



**An Assessment of the Broad Expectations of Oil
Communities in Relations to Oil Resource Exploration in
Some Oil Producing Communities of Akwa Ibom State,
Nigeria**

By

Christopher A. Ekpo and Emmanuel P. Udofia
Department of Geography and Natural Resources Management
University of Uyo, Nigeria.
chirsekpo10@gmail.com; udofiaemman@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study assessed the broad expectations of oil communities in relations to oil resource exploration in some oil producing communities of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Systematic random sampling procedure was adopted to obtain data from 141 communities in three local government areas of Esit Eket, Ibeno and Eastern Obolo using 400 respondents obtained from the Taro Yamane formula for sample sizes. Data was obtained from a wide range of stakeholders, community opinion leaders, NGOs, etc. through interviews and direct observation and analysed using descriptive statistics like percentages, charts and graphs. Findings showed that the expectations of the host communities regarding oil activities in the communities have not been met. The people were not satisfied with the type of infrastructure provided in the community. It could be deduced that the oil multinationals actually attempted to perform their corporate social responsibilities to the host communities but are still very far from reaching the desired level. Consequently, the study showed a wide gap between expectations and benefits deliveries. Also, although the MOUs clearly stipulate the expectations, and the oil multinationals seem to emphasize their CSR, the reality on ground points to lack of commitment on the provision of the benefits. It was recommended that Oil companies should put CSR into strategic decision process rather than leaving it for operational managers within the communities they operate, for mere compliance sake. It is the responsibility of the MOCs to give back to the host communities part of their profits not by giving peanuts to chiefs or village heads but by putting longlasting infrastructure in place that will enable the communities benefit from the natural resources God has endowed in their environs.

Key words: Assessment, Expectations, Oil Exploration, Oil Producing Communities, Exploitation, Nigeria.

1) Introduction

Crude oil is a very important resource to man. In most countries of the world where it is exploited, crude oil contributes a large chunk of the GDP. In most third world countries petroleum is the mainstay of the economy. In Nigeria for instance, over 90 % of the foreign exchange earnings are from petroleum resources. The exploitation of this very important resource, if not properly managed, leaves the environment seriously degraded. Consequently, the exploitation is expected to adhere to sound environmental and in fact ecological standards. The host communities, most times are endangered where such standards are not adhered to. On the basis of this, expectations are raised. Sometimes such expectations are enshrined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Sometimes also, it is vague. Whether enshrined or not, the multinational companies in charge of the exploitation are expected to be guided by the framework of corporate social responsibility. Sometimes, they make attempts to deliver benefits to the host communities in order to meet their expectations. At times, they may be playing politics with the issue.

Overall, empirical reviews on the expectations of oil communities in relation to oil resource exploitation highlight the complex and varied nature of these expectations. While some communities may anticipate economic prosperity and improved living conditions, others may be concerned about social and environmental costs. Understanding and addressing these expectations is crucial for sustainable and equitable oil resource exploitation.

In Nigeria, the Chevron GMOU method for CSR for example involves partnership of the oil company with Nongovernmental organizations (NGO) such as Participatory Partnerships for Community Development (PPCD). According to PPCD (2020), the objectives of the OMOU includes Participatory partnership; Transparency and Accountability; Capacity Building; Safety; Security and Rule of Law; Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development.

In Akwa Ibom State, the efforts by Mobil Producing Nigeria (MPN) in this direction were in the areas of healthcare, education, road construction, electricity and water supply. In 2002, however, MPN shifted her focus on community assistance initiatives from the provision of infrastructure to local capacity building and economic empowerment.

Empirical research on the expectations of oil communities in relation to oil resource exploitation are numerous and indicate a range of findings and perspectives. For instance, Schilling et al. (2015) investigated the nexus of oil, conflict, and climate change vulnerability in pastoral communities in northwest Kenya. The research suggested that oil exploration increased the vulnerability of these communities to climate change. Additionally, unmet expectations for water, employment, and development pose a significant risk for violent conflict between local communities and the operating oil company. This implied that the expectations of oil communities regarding basic needs and development opportunities may contribute to tensions and conflicts.

Arthur & Amo-Fosu (2020) discussed the balance of benefits and challenges of oil and gas exploitation in the Ghanaian context. The study identifies five main environmental impacts in nearby communities: low fish catch, loss of jobs and

livelihoods, increase in accommodation cost, environmental degradation or pollution, and cultural change. On the other hand, the study also highlights major benefits, such as the development of social amenities and increased income levels for people living near oil and gas development sites (Arthur & Amo-Fosu, 2020).

On their part, Asaah, Mohammed and Stanley (2022) used a qualitative approach to explore local perceptions of oil and gas extraction in Ghana. The study suggested that local perceptions of oil and gas extraction were mixed, with some communities expecting significant benefits while others had concerns about environmental degradation and displacement.

In a related study, Attah and Amoah (2023) examined the effects of extractive activities on the well-being of local communities and assesses stakeholder expectations of resource benefits and the corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices of oil companies in Ghana. The study used a qualitative approach based on an exploratory research design to investigate the opinions and experiences of stakeholders in the growing oil and gas industry in Ghana. The empirical findings demonstrated that entry negotiated agreements and local content requirements in the offshore oil industry have minimal benefits because of the lack of linkages with the economies of local communities.

It should be noted that, despite widespread adoption of partnerships and claims of its benefits, the reality is that partnership remains a fragile field. The challenges confronting or inherent to partnership are still relatively unclear; as such issues are yet to be fully explored. In addition, what constitutes a partnership is largely a matter of debate and most importantly, we have been unable to learn about the actual impact of partnership on the intended beneficiaries of CSR (Banerjee, 2001; Margolis and Walsh, 2003).

The Niger Delta, famous for the endemic conflict between host oil communities and Multi-national Oil Companies (MOCs), provides a fertile ground for exploring some of the issues highlighted above. The persistent incidence of kidnapping of oil-workers and hostage taking, blockade of oil facilities, oil pipeline vandalization, neglect of host communities and human rights violation with subsequent corporate reputational damage have negatively impacted both government revenue and corporate profit.

Critics have argued that CSR is a distraction for business from meeting its primary goal of profit making, an inefficient means of allocating scarce resources, and that business lacks the legitimacy and competency to take on any such responsibility outside its primary goal and/or area of expertise (Henderson, 2001). In contrast, proponents of CSR have responded that the monumental increase in business power, the widespread incidence of corporate misdemeanours, issues of ethics and the increasing inability of governments to meet their basic responsibility to society as well as regulate business activities have meant that the acceptance of social responsibility by business was both inevitable and a necessity (Bowie, 1991; Moon, 2001). While this debate is far from being resolved, the emphasis has since shifted from whether corporations should imbibe the principles of CSR in their host communities to the extent which this principle can influence corporate decisions and practices and how business can best address its social responsibilities. Partly, in response to the critics' argument that CSR is costly, the coinage of the 'business case' for CSR increasingly became a formidable cornerstone for securing

business commitment to CSR. The business case suggested that, business acceptance of social responsibility invariably results in a “win-win” situation for both business and its stakeholders, being the array of oil producing communities as indicated in this study.

Addressing environmental issues that matter to the poor in the communities is critical to sustained poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Foxcroft (2005) for instance, observed that the failure of the Nigerian state to provide or actively encourage social and economic development in the Niger Delta has led to reliance by the government and oil producing communities on Multinational Oil Companies (MOCs). This translates to the fact that Nigeria’s economic and social policies and public administration have clearly accentuated poverty in the Niger Delta more than in other regions of the country. The result has been the evolution of a mind-set and culture of dependence on the MOCs. In the process, the oil producing communities have resorted to expecting and demanding ‘socio-economic development’ from the MOCs. Such expectations have become the greatest security challenge to the government and the region. This is because the exploitation of such resources generate critical issues which can reduce their capability to cope, thereby increasing poverty.

This general objective of the study was first, to highlight the expectations as contained in the MoU signed between the oil multinationals and the host communities and second, to assess the broad expectations of oil producing communities in relation oil resource exploration in some oil producing communities in Akwa Ibom State.

2) Study Area

Location and Aerial Extent: Akwa Ibom State is one of the States in the Niger Delta Region (Figures 1.1) and it lies entirely on the coastal plain of Southern Nigeria with a landmass of 8,412 sq.km. As shown in Figure (1.1), there are 31 LGAs divided into three Senatorial Districts with Uyo as the State Capital. It is located between latitudes 4°30’ and 5°30’ N and longitude 7°30’ and 8°15’ E. The study area being the “core” oil producing Communities is bounded by Ikot Abasi, Mkpato Enin, Onna, Nsit Ubium, Eket, Okobo, Urue Offong Oruko and Mbo local government areas.

Relief and Drainage: Akwa Ibom State is drained by two major systems - the Kwa Iboe River and the Cross River systems. The Kwa Iboe River then flows down the gentle sloping sandy plain in a fairly wide valley and well developed flood plain near Eket and a wide estuary at Ibeno, many of the tributaries are seasonal streams. Apart from the extreme north eastern corner of Obotme and around Itu where the terrain is intensely dissected, the landscape of the State consists of a generally low lying plain and riverine environment with no portion rising more than 175 meters above the sea level (Usoro, 2010).

The relief of the study area is characterised by mangrove swamps that develops at a very rapid rate extending into the estuaries and flood plains of the Imo River at Ikot Abasi, the Kwa River estuary and flood plain at Eket, and the Cross River estuary at Oron and the Enyong river estuary and flood plain at Itu.

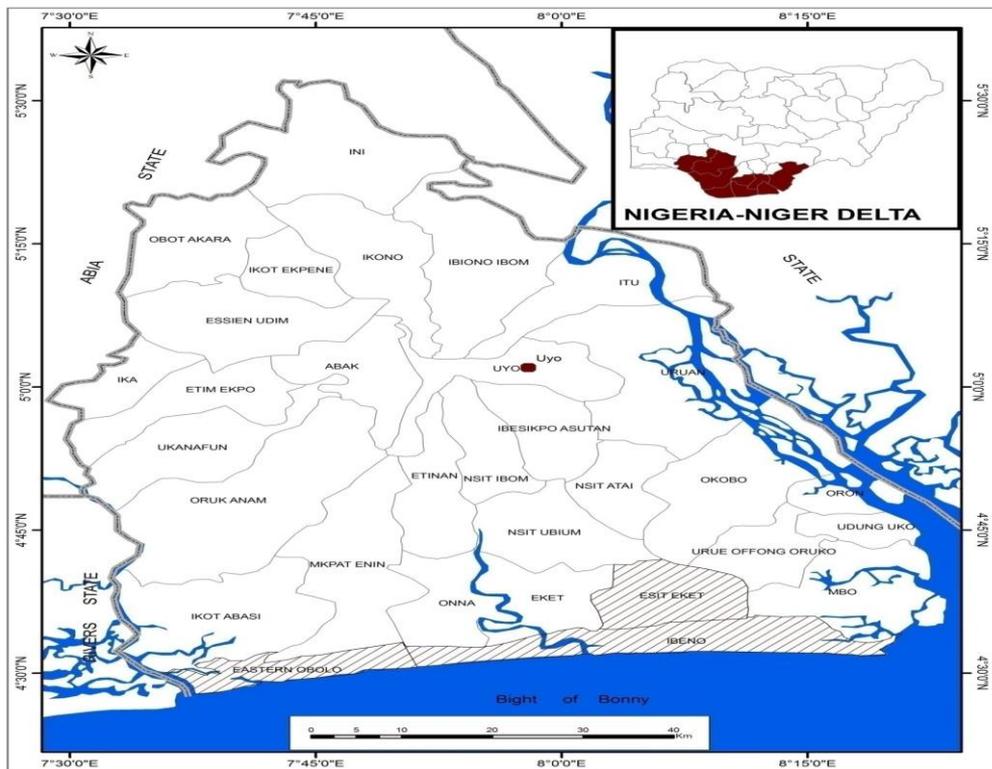


Fig. 2.1: Akwa Ibom map [Insert Nigeria - Niger Delta] showing Study Area
 Source: Office of the State Surveyor General, Akwa Ibom State.

Climate: The State is characterized by seasonality of climate in which wet season is followed by a dry season. Seasonal variation in the rainfall is mainly attributed to the two major air masses which influence the climate of the entire State. These are the moisture laden Tropical maritime air mass from the Atlantic Ocean and the dry Continental (CT) - air-mass, which comes from the Sahara Desert. The wet season begins in about March and continues through November (Udosen, 2008). A slight break of about two weeks occurs in August giving rise to a two-maximum regime in which the wettest months are July and September. The rainfall pattern is marked by heavy torrential storms of short duration but high intensity and destructive power. The relative humidity remains high all through the year except during the short harmattan spell.

The air temperatures within the study area are continually high and changes slightly within the year, the highest temperatures are recorded between February and March and the mean annual temperature ranges between 26°C and 28°C in the study area; lower temperature is due to the moderating effect of oceans.

Vegetation and Land Use: The vegetation of the study area is characterised by fresh water swamp forest, mangrove swamp forest and some patches of secondary forest. Variation in vegetation exists mainly due to variability in climate, geomorphology and soil (Ekanem, 2010). These factors interact to influence the distribution of vegetation.

Fresh Water Swamp Forest is largely found but not restricted to fresh water courses predominantly along the major systems that drain the area. Mangrove Swamp Forest is found along the coastal creeks and estuaries of the study area. It is dominated by varieties of red mangrove trees. The trees may be up to 50 metres in height with a girth of about 2.7metres (Areola, 1982). In many areas where mangroves are found in the study area, the vegetation has been reduced to dense thickets dominated by oil palm trees and lianas.

Secondary Forest: Much of what is today regarded as secondary forest was originally primary forest. The vegetation is made up of continuous canopy of trees. Secondary forest of Akwa Ibom State is predominantly found west of Kwa Iboe estuary extending through the shoreline 7km into inland. These comprises mosaic of primary and secondary forest, scrub and fields including areas of regular cultivations.

Mineral Resources: Akwa Ibom State is characterised by numerous mineral resources which include mudflat, sand flat influenced by the tidally areas and open coastal plains and gravels supplied from various sources delivered by delta tributaries and redistributed by tides and waves (Peters, 1989). The same author stated that the major mineral resources of the area include gravel, claystone, limestone, natural gas, and large deposit of crude oil which is made possible by the mangrove swamp and recent alluvium which extend to the continental shelf of the southern part of the state.

Population: Akwa Ibom State recorded a total population of 3,920,208 (NPC, 2006), census figure and the population of the selected study area is approximately 156,725 with Eastern Obolo having the least number with 17,644 people, Ibeno, 75,380 people and Esit Eket, 63,701 people (NPC, 2006)

Socio-economic Activities: Though the mainstay of Akwa Ibom State economy is claimed to be the oil sector, yet it is the sector with the least number of employment. As such, the economy base of the people is shifted to agriculture and commercial sectors with a few functional industrial base. An insignificant population of the state are either civil or public servants employed in either the federal or state government ministries /departments.

3) Materials and Methods

The objectives of the research were achieved by interviewing a wide range of stakeholders, community opinion leaders, NGOs, etc. The reason behind this was to understand the communities' development needs in order of priorities, the stakeholders' assessment of existing social problems in the host communities and probably their opinion on present and preferred solution or interventions.

Population and Sampling

The study made use of the local government areas of Esit Eket, Ibeno and Eastern Obolo for sampling. These are the areas where most of the oil companies' processing plants and facilities are located and where many of its employees live and interact with members of the host communities. Altogether, there were 141 communities in the three

local government areas. The sampling frame was then constructed from the list of 141 villages in the above-named three local government areas out of which 28 villages which account for 19.8% of the total population were selected for study using the systematic random sampling procedure. This sampling procedure was adopted so as to give each community a fair chance of being selected (Fig. 3.1).

Determination of the Sample Size

From the 1991 Population and Housing Census on Community (Locality) basis, the selection of the 28 communities was based on the population growth rate of 3.4% per annum (NPC, 2009), for 2010 using the 1991 population figures as the base year. This was projected using the geometric growth models.

The main justification for this method is that, it involves relating the population at the time (T) to its population in order to estimate its future by using methods of differential equations. The geometric growth rate model takes the form:

$$P_{tt_n} = P_t (1 + r)^n, \text{ where}$$

P_{tt_n} is the population at the time, r is the growth rate per unit time and n , is the length of the interval for which the projection is made.

On the basis of this method, the total population of the 28 selected communities was projected at 123,480 persons (Table 3.1 a-c). The sample size was statistically determined using the Taro Yamane (1967) formula for a finite population as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

- n = Sample size;
- N = the finite population;
- e = Level of significance (or limit of tolerable error);
- I = Unity (a constant).

Where: $N = 123,480$
 $e = 0.05$

Substituting in the above formula:

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{123,480}{1 + 123,480(0.05)^2} \\ &= \frac{123,480}{1 + 308.7} \\ &= \frac{123,480}{309.7} \\ &= \frac{123,480}{309} \\ &= 399.611 \end{aligned}$$

≈ 400

In order to administer the 400 copies of the questionnaire designed for the study, systematic random sampling procedure was employed in each of the sampled villages. An average of 14 number questionnaires was administered in each village.



Fig. 5: Study Area showing Sampled Villages

Data Acquisition:

For the purpose of this study, copies of the questionnaire and interview methods were used as means of gathering data. An analytical model was developed as a means of deriving the link between corporate responsibilities and development in the environment of the various host communities in Eastern Obolo, Ibena and Esit Eket local government areas under study. Map of Akwa Ibom State showing study area was collected from the office of the State Surveyor General which shows villages/communities in each of the selected local government areas of the State.

Evidence presented in this study is drawn on findings from questionnaire and interviews conducted in host communities and with MOCs’ partners. Local publications by MOC also served as a useful source of secondary data. The study also looks at the Community Development Partnership (CDPs) initiatives by Exxon Mobil, Total amongst others and their potentials in contributing to community development.

Data on Expectations

Data on expectations were obtained from the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the selected oil producing communities in Akwa Ibom. Also, information on the MoU between the oil multinationals and the host communities were collected from the appropriate government agencies including Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), NNPC and the various oil multinational companies.

Expectations indicators as contained in the MoU

1. Basic Infrastructural Development
 - * Provision of alternative good roads (as against track pattern they were used to)
 - * Provision of modern educational facilities
 - * Provision of portable water
 - * Provision of modern and functional medical infrastructures/facilities
2. Youth Development/Empowerment

- * Empowerment of youth through skills acquisition, training and re-training and subsequent engagement
 - * Provision of employment to teaming youths
 - * Total compliance to local content participation roles as contain in the Nigeria’s Local Content Act
3. Environmental Protection
- * Restoration of the ecosystem as well as aquatic system
 - * Land reclamation
 - * Minimise environmental pollution in the form of gas flaring, oil spillage, dredging, deforestation etc.

These indicators were measurably quantified using direct physical observations and enumerations.

Data on Benefits Delivery

Data on benefit deliveries was obtained from personal observation and investigation carried out by purposive sampling strategy whereby selected multinational’s representatives were interviewed. Ministry of petroleum and natural resources were visited where information on MOCs CSR in host communities regarding benefits distribution in their respective areas of operations were obtained from selected personnel who are professionals in the research area. Community leaders were also interviewed to ascertain the level of benefit deliveries accruing to their communities.

Social Survey

A social survey was carried out in the sampled villages as specified in Tables 3.1-3.3. As said earlier; systematic random sampling procedure was applied to select the needed number of households based on the population of each village. In this case, the number of questionnaires administered in the sampled communities was directly proportional to the number of households in such communities as shown in Tables 3.1 to 3.3. To overcome the anticipated problem of illiteracy and difficulties in understanding some issues, trained field assistants were utilized for the activity. Altogether, 400 number questionnaires were utilized and the allocation proportional to the individual community population as shown in Table 3.1

Table 3.1(a): Distribution of Questionnaires in the selected Communities of Esit Eket, Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

S/N	Community Name	2010 Population Projection	Estimated Household Number	No Of Questionnaire Administered
1.	Akpambiet	1,673	334	5
2.	EdorAtai	3,177	635	10
3.	OniokEdor	3,209	641	10
4.	Ekpene Obo	8,690	1738	28
5.	Ikpa	5,611	1122	18

6.	Uquo	11,540	2308	38
7.	Akpautong	8,048	1609	26
8.	EtebiMbakUyo	3,287	657	11
9.	NtakInyang	2,300	460	8
10.	EtebiIdungAssang	4,519	903	15
Sub-Total		52,054	10,407	169

Table 3.1(b): Distribution of Questionnaires in the Selected Communities of Ibeno Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

11.	Upenekang	13,026	2605	42
12.	Iwuoachang	9,422	1884	30
13.	Atabrikang	1,607	321	5
14.	IwuoOkpom Opolom	2,966	593	10
15.	OkoroUtip	2,311	462	8
16.	Mkpanak	17,843	3568	58
17.	Inua Eyet Ikot	631	126	2
18.	Akata	1,261	252	4
19.	Iwuo Okpom	1,236	247	4
Sub-Total		53,782	10,058	174

Table 3.1(c): Distribution of Questionnaires in the Selected Communities Of Eastern Obolo Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

S/N	Community	2010 Population Projection	Estimated Household Number	No Of Questionnaire Administered
20.	Kampa	648	129	2
21.	Okoroette	4,814	962	16
22.	Okoromboho	1,758	351	6
23.	Okoroitti	1,032	206	3
24.	Iko Town	4,364	872	14
25.	Atabrikang	730	146	2
26.	Iko Ikpilaha	1,043	208	3
27.	Emereoke I	968	193	3
28.	Obianga	888	177	3
Sub-Total		17,644	3,244	57
GRAND TOTAL		52,054 + 53,782 + 17,644 = 123,480 People	10,407+10,058+3,244=23,709	169 + 174 + 57 = 400 Questionnaires

The estimated numbers of households (column 4 above) is based on Nigerian Population Commission data of 2006 which approved an average household size of five persons per household.

$$\text{i.e. No of household} = \frac{POP_n}{AHS} = \frac{\text{Population}}{\text{Average-Household-Size}}$$

Interviews

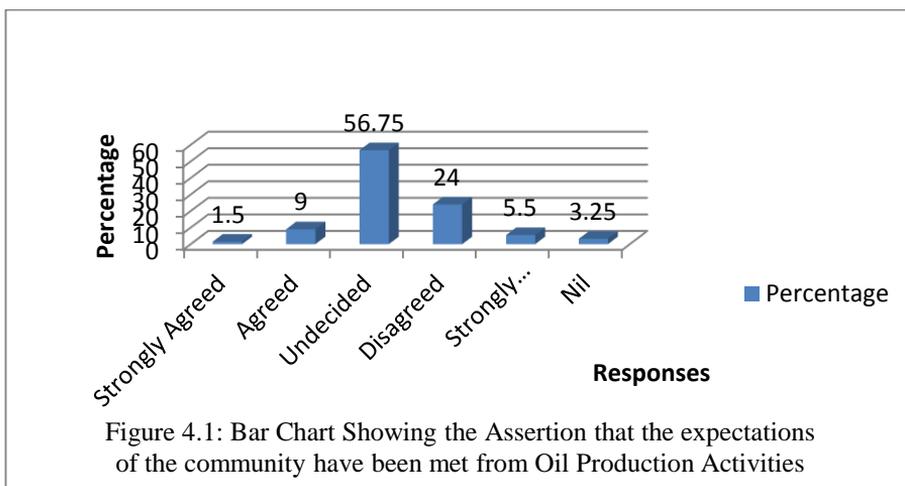
Semi-structured interviews were carried out mostly with the head of sampled household and other range of stakeholders from the host communities. The interviews aimed at gaining insight into people’s experiences and views of the various facets of community expectations and the extent of compliance by relevant parties.

Direct Observations

Systematic observations were also used in which the living conditions, relationships, power structures, state of the environment within each of the sampled host communities were observed and analysed. Notes of key ideas and observations were recorded and analysed.

Results and Discussion

The respondents in the various host communities were asked whether their expectations have been met from oil production activities. From the result shown in Fig. 4.1, it was observed that 56.75% were undecided and therefore indifferent regarding the issue. This was however seconded by those who disagreed (about 24%). The third in the list are respondents who agreed to it (9.0%). It was also observed that 5.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed, while the least in the list recorded 1.5% of the respondents strongly agreed to the assertion that the expectations of the community have been met by the oil companies. However, 3.25% of the respondents failed to respond to the question.



Source: Field work.

Fig. 4.2 presents the descriptive analysis of the expectation of the community from the oil production activities. Such expectations include employment opportunity,

road construction, hospitals, electricity, pipe borne water and market as Fig. 4.2 indicates. From the analysis, it was observed that employment opportunity had the highest with over 28.5% of the total expectations met in the community. This was seconded by construction of good roads (21.75%).

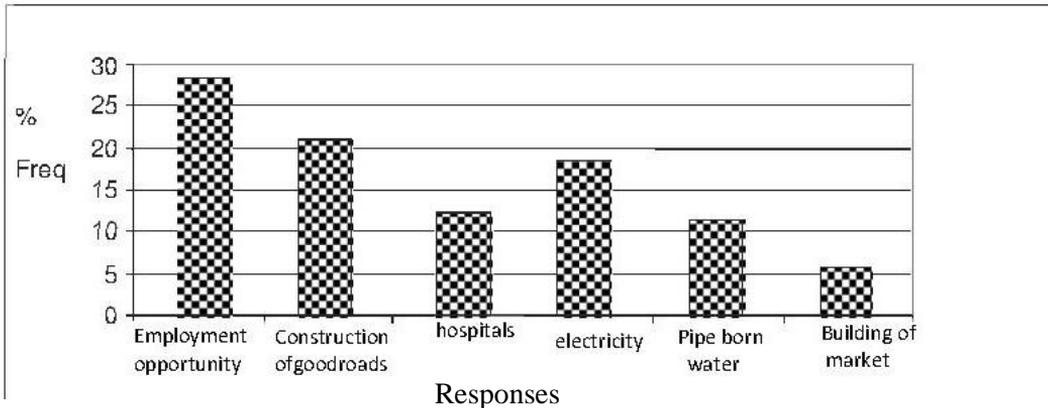


Fig 4.2: Bar Chat showing the expectation of the community from the multinational oil companies

Source: Field work.

The third was electricity (18.0%) and building of hospitals (13.75%) was the fourth on the list. The result proved pipe born water (12.25%) as the fifth expectation while building of market was the least in the list (5.75%).

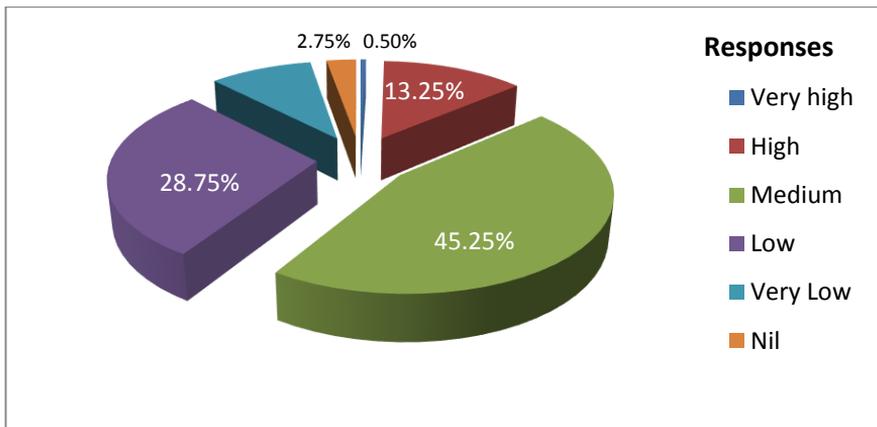


Figure 4.3: Assessment of the extent of development projects and programs provided from petroleum resources in the development of the area.

Source: Field work

Fig. 4.3 presents the descriptive analysis of the level of respondent’s assessment of the extent of infrastructure/development projects and programs provided from petroleum resources in the development of the area. The assessment is on a scale rated Very High through Very Low to Nill. From the analysis, it was observed that most

respondents assessed the extent of infrastructure/development projects and programs to be medium (45.25%). This was seconded by low respondents (28.75%). The third group in the list assessed it to be high (13.25%). Then 9.5% as the fourth position in the list considered it to be very low, while the fifth group of people (2.75%) considered it to be Nil and of course the least assessed it to be very high (0.5%).

The level of infrastructures/development projects and programmes provided from petroleum resources in the development of the area are generally assessed as medium. This meant that much was still expected of the multinational oil companies. Also, that 2.75% of the people assessed such projects as nil indicated that there were households in the host communities that were yet to benefit from such initiatives.

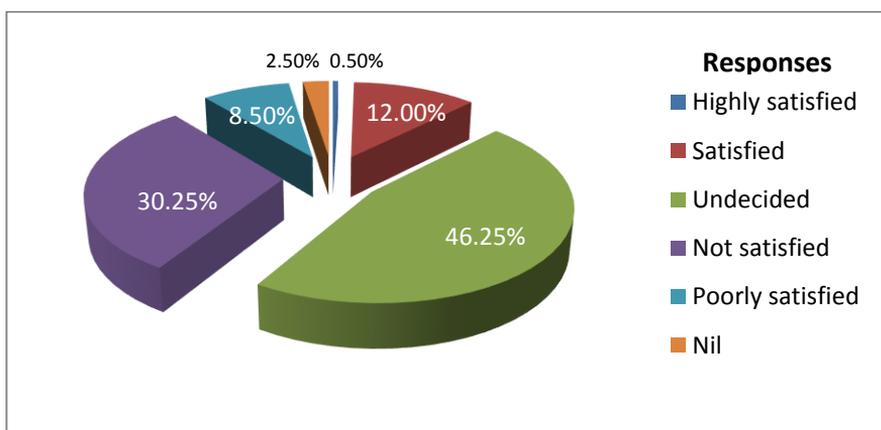


Fig. 4.4: Level of Satisfaction on the Types of Infrastructure Provided in the Community

Source: Field work.

Fig. 4.4 present the descriptive analysis of the level of satisfaction of the type of infrastructure provided in the community. From the analysis, it was observed that most people (46.25%) were unable to decide on their level of satisfaction to the infrastructure provided as a result of petroleum activities in the area. Probed further, it was indicated that such indecision stemmed from lack of awareness of such projects. 30.25% of the respondents were not satisfied with the provision. Their decision was primarily informed by the number, spread and quality of the programmes and projects. The third group of people were satisfied (12.0%). About 8.5% of the people on the list were poorly satisfied, while the least category of people was highly satisfied (0.5%). However, 2.5% of the respondents failed to respond to the question.

Fig. 4.5 presents the descriptive analysis of the major providers of these infrastructures. From the analysis it was observed that Akwa Ibom State Government is the major provider of the infrastructure in the area with about 48% of the projects coming from this source. This was seconded by Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (18.75%), NDDC (14.0%) was observed to be the in the third category. The fourth provider on the list was observed to be ELF Nig. Ltd (9.25%) while local government (2.75%) was seen

as the least provider of these infrastructures in00 the community. However, 7.25% of the respondents failed to respond to the question.

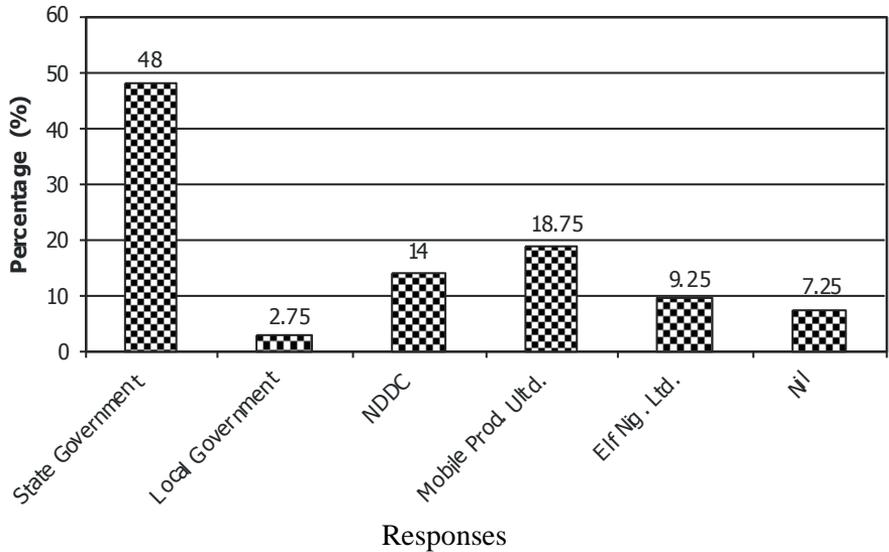


Fig 4.5: Bar Chat showing the major providers of the infrastructures in Akwa Ibom State

Source: Field work.

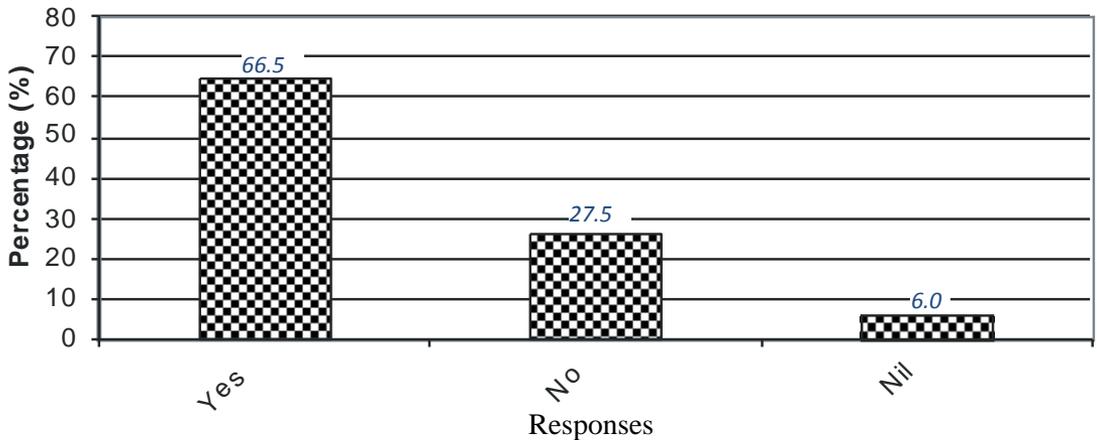


Fig 4.6: Bar Chat showing the regular maintenance of the infrastructure provided
Source: Field work

From the analysis in Fig. 4.6, it was observed that 66.5% of the people affirmed that the infrastructure was regularly maintained while few people (27.5%) disagreed to this fact. However, 6% of the respondents failed to respond to the question.

The expectations of the community from the oil production companies were numerous with employment opportunity and construction of good roads in the lead as has already been summarized in Fig.4.2. There was an average level of

infrastructure/development and programs provided from petroleum resources in the development of the area (see Fig. 4.3). From the above findings, it was obvious that most of the expectations of the community had not been met from oil production activities. The people were not satisfied with the type of infrastructure provided in the community. The major provider of the infrastructure was the Akwa Ibom State government, while companies (Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited and ELF Nig. Ltd supported and NDDC (Federal Government Agency) complimented (see Fig. 4.5). On the strength of the findings made, it was concluded that the expectations of the host communities regarding oil activities in the communities studied had not been met. Consequently, the study indicated a wide gap between expectations and benefit deliveries. Also, although the MOUs clearly stipulated the expectations, and the oil companies seemed to emphasize their CSR, the reality on ground points to a lack of commitment on the provision of the benefits. This is where CORPORATE Social Accountability (CSA) should be employed to enforce CSR. Oil companies should put CSR into strategic decision process rather than leaving it for operational managers within the communities to operate. Also, the government through their agencies such as Directorate of Petroleum Resources (DPR) should act as a driver to ensure that the expected benefits are delivered to the beneficiary communities.

Hence, having assessed the broad expectations of host communities in relations to oil resources exploration, it could be deduced that these oil multinationals have actually attempted to perform their corporate social responsibilities to the host communities but were still very far from reaching the desired level.

Based on the objectives of the study and the findings, it was obvious that:

- i) the expectations of the host Communities had not been met by the multinational oil companies.
 - ii) the expectations are numerous with employment opportunities, construction of good roads, school facilities, water projects, etc being on priority considerations (figure 2);
 - iii) there is average level of the extent of infrastructures/development projects and programmes provided from petroleum resources in the development of the areas however, the people are not satisfied with the type of infrastructures provided in the communities as over 75% percent affirmed this.
- i) the major provider of the infrastructure is Akwa Ibom State government while companies (Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited and Elf Nig. Ltd supports and NDDC (Federal Government Agency) have also assisted in this direction.
 - ii) there is no regular maintenance of the infrastructures provided (plate 9 and 17). Hence, having comprehensively assessed the broad expectations of oil communities in relation to oil resources exploration, it can be deduced that these oil multi-nationals have to some extent performed their corporate social responsibilities to the host communities, though more life transforming activities are still expected.

5) Conclusion and Recommendations

It is generally believed that no matter how benevolent, government alone cannot provide all the needs of its citizens. The development of the economy of any nation is therefore perceived as a joint responsibility: of the citizenry and corporate entities operating within its boundaries. Evidently, multi-national oil companies claim about community development efforts embarked upon as part of their CSR are undeniable. The findings, however, show the need for the oil companies to carry out a re-appraisal of their community developmental efforts in order to ensure that only projects that are directly relevant to the needs of the host communities are executed as part of the companies' CSR efforts. They should be seen as economic power for broader social goals, and to demonstrate environmental responsibility, high standards of ethical behaviour, philanthropic consciousness, greater transparency, partnership with their host communities and accountability in the conduct of CSR in the areas. It is imperative that effective external regulation should be blended with conscious self-regulations. It was recommended that government, through her agencies such as Directorate of Petroleum Resources (DPR), should act as a driver to ensure that the expected benefits are delivered to the beneficiary host communities.

In summary therefore, to fully assess the tenacity of CSR as an instance of direct public policy action, this should be adopted to decisively deal with the dearth of infrastructure, life transforming programmes, nay meeting the expectations and benefits deliveries of the host communities. However, the results obtained from the research have established commendable watershed on the CSR and standard of living in the local oil communities in Akwa Ibom State. Corporate social Responsibility, a strategy by the multi-national oil companies, could thus be associated with playing a meaningful role in rural development of the host communities and Akwa Ibom State in general.

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