# Influence of Communal Crises on Community Development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State

**Dr. H.L. Deekor & *Urho, Precious Godwill**

**Department of Adult Education and Community Development,**
**Faculty of Education,**
**Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria**
**Phone No: 07038740220, 08033380168.**
***Email: ledornu@gmail.com**

**ABSTRACT**

The study examined influence of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.  To achieve the purpose of the study, the researcher formulated three (3) objectives of the study, research questions and hypotheses that guided the study.  The research design used for the study is descriptive survey design.  The population of the study consists of 2,000 members of community based organization.  The sampling technique used is a proportionate sampling technique with a sample size of 400 persons which is 20 percent of the total population.  The instrument used for the study is self-structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Communal Crises on Community Development Questionnaire".  The instrument was validated using the research supervisor and two (2) other senior lecturers in Measurement and Evaluation while test-retest method was adopted for the reliability of the instrument.  Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to obtain a reliability coefficient of 0.85.  The data gathered were analysed using mean and standard deviation for the research questions while the null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance.   Based on the analysis, the findings revealed that: social effects, political effects, and economic impacts are among the causes of communal crises in the society.  Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends that: government through the community leaders should organize enlightenment campaign on the social effects of communal crises, Multi-national companies and government should engage the youths meaningfully through empowerment or employment to reduce the rate of communal crises.
**Key Words:** Influence, Communal Crises, Community Development, social effects, political effects, economic impacts

**INTRODUCTION**

The people of Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State were known to be peace loving people in the past. These people lived in mutual love and harmony. They told stories to one another from reliable sources. Justified behaviours guided the people's manner of doing things. There was freedom of movement from one community to another. Goods and services were distributed from one part of these local government areas to other parts without any attempt of robberies or kidnapping. Each other's cultures were respected and it was very peaceful to live in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State (Best, 2006). They are endowed with fertile land to farm and rivers for fishing and other natural resources for human use. Thus, when evil thought and hatred enters man's mind a lot of

contradictions, conflicts, crises and destruction of lives and property amongst some of the interest groups and individuals emerged in the area.

Ike (2010) states that conflict in the workplace or community cannot be avoided. As we cannot avoid it, instead of condemning it, we should set it to work for us. Conflict can be constructive or destructive. As a constructive element, it is a necessary stimulant for community growth. A good way of managing conflict is when a leader carefully takes advantage of any conflicting situation to improve the well-being and survival of the community.

This crises in turn pervades national underdevelopment, national disunity and political instability, crises arises from conflict through violence. It undermined human existence and human relations. Several definitions abound on conflict as it relates closely to crises.Conflict is an advanced approach for resolving issues. Weeks (1992) also state that conflict is a natural part of people's daily lives. Wilson and Hanna (1990) buttressed that conflict is a tussle that goes with creative thoughts and principles and limited resources. Nwolise (2003) posits that conflict is a struggle that involves battering, skirmishing and battling. Conflict in other hand connotes dispute, controversy and fatal differences in viewpoints of two parties involves on the matter than often resulted to verbal or weapon confrontations. In the same vein, crisis has a powerful influence on human behaviour. It goes with anger, violence and terror. The terror results from the kinds of crimes that is committed against innocent people such as armed robbery, car snatching, burglary and killing which has become a daily occurrence. Crisis is a violent situation that occurs between two opponent groups and persons. It is also an agent of change that fights against injustice and restores justice on the socio-cultural, socio-political and socio-economic affairs in a community, local government and even a state. The local governments are bestowed with bountiful natural resources and the resources are sometimes mismanaged by few members of the communities hence leads to communal crises in areas of the study.

Destruction of lives and property where bad leaders fail to provide adequate protection for people can lead to destruction of lives and property. For example, if entrusted leaders fail to perform their leadership role such as becoming a partisan. Management of scarce resources where bad leaders waste and use the resources meant for their people for selfish gains. A badleader is a person that engages in corruption, nepotism and favouritism. He converts community funds to his purse and always considers his family people when there is benefit that comes to the community. Politicians created room for militancy which is a threat to peace and community development in the area. The consequences of militancy is that illegal means of livelihood must be adopted which may result to crisis in the community (KioNimengoka, 2009).

**Statement of the Problem**

People live together in a community for a common purpose and to share the same interest. The people of various communities address issue of common concern through identification of community needs.Despite the effort of government and non-government organizations in Delta State to introduce peace and conflict resolution programmes in every community, the communities are known for fighting, killing one another and destruction of life and properties.

Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State are now characterized by hatred, acrimony, rancor, communal crises, conflicts, fighting among others. This sad development has thrown the various communities in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State into a chaotic situation. This ugly situation does not attract any meaningful community development project. In recent time, kidnapping, hostage taking, robbery, killing, oppression, thuggery, rape and vandalization of community projects are features of daily occurrence in area of the study. These happenings remain serious threat to people's lives and properties in area of the study. It is against these problems that the study seeks to investigate the influence of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

Specifically, the objectives of this study are to:
1.    Identify the social effects of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.
2.    Find out the political effects of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.
3.    Ascertain the economic impacts of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Research Questions**
This study was guided by the following research questions:
1.    What are the social effects of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State?
2.    What are the political effects of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State?
3.    What are the economic impacts of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State?

**Hypothesis**
The researcher formulated the null hypotheses that guided the conduct of the study.
1.    There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the social effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.
2.    There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.
3.    There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the economic impacts of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**
**Concept of Community Development**
In advocating for strategy of sustainable development in line with community development is one factor. However, defining and explaining the characteristics involved in achieving a community is another factor entirely. Most often the definition of community development is almost the same with sustainable development. The main variation in definition is the geographical scope. Community development centres on particular community development while sustainable development is global development that also encompasses the community.
Environmentally, sustainable development can be defined as an economic change that impacts on global environmental sustainability with the improvement of the natural resources. Sustainable development errands bottom up change in local control for development decisions which gave rise to devolution of decision-making authority to the local level (Gibbs, 1994). The sustainable city functions as the fulcrum for decentralizing and localizing economic production and commerce and thus keeping the social surplus for community's self-sufficiency and self-enhancement. Here, sustainability imposed that the use of energy in an urban area be equate with the region in terms of natural processes such as photosynthesis, biological decomposition, and the biochemical processes that support life. New technologies will become less dependent on fossil fuels and rely more on information and biological processes (Cathorpe, 1994).
Scholars have defined community development as a balance between environmental concerns and development objectives while enhancing community relationships and promote more humane local societies. The local control for decision making is the primary means for community development. Term like: devolution of decision-making authority to the local level, increased community self-reliance and localizing economic production and commerce suggest a very active model of community development

which constituent actors, groups, associations, and institutions. Community development meets current needs and makes available resources for future generations. This seeks for the betterment of quality of life while reducing waste and pollution. Examples of community development included establishment of cooperative society to make affordable the acquisition of car for transportation as a means of job creation, encouraging the establishing of community supported agriculture, training and supporting local residents on beverage container recycling depot (Bray, 1993).

## Concept of Communal crisis and its Types

Our definitions of community and crises above have clarified the concept communal crises. The concept of communal crises is the period of conflict and acrimony that lead to struggle and fight for the individual acclaimed rights in the community (Ike, 2010). The people of the community must solve their problems or make important decision to avert danger, difficulty of confusion to maintain peace in the area. This problem of communal crisis can be solved through the process of conflict prevention. The unsolved problem creates the danger of loss of lives and destruction of properties. People should solve the problems whenever it is noticed to avoid unwanted damages.

Crisis is a confusion that leads to fighting and killing resulting to untimely death, injury, destruction and suffering. Wherever it occurs, let the people run away for their safety before the resolution. The concept of communal crises is based on the perception of conflict. Conflict is often rooted in the people's way of thinking, perceptions, views and beliefs on a particular thing. Such beliefs and perceptions could be right or wrong, reasonable or unreasonable, reality-founded or fantasy. People perceive conflict differently. This is the natural thing but the way a person perceives conflict will influence the approach he/she employs to solving the conflict. A good approach may become part of the solution.

## Effects of Communal crises on Community Development

Communal crises have a lot of effects on community development just like a sword with two sharp edges. In the words of Aja (2009), the common sense understanding of conflict is in the negative. It is a setback. It is disintegrative. Truly, conflict assumes this form, but not always. From the social reality perspective, conflict can lead to positive developments for the individuals, groups and the society as a whole. So conflict can be a corrective measure or warning. Conflict can be development driven. Yet, whether conflict is in the negative or positive, it cannot be left alone.

Okparanta (2009) alerts Rivers State about Ahoada West that crisis looms in Aka-Olu community as chief and other prominent men in the community embezzled scholarship fund and converted community funds meant for compensation into their personal pockets. This report proves that the money already generated by Aka-Olu citizens and planned to empower the indigenous youth for skills acquisition programme has been embezzled by their chief and others to the detriment of the others. This attitude in effect is negative to the concepts of community development.

## Political and Social Effects of Communal Crisis

Reoccurrence of crises have therefore weakened the social relationship that existed among the people and caused mutual suspicion instead of the spirit of cooperation among them. Spirit of development among individuals will be stronger when they are investing in property that belongs to them than those rented. This is because the people hope to reap the benefits of their investments and not think that their landlords live at their expenses. Over 60% of the respondents claimed to be occupying their own houses; with this, more cooperation towards development can be achieved easily since the people are investing to improve on their properties. Thus, high level of participation and development of an area is expected among those living peacefully together than among those living in perpetual disagreement and conflicts. More so, people farming or doing business in their own property will have extra profit with which to reinvest unlike renters who pay exorbitant rates and rents.

The crisis created inconveniences and as well reduced the standard of living of most families and also further impoverished the already pauperized people of the area. Some households, which had better accommodation before the crisis, have to live in substandard houses with little no facilities. Before the crisis, there has been a steady increase in both duplex/bungalows and room housing types. This drop is associated with the destruction during the crisis and also limited resources to rehabilitate or develop new ones. However, what is found to be common is the same faith patterns of movement were meant to ensure safety of lives and property during the crisis period (Aliyu 1998; Lawson 1999; Bagudu 2003). The literacy level has not shown any significant change in the study area and Taraba State as a whole is one of the backward areas in terms of literacy rate. The low literacy rate is associated to poverty and lack of educational infrastructure. Basic infrastructure such as health, water, schools and electricity has suffered either destruction or disruption in the development process 80% of the respondents claimed that basic infrastructure such as electricity; road, health and water destroyed. In terms of disruption of developmental projects, only few of the respondents indicated that some development projects were disrupted. Also Takum have suffered more from this act of disruption than other communities because Takum is the Headquarter of the Local Government area where projects execution and the struggle for power is taking place.

## Economic Effects of Communal Crisis

The series of violent clashes have caused untold economic, political and social havoc in the study area (Talcum Local Government Area), plus unbearable loss in human killing and injuries. The riots continue to pose serious problems for Nigeria's socio-political development, as well retard efforts at nation building. The effects of the conflict have therefore spread across all members of the community irrespective of individual occupations. The aftermath of the crisis was so great that people have to move from one activity to the other to overcome the difficult period.

Large proportion of the population is engaged in subsistence farming and it may be difficult for them to raise enough money to carter for theft needs especially the rehabilitation of their homes, payment of school fees, health care etc contribute towards communal efforts. The crisis itself has retarded and impeded development activities in the area. Field infatuation on output of farmers during the crisis years and past crisis years reviewed that farm yield dropped during the crisis periods and kept dwindling after the crisis, because all efforts made to increase food production during and after the crisis were greatly affected by the crisis. Instead available resources were channeled into rehabilitation and resettlement exercise than investment in agriculture and other business. Moreso, the scarcity input like fertilizer, herbicides, far machineries and improved seedling which naturally results from and during the period of any crisis could also have been responsible for this crisis. Naturally results from and during the period of any crisis could also have been responsible for this decline.

Households' incomes were highly affected and therefore, their inability to create wealth. Live better lives and contribute meaningfully to rural economy. The average annual incomes of households remained low throughout the Instability period. The struggle to survive through subsistence becomes more important and paramount than any other form if intensive investment. Business activities have suffered major setbacks during the crisis periods and these have negative and adverse effects on rural development activities and processes. When businesses flourish, Local Government Council generates incomes in the form of taxes and this revenue, if properly utilized for lives of the people. Many years of recurrent crisis destabilized most businesses, which are major contributors as the revenue sources of Individuals and the Local Government Council leading to loss of large share of revenues they would have generated from them. Individuals on their own parts have experienced regressive levels of profit in their business ventures. This poor performance in human activities implies limited contributions toward community development.

**METHODOLOGY**

**Research Design:** The research design adopted in this study is descriptive survey. Descriptive survey design according to Nzeneri (2002) deals with what is happening at present and it handles situational problems as they are, without manipulation of variables. It also allows the researcher to make recommendations based on findings from the data collected.

**Population of the Study:** The population of this study consists of 2,000 members of community based organizations in various communities in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. However, according to Wimmer and Dominick (2011), population is a group or class of subjects, variables, concepts, or phenomena within the area or scope of research or study.

**Sample and Sampling Techniques:** The sample size of the study consists of 400 members of community based organizations who were selected based on 20 percent of the total population, that is, members of community based organizations in area of the study.The sampling technique that was used in this study was proportionate random sampling technique. Every member of community based organizations has equal chance of being selected for the study. The use of proportionate sampling technique guaranteed fair representation in the sample of the study.

**Instrumentation for data collection:** A well-structured questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. It was titled "Influence of Communal Crises on Community Development Questionnaire (ICCCDQ)". The questionnaire contains 25 items which was prepared in sections according to the research questions that guided the study. The response to each of the items in the questionnaire was based on four (4) response options modified liker scale with corresponding numbers or points as follows:

Strongly Agree (SA)              -         4 points
Agree (A)                        -         3 points
Disagree (D)                     -         2 points
Strongly Disagree (SD) -       1 point

**Validation of the Instrument:** The instrument used in this study was validated using the research supervisor. The questionnaire was given to the researcher's supervisor and two other experts in Measurement and Evaluation in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, Rivers State University to validate and check for face and content validity of the instrument. The validation of the questionnaire ensured that the language and content of the instrument were appropriate to issues being investigated.

**Reliability of the Instrument:** The reliability of an instrument is an estimate of its consistency and ability to measure a given trait over time. The researcher employed test-retest method to obtain the reliability of the research instrument. 20 copies of the questionnaire were administered twice to a group of people within an interval of two weeks to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The scores obtained from the two tests were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) at 0.05 significance level. Thus, a reliability coefficient index of 0 85 was obtained. This confirmed that the instrument was reliable enough to be used for data collection for this study.

**Method of Data Analysis:** The data collected was analysed using weighted mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. The criterion decision rule is that any mean score that was from 2.50 and above were accepted, while the mean score that were less than 2.50 was rejected. The null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at a significance level of 0.05.

**RESULTS**

**Research Question 1:** *What are the social effects of communal crisis on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State?*

**Table 1:** **Mean and Standard deviation analysis on the social effect of communal crisis on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State**

| S/No | Questionnaire Items | Male = 180 | | | Female = 220 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Mean $\bar{x}$ | SD | Remarks | Mean $\bar{x}$ | SD | Remarks |
| 6. | Lack of empowerment and people's poverty. | 2.86 | 0.84 | Agreed | 2.91 | 0.85 | Agreed |
| 7. | People's frustration and anger. | 2.83 | 0.84 | Agreed | 2.95 | 0.86 | Agreed |
| 8. | People's ignorance and inferiority complex. | 2.97 | 0.86 | Agreed | 2.98 | 0.86 | Agreed |
| 9. | Poor healthcare services | 2.94 | 0.86 | Agreed | 2.99 | 0.86 | Agreed |
| 10. | Community disorganization and insecurity of community projects | 2.92 | 0.85 | Agreed | 3.00 | 0.87 | Agreed |
| | **Grand Total** | **2.90** | **0.85** | | **2.97** | **0.86** | |

**Source:** Field Survey, 2021.

The data analyzed in table 1 above indicated that the respondents accepted the point that lack of empowerment and people's level of poverty is one of the social effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The respondents also agreed that people's high level of frustration and anger are among the social effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. It was still noticed in the table that the respondents accepted the fact that people's ignorance and inferiority complex are also social effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The analysis also revealed that poor healthcare services is a social effect of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The respondents still accepted the point that community disorganization and insecurity of community projects are among the social effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Research Question 2:** *What are the political effects of communal crisis on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State?*

**Table 2:** **Mean and Standard deviation analysis on the political effects of communal crisis on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State**

| S/No | Questionnaire Items | Male = 180 | | | Female = 220 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Mean $\bar{x}$ | SD | Remarks | Mean $\bar{x}$ | SD | Remarks |
| 11. | Kidnapping and hostage taking. | 2.83 | 0.84 | Agreed | 2.91 | 0.85 | Agreed |
| 12. | Robbery and killing | 2.72 | 0.82 | Agreed | 2.86 | 0.84 | Agreed |
| 13. | Terrorism and oppressions. | 2.75 | 0.83 | Agreed | 2.93 | 0.85 | Agreed |
| 14. | Thuggery and rapping. | 2.69 | 0.82 | Agreed | 2.95 | 0.86 | Agreed |
| 15. | Vandalization of community development projects. | 2.67 | 0.82 | Agreed | 2.87 | 0.85 | Agreed |
| | **Grand Total** | **2.73** | **0.83** | | **2.90** | **0.85** | |

**Source:** Field Survey, 2021.

The analysis in table 2 above showed that the respondents accepted the view that kidnapping and hostage taking are part of political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The table still indicated that the respondents agreed on the point that robbery and killing are among the political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. It was also observed from the analysis that the respondents accepted the fact that terrorism and oppressions are political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The table still showed that the respondents agreed the fact that thuggery and rapping are the political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The respondents also accepted the view that vandalization of community development project is among the political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Research Question 3:** *What are the economic impacts of communal crisis on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State?*

**Table 3: Mean and Standard deviation analysis on the economic impacts of communal crisis on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State**

| S/No | Questionnaire Items | Male = 180 | | | Female = 220 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Mean $\bar{x}$ | SD | Remarks | Mean $\bar{x}$ | SD | Remarks |
| 16. | Poor income generation. | 2.72 | 0.82 | Agreed | 2.86 | 0.84 | Agreed |
| 17. | Poor accountability of income. | 2.67 | 0.82 | Agreed | 2.87 | 0.85 | Agreed |
| 18. | Embezzlement of funds | 2.89 | 0.85 | Agreed | 2.95 | 0.86 | Agreed |
| 19. | Poor means of livelihood, lack of improved farming/fishing skills, poor agricultural production. | 2.86 | 0.84 | Agreed | 2.86 | 0.84 | Agreed |
| 20. | Poor management of community development projects, Rural-Urban migration of young people. | 2.78 | 0.83 | Agreed | 2.91 | 0.85 | Agreed |
| | **Grand Total** | **2.78** | **0.83** | | **2.89** | **0.85** | |

**Source:** Field Survey, 2021.

The data analysis in table 3 above revealed that the respondents accepted the view that poor income generation is an economic impact on communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The table still indicated that the respondents agreed the fact poor accountability of income is the economic impacts of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. It was also noticed from the analysis that high level of embezzlement of funds in the community lead to economic impacts of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The table still showed that the respondents agreed on the fact that poor means o livelihood, lack of improved farming /fishing skills, poor agricultural production are among the economic impacts of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The analysis still revealed that the respondents accepted the point that poor management of community development projects, rural-urban migration of young people are among the economic impacts in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Test of Hypotheses**
**Hypothesis 1:**  There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the social effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Table 4:        Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the social effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.**

| Status | N | Mean $\bar{x}$ | Standard Deviation | Df | Std. Error | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 180 | 2.90 | 0.85 | | | | | |
| | | | | 398 | 0.17 | 1.24 | 1.96 | Accepted |
| Female | 220 | 2.97 | 0.86 | | | | | |

The analysis on Table 4 indicates that the z-cal of 1.24 is smaller than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is smaller than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, the hypothesis 2 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the social effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Hypothesis 2:**  There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Table 5: Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State**

| Status | N | Mean $\bar{x}$ | Standard Deviation | Df. | Std. Error | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 180 | 2.73 | 0.83 | | | | | |
| | | | | 398 | 0.17 | 1.29 | 1.96 | Accepted |
| Female | 220 | 2.90 | 0.85 | | | | | |

The analysis on table 5 shows that the z-cal of 1.29 is smaller than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is smaller than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, the hypothesis 3 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the effects of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the economic impacts of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**Table 6: Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the economic impacts of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.**

| Status | N | Mean $\overline{X}$ | Standard Deviation | Df. | Std. Error | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 180 | 2.78 | 0.83 | | | | | |
| | | | | 398 | 0.17 | 0.19 | 1.96 | Accepted |
| Female | 220 | 2.89 | 0.85 | | | | | |

The analysis on table 6 reveals that the z-cal of 0.19 is smaller than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is smaller than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, the hypothesis 4 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the economic impacts of communal crises and community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS**
The following are the findings of the study which are based on the data analysis:
**The Findings in Research Question 1: The social effects of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State**
The findings of the study indicates that lack of empowerment, high level of poverty, frustration of people, ignorance, inferiority complex, poor healthcare services and insecurity of community projects are among the social effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The finding is in the same line with Aja (2009) who observed that communal crises have a lot of social effects on community development just like a sword with two sharp edges. Okparanma (2009) asserts that lack of empowerment and social amenities are some of the social effects of communal crises. Therefore, the null hypotheses 2 was accepted and concluded that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of male and female responses on thesocial effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.
**The findings in Research Question 2: The political effects of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.**
The study also shows that kidnapping, hostage taking, arm robbery, killing, terrorism, oppressions, thurggery, rapping and vanderlization of community development projects are among the political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The study is in collaboration with Francis (2008), who observed that there are so many political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. However, the null hypothesis 3 was accepted and concluded that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female responses on the political effects of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.
**The findings in Research Question 3: The economic impacts of communal crises on community development in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.**
The findings of the study reveals that poor income generation, poor accountability of income, embezzlement of funds, poor means of livelihood, lack of improved farming/ fishing skills, poor agricultural production and poor management of community development projects/rural-urban migration

of young people are among the economic impacts of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State. The finding is in the same view with Claude (2008), who states that communal crises have negative impacts or effects on the community economy. Nevertheless, the null hypothesis 4 was accepted and concluded that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of male and female responses on the economic impacts of communal crises in Udu and Okpe Local Government Areas of Delta State.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concludes that poor mechanism for rational community leadership, deprivation of resource control, marginalization of certain group, embezzlement of community funds, injustice and lack of clearly defined boundary and land dispute are the causes of communal crises. Evidence from the study indicates that lack of empowerment; poverty, frustration, ignorance, inferiority complex; poor healthcare services and insecurity are among the social effects of communal crises. Therefore, it is concluded that communal crises have negative social effects on community development. The study still deduced that communal crises have negative political effects hence kidnapping, hostage taking, robbery, killing, terrorism, oppressions, thuggery rapping and vandalization of community development projects are politically motivated now. The study also concluded that communal crises have negative economic impacts on community development hence communal crises result to poor income generation, poor accountability of income, embezzlement of funds, poor means of livelihood and poor management of community development projects.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made to ensure that the study achieves its objectives:
1. Government through the community leaders should organize enlightenment campaign on the social effects of communal crises.
2. Multi-national companies and government should engage the youths meaningfully on empowerment or employment to reduce the rate of communal crises hence it has political effects on the people.
3. Community leader should be subjected to leadership training hence it will help them to address issue of poor income generation, poor accountability of income, embezzlement and poor management of community projects.

**REFERENCES**

Aja, A. (2009). *Basic Concepts of Conflict.* Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited.

Anifowose, R. (1982). *Violence and Politics in Nigeria: The Yoruba and Tiv Experience.* New York: Nok Publishers.

Asuni, J. B. (2002). *Academic Associates Peace Works*, in the Niger Delta. Ibadan: Spectrum Book Ltd.

Barikor, C.N. (2005). *Management with Emphasis on' Adult Education*. New Owerri: Springfield Publishers Ltd.

Bassey, C.O. (2001)'. Framework for the Conflict Transformation Project in Warn. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Berkowitz, L. (1962). *Aggression: A Sociological Analysis.* New York: McGraw Hill.

Best S.G. (2005). The Methods of Conflict Resolution and Transformation. Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Botes, J. (2011). Conflict Transformation: A Debate over semantics or a Crucial Shift in the Theory and Practice of Peace and Conflict Studies. *International Journal of Peace Studies*. Autumn/Winter, 6(2).

Claude, I.L (2008). Sword into Plowshares: The problems and progress of international organization, 4th Edition. New York: Random House.

Dudley, B.J. (1973). *Instability and Political Order*. Ibadan: University Press.

Dukes, E.F. (1999). Why Conflict Transformation Matters: Three Cases. *Peace and Conflict Studies*. 6(2), 47-66.

Eckstein, D.A. (1964). Theory of Stable Democracy (Monograph, No. 10) Princeton University: Centre of International Studies.

Francis,. D.J. (2008).*Peace and Conflict Studies*. An African Overview of Basic Concepts. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Hornby, A.S. .(2005). 2nd Impression Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ike, DJ (2010). *Conflict Prevention Strategies.* Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria.. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Kinanee, J.B ('2004) Introduction to Psychology of Adjustment Pearl Port Harcourt: Pearl Publishers.

Kio, N. (2009). *The Port Harcourt Telegraph.* Port Harcourt: Fourth Real Digital Communications Ltd.

Kuper, L. & Smith, M. G. (Eds) (1971).*Pluralism in Africa.* University of California Press.

Ladebo, O.J. (2003). Sexual Harassment in Academia in Nigeria: How Read? *African Sociological Review*, 7(1).

LeBaron, D;M. (2007). Conflict Analysis and Resolution as Education. Training Materials and Trainer Reference. Two Volumes. Victoria B.C:UVIC Institute for Dispute Resolution.

Lyman.P. (2005).*Women Sexual Violence and HIV*. Paper Presented to a Symposium, Brazil.

Madu, I.A. & Ayogu, C.N (2009).*Geography and Conflicts*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Maill, H.R. & Oliver, W. (2001). Conflict Transformation: A Multi-Dimensional Task. Bergh of Research Centre, Culled from *http: //www.berghofhandbook.*

Maul, F.I.R. & Oliver, W. (2001). Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention Management and Transformation of Deadly Conflicts. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Maslow, A. (1954). *Motivation and Personality.* (2nd Edition) New York: Macmillan.

Miller, .C.A. (2003).A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies. (Geneva: University for Peace).

Morris, C. (2009). Definitions in the Field of Dispute Resolution and • Conflict Transformation. Culled from *http://www.peacemakersca/publication/ADR definitions.*

Nengia, K. (2009). *The Tide*, Port Harcourt: Rivers Newspaper Corporation. Nigeria earns $36n from oil, gas annually," *Punch*, Monday, 27 November, 2006.

Njoku, F.O.C. (2009). *Development, Conflict and Peace in Nigeria*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.

Nwolise, O.B.C. (2003). *The Nigerian Military in Governance*. In Gbor, J.W.T. et al Military History: From Pre-colonial Era to the Present.

Nwosu, C. (2009). *Week End Plain Truth*. Port Harcourt: Krystal Point Communications.

Nzeneri, I.S. (2008). Handbook on Adult Education. *Principles and Practices*. Uyo: Abigab Associates Ltd.

Stone, D. (2004). Transfer Agents and Global Networks in the Transitional of Policy. Journal of European Public Policy.11(3), 546-66.

Ugwu, A.A. (2009). A Process Analysis of Psychosocial Factors in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. Paper Presented at a seminar organized by Movement for Peace in West Africa (MOPWA) and Friendrich Ebert Foundation, Lagos, March7and8.

UNESCO (1999).Article 1 of UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. New York.

Wilson, G. L. & Hanna, M. S. (1990). *Groups in conflict: Leadership and participation in small groups.* New York: McGraw-Hill.

Yates, A.(1962). *Frustration and Conflict*. London: Methuen.