold up but as for the drainage they finished it and for the piling nothing is done there (Int.11)."*
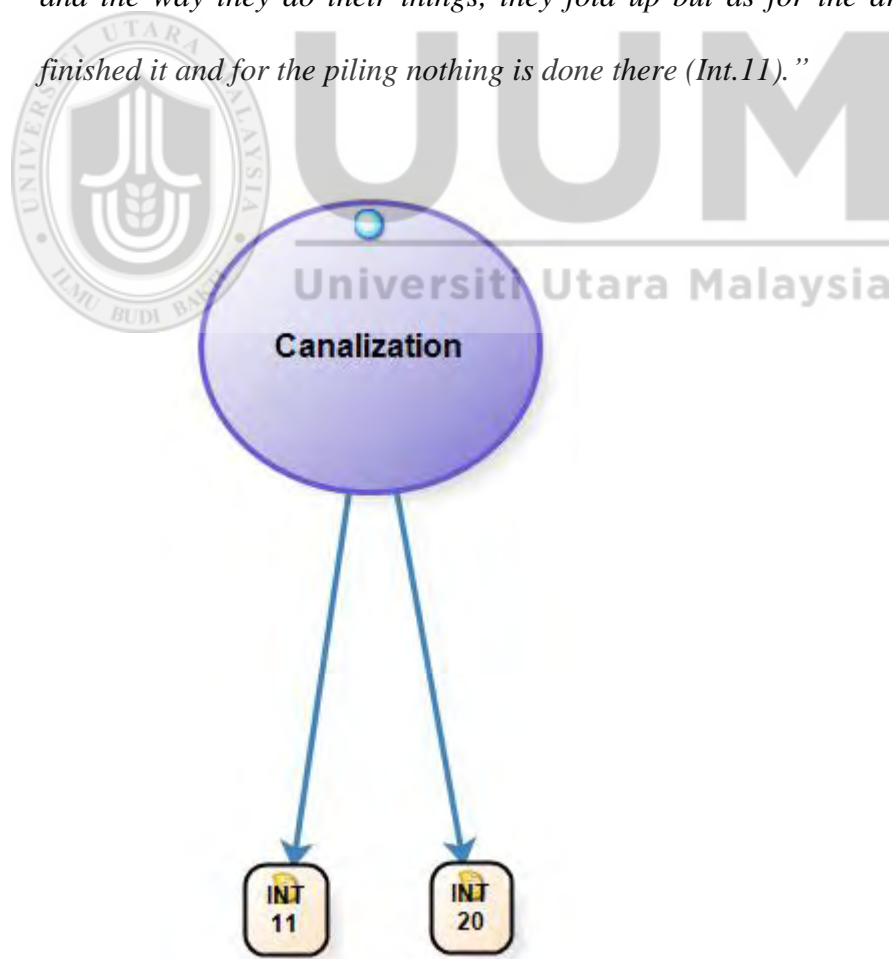
Figure 4.49: Building of canals in community

4.4.2.4.4 Construction of Roads

The construction of viable road network is significant in accelerating socio-economic growth and improved standard of living of a country's populace (Samson & Abimbola, 2014). Evidence from several studies indicates the relationship between poverty, socioeconomic development and availability of dependable road network (Avwiri, Nte & Olanrewaju, 2013). For instance, (Gujba, Mulugetta & Azapagic, 2013, Olajuyigbe, Rotowa & Durojaye, 2012) posited that improved transportation system have major implication for poverty reduction, food insecurity and increased income. Similarly, Williams, Idowu and Olonade (2015) and Onu, Surendran and Price (2014) study on the Niger Delta and poverty alleviation revealed that one of the major reasons for poor living condition in the Niger Delta communities is lack of accessible roads. They therefore suggested that, there is need for government to engage in construction of sustainable roads that will help to boost the socio-economic activities of rural people. Buttressing this view, interviewee 5 youth leader lamented thus:

> *"As for the road it is very important and we are benefiting from it but when it's raining, everywhere is flooded and the roads are messy because they are bad. As for this road, it was constructed in 2006 its old already no maintenance (Int. 5)."*

In the same way, interviewee 1 CDC leader noted that; "… like the road is very important we are benefiting from it but most of the roads are in skeletal form, not fully completed". Likewise, interviewee 17, opinion leader asserted that; "As for the roads, NDDC has tried for Omoku community before now, so many of our roads are really bad". Also, interviewee 12 community women leader reported that; "You need to come

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here during the raining seasons, most of the roads are not accessible. NDDC do not come to maintain the roads after construction".

Meanwhile, interviewee 7, community opinion leader shared that:

> *"NDDC have not executed any projects in Afiesere. If you talk about infrastructure, there is nothing on ground; In fact, the road is very bad. As I speak with you now, the roads are very bad, vehicles are not able to go into the town, and major parts of the roads are gone. NDDC promised doing something, till now nothing has been done. If you look at the road as you are entering Afiesere and the bridge through which you can use to cross into Afiesere nothing has been done (Int.7). "*

This claim was also expressed by 13, youth leader thus "All these good roads you see us enjoying were not constructed by NDDC, but oil companies operating around here". While interviewees 15, 10 and 6 community opinion leader and women leaders echoed thus "We don't have good roads, NDDC should construct roads for us to make movement easy for us".

Nevertheless, interviewee 21 NDDC officer stated that;"In terms of project NDDC has achieved so much in terms of projects like roads". More so, interviewee 22 another NDDC officer affirmed that; "… other areas like infrastructural development. NDDC built roads across the Niger Delta region because the commission saw this as a priority in other to help facilitate socio-economic activities in the rural areas".

While interviewee 20 NDDC officers revealed thus; "The commission has tried in the area of roads construction but you see the cost of maintaining these projects is much and the commission does not have that kind of money for now".
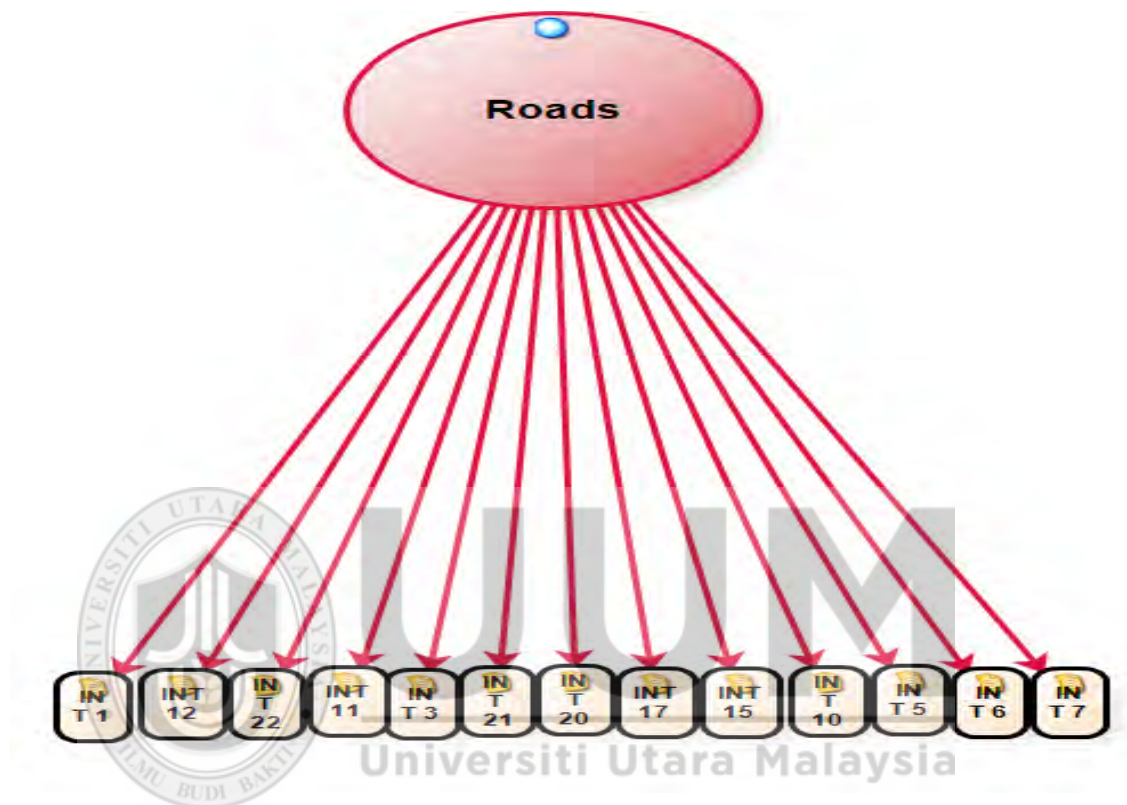
Figure 4.50: Construction of roads

4.4.3 Theme Three: The Role of NDDC in Resolution of Conflict

Globally, there is an increasing demand on the need to integrate a more strategic conflict resolution preventive mechanism by government and non-governmental agencies in their developmental initiatives and policies (Nwankwo, 2015). The focus of this concept is to strengthen existing conflict resolution strategies that can help to avert and reduce internal crisis by way of facilitating social cohesion and developmental goals (Onuoha, 2015, Rustad, 2015). Findings from the study's interviewee revealed that the response of people in a conflict prone environment to developmental initiatives is

achievable when there is quick and short term provision to satisfy their immediate needs and demands. However, there are negative implications on the sustainability of such projects. The interviewees identified some of the quick response projects executed by NDDC in the Niger Delta in the first year of its creation to quell down the accumulated grievances of past developmental failures. These include quick impact projects, capacity building and re-orientation of community members on the need to embrace developmental initiatives which is picture in Figure 5.48.
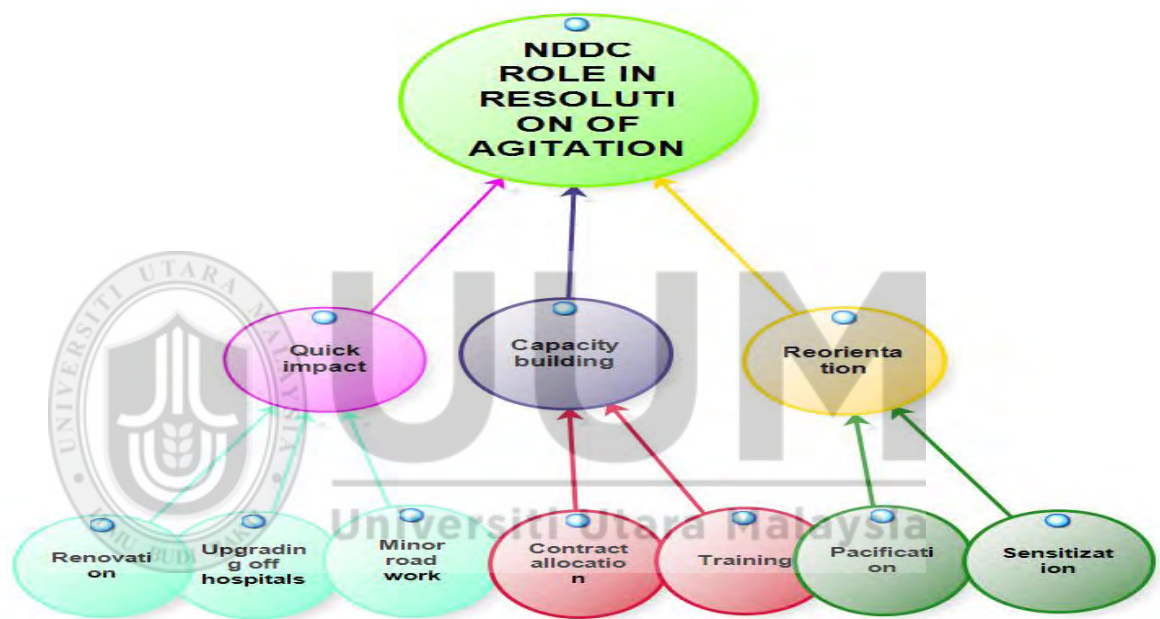
Figure 4.51: Conflict resolution as a means for development sustainability

4.4.3.1 Quick Impact Development

Based on the interviewees' responses, quick impact projects are the immediate and temporary provision of developmental projects and programmes executed by developmental agencies in a location that is prone to crisis. This is represented in Figure 4.49 as quick impact development framework based on this study.
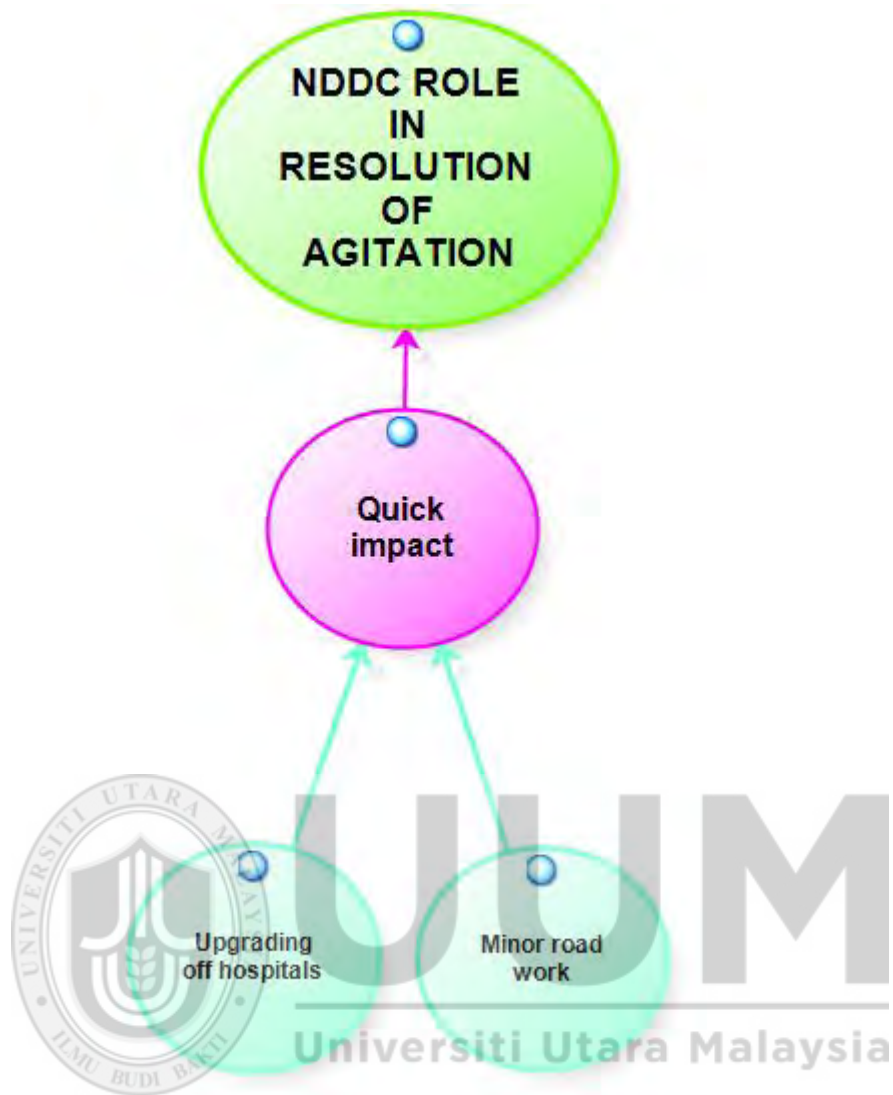
Figure 4.52: Quick impact developments

The rational for adopting this approach is to address the pressing needs of the target population to reduce tension while negotiations are on-going. Quick impacts projects are usually small scale projects with low cost financial commitments planned and executed within a short frame of time (Chilaka & Nwaneke, 2015). They serve as a support projects for rural communities and also a platform for confidence building between the local people and developmental agencies, however, they are short-lived benefits and do not completely address the salient issues on ground (Ukeje, 2015).

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Buttressing these views, interviewee 20 NDDC officers highlighted some justifications for quick impact intervention approach adopted by NDDC. He narrated thus:

> *"When NDDC, it was saddled with so much responsibilities in developing people who have been neglected for a very long time, how to go about it becomes a problem, where do we start from, if you look at road infrastructure, zero, if you look at health sector zero, if you look at communication and electricity nothing to write home about. If you look at water, school, even the economy of the Niger Delta people, nothing, the only source of income was fishing. All these problems were there even before NDDC came on board. These were the problems confronting the commission, so where to start from became a problem (Int.20)."*

He further revealed that:

> *"Well, in the midst of all these problems I told you confronting the commission, we used about a year to look at a conceptual framework, what method, what approach to use to tackle these problem and they came up with some skeletal sectorial intervention moves. But what they came up with was divided into two, one is the immediate impact approach of development because everybody is yearning for development and if you want to plan well nobody want to plan with you and planning takes time. While the planning process on how to address the developmental challenges confronted by the commission was going on (Int.20)."*

Likewise, interviewee 22 echoed that:

"The first move by the commission was to create impact everywhere, let it be that something is being done, for example school renovation, minor road work, minor clinical & health centres upgrade. We were doing little things to create impact. So at this stage, NDDC has done little intervention to calm the tensions. We were giving them quick impact services at that time and it was scattered all over oil place but because they are not properly planned for, is another problem. However, these quick impacts really reduced level of agitation in the region because some contracts were given to them which brought food on their table, but this was not a proper development step because at that time that was the only way out because they will not wait for you to plan for gigantic projects before they can benefit, because at that time they needed development seriously. The first two to three years was used for this quick impact development (Int.22)

4.4.3.1.1 Upgrading of Health Care Facilities

Upgrading of developmental projects involves the improvement of existing facilities and people in terms of skills and capacity building within an establishment or organisation (Opiah, Ofi, Essien, & Monjok, 2012). This is usually done to meet up with demands of increasing population using institutionalised specifications and standards of the status-quo as a guide (Duru, Peterside & Akinbami, 2013). John et al (2015) maintained that, the quality and availability of public facilities are basic requirements for improved living condition of the target population. Similarly, Igberase (2014) noted that, the improvement of social amenities is a catalyst for enhanced quality of life especially in rural communities. While Ganiyu and Erah (2015) study on infrastructure in the Niger Delta, suggested that there is need for government and non-governmental developmental agencies to improve on existing infrastructure to ensure

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positive impacts on community well-being. Some of the interviewees affirmed the availability of health care facilities in their communities, however they lamented that most of the health care centres were not functioning due to lack of man power and insufficient facilities.

According to interviewee 20, NDDC officer noted thus; "During this quick impact development, did renovate some dilapidate hospitals in some of the communities and it also provided free medical treatment to community members".

Similarly, interviewee 22 disclosed that:

> *"These quick projects were meant to calm the tension in the region and also address some pressing issues like the health hazards due to the constant gas flaring in the region. So the commission started by renovating some health centres and hospitals and also providing free medical care to the local people (Int.22)."*

Buttressing the above assertion, interviewee 15 community opinion leader observed that; "The first few years of the establishment of NDDC, we saw that they were doing a lot of things like renovation of school, hospitals, roads and were all happy but after some time the whole thing stopped".

Also, another community opinion leader interviewee 4 noted that; "NDDC started well but they could not complete most of the projects they started. If you go round this community, you will find out that some project started 10 years ago are still there uncompleted".
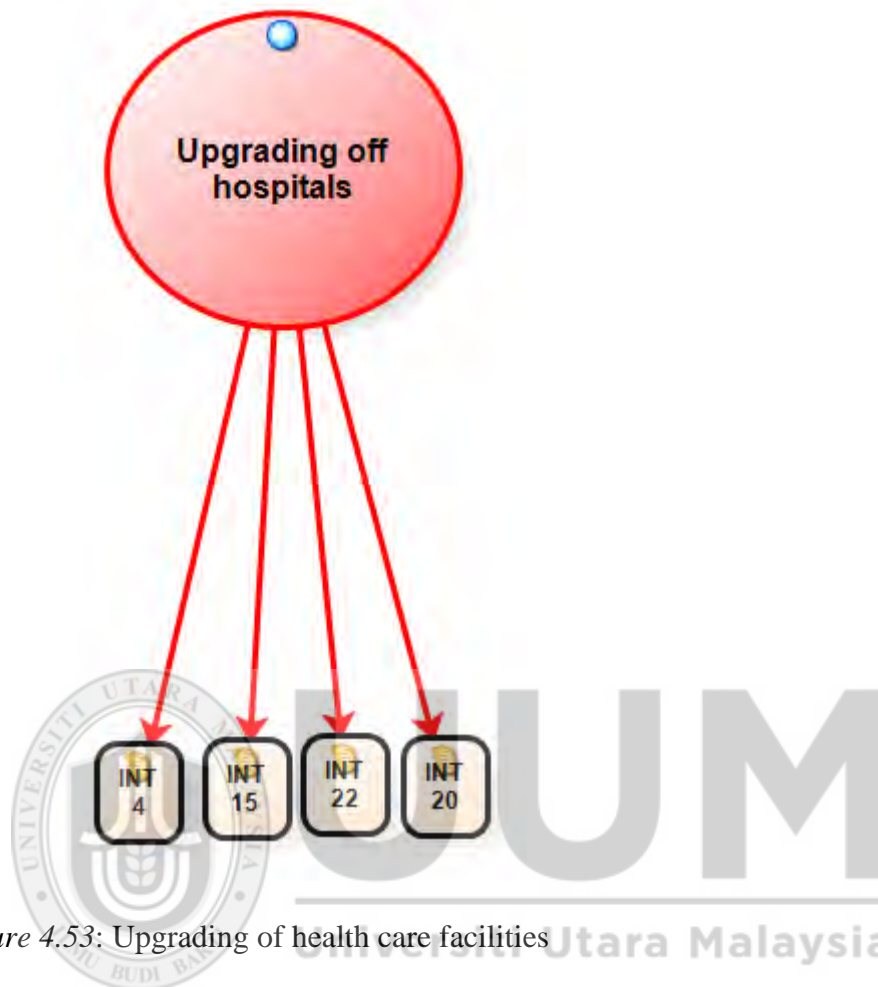
Figure 4.53: Upgrading of health care facilities

4.4.3.1.2 Minor Road Work

Accessible rural roads play significant role in the social and economic activities of the indigenous community in the Niger Delta region (Akani et al, 2013). The major source of livelihood of the Niger Delta rural communities are fishing and farming. These activities have been greatly hampered by the constant of oil exploration taking place in the region which has affected their means of livelihood (Akpan, Essien & Isihak, 2013). Therefore, it's of importance to them to have accessible road network that will enhance mobility of community members in accessing market opportunities within and outside their community. This will create market opportunities for them to access other villages

for exchange of goods and services as a means of sustenance. This view was expressed by interviewee 10 women leader lamented that; "Our roads are very bad especially when it rains you cannot access the roads. NDDC is not trying when it comes to road maintenance". She further narrated thus; "Here in Afiesere community, once it is raining you cannot go out, you cannot come in. Our roads need serious repairs".

On the other hand, NDDC officer interviewee 22 noted that; "One of the major areas the commission focused when we came on board was the renovation of roads because most of the roads at that time were in very bad shape". Reiterating this claim, interviewee 21 revealed that; "… minor road works were going on across the Niger Delta region especially those areas that are located close to the waters". While interviewee 20 remarked that; "… All these renovations like the minor road works we were doing at that time was not a long term development but to reduce the tension in the region before we can precede properly".
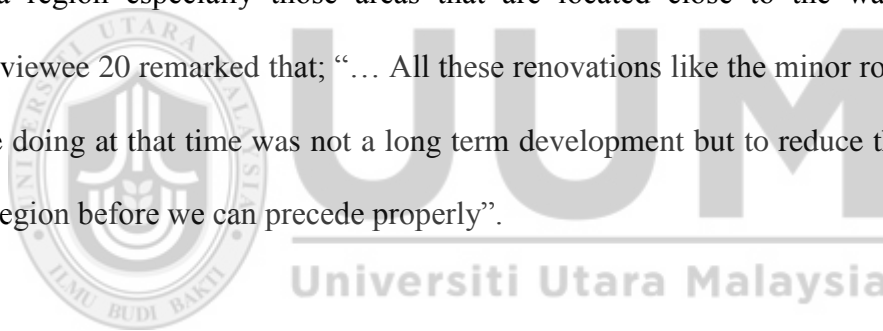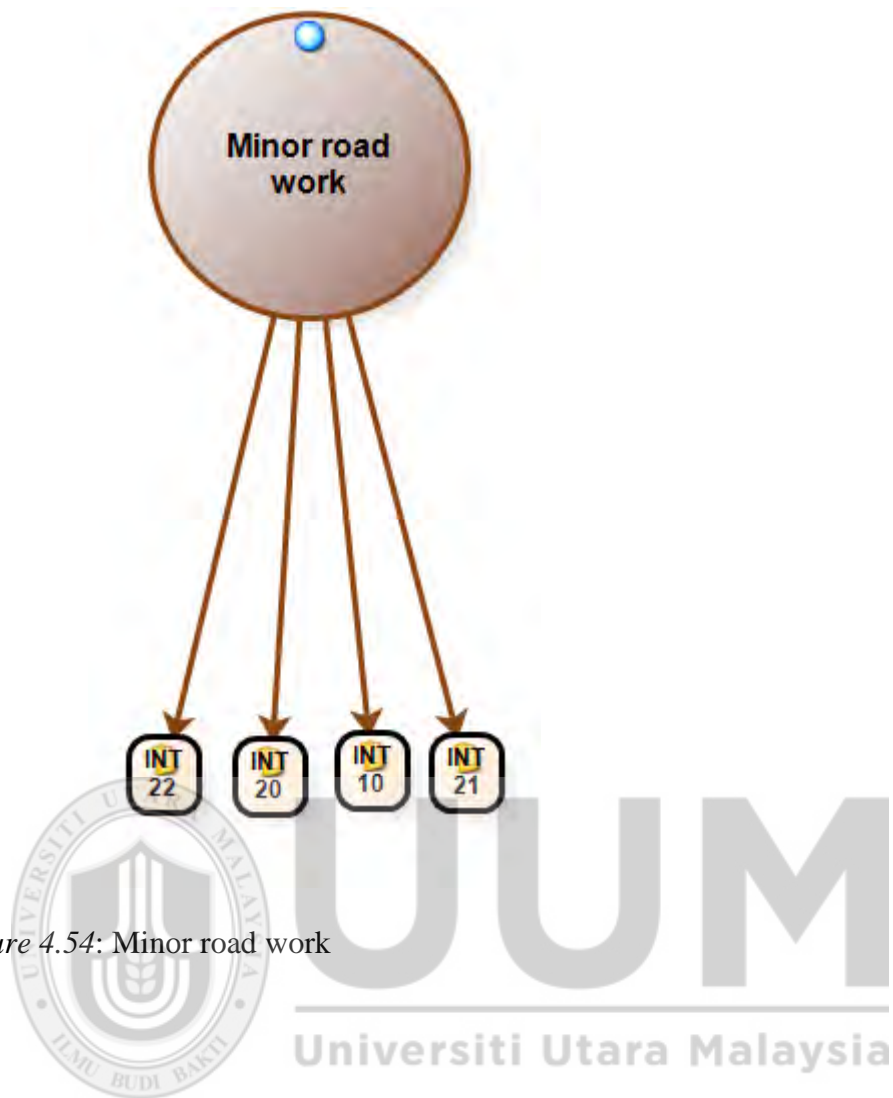
Figure 4.54: Minor road work

4.4.3.1.3 Renovation of Infrastructural Facilities

One of the reasons for the constant agitations and youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region is the demand for provision of adequate availability of infrastructures and accessibility as a means for enhancing their socio economic activities (Ayapere, 2015). The findings from the study indicated that most of infrastructural projects executed by NDDC are not impacting on the well-being of community members hence the constant protest and agitations in the region.

This view was expressed by interviewee 4, community opinion leader thus:

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"Apart from providing infrastructure, I don't think NDDC has organized any programme to ameliorate the youth restiveness in the Niger Delta, I can't remember if they have a special programme for that. However, the agitation has reduced but I don't think is NDDC. To the best of my knowledge it is the amnesty programme that has helped in some ways in reducing the level of agitation in the Niger Delta (Int. 4)."

Similarly, interviewee 7 opinion leader remarked thus; "To the best of my knowledge no, the only useable project done which is a water tank done by another agency before NDDC came in 2000. So there is no single infrastructural project done by NDDC in Afiesere community (Int.7).

Corroborating this claim, interviewee 11 youth leader stated that; "Regarding infrastructure, the construction of the tarred road, they gave us were half done and most the roads are in bad shape. NDDC should come and repair the bad roads to make movement easy for us".

However, interviewee 22, NDDC officer informed that:

"...renovation of abandoned structures by past developmental boards was one of those areas the commission took up immediately the board was inaugurated to calm the level of tension in the region at that time. These were shot term projects (Int.22)."

In the same way, another NDDC officer interviewee 20 revealed thus:

"The agitation has been on and the government has made several efforts to develop the Niger Delta in the past. Some boards were created to look into the

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development of the region. The boards could not do much because of lack of

funds, lack of managerial ability and then the government too was not serious

in sustaining those boards (Int. 20)."

He added further that:

"When NDDC was established there were so many demands at the same time

from different communities across the region renovate. The first move by the

commission was to create impact in everywhere, let it be that something is being

done, like renovation of infrastructural facilities to temporarily address some

of their pressing needs (Int20)."

Emphasizing the above claim, another NDDC officer interviewee 22 noted that:

"Before the establishment of NDDC, the agitation was very rampant; it was all

over as a result of the region underdevelopment. But with the inception of

NDDC it has reduced. Like what NDDC is doing in developing the area both in

human capacity, infrastructure, the youths are happy, they are benefitting.

Development is a continuous thing, but for now, as for the restiveness of the

youths, it depends on the area (Int. 22)."
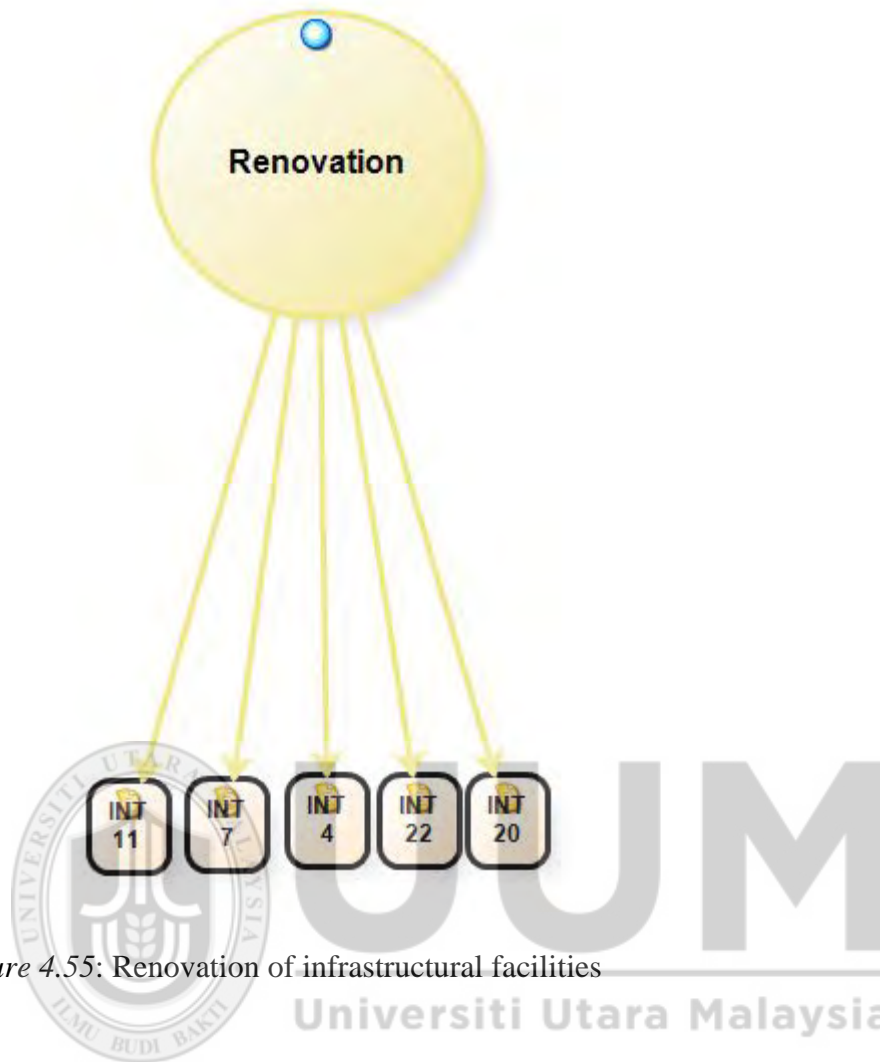
Figure 4.55: Renovation of infrastructural facilities

4.4.3.2 Capacity Building of Community Members

The Nigerian government, oil industry and non-governmental agencies over the years have made concerted efforts in curbing the youth restiveness and agitation in the Niger Delta in the area by investing in capacity building programmes especially amongst the youths (Ekanem & Inyang, 2014). A number of developmental agencies by the government have been charged with the responsibility of organising training and skill acquisition programmes for community members (Imomotimi & Collins, 2014). One of such programme is the Amnesty programme established in 2009 for the youths especially the militants to reduce the intensity of the crisis in the region. However, all these programmes have not been able to address the issues causing the lingering crisis

in the region. Idemudia (2014) and Ikelegbe & Opukri (2012) noted that most of the developmental programmes organised by the government are short-lived and do not make any commensurate impact on the lives of community members, hence the constant agitations in the region. The findings from the study therefore identified some capacity building programmes organised by the Nigerian government through the NDDC in addressing the agitation in the Niger Delta. These include contract allocation and training programmes as shown in Figure 4.53.
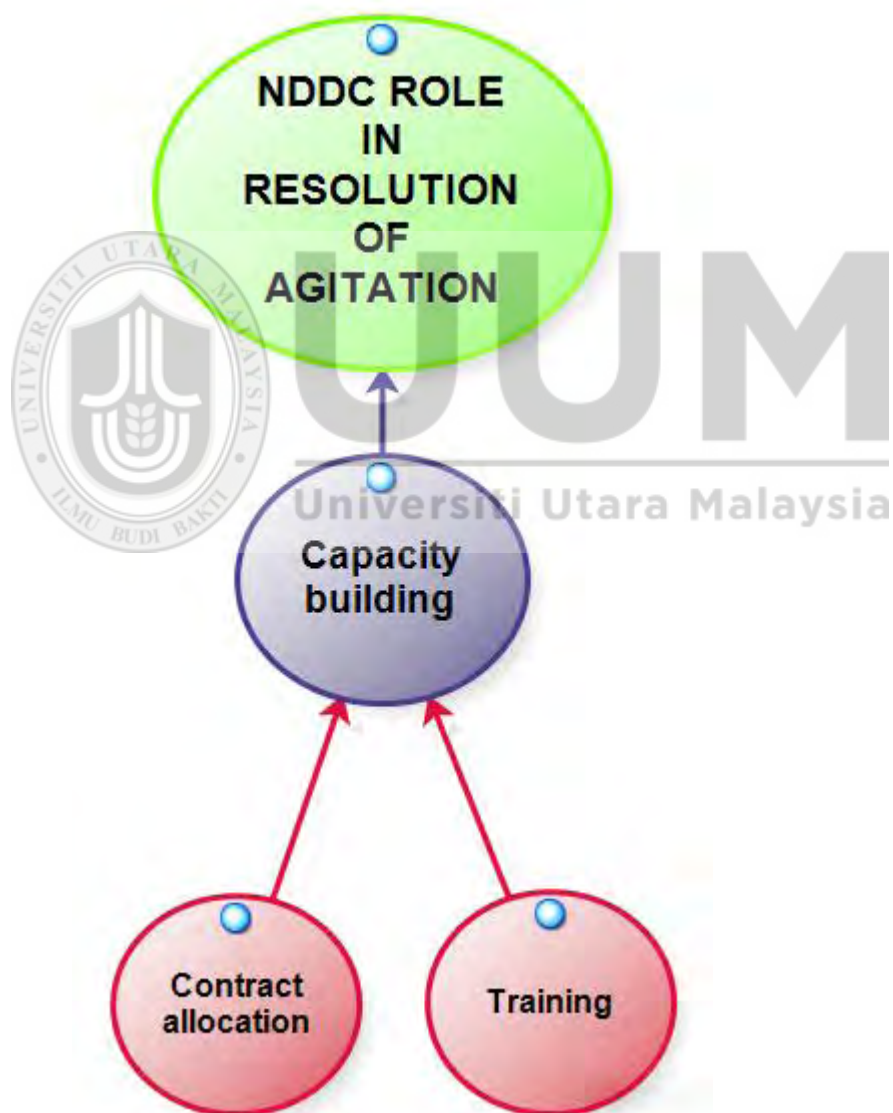
Figure 4.56: Capacity building for community members

4.4.3.2.1 Contract Allocation to Community Members

One of the approaches employed by the NDDC on its inception in reducing the agitation in the Niger Delta region is the engagement of community members in execution of developmental projects going on in their respective communities (Renouard & Lado, 2012). This approach was adopted as a strategy for building partnership between community members and developmental agency in which communities see themselves as playing a role in representing community interest as well as a means of livelihood (Hoben, Plum & Wright, 2012).

This view was captured by interviewee 17, community opinion leader thus; "When NDDC first started, the contractors in charge of the projects gave our youths some jobs and they were paid on a daily basis but this kind of payment cannot survive the youth, it is only a temporary thing".

While interviewee 15, opinion leader reiterated that; "This is not what community wants because it is a temporary thing. It cannot calm the tension for too long. So I would say this did not reduce the level of the youth restiveness". Likewise, interviewee 2 youth leader noted that; "As for the agitation and crisis it has reduced but it is not NDDC. It is the amnesty that did that".

In the same way, interviewee 13, youth leader revealed thus:

> "After the introduction of NDDC, the agitation in the Niger Delta was still at a very high rate until the introduction of the Amnesty programme, it was the amnesty programmes that really reduce the agitation in the Niger Delta not the establishment of the NDDC (Int. 13)."

Similarly, another community CDC chairman interviewee 1 reported that:

"…yes the contractors sublet some of the jobs to community people especially the youths. I was in charge of the supervision at that time but I was not allowed to fully make any observation when things are going wrong or input. As for the youths they were paid on daily basis (Int. 1)."

Also, interviewee 18 opinion leader shared that:

"As for the youth, restiveness, all these projects cannot make the youth restiveness go down. The youths are not benefitting in those things. Even if the youth restiveness has calm down, it is not as a result of the projects done by NDDC. It is not because NDDC is doing project in our community that is why the youth restiveness has calm down (Int. 18)."

While interviewee 5 youth leader suggested thus; "NDDC should try and engage the youths in something tangible not temporary allocation of jobs that cannot feed a person how much more a whole family". Corroborating the above claims NDDC officer interviewee 20 revealed that:

"However, these quick impacts really reduced level of agitation in the region because some contracts were given to them which brought food on their table, but this was not a proper development step because at that time that was the only way out because they will not wait for you to plan for gigantic projects before they can benefit, because at that time they needed development seriously (Int.20)."

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Likewise, interviewee 21, another NDDC officer affirmed that; "…the contractors even assign some of the contracts to them, so that they would work and also bring food on their table". While interviewee 22 divulged that; "What the NDDC does is to train the youths, by trying to appeal to them, engage them by giving them contracts as a way of calming them down involving them". He further stressed that; "with all these programmes and activities of NDDC, the agitation and youth restiveness has been minimized to the lowest minimum" (Int.21).
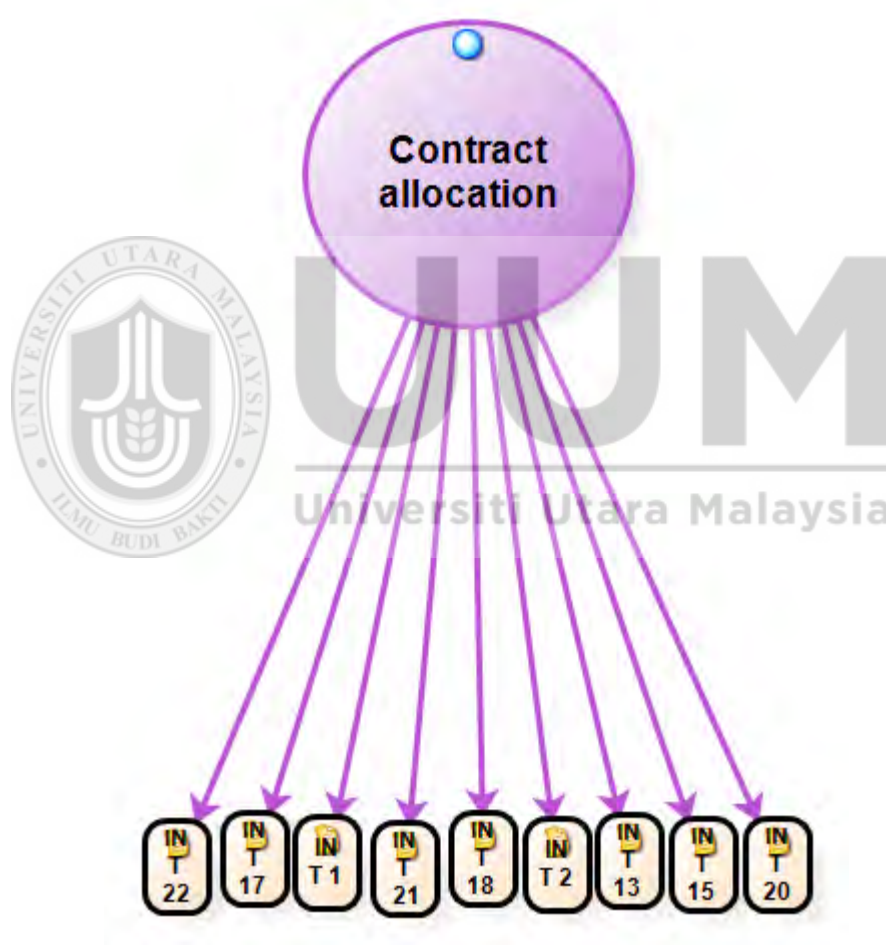
Figure 4.57: Contract allocation to community members

4.4.3.2.2 Training of Community Members

Training of community members creates platform for individual and collective enhancement and empowerment through availability of training materials needed to

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impact positive change in their immediate environment (Zeldin, Christens & Powers, 2013). However, the sustainability of developmental programmes such as skill acquisition training is attainable when the target population are incorporated in the developmental plans and given opportunity to contribute and make decisions on issues that affect their lives positively (Obiozor, 2013).

In light of the above assertions, interviewee 22 stated that; … "NDDC is a part of this development by way of training youths, channelling their ideas towards positive things. NDDC is training youths based on different skills".

Similarly, interviewee 21, another NDDC officer narrated thus:

> *"NDDC in the past, has done computer training, programme across the region, in the past too, they have done skill acquisition training ranging from professions like welding and fabrication, hair dressing, bead making, dressmaking, catering and all of these within the period. These are capacity building to make the people to be useful to them, for them to be self-empowered. NDDC has done all these in the past. NDDC have also gone into Agriculture put people in different area, from aqua-culture, to cassava production and other areas (Int.21)."*

Reiterating this claim, interviewee 20. NDDC officer noted that:

> *"As for the youth restiveness, the commission also came up with a deliberate plan to absorb so many of the youths into skill acquisition; it also gathered those of them that are graduates to further their masters and PhD abroad (Int. 20)."*

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More so, NDDC officer interviewee 22 emphasized that; "…training of youth in computer, welding, carpentry, sewing and so on, it also trained people in agricultural skills. It also promoted sports just to absorb some of the jobless youths who were agitating at that time".

Contrarily, community youth leader interviewee 5 reported that:

> *"Talking about restiveness, I don't think so, because there is no empowerment, talking about NDDC, there is no youth empowerment like here in Oloibiri we have more than 200 graduates but if you make proper assessment the one that are working are not even up to 20 (Int.5)."*

Also, interviewee 15, community opinion leader claimed that, "in my place we have not felt the impact of NDDC in the area of human development so much is still expected".

Buttressing this assertion, interviewee 7, community opinion leader emphasised thus:

> *"Oh! Good that is what I am saying. Train them, you know what, the government will want to tell you that they are doing that, but they are doing that poorly. You know what I mean by poorly? How would you bring the minister of finance to come and tell you how to run business in Afiesere she doesn't know? So government should liaise with experts from that community who will be able to tell them the right approach to take (Int.7)."*

He therefore suggested that:

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"So, if government want to train the community, there are successful people around who have been able to change one thing or the other, bring them link them up with those you are bringing from Abuja, U.S. and all that, let them look at how they could present something to the people and develop them (Int.7)."

Corroborating the views of community on government approach on human development of the Niger Delta region, interviewee 21, an NDDC officer noted that; "Instead of depending on financial support, the issue of capacity building for oil producing communities should be taken seriously: He further added that, "engage them in capacity building to make our people to be useful to themselves and society".

In the same way, another NDDC officer interviewee 20 noted that:

"… yes, we can build their capacity to that level and even provide supervisory skill for them that are daily labour to be supervised by the community people and also engage anybody that is ready to work on the site and a supervisory person will be sent to them (Int. 20)."

Figure 4.58: Training of community members

4.4.3.3 Re-Orientation of Community Members

The disposition and attitude of individuals and group towards external change is a function of   the socio-cultural background and historical antecedents within that environment (Botes & Van Rensburg, 2000). Therefore, the acceptability of new ideas and development is seen as a threat to the existing structure (Oluduro & Oluduro, 2012). This perception can be an impediment to embracing developmental initiatives. This view corroborates the findings of Okolo and Etekpe (2014) study on value re-orientation for sustainable development. They stressed on the need for value oriented campaigns and sensitization programmes for the target population in order to increase their level of awareness and acceptability of developmental initiatives. Therefore, Power (2015), suggest that reorientation and relationship of community members with

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developmental agencies is a vital tool to achieving sustainable peace, security and improved socio-economic activities in the Niger Delta. However, the level of achievement depends on how well the socio-economic and environmental needs of the people are satisfied. Majority of the interviewees identified some approaches that can be employed as a means of reaching out to people in a crisis zone like that of the Niger Delta region. These include pacification of community members and sensitization programmes as summarized in Figure 4.56 below.
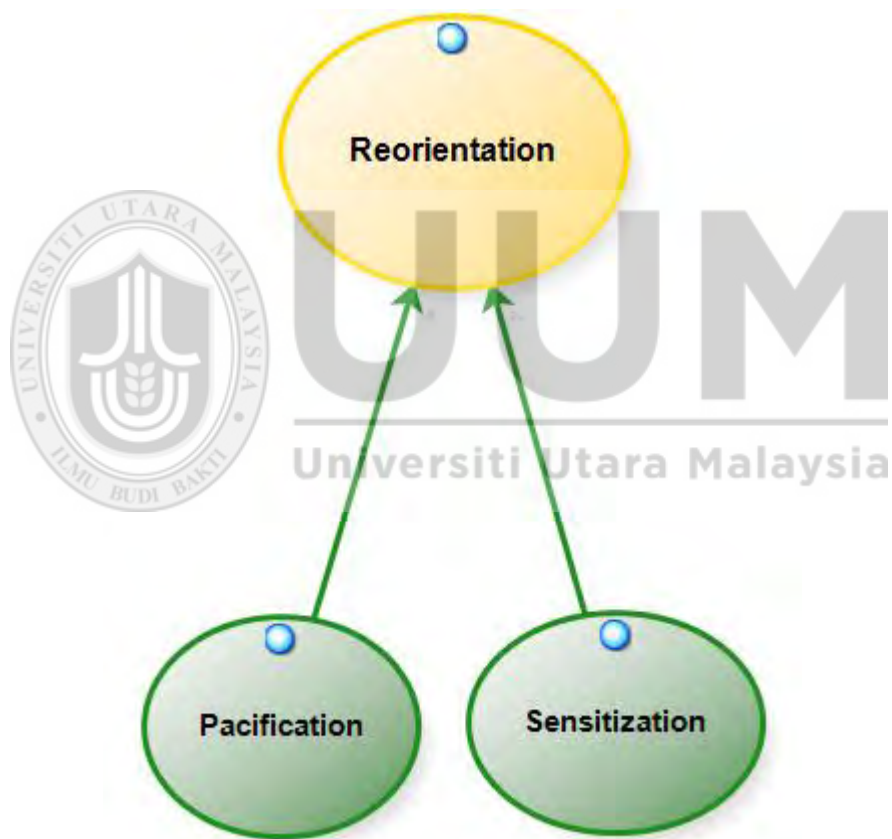
Figure 4.59: Re-Orientation of community members

4.4.3.3.1 Pacification of Community Members

The constant agitations and youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region is one of the impediments to sustainability of developmental programmes Agbiboa, (2013). Studies

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Nwankwo (2015), Udoh and Ibok (2014) and Mähler (2012) have noted that there is need for community members to have access to wide range of information that will redirect their minds and thought towards developmental initiatives. However, this can only be attainable in a conflict prone area by appealing to the aggrieved individuals (Ojo ,2012).

This view was expressed by interviewee 20, NDDC officer thus:

> *"We talk to them to be patient and wait for things to work out gradually not by violence but by peaceful consultation. We also use this medium to appease them to be patient and also make them feel happy by building a kind of confidence in them that things will work out not immediately but gradually (Int.20)."*

Also, interviewee 21 NDDC officer shared that:

> *"… in those workshops they bring out their own ideas and we reason with them then at the end of the day they are better informed and when they are going back we give them little stipend like transport for training, the group that has attended will encourage others to attend and even educate the community on how things can be achieved without violence (Int.21)."*

He further emphasized that; "What the NDDC does is to constantly appeal to the youths to bear with us and assure them that things will get better while we are making deliberate efforts to address some of their immediate needs" (Int.21).

While community opinion leader interviewee 7 revealed thus:

> *"Well, the youth restiveness has really reduced because of the promises of NDDC which the youths are still waiting to see. The elders in the community*

are still calming down the youths who want to react to calm down and wait to

see what NDDC would do. But for now, I think like Afiesere that I know, very

well, NDDC are not doing anything. As for the youth restiveness, they are

calmer now, who knows what will happen in the future. In Afiesere, it is not

what NDDC is doing that is calming the tension but the advice of the elders in

calming the youths (Int.7)."

Corroborating this claim, interviewee 6, women leader noted that; "One of the ways government can calm down the youth restiveness is to appeal to the angry youths to be more patient with them instead of using military men to threaten them". Likewise, interviewees 10 and 3 also women leaders reiterated that; "We try to appeal to the youths when there is any form of crisis in the community".
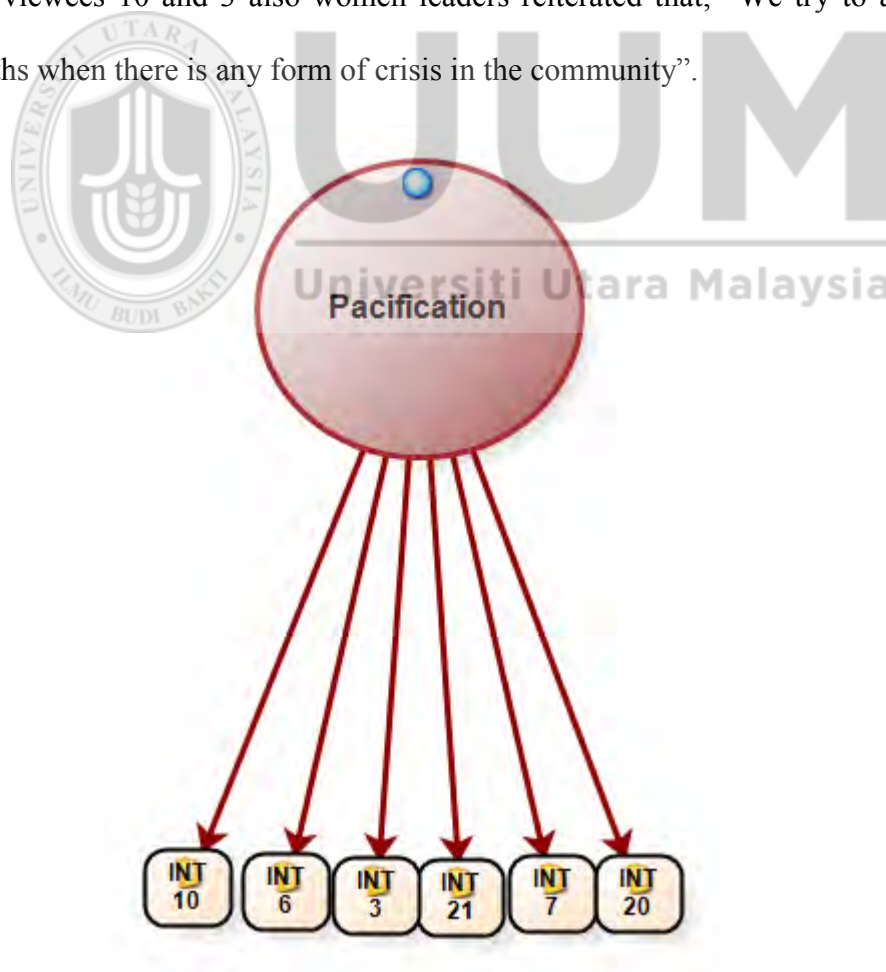
Figure 4.60: Pacification of community members

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4.4.3.3.2 Sensitization of Community Members

Studies by Nzeadibe et al (2015), Egbule (2015) and Renouard and Lado (2012) have indicated that one of the key ways to achieving sustainable developmental goals revolves round the ability to influence individual's perception, attitude and behaviour towards changes within their immediate environment. However, achieving success in this is dependent on access to education and public awareness. According to Egbule (2015) education is key that sharpens the minds and character of individuals in every sphere of life which gives individuals opportunity to create new ideas and enhances relationship amongst people from different works of life. Similarly, Onwe, Ojo and Aghedo (2012) study on the Niger Delta conflict resolution noted that it is imperative for government to constantly engage in sensitization campaign programmes to enlighten people especially those in the rural communities on the need to embrace new initiatives and support developmental activities.

The findings from the study's interview depict that sensitization of community members on developmental activities is a way of increasing their level of awareness and acceptability of developmental initiatives. This view was captured by interviewee 7, community opinion leader thus:

> *"It is not all about going to school alone but creating awareness through enlightenment campaign. Most of the people in the community can't see beyond their nose and what they want. Don't you think someone coming from Abuja to Afiesere life style will be different? It is all about training. So the government should train the people and make them see that life is not by chance, we create it. If the community wants to grow, it is the responsibility of the community and government, not just the government alone (Int. 7)."*

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Likewise, interviewee 3, community women leader observed that; "Most of the youths in the rural communities where oil is produced lack awareness on what NDDC is doing, that is why you see them protesting and using violence in their approach. NDDC is not doing this well enough".

Buttressing this claim NDDC officer interviewee 20 affirmed that:

> *"It is a part of our programme by way of training youths, channelling their ideas towards positive things but because of funding thing again, we cannot reach out properly to the people, in most what we do is sensitization programme some few years ago (Int. 20)."*

Whereas, NDDC officer interviewee 22 claimed that:

> *"The level of agitation before now I would say was high due to the fact that there was not much awareness about the nitty-gritty of development but the coming of NDDC with the mandate and the management structure of NDDC, they were able to embrace all and go into massive sensitization of the people of the Niger Delta region for us to better appreciate our background, our values as a people and the need for us to be at the level of development (Int.22)"*
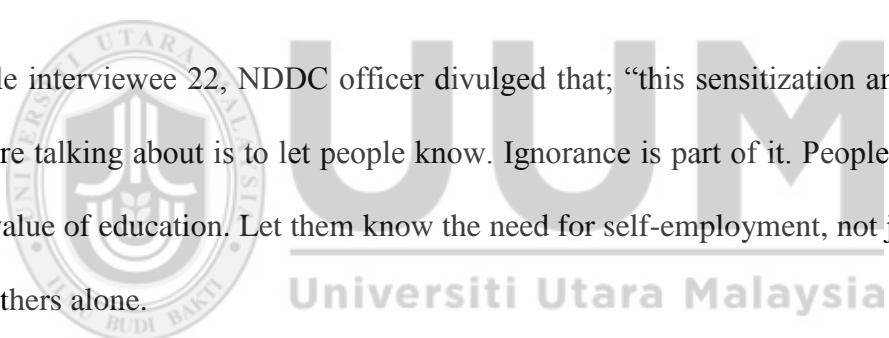
Reiterating the above claim interviewee 21 NDDC officer shared that; "We normally organize this kind of workshop for the CDC people and even to educate them on the workings of the system so that they will not be annoyed with the commission". Similarly, interviewee 20 remarked thus; "…we also train them and enlighten them that by carrying arms they are equally destroying themselves and their environment and this will not help them at all and it might affect the unborn generation". He further added

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thus; "Each group brings out what their needs according to the group they belong which also bring about solid integration, then it will also different issues affecting us".

More so NDDC officer interviewee 21 highlighted the positive outcome of group formation as a way of educating community members. He shared thus:

> *"In such a forum there is open interaction between people to be able to chart the way forward and after wards, the youth and representatives of each community can as well go back arising from the conclusion, take back home whatever issue was deliberated on, then go back to reach out to their people. So you can imagine the kind of sensitization taking place (Int. 21)."*

While interviewee 22, NDDC officer divulged that; "this sensitization and campaign we are talking about is to let people know. Ignorance is part of it. People don't know the value of education. Let them know the need for self-employment, not just working for others alone.

She further revealed that:

> *"So it depends on the mind-set of the people. This will go a long way for them to value what they are given and when they value it they will maintain it and make sure it does not fail. But when their mind-set is negative towards a particular programme they will not be serious with it (Int.22)."*

This view was also expressed by community opinion leaders' interviewee 17 thus:

> *"Most of the youths are backward when you talk of knowledge in terms of how to address issues especially in expressing their views and making demands. They need to be educated by government, non-governmental agencies and even*

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the enlightened community members so that this idea of using violence in addressing issues will stop (Int.17)."
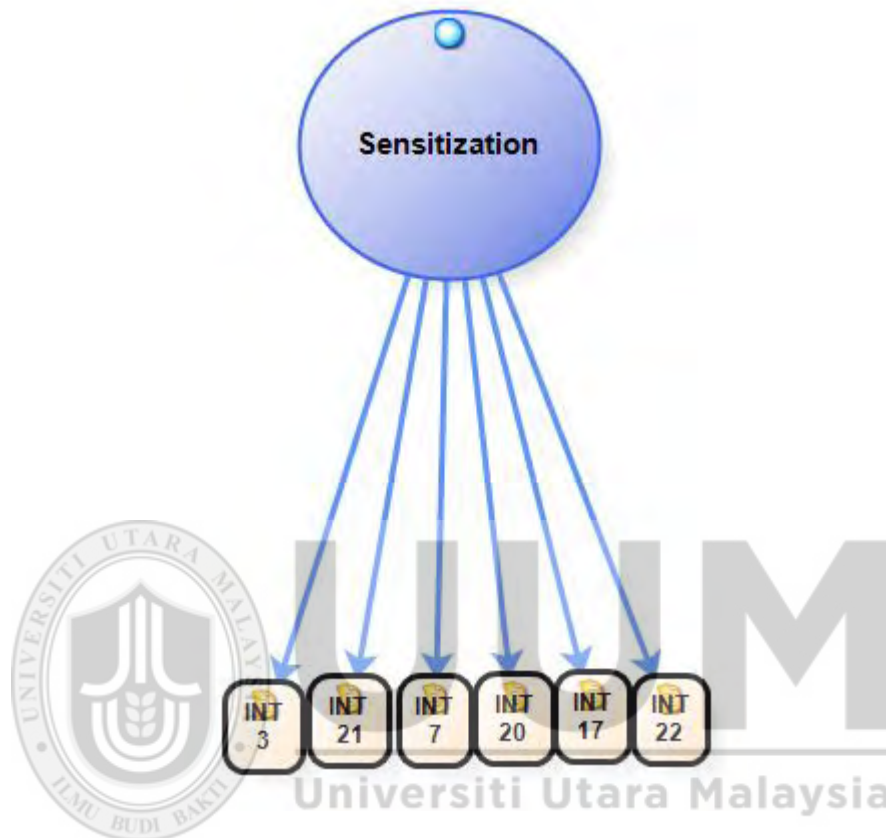
Figure 4.61: Sensitization of community members

4.4.4 Theme Four: Development Sustainability in Community

Sustainable development is the central focus of developmental goals. This entails the use of available resources in satisfying the requirements of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generation (Roseland, 2012). Sustainable development is attainable when there is the political will and drive towards policy formulation and implementation (Blewitt, 2014). Furthermore, Vincent and Kenneth (2014), Sesan, Raman, Clifford and Forbes (2013), Igbuzor (2011) and Ite (2007) studies on citizen participation and sustainable development in the Niger Delta

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suggested that there is need for government to be committed to sustainable practices centred on participatory approach in their system of operations. Likewise, Ako and Frynas (2014) stated that the level of commitment of individuals towards a particular goal is dependent on their level of satisfaction derived from such goals. While Samy, Lokpobiri and Dawodu (2015) noted that the more benefits people drive from an activity the more their level of commitment. Figure 5.18 depicts the interviewees mind on development sustainability within their region. This assertion corroborates with the findings from the study that identified attached benefits and commitment to development goals as means for achieving sustainability as indicated in figure 4.62 below.
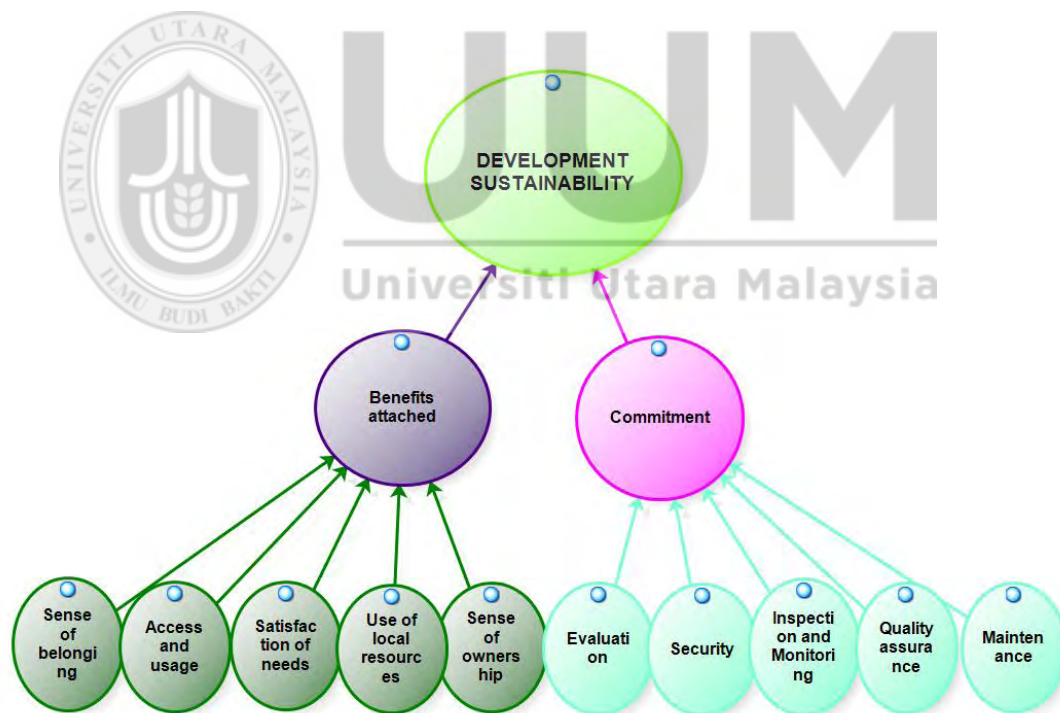
Figure 4.62: Community development sustainability

4.4.4.1 Benefits Attached

Presently, there is a growing awareness that various approaches for development sustainability like community development, integrated rural development and basic needs did not result in substantial success due to lack of benefit attached and the lack of active role, effective and lasting participation of the intended beneficiaries (FAO, 2015). Therefore, emerging from the interview analysis are the types of benefits such as access and usage to development projects and use of local resources that could motivate participation as well as sustain development efforts as presented in Figure 4.63.
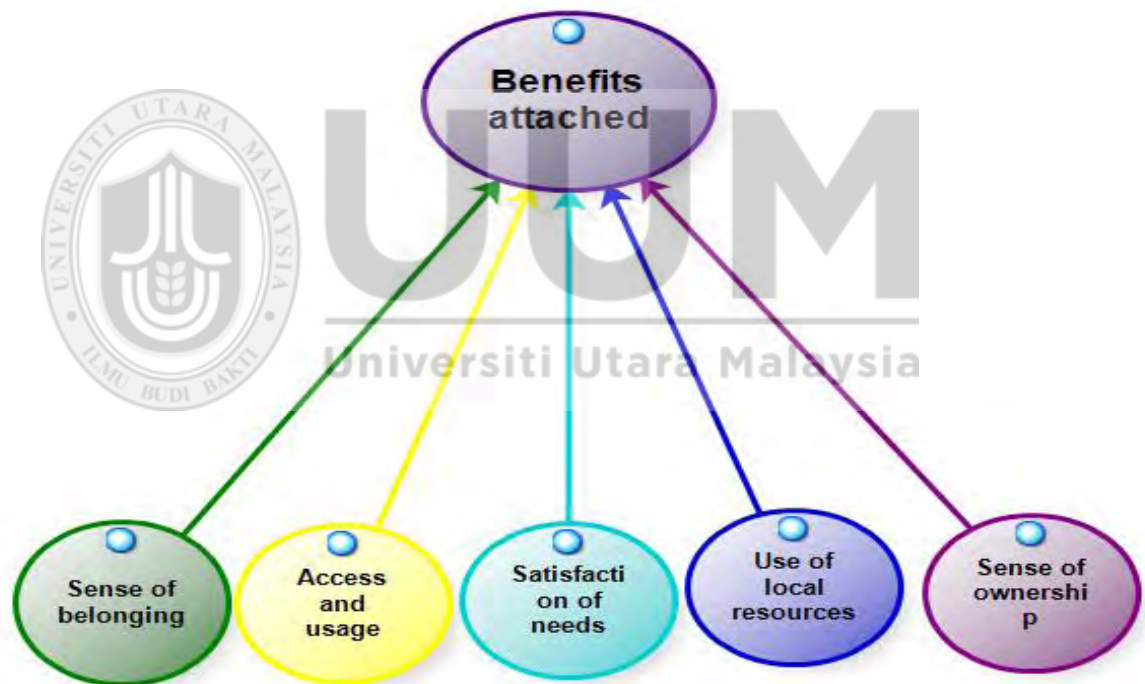
Figure 4.63: Benefits attached to development programmes

4.4.4.1.1 Access and Usage to Developmental Projects

Recent studies have indicated the need for community development and sustainability as a way of transforming community and enhancing their quality of life (Pharr, Coughenour & Gerstenberger, 2014; Seidel, 2013). According to Jones and Gibson

(2011), development is not just about technological improvement, but how this transformation can enliven the living condition of the people. While Idemudia (2014) noted that; Communities are interested on how development can be sustained for continuous prosperity in socioeconomic, environmental and functioning infrastructures in their local communities.

The above assertion was expressed by NDDC officer interviewee 20 "The target of NDDC through projects execution is to improve the conditions of community members".

He further noted that:

> *"Sustainability in the Niger Delta is a difficult problem, when there is apathy people are not willing, who will go and sustain it? Rather they will go and vandalize it, they will not see anything good in it, and they would see the contractor as the person benefitting (Int.20)."*

Meanwhile, interviewee 19, women leader argued that; "…The projects done by NDDC in our community has not helped to solve our problems especially in the area of water. Because they will start a project and will not complete so how can community use such project"?

However, interviewee 19, women divulged that:

> *"NDDC projects in this community to some extent like the roads have helped to make movement from here to other communities easy for us. This was done when our son was one of top persons in NDDC but as for the water project,*

community is not using because it has not been completed. That is why you see

grass all over the place (Int.19)."

Another community women leader, interviewee 12 revealed thus "…We are not enjoying most of the projects NDDC have done in this community because they are not working well".

Likewise, interviewee 1, CDC chairman indicated that; "Like the jetty, we are the ones maintaining it because it is helping us very much in travelling but as for the roads, we don't have access road". He further noted that; "You can only maintain what you are benefiting from like the water jetty I mentioned".
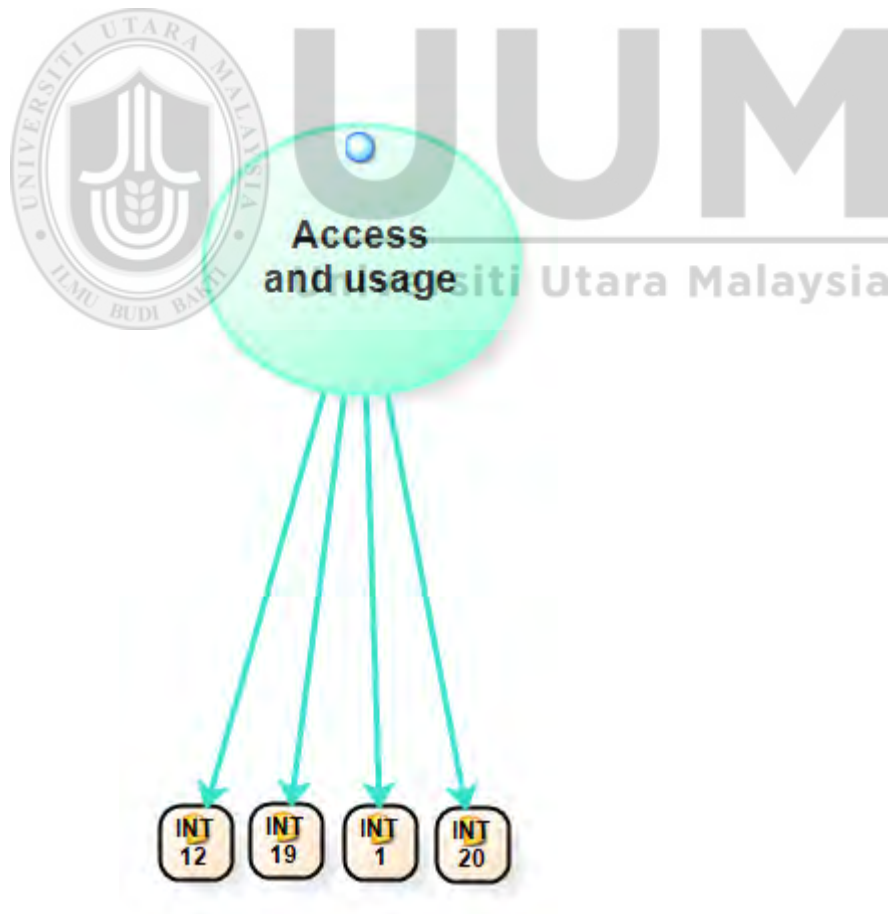
Figure 4.64: Access and usage to developmental projects

4.4.4.1.2 Sense of Belonging by Community Members in developmental programs

When community members are given opportunity to be in charge and make inputs in issues that affects their environment and well-being, it increases their level of commitment (Imomotimi, & Collins, 2014). This is because when community members are involved and allowed to take active part in developmental initiatives, it gives them a sense of ownership (Fentiman & Zabbey, 2015).

According to interviewee 15, community opinion leader expressed that; "When people are given any active role to play in any project it will make them dedicated to that work ". Likewise, interviewee 18, another community opinion leader reiterated thus; "When Community are totally in-charge of projects in the form of making suggestions and monitoring, it will surely make community members to be more dedicated to the work and make sure it goes on smoothly".

While interviewee 1, CDC leader noted that; … "the projects cannot be sustained because the chief and CDC of that very community where the project is sited were not informed and also not part of the project from the beginning". Buttressing this view, interviewee 18, opinion leader claimed that; "NDDC are not carrying community along, we don't even know how and where all these programmes are planned that is why people are not interested when they hear NDDC want to do anything in the community".

In the same way, NDDC officer, interviewee 20 revealed that:

> *"Like I said when you make community to be part of what you are doing, they*
>
> *tend to have a sense of belonging and responsibility". We are not doing this in*

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the proper way that is why sometimes the community members are not interested

in our programmes (Int.20)."

He further noted that; "When you don't make community part of what you are doing, they will feel neglected and will not be interested in that project (Int.20).
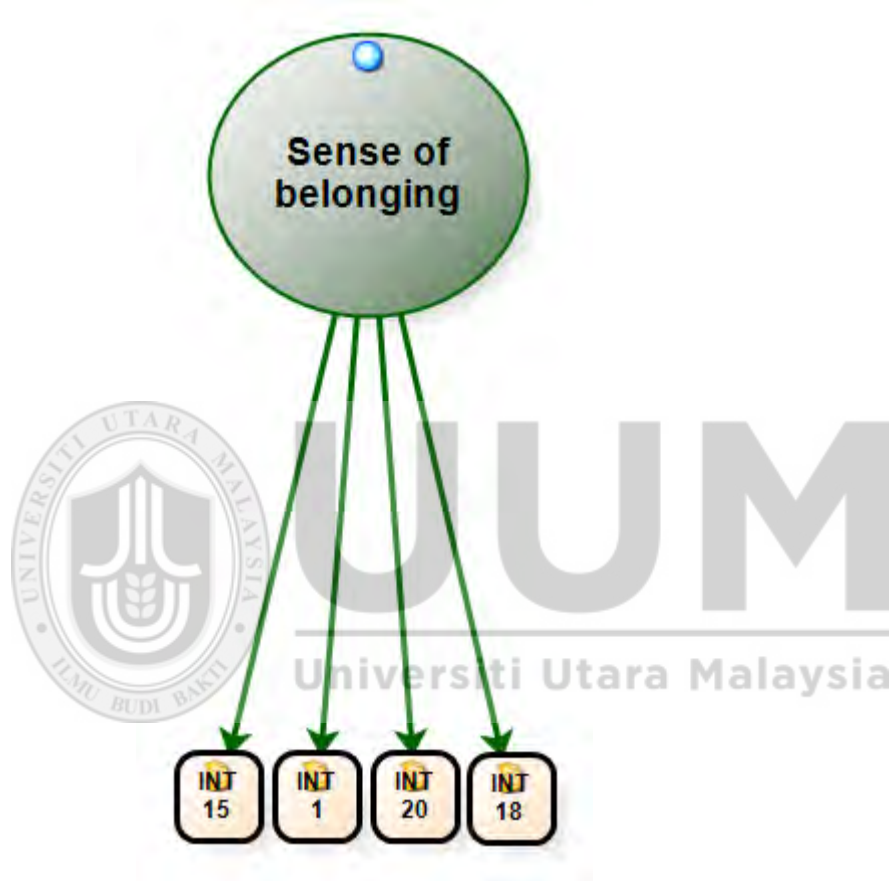
Figure 4.65: Sense of belonging by community members to developmental programs

4.4.4.1.3 Satisfaction of Community Needs

Based on Nzeadibe et al (2015) the concept of community development revolves round the economic, social and ecological transformation of community for the wellbeing of community members. Whereas, the level of achievement depends on how well needs of community members have been adequately addressed (Langton, Palmer & Rhea, 2014; Samari, & Shafiei, 2012).

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Buttressing this assertion, NDDC officer, interviewee 20 commented that; "If the direct impact is felt by the community they will be ready to protect and secure the project but if no direct impact, nobody cares. For you to remove this kind of attitude, you must make those projects work (Int.20).

He further noted that:

> *"So, if both parties are playing their role especially the government, projects and programmes will be sustained. If the direct impact is felt by the community they will be ready to protect and secure the project but if no direct impact, nobody cares. For you to remove this kind of attitude, you must make those projects work (Int.20)."*

He further added thus; "No community will destroy or vandalize what is benefitting them or bringing positive effect on them (Int.20).

Reiterating this view, interviewee 8, community opinion leader emphasised that; "but you most know that people will only protect what is benefiting them you don't expect people to protect a project that is not working and bring any good to their lives (Int.8).

Likewise, interviewee 17, another opinion leader observed that:

> *"if you develop any area by given the people what they want it will be okay, people will be happy instead of the project to last for 1 year, it will last for 10 years because, we know that we are gaining and we cannot spoil what we are gaining from (Int.17)."*

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Emphasizing the need for freedom of choice in execution of development programme, community opinion leader interviewee 18 observed that:

> *"NDDC do not allow people to choose the kind of training they want. If you choose by yourself that aim of empowerment is achieved because you will choose what you know you can for your future tomorrow. This will help you to achieve a purpose. It will also help the community like the Total skill to help each family because it is done rotationally and everybody will depend on what they have chosen, so this will reduce the level of unemployment in that family because one person has been established (Int.18)."*
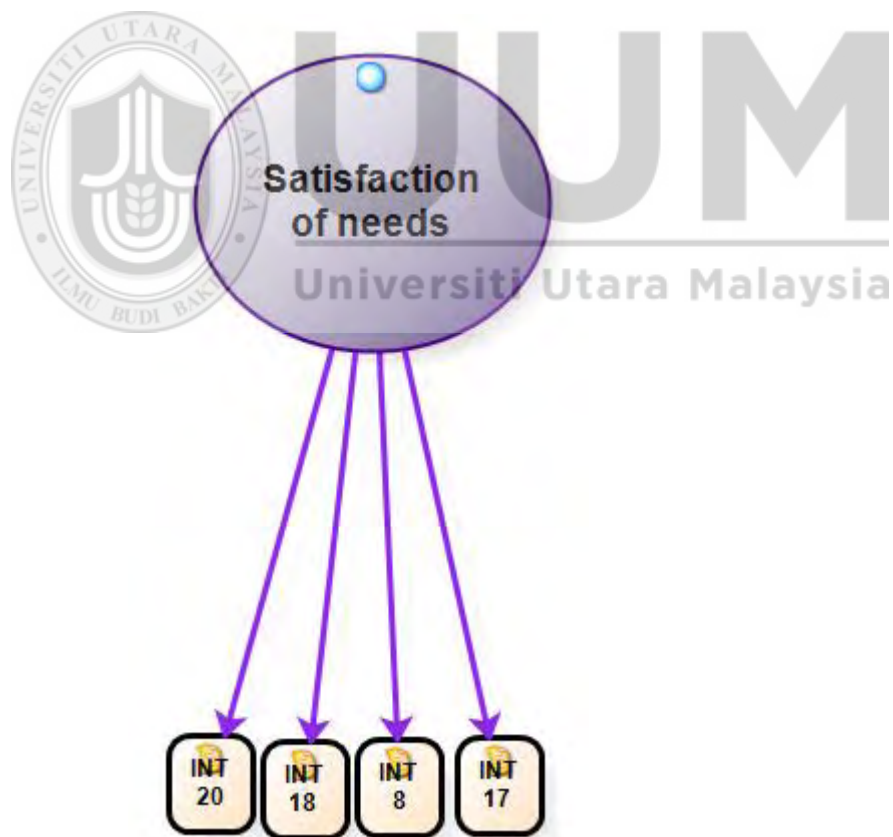
Figure 4.66: Satisfaction of community needs

4.4.4.1.4 Sense of Ownership by Community Members

Recent studies have identified sense of ownership as a vital tool that enhances individual and collective collaborative efforts towards sustainability (Uche, Okala, Okoye, Uzoma, & Ijoema, 2014). Sense of ownership is the belief or feeling that individuals have towards particular thing as being their own to which they have an obligation (Fentiman & Zabbey, 2015). However, the level of commitment is determined by their level of involvement in the planning and implementation process (Marks, Onda & Davis, 2013). According Haller, Acciaioli and Rist (2015), sense of ownership towards a particular programme is reinforced when there is a perceived benefit. Likewise, Nierse et al (2012) noted that sense of ownership creates opportunity for individuals to integrate and exchange ideas in related issues that affects their lives. While Hoben, Kovick, Plumb and Wright (2012) indicated that the level to which a group positively contributes to the realization of individuals' aspirations and goals will determine the level of their commitment to that group. Majority of the interviewees from the study indicated that sustainability of developmental projects is achievable when community members are given key roles in developmental initiatives.

This was captured by interviewee 1, CDC chairman that "…When community members are allowed to be part of decision making in all these development programmes done by NDDC, they will look at that project as their own". Also, another community member's interviewee 2, youth leader noted that; "We are not given any role to play that is why we don't involve ourselves in NDDC projects". Yet interviewee 3, women leader, reiterated thus; "We don't take NDDC projects serious because most of all the projects they are doing are not helping us, we are not gaining from them".

She further noted that "Like the landing Jetty, that we are enjoying; nobody wants it to spoil, we even maintain it because it is working. So community is ready to protect what is good for them. Nobody will destroy his own house (Int.3). Reiterating this claim, interviewee 17, opinion leader noted that "…when community is taking part in any project and everybody is working they will not want to misbehave concerning that project because they see it as their own". Buttressing these claims interviewees 18 and 8 opinion leaders' respectively affirmed thus; "People will be interested in any activity when they see it as their own".

While interviewee 20, NDDC officer revealed that:

> *"Sustainability is a big problem because the community have not gotten to that level to imbibe sustainable as part of their responsibility. The government is not helping matters at all because of their attitude towards developmental goals. No community will destroy or vandalize what is benefitting them or bringing positive effect on them (Int. 20)."*

Buttressing the above view, interviewee 22, another NDDC officer stated thus:

> *"When community are allowed to be in charge of projects executed in their community, it will go a long way for them to value what they are given and when they value it they will maintain it and make sure it does not fail. But when their mind-set is negative towards a particular programme they will not be serious with it (Int.22)."*
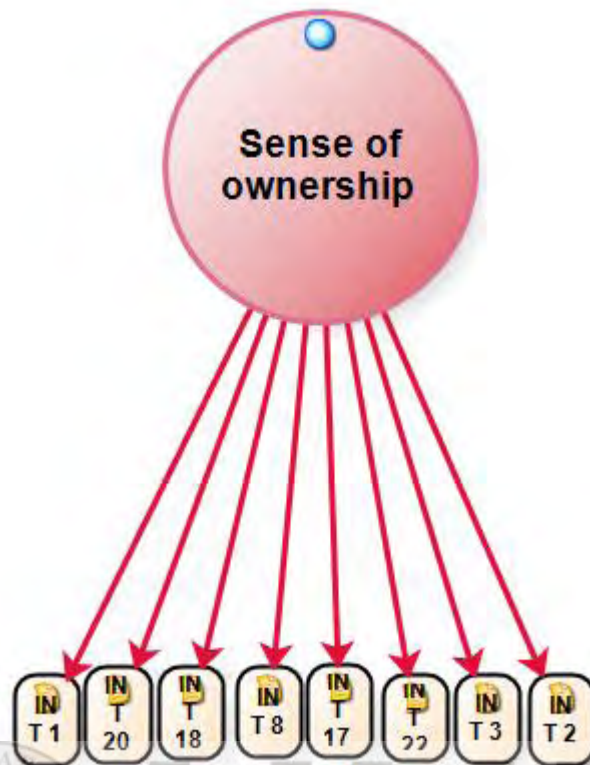
Figure 4.67: Sense of ownership by community members

4.4.4.1.5 Use of Local Resources

While it is evident that the environmental effects of oil exploration have adversely affected the natural vegetation and landscape of the Niger Delta region, it is also important to note that despite all these challenges the region is capable of sustaining its indigenes through the use of available local resources (Flora, & Flora, 2014). Specifically, development has the potential of success and beneficial impacts if local resources are promoted and applied in the community project. It is known that this will integrate the interest of the people (Danielsen et al 2011).

The use of local resources as a way of empowering community members was expressed by one of the community opinion leader, interviewee 7 thus; "…People within the

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community should be encouraged to use their natural resources to develop themselves

and make money and this is can be through training instead of going to federal capital

Abuja (Int.7). He further indicated that:

> *"If you look around most of the oil producing communities like Afiesere where*
>
> *I come from, you see a lot of natural resources apart from oil that the*
>
> *government can use to develop communities. For example, converting some of*
>
> *the unique areas to tourist centres and also builds industries that will be used*
>
> *to process some of the cash crops in these areas (Int.7)."*
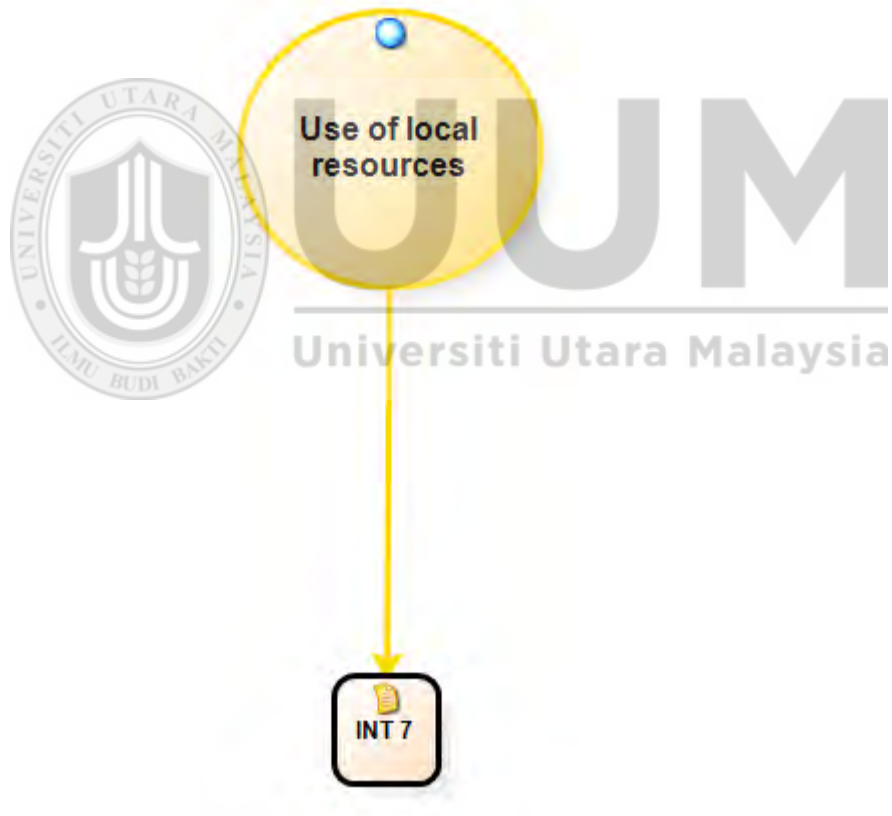
Figure 4.68: Use of local resources

4.4.4.2 Commitment to Developmental Projects by Stakeholders

Idemudia & Ite, (2006) have indicated that one of the major challenges to sustainability of developmental initiatives in the Niger Delta is as a result of the disparity that exists amongst the various stakeholders. This disparity has created a superior/ subordinate relationship where by the decision making body is dominated by the government and oil multinationals where community views are not given adequate considerations (Ogula, 2012). Naturally, what is expected in such politically created structure is the display of discontent from the aggrieved party against the existing system that impedes on their fundamental right (Ansari, Munir & Gregg, 2012). This view captures the relationship between the local communities, government and oil multinationals. Srinivas, Meenan, Drogin and DePrince (2015) asserted that one of the major reasons for the constant agitation in the Niger Delta is due to the negligence of their demands and non-inclusion of host communities in formulation and implementation of developmental imitative. While Ren et al (2012) noted that when people given opportunity to influence decisions in issues that affects their life positively, they tend to show more commitment and willing to protect that particular thing. Subsequently, Samari and Shafiei (2012) identified the role of government is crucial in effective implementation and sustainability of developmental projects. They noted that one of the ways government can monitor and ensure effective implementation of projects by developers is to set up regulatory laws that to enhance development practices. Therefore, the sustainability of developmental initiatives is the responsibility of all the stakeholders through adequate involvement in the formulation and implementation process.

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The above assertions corroborate with the findings from the study's interviewee revealed that sustainable development is achievable when there is commitment from all stakeholders. They identified some factors as means to achieving sustainable development. They include: Quality assurance, inspection and monitoring, project evaluation, maintenance and provision of adequate security as presented in Figure 4.69 below.
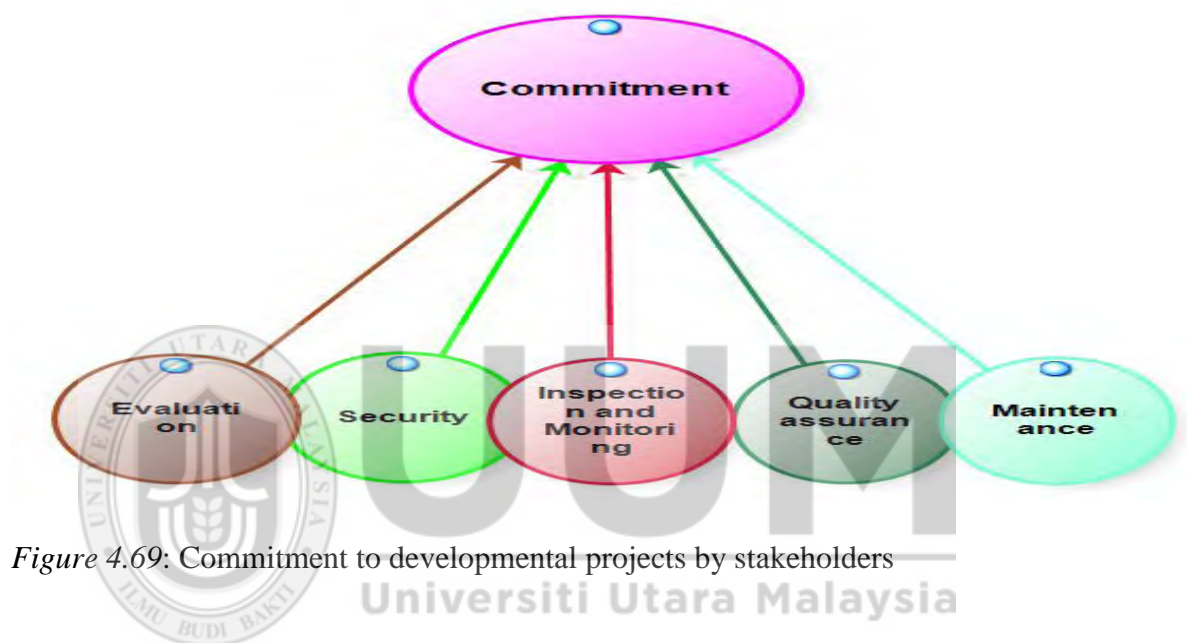
Figure 4.69: Commitment to developmental projects by stakeholders

4.4.4.2.1 Quality Assurance of Developmental Projects

While quality is difficult to define, its importance is universally appreciated (Garvin, 1988). Quality assurance is the activities and management processes of project that is done to ensure that the products and services the project delivers are at the required quality level. It is process driven, and focused on the development of the product or delivery of the service. Emerging as part of the means towards achieving sustainable development is the call for quality assurance of all projects in the communities.

This was captured by interviewee 17, community opinion leader thus; "The best way for development can be sustained, is that whatever you are doing, do it well and with quality materials (Int. 17).

Corroborating this claim, community women leader, interviewee 6 stressed that; "The only way these projects can last long is for NDDC to make sure that they do a good job with standard materials that will last long NDDC is failing in this area. Likewise, interviewee 12 another women leader emphasized that; "you don't expect a project to last long when it is not well done using quality materials.

While NDDC officer interviewee 22 argued that:

> *"Another big problem is the contractor, not really NDDC. We cannot control the contractor because they are influenced by politicians up there. If the contractors do a thorough by using quality material those projects will last but when they don't we cannot do anything because they are operating from the top (Int.22)."*
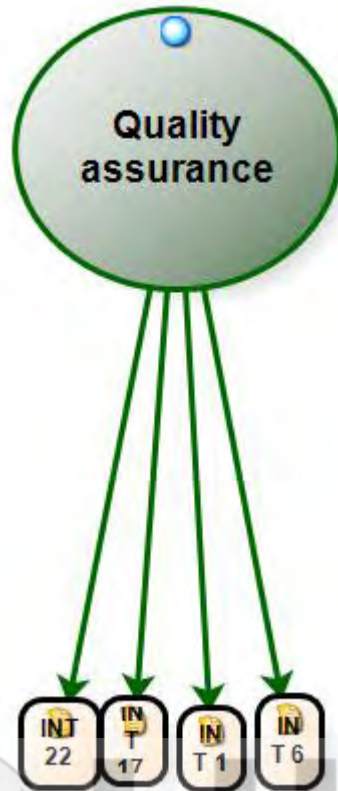
Figure 4.70: Quality assurance of developmental projects

4.4.4.2.2 Inspection and Monitoring of Projects

Similarly, based on the interviewees' perception, inspection and monitoring of community projects have been identified as a necessity for success of sustainability. It is a process that helps improve performance and achieving results. Its goal is to improve current and future projects management of outputs, outcomes and impact. It is mainly used to assess the performance of projects.

The above claim was captured by interviewee 13 youth leader thus:

> "*Like the project that they have been awarding to these contractors, they do not complete most of them that is why they are not useful to us. NDDC also is not inspecting and monitoring the contractors (Int.13).*"

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Reiterating this claim, interviewee 5 another community youth leader noted that; "Maintenance and periodic supervision of the programmes and projects by the government or agency in charge very important if you want that project to last". Also, interviewee 2 youth leader stressed that; both community and NDDC should make sure that the projects are properly used by community members".

In the same vein, interviewee 1 CDC chairman stated that:

> *"When you develop or bring anything to community follow it up because if anything gets spoilt the people in the area cannot repair the thing, because they are not doing anything, they are not working. He added thus; "Another area is that NDDC should follow up and support the project and programme to grow. When there is no follow up the project or programme will die (Int.1)."*

However, NDDC officer interviewee 22 divulged that

> *"The only thing we can do to sustain programmes and project is by follow up and periodic monitoring and maintenance but how can we do this when we don't even have enough money to complete some of the projects we have started? (Int.22)"*

Likewise, interviewee 21another NDDC officer reported thus:

> *"Another big problem is the contractor, not really NDDC. We cannot control the contractor because they are influenced by politicians up there. If the contractors do a thorough by using quality material those projects will last but when they don't we cannot do anything because they are operating from the top. So there is nothing we can do (Int.21)."*

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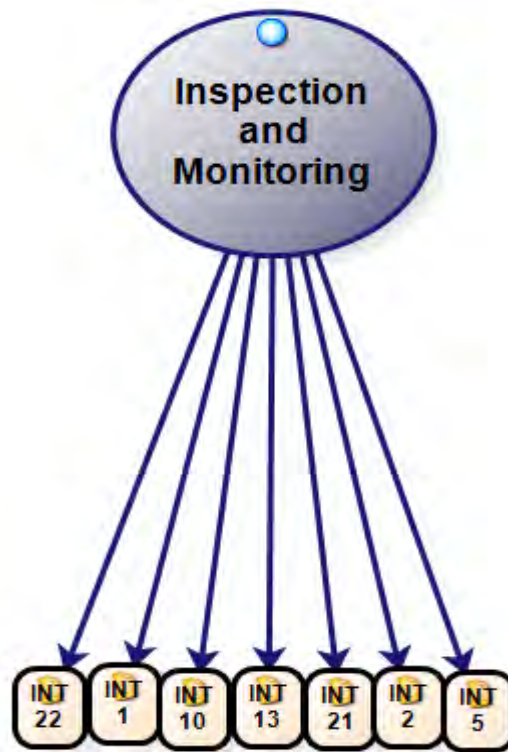
Figure 4.71: Inspection and monitoring of projects

4.4.4.2.3 Evaluation of Developmental Projects

Project sustainability is essential in community developmental process. Ocheni and Nwankwo (2012) observed that investment in developmental initiatives is short-lived and of no impact when the core values and principles of developmental agenda are not given adequate considerations. Uche, Okala, Okoye, Uche and Ijoema (2014) study on sustainable community development in the Niger Delta revealed that, sustainable development is achievable when there is an equitable and socially responsive structure that incorporates the tenets of developmental process. While Flanagan, Pykett and Gallay (2015), maintained that meaningful development is achievable when development experts collaborates with community members in the execution of developmental projects. This view was captured by interviewee 8 community opinion leader thus:

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"There should be Periodic supervision of the programmes and projects by the government or agency in charge to know if actually those things are working. Most times government just establish a programme or project without even coming back to see if the projects are working and if the communities are using them. This is very common habit of the Nigerian government and its high time they learned to follow up whatever development they intend doing to avoid waste of resources(Int.8)."

Reiterating this view, interviewee 17, opinion leader stated that; "As for the agency, they should come from time to time to see and ask how the project is going and also make community part of it". Likewise, interviewee 13, a community youth leader suggested that; "there should be periodic check by NDDC or any company on project to know if they need renovation like painting or to check if the project is being utilized for the purpose it was meant for". More so, interviewees 2, 6 ,16 and 19 community youth, women, another youth and another women leaders respectively echoed that; "NDD should try and complete any project they start, two they should try and come to check NDDC has never come to check what the contractors are doing and know if community are using the projects".

Nevertheless, NDDC officer interviewee 21 noted that; "As for the commission is to make sure communities are using those projects executed, there is supposed to be adequate monitoring and evaluation of such projects and programmes but the commission cannot afford to do that because of the underfunding".
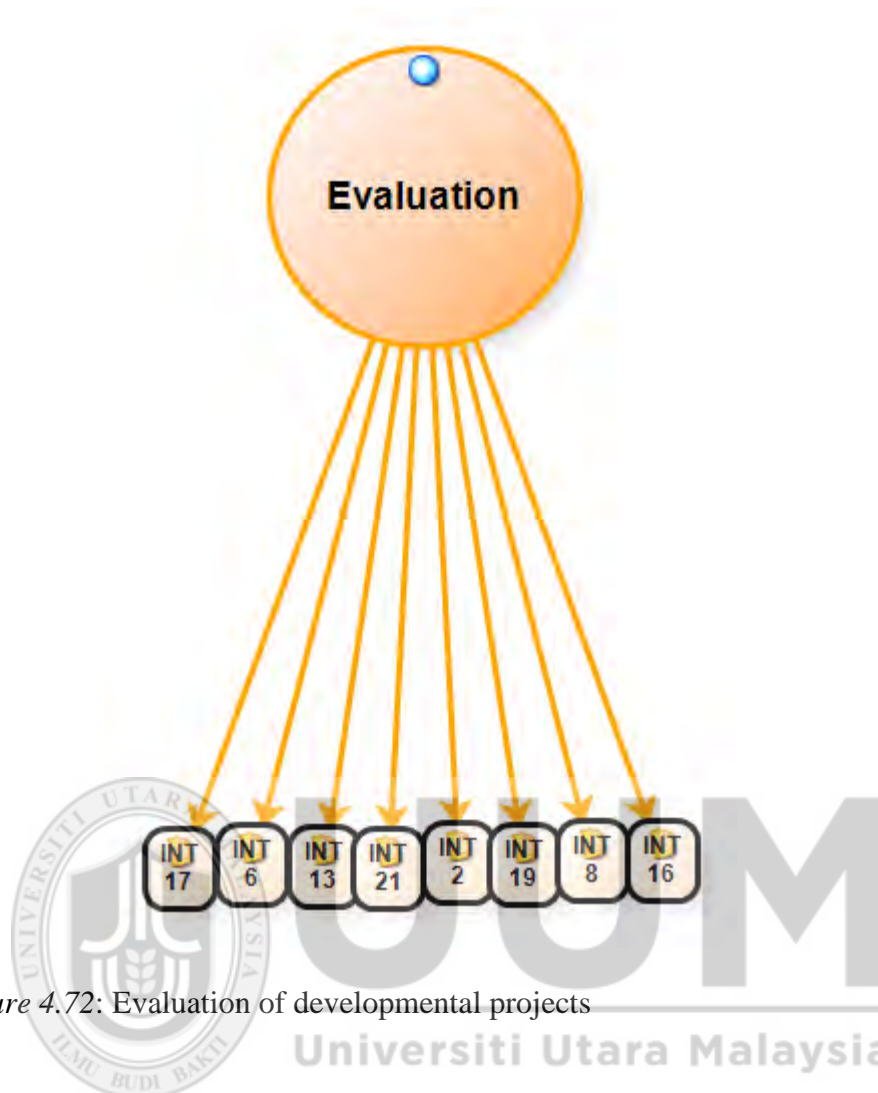
Figure 4.72: Evaluation of developmental projects

4.4.4.2.4 Maintenance Culture

Problem of poor maintenance of developmental projects cut across all strata of Nigeria which has rendered many executed projects and other infrastructures useless to the target population and the inability to support sustainable development (Richard, 2014). Maintenance culture which encompasses provision for adequate care of the hard earned infrastructure have not gained much ground in the consciousness of resource managers in the country over the years, and consequently resulting in the collapse of government buildings, abandoned factory plants and machinery, dilapidated school buildings, pot-holes and chasms on the constructed highway roads, deserted vehicles with minor

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problems, moribund industries and a host of other property belonging to the country which have little or insignificant problem (Uma, Obidike, & Ihezukwu, 2014).

Stating the fundamental assumption on the need for proper maintenance, NDDC officer, interviewee 20 emphasized thus; "there should be a constant maintenance culture to sustain the projects and the status quo. Money should be disbursed for renovation but corruption will not allow that. Sustainability is both the responsibility of community and government".

Meanwhile another NDDC office, interviewee 21 noted that; "To sustain any development project is both the responsibility of the community and NDDC". He added that; "Sustenance of development is the awareness on the part of the community to show interest in development to enable them sustains it". He however revealed that; "on the part of NDDC, it is our duty to maintain even go back to check on these project and programmes but lack of finance will not allow us do this. So it is a two-way thing, both communities and NDDC".

Accordingly, NDDC officer interviewee 20 remarked that:

> *"Sustainability is both the responsibility of community and government. Community should secure and protect the projects and government should maintain. But on the other hand if community is not benefitting or getting any reward from the project they will not be interested. For example, when you install a project and it is working people will be going there and you will see the direct impact on the people. So, if both parties are playing their role especially the government, projects and programmes will be sustained. If the*

direct impact is felt by the community they will be ready to protect and secure

the project but if no direct impact, nobody cares (Int.20)."

In the same way, interviewee 21, NDDC officer shared that:

"The government on their part do not have sustainable plan, whatever you are

doing, you are supposed to have a back-up sustainable plan but never. You will

go and build hospital for the people in 5years everything is down, no checking.

So there should be a constant maintenance culture to maintain the projects and

the status quo. Money should be disbursed for renovation but corruption will

not allow that (Int.21)."

Buttressing the above claim, interviewee 8 community opinion leader stated thus:

"Then the community is not left out, their duty is to protect that project and

make sure it is not mishandled but you most know that people will only protect

what is benefiting them you don't expect people to protect a project that is not

working and bring any good to their lives (Int.8)."

Likewise, interviewee 6 women leader stressed that:

"As for us, it is our duty to put people on ground to take care of the project and

make sure it is not misused". While interviewee18 opinion leader lamented

thus; "we can't maintain the projects because we don't have the money it should

be done by government. This is where NDDC is failing that is why most of their

projects do not last (Int.6)."

In corroboration with the above assertion, interviewee 16 youth leader reported that:

"Most NDDC projects in this community lack maintenance. NDDC do not care to come back for maintenance once they execute any project. For example, if you move close to the site, you will have noticed that cassava has being planted there by some people, this is because nothing is happening there(Int.16)."

Similar view was shared another youth leader interviewee 11 thus:

"They will just come and install, they don't care whether you maintain it or not, their concern is just to install if at all they want to help you. The maintenance is your business; they don't care, that is all. That is one major problem in those projects (Int.11)."

More so, interviewee 18 opinion leader suggested that:

"The government (NDDC) they can come set up a committee within the community but is not that we here cannot maintain it but it is the financial aspect that government should do while, on the part of the community, our role is that we can still set up a committee that will secure this is an important role in a community especially in this recent era (Int.18)."
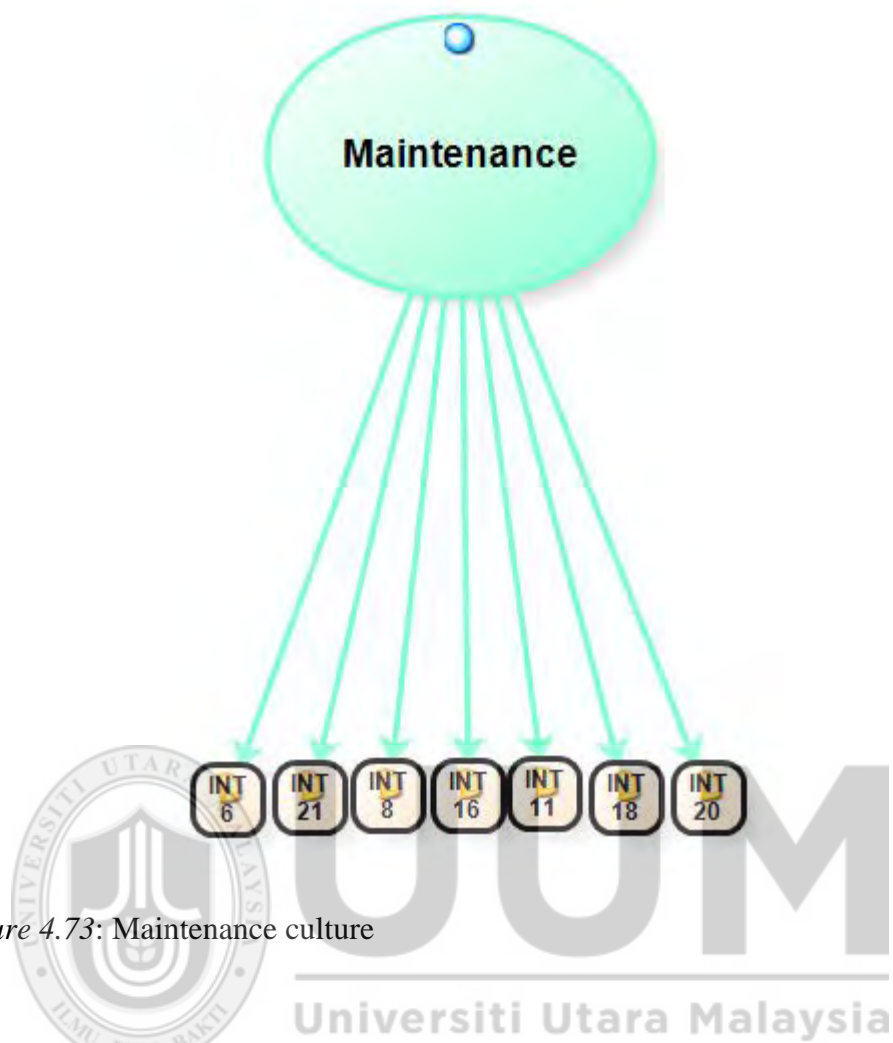
Figure 4.73: Maintenance culture

4.4.4.2.5 Provision of Adequate Security

Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity and communities in Niger Delta were not exempted from this kind of situation. Buttressing the emerged perception, scholars have also indicated that Insecurity is one of the obstacles to sustainable development (Call, 2000, Ujah and Eboh, 2006, Igbuzor, 2011).

This assertion was expressed by interviewee 21 NDDC officer thus; "Most time these communities some of those projects done like installation of transformers are being vandalized by some people in the community". This opinion was supported by a community women leader interviewee 12 that "Securing the project to make sure that, they are not vandalized or misused by people even people in the community. So I think

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with these, all the projects will last". Likewise, interviewee 18, opinion leader noted thus: "for the projects to last, community should protect them by putting in place security measures that will chase away vandals".

Also, NDDC officer interviewee 20 divulged that; "Community should secure and protect the projects and government should maintain. But on the other hand if community is not benefitting or getting any reward from the project they will not be interested".

In line with this claim, community women leader interviewee 12 emphasized that:

> *"So, for all those projects to last, NDDC must complete and maintain them, and then community will protect them because they are the people using and gaining from the projects. Community will only protect what is working and they are using. You cannot protect what is not working (Int.12). "*

"This view was also supported by interviewee 18opinion leader thus; "...then for the community our duty is to protect the project but you cannot protect what is not working. Like the water tank over there cannot be protected because community members are not even using it (Int.18)."

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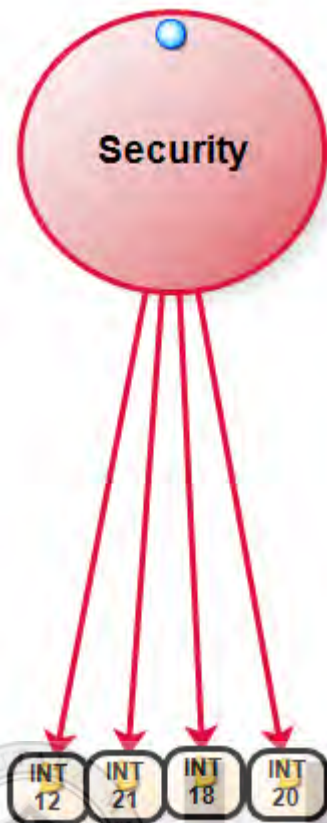
Figure 4.74: Provision of adequate security

4.4.5 Theme Five: Factor Influencing Community Interest in Developmental Programs

Previous studies Nzeadibe et al (2015), Jegede and Fayemiwo (2014) and Prata, Ejembi, Fraser, Shittu and Minkler (2012) have indicated that the level of community participation is influenced by some behavioural factors. While Nkonya, Phillip, Mogues, Pender and Kato (2012) reported that the willingness of community members to be involved in activities relating to the good of their community is determined by their perception, the feeling of being recognized and the role assigned to them in process of formulation and implementation of such activity.

Likewise, O'Brien and Sarkis, (2014) observed that the level of interest of community members in development programs is influenced by how much how significant that project is to them. Therefore, the findings from the study's interviewee identified several factors that could enhance the level of community interest in participating in developmental activities. These include; the relevance of developmental projects and the relationship amongst community members which is reflected in Figure 4.75.
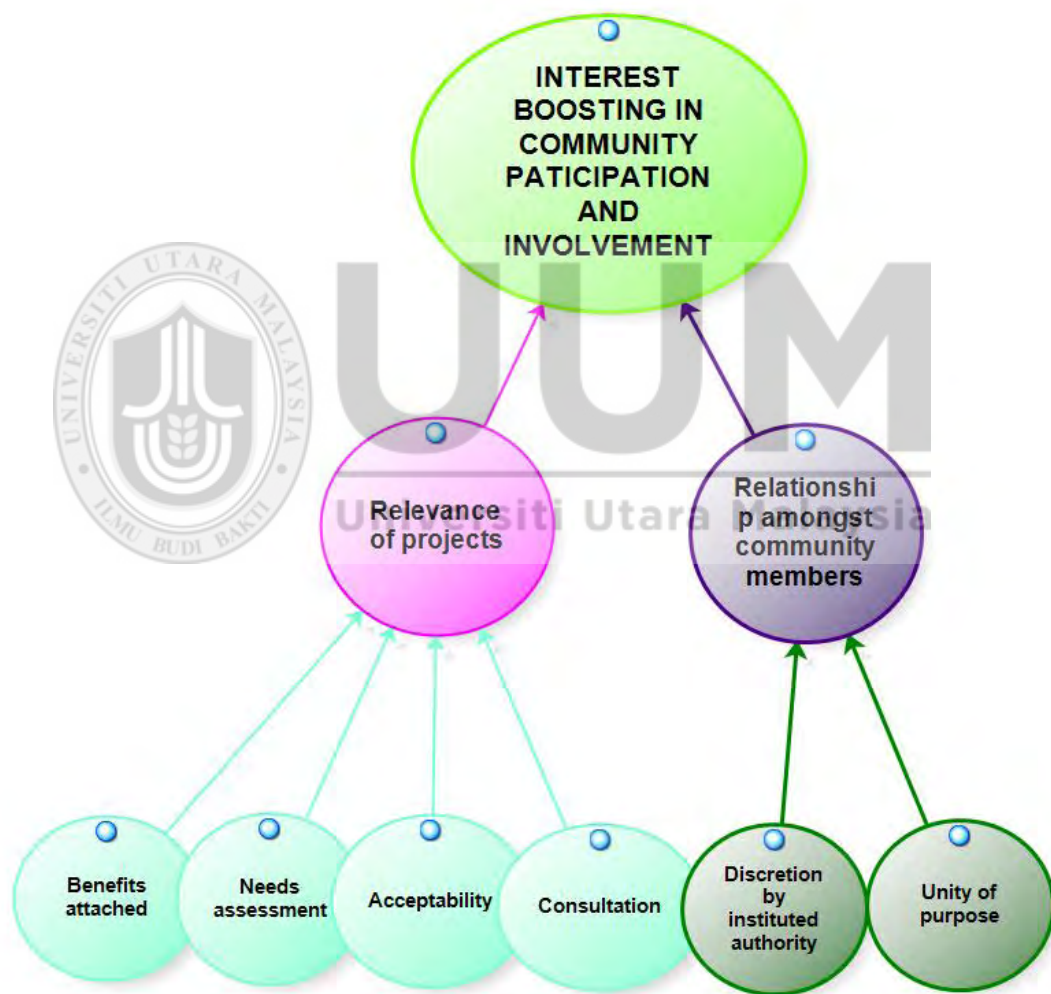
Figure 4.75: Factors for boosting community interest in participation in developmental programs

4.4.5.1 Relevance of Development Projects

The goal of community development is premised on the philosophy that stresses on development as a collaborative effort rather than individualistic approach (Effendy, 2015). This form of association creates a network of relationship that creates a positive atmosphere for individuals to contribute and enhance their scope of knowledge and expertise. It also fosters unity of community members. However, such association is reinforced when they there are perceived benefits (Brancalion, Cardozo, Camatta, Aronson, & Rodrigues 2014). Moreso, Spina, and Menec (2015) that noted communities are more interested in issues and processes aimed at transforming their community and improving their lives. The interest of community members is motivated when the goals and visions of developmental agenda are specified and understood by community members. As a result, the emerged themes from the interviewee analysis identified factors would enhance community interest in developmental activities as well as its sustainability. These include; benefits attached, consolation with community members, assessment of community need and accessibility of projects by community members as indicated in Figure 4.76 below
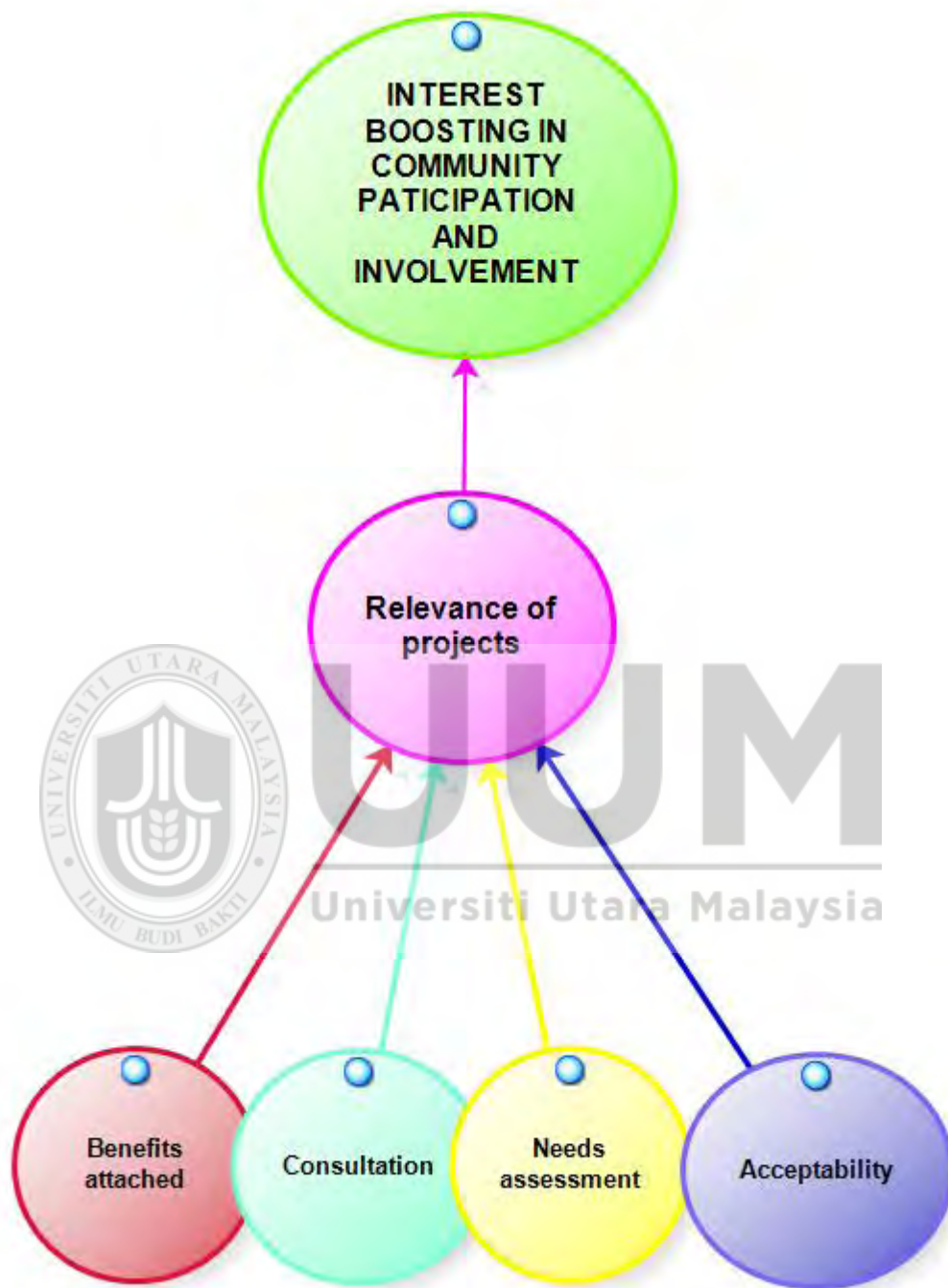
Figure 4.76: Relevance of development projects

4.4.5.1.1 Benefits Attached to Developmental Projects

The findings from the study revealed that community members tend to show more

commitment and enthusiasm towards developmental initiatives when there are

anticipated benefits attached. This view is in line with the study of (Wolf, Emerhi & Okosi, 2002) on community impact assessment of lower Niger River dredging. They observed that the perceived impact of innovative technology can trigger the interest of local community either positively or negatively.

This view is in line with the views of interviewee 13 youth leader echoed that; "…definitely it will, but it depends on if that project or programme will benefit them. You don't expect people to get involved in something that they know will not benefit them it does not make sense". Similar views were expressed by interviewees 2, 7 and 1, community youth, women and opinion leaders respectively observed that "…Community will not be interested in a project that they know they will not benefit from".

However, interviewee 14, another women leader argued that; "You don't expect us to be interested in something that will not benefit us. So interest will depend on if the program or project will benefit you".

While NDDC officer, interviewee 20 revealed that:

> "Sustainability in the Niger Delta is a difficult problem, when there is apathy people are not willing, who will go and sustain it? Rather they will go and vandalize it, they will not see anything good in it, they would see the contractor as the person benefitting, they don't see the project as their own and because the project is not useful to them, they are not interested (Int.20)."

He therefore noted that; "No community will destroy or vandalize what is benefitting them or bringing positive effect on them (Int.20).
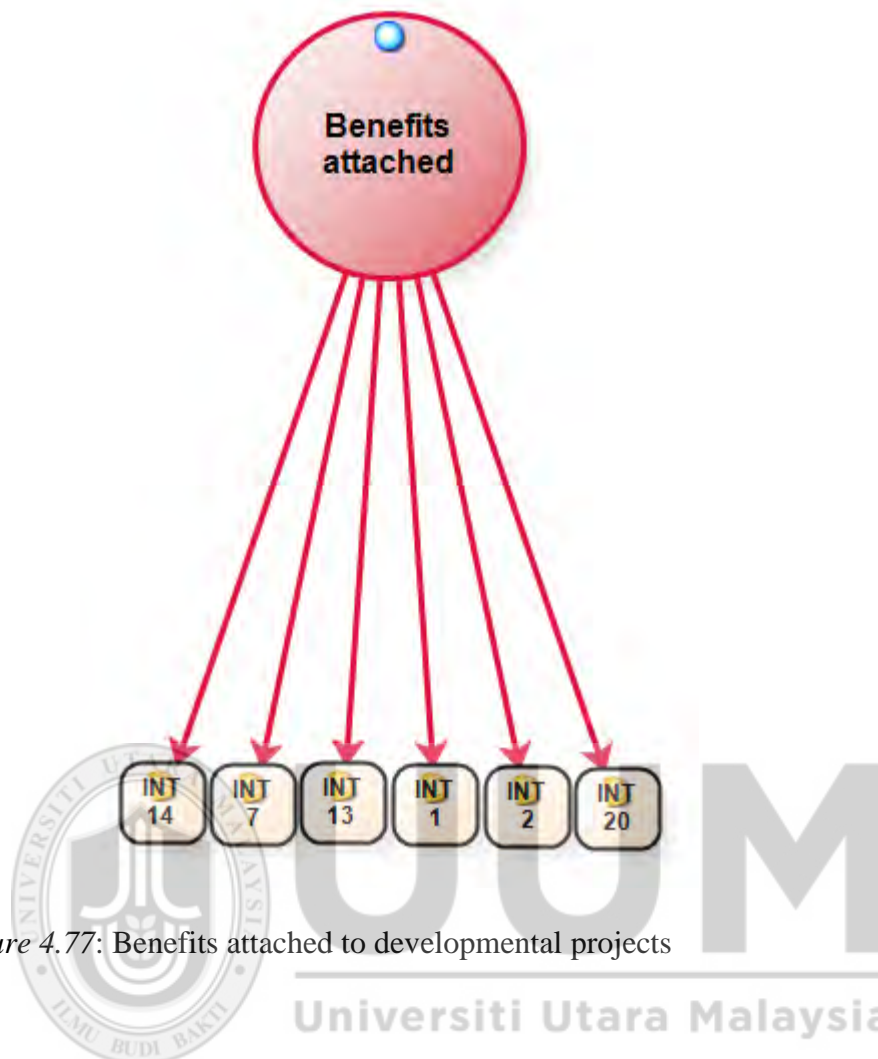
Figure 4.77: Benefits attached to developmental projects

4.4.5.1.2 Consultation with Community Members

When community members are given access in identifying and making decisions in the process of developmental initiatives, it enhances their level of commitment and responsibility to such a project (Abdullahi, Raheem & Saliman, 2013). Community consultation therefore increases the level of individual and collective efforts towards the successful actualization of development of their community by virtue of being an active member in the planning and implementation process. Also Community consultation creates a platform for collaborative capacity building and enhancement that helps to shape the process of development (Famuditi, Potts & Bray 2014). According to Uche, Okala, Okoye, Uche and Ijeoam (2014) of their study on

sustainable community development in the Niger Delta, revealed that community identification of projects and their ability to contribute in the implementation process increases their level of commitment to that project.

This claim was stated by interviewee 4 community opinion leader thus:

> *"For development to be sustained, people must be given the opportunity to make their inputs in development plan. This is the bottom-up approach you don't build it up and throw it on the people. Development is a common language but the workability of development is still a challenge to both Practitioners and users of development (Int.4)."*

On the other hand, another women leader, interviewee 14 noted that; "For any project to be sustained from both government and the private sector perspective, one the people must be enlightened about the programme. Two, they must be met and be part of the programme".

A similar view was shared by interviewee I CDC chairman thus:

> *"If you want to develop a community and you want that project to last, you don't impose a project on them. They should be consulted and allowed to choose for themselves what they want. You don't choose for them. This will increase their interest and devotion to that project (Int.1)"*

While interviewee 2 youth leader indicated that:

> *"NDDC do not come to us before they start anything. So how can we play any active role? For us to play any good role, they most come to us first tell us what*

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they want to do then we will check if that is what we want before we can play

active role(Int.2)."

This claim was reiterated by interviewee 12 women leader thus:

"Because the community is not notified, the community is not informed at all

they cannot play any important role. Let me tell you the community is deformed

about what NDDC are doing. When these contractors come we cannot drive

them away because they have come to do their job (Int12)."

Likewise, another youth leader interviewee 13 who stressed that; "To play a role in

anything, you must be part of it, how can you play a role when you are not part of the

system."

Yet, community opinion leader interviewee 4 noted that:

"The NDDC empowerment programs can only last through adequate

consultation with community member before executing any program. Through

this consultation, an M.O.U will be signed guiding that project so that the next

generation can also benefit from it. This is the best way community can continue

to benefit from NDDC programs (Int.4)."

He however emphasized the need for community commitment to developmental project

for sustainability. He indicated that "The only way this empowerment can last is the

ability of the beneficiaries of these programs to be able to manage the business well.

Government cannot come and manage the business for you" (Int.14).

Consequently, one of the NDDC officer's interviewee 20 divulged thus;

"There should be constant consultation with community members especially the stakeholders to let people know about what NDDC is doing Ignorance is part of it. People don't know the value of some of these developmental projects. Let them know the need for self-employment, not just working for others alone. This is the only way they can appreciate these projects and protect them (Int.20)."
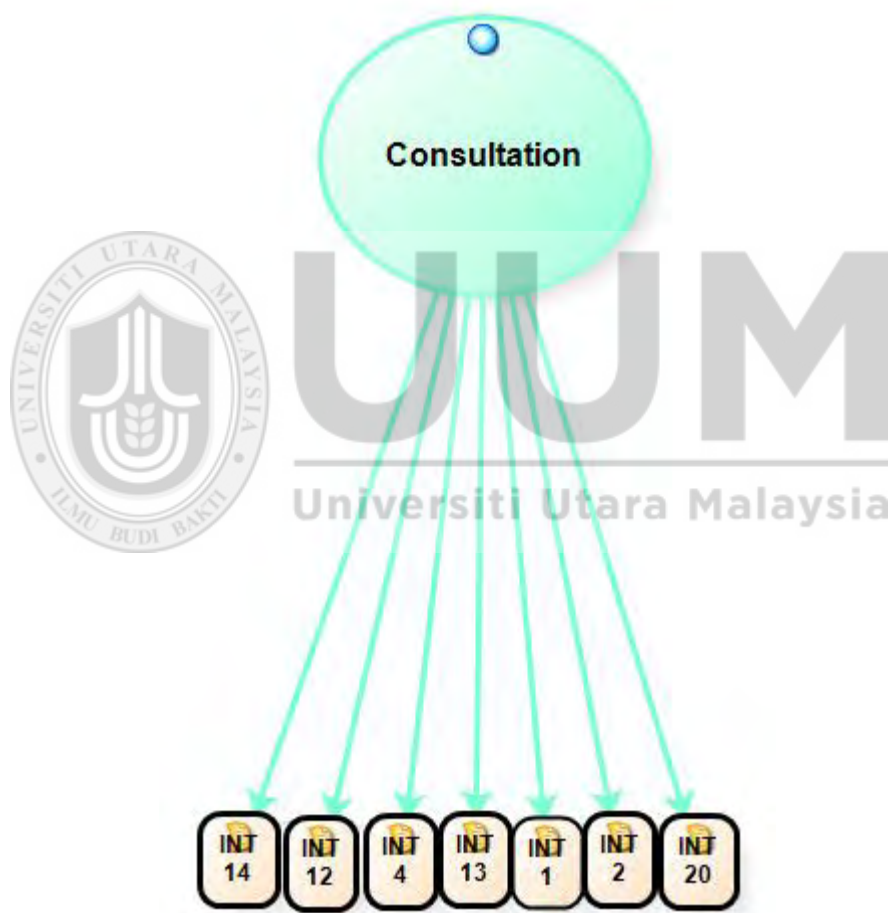
Figure 4.78: Consultation with community members

4.4.5.1.3 Need Assessment of Community Members

According to Hjorth and Madani (2014), the assessment of community needs is crucial in understanding the goals, needs, challenges and the strategy needed in addressing such

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issues. This process includes adequate insight into the socio-cultural, economic and physical environment. Since the focus of development initiatives is the individual, there is pertinent need for development agencies to have a deeper understanding of the different needs that exist within each community in order to achieve the desired goals. According to Michael et.al. (2014), community need assessment creates opportunity for development agency to identify community vitality and available resources that can be harnessed in meeting community needs. Likewise, Nzeadibe et al (2015) noted that communities are given the opportunity to be in charge of developmental projects, it makes them see that project as their own and will be willing to protect it. However, Morrison-Saunders, Pope, Gunn, Bond and Retief (2014) states the interest and commitment of community towards developmental projects is enhanced when such projects make meaningful impacts in the development of their community and wellbeing.

The relevance of need assessment was captured by interviewee 13 youth leader thus:

> *"Development in community should be done according to priority need of community. NDDC should do a survey on community needs on any project they want to execute not out of your own discretion. This is how community can benefit from their program (INT.13)."*

Similar view was highlighted by interviewee 17 community opinion leader that:

> *"NDDC should come down and ask what community wants, like roads and drainages. If they do this, community will be interested in that project and will tend to protect that project but when nothing like is done nobody is interested in that project"*

Likewise, interviewee 13 youth leader reflected that; "I think they should ask community what they want and involve them in any of their programme and projects themselves. This is the only way community will be interested" (Int.17).

He therefore noted thus; "It will increase but the community people must be told the kind of project and it must tally with what community need" (Int.17). Nevertheless, NDDC officer interviewee 20 revealed that:

If we have contacted the community on various programmes, it would have been better; you cannot stay somewhere and plan for someone in their absence, how you would know exactly what they need and their priority. So what we should do is to prioritize the needs of these people sit with them, when we get with the priority from them, we now work with the priority list. That is the need assessment of the people (Int.20).
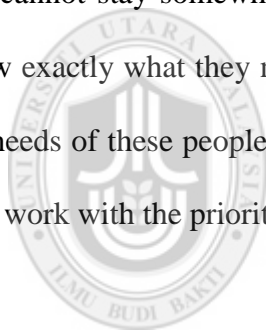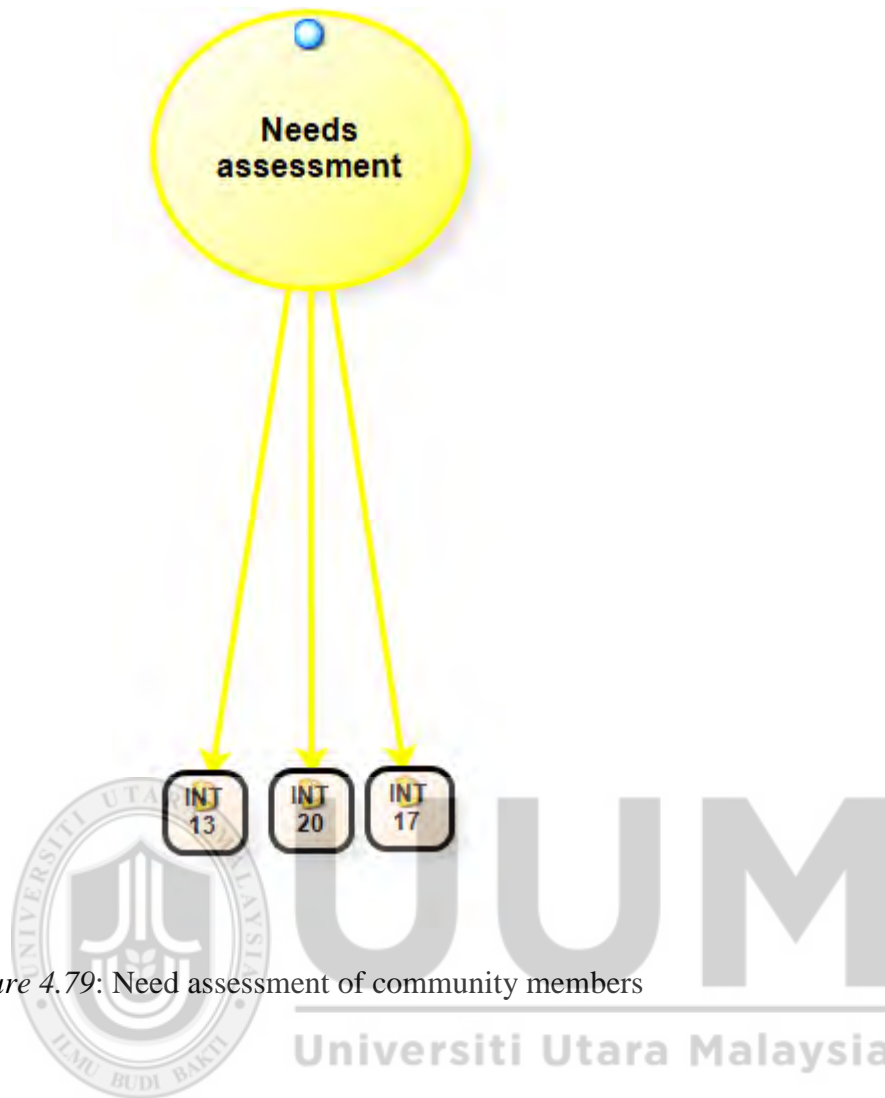
Figure 4.79: Need assessment of community members

4.4.5.1.4 Acceptability of Developmental Projects by Community Members

Based on the findings from the study, community interest in developmental initiatives depends on their level of appreciation and acceptability of that project and the benefits attached. Recent studies conducted on developmental failures in the Niger Delta identified lack of community zeal, and commitment towards development projects as one of the impediment to sustainability of projects (Gonzalez, & Trickett, 2014, Renouard & Lado, 2012, Cowell, Bristow & Munday, 2011).

Emphasizing on the need of community interest on developmental projects, interviewee 1, CDC chairman stressed that;

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"Interest on a particular thing brings about acceptability. This will definitely make you want to get involved and be part of that thing but when there is no interest nobody will like to participate. So interest can play a vital role in community participation. But we don't need to agree before we can be part of what NDDC is doing because it is our community (Int.1). "

Also interviewee 2 youth leader reiterated that "…Yes it will because if community like a project they will be happy to be part of that project and they will want to participate".

Yet interviewee 17, community opinion leader noted that; "You cannot play active role in something you don't like. So you must like and accept something first before you can play active role in that thing".

Meanwhile, NDDC officer interviewee 20 argued that:

"Sustainability is a big problem because the community have not gotten to that level to imbibe sustainable as part of their responsibility. The government is not helping matters at all because of corruption and embezzlement. For you to remove this kind of attitude, you must make those projects work (Int.20)."

A similar opinion was shared by another NDDC officer interviewee 21 thus:

"It depends on the mind-set of the people. This will go a long way for them to value what they are given and when they value it they will maintain it and make sure it does not fail. But when their mind-set is negative towards a particular programme they will not be serious with it (Int.21)."

He however noted that; "Sustenance of development is the awareness on the part of the community to show interest and accept developmental initiatives to enable them sustains it (Int.21).

Also, interviewee 20, NDDC officer asserted "…to sustain any development project or programme is both the responsibility of the community and NDDC. Most time these communities don't even show interest in some of all these programmes even when they do no commitment".
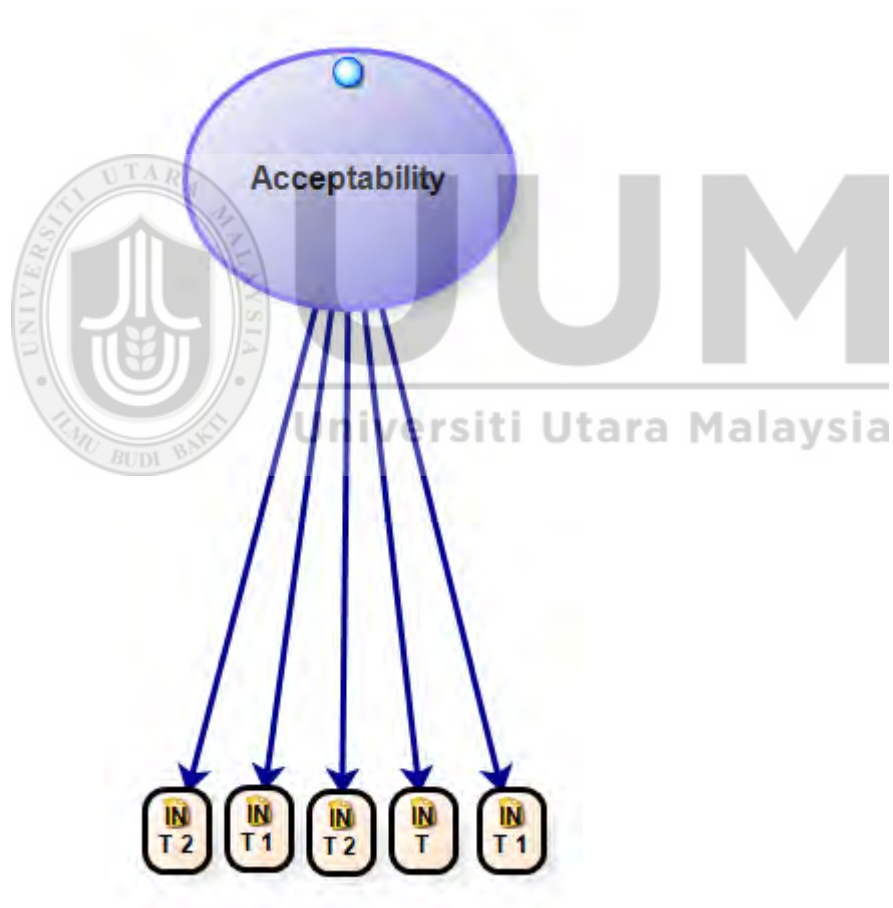
Figure 4.80: Acceptability of developmental projects by community members

4.4.5.2 Relationship amongst Community Members

The willingness of community members to work together in achieving a particular course is crucial for community development and social solidarity (Zahra & McGehee, 2013). This form of integration strengthens community ties and also encourages individual, and collective exchange of ideas within the group. Although, sharing reinforces social relationship, nevertheless, this depends on the level of mutual trust and understanding established within the group (Campbell, 2012). Therefore, the goal of establishing social relationship is to foster mutual understanding and strengthen group commitment towards the targeted goal. The emerged themes from the interview analysis identified unity of purpose and discretion of purpose as factors that enhance community relationship which is depicted in Figure 4.81.
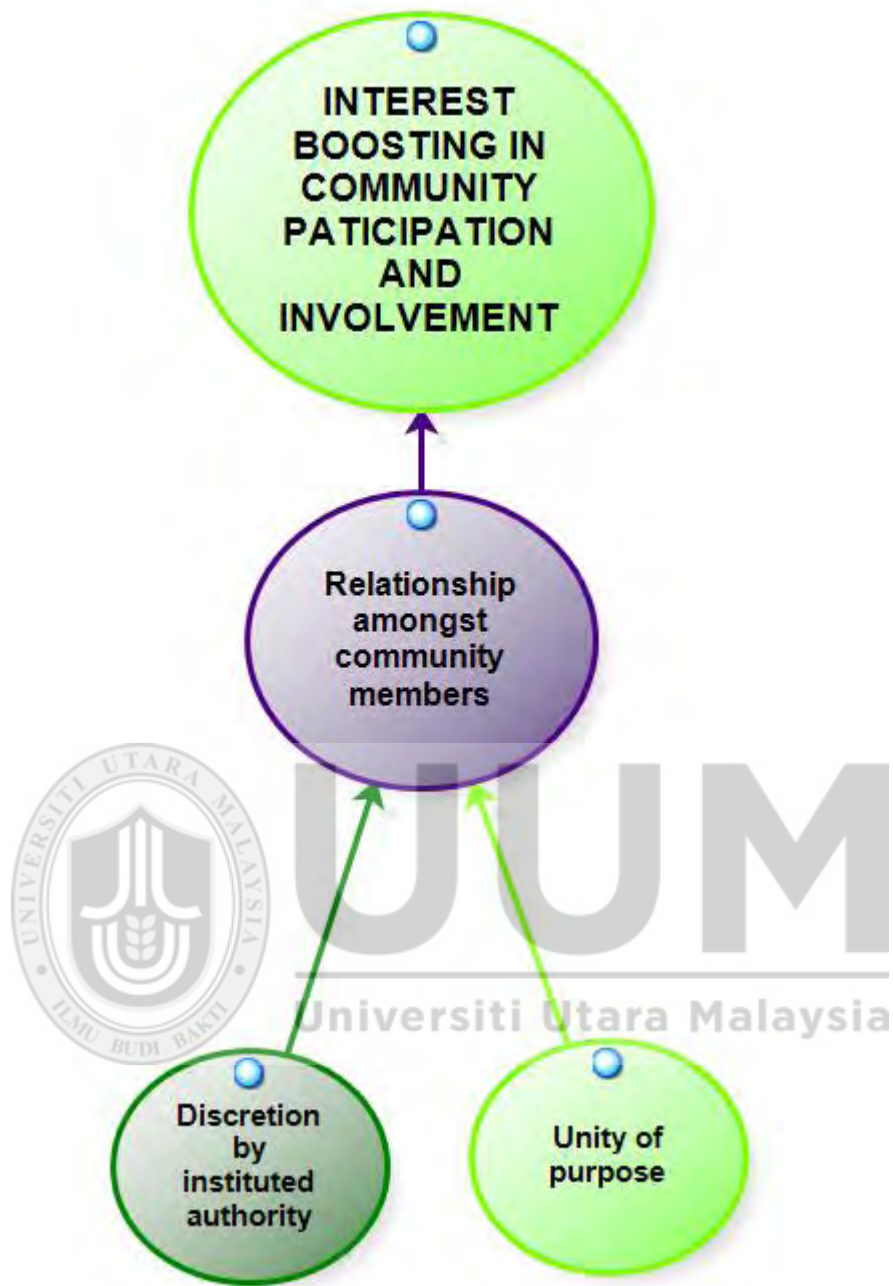
Figure 4.81: Relationship amongst community members

4.4.5.2.1 Unity of Purpose amongst Community Members

The mutual agreement and working together of group members towards a particular course is crucial to the fulfilment and sustainability the collective agenda (Campbell, et al, 2013). However, goals must be made explicit, clear and understood by the group to

avoid doubt and distrust (Smith et al, 2011). Xiao, Farooq, Carroll and Rosson (2013) referred to this type of process as team building. Similarly, Lev-On (2012) noted that team building is a fundamental tool for effective process and implementation of group agenda.

This view corroborates with the study's interviews that emphasizes the need for a common agreement of purpose amongst group members.

This view was expressed by interviewee 9, CDC chairman "…When community members have one mind on a particular project it will make them work together in unity and peace to make the work go on well and also make sure it is done in the right way". Reiterating this claim, interviewee 5, youth leader stated that "…common interest by community on a particular project can increase their level of participation and involvement because when community agree on any particular project they will be willing to be part of that project". Corroborating this view interviewee 8, opinion leader remarked thus "… it can increase because when community members have a common mind on a project and everybody agree to it they will all want to be part of that project". This opinion was also captured by interviewee 12, community women leader when she said "…Yes, when community have common agreement. Yes, it will increase their level of commitment".

More so, interviewee 17, opinion leader remarked that:

> *"Yes, participation will because if they all have one voice and agree they cannot go back to say or do another thing or complain again. This will help to avoid problem. But if some say one thing, and another group say something else, it will cause confusion. So common interest and agreement by community*

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members on a particular project will increase their level of participation. In the

case of our community NDDC do not need to wait for us to agree before the can

involve us because it is our community they want to develop (Int.17)."
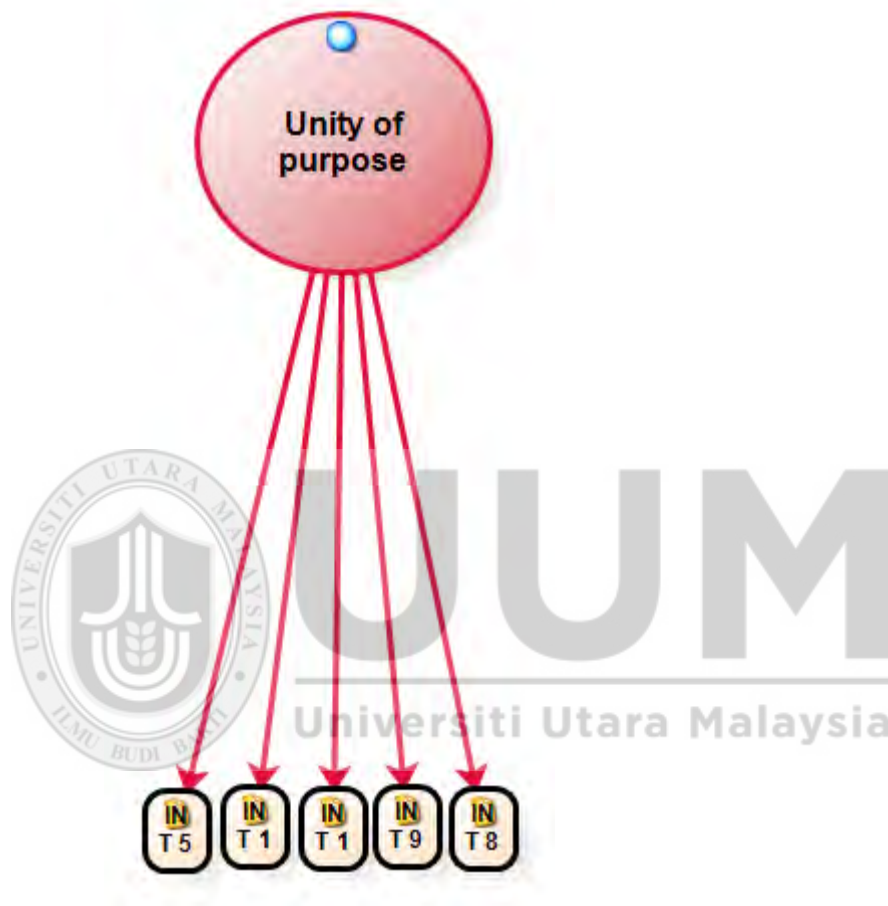
Figure 4.82: Unity of purpose amongst community members

4.4.5.2.2 Discretion by Instituted Authority

Disputes over natural resources have been identified as one of the major causes of inter
and intra ethnic conflicts in the Niger Delta (Amadi, & Alapiki, 2014). Such
disagreement in most cases can impede on the success and sustainability of
developmental initiatives. Nevertheless, such disputes are resolved locally through
constituted authorities within the communities without the involvement of external

bodies (Niedziałkowski, Paavola & Jędrzejewska, 2012). However, in cases where the differences are beyond the local authorities, national authorities therefore intervene to avoid the risk of destructive violence that could be a threat to national peace and development (Rolfe, 2011)

The use of internal mechanism for dispute resolution was captured by interviewee 18 opinion leader as shown in the following discourse "Yes it will, if there is any argument amongst community, we will table it before the elders in the community and at the end the elders will choose the one that is good for us".

This view was also shared by interviewee 15 opinion leader thus; "If there is any disagreement amongst community members on a project, majority vote can win and also the agency can use their own mind to do what is best for the community". While another community opinion leader interviewee 18 argued that "…We cannot choose and agree on what we will not benefit from. If we must agree on something, it must be something that will benefit us".

Also interviewee 7, another community opinion leader commented that; "The government is like a father and you cannot be stronger than the government. So when there is any case of indecision and disagreement amongst community members, the government can come in. This will help to resolve the issue".
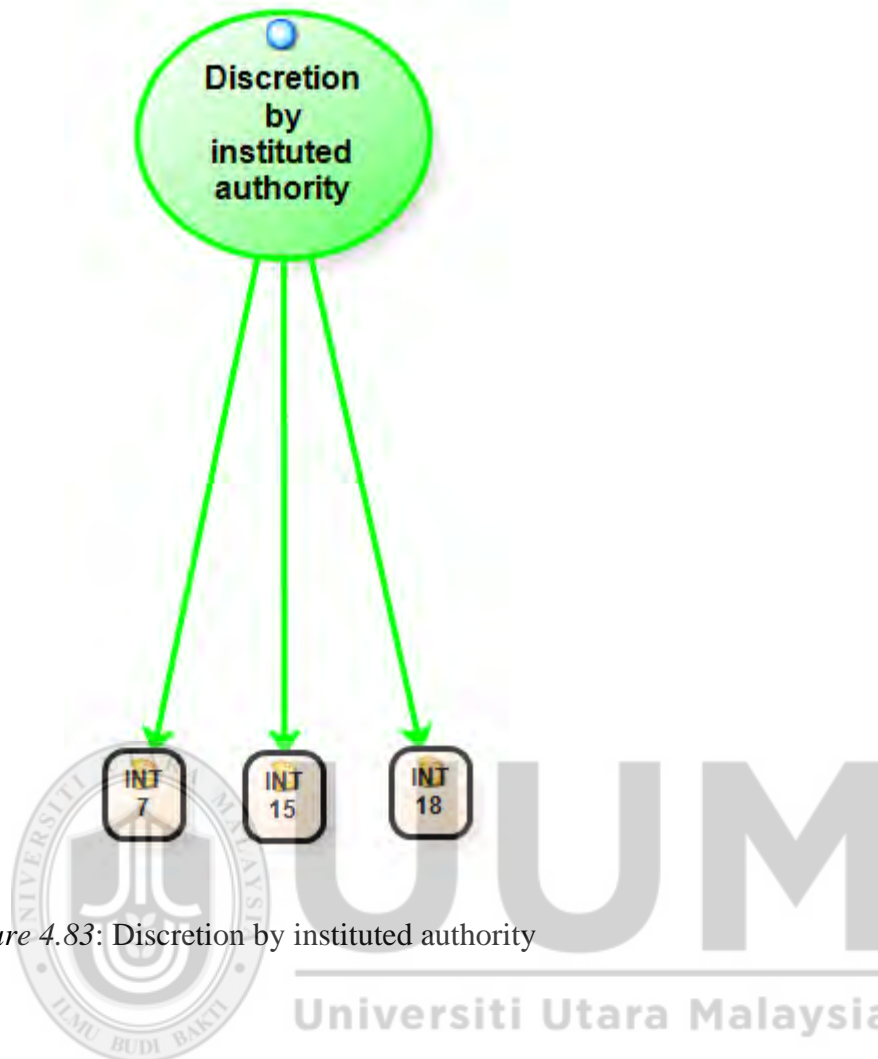
Figure 4.83: Discretion by instituted authority

4.4.6. Theme Six: Community Active Responsibility in Developmental programs

Collver (2013), observed that community is the most important factor that can influence the developmental process by virtue of their ability of being part of the decision making body. Likewise, Thomas, et al (2012) affirmed that sustainable community development is achievable when community members are not only involved in developmental process, but are given the opportunity to take active role and responsibilities. Only when community are given specified functions and duties in developmental process will they have a sense of ownership (Hart, 2013). This claim was captured by Guitton (2012) that the opinions and views of community members in

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developmental process can greatly influence their level of commitment to the achievement of that agenda as show in Figure 4.84.
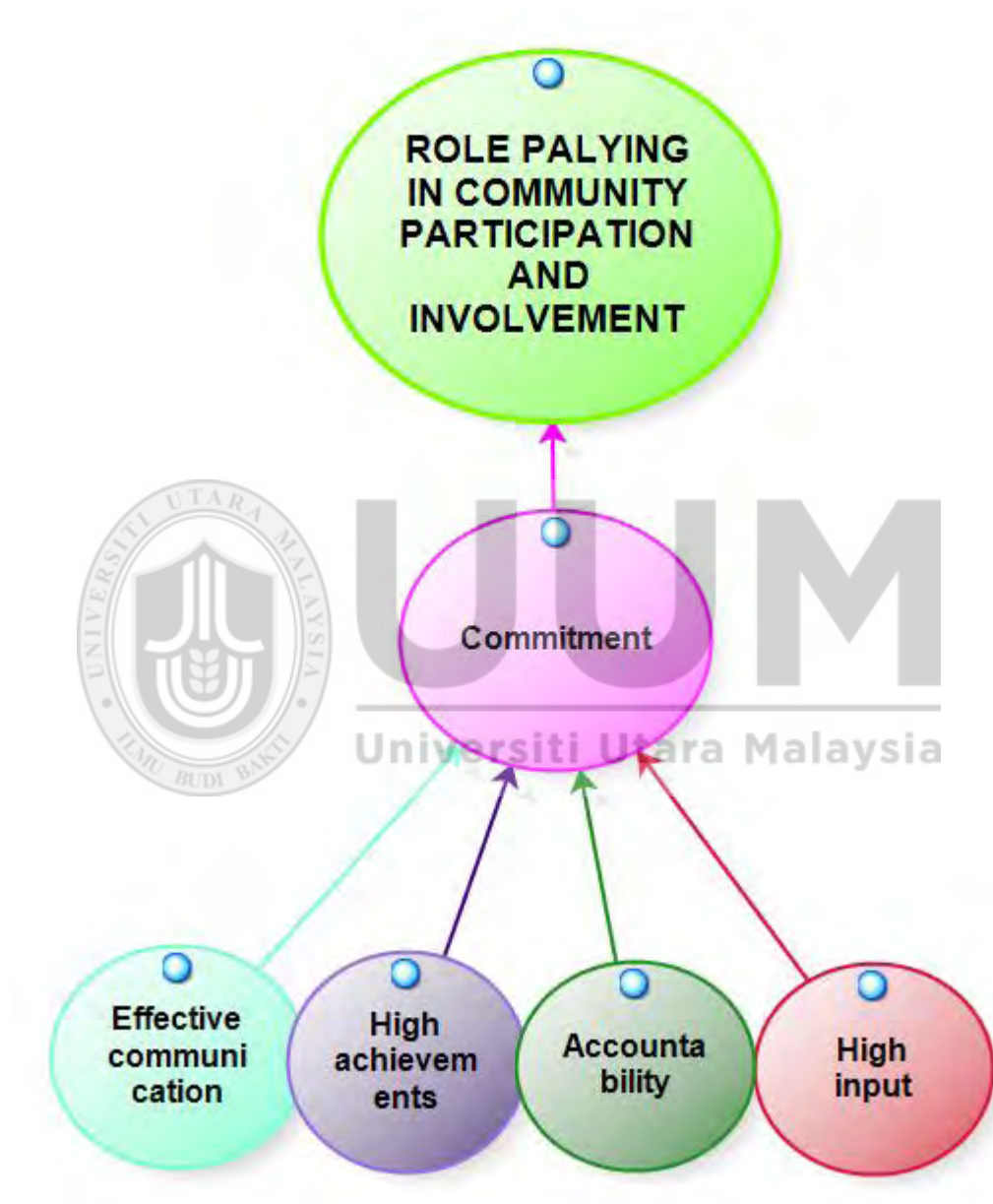
Figure 4.84: Active Responsibility of community members to developmental programs

4.4.6.1 Commitment of Community Members to Developmental Projects

Commitment is the willingness of being dedicated to a particular course, goal or agenda (Jones, 2014). It is the acceptability of taking up responsibility of assigned duties to individuals in a group or team. Van der Schoor and Scholtens, (2015) affirms that, the level of individuals' commitment towards group goals and objectives is crucial for the effective functioning of the group in achieving its goals. Similarly, Crost, Felter and Johnston (2014) noted that the collective efforts and dedication of members in a group strengthens group cohesion and individual's willingness to be remains within that group. While Apsan, Frediani, Boni and Gasper (2014) stated that people become committed to group agenda when there are perceived benefits attached. Based on the study interviews, the following themes were generated which include effective communication, high achievement, accountability and high inputs as benefits of group commitment towards a particular goal as picture in Figure 4.85.

Figure 4.85: Commitment of community members to development projects

4.4.6.1.1 Effective Communication

According to Aksorn and Charoenngam, (2015) Adequate dissemination of information is one of the fundamental factors that enhances the implementation of any developmental project. Although free flow of information is a prerequisite for successful project implementation, however, its effectiveness lies on the disposition of individuals within the group towards the group agenda (Ali, 2014). Likewise, Treude and Storey, (2011) noted that the quality of effective communication flow is determined the response and feedback from the recipient within and outside the group. Tapia (2013)

concludes that Individual's commitment fosters group solidarity in achieving the set goals.

This view was affirmed by interviewee 10 women leader thus:

> *"Yes, getting the right information will increase our interest in anything that is happening in the community. That is why we have the executives who from time to time try to inform community on whatever that is going on in the community (Int.10)."*

She noted that "…This is what NDDC is supposed to be doing. But we don't see them; they do not inform us on any of their project before coming here. That is why you see most of us are not interested in what they are doing" (Int.10).

In addition, interviewee 6, other women leaders echoed that:

> *"Communication is very important because it will make people to be fully aware of what is going on around their community and will be willing to assist to make the thing work. If people are not properly informed it can lead to disagreement amongst them and nobody will be willing to contribute to that thing (Int.6)."*
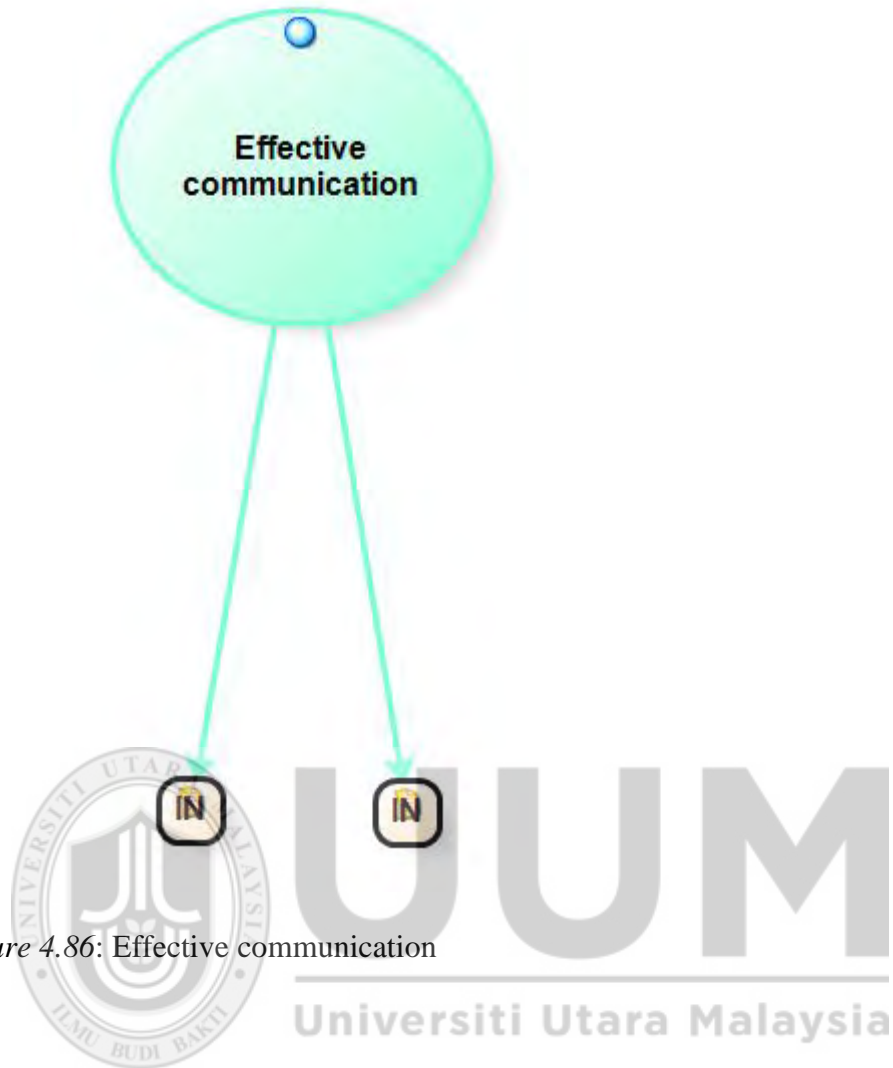
Figure 4.86: Effective communication

4.4.6.1.2 High Achievements

Successful project execution requires adequate planning, commitment to project and effective communication flow (Townsend, 2013). The commitment of group members towards targeted goal does not only facilitate the process, but also enhances its efficiency and effectiveness (Ulmer, Sellnow & Seeger, 2014). However, the commitment of individuals within a group is guaranteed when they are assigned to specific duties (Reid, 2013).

This assertion was buttressed by interviewee 8 community opinion leader thus:

"You must be part of a system before you can play a role, so if you are not known and you are not recognized then it's difficult for you to play a role except by violence and that should not be the best thing for now. Well role playing is very crucial in increasing the level of community participation and involvement because; it will make the project move faster and smoother. It will also create a peaceful environment for the job which is very important for any development to thrive well (Int.8)."

This claim was captured by interviewee 10 women leader that:

"It will increase their level of participation because when you are given a specific role to play like being the leader of the group or to supervise you will want to make sure the work goes on very well and also produces good result. So when people are given specific role to play they will be encouraged to want to participate in that thing (Int.10)."

Similarly, interviewee 18 opinion leader emphasized that:

"Yes it will to a very large extent because when you assign a specific role or duty to community members on any project that is going on in their community they will all corporate to make sure the project goes on smoothly. They will also make sure that nobody disturbs the flow of the work to enable them get good result (Int.18)."

In the same way, interviewee 19 women leader noted thus:

"The level of participation and involvement will increase because when you commit community members to do a particular thing and you give each of them

a particular role, they will all perform well and work together to see that they

achieve good result at the end of the day(Int.19)."
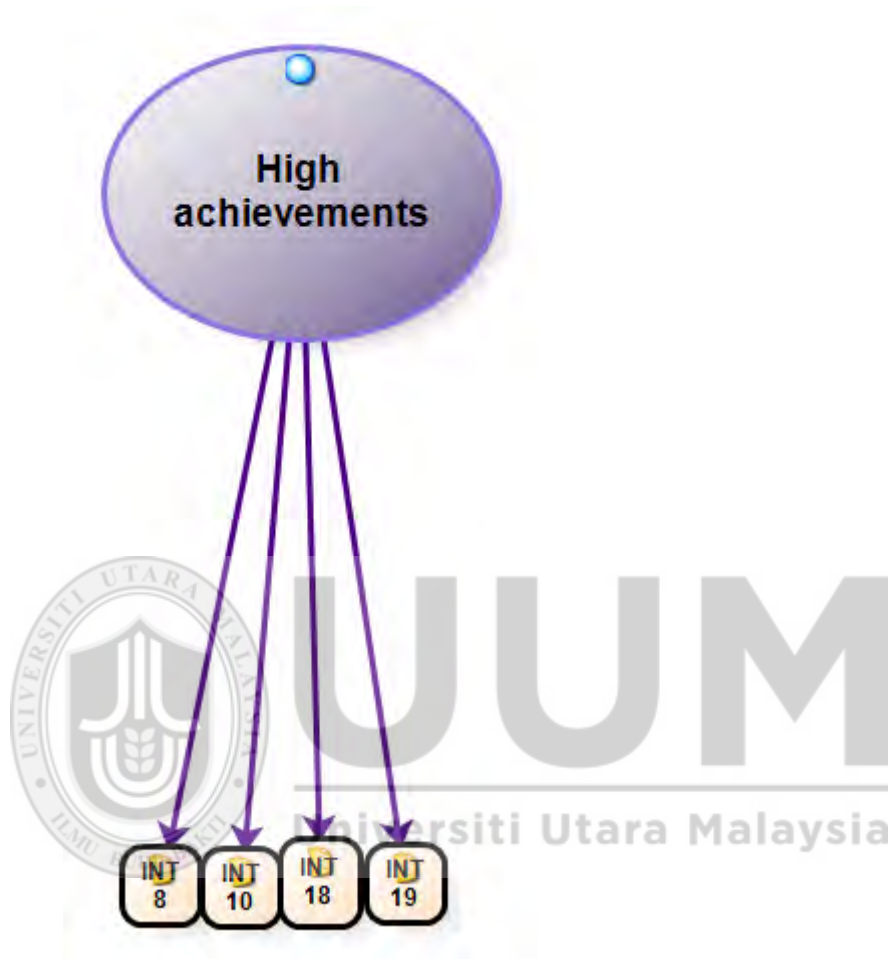
Figure 4.87: High achievements

4.4.6.1.3 Accountability of Community Members

Studies (e.g. Edward et al 2015; Banks, Butcher, Orton & Robertson, 2013; Molyneux,

Atela, Angwenyi & Goodman, 2012) have identified accountability of community

members in developmental activities as fundamental in achieving rapid and remarkable

success. Accountability revolves round the concept of value system, understanding

group members' perception towards group agenda and ability to access the performance

of each member within the group (Stucke, 2007). Cordner (2014) noted that the feeling

of belongingness of individuals towards a particular goal enhances their level of dedication and loyalty. Similarly, Swanepoel and De Beer (2012) asserted that when community members are totally in control to decide over issues that affects their community, it creates a sense of responsibility towards the achievement of targeted goal. However, the level of performance and commitment of community members towards set goals is enhanced when they are assigned specific roles (Hassan & Kouhy, 2015).

This assertion was expressed by interviewee 9, CDC chairman "…when you make community to be part of what you are doing, they tend to have a sense of belonging and responsibility. This will make them participate and want to be part and parcel of the project".

A similar opinion was captured by 11 youth leader reiterated that:

> "Because when community members are given specific role to play in ant project they will want to put in their best to make sure that project is done well at the end of the day because if they don't do it well, the community will hold them responsible for the failure (Int.11)."

Likewise, interviewee 18, community opinion leader noted that "… they will also make sure that nobody disturbs the flow of the work. But if they are not given any specific role people will do things the way they like because you cannot hold anybody responsible if anything goes wrong". Similarly, interviewee 7, another opinion leader stressed that; "When given any active role to play in any project, it is like you are given

the people a kind of responsibility of that project and they will not want that project to fail".
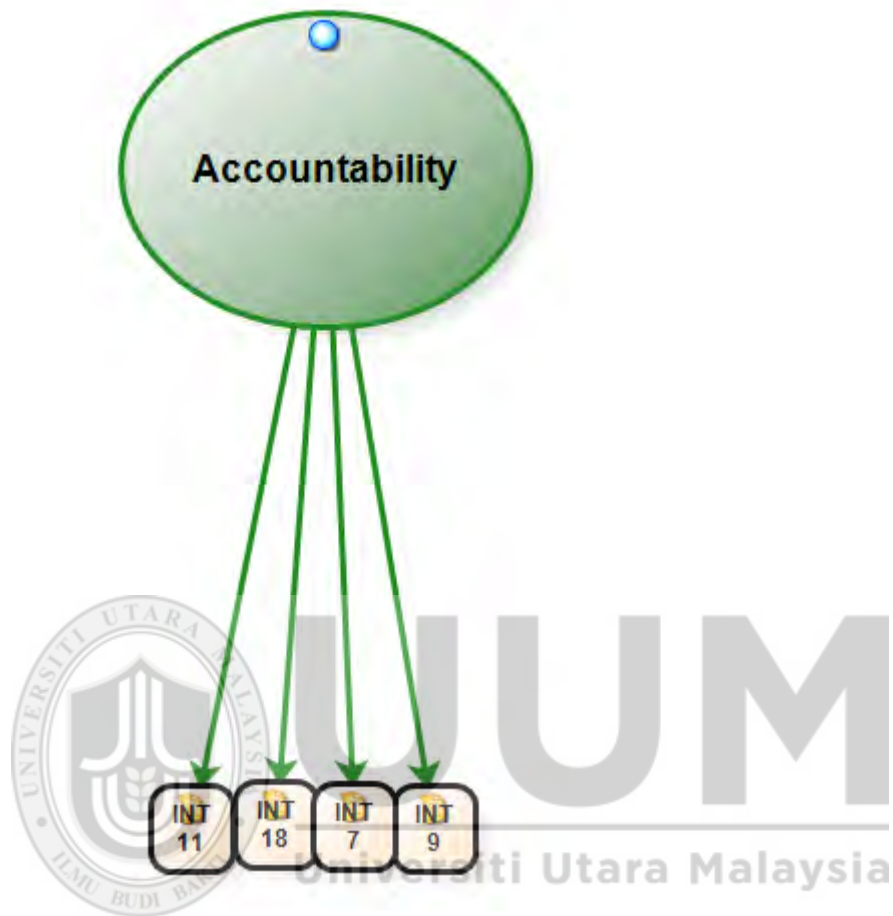
Figure 4.88: Accountability of community members

4.4.6.1.4 High Input

Community engagement in developmental projects is very important for development of community. Community engagement creates a platform whereby community members share, and contribute meaningfully to the development of their community (Allison, Reese, Dobias & Struna, 2015). The involvement of community members into developmental plans has the likelihood of reducing any form of opposition from community and increasing the chances of acceptance of project (Ellison, Shirlow & Mulcahy, 2012). According to Farnsworth et.al. (2014) the acceptability of

developmental initiatives by community members increases their level of input and commitment. Whereas, Eder et.al. (2013) maintained the loyalty of community members to development activity is reinforced when there are they are benefiting from such a process.

This view corroborates with the response of interviewee 4 community opinion leader that:

> *"Active role will make community committed and dedicated to a particular project because when people are fully engaged in a particular project it will increase their level of commitment which will in turn increase the level of inputs".*

This claim was also stressed by interviewee 3, women leader "…It will because when community members are given specific role to play they will put in all their effort to make sure that project succeed because they know it is meant for them and they will be the beneficiary of that project".

Similar views were also noted by interviewee 13 youth leader that:

> *"First community must be involved before they can play any role and they must know the kind of role they want to play. Then they will be willing to contribute more to that project because they know they will be the ones that will gain from the project (Int.13)."*

Correspondingly, interviewee 13 youth leader reiterated that; "When people are given any active role to play they will put in more effort and commitment because they don't

want to be seen as a failure so the level of participation will definitely increase".
Likewise, interviewees 2, and 5, community youth leaders respectively echoed that 'If
community members are given specific role, they will all team up and work together
for the good of that project'.

While interviewee 17, opinion leader re-echoed that:

> *"Active role it is a very serious matter in project execution. Which means the
> community are totally in-charge of that project These are some of the things
> NDDC should be doing but they are not doing that at all that is why their
> programme are not working out well(Int.17)."*
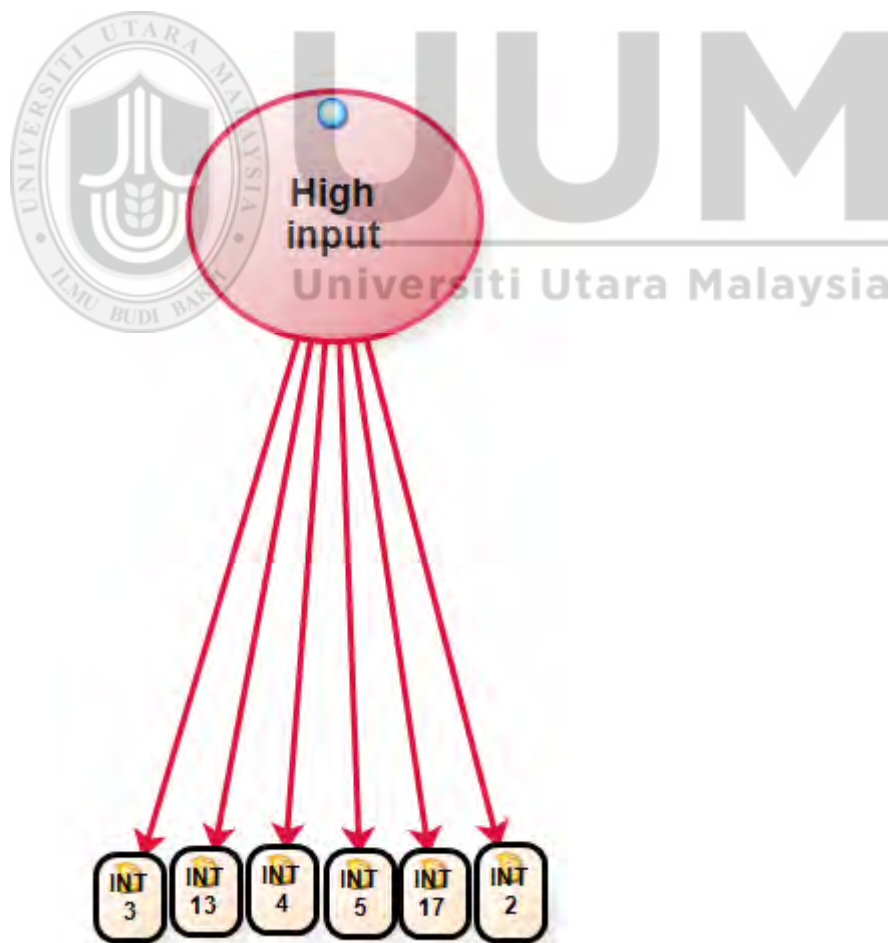
Figure 4.89: High input

4.5 Summary

The results from the analysis were obtained based on the views and opinions of both community members and the NDDC officers with a total of 22 interviewees. The Nvivo 1o software was employed for the thematic analysis which generated six themes, 22 sub-themes and 66 sub-sub themes. From the findings of the study, it was revealed that the participation and involvement of community members in planning and execution of developmental initiates are crucial for its sustainability. It further identified factors such as trust-building, adequate consultation with community members, community members' sense of ownership, and the level of community relationship with developmental agency as facilitators while factors such as abandonment of projects, lack of adequate funding, community attitude and political interference as impediments to development sustainability. Likewise, the interviewees' responses revealed that the level of community participation and involvement is influenced by some factors such as benefits attached and commitment of community members to developmental plans. Although, there are some divergent views especially from the NDDC officers, however, majority of the interviewees' established that community participation and involvement is fundamental in the planning and execution of developmental programs. This suggests that community development sustainability is achievable when community members are co-opted into developmental initiatives at both the planning and implementation stages.

CHAPTER FIVE: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

The objective of this chapter is to present and interpret the quantitative findings based on the data analysis and formulated study questions as stated in Chapter One. This chapter basically discusses the data analysis and data presentation of the result of various analyses conducted in this study. First it discusses on the general background of the respondents that participated in the study which consist both the NDDC official and the community leaders in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Second it covers the preliminary screening of the collected data and the conditions for analysis of correlation and regression analyses. Other major analyses presented and discussed in this chapter include the descriptive analysis, factor analysis for checking the validity of the research instruments, reliability test, correlation analysis and finally the regression analysis including the hierarchical regression analysis which was used to determine the moderating effect of common passion and active responsibility on the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

5.2 Respondents' Background

In accordance with the scope of this study, Ansari, Munir, and Greg (2012) and Magee, Scerri, James, Thom, Padgham, Hickmott, and Cahill (2013) asserted that many scholars have identified that community members' are pertinent to community development sustainability. More so, the participation, involvement and passions of community members are influenced by information and enlightenment they acquired

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through various representatives and sub -group they belong to in the community (Moyaert, 2013; Sjanke, 2014). In order to further understand these concepts within the Niger Delta oil producing communities in Nigeria, three selected states were selected which include Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers. From these three states, two oil producing communities each were selected as iterated in Chapter Four. The six communities identified were Akassa, Oloibiri, Omoku, Bonny, Afiesere and Koko communities. They were selected because of their poor performance in terms of health, lifestyle, education and environmental quality compared to other similar communities within Niger Delta region (Kimenyi, Deressa, & Pugliese, 2014). The description of the three selected states and six communities have been discussed in the methodology in chapter four.

5.3 The Response Rate

A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed among six (6) communities surveyed. In all, a total of 284 questionnaires representing a total response rate of 94.7% were returned. The common response rate recommended by the American Association for Opinion Research (AAPOR) in studies of this nature is 32.6% (Johnson & Owens, 2003). Therefore, the total response rate of 94.7% achieved in this study is considered more than sufficient. The response rate of 94.67% was attained due to the strategy adopted by the researcher to administer and collect the questionnaires. Competent research assistants who were residents and members of the communities were engaged by the researcher to assist in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires. Response rate was computed by: 284/300* 100=94.67%. More details about the response rate according to the six communities surveyed are provided in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1

Response Rate

	Communities	Distributed	Returned Filled	Percentage of Response Rate
	Akassa	50	48	96
	Afiesere	50	45	90
	Bonny	50	50	100
	Koko	50	48	96
	Oloibiri	50	48	96
	Omok	50	45	90
Total	**6 communities**	**300**	**284**	**94.67%**

The highest response rate was recorded in Bonny community with a 100% response rate and made 16.90% of the total study response rate. Whereas the lowest were recorded was from the Afiesere and Omoku communities with 90% response rate from each of the communities while the combination of both made 31.7% of the total study response rate. It was also observed that Bonny community members were passionate to participate in the survey compared to other communities which resulted for the 100% response rate recorded in the community.

5.4 Demographic information of respondents

The data presented in the descriptive statistics are from the survey. These include gender, age, marital status, qualification, occupation and year of resident in the communities by the respondents as well as the percentage responses of the questionnaire returned from the six selected Niger Delta communities. For the purpose

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of clarity and ease of understanding, the data obtained from the field survey were presented in tables and charts.

5.4.1 Gender

The descriptive result shows that out of the respondents that participated in the study, 231 or 81.3% are male, while 53 of them are female accounting for 18.7%. The mean and standard deviation values are 1.19 and 0.390 respectively. The result is further depicted in Table 5.2 and Figure 5.1 respectively.

Table 5.2

Gender Distribution

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	231	81.3
Female	53	18.7
Total	284	100.0
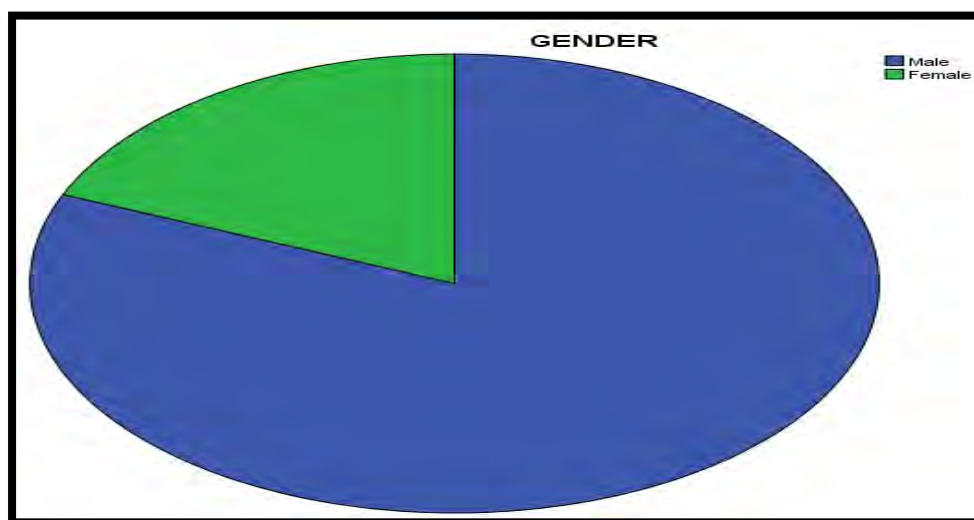
Figure 5.1: Gender distribution

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It can be seen that the gender distribution depicts that majority of the respondent were men which support Izugbara, Tikkanen, and Barron (2014) argument that men are always the proactive when it comes to the issues of community development. It also justified Ali, Deininger, and Goldstein (2014) study that African men always take active roles compared to female when discussing on community development. These two studies provide justification for the higher men gender distribution in this study.

5.4.2 Age Distribution of Respondents

Age distribution is another vital demographic element which will help us to understand the thinking faculty of the study respondents. For this study, out of the 284 respondents, 50 (17.6%) were 18-25years old while 64 (22.5%) of the respondents were within the age group of 26-33years. The respondents that fall within the age bracket of 34-41years are 55 (19.4%) while 42-49years are 64 (22.5%). Only 51 (18.0%) fall within the age bracket of 50years and above (see figure 2). The result is further depicted in Table 5.3and Figure 5.2.

Table 5.3

Distributions of Respondents by their Age

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	18-25years	50	17.6
	26-33years	64	22.5
	34-41years	55	19.4
	42-49	64	22.5
	50 and above	51	18.0
	Total	284	100.0

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AGE

- 18-25years
- 26-33years
- 34-41years
- 42-49
- 50 and above
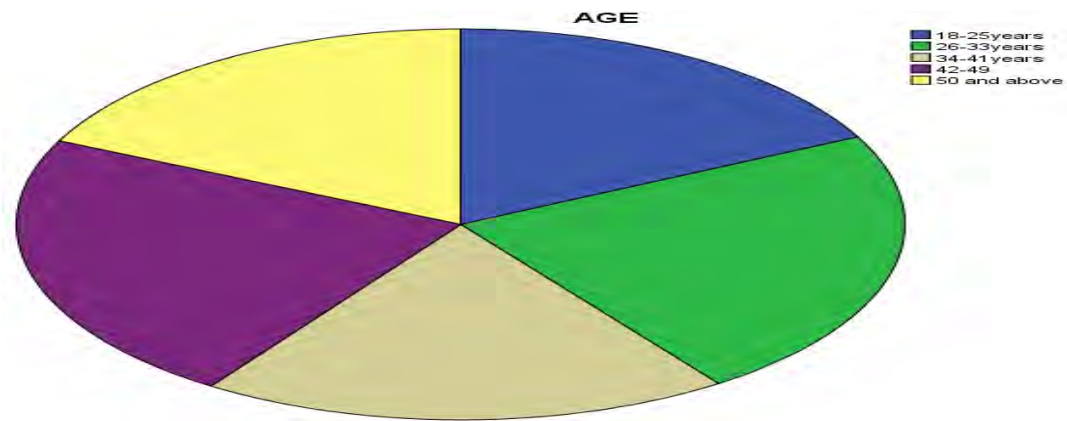
Figure 5.2: Respondents' distribution by age

This implies that majority of the respondents fall within the age category of 26-33years and 42-49years. This is significant because 26-33 years marks people that are in higher institutions like university, or university graduates in Nigeria. Whereas, 42-49 years are the young working class age in Nigeria, and they are the most affected and concern with issues of community development. These findings support arguments from Christens and Dolan (2011) and London, Zimmerman and Erbstein (2003) studies where they inserted that students (most especially university students) and young adults are the most vibrant when it comes to community development.

5.4.3 Marital Status of Respondents

In this survey, majority of the respondents are married representing 146 (51.4%) of the aggregate responses. 80 (28.2%) of the respondents are single, 25 (8.8%) are divorced, and 21 (7.4%) are widowed. A less significant number of the respondents were separated representing 12 (4.2%) of the responses. Details of the result are depicted in Table 5.4 and figure 5.3.

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Table 5.4

Distributions of Respondents by their Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent
Single	80	28.2
Married	146	51.4
Divorced	25	8.8
Widowed	21	7.4
Separated	12	4.2
Total	284	100.0
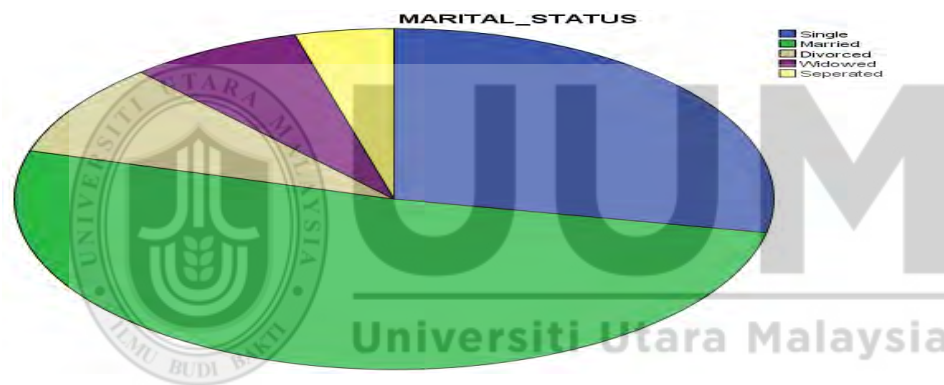
Figure 5.3: Respondents' distribution by marital status

This statistics is line with Hart (2013), Vaughan, Gack, Solorazano, and Ray (2003) and Pitegoff (1993) studies where they pointed out that parents are the most passionate when it comes to issues of community development. This is because they are the only group that is most worry with future development in their community for the sake of their children. This group tends to advocates for better living condition not only for their selves but for their unborn children and future generation.

5.4.4 Educational Qualification of Respondents

In this survey, a significant proportion of the respondents have completed secondary education (24.6%) while the level of technical education accounts for about 17.3%. Also, majority of the respondents have attained tertiary education accounting for about 36.6% of the respondents. The cases of no formal education represented 13(4.6%), primary, but uncompleted education 11(3.9%), primary but completed 15(5.3%) and junior secondary education 18(6.3%). Only a smaller proportion of the respondents 4(1.4%) have acquired additional degrees (see figure 4). This means that the level of education in the Niger Delta region is considerable. More details on this result are depicted in Table 5.5 and Figure 5.4

Table 5.5

Distributions of Respondents by their Educational Qualifications.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No formal education	13	4.6
	Primary but uncompleted	11	3.9
	Primary but completed	15	5.3
	Junior Secondary	18	6.3
	Senior Secondary	70	24.6
	Technical School	49	17.3
	Polytechnic/University	104	36.6
	Others	4	1.4
	Total	284	100.0

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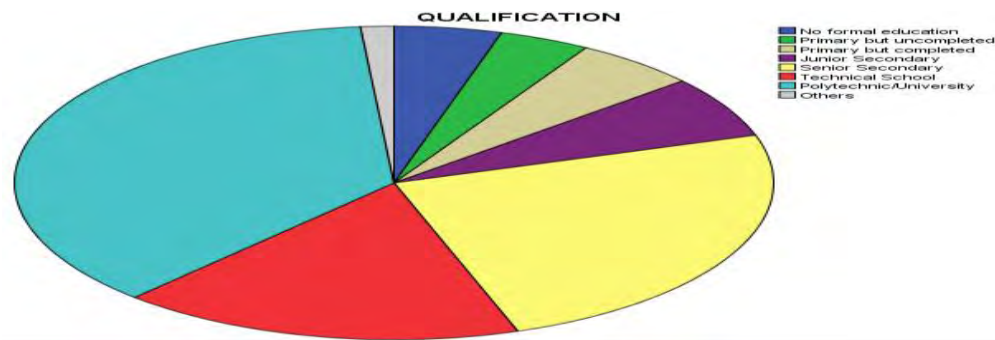
Figure 5.4: Respondents' distribution by educational qualifications

5.4.5 Occupation of the Respondents

Majority of the respondents are almost equal I nnumbers as civil servants and self-employed as their occupation62(21.8%) versus 60(21.1%) of occupations respectively. In addition, unemployed individuals ranked 55(19.4%) while those whose occupational activities are students account for about 54(19.0%). Agro-business activities account for about 48(16.9%) while 5(1.8%) were those whose occupational activities fall in other categories such as pensioners and government employed (see figure 5).   This means that the occupational activities in the Niger Delta region are dominated by civil servants.Table 5.6 and Figure 5.5 provide more details.

Table 5.6

Distributions of Respondents by their Occupation

	Frequency	**Percent**
Unemployed	55	19.4
Student	55	19.4
Civil Servant	62	21.8
Agro Business	47	16.5
Self-Employed	60	21.1
Others	5	1.8
Total	284	100.0
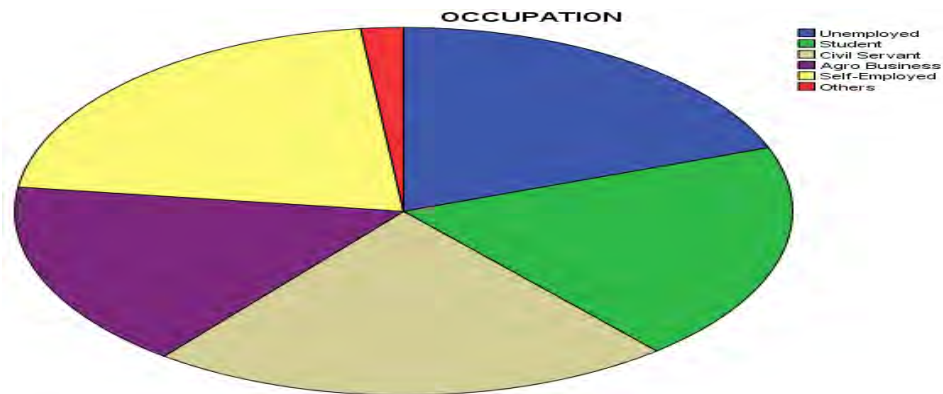
Figure 5.5: Respondents distribution by occupation
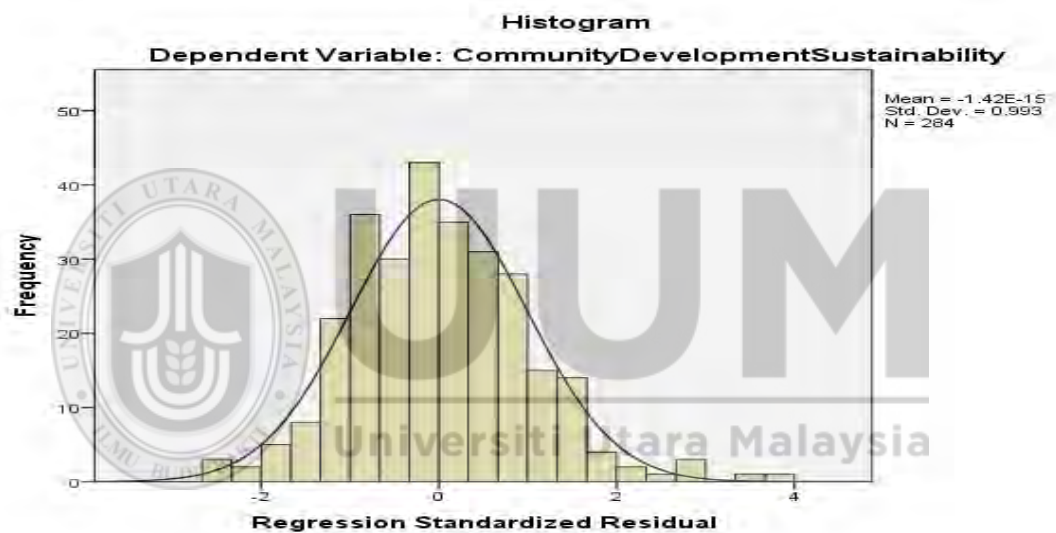
Figure 5.6: Histogram
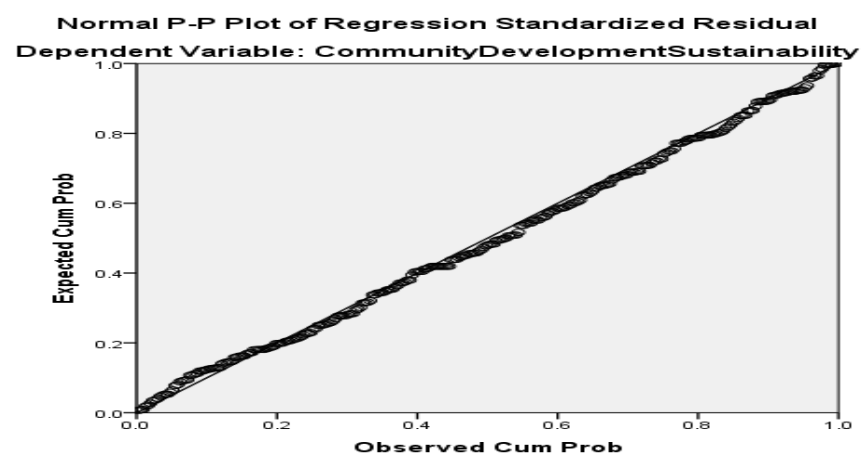
Figure 5.7: Normality P-P Plot

Table 5.7

Statistics Value of Skewness and Kurtosis

Variables	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	**Std. Error**	**Statistic**	**Std. Error**
Community Development and Sustainability	1.580	.145	3.681	.288
Common Passion	1.875	.145	3.159	.288
Active Responsibility	2.168	.145	2.200	.288
Community Participation	-.576	.145	.490	.288
Community Involvement	-.525	.145	-.017	.288

5.4.6 Multicollinearity Test

Collinearity arises when two indicators are highly correlated. However, when more than two indicators are involved it is called Multicollinearity. That is, according to Hair et al (2014), multicollinearity occurs when two or more independent variable become highly correlated. In order to assess the multicollinearity level of the constructs, a correlation matrix was used. As shown in Table 5.8, the correlations between the independent variables were sufficiently below the suggested threshold values of 0.9. This shows that common passion, active responsibility, community participation and involvement were not highly correlated.

Table 5.8

Correlation Matrix of the Exogenous Latent Constructs

Variables	CPA	AR	CP	CINV
Common Passion (CPA)	1			
Active Responsibility (AR)	.809[**]	1		
Community Participation (CP)	.213**	.136[*]	1	
Community Involvement(CINV)	-.060	.007	.222[**]	1

Note: * p < 0.05 (2-tailed); **p < .01 (2-tailed).

Furthermore, the level of multicollinearity was assessed by computing for the tolerance value, variance inflation factor (VIF) and condition index for the exogenous latent constructs. A tolerance of 0.20 or lower and a VIF of 5.0 or higher and condition index of 30 or higher suggest a multicollinearity problem. As shown in Table 5.10, all the tolerance values exceeded 0.20, the VIF values are less than 5 and the condition index are less than 30 which suggested that multicollinearity is not an issue in this study.

Table 5.9

Tolerance and Variance Inflated Factor (VIF) Value

Latent Constructs	Collinearity Statistics		Condition Index
	Tolerance	VIF	
Common Passion	.333	3.002	4.952
Active Responsibility	.328	3.048	11.928
Community Participation	.912	1.096	13.548
Community Involvement	.945	1.059	19.566

5.5. Non-Response bias test

As shown in Table 5.10 ; Levene's test has probability less than 0.5 which means that population variance are relatively not equal except for community involvement and active responsibility. Therefore, looking at the t-value for the variables, there is no significant difference between earlier and late responses and as such, non-response bias is not a problem in this study.

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Table 5.10

Result of Independent Sample T-Test For Non-Response Bias

Variables	Group Statistics Response	N	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances F	Sig.	t-test for Equality of Means t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Community Participation	Early respondents	206	26.241	.000	2.764	282	.016
	Late respondents	78			2.296	102.677	.054
Community Involvement	Early respondents	206	.045	.832	-1.296	282	.196
	Late respondents	78			-1.273	134.196	.205
Common Passion	Early respondents	206	6.331	.012	-1.851	282	.065
	Late respondents	78			-1.675	116.231	.097
Active Responsibility	Early respondents	206	.627	.429	-1.075	282	.283
	Late respondents	78			-1.014	124.519	.313
Community Development Sustainability	Early respondents	206	20.881	.000	.483	282	.629
	Late respondents	78			.381	96.347	.704

5.6. Goodness of Measures

An instrument has been adjudged by many scholars to be a good instrument if it is both reliable and valid (Sekaran, 2003). Factor analysis and reliability test were conducted to assess the goodness of measures of this study.

5.6.1 Factor Analysis

Factor analysis according to Hair et al (2009) is an interdependence technique whose primary purpose is to define the underlying structure among the variables in the analysis. Factor analysis is included in the SPSS package as a 'data reduction' technique (Pallant (2007). Factor analysis serves two major purposes. Its primary use   is for data

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reduction and for structuring the data set (Pallant, 2007). In this study, factor analysis was used for data structure and also to assess the suitability of the data for factor analysis.

A number of assumptions must be met before factor analysis can be run (Hair et al, 2009). The first assumption is regarding the sample size for the study. When running factor analysis, a sample of 100 cases according to Coakes et al (2010) is acceptable but over 200 cases is preferable. The sample size for this study is 284, and as such met the recommendations of these scholars. The second assumption is on the type of data used which is suggested by Hair et al (2009) that such data should be a metric measurement. All the variables use in this study are metric scale.

The third assumption is that all the observations are factorable and there should be adequate correlations. To ensure factorability, Hair et al (2009) suggested that the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) value should exceed 0.5 to indicate that the correlation matrix is an identity matrix, the Bartlett's test of sphericity should be significant. According to Hair et al (2009), KMO value less than 0.5 is unacceptable and should be excluded, 0.50 are acceptable but miserable, 0.60 are mediocre, 0.7 are meddling; 0.8 are meritorious and 0.9 are marvelous. Once the suitability and factorability of the data for the analysis are attained, the number of factors to be extracted need to be determined.

In this study, factor analysis was carried out on the five variables. Principal component analysis was conducted and absolute value below 0.4 was suppressed. This was in line with the threshold value of 0.4 as suggested by scholars in social science studies (Atyeo,

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Adamson and Cant (2001; Straub, Boudreau & Gefen, 2004). As such, all items loading below 0.40 and not having Eigen-value larger than 1 would not be included in the further analysis of this study. Therefore, the details of the factor loadings for the variables are discussed below.

5.6.1.1 Community Development Sustainability

Community development sustainability is the dependent variable. Ten items were developed to measure the variable. When the principle component factor analysis of varimax rotation was utilized to extract the solution; only 6 items met the acceptable limit of 0.4 recommended by Atyeo, Adamson & Cant (2001). The KMO value is 0.608 which exceeded 0.6 recommended value by Kaiser (1974) and the Bartlett's test of sphericity is significant. Therefore, the community development and sustainability items was retained to be valid and reflect the factor solution. This is shown in Table 5.11.
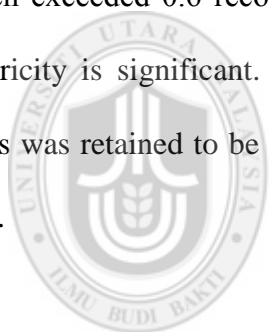
5.6.1.2 Common Passion

Also, the factor analysis was equally conducted on the items for the common passion using the varimax rotation for the extraction of the solution. The result indicates that only four items loaded into the component with loading limit above 0.4 as recommended by Atyeo, Adamson & Cant (2001).The KMO value is .761 and the Bartlett's test of sphericity is significant. Therefore, the items are adjudge to be valid. Table 5.10 provides the details on both factor loading and the explained variance.

5.6.1.3 Active responsibility

Accordingly, the study conducted a factor analysis on the active responsibility variable. The principle component factor analysis of varimax rotation was utilized to extract the solution. Only three items met the acceptable limit of 0.4 as recommended by Atyeo, Adamson & Cant (2001). The KMO value is .678 which is above the threshold value and the Bartletts test of sphericity is significant. Table 6.11 provides the details of the factor loading.

5.6.1.4 Community Participation

As for the community participation, the principle component factor analysis with varimax rotation was conducted to extract the solution. The result indicates that only four items loaded into the component with loading factors above 0.4 as suggested by Kaiser (1974). The KMO is .500 which according to Hair et al (2009) is acceptable and the Bartlett's test of sphericity is significant. Therefore, the two items are adjudge to be valid in measuring community participation. Table 5.11 provides the details of factor loading.

5.6.1.5 Community involvement

For the community involvement, the principle component factor analysis with varimax rotation was conducted to extract the solution. The result indicates that only four items loaded into the component with loading factors above 0.4 as suggested by Kaiser (1974). The KMO is 0.605 and the Bartlett's test of sphericity is significant. Therefore, the items are adjudge valid for mearing the instrument. Table 5.11 provides the details on both factor loading and the explained variance.

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Table 5.11

Factor Loadings of the Variables of this Study

Items	CDS	CPA	AR	CP	CINV
CDS5	0.668				
CDS6	0.667				
CDS7	0.589				
CDS8	0.61				
CDS9	0.611				
CDS10	0.435				
CPA1		0.74			
CPA2		0.806			
CPA3		0.819			
CPA4		0.744			
AR1			0.785		
AR2			0.859		
AR3			0.819		
CP2				0.82	
CP4				0.82	
CINV2					0.771
CINV4					0.721
CINV5					0.668
Percentage of variance explained (%)	23.369	60.508	67.518	67.247	52.057
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin	0.608	0.761	0.678	0.5	0.605
Bartlett's test of sphericity approx. chi square	476.407	308.606	213.747	36.662	62.747
df	45	6	3	1	6
Significance level	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

5.6.2 Reliability Analysis

Sekaran and Bourgie (2009) described reliability as that which attests to the consistency

and stability of the measuring instruments. Pallant (2007) asserts that the reliability of

scale differs greatly and is dependent on the sample of the research or study. Its importance in research work, has made it necessary for researchers to check that each of the scale is reliable for the sample of the research work. The Cronbach's Alpha indicator which is the common predictor of the internal consistency is adopted in this study. Pallant (2007) suggests a Cronbach' Alpha coefficient of more than 0.50 to be the accepted level especially if the scale of the study has less than 10 units. Alam (2009) uses a Cronbach's Alpha of coefficient of more than 0.60 in his study whereas Michael, Jackson & Wroblewski (2000) use a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient above 0.50. Table 5.12 demonstrates the result of Cronbach's Alpha coefficient used in checking the reliability of the instruments in this study.

As seen in Table 5.12, the Cronbach alpha value for all the construct are above 0.6 as suggested by Zikmund et. Al. (2009) except community involvement which has a value of 0.500 which according to Pallant (2007) is acceptable. Therefore, the items are reliable and considered sufficient and acceptable for use for further analysis.

Table 5.12

Reliability Test of the Constructs

S/N	Variables	No of Items	Cronbach (α) Alpha
1	Sustainable development	6	.615
2	Common passion	4	.778
3	Active responsibility	3	.756
	Community participation	2	.511
5	Community involvement	3	.688

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5.7 Descriptive Statistics

The general statistical depictions of the five variables for this study were generated using descriptive analysis. Statistical values of mean and standard deviation were calculated for each variable. Standard deviation explains the level of variability or spread of the sample distributive values from the mean. According to Hair et al (2009), a small estimated value of standard deviation depict that the distribution values are close to the mean and vice visa. If the standard deviation value is less than 1, it denotes that the respondents were very consistent in their opinion while a standard deviation value more than 3 means that there are a lot of variability in respondents' opinion. As shown in Table 5.13, the standard deviation value for all the constructs are less than one, suggesting that the respondents are consistent in their opinion. With mean value suggesting that the level of community development and sustainability is low; common passion and active responsibility among the people of the communities are low and, community participation is moderate while community involvement is low.

Table 5.13

Descriptive Statistics of the Variables

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
Community Development and Sustainability	1.9167	**.59551**
Common Passion	1.7421	**.72966**
Active Responsibility	1.6385	**.76639**
Community Participation	2.9604	**.55523**
Community Involvement	1.8908	**.58683**

5.8 Testing for the Direct Relationship

A regression analysis was carried out to test the hypothesis formulated for this study. The correlation coefficient estimates the strength of a linear association and its direction. According to Sekaran (2003), the relationship between such construct can either be negative or positive. When two variables are positively related, it means that an increase in one will lead to increase in the other. While if an increase in one variable that are related bring about a decrease in the other variable, such relationship are said to be negative. The correlation coefficient according to Cooper and Schinder (2008) ranges from -1 to +1 and the closer to 1, the stronger the relationship would be, and if it is 0, it means there is no relationship.

Correlation analysis in this study was used to describe the strength and direction of the linear relationship among the variables under investigation. According to Pallant (2007), several different statistics for correlation available from SPSS, it all depends the level of measurement. The correlation coefficient between $\pm.10$ to $\pm.29$ is adjudge to be small, $\pm.30$ to $\pm.49$ is adjudge moderate and $\pm.50$ to ±1.0 can be referred to as large.

5.8.1 Analysis of Hypothesis Testing for Direct Relationship

In this study, eight direct alternative hypotheses were formulated to test the relationship between construct. As shown in Table 5.14, the result of the alternate hypothesis (H_1) which stated that common passion is significantly related to community development and sustainability is supported ($r = .35$, $p < 0.5$). This suggests that an increase in common passion among residents will bring about sustainable development in the community.

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The second hypothesis (H_2) which stated that active responsibility is related to community development and sustainability is supported (r =.21, p < .05). The third hypothesis (H_3) which stated that common passion is related to community participation was supported (r = .22, p>.05). The fourth hypothesis (H_4) which stated that active responsibility has a significant relationship on community participation was supported (r = .26, p >0.05). While Common passion (r = -.15, p > .05) and active responsibility (r = .12, p > 0.05) were found not significantly related to community involvement (H_5,H_6).

In addition, the results also suggested that community participation (r =.25, p <.05) and community involvement (r = .13, p < .05) are significantly relative to community development and sustainability (H_7,H_8). Therefore, out of the eight hypothesized direct relationship between the variables in this study, five are supported while three are not supported (see Table 5.14).

Table 5.14

Hypothesis Testing for Direct Relationship

Hypothese	Relatioship	Effect	SE	T value	P value	Remarks
H1	CPA => CDS	0.35	0.08	4.370	0.000	Supported
H2	AR => CDS	0.21	0.07	2.994	0.003	Supported
H3	CPA => CP	0.22	0.09	2.527	0.012	Supported
H4	AR => CP	0.26	0.08	3.397	0.001	Supported
H5	CPA => CINV	-0.15	0.09	1.698	0.091	Not Supported
H6	AR => CINV	0.12	0.08	1.481	0.140	Not Supported
H7	CP => CDS	0.25	0.05	4.958	0.000	Supported
H8	CINV => CDS	0.13	0.04	3.131	0.002	Supported

5.9 Testing for Mediation

As suggested by Preacher and Hayes (2008), the SPSS Macro for multiple mediation were used to analyzed the data collected for this study in other to determine the mediating role of community participation, and community involvement on the relationship between common passion, active responsibility and community development /sustainability. The analysis was done in two stages where the two independent variables were analyzed individually. The first stage examined the mediating role of community participation, and community involvement on the relationship between common passion and community development/sustainability while, the second stage examined the mediating role of community participation and involvement on the relationship between active responsibility and community development/ sustainability.

As suggested by Hayes (2009; 2013), the significance of the indirect effect should not be adjudge by the significance or non-significance for individual paths in the mediation model. Therefore, the researcher estimates the significance of all the indirect effect in this study using regression analysis through the SPSS PROCESS Macro (Hayes, 2013). As the whole model (figure 5.8) with two independent variables, two mediators and one dependent variable cannot be run together at once using the PROCESS macro, the model were split into two models as suggested by Preacher and Hayes (2008).
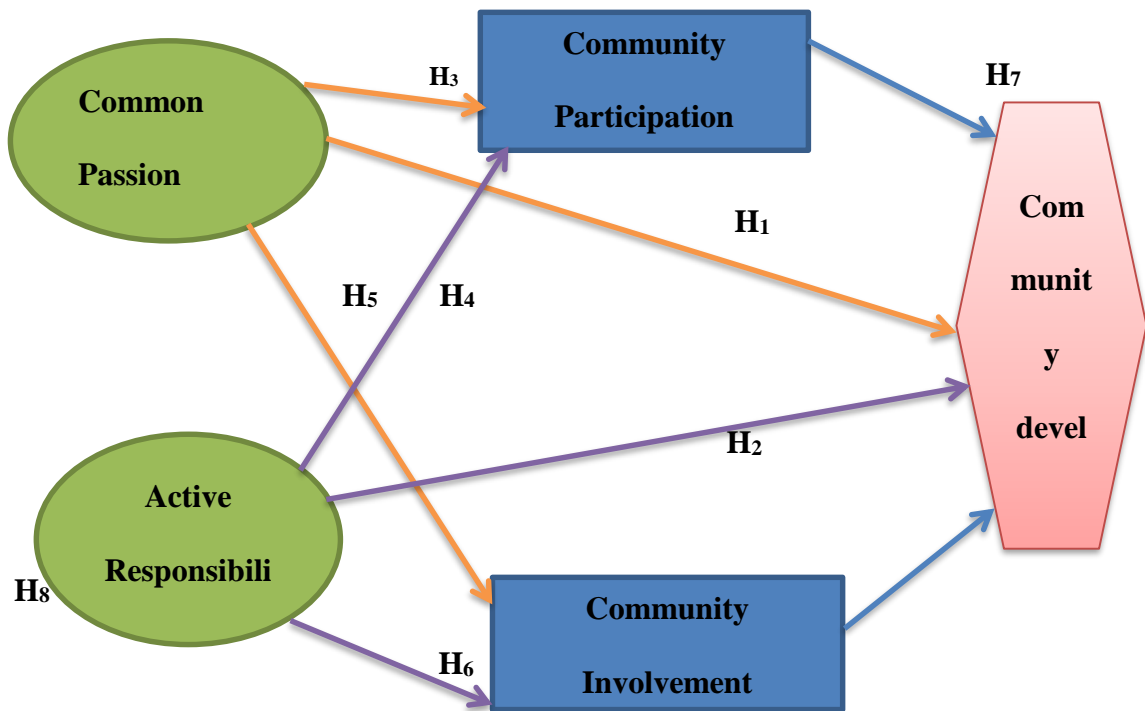
Figure 5.8: Hypothetical framework of the full model (Refer to Chapter Three)

5.9.1 Mediation Model One: The Mediating Role of Community Participation and Involvement on the Relationship between Common Passion and Community Development/Sustainability.

From the first model (figure 5.9), two indirect hypotheses were tested: (i) community participation mediate the relationship between common passion and community development and sustainability and; (ii) community involvement mediate the relationship between common passion and community development and sustainability were assessed using the SPSS PROCESS macro for multiple mediators (Preacher and Hayes, 2008).
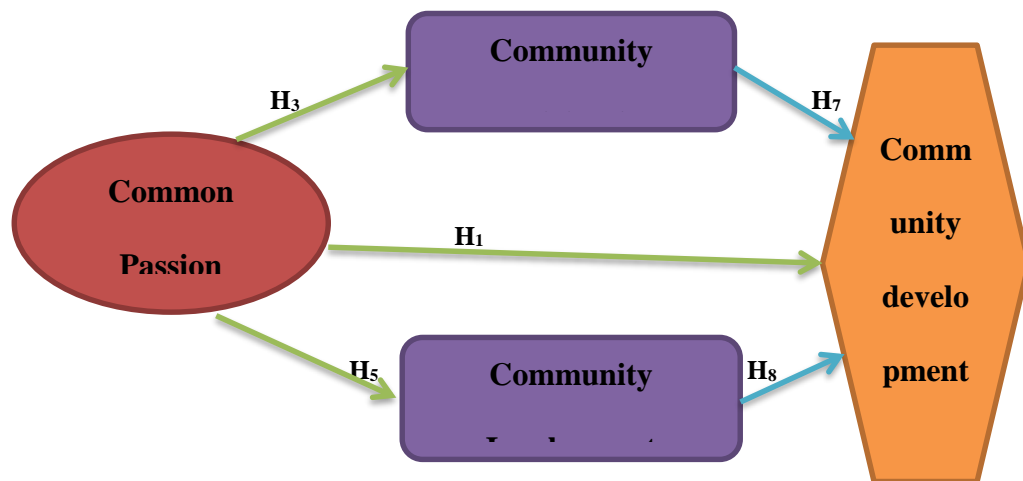
Figure 5.9: Mediation Model 1

To test whether community participation and community involvement mediate the relationship between common passion and community development and sustainability, further analyses were conducted. Multiple regression analyses using the SPSS PROCESS macro was conducted to assess each component of the proposed mediation model. When running the regression for the first time, common passion was used as the independent variable while the second independent variable (active responsibility) was used as covariates. The 95% confidence interval of the indirect effects as suggested by Preacher and Hayes (2008) were obtained with 5000 bootstrap samples.

First, it was found that common passion was positively related to community development and sustainability (B= .35, t (2, 281) = 4.37, p<.05). Second, common passion was significantly related to community participation (B= -.22, t (2, 281) = 2.53, p<.05) but not significantly related to community involvement (B= -.15, t (2, 281) =-1.70, p >.05). Third results indicated that the mediators, community participation (B=.25, t (2, 281) = 4.96, p<.05) and community involvement (B=.13, t (2, 281) = 3.13, p<.05) are significantly related to community development and sustainability (See

Appendix I). Furthermore, the mediation analyses were tested using the bootstrapping

method with bias-corrected confidence intervals (Preacher and Hayes, 2004; Devine-

Wright, Price & Leviston, 2015).

Following the recommendation of Preacher and Hayes (2004) in using a bootstrapping

procedure to compute a confidence interval around the indirect effect and if zero falls

outside this interval, mediation can be said to be present (Devine-Wright, Price &

Leviston, 2015). The result of the mediation confirmed that community participation

significantly mediate the relationship between common passion and community

development and sustainability (B= -05; CI= -.11-.02) while community involvement

does not mediate the relationship between common passion and community

development and sustainability (B= -02; CI= -.05 - .0002) (see Table 5.15).

Table 5.15

Indirect effect of Common Passion on Community Development and Sustainability

Hypotheses	Relationship	Coeffi.	SE	BootLLCI	BootULCI	Remark
	Total	-0.07	0.03	-0.142	-0.0247	
H9	CPA=>CP=>CDS	-0.05	0.23	-0.110	-0.0154	Supported
H10	CPA=>CINV=>CDS	-0.02	0.01	-0.055	0.0002	Not Supported
	(CI)	-0.03	0.02	-0.086	0.0091	

5.9.2 Mediating Model 2: The Mediating Role of Community Participation and Involvement on the Relationship between Active Responsibility and Community Development/Sustainability

The second model was also used to test two indirect hypotheses: (i) the mediating role

of community participation on the relationship between active responsibility and

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community development and sustainability; (ii) the mediating role of community involvement on the relationship between active responsibility and community development and sustainability.
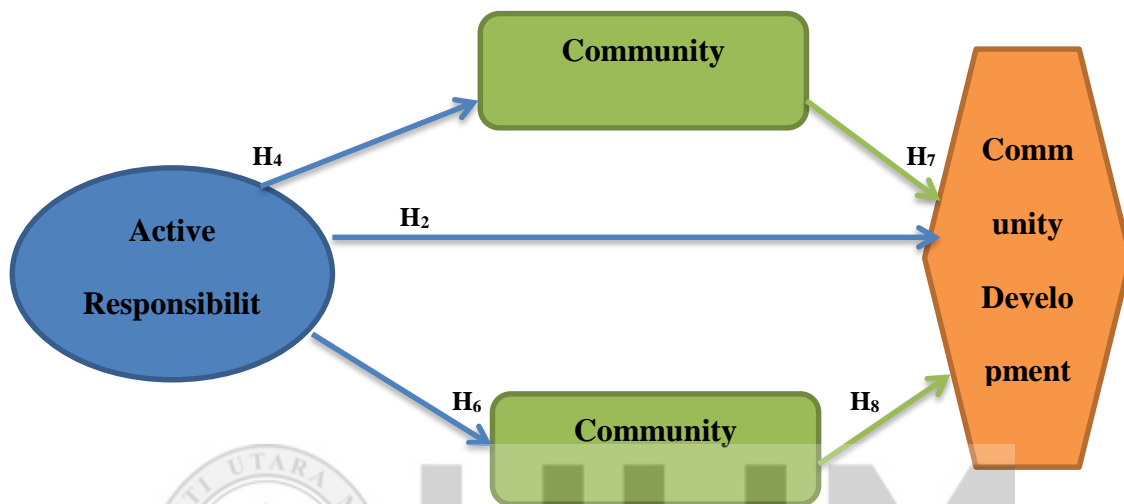
Figure 5.10: Mediation Model 2

The same procedure that was used in the first model was adopted in the second model, but active responsibility was used as the independent variable while common passion were used as covariates. The result shows that active responsibility was positively related to community development and sustainability (B=.21, t (2, 281) =2.99, p <.05). Second, active responsibility was significantly related to community participation (B= .26, t (2, 281) = 3.40, p <.05) but was not significant to community involvement (B=.12, t (2, 281) = 1.48, p >.05). Third results indicated that the mediators, community participation (B=.25, t (2,281) = 4.96, p <.05) and community involvement (B=.13, t (2,281) =3.13, p <.05) are significantly related to community development and sustainability (See Appendix I).

Furthermore, the result on the indirect effect of active responsibility of community development and sustainability using 95% confidence interval revealed that community participation significantly mediate the relationship between active responsibility and community development and sustainability (B= .07; CI= .03 - .12) while community involvement does not mediate the relationship between active responsibility and community development and sustainability (B= .02; CI= -.002 - .05). In other word, the indirect effect of community participation was .07, the 95% confidence interval ranging from .03 to .12 (SE= .02). Also, the indirect effect of community involvement was .02, the 95% confidence interval ranging from -.002 to .05 (SE=.01) (See Table 5.17) (See Appendix I).

For the fact that zero falls outside the confidence interval for community participation shows that community participation mediate the relationship between active responsibility and community development and sustainability while zero is within the range of the confidence interval for community involvement. Therefore, the result shows that community involvement does not mediate the relationship between active responsibility and community development and sustainability (See Table 5.16).

Table 5.16

Indirect Effect of Active Responsibility on Community Development and Sustainability

Hypotheses	Relationship	Coefficient	SE	Boot LLCI	Boot ULCI	Remark
	Total	0.08	0.03	0.035	0.147	
H11	AR=>CP=>CDS	0.07	0.23	0.029	0.123	Supported
H12	AR=>CINV=>CDS					Not
		0.02	0.01	-0.002	0.046	Supported
	(CI)	0.50	0.02	0.009	0.103	

Table 5.17 below summarizes all the hypotheses in this study. From the eight direct relationship, six hypotheses (H_1, H_2, H_3 H_4, H_5, H_6, H_7 and H_8) are positively significant while hypotheses 5 and 6 are not significant. Therefore, these do not contribute significantly to the variation in the dependent variable. From the four hypotheses reflecting the mediating effect of community participation and involvement, only two are significantly positive. This implies that community participation mediates the relationship between common passion and community development sustainability. Similarly, Community participation mediates the relationship between active responsibility and community development sustainability. However, community involvement does not mediate the relationship between common passion and community development sustainability. Likewise, community involvement did not mediate the relationship between active responsibility and community development sustianbility.

Table 5.17

Summary of Hypotheses Testing

Hypotheses	Hypothesized Relationship	Decision
H_1	CPA is significantly related to CDS	Supported
H_2	AR is significantly related to CDS	Supported
H_3	CPA is significantly related to CP	Supported
H_4	AR is significantly related to CP	Supported
H_5	CPA is significantly related to CINV	Not Supported
H_6	AR is significantly related to CINV	Not Supported
H_7	CP is significantly related to CDS	Supported
H_8	CINV is significantly related to CDS	Supported

H_9	The relationship between CPA and CDS is mediated by CP	Supported
H_{10}	The relationship between CPA and CDS is mediated by CINV	Not Supported
H_{11}	The relationship between AR and CDS is mediated by CP	Supported
H_{12}	The relationship between AR and CDS is mediated by CINV	Not Supported

5.10 Summary

The chapter covered the various analysis results conducted to quantitatively answer the research questions and achieve the various research objectives. First the chapter addresses the issues of data screening and the assumptions for conducting regression analysis such as the missing data, outliers and normality of the data collected for this study. Second the study presents the results of the analysis such as the descriptive analysis result, factor analysis result which covers the validity test result, the reliability which measured the KMO and the correlation analysis which also shows the strength of the association among the variables under investigation in this study. Finally, the chapter presented the multiple regression result which was used to determine the direct relationship between the independent and dependent variables; and the hierarchical regression analysis which equally presented the result of the moderating effects of both common passion and active responsibility. Out of 12 hypothesis formulated for this study, eight were supported while the remaining four were not supported (see Table 5.16).

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CHAPTER SIX: DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

6.1 Introduction

The aim of this study is to explore how community participation and involvement can facilitate community development sustainability. The study also examines those factors that can influence community members' involvement in developmental activities. This chapter is intended to present the discussion of findings from the in-depth interviews and quantitative survey which are triangulated relative to the research questions. The four research questions stated in Chapter One were sub-divided and used in answering to address the study aims and objectives.

The study was guided by two basic concepts- the role of community and their relationship with the developmental agencies in achieving community development sustainability. Based on Eversole (2015), community development is attainable through partnership whereby community members are given the platform to collaborate and share ideas that will bring about the development of their community. It therefore becomes imperative for scholars to identify, investigate and employ strategies that will enhance community participation in developmental projects particularly in a study of this nature that tends to examine the role and attitude of community members in developmental programs. The objectives of the study were examined using three theories and one model as indicated in chapter four. Due to the nature of this study, the mixed method approach was adopted comprising of qualitative as the dominant method, and supplemented or complimented by the

quantitative method. The mixed method research is used to compare, affirm and also disaffirm results obtained from both methods (Creswell, 2012). Based on this, this chapter is intended to provide the method, and data triangulation from both methodologies.

6.2 Discussion on Research Questions

RQ1. What is the level of community participation, community involvement, common passion, active responsibility among the Niger Delta populace?

This research question was discussed under four distinct subsections where each subsection provides extensive information based on the results and findings obtained from both methodologies. The results obtained in the study were based on the interviewees' responses which were thematically analysed using the Nvivo 10 software and through the descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS software version 20 where applicable.

Level of Community Participation among the Niger Delta Populace

Community participation is a vital instrument for stimulating effectiveness, responsibility, and harnessing of resources within community for well-being and development of community (Nuttavuthisit, Jindahra, & Prasarnphanich, 2014). From the study's findings, it has been discovered that developmental projects have not been successful enough in stimulating participation among community members. Based on the qualitative analysis, specific themes were generated which addressed the level of community participation in the Niger Delta region as reflected in chapter five. From the

study's findings, based on the respondents who were interviewed across the six communities, it was discovered that the level of community participation in Niger Delta region is low. From the study, it was also discovered that community participation can be enhanced and also impaired due to certain elements identified as challenges and catalyst in this study. The challenges identified include: Abandonment of projects, lack of adequate funding, lack of adequate planning, favouritism, leadership problem/style, community attitude, and political interference. While the catalyst includes: Building trust, expected benefit, sense of ownership, adequate consultation, collaboration, effective interactive system, enlightenment and capacity building and empowerment of community members. Additionally, it was also observed that the level of community relationship with developmental agency can also increase their level of participation. Most of the interviewees revealed that NDDC programs are not sustained in various communities because the community members are not given the opportunity to part take in the execution of projects and programs. Majority of the interviewees stated that the participation of community members in NDDC activities is the consultation of the traditional head before the execution of any project in their community and also allocation of menial jobs by the contractors to the community members. The views and opinions of community members corroborate that of the NDDC officers interviewed who noted that the participation of community members in their activities through consultation with community elders at the implementation stage and also given some casual jobs by the contractors. The response from the NDDC officers depicts that community members are not adequately incorporated into developmental activities which is one of the reasons why most of their programs are not sustainable because communities are not part of the planning, designing and execution of projects. The findings corroborate with the studies of (Isidiho and Sabran, 2015; Enuoh, 2015; Agwu,

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2013) which identified lack of participation of community members as impediment to sustainable community development in the Niger Delta. Likewise, Ngah, Mustaffa, Sawal, Zakariah and Noordin (2012) in their study on "evaluating the traditional village development approach to regional development in Malaysia", observed that one of the failures of developmental agencies is due to some lapses in their policies. They however suggested that there is need for policy makers and developmental agencies to adopt a more robust approach that will put into cognizance the active participation of the targeted group in the developmental process.

This study therefore, was able to identify why developmental projects in the Niger Delta are not sustainable and provide possible solutions that could enhance community participation. However, respondents from both community and NDDC highlighted some factors that can enhance community participation such as collaboration, needs assessment, consultation and effective communication system between community members and NDDC. The findings from the quantitative result used to complement the qualitative findings as shown in Table 6.12 presented in Chapter Six where community participation has a mean value of 2.9604 which represents average level. The two results derived from both analysis implies that there is evidence of community participation however, one results reflect low while the other average. Thus, it can be inferred that the level of community participation among the Niger Delta populace is moderate which implies that it is not high, but average or less. The rationale for this average or less community participation level among the populace might be as a result of the four factors identified and discussed in Section 4.4.1.1.

Level of Community Involvement among Niger Delta Populace

Similar to the result obtained in community participation, it was also discovered that community involvement among the Niger Delta populace in developmental activities is low. From the qualitative result in chapter five, it was discovered that community members are aware of NDDC projects and programs nevertheless, all the communities interviewed clearly stated that community members are not involved in the decision making processes on developmental plans in regards to their community. The findings also revealed that community members' opinions and consent on the type of project to be executed in their community was neglected by NDDC. This approach makes it difficult for community members to be committed to NDDC projects because they have not been given the right platform on which they can operate. Although, finding from the NDDC suggested that efforts were made to involve the community members on their developmental plans in their communities, not much has been achieved especially in the area of community involvement in their developmental agenda due to leadership style both at the community level and NDDC, community attitude, political interference and lack of administrative coordination and planning. The interviewees from the communities also identified leadership style and community attitude to be among the factors that affects community involvement in NDDC programs. Both the NDDC officers and community members revealed that constant change of leaders in the community affects the operational system because there is no consistency in the plans and targeted goals of the community. Likewise, attitude of community members especially the youths are not encouraging. This is attributed to lack of enlightenment, inadequate educational attainment and societal influence in the areas of values and morals. One of the NDDC officer argued society no longer applauds hard work as there is no longer dignity in labour. Whereas, some of the leaders interviewed suggested that the rationale behind this form of behaviour amongst the youth is basically due to lack

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of enlightenment and sensitization. This corroborates the quantitative results as reflected in Table 5.12 in chapter five where the value of community involvement is 1.8908 which is low. The findings from both studies show clear indication of why most of the developmental projects and programs in the Niger Delta region are not sustained. Previous studies have also indicated the developmental failures in the Niger Delta communities are not devoid of the aforementioned factors. For instance, Etebu, James and Coleman (2011); Akpabio and Akpan (2010); Paki and Ebienfa (2011) identified political interference as one of the impediments to community development. Likewise, Ololajulo (2000) observed that the attitude of community members towards developmental projects especially at the executions stage is a challenge to effective implementation of developmental projects. It has been observed that community involvement is an imperative solution to sustainable community development. Community development therefore is achievable through development partnership where community members are empowered and given the right platform to collaborate and share ideas that will bring about their desired aspirations and needs of their respective community (Eversole, 2015). However, Okinono, Dani and Badariah (2015) inserted that it is sufficient to involve community in developmental initiatives. Efforts must also be attended to examine the needs and aspirations of community which needs to be inculcated into developmental agenda for effective implementation and sustainability of developmental initiatives.

Level of Common passion among Niger Delta Populace

Common passion in this study was identified as a driving force for sustainability of developmental projects. Common passion was conceptualized by the interviewees as common agreement by community members on issues that will positively enhance their

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well-being and environment. In the Niger Delta, one of the disturbing issues is the continuous crises and agitations over control of their resources that cut across the various communities in the region. Nevertheless, studied have identified that there are cases of inter and intra ethnic conflicts over disputed natural resources and acquisition of land (Amadi, & Alapiki, 2014). Such disagreement is a threat to developmental efforts due to the absence of peaceful co-existence amongst community members and also with other neighbouring communities involved in any dispute (Hultman, Kathman, & Shannon, 2014). Therefore, it becomes expedient for community members to have common agreement on how their community should be developed and also where projects should be cited. Interviewees from both communities affirmed that that there is need for the region populace to show more interest and passion toward developmental initiatives as indicated in section 4.4.5.

Two major factors were identified to boost common passion level in the region includes relevance of projects, and relationship among community members. The interviewees noted that mutual agreement amongst community members helps to strengthen relationship amongst them which is a motivating factor for community participation and involvement in developmental activities. The result from the quantitative analysis shown in Table 5.13 with a value of 1.7421 in chapter six indicates that there is a low level of common passion of community members towards developmental projects in the Niger Delta. This implies that there is there is evidence of disagreement amongst community members on projects executed by NDDC in their communities. According to some of the interviewees from the communities, it was discovered that the extent to which community members mutually agree on a project is determined by how that project is able to meet and satisfy their immediate needs and aspirations. This

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corroborates the reasons why it is said that "there is power in unity" which suggests that common agreement is a catalyst for facilitating community development sustainability as indicated in the study.
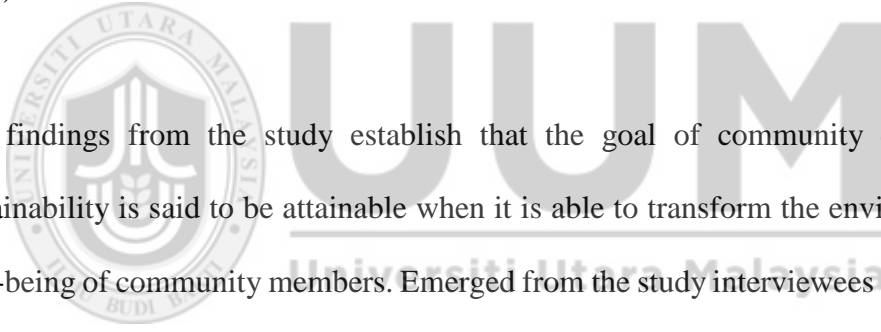
Level of Active responsibility among Niger Delta Populace

Another factor identified in this study by the interviewees as fundamental to community development sustainability is the active role assigned to community members in developmental activities. Active responsibility as derived from the study is when an individual is given specific role to play in any activity. Community active responsibilities are those duties and obligations community members owe to their community in terms of commitment and accountability (Ackah-Baidoo, 2012). Based on the views and opinions of community members, there is a need for community members to play active roles in developmental initiatives in their community. Similarly, Scerri and James (2010) identified active participation of community members as vital to enhanced community development projects.

Although, the level of community engagement in developmental activities in the Niger Delta is low as indicated by the interviewees, it was found that the commitment of community members' can be further enhanced due to the following factors as identified in the study: effective communication, high achievement, accountability and high inputs. The findings from the quantitative result supports this with a value of 1.6385 which depicts low level of community active responsibility as reflected in Table 5.12 in chapter five.

Level of Community Development Sustainability in the Niger Delta

Globally, the central goal of community development is centred on building a sustainable environment for the general well-being of community and the society. The idea of sustainability is the ability to be able to arrogate the technological, social, economic, ecological resources in improving the living conditions of the populace without compromising the needs of upcoming generation (Ujoh & Ifatimehin, 2014, Rogers, 2014). The role of sustainable development therefore is to indulge in developmental practices that seek to enliven the living conditions of people at the same time creating a balance between the eco systems (Samari, Ghodrati, Olfat, & Shafiei, 2012).

The findings from the study establish that the goal of community development sustainability is said to be attainable when it is able to transform the environment and well-being of community members. Emerged from the study interviewees are two basic factors that can enhance community development sustainability. These include: the benefits attached to developmental projects as seen by community and commitment to developmental initiatives. It was discovered from the study's findings that community members' are only interested in developmental initiatives they perceived as beneficial to their needs and aspirations. Furthermore, it was also discovered in the study that benefits attached can be viewed from various angles such as sense of belonging, access and usage, satisfaction of needs and sense of ownership in developmental initiatives. Most of the interviewees claim that community will only be interested and ready to protect any development initiatives concerning their community if they are incorporated and given the opportunity to be part of that plan or initiative. Such

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approach will make them see themselves as part of initiative and increases a strong sense of belonging and ownership. This implies that community development sustainability is attainable when community members are not only given the platform to operate but also given a voice and opportunity to contribute and decide on the type of development that they desire based on the targeted needs and aspirations. Based on Samari, Ghodrati, and Shafiei (2012) the satisfaction of developmental projects has a direct effect on the productivity and efficiency of the implementation of the project. They also noted that the knowledge of project management by project managers plays a vital role on its effectiveness.

The study however revealed that most of the projects executed by NDDC have not been able to address the needs and aspirations of community members. This claim is based on the responses from both the community members, and the NDDC officers. The community members claimed that most of the program and projects executed by the NDDC have not been able to address their needs. They identified some specific areas in their communities that need urgent attention. These include; social amenities, infrastructural facilities, empowerment and skill acquisition programs as reflected in section 5.4.4 in Chapter Five. The interviewees from the communities agreed that there is evidence of NDDC projects and programs in their communities; however, most of the projects are either abandoned, or incomplete. Although, this claim was also supported by the NDDC officers; nevertheless, they argued that the commission has contributed concerted efforts in projects execution and programs across the various communities. Also revealed in this study is the claim by community members that most of those programs and projects executed by the NDDC are not sustained, because they have not been able to satisfy community needs. This claim corroborates the response

of the NDDC officers who revealed some salient factors hindering the successful achievement of the commission's mandate. They identified financial constraints as the major factor hindering effective implementation of projects. In addition, they also identified political interference and "administrative bottle neck" as impediments to mode of operation. Another crucial issue revealed by one of the NDDC officer's is the faulty foundation on which the commission was established. It was also discovered in the study form the NDDC interviewees that one of the crucial issue confronting the commission affecting their system of operations is the faulty foundation on the commission was established. They revealed that the NDDC bill was not properly defined on its role and obligations. The probe combined both ecological, and issues concerning oil producing areas, unlike the previous boards specifically defined their roles whereby oil producing areas were separated from areas suffering from ecological problems. They identified this flaw as the "missing link" in the NDDC structural and administrative system.
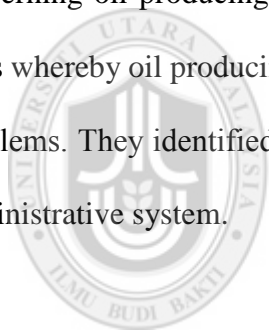
The findings from both community, and NDDC officers on the level of NDDC sustainable projects in the various communities were substantiated by the observations made during the interviewees in the various communities. When compared with NDDC records (documentation see Appendix H) with physical evident (observation done in the community see Appendix G) it was revealed that many projects and initiatives claimed in NDDC records were not done or completed in these communities. Many NDDC projects have been claimed or recorded as successful initiatives. Nevertheless, in reality these projects and initiatives were not done. This created a wide gap between NDDC documentation and the reality that depicted the level of community development sustainability in the respective region is low.

Therefore, the goal of community development is not all about provision of infrastructures, but how these could satisfy the needs and aspirations of community members. While in Omoku it was observed that there is a level of satisfaction of some of the NDDC projects as evidenced in the roads, transformer and water tank. The study findings from the interviewees in Omoku community revealed that these projects were completed when a member of their community was one of the key officials in NDDC; however, the community members argued that no tangible projects have been executed by NDDC since his tenure expired. This finding shows that there is evidence of favouritism in allocation and execution of NDDC projects across the Niger Delta communities. This also corroborates with the responses of community members from Afisere and Oloibiri in Delta and Bayelsa states where the interviewees noted that NDDC projects and programs are politically influenced. Buttressing these facts, NDDC officers also noted that although the commission is allowed in identification of projects and programs, nevertheless, they are not given autonomy in allocation and implementation of projects. They revealed that most of the projects were altered by the politicians during the allocation and even in the implementation stages particularly at the execution stage where the contractors were influenced by the politicians. They call this act as "the game of interest".

It was also observed that there are discrepancies with NDDCs' projects as indicated in their documents (See Appendix G) and on-going projects compared to what was observed physically in the various communities. For example, within Bayelsa community, it was observed that there is evidence of NDDC projects in these communities, nevertheless, it was observed that these projects were either abandoned

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or insufficiently used. In Oloibiri community, there was evidence of water tank mounted in the community however; those were deserted and unused. In Akassa community it was indicated that NDDC constructed water jetty for the community members to use as means of transportation, nevertheless, it was found that only one water jetty was constructed and that it was not sufficient to serve the community needs of the people. It was also observed that there are access roads but lack adequate maintenance Likewise in Rivers state, it was discovered that in Omoku there were proof of some NDDC projects like roads, transformer and water project. For instance, there are access roads and working transformer as observed, but the water tank project has been abandoned and not currently in use. This same situation was observed in Koko Community in Delta state where there is evidence of some projects executed by NDDC like the pilling construction and some roads, however these were also not completed. In Koko Community there are evidences of some completed road projects. While in Afisere and Bonny in Delta and Rivers states respectively no evidences of any NDDC projects as at the time this study was conducted (See Appendix G for details). The findings from the quantitative result also supports the qualitative findings with a value of 1.9167 depicting low level of community development sustainability in the Niger Delta region as reflected in Table 5.13. The result shows that the different strategies utilized by the NDDC for community development sustainability have yielded some positive results, however, evidences show that the level of community participation leaves much be desired. This is reflected on the living conditions of community members which are evident in the well-being and living condition of the populace especially those in the rural areas where oil exploration is taking place. This implies the programs and developmental activities in the region have not adequately addressed the developmental needs and aspirations of the people. This can be attributed to lack of

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strategic and robust approach in the planning and implementation of developmental initiatives. As observed by Dani (2002), inadequate planning of developmental projects can have negative effects on the implementation and sustainability in the growth and development of targeted environment and location.

RQ2. What is the relationship between community participation, community involvement, common passion, active responsibility and community development sustainability?

This section is subdivided into three subsections in order to provide a robust and comprehensive answer on this second question for better insights into the research question.

RQ2.1. To what extent do active responsibility and common passion enhance community development sustainability?

This study discovers that the roles of active responsibility and community common passion are vital and imperative in sustainable community developmental initiatives in any communities either marginalized or under-developed. This inference was drawn from both the quantitative and qualitative findings. Based on the views and opinions of interviewees from the various communities, it was discovered that community active role and common passion is fundamental in enhancing developmental initiatives. The interviewees affirmed that their level of commitment to developmental activities will be determined by the role they play in that activity. It was also discovered from the study that when people are committed to a particular project it increases their level of

engagement of that project. This implies that sustainable community development is achievable when community members are not only part of developmental initiatives, but also given definite role to play. This finding corroborates Snijder et al (2015); Reid (2013) and Crost, Felter and Johnston (2014). Common passion was also found to be relevant to achieve sustainable development as expressed by the interviewees that when community members unanimously agree on a particular project it will increase not only their level of commitment but also facilitate developmental process. However, they noted that this act of solidarity is possible when community members perceive that there those projects will be able to satisfy their immediate needs and aspirations. This finding is in line with previous studies such as (Apsan, Frediani, Boni and Gasper, 2014) that people will only be committed to something they perceive will benefit them. Therefore, community active responsibility and common passion plays significant role in sustainability of developmental projects, however, it has been found that the level of commitment and agreement amongst community members are influenced by certain factors as indicated in section 5.4.5 and 5.4.6 respectively in chapter five. Based on the result from the quantitative findings as shown in Table 6.14, the direct relationship between active responsibility and common passion with sustainable development was supported with values of (r =.21, p < .05; r = .35, p< 0.5) respectively. This implies that both active responsibility and common passion are facilitators for sustainable community development. This result supports the findings from the qualitative analysis.

RQ2.2. To what extent do active responsibility and common passion enhance community participation and community involvement?

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There is mixed result on the roles of active responsibility and common passion on community participation and involvement. In the case of active responsibility and common passion on community participation, results from both quantitative and qualitative findings agreed that active responsibility and common passion enhance community participation. This was revealed in both Sections 5.4.5 and 5.4.6 where it was established that when community members are passionate about their developmental initiatives and were given the right environment to actively partake in these initiatives, their level of participation and involvement will be very high. This suggests that community participation can be enhanced and improved by ensuring community members possess the right passion and they are adequately engaged with responsibilities. Likewise, result from the quantitative analysis as reflected in Table 6.13 with values of ($r = .26$, $p > 0.05$; $r = .22$, $p > .05$) respectively were supported. This implies that active responsibility and common passion has significant role to play on community participation. Whereas, active responsibility and common passion with values of ($r = .12$, $p > 0.05$; $r = -.15$, $p > .05$) were not supported. This finding obtained in Table 6.13 established that community active role and common passion do not necessarily enhance their level of involvement in developmental activities. Furthermore, results from Section 5.4.5 and 5.4.6 respectively in chapter five illustrate that the Niger Delta populace are of the view that, although common passion is referred to as common agreement amongst community members influences their level of commitment, there are conflict of interest amongst community members which can affect their decision to be involve or partake in such initiatives as illustrated in section 5.4.5 and 5.4.6 in chapter five. It was also discovered from the interviewees' that active responsibility can only enhance community level of involvement due to certain factors such as perceived benefits, sense of belonging, and sense of ownership. This implies

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that although active role and common agreement amongst community members can enhance their level of involvement, nevertheless this act of commitment is influenced by some behavioural factors derived from community perception towards developmental initiatives which was found in this study as factors influencing community active role and common passion.

RQ2.3. To what extent do community participation and involvement enhance community development sustainability?

The study discovered that community participation and involvement play vital role in community development sustainability. This finding supports the literatures reviewed in chapter three that showed how participation and involvement of community members can enhance developmental initiatives. From the study interview as illustrated in section 5.4.1 in chapter five, both community members and the NDDC officers affirmed that community participation and involvement are highly essential in sustainable community development. It was also established from the findings that for marginalized and agitated region like Niger Delta, it is vital for both government and non-governmental agencies like NDDC to apply community participation and involvement in order to gain the support and trust of the populace in the region. Trust building was identified as a vital tool that strengthens the relationship between developmental agencies and community which in turn helps to facilitate the successful implementation and sustainability of developmental goals. Previous studies such as (Lachapelle & McCool, 2012; Egunlusi, 2014; Giami, Orji & Worgu, 2015; Ikuomola, 2013; Schmidt & O'Riordan, 2014) have also identified trust building as catalyst for sustainable development.

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Similarly, the findings from the study also revealed that community participation and involvement is a viable instrument that can be used to create peaceful atmosphere and flexibility for successful implementation of developmental plans and avert any form of opposition and distractions from community members. This implies that community members are motivated and committed to developmental activities when they are seen as partners in the planning and implementation of developmental initiatives. This act of commitment is referred to as sense of belonging and ownership as conceptualized in this study based on the interviewees' responses.

Additionally, the result from the quantitative analysis as summarized in Table 6.13 with values (r =.25, p <.05; r = .13, p < .05) respectively, indicates that development sustainability is enhanced by community participation and involvement. This is because all the hypotheses relating to community participation and involvement with community development sustainability were all supported. Therefore, the overall findings from the study depict that community participation and involvement is crucial not just for implementation of developmental agenda, but its sustainability. This implies that the level to which community members are incorporated into developmental initiatives will determine the level of engagement and commitment in developmental activities. This finding corroborates the marginality and mattering theory by Schlossberg (1989), which posited that the successful implementation of any developmental initiative is based on the level of belongings of community members in developmental plans. He further noted that community members are co-opted into matters that concern their community they tend to be more enthusiastic and determined towards the success of that plan. On the other hand, when they are not incorporated they

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will show restraint and lack of commitment even if such plans are towards the development of their community. This implies that even though developmental agenda are geared towards the well-being and living conditions of community members, the participation and involvement of community members is fundamental to the successful implementation and sustainability of developmental initiatives within any given community.

RQ3. What is the mediating role of community participation and involvement on the relationship between common passion, active responsibility and community development sustainability?

This third research question was subdivided into four sub-research question which is intended to provide more clarifications and understanding of the question.

RQ3.1. What is the mediating role of community participation on the relationship between common passion and community development sustainability?

This study discovered that there is a positive relationship between the mediating role of community participation on common passion and community development sustainability. The results obtained from the qualitative analysis as presented in section 5.4.5 from various communities expressed that when community members are passionate towards developmental initiatives within their communities, they will fully participate and cooperate with government and her agencies on any progressive sustainable community initiatives. The rationale behind this is that community members are generally interested on development that would be beneficial to future

generations with continuous prosperity in socioeconomic, environmental and functioning infrastructures in their local communities. They also noted that common passion which they conceptualized as common agreement is a binding force that creates unity and solidarity amongst community members. This view was supported by Zahra and McGehee (2013). Similarly, the result from the quantitative finding shows that there is mediating effect of community participation on the relationship between common passion and community development sustainability as indicated in Appendix(I) with value of (B= -05; CI= -.11-.02). The result confirmed that community participation significantly mediates the relationship between common passion and community development and sustainability as also reflected in the qualitative findings.

This study's finding was supported by the 6 I's of community development theory (Eckel, 1994) where common interest and agreement in this study was identified as one of the components that influences the level to which community members are willing to participate and contribute to developmental initiatives within their community. This study demonstrates such findings. Nevertheless, although, community participation enhances sustainable development, the level to which community members are willing to participate is influenced by certain behavioural factors of which common passion has been identified as one. Common passion therefore plays significant role in the level to which community members are willing to collectively participate in developmental initiatives within their community.

RQ3.2. What is the mediating role of community involvement on the relationship between common passion and community development sustainability?

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Contrary to the result obtained above, this study discovered that there is no mediating role of community involvement on community common passion with community development sustainability. This was expressed by some community members. It was discovered in the study that majority of the interviewees affirmed that common agreement amongst community members can increase their level of participation in developmental initiatives. However, they argued that, the common agreement amongst community members should not be used as criteria for the involvement of community members in developmental initiatives. They noted that mandatory for government to involve community members in developmental plans that has to do with their community. Likewise, the result obtained from the quantitative analysis shows that community involvement does not mediate the relationship between common passion and community development and sustainability as reflected in Appendix(IX) with value of (B= -02; CI= -.05 - .0002). This study therefore found that the populace of the Niger Delta region perceives issue of community involvement as a right due to the enormous economic benefits of their region. It is seen as part of government responsibility to the people of region and has nothing to do with their passion or engagement. This finding corroborates with Hamdi (2010) findings who argued that it is not in all cases that community members will share common passion and interest before achieving development. Sometimes, diversity might lead to sense of belonging in community and social identity. The most important element is giving control and decision making to community members because they are the ones that are mostly affected. This is because neither governments nor non-governmental agencies have the capabilities to solve and sustain all the difficulties and problems within a community; hence it is vital to involve community members in issues that affect them Laverack, (2011).

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RQ3.3. What is the mediating role of community participation on the relationship between active responsibility and community development sustainability?

The mediating role of community participation on active responsibility and community development sustainability was found to be significant. Both results from quantitative and qualitative findings supported this finding. The findings based on the interviewees' illustrated in sections 5.4.6 and 5.4.6.1 suggests that for active engagement of community participation in the developmental initiatives, community members must be given an active and specific role in developmental projects and programs within their community. Buttressing this finding is the result from the quantitative analysis where the mediating role of community participation on active responsibility and community development sustainability was found to be significant with value of (B= .07; CI= .03 - .12) as reflected in Appendix (I). This depicts that community participation significantly mediates the relationship between active responsibility and community development and sustainability. Based on the overall findings from both methods, it can be inferred that it is not enough for community members to be incorporated in developmental initiatives, they should also be assigned specific role in during the planning and implementation stage. The study also revealed that when community members are given active role in developmental initiatives, they tend to have a better sense of belonging in developmental initiatives which imposes on them a sense of responsibility and accountability. This corroborates with the studies of Thomas, et al (2012); Hart (2013) and Guitton (2012). Similarly, it was also revealed in the study that when community members are given specific role in developmental initiatives, it creates a platform and opportunity for community members to contribute individually

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and collectively towards successful achievement and sustainability of developmental initiatives.

RQ3.4. What is the mediating role of community involvement on the relationship between active role and community development sustainability?

It was revealed in this study that although, community active role in developmental plays a significant role in community collaborative efforts towards the development of their community; however, it is not a yardstick for incorporating community members into developmental plans. The views expressed by the interviewees depicts that the involvement of community members into developmental initiatives will increase their level of awareness about the developmental goals in order to ascertain if those goals are aligned with community needs and aspirations. The interviewees noted that community members will not accept a role they do not familiar with. This implies that role taking in any activity is determined by the level of awareness and understanding of the specific goals and objectives driven by that activity. Consequently, the result from the quantitative analysis complements this finding where it was indicated that the mediating role of community involvement on the relationship between active responsibility and community development sustainability was found not to be significant as presented in Table 5.15 in Appendix(I) with a value of (B= .02; CI= -.002 - .05). This depicts that community involvement does not mediate the relationship between active responsibility and community development and sustainability. Therefore, it can be inferred from this finding that the Niger Delta populace regards community involvement as a right rather than a means to achieve an end. Contrary to the perceptions of people of the region, Nigeria is rich at the expense of their

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environmental degradation, pollution and misery which are toeing hardship on them. Therefore, the populace believes for government and her agencies to achieve sustainable community development in the region then the need to partner with the community member is imperative and vital.

RQ4: How to develop community participation and involvement framework to foster sustainable community development?

This study made use of the findings in both quantitative and qualitative research methods to identify factors of community participation and involvement which were used to form sustainable community development framework. Figure 6.1 reflects the framework which was developed from the qualitative analysis result. This framework highlights all the main themes and sub themes which were identified as the factors that can enhance or impede the processes of developmental initiatives. These factors were discovered as factors that can both boost, or pose as challenge to community participation and involvement in facilitating sustainable community development in the Niger Delta region.
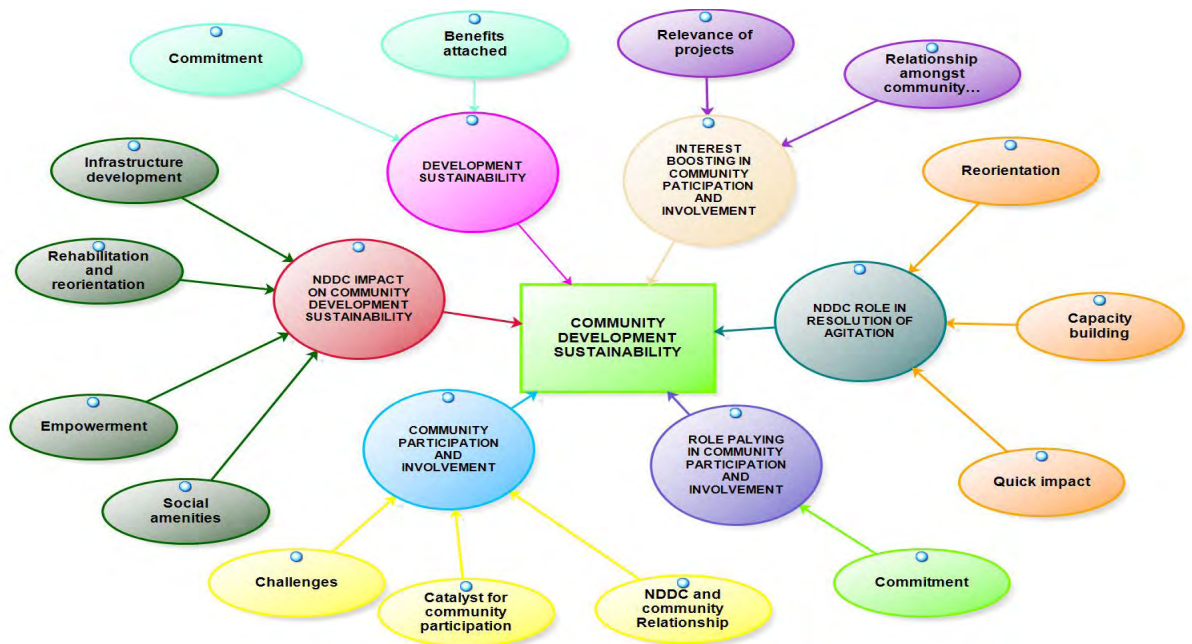
Figure 6.1: Sustainable community development framework

The framework identified six themes which are major components for a sustainable community development in any marginalized community such as the Niger Delta region in Nigeria. These six identified themes include catalyst of community participation and involvement, NDDC impact on community development sustainability, NDDC role in resolution of conflict, community development sustainability initiatives, influencing factors of community common passion and ingredients of community active responsibility. These are the components that directly influence sustainable community development. This finding corroborated with the quantitative results as summarized in Table 5.14 where most of the six framework components were found to be supported. Furthermore, each of the identified six themes has corresponding subthemes which made up the contributory factors to the main six themes. In total, there are fifteen subthemes in the frame which includes relationship between the community and NDDC, infrastructural development, pose challenges, catalyst factors, rehabilitation and re-orientation, empowerment, social amenities, re-

orientation, capacity building, quick impact, benefits attached, commitment to developmental projects by stakeholders, relevance of projects, relationship amongst community members and commitment of community members to developmental projects.

6.3 Summary

This chapter presented answers to the four research questions as stated in Chapter One of this thesis. The answers provided were based on results and analysis obtained from the mixed methodology employed for this research. It can be seen that majority of the propositions investigated were found to be positively significant and supported, however, only community involvement was found to be not supported. Although, the importance of community involvement is well acknowledged by both community members and NDDC officers as a tool for sustainable community development; however, the community members considered it as a right. They believe that the Nigeria government is indebted to them and their region because of the huge contribution of the region to Nigeria's economy (which is about 90% revenue source to the country); hence common agreement and active role should not be considered as a criterion for involving community members in developmental initiatives. This fact was inferred from Sections 5.4.5 and 5.4.6 respectively, where community member pointed out that their level of common passion or interest as the case may be and community active role cannot be used to determine their involvement in community developmental initiative. It was stressed that whether they are involved or not, it is the obligation of the government to ensure sustainable developmental initiatives for their communities. Defiantly, this view was also expressed by NDDC officers who argued that despite all their efforts made by the government via the NDDC to actively engage the people of the region in

developmental activities, there is an ill attitude and notion from community members that government is indebted to them. The study therefore discovered that developmental strategies should adopt a twofold approach that will infuse community ideas, and knowledge of developmental practitioners and agencies to achieve successful implementation and sustainability of developmental plans. This corroborates with the studies of Nzeadibe, Ajaero, and Nwoke, (2015); Shaw (2015) and Eversole (2010). Similarly, Eversole (2014) in her work on knowledge partnering for community development stated that community partnering is:

> *"... a way of working with diverse communities to identify and pursue their development goals. As community development approach knowledge partnering recognizes that many different kinds of knowledge are relevant to development decision making. It works to catalyse the innovative solutions to development issues by helping diverse communities organisations bring their different kinds of knowledge together. Knowledge partnering as a development approach identifies the opportunity to bring elite, technical and professional forms of knowledge into dialogue with local and community-based forms of knowledge to tackle development issues of common interest (Eversole, 2014: 168-169)."*

She further noted that that community development is achievable through development partnership where community members are empowered and given the right platform to collaborate and share ideas that will bring about their desired aspirations and needs of the community. This approach according to her was termed as "The placed-based development" that recognises the community based knowledge and ideas in

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developmental initiatives. Based on her philosophical ideas she developed the "knowledge partnering framework" as the philosophical foundation of her work.

Hence, this study observes that resourced-based community ideas and initiatives are fundamental elements especially in rural communities through their natural endowments contribute economically to the development of society. For instance, the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta have the notion that government is not only obligated to the provision of sustainable community development initiatives, but also responsible for its sustainability. Nevertheless, they pointed out that the developmental goals can be successful achieved when community members are fully incorporated in the designing, planning and implementation processes. It was also discovered from the study interviewees that the rationale of having all community involvement is a very important aspect of revitalization for any community, and size. Without community buy-in, a project may never get off the ground, or will not be accepted once it is completed.

CHAPTER SEVEN: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Introduction

The preceding chapters of this study present result on sustainable community development, community participation and involvement, common passion and active responsibility in the light of marginalized communities such as the Niger Delta region in Nigeria. This chapter reflects on how the study has significantly contributed to the theory, framework, the process and strategies for community development sustainability. Emanating from the study's findings from the two methods used, conclusions and recommendations were made. Likewise, this study contributes to scholarly works in the area of community development approach for sustainability particularly in marginalised rural communities which was based on the model derived from the study. Finally, the chapter presents the proposed framework and model; recommendations that can enhance existing frameworks in facilitating and ensuring sustainability of developmental agenda.

7.2 Study Contribution

This study has highlighted that sustainable community development is vital for any under-developed, marginalized and agitated resource-based community. It further stressed that sustainable community development can be advanced by employing community participation and involvement whereas; community members are made to partake actively in sustainable community developmental initiatives and plans for the greater good of their community. The study contribution can be mirrored in three

dimensions namely; the theoretical, practical and methodological dimensions which can be employed in comprehending issues of sustainable community development.

7.2.1 Theoretical Contribution

Sustainability of developmental agenda especially in rural communities has been a challenge to both governmental and non-governmental agencies. Consequently, the need to examine the approaches and strategies employed in developmental programmes becomes inevitable. This concern therefore stimulated the drive for this study to explore those factors that can stimulate and also pose as impediments to sustainable community development. Based on the fact that theories are set of proposed principles used for justification of an action or social, the study therefore adopted the social capital theory, 6 I's of community development theory, mattering and marginality theory and the stage model of community development to examine the how developmental agenda can be sustained (Sales, Smith, Curran, & Kochevar, 2006).

Specifically, this study contributes to theories and model adopted in this study from various dimensions in identifying the how community participation and involvement can be successful achieve for sustainable community development. The study identified benefits attached, trust building, sense of belonging, sense of ownership, collaboration and effective communication system as fundamental elements in facilitating sustainability of developmental activities within communities. The study contributes to the social capital theory which centres on the norms of reciprocity and benefits people attach to a social system by virtue of their being of part of that system. Nevertheless, the willingness to be committed in such a system is determined by how much the system is able to influence their lives positively. This theory was summarised by Coleman

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(1988) who identified the social structure (context) and the actors within that structure as fundamental to the effective functioning of that system. Likewise, Jin and Kim (2014) identified trust and togetherness as factors of social capital theory for enhanced participation. Similarly, Bergman, Tal and Stein (2013) on their study on the relationship between social capital, employment, community participation and standard of living, revealed that relationship of socila capital on networking social and vocational integration. This was supported by Jeffrey, Bridger and Theodore (2006) that trust and norms of reciprocity as a factor of social capital theory promotes community development, nevertheless, they argued that there is need to examine interactive system as an alternative approach for enhanced community development. It could be seen that the findings from this study corroborates with previous studies that identified social capital as a vital tool for social collaboration and integration of individuals within a social system. Also, trust building and benefits attached as facilitators for enhanced participation in social activities within the social system.

Furthermore, as summarized in Figure 7.1, this study can be used to comprehend and provide answers to issues arising from Marginality and Mattering Theory which is based on community marginalization, underdevelopment and poverty as faced by marginalized resource-based communities globally. This study specifically suggests roles that community members either individually or collectively can play in order to build sustainable development within their community. In the same manner, the study enhances the 6 I's Community Development Theory by highlighting additional factors that can foster sustainable community development apart from sense of belonging. Similarly finding is obtained in the Stage Model of Community Development whereas the model gives four phases, this study further adds another phase making five phases

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for comprehension of the process involve in sustainable community development. Hence, this study explicitly contributes to these three theories and one model in order to better comprehend, predict and fathom sustainable community development.

Thus, the study therefore has complemented and improved the understanding of developmental strategies and techniques and the challenges that could impede on successful implementation of developmental agenda. However, the understanding of developmental approach encompasses not only how community can be developed but also the role of community members in facilitating the developmental process. Therefore, emanating from the study findings is its contribution of theoretical explanation and understanding of the processes and approaches for sustainability of developmental agenda which is the current trend advocated by the United Nations as a key factor that should be adopted in developmental goals and practices.

7.2.1.1 Integrated Community Development Sustainability Proposed Framework
The integrated community development sustainability proposed framework was developed from the empirical findings of the two methods employed in the study. This theory is targeted towards identifying the connecting link between the social system and how the actors within the system influences the organisation and effective functioning of the system in meeting its specific goals and aspirations. The theory is graphically represented as shown in Table figure 8.1 to demonstrate how a set of actions can influence the process of developmental agenda. It also depicts collaborative efforts by all stakeholders as a key element in fostering the level of community participation and involvement in developmental activities. The framework is basically viewed from

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two broad perspectives which are; Integrated community development sustainability

itinerary and intervention strategies.

Context　　　　**Actors**　　　　　　　　　**Outcome**
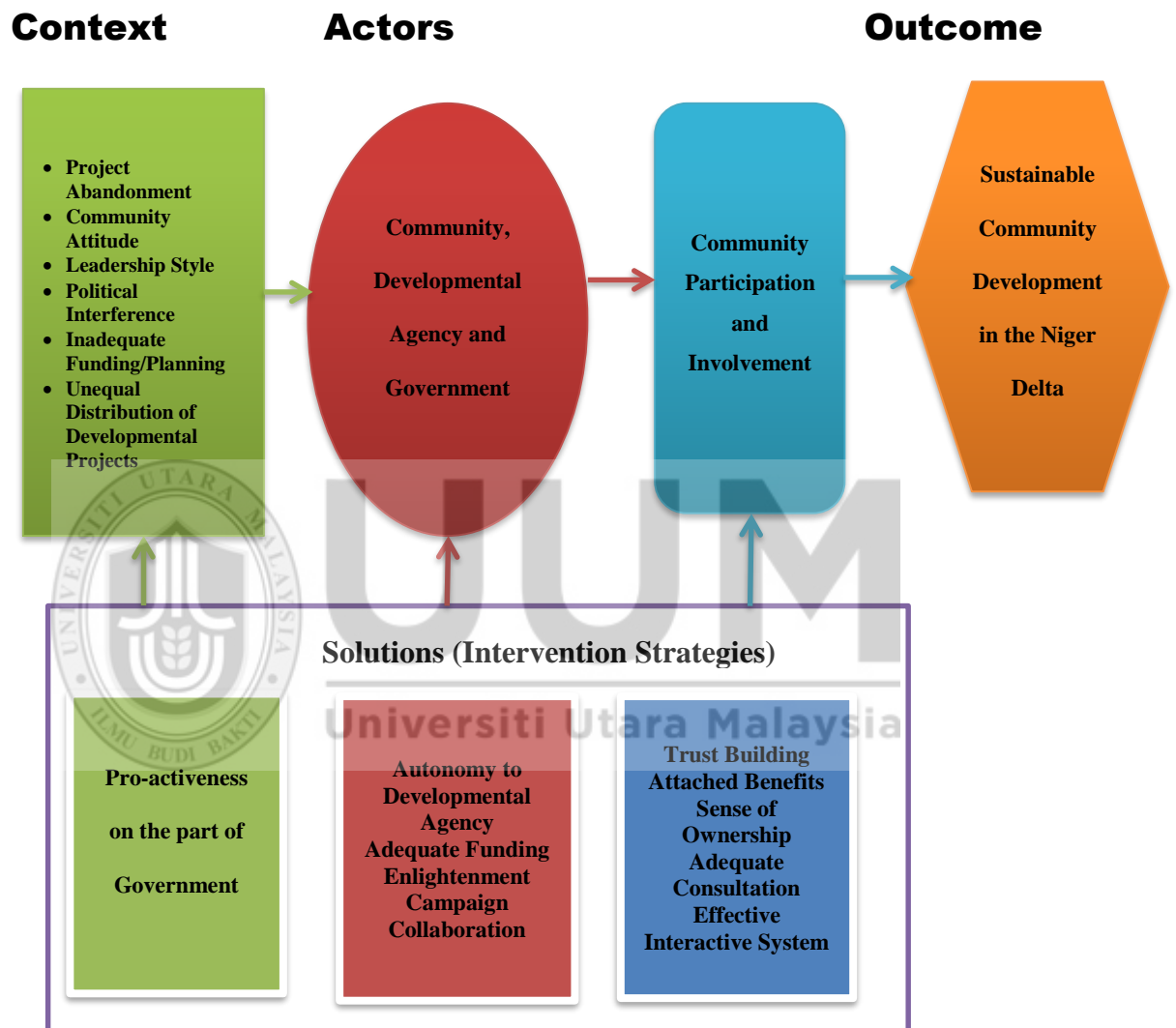
Figure 7.1: Integrated community development sustainability proposed framework

7.2.1.2 Community Development Sustainability

The integrated community development sustainability comprises of the social system

(context), the actors within the system and the outcomes that emanates based on the

interaction of the actors. The three elements identified will be explained independently for better understanding.

i. Context: The contexts as seen in this study are the issues identified within the social system. From the study's findings, it was discovered developmental failures in the Niger delta is one of the major causes of incessant crisis in the Niger Delta can be attributed to factors such as; lack of commitment to developmental projects, attitude of community members towards developmental activities, leadership style at both community level and the developmental agency, political interference, inadequate planning and funding and unequal distribution of developmental projects. These factors as observed from the study do not only impede on successful implementation of developmental programs but could also stimulate opposition and agitations from community members, likewise, the inability of developmental agencies to function adequately in fulfilling developmental goals.

ii. Actors: Actors in this study refers to all the stakeholders as shown in figure 8.1 as specified by developmental policy**.** The role actors' play in developmental agenda is crucial to its sustainability. These groups as identified in this study are the community, government and developmental agency. They do not only enforce developmental agenda but also its implementation and sustainability**.** From the study findings, it was discovered that the negation of one group can hinder the successful functioning of the other groups, hence the need to integrate all the parties into developmental arena whereby every member of the group has equal right and opportunity to contribute to developmental process.

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This approach was identified in this study as fundamental in increasing the level of community participation and involvement in developmental activities which hitherto led to sustainable community development. It also creates opportunity for grassroots development which is the bottom-up approach. This approach gives community members sense of belonging which increases their level of commitment. However, there are some challenges that might be encountered in adopting this approach when the goals and agenda are not explicit to community members. This study therefore advocates for effective communication and interactive system built on trust and transparency as fundamental in any a social system.

iii. Outcome: The procedure or process of developmental agenda which is conceptualized as itinerary in this study. The outcome is the end product derived from the actions of the actors within a social system. The social system which is the platform through which individual and collective ideas and views are articulated is based on individual's level of knowledge and experiences on the targeted goals. Therefore, there is need to assess the level of understanding of the actors on the target goal in other to avoid conflicting ideas on the proposed agenda within the group.

7.2.1.3 Intervention Strategies:

Emanating from the study's findings are some key elements identified as remedies to the challenges to sustainable community development, community relationship with developmental agency and community participation and involvement in developmental programs. These include government pro-activeness, autonomy to developmental agencies in their operations, adequate funding, enlightenment campaign and collaboration. Likewise, trust building, attached benefits, sense of ownership, adequate

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consultation and effective interactive system. All these elements influence the contextual issues within the social system, actors and the outcome derived.

The contribution of this framework to existing body of knowledge is its holistic approach to community development sustainability that encompasses the systematic approach in developmental agenda putting into cognizance not only the stimulants of developmental initiatives but also those factors that can pose as impediments to developmental process. Likewise, the network of relationship that exists among stakeholders at the planning and implementation stages of developmental agenda.

7.3. Practical and Policy Contributions

This study finding has huge implications on development planners and policies makers at all levels either government or non-governmental agencies. The study explicitly reflects that issues of sustainable community development is premised on community members being informed about the likely impact of their past, present and future actions which will have lasting implications on their up-coming generations. These actions are mediated by policies formulated by government and developmental agencies. One of the highlights of this study is that community involvement is a right and compulsory for any resource-based community.

Thus, policies makers should look at community development in this light whereas issues surrounding involvement should not be underestimated in sustainable community development agenda. Likewise, this study has pictured the vital roles of common passion which is the mutual agreement and active role by community members in enhancing sustainable community development in any resource-based communities. Thus, policies makers must ensure these two important enhancers are

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incorporated in their developmental initiatives and plans in order to achieve sustainable community development.

Another vital point is the need to ensure that developmental initiatives and plans do not fail in order to gain and build continuous trust and understanding from community members. This is very germane because failure of these plans might leads to mistrust which will be very difficult to gain. Hence, policy makers should take note of both the catalyst and challenges identified and presented in this study in order to ensure sustainable community development.

This contribution is also applicable to the multinational oil companies operating within the region fulfilling their corporate social responsibility (CSR) within the community where they operate. On the other hand, based on the findings from the study that revealed political interference, unequal distribution of developmental projects, abandonment of projects, lack of autonomy and inadequate funding should not undermined in any developmental initiatives especially at the implementation level. This indicates lack of commitment by the government towards developmental initiatives which was identified as one of the major reasons for the developmental inadequacies and failures in the Niger Delta. This study significantly contributes to the Nigerian government in their system of operations and management of developmental projects for effective implementation and sustainability.

From a broader perspective, this study will serve as a reference point for academics, scholars, policy makers, developmental planners, government and non-governmental agencies on how development can be sustained not only at the community level but

across all the social strata in society. It also contributes in the area of programs and project management which is inherent in every social or organisational system. Therefore, the framework will serve as a guide to program and project management practitioners in their mode of operations and practices with reference to network of relationship through effective communication and interactive system as identified in this study as catalyst for fostering smooth relationship amongst different groups and individuals within a system. It will also serve as a hint how to address those factors that may pose as hindrances to sustainability of developmental projects. This suggests that, there is need to identify those factors that can will not only motivate collective and individual's participation and commitment but also stand as barriers to the actualization of the specific goals and agenda of that system.

7.4 Methodological Contribution

Another major contribution of this study is the adopted methodology which is known as the mixed method research. The method is called mixed method because it utilizes two research methods namely; qualitative and quantitative method. The mixed of both research methods gives the study a robust and rich finding which was achieved during the data collection and interpretation. For instance, the beauty of this methodology was appreciated more when discussing research question one under Chapter Five which was on the Level of Community Participation among the Niger Delta populace. It was discovered that the qualitative analysis gives low level whereas the quantitative analysis indicates average level. The mixed method compliments weakness in each of the method and at the same time provides more insight in the rationale for a particular result. Due to the nature of the study, one type of result might be difficult to explain using singular research method whereas with the mixed method explanations

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comprehensive results were obtained which from the findings obtained in each of the results.

7.5 Study Implication and Recommendation

The answers provided to this study questions in Chapter Seven have mirror lots of fundamental issues that needed attention for government and her agencies in order to achieve their aim of sustainable development in the region. These answers have given factors that are vital to sustainable community development especially within marginalized resource based (like oil producing) communities. These communities are unique because of their economic value and contribution to revenue which other communities largely depend on it. An improvement on these communities implies improvement in revenue generation which will translate to both infrastructural and economic development. Hence, this study is very relevant because it seeks to comprehend initiatives that will promote sustainable development within resource based communities like the oil producing communities in Nigeria Niger Delta region which is the nation revenue generator. This section will present the implication and recommendation based on findings established in previous chapters

7.5.1 Study Implication

The findings revelation presented in previous chapters can be summarized into five major implications. The first implication inferred in this study is that community involvement is mandatory and compulsory for sustainable community development to be reached in any resource-based communities. This is because community involvement is an expectation from the populace where involvement is regarded as a right and not an option or tool. It can be seen in this study that without government and

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her agencies involving the local people in their developmental efforts and initiatives then there will not be success on their development. Likewise, without local community members' involvement, it will be very difficult for them to buy-in on any developmental initiatives. When community members failed to buy-in on any project then such will never get off the ground or will not be accepted once it is completed. Thus, this study argues that government and developmental agencies should regard community involvement as a right of resource-based community in order to inspire and motivate community interest in developmental initiatives for sustainability of any developmental plans. This also implies that such developmental initiatives should originate from community members for acceptability and sustainability. Although, this finding contrast some previous studies such as Prager, Nienaber, Neumann and Phillips (2015), Sakeah et al (2014), Hess, Rogovsky and Dunfee (2002) and Twyman (2000) where these studies maintained that community involvement is a style or tool to achieve sustainable community developmental initiatives and plans. Whereas, this study claims that community involvement cannot be a style or tool but compulsory and mandatory medium to achieve sustainable community developmental initiatives and plans. This is due to the fact that resource-based community considered it as a right and not a privilege. This result is found to be consistent with few studies such as Natcher and Hickey (2002) and Fraser, Dougill, Mabee, Reed and McAlpine (2006) where it is likewise argued that community involvement is vital and obligatory in achieving targeted sustainable developmental initiatives and plans

Secondly, the study discovers that community participation can be enhanced by active responsibility and common passion in order to obtain sustainable community development. Community participation is depicted in this study as the process of

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providing opportunities for community members to engage and been proactive in developmental activities. Therefore, participation is a sort of motivational style which must be adopted by government and developmental agencies in order to get maximum contribution toward sustainable community development within any resource-based community. Thus, for this to be sustained, increased and improved, community members must be encouraged to take up some responsibilities in developmental activities. When government and developmental agencies encourages community members' to be part of their developmental programs and project by taking up active role, then it will motive them by having passion to do more for their communities. This finding is in line with Nzeadibe, Ajaero and Nwoke (2015), Kew and Phillips (2013), Aaron (2012) and Ogula (2012) studies which similarly point that active responsibility and common passion as important ingredients in order to achieve sustainable community development in any resource-based communities.

Contrast to the finding on community participation, this study does not found relationship between community participation, active responsibility and common passion. This might be because resource-based communities' members expect and claim involvement as a right. This is as a result that their livelihoods have been affected negatively by the exploration of their communities' natural resources. They expect that the revenue generated within their communities should likewise be used to develop their region instead of other regions. They believe that government insensitive action towards sustaining developmental projects within their community is the root of under-development, poverty and suffering in the oil producing communities. Thus, they are of the view their natural resources should be used to create wealth and development for themselves and their region before sharing it with other regions.

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In this study community involvement is conceptualizes as a kind of a responsibility and opportunities provided for community members to partake actively in community development process. Community involvement is creating the platform for community members not only to be part of developmental initiatives but also given the opportunity to contribute in the decision-making process of their communities' developmental initiatives and plans which is aim at community empowerment. This contribution can be as a kind of opportunity for community members to express their ideas and opinions on ways to ensure sustainable community development within their communities. This includes allocating specific task, role and contribution to community members' within the developmental projects. According to this study, the major difference between community involvement and community participation is that the former expresses the level of community members' contribution towards the process of community development and transformation while the latter is an opportunity given to community members to exhibit their skills, knowledge and expertise in community development initiatives and plans.

It is claim in this study that community member involvement should not be used to generate developmental initiatives and ideas only which is what community participation entails. However, it should transcend been part of developmental activities into making community members developmental partners in implementation and execution of these developmental initiatives and plans by giving them some opportunity to make choices amongst multiple options available to them both at the designing and implementation stages. When this is done, then community members will be well informed about issues surrounding their community development which will prevent agitation or crisis within the region. This is fundamental because successful community

involvement is based on adequate information and dialogue. Only informed community members can be involved in developmental implementation plans which lead to sustainable community development. Furthermore, an involved community member will comprehend better the process and will be more likely to ensure the success and achievement of the developmental plans. Thus, this study argues that community involvement is not mirrored by their active responsibility and common passion because they consider involvement as mandatory and vital in fostering sustainable community development. This finding disagrees with Nzeadibe, Ajaero and Nwoke (2015), Kew and Phillips (2013), Nyaupane, Morais and Dowler (2006), Marinetto (2003), Kapelus (2002) studies which identified common interest, passion, active responsibility and role play as ingredients to community involvement. On the other hands, this study finding support Natcher and Hickey (2002) and Fraser, Dougill, Mabee, Reed and McAlpine (2006) on community involvement being mandatory to ensure sustainable community development and do not rely on community passion and active responsibility of community members.

Thirdly, this study pinpoints seven important issues that government and developmental agencies must seriously take note in order to ensure sustainable community development in any resource-based communities. These issues are germane because failure in any one can result to failure on sustainable community development. This is because it will lead to mistrust and creates wrong perception from local community members toward government and developmental agencies in future deals. These seven critical issues include funding, developmental plans, project abandonment, favouritism, leadership style, community attitude and political interferences. It is vital that these issues are well handled in order to achieve and improve community

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participation and involvement. This offers better relationship between community members and developmental agencies which strengthens consultation process with the populace after reviewing and analysing all parts within the developmental initiatives to foster sustainable community development.

More so, the use of political offices should not be used to influence and attract community development in favouring some communities over others. This might lead to crisis and agitation due to reactions from other communities as discovered in this study. Likewise, it might lead to over-dependence by such favoured community which can pose a danger if the politician is out of office. The aftermath effect of this is that the development might not be sustained by the community at the end. These findings are in line with many studies results such as Neupane (2016), Lucena (2015), Idemudia (2014), Connelly, Markey and Roseland (2013) and Muthuri, Moon and Idemudia (2012) where such issues were identified as pitfalls were mentioned in fostering sustainable community development. Thus, this study argues that proper management and handling of these issues will help to ensure sustainable community development in any resource-based communities whereas other vices can lead to failure of these developmental initiatives and plans.

The fourth study implication talked about failure issues and factors of sustainable community development which must be properly ensured by government and developmental agencies to successfully achieve their goal of sustainable development. Similar to this, the third study implication is the eight catalyst factors that are essential in fostering sustainable community development in any resource-based communities. These eight catalysts include trust, perceived benefit, ownership, consultation,

collaboration, effective communication, enlightenment and empowerment. These mentioned catalysts mediate the relationship between developmental agencies and the local community members. When these catalysts are recognised and well implemented then developmental initiatives will be achieved and sustained within any resource-based communities. For instance, developmental agencies can use consultation to inform and enlighten community members on why, how, and where developmental initiatives and plans will be beneficial to community. Enlightenment involves the agencies giving useful detailed information on specific task and target manner that will make community members to know more about the developmental agenda and targeted goals. Thus, when these catalysts are observed and utilize in the appropriate manner then it will be foster the need for community participation and involvement to drive sustainable community development. These results support similar findings in other previous studies such as Howard and Wheeler (2015), Rinne, Lyytimäki and Kautto (2013), Sianipar, Yudoko, Adhiutama and Dowaki (2013), Percy-Smith and Burns (2013), Muthuri, Moon and Idemudia (2012), Roseland (2000) which pinpointed these factors as good indicators for successful implementation of community participation and involvement to foster sustainable community development within resource-based communities. Nevertheless, more recently it has been observed that development sustainability is the sole responsibility of all stakeholders in developmental process. This was clearly stated in Article 3 of the United Nations declaration on the Right to Development which clearly affirms that the onus of developmental sustainability lies not only on government but also community members likewise stakeholders in developmental process (Nawn, 2015).

The fifth but not the least study implication is the mediating role that developmental agencies should play between government and the community (region) in order to foster sustainable community development within the region. The use of agency connotes useful network or image of organization which has power, influence and control. According to this study, agency refers to team, structure or bureaucracies which can be either governmental or non-governmental and have the mandate to perform and achieve developmental initiatives.

The role of developmental agency in sustainable community development can be summarized into three headings namely change agent, community peace maker and pacification. This is because the agency is the intermediary between government and the community. Thus, the agency must be very sensitive to their role in order to prevent agitation and crisis within the region. This corroborates the study of Asah, (2015) that identifies the actions of individuals within society as determinant for facilitating change. He noted that the actions of individuals within a social system are propelled by environmental factors by virtue of their interaction within the system which has the propensity of influencing their attitude and perception towards developmental agenda.

In addition, there are five key factors that developmental agency must take into cognizance in order to foster sustainable community development particularly within agitation resource-based community like the Niger Delta region in Nigeria. These factors include comprehensive assessment of the people's needs, openness to community members, easier accessibility by community members and information dissemination to the community. These are very vital because it will help developmental agencies to tap the endogenous potentials of the community in order to

promote not only community infrastructure development but also human and economic development in the region. Likewise, these factors will encourage coordination and integration of community members around shared vision of sustainable community development within their communities. These results are consistent with previous studies in the literature such as Okolo (2014), Shaw, Besada and Tok (2014), Kimura (2014), Sum, Ramli, Lyndon, Manaf, Saad and Selvadurai (2013), Bruszt and Vedres (2013) where the roles and issues of developmental agency were stressed as useful mediating effect to foster sustainable community development within any resource-based communities.

7.6 Study Recommendation

Based on the aforementioned five major study implications, this section outlined some key recommendations based on the findings and results from both methods employed in this study. These suggestions can be a guide for both government and developmental agencies on how to drive sustainable community development in any resource-based communities' particularly marginalized and agitated communities.

As established by the study's findings, there is need to explicitly identify individual communities' goals and demands. Likewise, a comprehensive and specific community assessment in order to know the basic and specific needs, desires expectations of each community which may vary from one community to another. This approach will help in prioritising developmental projects and programs across various communities. More so, there is need to set success indicators which must be directly linked to each communities' goals and objectives whereby each of the community's goals and objectives should be given priorities and time frame time. Community members should

be involved in the development of strategic plan for achieving these set objectives and goals. It is vital to ideal with objectives one after the other based on availability of fund, while the objective or goal should be considering higher than the other. However, community members should be allowed to be part of the decisions on which objectives are more pressing.

Also, there is need to allow community members to lead the developmental initiatives which is part of community participation. Although, there might be some conflict of interest amongst community members, nevertheless, developmental agencies should endeavour to create an atmosphere of peace in cases like this by playing the role of mediation between rivalry groups. It is clear from this study that effective community system is vital for building network of relationship. Therefore, to build a viable communication system that will ensure feedback by collection of inputs on each community's goals and objective. Various forms of communication platform should be used such as newspaper, TV, grassroots organizations, town hall meetings, civic groups, traditional rules, schools, and so on. This will allow community members outside their local communities to be involved. Likewise, government should create a channel of communication that is peculiar to a particular locality.

Another salient recommendation is the need to design specific guidelines for planning and development in each of the communities. Same guideline should not be used for all the communities whereas individual community guideline should be related clearly with their community's objectives and goals. This aspect is crucial in allocation of programs and projects across different communities. This study also recommends the

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need to identify and recognize potential pitfalls within each community's plans. This will prevent unforeseen failures in the developmental plans and project abandonments.

This study finds it necessary to recommend to government that developmental initiative grant and monies should be tied to communit involvement (i.e., without implementing and documenting the community involvement initiatives), no monies should be awarded by government or any developmental agencies for project and programs executions.

In order to demonstrate community involvement, it is recommended for government and developmental agencies to award major and minor projects to community members within resource-based communities. This act will give community members sense of belonging and ownership where they will see the successful implementation of such projects as their responsibility. In the same vein, project contractors within the communities will endeavour to do the best job for their communities because they will not want negative comments from their fellow citizens whereby they will be protecting their good names in their communities. This will help the populace to be rightly engaged and empower their members. Likewise, this will give sense of belonging to the people by active responsibility and passion.

Another important factor to note is the issue of transparency for trust building. Therefore, there is need to maintain openness and transparency with effective communication and update information disseminations with community members on stage-by-stage notification on these projects. This will ensure that local community members are well carried along which will enable them to buy-in passionately in the

plans. Therefore, government should evolve strategy upon which communication gap can be bridged by creating a platform though which the views and opinions of community can be heard. This approach as elicited from this study is the "observatory listening mechanism" where community members are given opportunity to make critical observations of programs and also allowed to speak when he need arises.

Finally, there is need for strategic monitoring, evaluation and appraisal of developmental projects and programs introduced within any community to ascertain the level of effectiveness and utilization by community members through proper documentation. Also, the need for adequate publicity on all developmental initiatives and plans which can also be used to recognize community members that are directly and actively involved in the achievement of such initiatives and plans should be strategically done. This will encourage other community members to be involved during the next developmental initiative and plan. This study therefore recommends the need for critical review and reappraisal of existing frameworks and different approaches employed for community development programs and activities not only in the Niger Delta region but across in order to address developmental failures evident in the social, economic, environmental and living conditions of her citizenry. More so, government should clearly indicate the role of community members as a key factor in its developmental policies and its enforcement in the pre and post developmental stages

7.7 Limitation of Study

Although there is much remains to be done in order to strengthen this study, yet this study presents relevant findings about community participation and involvement to foster sustainable community development. This is because the present study has given

some useful results which are in consistent with few studies in the literature nothing

withstanding, its design is not without few flaws. A number of caveats need to be noted

regarding the present study which will be expressed as follows.

The first is the observation and documentation research method used to support the

face-to-face interview in this study were not well defined. For instance, Observation

research method is a systematic data collection approach which normally based on

senses examinations of respondent or samples within their natural occurring state or

social situation. This form of method usually has standard procedure for data collection

whereas in this study these standards were not well defined under the study

methodology.

Secondly, the administrated questionnaires were distributed using cluster sampling

method to 300 respondents as the sample size, 50 from each community which include

market women, farmer, fisherman, youth and tradition rules with their chiefs. However,

the homogeneity of the data was not ensured during data collection. This implies that

the same numbers of youths or market women were obtained in all the communities

which will make the data to be more homogenous in nature. Likewise, homogenous can

be ensured with data in respect to gender and ethnic group in order to avert issues of

gender discrimination and ethnic sentiments.

7.8 Suggestions for Further Study

This study has mirrored the sufferings and agitation of the good people of Niger Delta

region in Nigeria on issues of sustainable community development. This region is made

up of resource-based communities due to the large deposits of oil. This makes the region

to be very vital to the Nigerian economics because of her huge contribution to the country's revenue. The study has presented successful recommendations which can be used to foster sustainable community development not only within Niger Delta region in Nigeria but also across resource-based communities worldwide. However, this finding can be further investigated across different cultural and traditional boundaries. This is because there might be variation in results due to cultural and traditional boundaries.

Likewise, further study can be conducted to investigate specific needs of each of the communities that made up the Niger Delta region. For instance, River state is part of the nine states that made up the Niger Delta region and the state is the largest oil producing state among the region. This state is home to thirteen different ethnics namely Abua, Andoni, Ekpeye, Engenni, Etche, Ibani, Ikwerre, Kalabari, Ogba, Egbema, Ndoni, Okrika and Ogoni. Thus, studies can be conducted to know the specific need of each of these ethnic groups in the state. This will further refine findings on how to use community participation and involvement among ethnic nationality to foster sustainable community development. Furthermore, this study was investigated in the light of the activities of NDDC which is a federal government developmental agency however; there are other developmental agencies from states government, local government and non-governmental bodies (both local and international). Therefore, further studies can be done to investigate issues of sustainable community development considering data and input from these mentioned developmental agencies. Subsequently, the study also identified community participation, community involvement, common passion and active responsibility as factors for boosting sustainable community development. From the quantitative result, it was discovered

that the R^2 value is .548% of the factors identified to enhance community development sustainability in the Niger Delta region. By implication, it means that there are other factors which are not identified in this study. Therefore, further studies are recommended in identifying other factors that can enhance community development sustainability.

7.9 Conclusions

This chapter has been able to summarize previous chapters of this study by providing the study implication, recommendation, contribution, limitation and further study. It is seen in this study that community participation and involvement is a useful tool to foster sustainable community development. However, contrast to most similar previous studies in the vast literature this study argues that community involvement is not an option but compulsory to achieve sustainable community development within any resource-based communities especially oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. In addition, this study present challenges and catalysts that are considered germane for sustainable community development. These are viewed as the tools and the process needed by both developmental agencies and government in order to achieve sustainable community development. When these are implemented successfully then soon, both government and community will begin to see results that will indicate a higher quality of life for community members on effective use of resources, and an attraction for the kinds of both infrastructural and economic development that will sustain it long into their future generations.

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