

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) PROGRAMMES IN AWKA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (LGA) OF ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The term community participation is commonly understood as the collective involvement of Local People in assessing of their needs and organizing strategies to meet those needs. The importance of community participation in Millennium Development Goals Programme is uncontested. Communities in Awka North lack infrastructures such as good roads, healthcare, electricity, pipe born water, schools etc. the study analyzed the level of community participation in the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) programmes in Awka North LGA of Anambra State. Awka North LGA is made up of 10 autonomous communities where data were obtained from 100 respondents with the help of multi stage sampling technique. Data obtained were analyzed using both descriptive statistics (frequency tables, simple percentage and 5-point scale analysis with standard mean of 3.0) and inferential statistics. The result revealed that MDGs have implemented and executed some reasonable developmental programmes in the area. Also, there was evidence that communities are involved to an extent. In order to strengthen and enhance community participation in developmental programmes, the following recommendations are made; the community should be allowed to identify and make choice on the type of programmes and projects they went in their community. Also, the government officials should allow the community to be involved in the design, planning and formulation of the programmes. All these will encourage full participation of the community.*

**KEYWORDS:** Communtiy Participation, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Nigeria

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## **INTEGRATION**

### **Background of the Study**

Community participation in development activities is as old as man itself. Men had to work individually and collectively to make life better for them. Prior to the onset of colonial administration, communities had engaged in communal effort as a mechanism for mobilizing community resources to provide physical improvement and functional facilities in the socio-political and economic aspects of their lives (Olukotun, 2008).

Participatory development had its origin in the fact that people have need for self reliance and small-scale development and also the need to find a way to improve common destiny. As Amos (2003) asserts more inputs was added to this participatory development when it was noted that many large scale government intended development programs, from schooling to health, to credit, to irrigation systems were performing poorly while rapidly degrading common pool

resources were created significant negative environmental and poverty impacts. These discoveries and complaints therefore awaken interest in the local management of resources and decisions.

Chambers (2007) arguing for participatory development opine that participatory ideas need to be applied to small scale development in ways that would allow the communities to inform participants in development with external agents acting mainly as facilitators and sources of fund. Other researcher such as Amos (2003) and Stanly (2003) have led to the inclusion of community participation as a crucial means of allowing the poor to have control over decisions. The inclusion of participatory element in development has been accepted and implemented by development agencies and the World Bank.

In Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) programs, community involvement is also recognized ad sought for in the design and implementation of development programmes since elected representatives most often do not always take care of the interest of the poor and local councils lack the capacities to articulate peoples development agenda, community's active participation is very necessary for sustainability. Programmes that fail to factor in this participatory ideals are ephemeral and unsustainable because communities do not see them as their own or have inputs in their designs and implementation.

Community participation according to Olukotun (2008) refers to a sort of partnership which is built upon the basis of dialogue among the various actors during which the agenda is jointly set and local vies/indigenous knowledge are deliberately sought and respected. The general principles of community participation include.

- Encouraging communities to take responsibilities
- Promote participation for all
- Reconcile different interest
- Examine the problem/situation from different points of views
- Adapting the programme/activity to local situation.

Most programmes of the Millennium Development Goals are meant to accommodate community participations. These programmes ranging from elimination of extreme poverty, malnutrition, infant mortality, illiteracy and elimination of gender inequalities are believed to make more impact if community voices are heard both in the design and implementation of the projects.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Enhancing community participation in development activities has attracted the attention of policy makers, development agencies and researchers in recent years. Especially with regards to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) programmes, it is believed that deepening community participation I the design and implementation of development programmes will accelerate the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

A number of MDGs programmes have been designed and implemented in Anambra State since 2007. These programs include construction projets such as building of schools, hospitals, capacity building projects such as workshops and awareness creation/campaigns. These

programmes aimed at reducing extreme poverty, infant mortality, gender inequality and illiteracy. Regrettably, majority of these programmes that have been implemented did not achieve the desired result (Olukotun 2008). He further observed that, facilities constructed under the programme are not been patronized by the people they were meant to serve. There are a number of complaints that some of the programs executed did not factor in the peculiarities by the people they were meant to serve. There are a number of complaints that some of the programmes executed did not factor in the peculiarities of the indigenous community and that communities were not involved in the design and implementation of the MDGs programmes. Government and development agencies on the other hand felt that some communities were being difficult and that the level of participation was not significant enough and this situation has created an impasse between the donor agencies and government on one side, and benefitting communities on the other side (Oyasanya 2013). Similarly, according to information gotten from desk officer in the MDGs office, Anambra state government house, Awka North L.G.A is one of the communities that is being difficult to get the community involved in the programmes of MDGs in the state. As such, this study became very necessary and is therefore meant to “analyze the extent of community participation on these MDGs programmes in Awka North L.G.A of Anambra State and also to assess the effects of such participation level on the sustainability of the MDGs projects.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The major objective of the study is to analyze the level of community participation on the millennium development goals (MDGs) programmes in Anambra State with special focus on Awka North L.G.A.

The specific objectives include:

1. identify the types of the MDGs programme that have been implemented in the area of study.
2. assess the level of community involvement in the design and implementation of the identified MDGs programmes.
3. determine the effects of community participation on the success and sustainability of the MDGs programmes.
4. identify hindrance to community participation in MDGs programmes in the area.

### **Study Hypotheses**

H0<sub>1</sub>: Communities in Awka North L.G.A are not involved significantly in the programmes of MDGs in Anambra State.

H0<sub>2</sub>: Communities participation level has no significant effects on the success and sustainability of the programmes.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### **The Millennium Development Goals Programmes: The Nigerian Experience**

The United Nations at the Millennium Summit on September 2000 in New York concretized and it resolved to make measurable improvement on the lives of the world's poorest citizens through the development of eight point's agenda commonly called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They include;

- To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- To achieve universal primary education
- To promote gender equality and empower women
- To reduce child mortality
- To improve maternal health
- To combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other disease
- To ensure environmental sustainability
- To develop a global partnership for development.

According to Soludo (2004), at the inception of the MDGs programme in Nigeria, three major challenges that could deter the country from achieving the 2015 benchmark were;

Firstly, the heavy external debt burden that affect the finances of the government and the economy. For instance, in 2000, Nigeria's debt service obligation was over 5% of GDP. This represented three times the national education budget, nine times the health budget – a significant drain for a country faced with an illiteracy rate of 57.0 percent and confronted with HIV/AIDs scourge.

Secondly, poverty which has persisted despite a series of government intervention.

Thirdly, corruption which makes Nigeria unattractive to investors as it raises the cost and risk of doing business in the country.

The Nigerian experience at present revealed that it might be difficult to meet the 2015 target. In the issue of eradication of poverty. Recent economic growth particularly in agriculture has markedly reduced the proportion of underweight children from 35.7 percent in 1990 to 23.1 percent in 2008. (UNDP Report 2009). However, growth has not generated enough jobs and its effects on poverty are not yet clear. Growth needs to be more equitable and board-based.

Developing agriculture and creating jobs will require the public sector to create an enabling environment for business, including building critical infrastructure, making regulatory services transparent and providing sustainable access to enterprise finance. For effectiveness in meeting the 2015 target, social protection and poverty eradication programme needs to be scaled-up and better coordinate.

In the Goal number 2 (achieving universal primary education) a reasonable achievement has been made. Nearly nine out of ten children (88.8%) are now enrolled in school. Nevertheless,

regional differences are staked especially in the North. There is also completion rate due to poor learning environment and the need to raise reaching standard. Recent report on MDGs programmes in Nigeria revealed that youth literacy that has risen from 64.1% in 2000 to 80% in 2008 appears to have reached a plateau. According to Soludo (2004), the universal basic education scheme is a promising initiative that needs to be reformed and strengthened and teachers in service training scheme needs to be expanded and improved.

In the area of reducing child mortality, there is strong possibility of achieving the target by 2015. Under five years mortality has fallen by over a fifth in five years, from 201 deaths per 1000 live births in 2003 to 157 deaths per 1000 live births in 2008. In the same period, infant mortality fell even faster from 100 to 75 deaths per 1000 live births. However, key challenges threatening the attainment of this target include unsatisfactory routine immunization, absence of infrastructures, human resource, equipment, consumables and betterment.

According to MDGs (2008) the gradual improvement in the proportion of girls enrolled in primary school, though noteworthy is not yet enough to meet the target. There still fewer girls than boys in school. There are signs of backsliding in the number of girls in tertiary education. Measures to encourage girls to attend school particularly by addressing cultural barriers in the north of the country and to provide the economic incentive for boys to attend school in the south-east are urgently required. Moreover, the level of women representation in government is not encouraging even though some gains have been recorded.

Nigeria has made appreciable progress in improving maternal health. From 800 deaths per 100,000 births in 2003 (the highest maternal rate in the world) to 545 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008. Many believed that Nigeria will achieve this target by 2015. However, the number of skilled workers has remained low which caused great gap in the number of demand and supply of pre-natal and ante-natal sources. In the area of eradicating diseases, Nigeria has achieved striking success especially in eradicating polio and HIV prevalence. The case of polio has been reduced by 98% as at 2010 and prevalence rate of HIV has reduced from 5.8% in 2001 to 4.2% in 2008. There has also been a sharp decrease in malaria prevalence rates.

Despite the successes recorded so far, there is the need for consolidate and extend the progress by embarking on preventive health campaigns, increasing knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS, improving access to antiretroviral therapies and implementation of the strategic framework for disease control and prevention.

Among the eight MDGs, Nigeria has lagged behind seriously in goal number 7 and 8 which is ensuring environmental sustainability and development of global partnership for development respectively. For instance, UNDP (2008) asserts that 2000 and 2010, the area of forest shrank by a third from 14.4% to 9.9%. Similarly, access to safe water and sanitation is a serious challenge because it was structurally difficult to translate sustainability public investments in water into effective access. This requires more involvement by communities to identify local needs, and better planning to deliver and sustainable solution.

A general view of Nigeria performance in the last decades as regard MDGs programme is that Nigeria has not performed well and may not meet the targets in 2015. What is required is an urgent need for managerial, technical and financial resources to deal with the challenges. As Oyasanya (2013) asserts, majority of Nigerians believed that only very little has been achieved through the MDGs programmes owing to the population of people living in abject poverty, the number of people who could not send their children to school, inadequate health facilities,

insufficient portable water, persistent environmental degradation and other negative developmental issues proposed to be addressed via the MDGs programmes and projects.

Oyasanya (2013) observed that the major hindrance to MDGs programmes in Nigeria is that people do not know about the projects and were not involved in the design and implementation.

Olukotun (2008) discovered that a large number of MDGs projects such as dams, boreholes, small town/regional water schemes, healthcare centre, primary schools, skill acquisition centers etc initially aimed at serving the needs of the people were abandoned, due lack of community ownership, poor maintenance and other reasons. That shows that local sub-contractors were not used for the MDGs projects. Community based organization and community leaders were not involved in the design and implementation of MDGs projects.

Some MDGs projects are not respectful of community ideals and that MDGs employees were not involved in community initiatives.

### **The Concept of Community Participation in Development Activities.**

Community refers to a group of people living together in the same locality and under the same government. It includes; parents, guardians, corporate organizations etc. communities over the years have been involved in community development activities for their individual and collective benefit through one organization or the other. Most often this is none of a voluntary organization. Members are not paid for rendering services but are willing to work together because of other reasons. According to Ohiani and Oni (2005) people saw the need for economic progress; they gather themselves into cooperatives to achieve what they would not achieved individually. They see community development as a method of helping local communities to become aware of their needs to assess their resources more realistically, to organize themselves and their resources in such a way as to satisfy their needs and in so doing acquire the attitude, experience and cooperative skills for repeating this process again and again on their own initiative. This is however contrary to the view expressed by Olson (2003) that without coercion or some other special device to make individual act their own interest.

Communities cannot afford to fold their arms and wait for government to bring all the facilities to them. They also struggle on their own to live a life of ease. This is because according to Ihimodu (1997), said that the people in their own little communities have their own realms just like the elites at the centre. Their dream of the quality of life they would want to have, the environment and the facilities, which they would want to have, the kind of society which they envisage for their children. The impetus for development should come from the bottom or rather, it is important to feel the pulse of the average person in the community and in the spirit elicit from him, his vision of development and how the development can be sustained. As Olukotun (2008) puts it, it is not only enough to identify the vision of a community for development, it is also important to get their views of their plans to achieve their vision. This is because people will change only if they participate in the decision about the change.

### **Rationale for Community Participation in Projects that Affects Them**

Okafor, (2005) observed the following scenarios when communities participate in a projects that effect them.

- Empowering communities improve efficiency



- Local participation yield better projects, better outcomes
- Greater transparency and accountability enhances service delivery
- Community participation can kick start local, private contractors.
- It also encourages donor harmonization.

Communities who are the beneficiaries for projects should not be seen as targets of poverty reduction efforts but should be seen as assets and partners in the development process. In fact, experience has shown that given access to information and appropriate support, communities can effectively organize to provide goods and services that meet their immediate priorities. This is because communities have considerably capacity to plan and implement programmes when empowered (Trade 2001). Communities, having enjoyed so much working and living together, having enjoyed each other's confidence and relationships, having collaborated for so long to achieve common objectives, having sat together to take decisions for common good would not easily accommodate 'strange' projects. It is logical and reasonable to think any attempt at breaking this bond would be resisted. This is the reason for the failure of many projects that has not element of community involvement.

Some government officials in their 'wisdom' established projects in communities without consultations (idea generation and mode of implementation) with communities and majority of such projects either failed or were abandoned. For instance, the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) no doubt did great job around the contry but majority of their projects failed. Ihimodu (2007) reported that many DFRRI roads were over gorown with grasses and boreholes were unkept and that when communities where asked why, they replied that they could not organize for their maintenance since they had not been involved in the process. The argument follows that since the people are the beneficiaries of the development plans and projects. They have a stake in it; they must be partners in the process. They must be the key participants whose views, choices, needs and feelings must be taken into account if sustainable development will be achieved.

According to Igboeli (2002), no matter the level of technical and financial assistance offered to self-help groups, the member should share actively in the decision to undertake certain projects.

That is, rather than imposing development projects on a community, its members should be allowed to participate meaningfully in the planning and execution. Development is meaningless if it does not harness the potentials of the beneficiaries who are the primary stakeholders. It is important therefore to find out what ways the people think they can participate in the process of achieving the vision. As Olukotun (2008) opined, emphasis should shift from bringing government closer to the people, but bringing the people closer to the beneficiaries partake in key project decisions. Mansuri and Rao (2004) listed the benefits of community participation to include;

- It will lead to better designed projects
- Better targeted benefits
- More cost effective
- It will lead to more equitable distribution of projects benefits

- It will lead to less corruption
- It will strengthen the capabilities of the citizens to undertake self-initiated development activities
- It improves the match between what a community needs and what it obtains. This is because the project will be more consistent with the preference of the target group

### **Effect of Community Participation on Achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

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. 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.

Okafor (2005) observed that decades of spending of billions of dollars to eradicate poverty with over 300 million people in Africa living below less than one dollar a day. These people are completely alienated, disempowered and vulnerable. World Bank evaluation of project indicated that those projects that have community participation have succeeded and were rated satisfactorily. Evidence from donors and NGOs has shown that when the poor people are empowered with resources, voices, etc. it really leads to sustainable development.

Olukotun (2008) reported that when the poor were asked indicate what make the greatest difference to their lives and what can make their projects sustainable. They responded;

- Organization of their own so that they can negotiate with government traders and NGOs
- Direct assistance through community driven programmes so that they can shape their own destinies
- Local ownership of funds so that they can end corruption; they want government to be accountable to them.

### **Ways Communities Can Participate in the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria**

With less than two years to the December 2015 deadline for the achievement of MDGs objectives, Nigeria is still very far from achieving the targets. Despite all the resources available, Nigeria still lags behind in meeting the deadline. The greater Development goals (MDGs) and the significant values they can add in achieving the goals. UNPAN (2012)



identified various ways through which communities can participate in training the MDG targets;

1. **Involvement:** Greater results would be achieved if citizens are involved in the policy making process that affect their lives alongside the government. Nigerians seems to be out of the loop of what goes on in the economy. Many Nigerians are oblivion of who the leaders of various government institutions are, hence are unable to know who and for what to hold accountable.
2. **Volunteerism:** his is an area that has remained unexplored in Nigeria over the years; hence, the multipliers effects accrue from volunteerism are lost. Volunteerism gives volunteers first-hand experience on the challenges facing an area, recognition of impact of projects on people's life and expectations.
3. **Empowerment:** Citizens make their voices heard through effective participation in monitoring and reporting of their daily life experiences. Using phones, citizens can monitor economic and social activities through text messaging and calls. Through this they can hold governments accountable on the premises they make.
4. **Collaboration:** Communities need to cooperate and collaborate if the targets of the MDGs will be achieved knowing that these goals is not solely exclusive to an individual, the need for collaboration cannot be over emphasize.
5. **Respect for one Another:** Nigerians see themselves with different perception of identity. Intolerance among Nigerians has eroded their respect for each other. This poses a great challenge in bringing people together to work for common purpose.

### Theoretical Framework

This paper is based on theory of collaboration. Collaboration is a promising mode of human engagement but in order to become more than a passing fad, it is a theoretical structure and framework needed to guide individuals and group towards successful collaboration (Heiner, 1992)

Conceptually, collaboration is a recursive process where two or more people or organizations work together in an intersection of common goal by sharing knowledge, learning and builden consensus. Most collaboration requires leadership, although the form of leadership can be social w,ithin a decentralized and egalitarian group. In particular, teams that work collaboratively can obtain greater resources, recognition and reward when facing competition for finite resources.

Collaboration has of recent assumed an increased attention following the advocacy by many donor agencies as a means of solving a number of global challenges such as poverty, job creation rural development, diseases and conflicts. Indeed, the need in society to think ad work together on issues of crucial concern has increased. (Austin, 2000, Noam 2001).

Theory of collaboration can be used to predict and influenced member behaviours, analyze a member perception of equity and provide insight inton reasons for cooperative spirit and improve member participation in activities that will benefit generally of the citizens.

## METHODOLOGY

### Area of Study

The area of study was Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State. The Local Government is close to the Anambra State Capital territory. It consists of towns namely: Amansea, Mgbakwu, Ebenebe, Oba-Ofemili, Isuaniocha, Achalla, Urum, Ugbene, Ugbenu and Amanuke. The area is semi-Urban with literacy rate of 62%. Inhabitants are civil servants, petty traders and peasant farmers/artisan.

### The Population

The population of the study consists of all adult population that live in Awka North LGA who can attend meetings, and participate in community development activities. According to National Population Commission (NPC) 2006 census, there are 69,000 adults in the ten communities that make up the Local Government area. These adults belong to different interest groups and community based organizations (CBOs) e.g youth groups, women groups town union, age grade etc.

### Sample Size determination and Sampling Procedure

There are 10 communities/towns in Awka North LGA with 69,000 adults (NPC, 2006), belonging to different interest groups/community based organization (CBOs). Multistage sampling technique was used to determine the sample size.

Three interest groups /CBOs were purposively selected across the 10 towns in Awka North LGA judgmental sampling technique was used based on the record of high involvement of these CBOs in the MDGs programmes. The selected CBOs are Youth Groups; Women Groups and Town Unions.

For effective representative and accessibility to information the leaders of these interest groups/CBOs were also purposively selected.

Simple random sampling technique was used to select 3 leaders each from Youth and Women Groups while 4 leaders were randomly selected from Town Union in all the 10 towns in Awka North LGA.

**Table 1**

S/N	Town/Communities in Awka North LGA	No of Selected CBOs/Interest Group	No of Selected CBOs leaders
1	Amansea	3	10
2	Mgbakwu	3	10
3	Ebenebe	3	10
4	Oba Ofemili	3	10
5	Isuaniocha	3	10
6	Achalla	3	10
7	Urum	3	10
8	Ugbene	3	10
9	Ugbenu	3	10
10	Amanuke	3	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

### Method of Data Analysis

This study used both descriptive and inferential statistics in analyzing the data. Descriptive statistics used include simple percentage, mean and standard deviation. Inferential statistical was also used to make deductions about relationship between variables and also for testing of hypothesis.

### Data Presentation and Analysis

this section deals with the presentation and analysis of data obtained from the field survey in Awka North LGA of Anambra State.

### Types of the MDGs Programme/Projects

**Table 2: Distribution of responses on the types of the MDGs projects and programs that have been executed/implemented in Awka North LGA**

S/N	MDGs Programmes/Projects	Mean	Decision
i.	Building of hospitals, supply of drugs and medical equipment.	3.09	Agree
ii.	Construction of school class rooms and teaching equipments	3.46	Agree
iii.	Rural electrification	3.71	Agree
iv.	Pipe borne water projects	3.35	Agree
v.	Youth empowerment an capacity building programmes	3.04	Agree
vi.	Women empowerment and gender equality issues	3.41	Agree
vii.	Construction of public toilets and other public utilities	3.06	Agree
viii.	Adult education program	34.04	Agree
ix.	Construction of access road to communities	2.69	Agree
x.	Disease control and affordable health care delivery	3.61	Agree
xi.	Awareness creation and campaign against HIV/AIDS, etc	3.94	Agree
	<b>Grand Mean</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Source: Field Survey June, 2014

The table 1 above shows the result of the respondents' opinion on the types of MDGs projects executed in their communities. There opinion was measured on the five (5) point scale with the threshold of 3.0, that is, any MDGs programmes/projects <3.0 was disagreed opinion and any MDGs projects  $\geq 3.0$  was agreed opinion. As such, the result shows that majority of the respondents' opinion agreed to the fact that all MDGs programmes/projects except road construction (2.69) are been executed in their communities and this was also affirmed by the result of the grand mean ( $x = 3.40$ ).

**Level of Community Participation in MDGs Programmes****Table 3: Depicting the Distribution of Responses on the Level of Community Involvement in the Programmes Of MDGs**

S/N	Aspect Of Community Participation In MDGs Programmes	Mean (X)	Decision
1	Involvement in the development of programme/projects plan		High
2	Involved in the evaluation of the projects		High
3	Procurement of project materials		High
4	Community project identification and implementation		High
5	Involves in capacity building program/skill acquisition training		High
6	Contribution to project fund		High
7	Involves decision making process		High
8	Provision of labour for MDGs projects		High
9	Provision of land for MDGs project site		High
10	Involves in the monitoring, supervision and maintenance		High
11	Offer advisory services		High
12	Provision of security services		High
	<b>Grand Mean</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>High</b>

**Source: Filed Survey, June, 2014**

From the table above it was deduced five (5) point scale rating with mean of 3.0. where any variable a below 3.0 is low while any variable  $\geq 3.0$  is high. Therefore, the grand mean is 3.42 revealed that the respondents are highly involved in the programmes of MDGs in their communities.

**Test of Hypotheses****Test of Hypothesis One (H0<sub>1</sub>)**

H0<sub>1</sub>: Communities in Awka North LGA are not involved in the programmes of MDGs in Anambra State.

H0<sub>2</sub>: Communities in Awka North LGA are involved in the programmes of MDGs in Anambra State.

In order to affirm or reject the hypothesis was subjected to test with chi-square and the result was illustrated in the table below:

**Summary Table of Chi-Square Test Statistics**

Chi-square	.000 <sup>b</sup>
df	11
Asymp.Sig	.792

b. 7 cells (100.%) have expected frequencies of  $<5$ . The minimum expected cell frequency is 1.0.

**Decision:**

The test statistics table reports the results of the chi-square test which compares the expected and observed values. In this case, the p value is  $<5$  which is significant at 1% level of significance. Therefore, the null ( $H_{01}$ ) hypothesis was rejected while the alternate ( $H_{02}$ ) was accepted and this affirms the fact that community in Awka North LGA are significantly involved in the programmes of MDGs in Anambra State.

**Effects of Community Participation****Table 4: Showing Distribution of Responses on the Effect of Community Participation on MDGs Success**

S/N	EFFECTS	MEAN (X)	DECISION
1	Protection and adequate security of MDGs facilities	4.13	Agree
2	Enhance continuous usage/patronage of MDGs facilities	3.47	Agree
3	Efficient (cost effective) manufacture of MDGs projects	3.31	Agree
4	Reduces installation labour cost	3.55	Agree
5	Facilities timely attainment of MDGs objectives	3.18	Agree
6	Encourages local contents in MDGs programmes	3.26	Agree
7	Reduces project abandonment	3.75	Agree
8	Enhances effective and timely delivery of quality project	3.03	Agree
9	Provision of land for MDGs project site	4.51	Agree
10	Involves in the monitoring, supervision and maintenance	3.74	Agree
11	Offer advisory services	3.26	Agree
12	Provision of security services	4.31	Agree
	<b>Grand Mean</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>Agree</b>

Source: Field Survey June, 2014

The above table 3 with descriptive analysis of 5 point scale with standard mean of 3.0, showed that community involvement in the MDGs programmes has a positive and significant effect (Grand Mean ( $x$ ) = 3.46). as the majority of the respondents agreed to all the participation effect variables.

**Test of Hypothesis Two ( $H_{02}$ )**

$H_{01}$ : Communities participation level have no significant effects on the success and sustainability of the MDGs programmes.

$H_{02}$ : Communities participation level have significant effects on the success and sustainability of the MDGs programmes.

The hypothesis was subjected to ANOVA test, so as to affirm or reject the claim on the effects of community participation and the result is shown on the table below:

**ANOVA Result Table**

Mode	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between groups	257.619	20	278.530	5.902	.003
Within group	6560.095	79	47.192		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6817.714</b>	<b>99</b>			

**Decision:**

The result from the ANOVA table shows that the F ratio of 5.902 was significant at 1% level of significance. Therefore, the null ( $H_0$ ) hypothesis was rejected while the alternate ( $H_A$ ) was accepted. That community participation level have significant effects on the success and sustainability of the MDGs programmes. This result further strengthen and affirm the descriptive analysis result table.

**Hindrances to community participation in MDGs Programmes**

**Table 5; Showing the distribution of response on the hindrance that limit community participation in MDGs programmes**

S/N	HINDRANCES	FREQUENCY n=100	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Corruption among community leaders and government officials	64	64%
2	Disagreement among communities on the location of MDGs projects	82	82%
3	Lack of awareness and communities orientation	79	79%
4	Government indifference	72	72%
5	Communities attitude to the acceptance of MDGs programme	58	58%
6	Absence of platform for community meetings	92	92%
7	Conflicts among different interest groups	68	68%
8	Poor funding of MDGs programme/projects	88	88%
9	Abandon programmes of projects	75	75%
10	Substandard project and incompetency among officials	53	53%
11	Absence of stringent measures and sanctions for defaulter	71	71%
12	Poor leadership and management in the community	48	48%
	Lack/poor maintenance of culture among community inhabitants	84	84%

Source: Field Survey June, 2014

**Multiple Response**

The respondents are being faced with a lot of constraints that limit their participation in the programmes of MDGs. As the table 4 reflected, these hindrance which include, corruption among community leaders and government officials (64%), disagreement among communities



on the location of MDGs projects (82%); lack of awareness (79%); absence of platform for community meetings (92%) as well as poor funding (88%).

### **Summary of Findings**

The study analyzed effects of community participation in the Millennium development Goals (MDGs) Programmes in Awka North LGA of Anambra State. As such, evidence from the study revealed that; MDGs have implemented and executed reasonable programmes and projects in Awka North LGA.

Secondly, there is strong indication that the level of community participation in these MDGs projects and programmes is high ( $x = 3.42$ ) as the community are involved in almost aspect of MDGs programmes.

Also, the findings revealed that, community participation in MDGs programmes resulted in positive and significant effects. These effects include protection and security of MDGs facilities, enhance continuous usage of MDGs facilities; cost effective maintenance and installation; as well as improve local content in MDGs programmes.

Finally, despite these significant and positive effects from participation in MDGs programmes, the communities are being faced with a lot of hindrances that limit their participation. These hindrances include; absence of meetings platform, disagreement on the location of MDGs projects; poor funding and project abandonment; poor maintenance culture; as well as corruption among community leaders and government officials.

### **CONCLUSION**

Community participation is now widely recognized as a basic operational principle of community development. Conventionally, the participatory approach is considered as the reaction to the shortcomings of top-down development practices, externally imposed and expert oriented. The advantage of the community participation in the MDGs programmes is that, the development was centered on the role of the local community as a primary actor that should be allowed to influence and share the responsibility of the development process affecting their lives.

### **Recommendations**

In order to strengthen the full participation of the community in the developmental programmes, the following recommendations are made.

- ❖ The type/nature of any programme/project that will be executed should be identified by the community based on the felt need of the community. This will give them every capacity to attain the success and accomplishment of such project.
- ❖ In order to boost the level of community participation, the community should also be involved in development of project/programme plan; evaluation of project and in the procurement of project materials. This will enable them to take such programme/project as their own and collective property.

- ❖ Finally, the community should endeavour to be conducting meeting regularly, this will give them opportunity to know their common problems and how to solve it, also community programmes and carry everybody along. This will give the community sense of belonging and direction; such as they will be encouraged to participate fully without any hindrance.

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