



HOST COMMUNITIES EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES INTERVENTIONS BY TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN AKWA IBOM AND CROSS RIVERS STATES OF NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT Corporate social responsibilities (CSR) is the concern corporate institutions have for the welfare of the society which sustains their operations. They are self-imposed obligations of corporate organizations as a way of cushioning the negative operational impacts they have on their host communities. Unfortunately, not many organizations including tertiary educational institutions have been living up to the CSR expectations of host communities in Nigeria. This necessitated a study of CSR in host communities by tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria. The design of the study was a descriptive survey with a population of 3,000 out of which a sample size of 945 subjects were randomly selected. Three research questions guided the study while three null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level significance. A questionnaire made of three clusters and 11 items was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by three experts in measurement and evaluation. Cronbach alpha test was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument with an overall reliability coefficient of 0.82. Data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation and the hypotheses were tested using t-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed moderate extent of CSR with respect to the provision *of employment opportunities in host communities, moderate extent of host communities participation in CSR projects and low extent of recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities. Based on the findings above, the following recommendations were made: tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states should step up their CSR with respect to provision of employment opportunities in host communities, participation/mobilization of community members in CSR projects; and recognition of prominent and deserving indigenes of host communities through award of honorary degrees and fellowships.

KEYWORDS : Corporate Social Responsibility, Host Communities, Tertiary Educational Institutions, Employment opportunities, Interventions, Empowerment, Participation, Recognition..

INTRODUCTION

Many host communities are desirous of development in virtually all areas of their communal lives. They expect government, private individuals and corporate bodies within their localities to contribute in one way or the other to the actualization of their developmental dreams. One way corporate organizations can respond to the yearnings of host communities is through corporate social responsibilities interventions.

Corporate social responsibility in the opinions of Nichels, McHugh and McHugh in Aguinis and Glava (2012) is the concern corporate institutions have for the welfare of the society which sustains their operations. It is a widely known concept on how organizations should contribute back to society voluntarily (Nor & Asutay, 2011). Khatun and Alautiya (2012) aptly captured it, when the duo asserted that corporate social responsibilities conceptually means the ability and preparedness of management to relate its plans and policies to social environment in mutually beneficial ways to the organization and the society.

Tertiary educational institutions adds largely to the number of corporate bodies in host communities in Nigeria, Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states inclusive. Tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria as creation of enabling laws have both their primary and secondary (subsidiary) objectives clearly spelt out in the legal instruments that created them. Besides their primary objectives, their secondary (subsidiary) objectives are expected to have some positive social impacts on their immediate host communities.

Tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers ought to naturally provide some social responsibilities in host communities for sustaining their operations and in mitigation of their negative operational impacts. Nejati, Shafaei, Salamzadeh and Daraei (2011) thought that much when they submitted that universities and colleges as centres of knowledge generation and sharing, plays very vital roles in solving world's problems by ensuring sustainable tomorrow.

Education and educational institutions have been recognized as effective vehicle for fostering human and national development (Igbinedion & Ovbiagele, 2012). UNESCO (2015) reaffirmed the indispensable roles education and educational institutions play in the socio-economic development of a nation in 2000 world education forum in Dakar.

Tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria are those institutions that are classified as post-secondary educational institutions and form the Nigeria higher education sector. They provide formal type of education with organized learning activities in universities, polytechnics and colleges of education settings. Tertiary educational institutions are creations of various enabling laws and are subject to rules and regulations formulated and administered by the ministries of education through the respective regulatory agencies like National Universities Commission (NUC). National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) for Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education respectively. The regulatory agencies formulate policies, guidelines and supervise the various tertiary educational institutions within their purview. Such policies guidelines include rules and regulations on the type of buildings, facilities and equipment required in institutions, entry requirements of students, minimum age limit for students, curricula, rules guiding students' movement, qualifications of teachers, academic workloads, conditions of service, students graduation and certification.

There is no gain saying the fact that host communities have very high CSR expectations from tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria. Host communities are those communities in whose domain tertiary educational institutions are located. They are made up of indigenes and residence of the immediate communities to tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states whose leadership are comprise of traditional rulers, first-class chiefs, chiefs, community heads, president-generals of communities, secretaries to traditional councils and other prominent community members.

Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers is part of South-South geo-political zone

of Nigeria which is also known as Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The states hosts a number of oil and gas companies and other corporate bodies which includes tertiary educational institutions. The people of the states are predominantly farmers and fishermen owing to its vast arable land and water resources. The states have for decades suffered so much deprivation, neglect, poverty and environmental degradation from oil and gas exploitation and other associated activities of actors in the region which demands social responsibilities from them.

Though most host communities appear to be comfortable with the positive operational impacts of tertiary educational institutions in South-South Nigeria, they are however very uncomfortable with their negative impacts with respect to; compulsory acquisition of their ancestral lands without adequate compensation; increase in crime rates and cultism; high cost of living due to higher demand pull, gradual, but sustained erosion of community values and culture and continuous threat to community security amongst others.

Host community members are increasingly getting aware of their rights and demands that tertiary educational institutions meet their expectations in terms of social responsibilities to them. They feel that tertiary educational institutions are not doing enough to mitigate their negative operational impacts. Their agitations have become so strong to the extent that it has led to high level of restiveness and hostility towards management, staff and students of tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states.

According to Igbinedion and Ovbiagele, (2012); Wopara, (2015) there are gales of agitation by communities for corporate social responsibilities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria which are not limited to oil and gas companies with their negative operational ecological impact on the environment. Agitations in the region have been extended to other corporate entities which includes tertiary educational institutions. Host communities are demanding CSR from tertiary educational institutions in their domain a number of interventions which include, but not limited to concessionary employment of indigenes, admission of students, infrastructural development, host community participation and empowerment (Justin & Wadike, 2013). They are also expecting tertiary educational institutions to contribute directly to the development of host communities either financially or through donations of manpower and technical know-how. They are demanding contributions to the management of communities' security, provision of vocational and extra-mural education, health extension services and contribution to the development of community infrastructures. According to Olohi (2008), to be socially responsible is more than just an economic role in society, stressing that the society expects corporate bodies to be directly involved in meeting community needs in education, social welfare, job creation schemes and contribution to overseas aids amongst others.

What is yet to be determined is how far and the extent to which tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states have made CSR interventions in host communities.

The Problem

Host communities are increasingly getting aware of their rights and are demanding that corporate bodies (tertiary educational institutions inclusive) operating in their domains should meet their corporate social responsibilities expectations. They feel they suffer some negative operational impact of tertiary educational institutions which include compulsory acquisition of their ancestral lands without adequate compensation; increase in crime rates and cultism as a result of influx of people of different backgrounds; high cost of living occasioned by higher demand pull, gradual, but sustained erosion of community culture and values and the continuous threat to community security amongst others.

There is therefore strong agitation for the provision of corporate social responsibilities which is characterized by litigations, demonstrations, hostility and restiveness by host community members directed at the management, staff and students of tertiary educational institutions in their communities in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria.

The problem therefore, is that frosty relationship between host communities and tertiary educational institutions have in many occasions led to closure of institutions, hampered full implementation of academic calendar and in some instances threatened the lives of staff, students and host community members. Staff and students live in

fear of the unknown owing to the bad relationship between host communities and tertiary educational institutions. With incessant disruptions of academic activities, tertiary educational institutions are hardly able to keep to their academic calendars. The situation was so tensed that a study of corporate social responsibilities in host communities by tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states became necessary.

This study determined host communities empowerment by tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined the extent of corporate social responsibilities interventions by tertiary educational institutions in host communities with respect to the provision of:

1. Employment opportunities for host community members.
2. Host community participation in CSR projects.
3. Recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities.

The following three research questions guided the study:

1. What is the extent of corporate social responsibilities by tertiary educational institutions with respect to provision of employment opportunities for community members?
2. What is the extent of corporate social responsibilities by tertiary educational institutions with respect to host community participation in CSR projects?
3. What is the extent of corporate social responsibilities by tertiary educational institutions with respect to recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities?

The following three null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance:

There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of tertiary educational institutions' management and host community leaders on the extent of provision of employment opportunities in host communities.

1. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of tertiary educational institutions' management and host community leaders on the extent of participation of host community members in CSR projects.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of tertiary educational institutions' management and host community leaders on the extent of recognition deserving indigenes of host communities.

Corporate Social Responsibilities Expectations of Host Communities

The study by Ogula (2012) identified four ranges of communities' CSR expectations: Community development, economic empowerment, Participation and Transparency.

Community Development

Debates about the conceptualization of community development have taken place overtime. Previous conceptualizations of community development were accused of being narrow and centred on specific areas of specialization. For instance, definitions of community development were confined to economic growth or urban and infrastructural development.

According to Ogula (2012) majority of host community members frame their expectations around corporate social responsibilities for development. Host communities in the South-South Nigeria expect oil and gas companies and other organizations in the region to play a significant role in developing the region. Repeatedly, they emphasized the need for such organizations which includes the oil and gas companies to build infrastructure; to provide roads to link the communities, to provide transportation, and to aid the local people with some funds to enable them embark on commercial ventures.

In his work, Wopara (2015) wrote extensively on the concept and functionality of community development which he said stems from the multidimensional ways in which communities take part in developmental efforts. This includes other external actor's inputs or capacity towards finding effective solutions to community challenges (Matarrita-Cascantea & Brennan, 2012).

Recently, holistic and inclusive conceptualization of community development is being sought for. But without a straight forward definition of community development, scholars have defined the concept in relation to specific groups and to specific problems.

Nowadays, community development is being discussed in the context of 'community' as a social phenomenon that involves interaction, among a group of people with shared situations and geographical boundary (Theodori 2008). Based on this perception, Theodori described community development as; "The process ... that depends largely on the intentional actions of people in a locality coming together and interacting with the intent of solving their local problems, improving their quality of life, and shaping their future wellbeing" (Theodori 2008:64).

According to Azzopardi (2011:183), community development was intended to "focus on the challenges facing families, neighbourhoods and communities, and the opportunity to reflect on how to regenerate positive and upbeat dynamics". Taylor (2007), identified three broad aspects integrated into the concept of community development: human resources; which includes the different stakeholders in the community; consisting of the government, businesses and the non-profit sector like NGOs. The physical resources are made up of constructed and natural assets found in the community that can make life comfortable for the people. For example; people desire to live in communities that provide and enhance a means for survival, communication, provision of goods and services, recreational facilities, transportation, etc (Taylor 2007; Matarrita-Cascantea & Brennan, 2012). Another aspect fundamental to the survival and development of any community is the idea of 'community' i.e. the value of social groups within the community. Values transform human and physical resources into economic resources. According to Matarrita-Cascantea and Brennan (2012), economic resources are the market values of goods and services that is an upshot of the interaction between human and physical resources. Thus, economic resources are the productive and financial assets that answer to the dispersal of these resources in order to meet the needs of the people. Following the notion of Matarrita-Cascantea and Brennan, community development can be aimed at economic development (i.e. improving the community's economic and financial resources). This can be through integrated efforts among community members aimed at negative conditions like poverty reduction, jobs creation, and income generation. More so, as a human development aspect, it strives for healthy and educated individuals, stronger social bonds and the ability to come together to pursue a purposeful collective action. Lastly, community development can be achieved through infrastructure development (Visser 2008). Therefore, communities want to enjoy the benefits of economic growth, minimal negative impacts to environment, protection of natural areas, etc. Communities are looking for development approaches that achieve multiple benefits to help improve local economies and quality of life, etc ((Visser 2008). Though this sounds rather utopian, it reflects the desires of the community people. Local organisations, governments and community groups can work individually or in partnership aimed at bringing about or pursuing this utopia. This essentially boils down to human needs. Human needs are not just physical but also non-physical. Physical needs are the basic needs of people like quality food, water, and shelter. While the non-physical needs are broader "quality of life" concerns like access to quality health; political and spiritual freedom; human rights; clean, healthy and natural environments, etc. Most interventions to resolve development challenges in the developing countries tend to border on these aspects of needs.

Economic Empowerment

Studies also show that communities expect organizations to be directly involved in what they call empowerment of community members which may require companies and institutions to fill the gaps created by the failure of the government to develop the region. Ogula's findings also indicated that the negative impact of oil and gas exploitation on the environment and decades of neglect have placed communities in a relatively weak economic position. Indicating devastating operational impact on the environment and the livelihood of the people of the South-South Nigeria commonly called the Niger Delta people (Ogula, 2012). This means that a majority of the Niger Deltans can no longer engage in their traditional occupations of fishing and farming; therefore, suggesting CSR interventions to stimulate economic activity in the region.

Host communities expectation of economic empowerment supports environmental responsibility and external intervention to stimulate economic empowerment. They believe poverty is pervasive in the region and that illiteracy and unemployment are high among the youth and the indigenes. They believe that community members have no access to economic opportunities, clean water and healthcare (UNDP, 2007).

Participation

A significant dimension of community expectations was indicated in the desire to participate in making decisions about CSR projects and to be carried along on the terms and conditions of operating in their communities, and to make decisions about land allocation and to own a stake in the oil and gas and other multi-national corporations in South-South Nigeria. Emphasizing the importance of including the communities as stakeholders in the oil and gas industry, community members suggested that "certain shares in the companies should be given to the host communities to make them part owners of such companies". This will assure the host communities that the oil and gas business and any other organization for that matter are shared responsibility and allow the communities and the oil and gas companies to work together. The members' interest in owning a stake in the oil and gas companies stems from the belief that they are critical stakeholders in the oil and gas industry in the area and sought active community participation in social policy formulation.

Transparency

A noteworthy dimension of host community expectations is transparency in community-company engagements. Several members of the communities described the lack of transparency and honesty in CSR commitments as a major obstacle to peaceful community-company relations. Host communities expressed their feelings about the lack of honesty in community-company relations as follows: We discovered that overtime the oil and gas companies have not been sincere to host communities. They were not fulfilling their social responsibility to host communities. It is only because of the recent restiveness that some oil and gas companies are coming around to perform their social responsibilities. The above response shows that lack of transparency in community-company engagement is a major concern to host communities.

According to Justin and Wadike (2013), there are a number of host communities CSR expectations of tertiary educational institutions in their domain. According to the duo, host communities often expect tertiary educational institutions in the area to meet the following expectations: give them concessionary admissions, provide scholarship/bursary awards; mobilize host community contractors; extend electricity to community; make cash and gift donations during festive seasons; awards honorary degrees and fellowships to deserving indigenes and provide special employment opportunities for host community members

Studies of Provision of Employment Opportunities in Host Communities

Tambari and Imoh (2016) studied youth unemployment and crime rates in Niger Delta: A comparative analysis of its intensity in Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers states. The purpose of the study was to ascertain the effect of unemployment of youths on crime rates in the region. 614 respondents were purposively sampled and data collected were analyzed using standard deviation, why the two hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Findings show that unemployment was common to the states studies. The states studied however, showed variations in crime rates. Crime rate was low in Akwa Ibom state, while it was very high in Bayelsa and Rivers states. Results further show that very high level of unemployment added to large population of unskilled youths was responsible for the high crime rates in Bayelsa and Rivers state.

This study is similar to the present because the results underscored the focus on the provision of employment opportunities in host communities as a panacea for community agitations and youth restiveness. The former differed from the present study in that the present sought to determine the extent of CSR with respect to provision of employment opportunities in host communities by tertiary educational institutions in South-South Nigeria.

Another study by Danjuma and Bala (2012) focused on the effect of unemployment and the role of government in employment generation in Nigeria. The purpose of the study was to proffer solution to the ever rising level of unemployment in Nigeria which appears to overwhelm the government. The study highlighted the fact that the problem of youth unemployment with high number of them roaming the streets constitutes social menace.

The design of the study was a simple descriptive survey where

interview was conducted with some employment agencies across the country to gather empirical data on unemployment level in Nigeria. The findings show that unemployment in Nigeria has created tension and hatred between the rich and the poor leading to communal clashes, agitations, protests and restiveness added to the emergence of dangerous groups like Boko Haram, Niger Delta militants, armed robbery, prostitution and child trafficking which now constitute hiccups to security of lives and property.

This study is related to the present study in that they both recognized unemployment as one of the major factor that contributes to agitation and restiveness in Nigeria and Niger Delta in particular. The differences however was on the fact that the present study is looked what tertiary education institutions in the South-South region provided as part of their CSR to ameliorate the situation.

Studies on Host Community participation.

Agwu (2013) carried out a study on community participation and sustainable development in the Niger Delta. The study examined community participation and sustainable development in the Niger Delta. The research question addressed the extent to which sustainable development of the Niger Delta and improved welfare of host communities is dependent on their participation in the design and execution of community projects. It assumes that sustainable development of the oil producing communities can best be achieved through their participation in the design and execution of community projects.

An exploratory cross-sectional survey research design was used in conducting the study using questionnaire administered on 396 randomly selected respondents from three age brackets (35-39, 40-44 & 45-49) in ten judgmentally selected (based on prominence) oil producing communities in the five most prominent oil producing states of the Niger Delta. The sample size of 396 was determined from a population of 40,568 using Yamane [1] sample size determination formula at 5% level of significance for sampling error. The questionnaire responses were presented using tables, analyzed and interpreted using simple percentages while formulated hypotheses were tested using chi-square (χ^2).

The results indicated that sustainable development and improved welfare of host communities in the Niger Delta is to a large extent dependent on community participation. The research concludes that community participation in the design and execution of community projects will result in sustainable development and improved welfare of oil producing communities.

It therefore recommends among others: enactment of legislation that will compel oil producing companies to stop gas flaring and clean up oil spillages in their host communities, creation of oil/gas heritage savings fund for the survival of host communities in the post oil/gas era, involvement of local communities in the design and execution of community projects using reputable contractors, establishment of afforestation, pollution control and conservation of natural resources schemes in oil producing communities to replenish damaged natural resources and sustenance of the current amnesty programme.

This study is related to my present study because both studies canvassed the mobilization of community contractors and the participation of community members in the execution of community projects.

Otega, Danni and Badariah (2015) in another study examined Nigerian Niger Delta community participation: Catalyst for sustainable human development. According to the study due to degeneration resulting from years of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, the government has embarked on several developmental initiatives to improve the living conditions of the people. However, the area is classified as one of the most underdeveloped among the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria despite its enormous contribution to the national revenue.

The study examined community participation as a catalyst to foster sustainable community and human development in the region. An in-depth interview was conducted with the key informants. The qualitative data obtained was analyzed using the Nvivo 10 software.

The findings revealed that issues such as community involvement in decision-making, awareness of government intervention programmes,

adequate consultation and collaboration are the catalyst for community participation. The study, therefore, concludes that there is need for government and development agencies to understand the needs and aspiration of community in policy formulation and implementation of developmental goals.

The study shared the same view with my current study in that the present believed that community participation will guarantee the quality of projects and engender goodwill between community members and companies operating in the region.

Studies on Host Community Empowerment

Chukwuemeka and Aghara (2010) carried out a study on Niger Delta youth restiveness and socio-economic development of Nigeria. The Niger Delta according to them, like every human society, and in fact, the entire universe is simply and squarely a complex entity. Individuals and groups in the region have their own complexities, needs, aspirations, hopes, goals, opinions, views, and values which could be social, economic, religious, psychological or political. The study examined youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, and the challenges it posed to Nigeria democracy and foreign investments.

Questionnaire, oral interview and personal observation were used as major instrument for data collection. The population of the study was an infinite one (about 40,000) made up of adults between the ages of 30 and 70 and youths between the ages of 20 and 30. 350 respondents were selected using quota purposive sampling technique. 350 copies of questionnaire were distributed, out of which 320 were returned duly completed. Non-parametric statistical and content analyses were essentially used as tools of analysis.

The results showed dissatisfaction of the people of Niger Delta especially the youths. They are dissatisfied about the level of attention given to the development of their region and the damages to their ecology by oil spillage. Dissatisfaction was the major cause of the alarming youth restiveness. The item-by-item analysis showed that the Niger Delta people are actually oppressed, and politically marginalized. Inadequate distribution of revenue of the federation and poor revenue base of the Niger Delta region was also established to contribute largely to the restiveness in the region

Youth unemployment, poverty and other related social maladies are discovered to be prevalent in the Niger Delta region, and therefore have heightened restiveness. Respondents feel that what is urgently needed in the region was economic empowerment added to infrastructural development. The respondents believes that democracy will find it difficult to thrive in crises ridden Niger Delta if the situation is not checked.

This study is related to my present study because it studied economic empowerment which is canvassed as one of the possible CSR in host communities by tertiary educational institutions in my present study. The difference however is in the fact that the present study determined the provision of CSR with respect to host community empowerment in South-South Nigeria.

Isa and Vambe (2013) studied youth empowerment and national development in Nigeria. They asserted that the level of national development in any given country is largely dependent on the extent to which the enormous potentials of its youth are harnessed and utilized by the government to promote and sustain economic growth and social progress. In Nigeria, widespread unemployment has constrained the efforts of the youth to contribute meaningfully to national development.

Using descriptive analysis drawn majorly from secondary data, the study established that widespread unemployment and poverty in Nigeria has not only induced youth disempowerment, but also created conditions that predisposes the youth to deviant behaviours which hinder economic growth, political stability, harmonious social cohesion, and overall national development. The study posited that if Nigeria is to join the league of the 20 strongest economies in the world by the year 2020, the potentials of the Nigerian youth as the locomotive of national development must be properly harnessed and utilized by eliminating the obstacles that hinder people from transforming their physical, biological and socio-economic environment for their individual fulfillment and for the benefit of society at large.

This study is similar to my present study in many respects except that it

had a wider scope, that is, the entire country Nigeria. The present study was limited to the empowerment of South-South host community members through the provision of CSR by tertiary educational institutions in the region.

Okoji (2013) in similar study of the influence of community development programmes of multinational oil corporations on socio-economic empowerment of rural women in Niger Delta examined the socio-economic empowerment of rural women as a correlate of community development programmes of multinational oil corporation in Niger Delta, Nigeria.

The study adopted ex-post facto research design and random sampling technique was used to select 1126 respondents from the twelve communities. Two scales were used to collect primary data; these are Host Community Development Inventory (HCDS) $r = 0.71$ and Multinational Oil Development Inventory (MOCDI) $r = 0.74$. Data collected were analysed with Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis at 0.05 level of significance.

Findings from the study revealed that the multinational oil corporations did not follow the principle of community development in their intervention programmes because the host communities were not involved in the projects identification, planning, execution and evaluation. Significant relationship did not exist in the economic development ($r = 0.702$; $N = 1126$, $P > 0.05$), vocational skills ($r = 0.005$; $N = 1126$; $P > 0.05$), educational development ($r = 0.025$; $N = 1126$; $P > 0.05$).

Based on the objectives of and methods adopted in the study, it was observed that though the multinational oil corporations have reached out to their host communities through various community development programmes that centre round economic empowerment of the host community members, peace building and infrastructural development in their area of operations, community people were not involved in their efforts. As good as these programmes are, the study revealed that many people from the area of operations of these multinational oil corporations have not benefited from these intervention programmes. The study further revealed that the multinational oil corporations operating in the Niger Delta of Nigeria, ought to empower the host community members economically through the expansion of the employment schemes.

This study is related to the present study in that it sought economic empowerment from the oil companies for host community members, while the present study canvassed economic empowerment for host community members by tertiary educational institutions in South-South Nigeria.

THE METHOD

The design of the study was a descriptive survey. The study had a population of 3,000 out of which a sample size of 945 subjects made up of senior management staff of tertiary educational institutions and host communities leaders in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states were randomly selected. Three research questions guided the study while three null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level significance. A structured questionnaire made of three clusters and 11 items was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by three experts in measurement and evaluation. Cronbach alpha test was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument with an overall reliability coefficient of 0.97 Data collected were analyzed on a five point scale of Very High Extent 5 points - 4.50 - 5.00; High Extent 4 points - 3.50 - 4.49; Moderate Extent 3 points - 2.50 - 3.49; Low Extent 2 points - 1.50 - 2.49; Very Low Extent 1 point - 1.00 - 1.49 using mean and standard deviation and the hypotheses were tested using t-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Table 1: Respondents' mean ratings on provision of employment opportunities for host community members by tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states.

B1	Employment Opportunities		S.D	Remarks
1.	Provision of employment opportunities for host community members.	3.02	0.97	Moderate Extent
2.	Headship appointment of host community members.	2.36	0.82	Low Extent
3.	Employment of host community members to senior staff cadre.	2.75	0.94	Moderate Extent

4.	Concessionary reservation of some junior staff positions for host community members.	4.59	0.77	Very High Extent
5	Regular payment of host community members' salary and allowances.	2.88	0.65	Moderate Extent
6.	Prospects of growth for host community members on the job.	3.90	0.41	High Extent
	Grand Mean	3.25		Moderate Extent

Table 1 shows that the grand mean of this cluster is 3.25 which fell within the range regarded as moderate extent of CSR. The standard deviation ranged from 0.41- 0.98 which implied that the ratings were not too far apart. This therefore means that the respondents are of the view that there is moderate extent of CSR with respect to the provision of employment opportunities for host community members.

Table 2: Respondents' mean ratings on participation of host community members in CSR projects in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria.

B2	Participation of Host Community Members		S.D	Remarks
7.	Award of contracts to local contractors from host community.	3.02	0.79	Moderate Extent
8.	Quality of CSR interventions provided in the host community.	3.02	0.72	Moderate Extent
9.	Regular payment for contracts done by contractors from host community.	3.11	0.58	Moderate Extent
	Grand Mean	3.05		Moderate Extent

Table 2 shows that the grand mean of this cluster is 3.05 which fell within the range regarded as moderate extent of CSR. The standard deviation ranged from 0.58-0.79 which implied that the respondents were homogenous and not far apart in their ratings. This means therefore that the respondents are of the views that there is moderate extent of CSR with respect to participation of host community members in CSR projects.

Table 3: Respondents' mean ratings on recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria.

B3	Recognition of deserving indigenes of host community.		S.D	Remarks
10.	Honorary degree awards for prominent members of host community.	2.68	0.64	Moderate Extent
11.	Conferment of fellowship on deserving host community members.	1.45	0.77	Very Low Extent
	Grand Mean	2.07		Low Extent

Table 3 shows that the grand mean of this cluster is 2.07 which fell within the range regarded as low extent of CSR. The standard deviation ranged from 0.64 - 0.77 which implied that the respondents were not far apart in their ratings. This means therefore that the respondents are of the views that there is low extent of CSR with respect to recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities.

Table 4: Summary of t-test analysis of respondents' mean ratings on provision of employment opportunities for host community members by tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria.

	N	\bar{X}	S	t-cal	α	df	t-crit	Remark
Host community leaders	720.00	3.08	0.73					Not Significant
Senior mgt. staff	215.00	3.84	0.66	-2.26	0.05	933	1.96	

Table 4 shows the t-test analysis of responses of host community leaders and senior management staff of tertiary educational institutions in the south-south region with a mean of 3.08 and 3.84 respectively. The t-calculated value of -2.26 is less than the t-table value of 1.96 at 933 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis was retained which implied that there was no significant difference between the mean responses of tertiary educational institutions' management and host community leaders on the extent of CSR with respect to the provision of employment opportunities for host community members.

Table 5: Summary of t-test analysis of respondents' mean ratings on participation of host community members in CSR projects in Akwa Ibom and Cross River state of Nigeria

	N	\bar{X}	S	t-cal	α	df	t-crit	Remark
Host community leaders	720.00	3.08	0.56					Not Significant
Senior mgt. staff	215.00	3.58	0.80	-4.80	0.05	933	1.96	

Table 5 shows the t-test analysis of responses of host community leaders and senior management staff of tertiary educational institutions in the south-south region with a mean of 2.89 and 3.58 respectively. The t-calculated value of -4.80 is less than the t-table value of 1.96 at 933 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis was retained which implied that there was no significant difference between the mean responses of tertiary educational institutions' management and host community leaders on the extent of CSR with respect to participation of host community members in CSR projects.

Table 6: Summary of t-test analysis of respondents' mean ratings on recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria

	N	\bar{X}	S	t-cal	α	df	t-crit	Remark
Host community leaders	720.00	1.63	0.58					Not Significant
Senior mgt. staff	215.00	2.46	0.94	-8.39	0.05	933	1.96	

Table 6 shows the t-test analysis of responses of host community leaders and senior management staff of tertiary educational institutions in the south-south region with a mean of 1.63 and 2.46 respectively. The t-calculated value of -8.39 is less than the t-tabulated value of 1.96 at 933 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis was retained which implied that there was no significant difference between the mean responses of tertiary educational institutions' management and host community leaders on the extent of CSR with respect to recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion of the results is presented based on the three research questions raised and the three null hypotheses formulated to guide the study.

Provision of Employment Opportunities in Host Communities

Results show there was moderate extent of CSR in host communities with respect to the provision of employment opportunities for host community members. Findings also show that there was no significant difference between respondents' mean ratings of the opinions of senior management staff and community leaders on provision of employment opportunities in host communities by tertiary educational institutions in South-South Nigeria. This finding is at variance with IISD (2012) which advocated that social responsibility should not only be considered from business perspectives, but, also from the community and general public perspectives. It stressed that CSR benefits to the communities and the general public should include employment and employees voluntary programmes, corporate involvement in community education and jobs creation amongst others. It is generally believed and rightly too, that tertiary educational institutions have the capacity to create a sizeable number of direct and indirect employment that can be advantageous to members of host communities.

In a related study, Tambari and Imoh (2016) found correlation between unemployment and crime rates in South-South Nigeria. Their study showed that unemployment was responsible to the very high crime rates noted in two out of the six states of the South-South Nigeria studied. Similarly Danjuma and Bala (2012) reported that unemployment was one of the major factors that contribute to agitation and restiveness in Nigeria with particular reference to the Niger Delta of Nigeria. Ikon Okoh and Ojo (2008) and Ogula (2012) were unanimous in maintaining that host communities' expect organizations operating in their domain to empower their indigenes through the creation of job opportunities. Empowerment as contemplated here includes providing employment and other means of livelihood for host community members. In the same vein, UNDP (2007), observed that host community members have no access to meaningful economic opportunities, clean water and health care and that these were very critical to their welfare. Adeyantu (2012) is in support of the view that

organizations should create jobs and provide employment opportunities for qualified members of host communities. Adeyantu maintained that provision of employment opportunities for host community members would guarantee their loyalty, commitment and cooperation with such organization.

Participation of Host Community Members in CSR Projects

Results indicated that there was moderate extent of CSR in host communities with respect to participation of host community members in CSR projects and that there was no significant difference between the opinions of senior management staff and host community leaders on the participation of host community members in CSR projects in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria. This result finds collaboration in the work of Agwu (2013) on host community participation and sustainable development. The study examined the extent to which sustainable development of the Niger Delta and improved welfare of host communities is dependent on their involvement in the design and execution of community projects. Result shows that sustainable development and improved welfare in host communities in South-South Nigeria is to a large extent dependent on host community participation. The study concluded that host community members' participation in the design and execution of host community projects will result in sustainable development of the Niger Delta and improved welfare of host community members. Similarly, Ogula (2012) reported that a significant dimension of host community expectations as indicated by respondents in his study centred on their desire to participate in the implementation of CSR projects. According to him, the economic indicators of the zone favoured the expectation of external interventions to stimulate economic empowerment. The argument goes that illiteracy and unemployment levels were high amongst the youth in the zone and that the indigenes are among the poorest in the world. Host community members have no access to economic opportunities. Adequate mobilization of local contractors is an attempt to economically empower the community members. Secondly, the involvement of local contractors in CSR projects to some extent will guarantee project completion and quality delivery since they are from the communities and possibly resides within the host communities. Ogula supra maintained that patronage in terms of participation will enhance their economic wellbeing and commitment to organizations' success.

Recognition of Deserving Indigenes of Host Communities

Results show that there was low extent of CSR with respect to recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities. There was also no significant difference between the opinions of senior management staff and host community leaders on the recognition of deserving indigenes of host communities. The award of honorary degrees and fellowship to deserving indigenes is a matter of recognition for host community members who are major stakeholders in organizations operating in their domain. Ogula (2012) was prominent in observing the concern of the host community members for inclusion and participation in the affairs of organizations operating in their communities. He argued that as stakeholders, they should be allowed to acquire direct or indirect interests in organizations operating in their area. Ogula maintained that such recognition would help to engender goodwill and co-operation from host community members. Their position was earlier canvassed by Corbin and Straus (2008) when they claimed that the context illuminates the circumstances or concerns to which individuals or groups responds. In the same vein, UNDP (2007) asserted that resources extraction or utilization in lands occupied by indigenous people should conform to the desires and needs of the people and not at the expense of their culture, expectations or aspirations. They stressed that the apparent lack of respect for their customs, aspirations and expectations evoke emotions of dissatisfaction, anger and despair.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it is hereby concluded that there is dare need for the provision of corporate social responsibilities in host communities by tertiary educational institutions in Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria. There are CSR gaps which have not been sufficiently addressed over the years. Though some level of CSR have been reported in host communities with respect to employment generation, and host community participation in CSR projects, the extent of such engagements appear insignificant due to enormity of host communities' expectations.

Greater level of commitment to CSR in host communities with respect to employment and financial empowerment, community participation

and recognition of prominent host community members are fundamental to addressing host community agitations. Enhanced CSR intervention in host communities will promote conviviality, goodwill, co-operation and mutual respect between tertiary educational institutions and host communities in Akwa Ibom and Rivers states.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion made in this study, it was recommended that:

1. The management of tertiary educational institutions in South-South Nigeria should step up their CSR with respect to provision of employment opportunities in host communities. This is one way institutions can empower host community members and check their agitation.
2. Tertiary educational institutions should sustain their patronage and mobilization of community contractors for CSR projects. Such participation will guarantee quality and speedy completion of projects and alleviate poverty in host communities.
3. Tertiary educational institutions should regularly recognise prominent and deserving indigenes of host communities through award of honorary degrees and fellowships.

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