

CARITAS UNIVERSITY AMORJI-NIKE, EMENE, ENUGU STATE**CARITAS INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF POLITICAL STUDIES
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****CIJPSIR, Volume 2, Issue 1 (2025)****Examining the challenges to Community Choose Your Project Initiative to Community Development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022**

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ABSTRACT

Policies of government often times fail to achieve its major objectives and this could be attributed to several factors both political, social, economic and sometimes cultural. This paper examines the challenges faced by the Community Choose their Project Initiative (CPI) towards Community Development in Anambra State between 2014 and 2022. This study adopted the descriptive survey research design the Participatory Rural Approach (PRA) was adopted as the theoretical framework of analysis. The study discovered that; bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference among other challenges impinged community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. The study concluded that community-based or community-dictated development approach involves the movement of the people designed to promote better living for the whole community within the active participation of, and if possible on the initiative of the community concerned. Based on the foregoing, the study recommended that; the government should set up grass root institutions to help in the fight against bad leadership, while at the same time leaders at the communities should as a matter fact be ready to give stewardship for the use of public scarce resources. This study has contributed to knowledge by engaging in an expository study of the impact of Community Choose their Project Initiative (CPI) on Community Development in Anambra State between 2014 and 2022 which is believed to be a bottom-top approach to community development.

Keywords:

Community Choose your
Project Initiative,
Community,
Development,
Anambra State

Introduction

The problem of the Third world countries including Nigeria and Anambra State in particular has been how to develop and improve the social, economic, cultural aspects of the polity and the total living conditions of her people. Development has many setbacks which hinder community development. There have been problems of development due to lack of infrastructure, cases of children seen hawking in the streets, poor electricity, challenges of leadership, inactive participation and cooperation of community members etc.

It has continued to bother the minds of fiscal federalists and some stakeholders in the Nigerian economy why despite after many of independence from British imperialists, Nigeria seems not to be making noticeable and appreciable progress in terms of positively affecting the lives of large segment of those in the local communities in terms of development. Our currency is becoming weaker in comparison with those of some developing nations. Despite the fact that Nigeria is richly endowed with human and material resources even far above many of the so-called developed nations, the country seems to be stationary in terms of not being able to meet the basic needs of the generality of its people. A country which has not to some significant respects addressed the issues of poverty, unemployment, poor governance, illiteracy, lack of funding, mismanagement, partisan politics, nepotism and favoritism, public participation, impunity, bribery and corruption and inequality among others cannot be said to be on the path of development. These among others are the crucial problems of community development in Nigeria. Inadequate social goods, weak structures and other persistent socio-cultural and political problems characterised our local communities. Thus the rural sector where nearly 70 percent of Nigerians live is caught up in a vicious circle of poverty.

According to Umeh (2004), success in community development can only be achieved through the dedication, deep conviction and involvement in community development progress arising from a firm belief in community people and the importance of their upliftment to general well-being. However,

there is often a tendency for conflicts of interest to arise in the course of community development, the community development programmes may fail as a result of corruption, bad leadership, misappropriation of funds, lack of genuine interest and commitment on the part of those spear-heading the activities, poor policy articulation etc. Such evolved the feeling of suspicion amongst some community members and likely to cause serious strains in working relationships (Onwunyi and Umeifekwem, 2023).

For projects to be sustainable, there must be community participation. This is because according to Musa (2000), through participation, the community develops skills for collective action, maintenance and sustainability. This is evident in a number of community development initiatives. Development associations formed to manage these projects have been upgraded into local societies with their own initiatives to address the people's needs, to strengthen their position and to put forward their case to the decision making body particularly the Local and State government. One major effect of community involvement in project is the assurance of sustainability. As Olukotun (2008) puts it, there ought to be genuine demand by a community or groups within it for all projects whether aided or non-aided by the government or any international agency to be initiated and accomplished. This eliminates the tendency to abandon the project when they are half-way completed and sustains the interest of the communities or groups within them in maintenance and protection of those projects.

Theoretical Exposition

This paper adopted the Participatory Rural Approach (PRA) as its analytic framework. This approach mostly used by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other agencies involved in international development. The approach aims to incorporate the knowledge and opinions of rural people in the planning and management of development projects and programmes. The root of PRA techniques can be traced to the activist adult education methods of Paulo Freire. In his view, an actively involved and empowered local population is essential to successful rural community development. Robert Chambers, a key exponent of PRA argued that the approach owes much to the Freirian theme that poor and exploited

people can and should be enabled to analyze their own reality (Chamber, 1999).

People's participation as a concept was formulated or rediscovered in the 1970s, in response to the growing awareness that the various approaches then employed for Community Development, such as community development, integrated Community Development or basic needs did not often lead to significant Community Development and especially, largely, as was then thought, because there was little involvement in development projects of those undergoing 'development'.

PRA has been described as a family or approaches, methods of behaviors that enable people to express and analyze the realities of their lives and conditions, to plan themselves what action to take, and to monitor and evaluate the results.

Participation in Community Development has gradually become more established among governments, donors and international organizations, to such an extent that Stirrat (2001) argued that, it is now difficult to find a rurally based development project which does not in one way or another claim to adopt a participatory approach involving bottoms planning, acknowledging the important of indigenous knowledge, and claiming to empower local people.

The model above is not neutral as pointed out by Hayward et al (2004), reading the ladder from bottom to top; it suggests a hierarchical view that promotes full participation as the goal to be achieved. Cohen and Uphof (2001), were among the first to stress the importance of participation in the various stages of the project cycle, particularly decision making and evaluation, rather than simply sharing in the benefits of projects. Pearse and Stifel (2017) complement this by stressing control and, by implication, also issues of power. According to Cohen and Uphof, (2000), participation includes people's involvement in decision making processes, in implementing programmes, their sharing in the benefits of development programmes and their involvement in effort to evaluate such programmes

The PRA is relevant to the study in the sense that if community development realizes its potentials, disadvantaged rural people had to be organized and actively involved in designing policies and programmes and in controlling social and economic

institution that have impact on their standard of living. The use of PRA can help involve communities in the various decisions concerning their own development, including appraisal, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The 'developers' have also benefitted from the interaction of PRA, in the sense that development practitioners have become more open to and respectful of local knowledge and more receptive to local.

Methodology

In this study, the research design that was adopted is the survey design, which was aimed at finding out how Community Choose Your Project Initiative affects community development in in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. This study focused on the Community Choose Your Project Initiative and community development in Anambra State, with an attention on the chose your project initiative of the Obiano administration. Anambra state is located at South-Eastern part of Nigeria with its administrative headquarter at Awka.

The population of the study comprises of all the inhabitants of the various communities that make up of the selected six (6) local government area which were drawn from the three (3) senatorial districts (zones) in Anambra state. These local government areas were selected based on the status of either rural or urban to adequately enhance balancing. These local governments are; rural- Awka North, Anambra East and Orumba North; Urban-Idemili North, Onitsha North and Ihiala Local Government Area.

A sample is a sub-set of a population observed for the purpose of making inference on the population. In view of this, the researcher choose a sample size using the Taro-Yamane's formula.

Therefore, the sample size of the study was six hundred (600). However, the number of questionnaire administered to each Local Government Area was determined through stratified random sampling technique using the Bowley's proportional allocation formula as cited in Omesonye, (2013).

This study adopted both primary and secondary sources of data collection. Thus, the primary data was sourced from respondents through the distributed structured questionnaire. While, the secondary sources of data was obtained from textbooks, journal publications, conference papers, periodicals, newspapers, projects, internet materials and other

relevant documents and articles gotten from the Anambra State Community and Social Development Ministry, Department of Political Science Library, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University.

Data collection for this study was done through the use of structured questionnaire administered to the respondents, face to face interview method, and engagement in focus group discussion. The data collected were presented on a frequency distribution table and in a five point Likert scale method and further analyzed using quantitative method of data analysis using statistical methods like frequency distribution tables, simple percentage (%), Mean (X) was also used in order to determine the most accepted questionnaire items after which, Chi-square (X^2) parametric test was further used in testing each of the hypotheses formulated research questions, at 0.05 (5%) significant level.

Literature Review

Community Choose Your Project Initiative

Community Choose Your Project Initiative is an initiative derived from bottom up approach of Community Development. The Anambra government introduced “choose your community project” as a key model for participatory development. According to Onwunyi, Okonkwo and Obiefuna (2023), the project is significant in the ways in which it breeds in the Anambra State indigenes and residents a sense of belonging and participation in governance. Each community in the State – numbering 181 – was made to choose a 20 Million Naira worth of project of their choice. This development strategy is designed in a manner that communities led by the President-Generals and the traditional rulers have a voice in deciding their pressing need within the community – one that needs government intervention. This is a bottom-top approach to development, and thus participatory in nature. Participatory Development has been defined as “a process through which stakeholders can influence and share control over development initiatives, and over the decisions and resources that affect themselves” (Asian Development Bank, 1996).

In the “choose your projects” initiative of the Anambra State government, the service provider must be an indigene of the community and is expected to source both material and human

resources for the project from within the locality. In this way, it strengthens civil society and the economy by empowering groups, communities and organizations in the community, engaging local population in development projects. Most importantly, it enhances the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of development programmes. The “Choose your projects initiative” has had over 95% success rate as communities took ownership of the projects they desired – hospitals, schools, lock-up shops, skills acquisition centers, NYSC corp member's lodge, laboratories, pavilions, etc. Communities that finish their projects also embark on another N20M worth community project.

This development initiative touched the lives of local citizens and arguably provided the impetus for the overwhelming victory of Governor Obiano APGA-led government in the November 18, 2017 governorship election. In the election, the governor won with very clear margins in all the 21 local governments in the State (what has been called 21/21 victory), a first in the history of Nigerian politics.

Community Choose Your Project Initiative shows that people's desire, interest and comfort in participating in the affairs of their families, work places, and governance have been the source of all agitations in mankind. From the colonial period to the modern era has witnessed lots of agitations and conflicts as a result of oppression, suppressions and neglect in issues that concern them. A lot of work have been done on people's participation or democratic process in line with the with one main objective and that is to encourage local community and local players to express their views in defining the development course for their area in line with their own views, expectations, plans and their socio cultural life style. It is all known that the new projects and programmes may alter their long existing pattern of life, hence its adoption and implementation has to have a soft landing so as not to disorganize the inhabitants as such impositions would lead to greater resistance and failures of the programmes (Onwunyi and Okonkwo, 2021).

Community Choose Your Project Initiative approach tends to be locally focused attempts by groups to achieve change in policy and practice and such collective community action consists of relatively small-scale local attempts to negotiate with power holders and initiate projects and

programmes they felt would be of great benefit to the communities and enhance their wellbeing. In this case the community tends to be more responsive and active in participation and completion of the projects. Participation in most cases varies according to the level of participation. It can be passive participation, Quasi or active participation. Passive participation includes just letting people do what you want them to do that has been decided or has already happened and the information belongs only to government, donors or external professionals. There may be quasi participation where certain levels of participation were allowed for the communities such as consultative participation, material incentive participation, forced participation, self-mobilization and functional participation. Finally, we have active participation where the communities are fully integrated into the project design, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation (Cooksey & Kikula 2005). Participation has continued to metamorphose as modernization comes and one thing that is certain and constant in life is change. Change can be in either directions (positive or negative). In the words of Robert Chambers, “participation has implications for power relations, personal interactions, and attitudes and behaviours and that participatory can apply to almost all social contexts and processes, not least in organizations, education, research, communities and the family” (Thomas, 2013).

The Challenges of Community Choose Your Project Initiative

Communities remain strategic in the socio-economic development of any nation. A lot of resources abound in the area to the extent that if they are harnessed, they will not only be a foundation but aspiring board for the structural transformation for economic growth and development of the people and the nation at large. However, despite approaches adopted to tap the wealth in these communities, especially in the developing economies, it appears that not much has been done to harness the endowed resources of the areas. Community development is reputed to be an indispensable component among the approaches adopted world-wide for the socio-economic transformation of any nation, especially developing nations like Nigeria (Anyanwu, 1992).

The communities are acknowledged to be endowed with abundant human and material resources that will accelerate the pace of development of any country. It is argued that in Nigeria for instance, majority of the population dwells in the rural communities. Ozor and Nwankwo (2008) opine that about 80% of Nigeria’s population resides in the communities. Olatunbosun (1975) cited in Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka (2013), aver that the communities are the major sources of capital formation for the country and a principal market for domestic manufactures. For Abah (2010), communities basically engage in primary economic activities (e.g. farming) that form the foundation of the country’s economic development. Within the areas, informal economic activities that form the bedrock of structural economic transformation of any emerging economy thrive without being accounted for neither in Gross Domestic Product nor given prominence.

However, given the importance of the communities in the development prospect of a developing economy, it could be observed that the communities have continued to suffer neglect. They are grossly underdeveloped and poverty has remained pervasive. While resources abound, development has eluded most communities due to lack of the mastery of the practical wisdom (leadership) and technology to mobilize them for our overall benefit” (Ozora & Nwankwo, 2008:63). This is to say that the lack of purposeful and knowledge leadership, the catalyst to integrate and drive the wheel of development is the bane of community development in Anambra State. Hence, knowing the situation of our communities and the need for their development through the coordinating efforts of resourceful individuals endowed with critical knowledge, wisdom and persuasion (leadership) required for such community development.

It is the onerous duty of the leadership to ensure peace in the community, always enlist the people’s participation and mobilize them for the development of their community, identifying critical areas of the people’s life that need transformation, identifying and ensuring that the endowed natural resources and budding human capacities are harnessed and developed, and ensuring that the developed critical human and natural resources are not kept dormant but mobilized for socio-economic transformation of the

people at large. Leadership must always be the link between the community and the government. It is the human factor that mobilizes the other factors of production. The leader must be altruistic, always there for his people and must abhor anything that will bring rancor, acrimony, hatred, conflict etc. He must not fan the embers of disunity for selfish motives and ends. He must not be crazy about sycophancy, surrounding himself with praise singers.

The above and many more have mitigated the efforts of leadership in ensuring the development of Nigeria generally and transformation of Anambra State in particular. They are factors that have blurred the visions of leadership on exposing the internal and external causes and continued underdevelopment of communities and the efficacies of community development as an approach development; decentralizing government and development agencies' decision-making in areas such as public expenditures, promotion of participatory management the identification, design and implementation of pro-poor projects, infrastructural development, etc for poverty reduction; and identifying and improving the capacities of the community manpower and resources for entrepreneurship and socio-economic development. Leadership is currently one issue that has become a regular topic of discussion (Onwunyi, Asukwo and Ojukwu, 2024).

According to Bolden (2004), it is hard to turn on the television open a newspaper or attend a conference without coming across numerous references to leaders, leadership and leading. The concept of leadership has been a topic of interest for a plethora of individuals from the early Greek philosophers to modern day leadership gurus. It has been argued to occupy a strategic position in the search for development in the socio-political, economic and religious sphere and life of any nation, developed or under-developed (Oruonye, 2013).

Empirical Review

A recent study by Ngini and Okafor (2023), in a study "Impact of Legislative Oversight on the Implementation of Anambra State Community – Choose –Your - Project Initiative (CCYP)" argued that it is always common to observe a gap between a policy formulation and its implementation, hence the need for legislative oversight. The study examined how legislative oversight has helped in the

implementation of Community- Choose- Your-Project Initiative (CCYP) in Anambra State under Governor Willie Obiano administration. The study was born out of the quest to appraise the level to which the oversight function of the legislative helped in implementation of government policies with focus on the Community – Choose – Your Project Initiative (CCYP). The study utilized mainly quantitative data relying on descriptive survey research design. Taro Yamane method of sample size selection was used to select a sample size of 400 from the study population of 5,527,809. Stratified sampling was used to select the study participants from the three Senatorial Districts of Anambra State. A 10-item, four-point Likert scale questionnaire and Key Informant Interview was used as instruments for data collection. The reliability of the questionnaire was established through a pilot study and tested using Cronbach Alpha. The instrument obtained a coefficient value of 0.85, which indicated its reliability. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 was used to analyze data generated for the study. Descriptive statistics comprising of frequencies, percentages, and mean scores were used to analyze the study data. The study found out that oversight function of the legislature helped in promoting the Community- Choose- Your- Project Initiative (CCYP) in Anambra State. Against this backdrop, the study recommends the strengthening of the legislative arm of government oversight activities and other related functions to ensure that the desired objectives for formulation and implantation of government policies is achieved for the interest of the state.

Omenugha, Uguegbunam and Eze (2018), in another study titled Communicating "Anambra Wheel of Development" through Participatory Approaches and Social Media Strategies as the "Anambra Wheel of Development" and discusses the communication strategies being used by the government in communicating development, bringing governance closer to the people and facilitating the participation of people in developmental activities. What stands out very significantly is the notion of participatory development – a process where residents of the State are not just given a voice, but equally influence and share control over development initiatives that affect them. The chapter espouses the various strategies deployed in communicating development in the State- from self-image rebranding, secure and safe society, creating avenue for unheard voices, active

self-involvement, Stakeholders Forum, Anambra Square, to Choose-your-project initiative, among others. Social media also play a critical role in the multidimensional communication among development actors for meaningful engagement. The chapter argues that sustainable development could be achieved when leaders and change agents engage in meaningful conversations on development agendas through multiple channels of communication and with multiple audiences.

U-Dominic, Ezeabasili and Okoro (2014), Community-Government Partnership and Sustainability of Rural Water Programmes in Anambra State, Nigeria argues that in a Multi-Indicator survey published in 2013 by the National Bureau of statistics, has shown that over 70 million Nigerians have no access to safe water and thereby projecting Nigeria as the third globally ranked number of people without access to safe water. However, the Nigerian constitution as contained in the second Draft of the National Water Resources Bill of April 2007 accords jurisdiction over rural water supply to states in conjunction with the benefitting communities. The unbalanced community-government partnership in relinquishing responsibilities in terms of ownership, control, improved service delivery and as well as provision of the required technical know-how, has become a principal factor constraining sustainable rural water projects in Anambra State for so long. It is evident from a deductive rational survey with what is obtainable in Nigerian rural water projects as against 2007 constitutional provision that disclosed dormant rural water policy propagation across the states and its docile forms of practice. Rural water projects are dynamic in nature, the choice and use of good management approach or combination of approaches is always circumspect. Community government partnership is a worthwhile management approach that acquaint with the strength and weaknesses inherent in other management methods, and is able to use these effectively and circumspectly. This study takes detailed explanations at factors weighing-down the success of a sustainable water provision in the rural communities in the State. We proffered a prolific approach to contain the plaguing constraints in the essential elements of planning, participation, project implementation and water policies of the State. The idea in community-government partnership is to strike a balance where the objectives

of having sustainable rural water projects are achieved through proactive co-operation.

Moreso, Amali and Nnabugwu (2023), asserted that, Governor Willie Mmaduaburochukwu Obiano's community-choose-your-project initiative, which involved ₦20,000,000 that was given to each of the 179 communities in Anambra State, has concluded after running from 2016 to 2021. This initiative was praised for being a significant departure from traditional development approaches in third-world countries. The bottom-up development strategy, which was implemented in all 179 communities in the state, has been recognized as a new model for community and rural infrastructure development.

Again, Ako and Ojo (2021), in another work titled Citizen Participation and Community Development: The Moderating Role of Culture In Selected States In Nigeria argued that the development of communities has been associated with the involvement of citizens in transformational programme design and implementation and which culture is perceived to be apposite. The inherent assumption is that citizens' interest in participating in the development of their community can be linked to the kind of culture that the people practice. Based on this, some communities tend to be backward than others due to lack of initiative and interest in generating development-oriented projects and working cooperatively with the governments to accomplish them. Therefore, the purpose of the study was to examine the moderating effect of community culture on the relationship between citizen participation and community development in some selected states in Nigeria. The study adopted a cross sectional survey research design which involved a selected sample from a population. The population of the study included all the 5,641 total membership from the selected States; Anambra and Kaduna as registered community associations who live within the different communities in the local government areas of both States. Simple random sampling technique was adopted to arrive at 918 as the sample size for this study. Validated questionnaire was used for data collection. The study found that community culture has no moderating effect on the relationship between citizen participation and community development in Anambra State (R^2 change = 0.002, $F(3,204) = 11.536$, $p > 0.05$), and Kaduna State (R^2 Change = 0.002, $F(3,599) = 104.696$, $p > 0.05$). The study

concluded that community culture has no moderating effect on the relationship between citizen participation and community development. This means that the strengthening and motivating power that the citizens need in order to participate actively in development issues is not predicated on community culture. This further explains that there are other variables that are not within the purview of this study that are responsible. The study recommended that citizen enlightenment and public advocacy can be explored in order to ascertain whether they can successfully moderate the participation of citizens in community issues.

Ramsey-Soroghay (2021) in a study titled *Community development in Nigeria: history, current strategies and its future as a social work method* posits that development is a vital necessity to the growth and development of any vibrant nation. Community development is as old as man. Before colonization, Nigerians have actively engaged in community development programmes. Different governments have made efforts in establishing welfare programmes of her citizens. Communal living and collective actions aided in promoting what we knew to be community development. There were the age grade systems that was used to check-mate behaviour of youths and active festivals that were some form of leisure and recreation activities for community members. Youths and members of the community voluntarily participated in developmental activities of the community. The elderly was taken care of by family members and younger women. Evidently, the post-colonial origin of community development in Nigeria emerged during Britain's administration of its African colonies from the 1920s to the 1950s. However, over the years, the efforts by government and missionaries in terms community development are evident in the continuous growth and development of communities. This study will add to the scarce body of work on Nigeria's history of community development from a social worker's perspective as social workers are actively involved in community development practices. The paper concludes that the extensive type of problems faced by a community should be considered so as to enable social workers, community development workers, government and all a sundry provide appreciable help.

Haddad (2011) surveyed the impact of government intervention on community development projects in the community areas in Kenya in 2011. The study

examined beneficiary ownership and project sustainability, mechanisms of downward accountability, participatory planning and poverty reduction. He rated the services provided and reported that primary health care services were the most important to the need of the people (35.8%), followed by access to clean drinking water (23.3%), access to primary education (16.5 %), improvement of access roads (14.2 %), and the formation of women's groups/cooperatives (10.2 %). He also reported that, 74 % of the members of the community development committees who facilitated and supervised these projects are men, while 26 % are women. He concluded that the provision of these social amenities empowered the community dwellers, improves their standard of living and enhance the socio-economic development of the community.

In a study by Bazin and Roux (2005), on the effect of various government interventions on the development of the rural areas of the Mediterranean, the findings of the study revealed that, because government was directly involved through the provision of fund, material and technical support and the people of the areas were carried along through their community development association, the projects brought appreciable development to the areas. They also identified several other variables that support local economic capacities as a result of the execution of these projects in the local community. These include achievement of market position, self-reliance of local actors, and local control of major resources and massive use of available local resources.

Mela and Matthew (2023), in a study on *Community Participatory Development in Nigeria - Benefits and Challenges* argued that community participation has long been associated with community development. The success of every project depends on the active participation of the community in designing, implementing and sustaining the projects that affect their condition of living. The paper examines rural or community development in Nigeria with emphasis on the institutions, agencies, policies and strategies employed to bring about the much-needed rural development in the country. It goes further to assess the impacts of the various efforts made by both the domestic and foreign governments and international organizations, institutions, agencies and non-

governmental organizations to bring about real development at the grassroots level. In an attempt to do this, clarification of concepts like community, development, rural areas, and rural development was carried out, which formed the theoretical basis of the analysis. The study employs the use of content analysis as a methodology and Participatory Theory is used as a theoretical framework of the study. The data for the study was generated from secondary sources. The paper reveals that top bottom approach, political deprivation, lack of enlightenment and awareness campaign and lack of proper educational empowerment constitutes the major challenges of community participation in rural development. The paper therefore, recommended that for rapid and sustained community development to take place, change of attitudes and orientation by all and sundry, realistic and enduring measures should be given priority attention, especially at the implementation stages.

A review of literature of this nature is very helpful in throwing up gaps in knowledge from which the research exercise is situated and built upon. We reviewed academic works pertaining to the study. This study focused on the Community Choose Your Project Initiative and community development in Anambra State. The study revealed the meaning of community development and was guided by a theory which is Endogenous Theory of Development. Different related studies were reviewed but not much focused on Community Choose Your Project Initiative and community development in Anambra state with respect to the effect of Community Development Projects, building of social amenities and infrastructural development and the challenges of Community Development in Anambra State which is the gap it intends to cover.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion Of Findings

The data presentations based on the second research question through relevant questionnaire items were presented and analyzed. In this section, the data generated from the Anambra State were presented, analyzed and interpreted. A total of four hundred copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents, out of which six hundred copies of the questionnaire were properly filled and found relevant to the study. Therefore, the analysis in this section was based on the relevant copies.

1: Gender of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Female	147	41.2	41.2	41.2
Male	210	58.8	58.8	100.0
Total	357	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table above shows the distribution of respondent base on their gender. 147 respondents representing 41.2% are female while 210 respondents representing 58.8% are male. This indicates that there are more male than female in Anambra.

Table 2: Marital Status of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Single	64	17.9	17.9	17.9
Married	274	76.8	76.8	94.7
Others	19	5.3	5.3	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2022/24

The table above indicates the marital status of the respondents. Majority of the respondents representing 76.8% of the respondents are married, 17.9% of the respondents are single while the remaining 5.3% choose others as their response. This implies that majority of the sampled local government areas of Anambra are married.

Table 3: Age Distribution of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18 - 30 years	62	17.4	17.4	17.6
31 - 40 years	89	24.9	24.9	42.3
41 - 50 years	170	46.6	46.6	88.9
51 years and above	36	10.1	10.1	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table above shows the age distribution of the respondents. It revealed that 62 respondent representing 17.4% falls within the age bracket of 18 - 30 years. 89 respondents representing 24.9% fall within the age bracket of 31 to 40 years, 46.6% of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 41 to 50 years, while the remaining 10.1% fall within the age bracket of above 51 years and above. This implies that majority of the sampled members of people of Anambra State falls within the age bracket of 41 - 50 years.

Table 4. Showing the gender Distribution

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Female	168	42.0	42.0	42.0
Male	232	58.0	58.0	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: *Author's computation, 2024*

The data in Table 4 show the marital status of respondents in the thirteen ministries. The results show that majority of the 400 respondents are married. They account for 58 % (232) of the respondents. 30% are single, 4% are divorcee and the remaining 8% account for respondents who have lost their source (i.e. widows 6% and widowers 2%).

Table 5. Showing marital Status

Table 4.3 Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Single	120	30.0	30.0	30.0
Married	232	58.0	58.0	88.0
Divorced	16	4.0	4.0	92.0
Widow	24	6.0	6.0	98.0
Widower	8	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: *Author's computation, 2024*

The distribution for the age range of the respondents in Table 4.4 and figure 4.2 above shows that most of the respondents for the study are between the age of 35 to 44 years old, with a frequency percentage of 36%.26% are between the age of 45 to 54 years, 22% are between the ages of 25 to 34 years, 12% are at the peak of their service year and the remaining 4% are between the ages of 18 to 24 years.

Table 6 Showing the distribution of age range

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-24	16	4.0	4.0	4.0
	25-34	88	22.0	22.0	26.0
	35-44	144	36.0	36.0	62.0
	45-54	104	26.0	26.0	88.0
	55-60	48	12.0	12.0	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: *Author's computation, 2024*

The evidence on the highest education qualification of the participants of the study as shown in table 6, revealed that over 76% have HND/BSc and above as their highest education qualification (60% have HND/BSc, 10% have MSc and 6% have a PhD). This shows that most of the respondents are educated to university level. The distribution for respondents with highest education qualification less than a university degree such as NCE/ND, WASC/GCE and FSLC have a frequency percentage of 8%, 12% and 4% respectively. The distribution shows that majority of the participants her highly educated and as such there is an evident level of literacy within the study area.

Table 7, showing Highest Educational Qualification

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	FSLC	16	4.0	4.0	4.0
	WASC/GCE	48	12.0	12.0	16.0
	NCE/ND	32	8.0	8.0	24.0
	HND/bsc.	240	60.0	60.0	84.0
	Msc.	40	10.0	10.0	94.0
	Phd	24	6.0	6.0	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: *Author's computation, 2024*

The frequency distribution in table 7 show the length of service analysis of respondents. The table and chart show that 160 respondents representing 40 percent of the sample size have been in service for 5 to 10 years, 64 of those respondents representing 16 percent of the sample size have been in service for 11 to 15 years, also 64 of the respondents representing 16 percent of the sample size have been in service for 16 to 20 years, 24 of those respondents representing 6 percent of the sample size have been in service for 21 to 25 years, 40 of the respondents representing 10 percent of the sample size have been in service for 26 to 30 years and 48 of those respondents representing 12 percent of the sample size have been in service for 31 to 35 years.

Table 8: Response on Community development is faced with challenges of vicious cycle of poverty

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	10	2.8	2.8	2.8
	Disagree	30	8.4	8.4	11.2
	Undecided	51	14.3	14.3	25.5
	Agree	132	37.0	37.0	62.5
	Strongly Agree	134	37.5	37.5	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table above indicates that 37.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that Community development is faced with challenges of vicious cycle of poverty, 37.0% of the respondents agreed, 14.3% of the respondents were undecided, 8.4% of the respondents disagreed while 2.8% of the respondents were undecided. This implies that Community development is faced with challenges of vicious cycle of poverty.

Table 9: Response on community development is faced with challenges of high level of illiteracy

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	9	2.5	2.5	2.5
Disagree	12	3.4	3.4	5.9
Undecided	18	5.0	5.0	10.9
Agree	249	69.7	69.7	80.7
Strongly Agree	69	19.3	19.3	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 9 above indicates 19.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that community development is faced with challenges of high level of illiteracy, 69.7% of the respondents agreed, 5.0% of the respondents were undecided, 3.4% of the respondents disagreed while 2.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that Community development is faced with challenges of high level of illiteracy.

Table 10: Response on Community development is faced with challenge of high level of political interference

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	3	.8	.8	.8
Disagree	18	5.0	5.0	5.9
Undecided	60	16.8	16.8	22.7
Agree	156	43.7	43.7	66.4
Strongly Disagree	120	33.6	33.6	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table 10 above indicates that 33.6% of the respondents agree that Community development is faced with challenge of high level of political interference, 43.7% of the respondents agreed, 16.8% of the respondents were undecided, 5.0% disagreed while the remaining 0.8% strongly disagreed. This implies that Community development is faced with challenge of high level of political interference.

Table 11: Response on there is the problem of misappropriation of funds set aside for the projects by few elites in the communities

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Disagree	4	1.1	1.1	2.5
Agree	284	79.6	79.6	82.1
Strongly Agree	64	17.9	17.9	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table above shows that 17.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that There is the problem of misappropriation of funds set aside for the projects by few elites in the communities, 79.6% of the respondents agreed, 1.1% of the respondents disagreed while 1.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that There is the problem of misappropriation of funds set aside for the projects by few elites in the communities.

Table 13: Response on there is the likelihood of vandalization of some of these projects by few miscreants in the communities who as usually conservative to progressive changes.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	26	7.3	7.3	7.3
Disagree	27	7.6	7.6	14.8
Undecided	29	8.1	8.1	23.0
Agree	143	40.1	40.1	63.0
Strongly Agree	132	37.0	37.0	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 13 above indicates that 37.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is the likelihood of vandalization of some of these projects by few miscreants in the communities who as usually conservative to progressive changes., 40.1% of the respondents agreed, 8.1% of the respondents were undecided, 7.6% disagreed while the remaining 7.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that there is the likelihood of vandalization of some of these projects by few miscreants in the communities who as usually conservative to progressive changes.

Table 14: Response on there is equally the problem of politicization of community projects as there will always be vested interest

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	26	7.3	7.3	7.3
Disagree	27	7.6	7.6	14.8
Undecided	29	8.1	8.1	23.0
Agree	143	40.1	40.1	63.0
Strongly Agree	132	37.0	37.0	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 14 above indicates that 37.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is equally the problem of politicization of community projects as there will always be vested interest, 40.1% of the respondents agreed, 8.1% of the respondents were undecided, 7.6% disagreed while the remaining 7.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that There is equally the problem of politicization of community projects as there will always be vested interest.

Table 15 : Community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	122	21.6	27.9	27.9
A	268	47.5	61.3	89.2
SD	31	5.5	7.1	96.3
D	12	2.1	2.7	99.1
U	4	.7	.9	100.0
Total	600	77.5	100.0	

Source: SPSS Output 2024

This question was designed to find out if community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership. The data collected revealed that 27.9% of the respondents strongly agreed that community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership. While two hundred and sixty-eight (268) respondents which represents of 61.3% agreed community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership. More so thirty-one (31) respondents which represent 7.1% strongly disagree community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership. 2.7% as a percentage of twelve (12) respondents disagreed community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership, while four respondents which represent 0.9% were undecided community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership. So community development is faced with challenge of bad leadership.

Table 16: Community development is faced with challenge of poor infrastructure

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	110	19.5	25.2	25.2
A	183	32.4	41.9	67.0
SD	129	22.9	29.5	96.6
D	2	.4	.5	97.0
U	13	2.3	3.0	100.0
Total	600	77.5	100.0	

Source: SPSS Output 2024

The data collected revealed that 25.2% of the respondents which is one hundred and ten (110) strongly agree that community development is faced with challenge of poor infrastructure. Meanwhile one hundred and eighty-three (183) respondents which represents of 41.9% agree community development is faced with challenge of poor infrastructure. More so one hundred and twenty-nine (129) respondent which represent 29.5% strongly disagree to the fact that community development is faced with challenge of poor infrastructure. However, 5% as a percentage of two (2) respondents disagreed to the fact that community development is faced with challenge of poor infrastructure. Lastly, thirteen (13) respondents which represent 3.0% maintained undecided on the fact community development is faced with challenge of poor infrastructure.

Table 17: Community development is faced with challenge of community-urban migration

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	110	19.5	25.2	25.2
	A	183	32.4	41.9	67.0
	SD	129	22.9	29.5	96.6
	D	2	.4	.5	97.0
	U	13	2.3	3.0	100.0
	Total	600	77.5	100.0	

Source: SPSS Output 2024

The data collected revealed that 25.2% of the respondents which is one hundred and ten (110) strongly agree that community development is faced with challenge of community-urban migration. Meanwhile one hundred and eighty-three (183) respondents which represents of 41.9% agree community development is faced with challenge of community-urban migration. More so one hundred and twenty-nine (129) respondent which represent 29.5% strongly disagree to the fact that community development is faced with challenge of community-urban migration. However, 5% as a percentage of two (2) respondents disagreed to the fact that community development is faced with challenge of community-urban migration. Lastly, thirteen (13) respondents which represent 3.0% maintained undecided on the fact community development is faced with challenge of community-urban migration.

Table 18: The problem of maintenance culture will invariably affect the sustainability of some of the projects.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	214	37.9	49.0	49.0
	A	102	18.1	23.3	72.3
	SD	60	10.6	13.7	86.0
	D	24	4.3	5.5	91.5
	U	37	6.6	8.5	100.0
	Total	600	77.5	100.0	

Source: SPSS Output 2024

The table above indicates that two hundred and fourteen (214) respondents which representing 49% agrees strongly that the problem of maintenance culture will invariably affect the sustainability of some of the projects., while 23.3% of the respondents which represents one hundred and two (102) also agree to the fact that the problem of maintenance culture will invariably affect the sustainability of some of the projects. Furthermore,

sixty respondents which are 13.7% strongly disagree that the problem of maintenance culture will invariably affect the sustainability of some of the projects., while 5.5% of the respondents which represent twenty-four (24) disagreed that the problem of maintenance culture will invariably affect the sustainability of some of the projects. Lastly, thirty-seven respondents which represent 8.5% are undecided on the basis that the problem of maintenance culture will invariably affect the sustainability of some of the projects.

Table 19: Community leaders are prone to embezzling the funds set aside for these projects.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	214	37.9	49.0	49.0
	A	102	18.1	23.3	72.3
	SD	60	10.6	13.7	86.0
	D	24	4.3	5.5	91.5
	U	37	6.6	8.5	100.0
	Total	600	77.5	100.0	

Source: SPSS Output 2024

The table above indicates that two hundred and fourteen (214) respondents which representing 49% agrees strongly that the community leaders are prone to embezzling the funds set aside for these projects, while 23.3% of the respondents which represents one hundred and two (102) also agree to the fact that the community leaders are prone to embezzling the funds set aside for these projects. Furthermore, sixty respondents which are 13.7% strongly disagree that the community leaders are prone to embezzling the funds set aside for these projects, while 5.5% of the respondents which represent twenty-four (24) disagreed that the problem of maintenance culture will invariably affect the sustainability of some of the projects. Lastly, thirty-seven respondents which represent 8.5% are undecided on the basis that community leaders are prone to embezzling the funds set aside for these projects.

Table 20: Chi-square Tests for Hypothesis Three

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	113.743 ^a	24	.000
Likelihood Ratio	147.575	24	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	8.829	1	.003
N of Valid Cases	600		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Since the Pearson chi-square value of 113.743 at 24 degree of freedom is significant at .05 alpha level, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. Hence, we conclude that community project initiative has impacted on the provision of infrastructure/ social amenities \ in Anambra State.

Table 21: Pearson Correlation Matrix of Bad Leadership, Absence Of Accountability And Political Interference And Community Development

		Bad Leadership	Absence of Accountability	Political Interference	Community Development
Bad Leadership	Pearson Correlation	1	.983**	.979**	.981**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	400	400	400	400
Absence of Accountability	Pearson Correlation	.983**	1	.995**	.956**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	400	400	400	400
Political Interference	Pearson Correlation	.979**	.995**	1	.951**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
	N	400	400	400	400
Community Development	Pearson Correlation	.981**	.956**	.951**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	400	400	400	400

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: *field survey, 2024*

The Pearson connection between the dependent variable (Community Development) and the independent factors (Bad Leadership, Absence of Accountability and Political Interference) is shown in table 21 above. The Pearson correlation findings were used to determine the degree of connection between the dependent and independent variables; the correlation ranged from -1 (negative) to +1 (positive), with 0 (zero) correlation indicating no link (Field, 2024).

The Pearson correlation results revealed that all Pearson (r) values are positive and closer to one (1). Bad Leadership = .981, Absence of Accountability = .956, and Political Interference = .951, indicating that Bad Leadership, Absence of Accountability and Political Interference are all related to poor community development. At $p < 0.01$, these relationships are statistically significant.

The main aim of this research is to examine whether bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference among other challenges impinged community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. Some variables were considered and hypothesized such as;

Bad leadership, embezzlement and political interference. These variables were employed to create the questions on the research instrument that was eventually utilized to collect data from respondents the chosen local governments in Anambra state. Altogether, 600 respondents were covered.

In addition, the hypothesis formulated were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics as shown in table 6.1 to 6.10. The descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) revealed that the data collected is a good representation of the predictor variables. The summary of the descriptive statistics indicates that bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference among other challenges did not impinge community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. The inferential statistics employed to assess the hypothesized connection further support this.

Furthermore, the Pearson correlation between the criterion variable (Community Chose your Project initiative) and the predictor variables (bad leadership, embezzlement, political interference) contained in table 4.10 revealed that all the Pearson (R) is closer to one (1) and are positive. *Bad Leadership* = .981, *Embezzlement* = .956, *Political Interference* = .951,

an indication bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference among other challenges did not impinge community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. At $p < 0.001$, these associations are statistically significant. It is further being confirmed by the test of hypothesis and the regression coefficient discussed in the paragraphs below:

The respondents agreed that Bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference among other challenges did not impinge community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022 (see table 6.2.7). The regression result in table 6.2.11 further confirmed a positive and significant relationship between Bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference and community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. The finding suggests that bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference among other challenges impinged community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. Thus, as bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference increase by one percent, the community development will increase by 0.588% if the effects of other predictor variables remain constant.

In terms of bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference and community development, the findings of this research are consistent with those of prior studies of Teshome, Shita and Abebe (2021), who observed that community development initiatives play a vital role in the social and economic progress of regions and countries worldwide. In recent years, many local communities in Anambra State, Nigeria, have embarked on various development projects to address the pressing needs of their residents and improve their overall quality of life.

The findings of this study is in line with that of Chukwudi and Owoh (2023), who asserted that Awgbu, located in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State, has faced a myriad of challenges, including limited access to basic amenities, and inadequate infrastructure. Recognizing these challenges and the potential for positive change, the community leaders and members initiated a series of development projects and programs (road construction and maintenance, school building, security buildings, hospital renovations, buildings, and equipment). The study identified several

challenges in the relationship between the state government and these challenges align with the submissions of Zadawa and Omran (2020) which include limited communication and information flow between the government and the community, leadership crises within the community, and expectations for more rapid infrastructure development. Such challenges are not unique to Awgbu but reflect common issues in community-government relationships (Ogujiuba *et al.*, 2022). Addressing these challenges is crucial to fostering a more effective partnership between the Awgbu community and the state government.

The research by Ajor, Akintola, and Okpa (2023) indicated that despite the potential benefits of community development initiatives, there are challenges and barriers that can affect their sustainability. More so, Zadawa and Omran (2020) argued that these challenges may include inadequate funding, lack of community participation, political instability, and environmental issues. Al-Mamun *et al.* (2021) and Demkova, *et al.* (2022) affirmed that understanding these challenges is essential for devising strategies to overcome them and ensure the long-term sustainability of community development projects. Research by Teshome, *et al.* (2021) examined the challenges of sustaining community-based watershed management projects in Ethiopia. The study identified issues such as a lack of community ownership and limited access to resources as barriers to sustainability.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study investigated challenges to Community Project Chose Your Initiative (CPI) on Community Development in Anambra State between 2014 and 2022. In summary the findings, the study revealed that: Bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference among other challenges impinged community development in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. This true as bad leadership, absence of accountability and political interference had Pearson chi-square value of 435.354 at 24 degree of freedom was significant at .05 alpha level.

This study on the impact of Community Project Initiative (CPI) on Community Development in Anambra State between 2014 and 2022. This community-based or community-dictated development approach involves the movement of the people designed to promote better living for the

whole community within the active participation of, and if possible on the initiative of the community concerned. The contribution of self-help development activities to rural community development depends largely on the existence of committed local leaders in the rural areas concerned as well as the extent to which government encourages local planning and participation.

We make the following recommendations as policy statements;

1. The government should set up grass root institutions to help in the fight against bad leadership, while at the same time leaders at the communities should as a matter of fact be ready to give stewardship for the use of public scarce resources. It is equally recommended that government should allow community leaders the use of their personal discretion in the discharge of the duties so assigned to them.
2. Grass root institution should be re-integrated into the scheme of community development like it was in the pre-colonial epoch. This is because effective use of grass root institution is one of the most viable solution to the problem of suitable community development such institutions like the town union, the age-grade, the women wing, the traditional rulers abroad union among others are all grass root institution that when effective mobilization can create significant impact in the process of community development. The local government should therefore find itself the opportunity by harnessing the forces of their institutions and guiding them into a constructive positive channel for optimum result.

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