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Full Length Research Paper

Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission Mandate of Educational and Micro- Credit Scheme and the Development of Oil host Communities

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The study investigated the Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (DESOPADEC) provision of educational and micro credit scheme and the development of oil host communities in Delta State. The objective of the study is to investigate the extent to which DESOPADEC provision of educational and micro credit scheme have brought development in the oil host communities in Delta State. In other to carry out the study, two research questions were raised and two hypotheses formulated. Review of related literature was based on both theoretical and empirical studies on development. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The sample for the study was 366. The proportionate stratified sampling technique was adopted in selecting the respondents. The result of the study shows that DESOPADEC educational scheme have increase literacy rate. Similarly, the results shows that micro credit scheme have significantly boosted economic activities in the oil host communities. Based on the results, it was suggested that funds meant for the commission should be promptly released.

Keywords: Oil, Oil Producing Areas, Educational And Micro- Credit Scheme

INTRODUCTION

The Delta state oil producing area development commission was set up in 1998 to address the problems of underdevelopment after much agitation by the people of the oil producing region. A commission known as the Niger Delta Development commission was earlier set up the federal government to cater for the development of the nine oil producing states that made up the Niger Delta

region. The states are Akwa-Ibom, Delta, Edo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Cross- Rivers, Ondo, Abia, and Ebonyi. According to Boye, Erhinyodavwe, Oroka, and Atomato (2014) the Niger Delta state is richly endowed with rich mineral deposits that have attracted so many multinational oil companies and the activities of this multinational oil company has caused a lot of

environmental degradation that has made people to ask questions if the mineral deposit in the region is a course or blessing.

Akuodu (2011) earlier posited that the activities of the mining companies/oil drilling to gas flaring has caused a lot of damage to the aquatic life and the physical environment of the people of the Region hence there has been a lot of agitation for development. Omajemite (2008) also affirms that the oil producing communities have been long neglected by successive government in terms of meaningful development that will quantify what is been taken from the region.

The long neglect of the oil producing communities according to Ogbonnaya (2011) calls for concern hence when the federal government decided to set up a commission to address the issues of development it became a welcome development by the people of the oil producing communities. The present study tend to look into two key area that the commission was mandated to take care of and ascertain if the commission mandate of developing the oil producing communities are been achieved. It is hoped that the study will provide a platform to assessing the performances of the commission based on the peoples responses on projects/programmes executed.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to ascertain if DESOPADEC mandate of developing the producing communities is been achieved

The specific objective of the study is to investigate the extent to which DESOPADEC provision of:

- I. Educational scheme/facilities have increase literacy rate in the oil host communities
- II. Micro- credit scheme have boosted economic activities in the oil host communities

Hypothesis

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

1. DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes have not significantly increased literacy rate in the oil host communities in Delta State
2. DESOPADEC Micro- Credit Scheme have not significantly boost economic activities there by increasing the income of oil host communities in Delta State

Literature Review

Development researches have over the years recognized the role education play in the development of a

community. Similarly in an attempt to build indicators of measuring standard of living and quality of life education was not left out. Using Sen's (1985) approach, according to Dang and Pheng (2015) the Human Development Index (HDI) has been published annually since 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme as an attempt to provide an aggregate measure of life expectancy, education and income.

Okowa (2017) stated that development is the result of sustainable long run economic growth. He asserted that economic growth can only be sustained in the long run if it is an inclusive one that benefits all members of the society or at least, has the prospect of benefiting all. Education is the key to economic growth and development. Human development is generally measured by the Human Development Index (HDI), which includes indicators on income, literacy levels, and life expectancy.

According to Egbon (2017) development has dimensions that includes; social dimension, economic dimension, institutional dimension, and environmental dimension. In his assertion the social dimension is concerned with a nation having equitable and just economy, healthy and economically productive population and accessible and quality education. In measuring development one of the human development indices is the numbers of literacy rate and illiteracy rate in a community.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey was adopted in carrying out the study the sample used for the study was 366 comprising of youth leaders, community leaders (Chiefs), head of schools, and medical personnel. The respondents were drawn from the five ethnic nationalities in Delta State, it comprises of Urhobo, Isoko, Itsekiri, Ijaw and Ndokwa.

The table indicates 103, traditional chiefs, 85 youth leaders, 95 heads of school and 83 medical personnel were the actual respondents used for the study. The table also shows the numbers of respondents from the different ethnic nationalities. A total of 123 traditional chiefs, 90 youth leaders, 103 heads of schools, and 84 medical personnel's were used for the study. A total of 366 respondents comprising of 103 traditional chiefs, 85 youth leaders, 95 heads of schools and 83 medical personnel dully completed and returned the questionnaire that was used for data analysis.

The stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting the sample. Each ethnic nationality formed a stratum from where the respondents were selected. The research instrument for the study was a self constructed questionnaire, structured interview technique and the direct observation method. The direct observation method helped the researcher to personally observe the

Table 1. Analysis of the Respondents' based on Questionnaire returned rate

Ethnic Nationalities	Traditional Chiefs	Youth leaders	Heads of schools	of Medical personnel's	Total
URHOB0	54 (51)	42 (40)	54 (49)	43 (42)	193 (182)
ITESEKIRI	22 (18)	18 (17)	15 (13)	15 (15)	70 (63)
IJAW	15 (10)	10 (10)	12 (12)	8 (8)	45 (40)
ISOKO	16 (11)	10 (10)	11 (11)	9 (9)	46 (41)
NDOKWA	16 (13)	10 (8)	11 (10)	9 (9)	46 (40)
Total	123 (103)	90 (85)	103 (95)	84 (83)	400 (366)

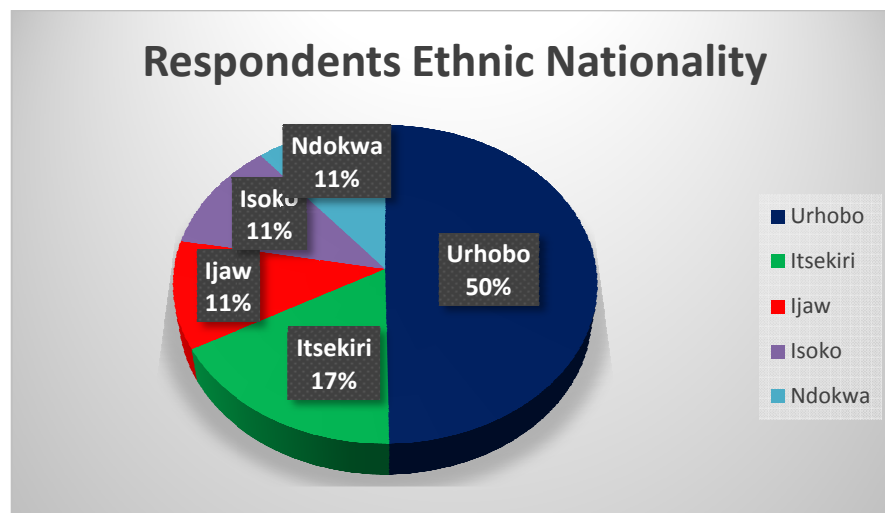


Figure 1. Representation of the five ethnic Nationalities that was used for the study.

Table 2. Chi-square (X^2) Analysis of the Association in the Opinions of the Respondents on DESOPADEC provision of Educational Facilities/Programmes and Increased Literacy Rate

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	370.882^a	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	349.122	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	179.647	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	366		

situation of things and consequently get more objective information on the activities of DESOPADEC and the development of Delta State. Direct observation is a reliable means of measuring traits like truthfulness, honesty, and emotional stability.

The questionnaire was divided into different sections to elicit information as to the activities of DESOPADEC; Section A consists of two items which seek demographic data of respondents. Respondents were asked to tick which categories they belong. Section B consists of 21 items which request the respondents to tick the option that best suit their opinion. It was structured based on four point scale measurement SA- Strongly Agree, A- Agree, - D- Disagree SD- Strongly Disagree. Section C was structured to seek information on the extent to which

DESOPADEC Project has brought the desire development in the oil host communities. The entire research instrument for data collection provided the information required for answering the research questions.

The reliability of the instrument was determined through the test-re-test method using thirty (30) respondents. The responds were drawn among Traditional leaders, Community Youth Leaders, Head of schools, medical personnel in Government hospitals and health centers, in Bayelsa State. To test for the reliability, the test re-test method using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was utilized and the reliability r 0.75 was obtained. Data generated were analyzed using the chi square analysis for testing the hypothesis at 0.05 levels

Table 3: Chi-square (X^2) Analysis of the Opinions of the Respondents on DESOPADEC provision of Micro- Credit Scheme and the boost of economic activities to increase the income of oil host communities in Delta State.

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	362.000^a	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	342.435	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	177.966	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	366		

Table 4. Respondents responses on the extents to which DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes have increased the literacy rate in oil host communities

Variable	Very great extent	great extent	Moderate extent	Never	Total
Educational facilities/equipment and programmes	79 (21.6%)	238 (65.0%)	49 (13.4%)	-	366 100%

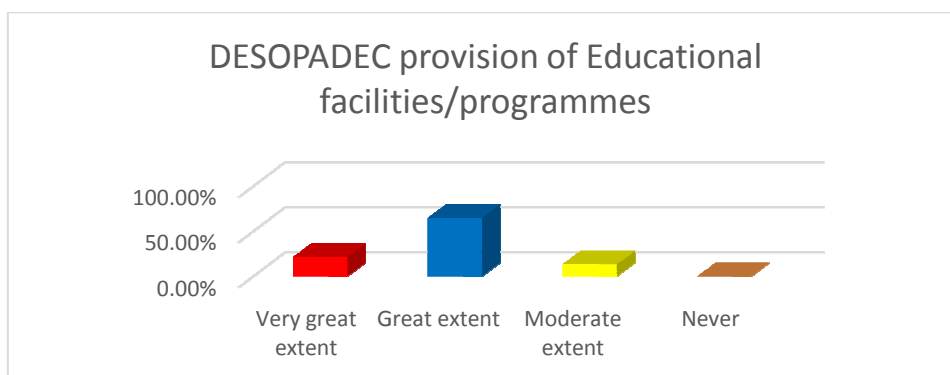


Fig 2 is a representation of the Extent to which DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes have increase literacy rate in the oil host communities. Figure 2 shows that to a great extent the provision of educational facilities and programmes have increased the literacy rate in the oil host communities.

of significance.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The figure indicates the distribution by ethnic nationalities, 50% of Urhobo ethnic nationalities were used for the study, 17% Itsekiri and 11% each for Ijaw, Isoko and Ndokwa ethnic nationalities

Hypothesis One

There is no significant association in the opinions of the respondents on DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes and increased literacy rate in oil host communities in Delta State.

Table 2 shows that a Chi-square test of independence was performed to examine the views of the respondents

on DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes and increased literacy rate. The relationship between the variables was statistically significant, $X^2 (9, N= 366) = 370.882, p < 0.01$. The null hypothesis of no significant association tested is rejected. This implies that there is a significant association between DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes and increased literacy rate. This can be interpreted to mean that DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes have increased literacy rate in oil host communities in Delta State.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant association in the opinions of the respondents on DESOPADEC provision of Micro credit scheme and the boost of economic activities to increase the income of oil host communities in Delta State

Table 5 Respondents responses on the extents to which DESOPADEC provision of micro credit scheme has boosted economic activities in oil host communities in Delta State

Variable	Very great extent	Great extent	Moderate extent	Never	Total
Micro credit scheme	30 (8.2%)	75 (20.5%)	178 (48.6%)	83 (22.7%)	366 100%

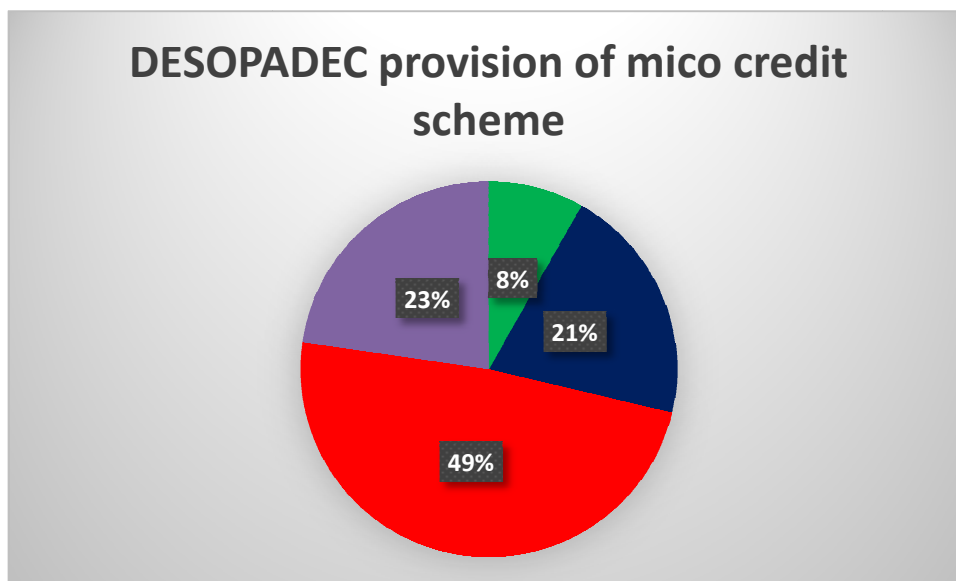


Fig 3 is a representation of the Extent to which DESOPADEC provision of micro credit scheme has boosted economic activities in the oil host communities. The chart shows that micro credit scheme has only moderately boosted economic activities.

From the result presented in table 3, a Chi-square test of independence was calculated comparing the opinions of the respondents on DESOPADEC provision of micro-credit scheme and increase in income. A significant interaction was found ($X^2 (9) = 362.000, p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis of no significant association tested is rejected. This implies that there is a significant association between DESOPADEC provision of micro-credit scheme and increase in income. This can be interpreted to mean that DESOPADEC provision of micro-credit scheme have increased the income of respondents in oil host communities in Delta State.

The results displayed on the table revealed the extent to which DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/equipment and programmes have increased the literacy rate in oil host communities as indicted by the respondents.

The respondents responses displayed on table 3b revealed the extent to which DESOPADEC provision of micro credit scheme boosted economic activities in the oil host communities of Delta State. The results as displayed shows that micro credit scheme has boosted economic activities in a moderate extent, however 22.7% of the

respondents are of the opinion that micro credit scheme of DESOPADEC have never boosted economic activities in the oil host communities.

Discussion

DESOPADEC Provision of Educational Facilities and the increase in the literacy rate of Oil Host Communities

The results from the study indicated the presence of DESOPADEC educational support programmes. The null hypothesis of no significant association tested is rejected. This implies that there is a significant association between DESOPADEC provision of educational facilities/programmes and increased literacy rate. The findings from this study also corroborate the objective and mandate of setting up the commission. It was found that provision of educational facilities (such as construction of blocks of classroom, renovation of school buildings, donation of furniture, book, science equipment, provision of local and overseas scholarship scheme and

educational support in students enrolment) by DESOPADEC have increased and improved the literacy rate in oil host communities thereby bringing development in the education of oil host communities.

According to Berenger and Vcrdier-Chouchane (2007), there have been attempts to build indicators that measure the standard of living and quality of life, which focus on the quantitative and qualitative aspects of Health, education, environment and material well being. The finding of the study is in line with Dang and Pheng (2015), who state that education is the key to sustainable development. Education is the key to all infrastructural, scientific and economic development. The human development report (2015) linked sustainable development to sound and qualitative education. In measuring development one of the human development indices is the numbers of literacy rate and illiteracy rate in a community..

DESOPADEC Provision of Micro Credit Scheme and the boost of economic activities in Oil Host Communities

The finding from the study on DESOPADEC provision of micro credit scheme to oil host communities to boost economic activities for the increase in income indicated that the scheme is moderately viable. However the null hypothesis of no significant association tested is rejected. This implies that there is a significant association between DESOPADEC provision of micro-credit scheme and increase in income. This can be interpreted to mean that DESOPADEC provision of micro-credit scheme have significantly boost economic activities and increased the income of oil host communities in Delta State. The result of the extent to which micro credit scheme has boosted economic activities from the result revealed that the scheme has moderately boosted economic activities for the increased in the income of the oil host communities.

The results from the study to a large extent is in consonant to the objectives of the commission which is saddle with the responsibility of providing Micro credit scheme to the oil host communities to boost economic activities. According to World Bank (2003), sustainable development is aimed at improving the quality of life in a comprehensive manner including economic prosperity, social equity. According to Stiglitz (1998) sustainable development goals set by government in developing countries to wider objectives includes income distribution through soft loans and Micro credits.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study to a large extent revealed the activities of DESOPADEC in the oil host communities in Delta State.

The commission was mandated to assist in actualizing the developmental agenda of the oil producing communities. Two areas of the mandate were looked into in the study. Education and micro- credit scheme. The results shows that DESOPADEC have to a great extent impacted on the literacy level of the oil host communities through the educational scheme while the objectives of boosting economic activities through micro credit scheme has also made moderate impact in increasing the income level of the oil host communities. The commission should be viewed as impacting on the oil host communities in Delta State.

It is been recommended that the allocation from the federal government due to the commission be released promptly so that more developmental stride can be achieved. The results show that the commission is performing up the mandates of establishing it. The commission should however not relent on it mandate as such more educational resource materials and soft loans be made available to further boost economic development in the oil host communities.

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