Original Article

MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE AS CORRELATES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH EAST, NIGERIA

Igwe, Sunday, Professor N. A. Umezulike and Professor U. P. N. Amadi
Email: *Sundayigwe906@gmail.com; neksiems@yahoo.com; professorupnamadi@gmail.com*

Department of Adult and Continuing Education, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

Abstract

The study examined the mobilization strategies and youth participation in conflict resolution committee as correlates of 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 technique since the population of the study is manageable and controllable by the researcher. Census sampling technique was used for this study. Mobilization Strategies for Youth Participation in Conflict Resolution Committee Questionnaire (MSYPCRCQ) 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. Cronbach alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument which yielded an index of 0.70 for MSYPCRCQ 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. Based on the analysis, the findings of the study revealed that; Youths' participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy significantly to a high positive extent relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria; and Mobilization strategies to a very high, positive extent predict youths' participation in community development in the South-East Nigeria. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends that; Government should through the ministry of youths' development and other relevant ministries ensure that youth leaders form part of any conflict resolution committees being set up for any communities and Towns in conflicts; and that communities should ensure that their elders play only the advisory roles allowing the youths to get fully-involved in the community development programmes.

Keywords: Mobilization, mobilization strategies, youth participation, conflict, conflict resolution committee, and community development.

Introduction
Mobilization deals with the process of organizing, harmonizing, coordinating and planning human activities towards achieving specified goals or objectives. This deals with proper orientation and sensitization of individuals in a given environment

which aims at achieving a high productivity level within a circle of individuals. Olaleye (2019) noted that mobilization seeks to facilitate change through a range of players engaged in interrelated and complementary efforts in ensuring community participation in pursuing targeted goals. He further stated that motivation involves coordinated development in various aspects that make for the totality of development of people towards a better, fuller and richer life. Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (2019) observed that mobilization is a collective action through community-based structure which may likely increase family planning access and use.

In essence, mobilization looks extensively on the approaches through which human effort could be properly organized and controlled towards improving standard of living among people. Ministry of local Government Kampala in 2013 argued that mobilisation deals with bringing people together to pursue common interests by creating a sense of unity, ownership and self-control. It is the process of getting people to overcome their differences, to begin a dialogue on an equal basis to determine issues that affect their community. Mobilization strategy thus remain issue of discourse in this study.

Mobilization strategy is an essential factor in ensuring that the targeted audience are well-informed and sensitized in carrying out a given function towards achieving the core goals of the mobilizers. Densford, James and Ngugi (2018) opined that mobilization strategies have been found to greatly enhance the performance of any organization. Communities therefore should make adequate preparations for mobilization strategies to be effective and to ensure they are maximizing all opportunities. Mobilization strategies should be able to identify a range of techniques to be adopted in pursuing a given goal. Kerine (2015) observed that mobilization strategies

do not only mean the use of money but as a process that helps in achieving the mission of the organization through the mobilization of knowledge in humans, use of skills, equipment, and services. Based on the view above, mobilization deals with seeking out new sources, right approach as well as to maximum the use of the available human and material resources in pursuing the targeted objectives. However, Cole (2015) asserted that mobilization strategies are fundamentally dependent on the vision and mission statement, structure, governance, and policy of the organization.

Youth participation in conflict resolution committee is a mobilization strategy that supports quality existence and co-existence of people in the community towards achieving a set developmental goal. Ogedi (2017) noted that the existence and co-existence of people within an organizational environment (community) reveals the multivariate background possessed by the organizational workforce, as such the tendency of misunderstanding, likes and dislikes of individuals are made manifest. Conflict resolution thus is the means of resolving, eliminating, or terminating a given conflict issue through constructive and analytical means of dialogue. When youths are involved in the conflict resolution of the community, the tendency of handling conflict driven issues effectively many be achieved. This shows that conflict resolution may be quite different from conflict management.

Community development refers to the act of collective effort towards the advancement of communal living. Roberts (2019) noted that community development consists of a collection of techniques that might boost the potential for social change, including advocacy, consulting, and partnerships with regional organisations. Youth involvement in community development is a strategic means for empowering communities to help

themselves in maintaining developmental initiatives. Usman, Waziri, and Manga, (2018) opined that young people are now recognised as part of the major stakeholders and relevant participants in the implementation and management of community development projects, rather than simply the recipients of such developmental programmes as they once were. All facets of the local community are involved in the dynamic process of community development, particularly the youth population.

The development of community is a dynamic process involving all segments of the locality, including the often-overlooked youth population. Youth represent a vast and often untapped resource for immediate and long-term community development efforts. They also provide an invaluable resource for programme planning and effective evaluation. Usman, Waziri, and Manga (2018) averred that getting young people involved in community development is difficult but rewarding which can take more time and effort.

As youth are engaged in more sustained positive relationships with adults, other youth, and community development experts, apart from realizing that they are valued citizens of their communities, such collaborations and participation may lead to skill enhancement, empowerments and confidence-building traits, which will help prepare them for active community development services in future. Youths according to Rajani (2016) have been noted for active involvement in community affairs, greater social propensity, faster reaction, time, innovative and prowess, it becomes necessary to exploit their active features for progressive change in the community through active and meaningful participation in programmes directed towards their development.

Theoretical frame

This study is built on General Systems Theory of Management by Ludwig von Bertallanffy (1928).

The general systems theory was propounded by Ludwig von Bertallanffy (1928). General systems theory is used to account for similarities in the functioning of such diverse phenomena as living organisms, machines, galaxies and organizations. By systems, Bertallanffy means complexes of elements standing in interaction. The closed system is called closed if it neither takes in nor emits matter (only energy exchange is possible and taken into account). The system is called open if there is a continual input and output of both energy and matter in it. Each system or sub-system is conceptualized as having a boundary. The boundary of a system is the component that separates the system from its environment and filters the inputs to and the output from the system. Inputs, processes and outputs of an organization are all stages in the system's cycle of events.

A system is any set of distinct parts that interact to form a complex whole. Think of the universe which its parts are sometimes as small as particles and also as large as collective clusters. Each part is distinct yet interacts from the universe. In the same vein, an organization is a system with parts such as employees in form of (lecturers and administrators in school), assets (such as building and other equipment), products such as output; resources such as human and materials and information (such as ICT) that form a complex system.

The systems theory treats an organization as a system. It can be either a close or open system. The closed system is called closed because it is not affected by its environment. The open system is opened because it is affected by its environment. An open system consists of three essential elements namely: inputs, throughputs or process and output. Inputs- from the external environment may include people in form of managements, managerial skills, capital as well as technical knowledge and skills which are transformed and processed in an effective and efficient manner

into outputs or yield products or services called outputs. Thus, the task of managing is to transform the inputs, in an effective and efficient manner, into outputs and the outputs are released into the environment.

The feedback loop is an important feature of the system. They provide information to the organization by connecting the output to the input. The open system theory also emphasizes the necessary dependence of any organization upon its environment. An organization imports various forms of energy from the environment and transforms that energy into some other forms in the production process. At the processing stage, the organization creates a new product, processes materials, trains people or provides services. The output is then exported (with value added) to the environment. It then becomes input for another system or the system itself. The cycle is eventually renewed and the process begins again.

This theory has implications for this study. The environment is made up of several social, economic and political institutions which are constantly interacting and inter-dependent. Everything in all environments is a complete system on its own, a unit or subsystem of yet a larger system and all are interdependent. The community is an essential living system; it should be in constant process of interaction with their groups in the communities and other associations in them. The community is a living and dynamic organization, and though a complete system on its own, yet it is a sub-system of the nation which in turn subsists in the larger social supra system called the environment. The community is a social system in which people influence one another; a total system in which the environment, the formal arrangement, the total systems and the technical systems are constantly interacting.

Statement of the problem

The issue of mobilization for 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 youth mobilization should provide the youths the opportunity to participate in community projects. These youth participation in community activities would result to sustainable community development. Ideally, the community leaders in their mobilization 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. Ideally, it is expedient that the youths are well mobilized by giving them the opportunity to participate or become members of security committee, involved in the decision-making committee in community, participate in conflict resolution committee, involve in project committee, and 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 poor mobilization 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. This observation of poor participation of youths in community development raised the quest for this study which is the problem the research intend to solve. Therefore, the problem of this study put in question form is,

mobilization strategies and youth participation in conflict resolution committee correlates with community development in south east, Nigeria?

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the relationship between mobilization strategies and youth participation in community development. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. Determine the extent youth participation in conflict resolution committee as mobilization strategy relate to community development in south east, Nigeria.

2. Find out the extent of joint relationship between mobilization strategies and youth participation in community development.

Research questions

The following research questions guided the study. They are;

1. To what extent does the relationship between youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria?

2. What is the extent of joint relationship between mobilization strategies and youth participation in 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 conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy and community development in South-East Nigeria.

HO₂: There is no significant joint relationship between mobilization strategies for youth participation in community development in 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; 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. Census sampling technique was used for this study. Mobilization Strategies for Youth Participation in Conflict Resolution Committee Questionnaire (MSYPCRCQ) 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. Cronbach alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument which yielded an index of 0.70 for MSYPCRCQ 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).

To what extent does the relationship between youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy relate to community development in the South-East Nigeria?

RESULTS

Research Question 1

Table 1: Correlation matrix between youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy and community development in the South-East Nigeria

		PCRC	CMD
PCRC	Pearson	1	.786
	Sig (2-tailed)		.000
	N	904	904
	R^2	(0.618)	
		61.8%	
CMD	Pearson	.786	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	904	904

PCRC= Participation in conflict resolution Committee, CMD= Community Development

The data on table 1 revealed a correlation (r) coefficient of .786 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of range of 0.60 -0.80 indicating high extent relationship. This result shows that youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy relates to a high extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria. The coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.618 indicates that 61.8% of the community development in the South-East Nigeria could be accounted for by youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy and community development in South-East Nigeria.

Table 2: Regression analysis of extent of relationship between youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy and community development in the South-East Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	5043.690	1	5043.690	64.809	.000[b]
Residual	70274.451	903	77.823		
Total	53351.047	904			

The data on table 2 indicates a P-value of 0.000 which is less than the alpha level of 0.05. This means that the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant positive relationship between youth participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy and community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Research Question 2

What is the extent of joint relationship between mobilization strategies and youth participation in community development in the South-East Nigeria?

Table 3: Correlation matrix of Joint relationship between mobilization strategies and youth participation in community development in the South-East Nigeria

Source		PDMC	PDC	PSC	PPDC	PCRC	Joint	CMD
PDMC	Pearson Correlation	1						.883
	Sig. (2-tailed)							.003
	N	904						904
PDC	Pearson Correlation		1					.857
	Sig. (2-tailed)							.000
	N	904						904
PSC	Pearson Correlation			1				.871
	Sig. (2-tailed)							.000
	N	904						904
PPDC	Pearson Correlation				1			.685
	Sig. (2-tailed)							.003
	N	904						904
PCRC	Pearson Correlation					1		.786
	Sig. (2-tailed)							.000
	N	904						904
Joint	Pearson Correlation						1	.809
	Sig. (2-tailed)							.000
	N	904						904

PDMC= Participation in Decision-Making Committee, PDC= Participation in Disciplinary Committee, PSC= Participation in Security Committee, PPDC= Participation in project Development Committee, PCRC= Participation in conflict resolution Committee, CMD= Community Development, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Data on table 3 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 as mobilization strategy relate to a very high extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria. The table 3 indicated a correlation coefficient (r) 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 as a mobilization strategy relate to a very high extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Data in Table 4 show a correlation coefficient (r) of .871 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of range of 0.80 and above indicating very high extent relationship. This result indicates that youth participation in security committee as a mobilization strategy relate to a very high extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria. It was found that a correlation (r) coefficient of .685 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of range of 0.50 and 0.60 indicating moderate extent relationship.

This result shows that youths' participation in project development committee as a mobilization strategy relates to a moderate extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria. The result also show a correlation of .786 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of range of 0.60 -0.80 indicating high extent relationship. This result shows that youths' participation in conflict resolution

committee as a mobilization strategy relates to a high extent to community development in the South-East Nigeria. Finally, it was found from Table 4. a correlation coefficient (r) of .809 which is positive and within the coefficient limit of range of 0.80 and above indicating very high extent relationship. This indicates that mobilization strategies to a very high,

positive extent predict youth participation in community development in South-East Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant joint relationship between mobilization strategies for youth participation in community development in South-East Nigeria

Table 5: Regression Analysis of Extent of Relationship between mobilization strategies and youth participation in community development in the South-East Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	5413.213	1	5413.213	71.142	.000[b]
Residual	68709.311	903	76.0900		
Total	74122.524	904			

The data on table 5 indicates a P-value of 0.000 which is less than the alpha level of 0.05. This means that the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant positive relationship between mobilization strategies for youth participation in community development in the South-East Nigeria.

Findings of the study

The findings of the study include that:

1. Youths' participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy significantly to a high positive extent relate to community development in South-East Nigeria.

2. Mobilization strategies to a very high, positive extent correlate with youths' participation in community development in South-East, Nigeria.

Discussion of the Findings

Youths' participation in conflict resolution committee and community development

The results from table 1 and 2 showed that Youths' participation in conflict resolution committee as a mobilization strategy significantly to a high positive extent correlate with community development in the South-East Nigeria. In other words, their involvement in resolving existing conflicts in their various communities brings about peace which can create an

atmosphere for community development. The Table specifically showed that youths involvements in resolving communal land issues, in resolving family conflicts and as well in collective bargaining between community and foreign investors enhances foreign investment and peaceful co-existence and attract sustainable development in the community. The results aligned with Uncahndu, Anijaobi-Idem and Odigwe (2013) who in their study on the relationship that exist between youth participation in community development and conflict resolution committee which showed among others that there was a significant relationship between youth participation in conflict resolution and community development. They argued that the involvement of the youths in collective bargaining tend to manage and even resolve conflict areas thereby leading to peace that can bring in community development. There is no doubt that the involvement of youths in conflict resolution prevents crises that may arise that can destroy the existing community projects thereby hindering the development of such communities.

Mobilization strategies and youths' participation in community development

the results on table 3 and 4 showed that mobilization strategies to a very high, positive extent predict youths' participation in community development in the South-East Nigeria. The results implied that the involvement of the youths in community programmes

bring about development. In other words, the participation of the youths in decision -making committees, in disciplinary committees, in security of the community, in project development committees as well as in conflict resolution committees respectively relate significantly to community development. The results supported Usman, Waziri and Manga (2018) who argued that young people are now recognized as part of the major stakeholders and relevant participants in the implementation and management of community development projects rather than simply the recipients of such developmental programmes as they once were. They equally averred that getting young people involved in community development is difficult but rewarding. The result also aligned with Cornwall (2010) who added that the gains of the involvement of the youths in the community development go beyond the youths themselves but also to the communities. Also corroborating with the study, Ewelum and Mbara (2015) added that the mobilization of the youths in community development will help to reverse the detroriation in the participation of people in community development projects.

Recommendations

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

1.   Government should through the ministry of youths' development and other relevant ministries ensure that youth leaders form part of any conflict resolution committees being set up for any communities and Towns in conflicts.

2.   Finally, communities should ensure that their elders play only the advisory roles allowing the youths to get fully-involved in the community development programmes.

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