Impact of Citizenship Participation on Community Development Projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State

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ABSTRACT
The study examined Impact of Citizenship Participation on Community Development Projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State. To achieve the purpose of this study, three (3) objectives of the study, research questions and hypotheses were developed to guide the study. The research design used for the study is descriptive survey design. The population of the study consisted of 2,000 registered members of community based organization in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government areas of Rivers State. The sample size of the study is 400 persons. The sampling technique used for the study is proportionate random sampling techniques. The instrument used for the study is self-structured questionnaire. The instrument was validated by two (2) experts from Measurement and Evaluation, and Adult Education and Community Development Department, Faculty of Education, Rivers State University, while test-retest method was adopted for the reliability of the instrument. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions while the null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at a 0.05 level of significance. Based on the data analysis, the findings of the study revealed that: citizens’ participation has positive and significant influence on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends that: Government and companies should always involve the citizens in terms of decision-making and government or multinational companies should always engage the citizens in mobilizing human resource.

Keywords: Impact, Citizenship Participation, Community Development Projects,

INTRODUCTION
Citizen participation in community development is a process which provides private individual an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. The roots of citizen participation can be traced to ancient Greece and Colonial New England. Before the 1960s, governmental processes and procedures were designed to facilitate “external” participation. Citizen participation was institutionalized in the mid-1960s with President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society Programmes (Cogan & Sharpe, 2016). Citizen participation seeks to engage local population in development projects. It has taken a variety of forms since it emerged in the 1970s, when it was introduced as an important part of the basic needs approach to development (Ogunna, 2016). There is universal acceptance of local government as vital instrument for rural and urban development, irrespective of the ideological differences of societies and levels of development. One of the major reasons for establishing local government is to bring government to local communities so that the local
citizens or people can participate fully in the process of governance, in order to provide essential local services and this speed-up the pace of social economic and political development (Ogunna, 2016). Most manifestations of citizens’ participation in community development seek to give the poor a part in unity initiatives designed for their benefit in the hopes that development projects will be more sustainable and success of local populations are engaged in the development process. Citizens’ participation has become an increasingly accepted method of development practice and is employed by a variety of organization.

Fatin, Abdul, Suwaibatul and Mariah (2011) revealed that increasing incidences of poor citizens’ participation in community development projects in recent times is as a result of non-existence of motivating factors such as incompatibility of goals, aspirations, interest, lack of communication, self-reliance, self-direction and felt needs or desire of the people within the communities in Nigeria. This same incidence of poor citizens’ participation in community development projects consequently non-existence of motivating factors perhaps, is present in Rivers State especially in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government areas. It is against this background that the researcher seeks to examine the influence of citizens’ participation on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

Obviously, it has been observed that rural communities in Rivers State have been neglected in terms of development. So, this general neglect has led to problems in rural areas in the development of infrastructure: good roads, good water, good health centres, housing utilities and other services. There is also the problem of inadequate communication between the local government and various communities, self-direction, self-reliance and so on. The local government authority has the important function of encouraging community cooperation through frequent visits and advisory services in its area of authority. Communication gap can make citizens ignorant of the roles they are expected to play in the developmental process. Also, shortage of skilled manpower within the communities to assist in the maintenance of development project services also militates against effective community participation. Maintenance of some of the community welfare facilities such as electricity, health centres and even pipe-borne water, require skills, which may not be readily available in rural communities.

Until recently, the belief among most Nigeria communities was that if the sole responsibility of the government and its agencies to provide the needs of their communities failed, government should develop the community by providing the entire necessary infrastructure and social and physical amenities. Consequently, social amenities are lacking in most communities. However, the degree or level of poor infrastructure facing communities varies from one place to another. It’s evident today that most people or citizens have not been involved in the participation of community development projects. Thus, corruption is another obstacle to effective citizen/community participation in community development projects. These problems came as a result of lack of parents participation in policy making and also in community development projects. Government, through the policy makers come on its own to site projects in the communities without proper consultation and involvement of the citizens to know their needs. These problems can be addressed if there will be proper consultation of the citizens to know the community needs and also allow them participate in the community development projects.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to examine Impact of citizenship participation on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. Specifically, the objectives of the study are to:

1. Examine the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
2. Ascertain the impact of citizen engagement in mobilization of human resource on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
3. Ascertain the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
Research Questions
The following research questions will guide the conduct of the study:

1. What is the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?
2. What is the impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?
3. What is the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process of community development projects on community development in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Hypotheses
The research will formulate the following null hypotheses that will guide the study.

1. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female respondents on the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female respondents on the impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female respondents on the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Literature Review
Concept of Motivation
Motivation as a *sine qua non* for participation is almost a household terminology in community development, being an off-shoot of felt needs and a central issue in both self-help and participation (Onyeozu, 2008). According to Du Toit, Erasmus and Strydom (2007) performance in any organization or society is mainly determined by the desire to do something (motivation), the capability to do (ability) and availability of resources to do the job (environment) (www.academicjournals.org). Anama in Onyeozu (2008) defines motivation as the act or process of providing power from within the person which incite him to action. Aderinoye in Onyeozu (2008) also added that motivation is a complex of many internal factors such as component of wants, needs, demands, desires, interests, motives and ambition for which all adults competing within themselves. On the other hand Hugo in Onyeozu (2008) describes motivation as what makes an animal active rather than inactive.

Hellriegel, Jackson, Slocum, Stauide, Amos, Kloopper, Louw and Oosthuizen (2013), highlighted that motivation is an influence that triggers, directs and/or maintains goal directed behaviour. Since the level of motivation has a direct influence on performance of an individual, it is very crucial to understand how motivation takes place. It is also important to note that motivation is not only about positive performance. Deviant behaviour like sabotage and absenteeism are also motivated behaviours (Du Toit et al., 2007). They pointed out that motivation refers to those forces within a person that affect his or her direction, thus, a motivated individual is willing to exert a particular level of effort (intensity) for a certain amount of time (persistence) towards a particular goal (direction).

Concept of Citizen Participation
Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008) highlighted that citizen participation and that of community participation are interlinked. The former is concerned with broad issues of social development and the creation of opportunities for the involvement of people in the political, economic and social life of a nation; while the later connotes the direct involvement of ordinary people in their local affairs. The concept of citizen participation is well established in contemporary development literature. It is thus difficult to find any recent writings on rural development which do not weave the concept in. According to Mukandala (2016), the concept of citizen participation entails maximization of people’s involvement in the spheres or stages of development. Involvement has to go beyond implementation of ‘free’ labour and cash...
contributions and extends to policy decisions. People’s need to enjoy basic freedoms so as to be able to freely express themselves and to develop their full potential in areas of their own choice (Mukandala, 2016).

World Bank (2015) described citizen perspective as a process through which beneficiaries influence and share control over development initiatives, decisions and resources that affect their lives. Long (2013) also notes that by recognizing and supporting greater involvement of local people’s initiatives or perspectives, priorities, knowledge, and skills will lead to another donor-driven and outsider-led development. It is in essence, effective involvement of people in creating and designing structures, policies and programmes that will improve their living conditions as well as to serve their interests (African Charter, 1990). This implies that the realizations of citizen participation is depended on the people’s involvement, commitment and hold the initiative. In order to achieve citizen participation, establishment of independent organizations at various levels that are genuinely grass root, democratically administered, voluntary and self-reliant that is rooted in tradition and culture of the society are required. Generally, citizen participation seeks and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected or interested in a decision (www.arabianjbmr.com). The promotion and role of citizen participation in community development project was enshrined in the 1990 African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. The principle of citizen participation have it that people affected by a decision have right of involvement in the decision-making process and utilization of their initiatives. It implies that the contributions of the public can influence the decision with regard to their interests, and will be regarded as empowerment of the people as well as democratic governance. This principle of citizen participation can also be described as people centred or human centric principles, which evolved in western culture over the last forty years, and found its expression in business, development programmes, education, public policy and international relief. As a humanistic movements, popular participation is part of people first paradigm shift and in this regard to challenge the concept of big is better and the centralized hierarchies ideal or alternatively, the concept of more heads are better than one and maintained that popular participation can bring about sustainability of productive force and desirable social change.

Community Development
Community development is an often nebulous term defined by many conceptual and practical characterizations (Robinson, Summers & Wilkinson in David & Mark, 2012). This is particularly palpable in the twenty-first century, characterized by a larger and growing presence of communities engaged in community development efforts. The growing interest in community development has resulted from the field’s proven capacity to deliver solutions to community problems. Additionally, the multifaceted ways in which communities worldwide participate in community development efforts has contributed to community development’s conceptual and practical pluralism. As a result, an increase in numbers and variability of individuals and organizations from multiple disciplines and frameworks practicing and studying community development has become palpable (Walzer, in David & Mark, 2012). Community development as a development strategy is predicated on the capacity of the people and government support. The strength of community development is the people. This may be the reason for the first attempt at defining the concept of community development (Cambridge summer conference definition of 1948) emphasising the initiative of the people. The community people therefore, constitute one of the major agents in the development process.

Osuji in Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008) identified elements that can be put together to provide a generally acceptable definition of the term community development to include: community as the unit of action; community initiative and leaderships resources; use of both internal and external resources; inclusive participation; an organized and comprehensive approach that attempt to involve the entire community; and democratic and rational task accomplishment. Cambridge summer conference in Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008), define community development as a movement designed to promote better living with the active participation and if possible on the initiative of the community but if this initiative is not forthcoming spontaneously, by the use of techniques for arousing and stimulating it in order to ensure its
active and enthusiastic response to the movement to the movement. United Nations Organization described community development as a process by which the effort of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of community to integrate these communities into the life of the nation to enable them contribute fully to national progress (Oyebamiji and Adekola, 2008).

Community development as conceptualized in the twenty-first century is a process that entails organization, facilitation, and action, which allows people to establish ways to create the community they want to live in. It is a process that provides vision, planning, direction, and coordinated action towards desired goals associated with the promotion of efforts aimed at improving the conditions in which local resources operate. As a result, community developers harness local economic, human, and physical resources to secure daily requirements and respond to changing needs and conditions (David and Mark, 202). Therefore community development can be defined as a process by which the efforts of the community members are put together with those of governmental and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of ensuring positive reconditioning, restructuring and transforming of the lives of members of the community by harnessing available local resources in order to improve the living condition of the people of the community.

Citizen Participation

Citizen participation refers to citizen involvement in public decision making. In different interpretations, ‘citizens’ may be either individuals or organized communities, and ‘participation’ may involve either observation or power. The phrase ‘citizen participation’ came into use to denote remedial efforts to involve inactive citizens or clients in government activity, but it can include autonomous citizen activities in the larger society, such as locality or community development, social planning, and social action. Arguments for citizen participation variously emphasize benefits to individuals, communities, organizations, and the society, including increased knowledge, authority, power, and problem-solving ability. The purposes of citizen participation include communicating information, developing relationships, developing the capacity to act, and preserving or changing conditions. Citizens can exercise different amounts of power in engaging in these purposes. The means of citizen participation include groups and formal organizations, meetings, inquiries, action, and technical assistance. When ‘citizen participation’ refers to communities, participation poses questions of representation. Some citizens, particularly the better educated and wealthier, generally have greater ability to participate than others. There are examples of citizen participation that has accomplished its purposes and solved problems, but empirical data are sketchy, and no systematic evaluation of citizen participation is possible at this time.

Importance of Citizen Participation

Community participation can be seen from the viewpoint of benefits to be gained and costs to be borne. Implicit in this "penchant for getting involved" is the notion of the relationship between self and society (Snel, 2013). Most times, participation on volunteer groups is an important science for individuals’ definitions of self-esteem and self-identity in development that concerned them, mostly when they have been neglected for so long.

Participatory groups function as links between individuals and larger societal structures (Kornhauser 1959) with every member of the group seeking a common good. Most times participants ask themselves what are the benefits that will accrue to them in the process? Bridges (1974) states five advantages to be gained from active participation in community development programme like housing development: the citizen can bring about desired change by expressing one's desire, either individually or through a community group; the individual learns how to make desired changes in their own lives through what they have learnt from the process; the citizen learns to understand and appreciate the individual needs and interests of all community groups thereby forging a common good for themselves; they also learn how to resolve conflicting interests for the general welfare of the group, the individual begins to understand group dynamics as it applies to mixed groups.
Heberlein (1976) informs that public involvement usually results in better decisions. This he argues that community decisions that involve citizens are more likely to be acceptable to the local people because better community decisions, by definition, should be beneficial to the average citizen. Citizen participation in development also serves to check and balance political activities. Also, participation allows fuller access to the benefits of a democratic society. Cahn and Camper (1968) propose three basic motivations for community participation in development. First, they propose that merely knowing that one can participate promotes dignity and self-sufficiency within the individual. Second, it taps the dynamisms and resources of individual citizens within the community. Finally, participation provides a cradle of special insight, information, knowledge, and experience, which contributes to the soundness of community solutions. The result is an emphasis on problem solving to eliminate deficiencies in the community (Christensen & Robinson 1980).

Mobilization of Human Resources for Rural Development
The Conference agreed that, as a prerequisite for other development action, this area should have the highest priority among the Organization’s five Areas of Concentration. Frequent reference was made to the human factor as the key to the development process. Basic restraints to agricultural development were not merely technical, but largely human and institutional. The Conference stressed the inter-related nature of the various aspects of this area and the need for an integrated approach. It was noted that the restructuring of the Rural Institutions Division, the establishment of the special action group in this area of concentration and the interdivisional working groups on education and training and on social problems, all contributed to this integration. This was also the rationale behind FAO’s strategy of a selective area approach to integrated rural development.

The Conference considered that the background papers for this area should be elaborated into a more detailed strategy which could provide both a frame of reference for FAO’s programme, and a useful guideline for national planning and development in this field. Such a strategy must consider the organization and institutional forms essential to economic growth and social progress, as these were inter-dependent aspects of total rural development. It was noted, however, that a blueprint applicable to all situations was not realistic and priorities for action would have to be determined at national levels.

Citizen Participation in the Implementation of Public Policy in Big Data Age
Citizen participation can improve the scientific, democracy and rule of law in the management process of the whole country. During the whole cycle of public policy, many experts and scholars have paid much attention to the process of citizen participation in public policy-making, such as Thao Yu and Yang Long, who have studied the basic categories, logical framework and applicable scenarios of rational choice in the making policy-making modes. Wang Yanhong pointed out the idea of building a citizen participation mechanism in the process of public policy making. LuoYiping studied the expression of public opinion in local government’s public policy making. There are also many scholars who have done a lot of research on citizen participation in the process of public policy making, and these studies have also made many achievements. But it is far from enough to focus on or only study the process of public policy making. As we known, in the whole process of public policy making, not only the process of public policy making needs citizens’ participation, but also the process of policy implementation needs citizens’ participation. And citizen participation in the implementation of public policies is a manifestation of the modernization of China’s governance system and governance capacity.

The two main modes of government or organization are “top-down” or “bottom-up” communication. Big data provides a platform for information flow for these two models. Citizen participation is the embodiment of “bottom-up” mode. Citizen participation is also a guarantee of putting the people in charge of the country into the national political life and social life. At present, many public policies have deviated from the original objectives in the implementation process, and have not achieved the desired results. One of the important reasons is the lack of civic participation. In the process of public policy implementation, citizens not only participate passively, but also need to participate actively. Therefore, it is of great significance for citizens to participate in the implementation of public policies. It is conducive
to the better realization of the objectives of the subject of public policy implementation, to the implementation of the “bottom-up” public policy model, to the maximization of public interests and to the citizens’ needs to adapt to public policies.

Citizen participation is a process which provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. The roots of citizen participation can be traced to ancient Greece and Colonial New England. Before the 1960s, governmental processes and procedures were designed to facilitate “external” participation. Citizen participation was institutionalized in the mid-1960s with President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society programs (Cogan & Sharpe, 2016).

**Decision Making Structures**

In discussing the theory of public participation, it is useful to review broad theories of decision-making structures. DeSario and Langton, in their book Citizen Participation in Public Decision Making explore the role of technology in public policy decisions (DeSario & Langton, 2011). They conclude that public decisions are increasingly being influenced by technology. Two broad decision-making structures are defined and analyzed: the technocratic approach; and the democratic approach.

Technocracy (or the technocratic approach) is defined as the application of technical knowledge, expertise, techniques, and methods to problem solving. Democracy, as defined by DeSario and Langton, refers to citizen involvement activities in relation to government planning and policy making (DeSario & Langton, 2017). These approaches are described in more detail below.

**Technocratic Decision Making**

The technocratic approach to decision-making has historically been applied in most Forest Service decisions. Strong arguments can be made in favor of a technocratic decision approach. A key argument is that trained staff “experts” are best suited to make complex technical decisions. Experts are increasingly becoming a part of our decision-making structures in both the public and private sectors (DeSario & Langton, 2017). However, Nelkin concluded that scientific and technocratic approaches “not only failed to solve social problems but often contributed to them” (Nelkin, 2011). The notion that the “cure is often worse than the disease” becomes increasingly important as the technology provides alternative solutions to public policy issues.

Techniques and methods applied by experts are most effective when considering technical decisions as opposed to value or mixed decisions. Kantrowitz (2015) identified three separate types of policy decisions: (1) technical decisions that are based solely on the application and extrapolation of scientific issues; (2) value decisions are concerned with the resolution of important normative or societal issues; and (3) mixed decisions that have both technical and value components. Technical decisions rely on scientific techniques and extrapolations to determine the potential of “what is”. Value issues involve normative determinations of “what should be”. Although scientific information can provide guidance with respect to value decisions, it is rarely the sole determinant (DeSario & Langton, 2017).

Natural resource management decisions frequently affect social values. The technocratic approach to decision making is difficult to apply successfully to social problems because social goals are often complex, conflicting and unclear (DeSario & Langton, 2017). According to Kantrowitz: “the problem for experts is that the issues they most frequently confront when addressing social problems are ‘mixed decisions; decisions involving both technical and value judgements” (Kantrowitz, 2015).

**Democratic Decision Making**

Democratic decision-making, in contrast to bureaucratic or technocratic decision making, is based on the assumption that all who are affected by a given decision have the right to participate in the making of that decision. Participation can be direct in the classical democratic sense, or can be through representatives for their point of view in a pluralist-republican model (Kweit & Kweit, 2016). Kweit and Kweit go on to point out that criteria for evaluating policies in a democratic process are the accessibility of the process and/or the responsiveness of the policy to those who are affected by it, rather than the efficiency or rationality of the decision.
METHODOLOGY

Research Design: The research design adopted for this study is the descriptive survey research design. A descriptive survey research is one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few or items (sample) considered representative of the entire group. Amini (2000) stated that in survey design, a sample of population is used and this permits generalization of results to the target population. According to Nzeneri (2012), descriptive survey research design deals with what is happening presently. In descriptive survey research only a sample is studied and findings are generalized to the entire population. This research design enable the researcher described and elucidated the motivating factors of popular participation in community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government areas of Rivers State.

Population of the Study: The population of this study consists of 2,000 registered members from community based organizations that are directly involved in community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The community based organizations include: the youth, women and men. Source: Office of the Chairman Community Development Committee. See Appendix I.

Sample and Sampling Technique: The sample 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 (Wimmer & Dominick, 2011). See Appendix I.

Instrument for Data Collection: The research instrument that was used for the data collection for this study is self-structure questionnaire which was developed by researcher. The instrument is titled: Citizenship Participation and Community Development Project Questionnaire (CPCDPQ). The questionnaire is structured using four (4) - point modified likert scale rated on Strongly Agreed- SA (4), Agree- A (3), Disagree-D (2) and Strongly Disagree-SD (1). Strongly Agree (SA) and Agree (A) represent positive responses while Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) represent negative responses. The instrument was divided into two Sections: A which contain bio and demographic data of the respondents, and B which focused on the various variables of the study, as well as the hypotheses raised for the study.

Validity of the Instrument: To ensure the face and content validity of the instrument, the questionnaire was given to two experts in the Measurement and Evaluation, in the Faculty of Education, Rivers State University for professional touch and corrections. All the corrections made were strictly incorporated in the final draft of the questionnaire.

Reliability of the Instrument: To ascertain the reliability of the instrument, the researcher adopted test-retest method. The instrument was administered to twenty (20) persons in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State who are not part of the study respondents for two (2) consecutive times within three (3) weeks interval. The two sets of tests results were collated and analysed using the Pearson’s Product Moment correlation and a reliability coefficient of 0.85 was obtained.

Administration of the Instrument: Four Hundred (400) copies of the questionnaire was administered with the help of two research assistants who were recruited and trained for the study. The researcher retrieved the instrument within a time lag of 2 weeks of administration of the instrument with the help of the community leaders.

Data Analysis Technique: 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 was accepted, while the mean score that will be less than 2.50 was rejected. The null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance.
RESULTS
Data Presentation
Research Question 1: What is the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation/analysis on the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/ No</th>
<th>Questionnaire Items</th>
<th>Male Staff= 250</th>
<th>Female Staff = 150</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean $\bar{x}$</td>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Citizens’ participation in decision-making influence positively to citizen informant activities in relations to government planning and policy making.</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Citizens are carried along when they are involved in decision-making in their area.</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Technocrats help in technical knowledge, expertise techniques and methods to problem solving.</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Citizens make right decision that will benefit them when they are involved in decision making process.</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Citizens who are involved in the process of decision making often take greater plans in the achievement of related organizational goals than those who are not.</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.84</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.84</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2021

The analysis in Table 1 revealed that the respondents accepted the point that citizen’s participation in decision-making influence positively to citizen informant activities in relations to government planning and policy making. The study still indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that citizens are carried along when they are involved in decision-making in their area, hence participating in community development projects. It was also observed in the analysis that the respondents accepted the fact that technocrats helps in technical knowledge, expertise techniques and methods to problem solving thereby partaking in community development project. The study showed that the respondents agreed on the point that citizens make right decision that will benefit them when they are involved in decision making process hence contributing to community development projects. The analysis revealed that the respondents accepted the fact that citizens who are involved in the process of decision making often take greater plans in the achievement of related organizational goals than those who are not.
Research Question 2: What is the impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation analysis on impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean $\bar{x}$</td>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Citizens engagement in mobilization of human resource will help for self reliance of the citizen.</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Citizens engagement in community projects has positive impact on their human resources</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Community develop faster and rapidly when the citizens are engaged their communal projects</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Development programmes give due eight to the needs of the larger masses of the rural population because of mobilization of human resources.</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Growing gap in citizens engagement in mobilization of human resources on community development would lead to serious social unrest if not adequately considered in development planning</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.90</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.85</strong></td>
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The data analysis in Table 2 indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that citizens engagement in mobilization of human resource will help for self-reliance of the citizen. The analysis also showed that the respondents accepted the point that citizens’ engagement in community projects has positive impact in their human resources. It was also noticed from the study that the respondents agreed that community develop faster and rapidly when the citizens are engaged in their community projects. The analysis also revealed that the respondents accepted the fact that development programmes give due right to the needs of the larger masses of the rural population because of mobilization of human resources. The study still indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that growing gap in citizens engagement in mobilization of human resources on community development would lead to serious social unrest, if not adequately considered in development planning.
Research Question 2: What is the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process of community development projects on community development in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation analysis on the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process of community development projects on community development in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State

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<th>S/ No</th>
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<th>Male Staff= 250</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Female Staff = 150</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean $\bar{x}$</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td>Mean $\bar{x}$</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>There is high level security over community development facilities if the citizens are deeply involved.</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Improved citizen participation could stem the deterioration of public trust evidenced by widespread hostility toward government.</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Citizens’ participation process is a transformative tool for social change.</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Citizen’s participation produce better results or decision in area of community development facility.</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Citizens’ participation has positive and significant influence in the maintenance process of community development facilities.</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>Agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.78</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.83</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2.89</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.85</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The data analysis in Table 3 above revealed that the respondents agreed on the view that there is high level of security over community development facilities if the citizens are deeply involved. The analysis still indicted that the respondents accepted the fact that improved citizen participation could stem the deterioration of public trust evidenced by widespread hostility toward government. It was still noticed in the analysis that the respondents agreed on the point that citizens’ participation process is a transformative tool for social change. The study showed that the respondents agreed on the fact that citizens’ participation produce better results or decision in area of community development facility. The analysis also revealed that the respondents accepted the fact view that citizen’s participation has positive and significant influence in the maintenance process of community development projects.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Table 4: Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean $\bar{x}$</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>z-cal</th>
<th>z-crit</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Staff</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Staff</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The analysis on Table 4 revealed that the $z$-cal of 1.29 is less 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. So, the hypothesis 1 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

**Table 5:** Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean $\bar{X}$</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>$z$-cal</th>
<th>$z$-crit</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Staff</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Staff</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis on Table 5 indicated that the $z$-cal of 1.24 is less 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 less 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 ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

**Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

**Table 6:** Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean $\bar{X}$</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>$z$-cal</th>
<th>$z$-crit</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Staff</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Staff</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis on Table 6 revealed that the $z$-cal of 0.19 is less 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 less 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 ratings of male and female respondents between the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process and community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS
The findings of the study in research question 1: What is the impact of citizens’ participation in decision-making on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State revealed that citizens’ participation in decision-making has positive influence on community development projects. This finding is in collaboration with Barikor (2015), who observed that participatory decision making is accompanied by greater ego involvement, greater identification with organizational or community goals and that participation in decision making is an important factor in development of every community or organization. The finding still revealed that the respondents accepted the point that citizen’s participation in decision-making influence positively to citizen informant activities in relations to government planning and policy making. The study still indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that citizens are carried along when they are involved in decision-making in their area, hence participating in community development projects. It was also observed in the analysis that the respondents accepted the fact that technocrats helps in technical knowledge, expertise techniques and methods to problem solving thereby partaking in community development project. The study showed that the respondents agreed on the point that citizens make right decision that will benefit them when they are involved in decision making process hence contributing to community development projects. The analysis revealed that the respondents accepted the fact that citizens who are involved in the process of decision making often take greater plans in the achievement of related organizational goals than those who are not. 

The study in research question 2: What is the impact of citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resource on community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State indicated that citizens’ engagement in mobilization of human resources has significant influence on community development projects. This study is in the same line with Mize (2012), who admitted that public or people’s involvement in means to ensure that citizens have a direct voice in public decisions. The study also indicated the respondents agreed on the view that citizens engagement in mobilization of human resource will help for self-reliance of the citizen. The analysis also showed that the respondents accepted the point that citizens’ engagement in community projects has positive impact in their human resources. It was also noticed from the study that the respondents agreed that community develop faster and rapidly when the citizens are engaged in their community projects. The analysis also revealed that the respondents accepted the fact that development programmes give due right to the needs of the larger masses of the rural population because of mobilization of human resources. The study still indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that growing gap in citizens engagement in mobilization of human resources on community development would lead to serious social unrest if not adequately considered in development planning.

The study in research question 3: What is the impact of citizens’ participation in the maintenance process of community development projects on community development in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State revealed that the citizens’ participation in the maintenance process has positive and significance influence on community development projects. This study is in collaboration with Gilbert & Ward (2014). The study revealed that the respondents agreed on the view that there is high level of security over community development facilities if the citizens are deeply involved. The analysis still indicted that the respondents accepted the fact that improved citizen participation could stem the deterioration of public trust evidence by widespread hostility toward government. It was still noticed in the analysis that the respondents agreed on the point that citizens’ participation process is a transformative tool for social change. The study showed that the respondents agreed on the fact that citizens’ participation produce better results or decision in area of community development facility. The analysis also revealed that the respondents accepted the fact view that citizens’ participation has positive and significant influence in the maintenance process of community development projects.

CONCLUSION
Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concludes that provision of incentives, interest in development project, felt-need motive, participatory decision-making, empowerment, adequate
information about community development projects, sense of ownership and goals compatibility are motivating factors of citizens participation in community development projects in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The study will deduced that the effect of these motivating factors contributed to active participation of the people in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State in community development projects. It is also capable of leading to active participation of members in community development projects in the area. The existence of these motivating factors of citizens’ participation are also ways that improve participation of the people. The researcher also concluded that participatory decision-making in development project, leadership cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders, differences in terms of goals, interest and needs, desire for self-help, lack of participatory planning in designing of community development projects affect leaders in community development projects and also communication among all stakeholders and with community members incentives, leadership cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders, partnership between stakeholders and organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Based on the conclusion of the study, the following recommendations were made to ensure that the study meet the objectives.
1. Government and companies should always involve the citizens in terms of decision-making hence it has positive impact on community development projects.
2. Government or multinational companies should always engage the citizens in mobilizing human resource because of its impact on community development projects.
3. Government or companies should allow the citizens to participate in the maintenance process of projects because it has positive impact on community development projects.

REFERENCES

