

Original Article

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEE AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AS CORRELATES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH EAST, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study determined the relationship between youth participation in decision-making committee and disciplinary committee on community development in south east, Nigeria. Correlational design was used for this study. The targeted population for this study is 950 youth leaders from 95 local governments in south east Nigeria. The researcher targets 10 youth leaders from each local government area of each state that made-up south-east Nigeria. The sample for the study was 950 community youth leaders in the 95 local government areas in the five (5) states of south east. There were no sampling techniques since the population of the study is manageable and controllable by the researcher. Youth Participation in decision-making committee and Disciplinary Committee Questionnaire (YPDMCDCQ) and Community Development Questionnaire (CDQ) were used for data collection. Two experts from the Department of Adult Education and one expert from the Department of Science Education validated the instruments, all from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. Cronbach alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument which yielded an index of 0.75 for YPDMCDCQ and .81 for CDQ. Data collected were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient to answer the research questions while t-test was used to test the formulated null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Based on the analysis, the findings of the study revealed that; Youth participation in decision-making committee significantly to a very high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria and that youth participation in disciplinary committee significantly to a very high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria, based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends that; Communities should ensure that youths should form a part of the components of their decision-making processes, that school administrators should collaborate with the morally-sound community youths in their respective host communities in enforcing discipline in their schools.

Keywords: Youth participation, decision-making, disciplinary committee, and community development.

Introduction

Youth participation in community development creates awareness and involves educating the masses

on the need to perceive some factors that constitutes problem which they are not aware. In essence, the general public, youths in particular should be

informed on those challenges that threatens quality sustainable development of the community and allowed to participate actively in ensuring that lasting solution to such problem is made. Esenjor (2014) noted that most development centred around people and this is why one of the most persistent concerns in development programme is about ways people may be mobilized for given programmes or for the resolution of given problems that impinge on development itself. It therefore become salient to say that any community that fails to harmonize, mobilize and utilize the productive skills and talent of their youths for transformative economic development may likely be unable to achieve quality and sustainable community development. Rushbrook in Olaleye, (2019) noted that participation enables people to become effectively and genuinely involved in defining issues concerning them through planning, developing, implementing and delivery services. Aloway and Ayre in Olaleye (2019) averred that authorities must recognize and understand the empowerment process that is, relinquish some power and invest in the process to build esteem, confidence, and skills. Some mobilization strategies to be discussed in this study includes; participation of youths in decision-making process, involvement of youths in community security, involvement of youths in community discipline, involvement of youths in community orientation on projects, involvement of youths in physical facility development, and involvement of youths in launching community projects. Involvement of youths in decision making remain an issue of discourse in this study.

Every decision-making process in the community leadership should have a good participation of the community members through its representatives (youth leaders, women leaders and project committee member). This would help the community in discovering and identifying the areas of communal

problems that require urgent attention and solution for smooth and peaceful co-existence in the community. Okumbe in Okorie (2016) defined decision-making as the process of specifying the nature of a particular problem and selecting among available alternatives to solve them. Decision making deals with making a choice among available alternatives. Ibiam (2015) defined decision-making as the process in which decisions are not only reached, but implemented. Youth participation in decision-making process of the community gives the indigent youth members a high sense of belonging which attracts development and improvement in the community in both political, social, economic, peaceful and harmonious existence of its members. Imoke in Unachukwu (2014) observed that youth participation in decision making represents a significant and vocal constituency in ensuring quality assurance and meaningful contribution of youths in solving a particular problem identified in the community.

Youth involvement or participation in community decision-making process remain an integral part of modern mobilization strategy which forms the primary responsibilities of community leaders in carrying along the young ones in the community in their activities and programmes. Osaretin (2014) averred that decision-making is an essential practice in all aspect of the management functions of planning, organizing, directing, staffing, controlling, budgeting, assessing and evaluation. Decision-making is the major element in participation at every level of taking action in an organization or communal living, be it in disciplinary issues, incurring cost for providing facilities, maintaining discipline, construction of new community projects and security matters. Abba in Ajuzie (2021) argued that decision-making process includes identification and diagnosis of a difficulty, the reflective development of plan to alleviate the difficulty, the initiation of the plan and the appraisal

of its success. Decisions play important roles as they determine both organizational and managerial activities. Duze in Ogedi (2017) opined that decision making process is a major component of managing any organization or business activities. Youth participation in decision making of the community is a good measure for the community and its citizens to contribute meaningfully and developmentally to the quality and sustainability of the community. Involvement of youths in disciplinary committee of the community is another factor of youth participation for community development.

The involvement or participation of youths in disciplinary issue in the community paves way for conducive environment and good behavioural outcome in the community for sustainable development and progress. This will help to inculcate high level of morals and attitude on the entire community participants since most of these youths are full of energy and understand the trends in handling some deviant behaviours in the society. Kagendo (2018) opined that discipline is an important aspect of human behavior. It was on this premise that Mbiti in Kagendo (2018) defined discipline as a system of guiding the individual to make rational decisions responsibly. Youth participation in disciplinary matters of the community creates an avenue for acceptable standard of rules and conducts for disciplinary system. Onyali (2014) argued that community members should know what is expected of them and the consequences that follow not meeting with the behavioural expectations from them. South east Nigeria in the recent time has experienced indiscipline activities in terms of insecurity, cultism, and terrorist attack. Involvement of youths, in disciplinary committee of the community has every tendency of increasing high discipline and good attitude in the community. When youths who are part of the community participate in contributing their

ideas and concepts towards handling the issue of indiscipline in the community, monitor indigene and non-indigenes of the community with deviant behaviours, the tendency of indisciplined behaviours may likely be controlled as disciplined behaviour maintained in the community. Kagendo (2018) also argued that youths can help develop self-discipline among themselves through active participate in the disciplinary committees in their community.

Youth participation in disciplinary issues of their community is a very sensitive one that requires high level of carefulness and openness in selecting them. Agreeing with the above assertion, Nayak in Ezemenaka (2020) argued that giving youth delegates or representatives with the adequate opportunity to share responsibility and participate in planning community projects on a corporative platform helps in installing self-discipline amongst the youths. In essence, youth participation in making rational decision and taking action that concerns discipline motivates the youths and the entire society to behave in a required manner that support sustainable community development. This brings about mutual cooperation and co-existence of youths and the community as the activities of the community may likely bring about developmental transformation in the community. The need for youth participation is corroborated with the view of Imhabekhai in Ewelum and Mbara (2015) that citizens participation means active involvement of all men and women in a community irrespective of age, nature of citizenship, socio-economic status, political affiliation, religion and level of education among others in planning and implementation of projects or programmes that would be of benefit to the entire community. In essence, everybody should be carried along to get involved in every community developmental project. Youth participation in community development tends to

enhance crime free society for quality and sustainable development.

Community development is social project or activities which could be large or small as attracted by the local people in a particular environment with basic condition of life. Elem in Duru, Ukachi and Arua (2019) opined that community is a relatively small isolated centre with a stable population in which all economic and social services necessary for life can be achieved. Anyanwu in Duru etc. al. (2019) sees community development from the perspective of education. They contended that community development in the best and fullest sense, stimulates the desire for better things and the means to attain such better things, which bothers fundamentally on striving to educate and motivate people for self-help with a view to developing responsible local leadership among them as well as inculcating in them a sense of citizenship and a spirit of civil consciousness. In a nutshell, the education system contributes to community development through the means of providing required channel for power development in the community since human factor plays essential role in every developmental project.

More importantly, community development project as a socio-economic and political programme comprised community development from the dimension of human issues which focus on human beings not on material factors; redefinition of community relation with its national development that looks at integration of nations economic and political mainstreams and mobilization for the well-being of the community dwellers with the improvement of their standard of living, income improvement self-esteem and mutual reinforcement. Preparation through effective communication strategies is an important element of community development. Onukaogu, Okpara, Anyanwu and Onyerionwu (2011) argued that communication is a crucial variable in every facet of

human endeavour. Good communication strategies paves way for effective participatory activities as well as enhance quality sense of belonging in contributing to social services that bring about community development.

Theoretical conception

This study is built on the locality community development approach theory by Jack Rotchman (2004).

The locality community development approach or the self-help concept was propounded by Jack Rotchman in 2004. The theory centres on self-help, the development of community capacity, utilizing those potentialities lying dormant and the integration of all the sub-units in the community brings about sustainable development. In other words, the kinds of goals associated with this approach are process goals which emphasize the participation of all the sub-groups in rural transformation. The strategy involved is participatory democracy in rural modernization; and this is through generating consensus or established meaningful communication amongst the sub interest groups in the community. This is possible through group discussion. Change, development or modernization in the community occurs through the manipulation of small task-oriented groups such as some voluntary organizations, age grade systems, town unions and other village or rural community organization. The significance of this theory to the present study is that the theory associate's participation of all the sub-groups in community development. Relating the theory to the present study it simply entails that human capital development from the dimension of youth youth participation in community projects can enhance community development.

Statement of the problem

The issue of community development has become a concern to many communities especially when it has

to do with the involvement of youths in participating in community development. It is expected that communities should provide the youths the opportunity to participate in community projects. The participation of youths in community activities would result to sustainable community development. Ideally, the community leaders in their developmental strategies are expected to involve the youths in different committee activities that are responsible for community peaceful co-existence for the purpose of attaining high developmental state. It is expedient that the youths are actively involved in community projects by giving them the opportunity to participate or become members of decision-making committee in community, participate in conflict resolution committee, and to participate in disciplinary committee of the community in order to provide enabling ground for development in the various aspects of life activities in communities in south east, Nigeria.

However, the issue of non-involvement of youths in diverse communities has actually posed a threat with respect to indiscipline, insecurity, different conflict driven areas observed in the communities, uncompleted communal projects and vandalization of facilities and some other factors that may likely limit development in a community as a result of unconducive environment. The problem of poor communication in sensitizing the youths on the need for efficient mobilization strategies towards community development remain the major challenges faced by most community leaders in achieving conducive and conflict free environment for development to thrive. All these factors could be as a result of poor youth participation in different committees in the community.

The problem of this study is to ascertain how youth participation in decision-making committee and disciplinary committee relates to community development in South East, Nigeria, which is the gap in knowledge this study tend to achieve.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the relationship between youth participation in decision-making and disciplinary committee on community development. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. Determine how youth participation in decision-making committee relate to community development in south Nigeria.
2. Ascertain how youth participation in disciplinary committee relate to community development in south east, Nigeria.

Research questions

The following research questions guided the study. They are;

1. What is the extent of relationship between youth participation in decision-making committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria?
2. What is extent of the relationship between youth participation in disciplinary committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses formulated guided and were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between youth participation in decision-making committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria.

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between youth participation in disciplinary committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Methodology

The study adopted a correlational research design. A correlational research design is carried out to determine the nature or strength of relationship between two or more variables. This means to find out whether there is a weak, moderate or strong relationship between two or more variables. This study is carried out in south east Nigeria. The targeted population for this study is 950 youth leaders from 95 local governments in south east Nigeria. The researchers' targets 10 youth leaders from each local government area of each state that made-up south-east Nigeria; such 17 local governments in Abia State has 170 youth leaders, 21 local governments in Anambra

state has 210 youth leaders, 13 local governments in Ebonyi state has 130 youth leaders, 17 local government areas in Enugu state has 170 youth leaders and 27 local governments in Imo state has 270 youth leaders in participation. The sample for the study was 950 community youth leaders in the 95 local government areas in the five (5) states of south east. There were no sampling techniques since the population of the study is manageable and controllable by the researcher. Youth Participation in decision-making committee and Disciplinary Committee Questionnaire (YPDMCDCQ) and Community Development Questionnaire (CDQ) were used for data collection. Two experts from the Department of Adult Education and one expert from the Department of Science Education, all from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike validated the instruments. Cronbach alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument

which yielded an index of 0.75 for YPDMCDCQ and .81 for CDQ. Data collected from the field were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient to answer the research questions while t-test was used to test the formulated null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. *Decision Rule:* The decision rule either negative or positive are; 0.00=no relationship, 0.01-0.20=very low relationship, 0.21-0.40=low relationship, 0.41-0.60=moderate relationship, 0.61-0.80=high relationship, 0.81-0.99=very high relationship and 1.00=perfect relationship (Nwana, 2007:311).

RESULTS

Research Question 1

What is the extent of the relationship between youth participation in decision-making committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria?

Table 1: Correlation matrix between youth participation in decision-making committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria

		PDMC	CMD
PDMC	Pearson	1	.883
	Sig (2-tailed)		.000
	N	904	904
	R ²	(0.780) 78.0%	
CMD	Pearson	.883	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	904	904

PDMC= Participation in Decision-Making Committee, CMD= Community Development

Data in Table 1 show a correlation (r) value of .883 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of range of 0.80 and above indicating very high extent relationship. This result shows that youth participation in decision-making committee relate to a very high extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria. The coefficient of determination (R²) of 0.780 indicates that 78.0% of the

community development in the South-East Nigeria could be accounted for by youth participation in decision-making committee.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between youth participation in decision-making committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Table 2: Regression analysis of relationship between youth participation in decision-making committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	4795.238	1	4795.238	70.577	.000 ^b
Residual	61493.166	903	68.099		
Total	66292.404	904			

Data on table 2 reveals a significant probability (P) - value of 0.000 which is less than the alpha value of 0.05. Since the P-value is less than 0.05 alpha level, the hypothesis of no significant relationship is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant positive relationship between youth participation in decision-making committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Research Question 2

What is the extent of the relationship between youth participation in disciplinary committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria?

Table 3: Correlation matrix between youth participation in disciplinary committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria

		PDC	CMD
PDC	Pearson	1	.857
	Sig (2-tailed)		.000
	N	904	904
	R ²	(0.734) 73.4%	
CMD	Pearson	.857	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	904	904

PDC= Participation in Disciplinary Committee, CMD= Community Development

The data on table 3 reveals a correlation (r) value of .857 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of range of 0.80 and above very high extent relationship. This result shows that youth participation in disciplinary committee relate to a very high extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria. The coefficient of determination (R²) of 0.734 indicates that 73.4% of the community development in the South-East Nigeria could be accounted for by youth participation in disciplinary committee.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between youth participation in disciplinary committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Table 4: Regression analysis of the of relationship between youth participation in disciplinary committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	4770.466	1	4770.466	70.954	.000 ^b
Residual	60711.356	903	67.233		
Total	65481.822	904			

Data on table 4 show a probability (P) - value of 0.000 which is less than the alpha value of 0.05. Since the P-value is less than 0.05 alpha level, the hypothesis of no significant relationship was rejected. Therefore, there is a significant positive relationship between

youth participation in disciplinary committee and community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Findings of the study

The findings of the study include that:

1. Youths' participation in decision-making committee significantly to a very high positive extent

relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria.

2. Youths' participation in disciplinary committee significantly to a very high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Discussion of the Findings

Youths' participation in decision-making committee and community development

Results from the study showed in table 1 & 2 revealed that youths' participation in decision-making committee significantly to a very high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria. The results specifically showed that youths' participation in taking decisions on how to run the affairs of the community, on how to enhance the ability of the community to work together towards a common goal, on how to negotiate with foreign companies in the community, on how to identify and diagnose difficult and reflective development plans of the community among others relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria. The results implies that the more youths are involve in making some critical decisions in the community, the more such community grows and develops as well. The results agreed with the results from the earlier study by Okorie (2015) on youth participation in the decision-making process in community development which revealed among others that youths' participation on decision-making was a factor in achieving community development. The result equally corroborated Kangendo (2018) and Akomolafe and Ibijola (2018) who in their respective studies found among others that there was a significant relationship between youths' participation in community decision-making and community development. There is no doubt that youths in many communities are highly skilled, versatile and innovative which can be harnessed when their voices

are added while making critical decisions that bring in development in such a community.

Youths' participation in disciplinary committee and community development

It was found from the study on table 3 and 4 that youths' participation in disciplinary committee significantly to a very high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria. This in other words means that the involvement of youths in the enforcement of discipline relate to a very high extent to community development. The results specifically indicated that youth participation in disciplinary committee helps in controlling violence among members in the community, helps in monitoring indigenes and non-indigenes of the community with deviant behaviours to adjust, helps in moulding and modifying character of community members to act wisely among others which cumulatively lead to community development. The results corroborated with the results from the earlier study Okorie (2012) whose respective results revealed youth participation in decision-making on development, disciplinary issues and security were seen to contribute to community development. The result is not surprising as according to Nayak (2011), when youths are giving adequate opportunity to participate in planning communal activities on a cooperative basis, it help them develop self-discipline which invariably will help them keep away from violence.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. Communities should ensure that youths should form a part of the components of their decision-making processes.
2. School administrators should collaborate with the morally-sound community youths in their

respective host communities in enforcing discipline in their schools.

Conclusion

This study determined the relationship between the youths' participation in decision-making committee and disciplinary committee in community development in South-East Nigeria. Based on the analysis carried out and the results of the study, it could be concluded that Youths' participation in decision-making committee significantly to a very high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria, and Youths' participation in disciplinary committee significantly to a very high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria.

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