



Community Choose Your Project Initiative and Community Participation in Community Development Projects in Anambra State: A Retrospective study of the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022

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Abstract

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. This paper investigated the impact of Community Choose their Project Initiative (CPI) on Community Development in Anambra State between 2014 and 2022. This study adopted the descriptive survey research design, while the Participatory Rural Approach (PRA) formed the theoretical framework of analysis. The study discovered that; Community Choose their Project Initiative significantly helped in the enhancement of community participation in community development projects in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022. Community project initiative helped to enhance community participation in community development projects in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration. 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 among others that; efforts should be made to encourage people to participate more in community development project and maintenance of projects should be conducted in order to increase the technical sustainability of projects.

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

INTRODUCTION

In the bid to address developmental challenges at the community level in Anambra State, several efforts have been made by different administrations in the state towards ensuring

that the local populace feel the impact of governance at their very door steps. More often there has been this top-bottom approach of development at the communities where the government will choose projects and programmes they envisage will bring development to these communities. Though this approach has more often times failed because they are most times not the felt needs of the communities.

In the bid to address developmental lapses of the communities, the then governor of Anambra State, Mr. Peter Obi made a concerted effort at bringing home the “dividends of genuine democracy” to her people. To this end, the administration of Peter Obi enacted a policy which introduced a development initiative called Anambra Integrated Development Strategy (ANIDS). This development program, with a mission to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the target year 2015, was conceptualized to bring about simultaneous development of all sectors of the economy as infrastructure, education, healthcare, industrialization, poverty eradication, agriculture, skill acquisition and creation of jobs. (Chukwuemeka & Chukwujindu, 2013).

The end of the administration of Mr. Obi saw the abrupt end of ANIDs though it achieved much developmental strides in the lives of Ndi Anambra. The administration of Obiano came with a more fascinating policy that aimed at getting to the grassroots through participatory developmental agenda. The new development paradigm envisioned by Obiano’s administration in continuing and deepening the change process and strategic plan for the Anambra people was conceived as Community Choose Your Project Initiative Initiative (CCYPI) (Omenugha & Dunu, 2016). It is a truism that development should not only be recurrent and sustained, it should be improved upon, hence the (4) Cs of Obiano representing; continuity, completion, commissioning and commencement, which inadvertently fits into the persistence, dynamism, sustainability and improvement qualities of any genuine development.

The Community Choose Your Project Initiative was introduced in 2014 by the Anambra State Government under the incumbency of His Excellency, Obiano during his first tenure as the state governor. This programme was introduced with the aim of helping every community in Anambra State develop evenly and also allow people choose project of their interest while it’s financed by the government. This development strategy was designed in a manner that communities led by the Presidents-Generaled 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. It is an effort geared towards achieving the solution of community problems and raising their standard of living. The Community Choose Your Project Initiative was rolled out for the one hundred and eighty-one (181) communities in Anambra State (Omenugha & Dunu, 2016).

Under this initiative, each community in the state was at liberty to select a development project of her choice, which the State Government executed with a sum not exceeding twenty (20) Million Naira. Each community had the sole responsibility of deciding what is best for her, where to site the respective projects, and the labour that would execute it (Omenugha & Dunu, 2016). The State Government merely provided the specification and ensures the strictest compliance to standards and commitment to the contractual terms of each project. Against this backdrop therefore, the Community Choose Your Project Initiative was a unique and new development paradigm in governance.

This developmental policy of the Obiano administration leveraged different communities to choose different projects according to their scale of preference and according the community’s felt

need. According to Afuba (2015), the first segment of the scheme was expected to end February/March 2017; with the second segment taking off almost immediately in March/April. The programme which was people based and specifically designed for communities was a well thought out venture in community development. Afuba (2015), equally argued that the Anambra State grassroots scheme to a very large extent reinstated communal creativity and involvement that were so critical to the successful outcome of the endeavour. It goes to say that the resolve of the peoples' needs, the choice of the project, as well as its position and contractor were the decisions made by the community. The communities were to be responsible for completion of the projects, while providing a security network for supervision of construction and upkeep upon completion. Anambra State chose your Community Choose Your Project Initiative as a policy of the government was deeply enmeshed, therefore this study seeks to examine how Community Choose Your Project Initiative as conceived by the Obiano administration helped to enhance community development in Anambra State.

Theoretical Explication

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 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.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Clarifications

The earlier and most commonly held meaning of ‘community’ refers to people living in a place who have face-to-face contact with each other. Based on this assertion Tönnies (1955) classified community as ‘Gemeinschaft’ to refer to preindustrial social formation where face-to-face contact was possible in rural and tribal society. With changes in industrialized society, a new society emerged that was more akin to impersonal contact amongst its people. People related with each in formal ways and life was contractual. Tönnies denoted this with the term ‘Gesellschaft’. This conceptualization served the purpose of defining and conceptualizing community in earlier days; however, such a tight compartmentalization changed over time as community crossed physical boundaries of place and people could connect with each other by using technologies and still fulfil most of the functions of the community.

An understanding of the concept of development will give a clearer picture of community development. Hornby (2013) defines development as the gradual growth of something so that it becomes more advanced, stronger, etc.; the process of producing or creating something new. This definition implies that development involves a gradual or advancement through progressive changes. Umehali (2016) sees the changes to be multi-dimensional involving changes in structures, attitude and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth; the reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty. Community development is a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. Community development processes and practices entails the inclusion and participation of different interest groups, stakeholders and actors including the people whose livelihood projects are geared at improving, government and non-governmental bodies, funding organizations, project experts and executors (Akande, 2010; Nseabasi, 2012).

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. 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.

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).

Community Choose Your Project Initiative and Community Participation

Development in any community is determined by the level of involvement of the immediate citizenry who come together as a community to achieve common goals. Community development involves bringing people together with the common goal of improving their social,

economic, political, educational and cultural wellbeing for a better livelihood. Thus, people's participation is an indispensable element for effective community development. Mohammad, (2010) observed that, people's participation cannot be dispensed in development efforts. Hence people's participation in community development is gaining momentum in the process of human empowerment and development. Participation, as the term implies is considered as a central role in the execution of community development programme. Participation and other related concepts like sustainability and empowerment are at the center of development discourse and it may be argued that participation is as old as democracy itself (Blackman, 2003).

According to Bappi, et al (2018), local and organized efforts have become necessary for the communities in order to enhance the realization of community development goals, especially where government patronage was not easy to get all the time reasons organized development efforts through community development programme have become popular today. In a similar vein, Dan (2011) stated that in situations where community bodies are mere small organization operating within a larger social environment plagued with poverty, low standard of living and economic vagaries; they may lack the basic economic resources to initiate or sustain project. There is limit to which the communities can effectively participate under such poor economic condition. Bappi, et al (2018) opined that community efforts have been carried out to tackle local problems in different localities with external support or intervention. This has been a common practice long before the colonial rule. In support of this statement, Abegunde (2009) cited in Bappi, et, al (2018) stressed that during the colonial period and after independence, government at different levels supported communities to develop their locality in different ways, and for many years emphasis was on cooperation and self-help among the people. Zaden (2010) also stated that community development programme is influenced by the ability of major stakeholders to mobilize people for participation. Generally, people who are informed about a community issue and are interested in resolving it, feel that they can be more effective in working with groups.

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 (X²) parametric test was further used in testing each of the hypotheses formulated research questions, at 0.05 (5%) significant level.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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.

Table 1. 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 1 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 2. 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 3 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 4 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 4 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 5 Response on community participation enables local people analyze their knowledge of social conditions

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	15	4.2	4.2	4.2
Disagree	9	2.5	2.5	6.7
Undecided	15	4.2	4.2	10.9
Agree	173	48.5	48.5	59.4
Strongly Agree	145	40.6	40.6	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table above indicates that 145 respondents representing 40.6% strongly agreed that community participation enables local people analyze their knowledge of social conditions, 48.5% of the respondents agreed, 4.2% of the respondents were undecided, 2.5% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 4.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that community participation enables local people analyze their knowledge of social conditions.

Table 6: Response on community participation draws marginalized people closer

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	36	10.1	10.1	10.1
Disagree	29	8.1	8.1	18.2
Undecided	8	2.2	2.2	20.4
Agree	189	52.9	52.9	73.4
Strongly Agree	95	26.6	26.6	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 6 above shows that 95 respondents representing 26.6% strongly agreed that community participation draws marginalized people closer, 52.9% of the respondents agreed, 2.2% of the respondents were undecided, 8.1% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 10.1% strongly disagreed. This implies that community participation draws marginalized people closer.

Table7 Response on community projects are expected to improve the lives of such communities

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	37	10.4	10.4	10.4
Disagree	51	14.3	14.3	24.7
Undecided	15	4.2	4.2	28.9
Agree	165	46.2	46.2	75.1
Strongly Agree	89	24.9	24.9	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 7 above indicates that 89 respondents representing 18.2% strongly agreed that community projects are expected to improve the lives of such communities, 46.2% of the respondents agreed, 4.2% of the respondents were undecided, 14.3% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 10.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that community projects are expected to improve the lives of such communities.

Table 11 Response on community participation assures equality of access to facilities

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Disagree	26	7.3	7.3	7.3
Disagree	28	7.8	7.8	15.1
Undecided	21	5.9	5.9	21.0
Agree	140	39.2	39.2	60.2
Strongly Disagree	142	39.8	39.8	100.0
Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 7 above indicates that 39.8% of the respondents strongly agree that community participation assures equality of access to facilities, 39.2% of the respondents agreed, 5.9% of the respondents were undecided, 7.8% of the respondents disagreed while the remaining 7.3 percent of the respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that community participation assures equality of access to facilities.

Test of Hypotheses

Here, the first hypothesis formulated earlier in this study were tested using Pearson's Chi-square. The results are presented below.

Table 14: Chi-square Tests for Hypothesis One

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	109.320 a	24	.000
Likelihood Ratio	142.711	24	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	6.556	1	.010
N of Valid Cases	600		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Since the Pearson chi-square value of 109.320 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 Choose Your Project Initiative significantly helped in the enhancement of community participation in community development projects in Anambra State under the Obiano Administration, 2014-2022.

Table 15: Regression Result for the Effect of Citizen Participation on Community Development in Anambra State

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R ² Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig.F Change
1	0.351 ^a	0.123	0.119	4.18565	0.123	28.989	1	206	0.000
2	0.378 ^b	0.143	0.135	4.14886	0.020	4.669	1	205	0.032
3	0.381 ^c	0.145	0.132	4.15379	0.002	0.514	1	204	0.474
ANOVA^a									
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.			
1	Regression	507.872	1	507.872	28.989	0.000 ^b			
	Residual	3609.047	206	17.520					
	Total	4116.918	207						
2	Regression	588.248	2	294.124	17.087	0.000 ^c			
	Residual	3528.670	205	17.213					
	Total	4116.918	207						
3	Regression	597.115	3	199.038	11.536	0.000 ^d			
	Residual	3519.804	204	17.254					
	Total	4116.918	207						
a. Dependent Variable: Community Development									
b. Predictors: (Constant), Citizen Participation, culture									
c. Predictors: (Constant), Citizen Participation, Citizenp*culture									
Coefficients									
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.			

		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	74.304	0.885		84.000	0.000
	Citizen Participation	0.067	0.012	0.351	5.384	0.000
2	(Constant)	69.663	2.320		30.031	0.000
	Citizen Participation	0.071	0.012	0.374	5.712	0.000
	Culture	0.097	0.045	0.142	2.161	0.032
3	(Constant)	55.495	19.900		2.789	0.006
	Citizen Participation	0.242	0.238	1.272	1.015	0.312
	Culture	0.399	0.424	0.585	0.940	0.348
	Citizen participation*culture	-0.004	0.005	-0.935	-0.717	0.474
Dependent Variable: Community Development						

The table above presented summary results of hierarchical multiple regression analysis of the effect of community participation on the relationship between citizen participation and community development in Anambra State. In the model 1, citizen participation was regressed on community development. The result yielded the coefficient of $F(1,206)=28.989$ ($p<0.05$) and the regression coefficient of $R^2 = 0.123$ which explained 12.3% of the variance in community development that can be accounted by a rise in citizen participation. The results also indicated that the model was statistically significant ($p<0.05$), meaning that citizen participation has a significant positive effect on community development. In model 2, the moderating variable which is community culture, was tested with citizen participation and community development. The results of model 2 show that citizen participation and community culture explained 14.3% of the variation in community development ($R^2 = 0.143$). Under changed statistics, the results reveal that the R^2 change increased by 2.0% from 0.123 to 0.143 ($R^2 = 0.020$). In addition, the value of the F-ratio, which represents the ratio of the improvement in prediction that results from fitting the model, is 17.087, $p<0.05$. This shows that citizen participation and community culture had a significant positive effect on community development.

In model 3, when community participation was interacted with citizen participation (community culture*citizen participation) on the relationship with community development in Anambra State, a change occurred ($R^2 = 0.145$). However, this value was not statistically significant at $p>0.05$ (p -value = 0.474). This means that the interaction variable accounted for no change in community development in Anambra State. Therefore, culture has no moderating effect on the relationship between citizen participation and community development (F change = 0.514, 474). Based on these results, hypothesis, which states that culture has no moderating effect on the relationship between citizen participation and community development in Anambra State was not rejected.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study investigated the impact of Community Project Chose Your Initiative (CPI) on Community Development in Anambra State between 2014 and 2022. In summary the findings,

the study revealed that: Community project initiative helped to enhance community participation in community development projects has Pearson chi-square value of 113.743 at 24 degree of freedom is 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.

From the findings above, the following recommendations have been put forward as policy statements;

1. Efforts should be made to encourage people to participate more in community development project and maintenance of projects should be conducted in order to increase the technical sustainability of projects.
2. The study equally recommended that there is the need to raise the amount disbursed to communities for developmental projects, this is true because the twenty million given to communities (#20,000,000) at the first tranche was not enough, hence other tranches.
3. 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 other are all grass root institution that when effective mobilization can create signified impact in the process of community development. The local government should therefore find itself he opportunity by harnessing the forces of their institutions and guiding them into a constructive positive channel for optimum result.

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