Socio-Economic Constraints on Projects: A Study of the Effect of Socio-Economic Constraints on Community Based Infrastructural Project Delivery in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria [1]

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Abstract

This study focused on the effect of socio-economic constraints on the successful delivery of community based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta. The specific objectives are: to examine the extent to which cultural belief constrain the delivery of community-based projects in the Niger Delta; to determine whether social unrest can significantly constrain community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta communities; to examine the extent to which vandalization constrain the delivery of community based projects in the Niger Delta; to ascertain whether insincerity is a significant constraining factor to community-based infrastructural projects in the region; to determine the level to which paucity of funds constrain the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects. Data were collected via questionnaire. The data collected were analysed using multiple regression analysis. The results show that all the identified socio-economic factors significantly constrained community-based infrastructural projects in the area. The study recommends that some ancestral deities and cultural norms should be reformed to support socio-economic development through sound implementation of infrastructural projects, peaceful coexistence of the Niger Delta communities and contractors, minimization of the high level of theft and vandalization of project materials and equipment by setting up of community security committees, Government should show political transparency and honesty to the development of the area, adequate and prompt funding.

Keywords: *community-based projects, socio-economic constraints, infrastructural project delivery, Niger delta region*

1.0 Introduction

In recent times, there has been high level of awareness and interest in good governance and public service delivery in Nigeria. This can be attributed to greater access to information and the works

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of civil society organisations and international development institutions (Umar, et al. 2019). There has been a plethora of seminars, conferences, discussions and campaigns on good governance and effective services delivery. However, the interest generated has not translated into commensurate development for the citizenry, especially among members of the rural communities in the Niger Delta.

The Niger Delta is located in the Atlantic Coast of Southern Nigeria, and it is the World's second largest delta with a coastline of about 450km which ends at the entrance of the Imo River (Awosika, 1995). The geographical landmass extends over an area 70,000km^2, making it the world's largest wetland and Africa's largest delta (Tamuno, 2022). The Niger Delta region has been defined by various individuals and institutions from different perspectives including political, cultural, ethnical and historical. The most popular being the one established by the NDDC Acts of 2000, which has been termed as political, covering nine member States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. They are Ondo, Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross River, Akwa-Ibom, Imo and Abia states. However, there is also what some researchers have called natural or "core" Niger Delta comprising Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States (Otive, 2024; Tamuno, 2022; Okolo, 2024).

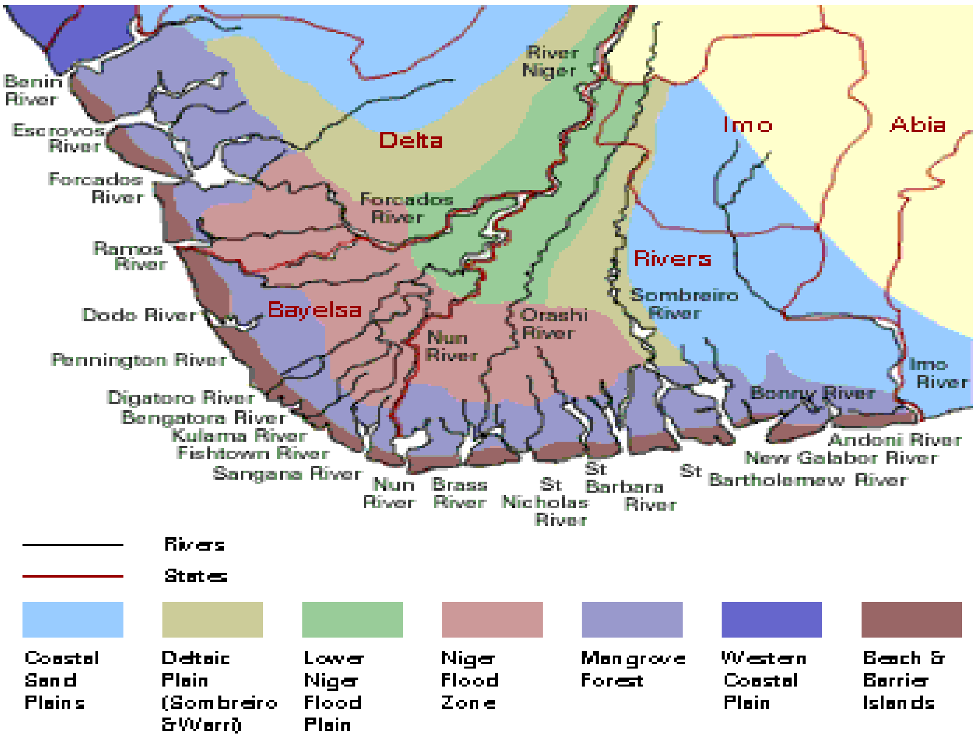

Fig.1.1: Core Niger Delta: Source: UNDP Niger Delta Biodiversity Project (2020)

However, the marshy and swampy terrain posed peculiar developmental challenges to the region. Most of the communities lack essential amenities such as good water supply, electric power and effective medical services, and where they exist are grossly inadequate. The challenges of the region are well documented in several respected journals and reports across the world. The available social development indicators in the Niger Delta region point to the dearth of infrastructure and social services, from water to telecommunications (Akpomuvie, 2011). An outbreak of Cholera killed 20 and 171 cases reported in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State in 2015 due to lack of access to adequate safe drinking water (Bekowei, 2025). In line with this, it seems the most comprehensive presentation of the challenges of the Niger Delta is the one given in the Niger Delta Regional Development Master Plan (NDRDMP, 2006). These include: poor sanitation and waste disposal infrastructure, contributing to illness; major transportation problems engendered by poor road, water and rail transportation; poor telecommunications; absence of electricity supply in many riverine areas and regularly interrupted supplies in all parts of the region and; inadequate and poor quality educational and health facilities and services

The level of socio-economic infrastructure in the Niger Delta is terribly poor, and it calls for massive infrastructural development cutting across houses, roads, railways, electricity, water, schools, hospitals, etc. (Otive, 2024).

The journey for the development of the Niger Delta communities, pre-dates Nigeria independence from colonial rule (Bekowei, 2025). There have been several development programmes for the Niger Delta by various governments through the years, however, whether they deliver their mandates is the question.

Ibeanu, (2008) stated that the recognition of the poor state of infrastructures and the harsh terrain of the Niger Delta that has informed successive governments to established special development agencies for the region. The peculiar characteristics of the region informed the recommendation of the Sir Henry Willink's Commission of 1958 that it be accorded special developmental attention. This gave rise to the setting up of the Niger Delta Development Board (NDDB) for the area, which was aborted after seven years following the military coup of 1966. The next real attempt was the Alhaji Shehu Shagari's Presidential Task Force, also referred to as the 1.5% Committee, which name derived from 1.5% of Federal Account allocation for the development of the Niger Delta region (Ibeanu, 2008). Subsequent efforts saw the establishment of the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) as an intervention strategy by the President Babangida administration in 1992, following renewed restiveness and agitations.

The Niger Delta Environmental Survey (NDES) was initiated in 1995 by Shell Petroleum Development Company on behalf of its joint partners (NNPC, ELF and AGIP) to provide relevant database to aid preservation and enhance development of the region. The longest serving and perhaps the boldest attempt at the development of the region, is the establishment of The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) by President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2000, a year and half after he was elected in May, 1999. The commission which derives its fund from 15% of allocations due to member states from the federation account; 3% of total annual budget of any oil producing company operating on shore and off shore in the Niger Delta area; and 50% of monies due to member states from the Ecological Fund started operation in January, 2001 (NDDC Act, 2001). The NDDC has carried out several community development projects to enhance the quality of life of the people. The projects cut across critical sectors among which are road, agriculture, health, water, education and electricity (Dafinone, 2007).

However, the intermittent and frequent resurgence of violence and restiveness among the people of the Delta, particularly armed militias, such as the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger

Delta (MEND), Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF) and Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) among others, have continued to question the impacts of the various empowerment and development programmes as their demands still borders on developmental issues which the various Ministries and interventionist agencies are supposed to be providing. The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has as its vision: "to offer a lasting solution to the socio-economic difficulties of the region", and Mission: "to facilitate the rapid ever and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful" (NDRDMP, 2006). The commission has been working towards achieving its mandate, in addition to developmental projects by government MDAs, international interventionist agencies, multinational organisations and other donor groups.

Nevertheless, casual observation indicates that cultural belief, social unrest, vandalization, insincerity, and paucity of funds have been the major constraints affecting the smooth implementation of community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta communities. However, the resources being expended does not seem commensurate with the observable and measurable developmental impacts on the region, especially the rural communities who suffer poor sanitation and waste disposal infrastructure, unsafe drinking water, absence of or poor electricity supply, inadequate and poor quality educational and health facilities, as well as bear the direct brunt of oil exploration and exploitation activities, environmental and ecological disasters (Okolo, 2024). There seem to be a disconnect between what the interventionist agencies are doing in terms of empowerment and development, and what the people, especially the rural communities members need for improved living condition. This is because there is still persistent cry over lack of development infrastructure and empowerment programmes (Bekowei, 2025).

Therefore, this study seeks to analyse the effect of socio-economic constraints on the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta, with Rivers State purposively selected as a case study for its apt representation of the Niger Delta in terms of geographical configuration and socio-economic challenges and history.

The specific objectives are:

a. To examine the extent to which cultural belief constrain the delivery of community-based projects in the Niger Delta,
b. To determine whether social unrest can significantly constrain community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta communities,
c. To examine the extent to which vandalization constrain the delivery of community based projects in the Niger Delta,
d. To ascertain whether insincerity is a significant constraining factor to community-based infrastructural projects in the region,
e. To determine the level to which paucity of funds constrain the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects,
f. To ascertain the collective effect of the socio-economic factors on the delivery of community-based development projects in Niger Delta States.

In line with the research objectives, the hypotheses were formulated:

H01: Cultural belief is not a significant constraint to the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta.

H02: Social unrest cannot significantly constrain community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta communities.

H03: Level of vandalization cannot significantly constrain the delivery of community based projects in the Niger Delta.

H04: Level of insincerity is not a significant constraining factor to community-based infrastructural projects in the region.

H05: Paucity of funds is not a significant constraint to the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects.

H06: The collective effect of the socio-economic factors on the delivery of community-based development projects in Niger Delta States is not significant.

Across the Niger Delta communities, there exist numerous developmental projects in various stages of dilapidation, obsolescence, disrepair and abandonment for several adduced reasons ranging from wrong conceptualization, faulty implementation and weak closeout. These scenarios raise agitating questions bordering on wastage of scarce resources, the continued state of pallor and squalor of community members and the prospects of remediation.

Therefore, giving the good intentions of government and development partners in rolling out these projects and programmes against the backdrop of youth restiveness, criminality and the general state of poverty, it becomes pertinent to explore and appraise the extent of impact the various community development projects in the Niger Delta have in the life of community members, especially in the rural areas, with a view to ensuring that resources are judiciously and efficiently managed, and projects have desired impact.

2.0 Literature Review

Separate studies like Isidiho et al (2015), have shown that poverty, deprivation, social conflict, economic dislocation, ill health, massive unemployment among other societal ills, are the social and economic problems faced by the Niger Delta region. This has created a dire need for social infrastructural development of the Region. Many efforts have been expended through different organs of government and non-governmental organisation to ameliorate and remedy the situation. The Niger Delta Development Board (NDDB) was the first organ of the Federal Government established in 1960 to address the Niger Delta developmental needs and challenges (Kakogbe, Ubani & Echeme, 2026). Specifically, it was mandated to cover the then Yenagoa Province in Bayelsa State, Degema Province and Ogoni Provinces in Rivers State, and the Western Ijaw Division in Delta State. It accomplished very little, and faded away with the military coup of 1966 and the outbreak of the civil war in 1967. It was never revived thereafter (NDRDMP, 2006).

Presidential Task Force (The 1.5% Committee) was established in 1980 with 1.5% of the federal account allocated to it for the developmental mandate in the Niger Delta. However, for about five years it existed there was little to show for its existence the communities in the Niger Delta in terms of developmental projects.

Again, the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Commission (OMPADEC) was set up in 1992 by the Babangida administration for the same purpose of providing development for the Oil mineral producing areas. It was much more successful than its earlier cousins, however did not do much in terms of the developmental aspiration of the region. There were several uncompleted projects and outstanding debts at its expiration in 1999 (Kakogbe, et al. 2026).

The Niger Delta Environmental Survey (NDES) was established as a direct response to a report of a study of the Niger Delta Region by the World Bank in 1995. The study had warned: "An urgent need exists to implement mechanism to protect life and health of the region's inhabitants and its ecological system from further deterioration" (Kakogbe, et al., 2026).

It was a private initiative of Shell Development Company (SPDC) on behalf of its joint partners (NNPC, ELF and AGIP) set up to reconcile industry, environment and community interest in the Niger Delta. Specifically, the NDES has the following objectives:

a.) To describe and quantify the renewable and non-renewable resources of the Niger Delta, identify and assess the positive and negative factors of resources use in the area.

b.) To stimulate pro-actively and encourage relevant stakeholders to address and solve specific current social and environmental problems identified in the course of the survey and propose an indicative plan for future management of the region

c.) To appraise how the present state of the region has evolved overtime and assess the present conditions of social and economic under-development

d.) Generate data and information on the Niger Delta, including the formulating strategies and plans for effective natural management towards the sustainable use of resources in order to protect the environment and the livelihood of the people in the region. (NDRDMP, 2006)

However, Okolo (2024) posited that NDDC is the fifth interventionist government agency in the Niger Delta to implement a programme for sustainable development, in line with the Niger Delta Regional Master Plan. The NDDC budgets runs into several hundred billion naira annually since the year 2000 when it was established to date. A study by Okolo (2024) showed that between 2001 and 2009 inclusive, N155.365 billion has been released by the Federal government to the NDDC. Though it represents less than 40% of the budget, it is a huge sum nonetheless. Several diverse projects have been carried out by the commission across diverse communities in the nine Niger Delta States ranging from rural Water supply and sanitation, Health, Commerce, rural Electrification, Education, Roads and bridges, etc.

The importance of roads and electricity in each of the communities cannot be neglected as they act as catalyst and engines of socio-economic growth in each community, and has the potential of empowering men, women and youths to earn their living and raise their economic status in the communities where they reside (Isidiho et al, 2015). Furthermore, in Ohaji/Egbema and Oguta communities in Imo state, the provision of electricity and improved road transportation through

NDDC projects brought about 50% increase in income level of members of the communities. Improved access to education and health care as well as better housing are also offshoots of better transportation and electricity provision (Isidiho et al, 2015).

Additionally, international development partners like UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, European Union, USAID, DIFID, Action AID, PLAN, etc., have equally carried out several community-based projects in the region, to further complement the statutory responsibility of the Local, State and Federal government levels in achieving the developmental objectives and needs of the communities in the region. Irrespective of all these interventions, the Region still remain highly underdeveloped. Hence, this study.

2.1 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this study was designed in such a way that the successful delivery of community-based infrastructural projects depends on proper management of the identified constraints to these projects in the Niger Delta communities in Nigeria. However, the independent variables are the socio-economic variables that influence the delivery of these infrastructural projects. The specific variables used in this study were determined using literature content analysis. They are; cultural belief, social unrest, vandalization, insincerity, and paucity of funds. The dependent variable is the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects. The effective management of the constraints emanating as a result of socio-economic activities in the Niger Delta communities in order to achieve project success is the essence of this study.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework
Source: Content Analysis

2.2 Empirical Review

Renowned authors have at one point or the other investigated into the issues surrounding the community based or infrastructural development projects basically for the socio-economic development of States, Municipal, and the country at large. Okpalaoka (2021): Infrastructural Challenges in Nigeria and the Effect on Nigerian's Economy, Unfavourable political climate, lack of adequate finance, no prioritization of government, corruption and waste, social unrest, paucity of funds and insincerity.

Wahab (2023) in his study on the Challenges of Fadama III project delivery in Kaduna State, aimed at identifying the challenges that constrain the smooth delivery of Fadama III projects. Wahab (2023) identified poor funding, low income level, high cost of materials, bureaucracy in releasing funds, inability of most beneficiaries to pay counterpart funds, insincerity of the Fadama

III officials. Data were collected using questionnaire administration. Analysis was made using the relative importance index (RII). After analysis with RII, poor funding and low level of income ranked the most important factors that affect Fadama III projects in Kaduna State. The study recommends timely and adequate funding of the projects and stable economic policies. Unfortunately, Wahab (2023) study did not unveil the individual and collective effect of the identified factors in the delivery of Fadama III projects.

Again, Medrano (2026) did a research on the issues surrounding delivery of socio-economic projects in Philippine. The aim of the study is to unravel the challenges confronting the planning and implementation of socio-economic projects. In the course of his study, he identified inadequate funding, frequent social disturbances, vandalization, high cost of materials, lack of cooperation and insincerity as constraints. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and t-test analytical technique was adopted for analysis which reveal that all the factors significantly affects the planning and implementation of socio-economic projects, except cost of materials. However, frequent social disturbance is the most constraining factor. The study, therefore recommends a strong policy that improve community development through improve cooperation of the citizens which will assist in minimizing frequent clashes and disturbances in the country. However, the study could not ascertain the collective effects of the factors.

Also Kabir (2016) conducted a study on the funding related factors that affect the realization of community-based projects in Nigeria. The objective of the study is to model the funding related factors for successful delivery of community-based development projects in Nigeria. In his study, the following factors were identified; poverty level, high level of social unrest and insecurity, lack of commitment, social belief, delay in releasing funds and unwillingness of financial institutions to fund development projects. The analysis with discriminant analysis model showed that poverty level is the most significant factor that affect community-based development projects in Nigeria. The study recommends framework that will empower the citizens to initiate and fund their developmental projects to complement government efforts in achieving total development. Nevertheless, the opined that in spite of community and government effort to tackle the problem of development as it relates to rural communities via project delivery, the problems of underdevelopment still persist, and sustainable development goals has been seriously hampered.
In a related study by Okafor, (2016) researched on Challenges of United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) sponsored projects in Nigeria.

The main objective is to investigate the challenges confronting UNICEF sponsored education projects in Nigeria for decision purposes. The following challenges were highlighted; poor collaboration, difficulty in releasing funds, bureaucratic bottlenecks, rate of inflation, vandalization and poor sustainability of the projects. The study adopted the questionnaire survey and interview methods in sourcing for data. Descriptive statistics was adopted in analysing the collected data. The findings show that vandalization is a major challenging factor. Hence, the study recommends improved security of the project sites and policies that will assist in controlling inflation rate, etc. Unfortunately, the study failed to ascertain the level of effect that the identified factors have on UNICEF sponsored projects in Nigeria. Again no attempt was made to investigate into the collective effect of the challenging factors.

Egunjobi, (2017) in his study on the factors that inhibit the delivery of agricultural development projects in Ibadan Metropolis, with the objective of identifying the factors that influence agricultural development projects (ADP) in Ibadan, noted that the majority of low income earners find it difficult to secure the loan or other form of assistance for agricultural purposes, making funding the major factor that affect ADP projects. Other factors that he listed include high cost of material input, land tenure system, local charges, vandalization and theft, and favouritism. Questionnaire was use to collect data and relative importance index (RII) was adopted for data analysis. The findings indicated that inadequate funding is a major important factor to agricultural projects in Ibadan. Undoubtedly, the issue of land tenure system is one of the central problem in providing food and achieving food security in the area. However, he failed to ascertain the individual and collective effect of these factors on agricultural development projects in Ibadan.

However, Gilbert (2017), did a related study on the factors affecting rural development projects an emerging economy: a study of India. The objective of the study is to identify the major factors that affect rural development projects for socio-economic growth. He identified poor funding, high exchange rate, increasing construction cost of materials, theft and vandalization, community upheaval, and customary issues as the major contributing factors. The study adopted questionnaire administration for data collection and the Pearson's correlation analysis was used to determine the level of relationship between the identified factors and the delivery of rural development projects in India. The result show that poor funding is the most critical factor responsible for poor implementation of rural development projects in developing countries, especially in India. The study recommended prompt and adequate deployment of funds for smooth delivery of rural projects in emerging economies, like India in order to achieve the needed rural transformation. Unfortunately, the study failed to consider various socio-economic implication of failed development projects. Also, the study did not apply a multivariate technique in analysing the individual and collective effects of the factors on rural development projects.

In a related study, Burtlar, (2017) did a research on the Critical Factors that inhibits World Bank sponsored development projects in Nepal. The objective of the study is to identify and analyse the factors that affect the implementation of World Bank sponsored development projects. His study identified increasing interest rate, insincerity of most contractors, poor supervisory framework, difficulty in accessing the approved funds from financial institutions, as the critical factors that influence the Banks' effort in achieving success in implementing development projects. The study therefore developed a framework, using these critical factors, that will assist the planning and implementation of sponsored projects, especially, the World Bank projects in Nepal and other developing countries. Descriptive statistics was adopted in analysing the data collected through questionnaire administration. The study concludes by advocating for a policy that will encourage both government and external sponsored development projects in rural areas. But the study did not use multiple regression analytical tools to determine the effect of the critical factors on development projects.

In his study, Echeme (2017) researched on the Critical Factors hindering successful implementation of World Bank-Assisted Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Projects in Imo State, Nigeria. The main objective is to establish the factors that contributed favourably or unfavourably to the level of success achieved by LEEMP in the State. The study identified factors like non application of Research recommendations, political interference, personality conflict, project management techniques, poor documentation and record keeping, intercommunity collaboration, local government, community support contributed in one way or the other to frustrate the effort of the World Bank in the realization of their developmental objectives in Nigeria and Imo state in particular. Questionnaire was adopted in collecting data and multiple discriminant analysis was used to analyse data collected. The result indicate that intercommunity collaboration and community support are the factors that discriminate negatively whereas other factors were positively significant towards LEEMP project success. The hypotheses testing show that political interference is the most critical factor that affect the delivery of World Bank-assisted project implementation in Imo State, Nigeria. However, negligence of research recommendations, political interference and lack of intercommunity collaboration significantly contributed to cost and time variations. The study recommends adequate community participation and improved capacity building of the World Bank local operatives so as to control cost and time, elimination of corruption and political interferences and other forms of indiscipline. However, the study was unable to determine the collective effect of the discriminating factors on World Bank sponsored LEEMP projects in Nigeria.

Liman and Edward (2019) did a study on Infrastructural Project development and United Nations Development Projects (UNDP) Interventions in Gabon: The Policy Perspective. The main objective of his study is to determine the extent to which the United Nations intervention on infrastructural projects has assisted in the development of the area. Liman and Edward (2019) claim that any infrastructural development policy that is not capable of assisting citizens access to better standard of living is anti-developmental. However, critical review of their work show that vandalization, poverty and poor funding of infrastructure projects, and illiteracy are the major factors that influence the rate of development projects, especially, of the developing countries. The study also revealed that poor funding, vandalization and developmental policies, and lack of support from the rural communities, have been negatively affecting the effort of the United Nations and people to improve infrastructural base and quality of life. Questionnaire was adopted in collecting data and t-test was adopted data analysis. The t-test analysis of the data show that funding and high level of vandalization are critical to the delivery of infrastructural projects in Gabon. Unfortunately, Liman and Edward (2019) did not also determine whether these factors have both individual and collective effect on the successful delivery of housing projects. Also no attempt was made to examine the various challenges of community-based projects.

Clois and Joan (2009) researched on the factors that influence community-driven development projects in India. The main objective of their study is to determine the key factor that affect community-driven development (CDD) projects for economic and social development. They listed factors like poverty level, high interest rate, cultural norms, insecurity and insincerity, poor funding, cost of construction projects and scarcity of volunteer workers. They however, analysed these factors using relative importance index and found out that the major factor that influence CDD projects is poverty and poor funding. Improved funding was advocated for successful delivery of CDD projects. Their study failed to ascertain the individual and collective effect of the identified CDD projects in India.

Base on the literature reviewed, the study identified paucity of funds, social unrest, cultural belief, vandalization and insincerity as the major socio-economic factors that affect community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta states in Nigeria.

Nevertheless, none of the relevant reviewed studies directly investigated the socio-economic factors that affect community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta States of Nigeria, Again, none of them that were able to determine the collective and composite effect of socio-economic factors on the successful delivery of community-based infrastructural projects.
This study intends to fill the identified literature gaps with the aim of improving the level of delivery of community-based infrastructural projects for enhanced economic activity.

3.0 Methodology

The study was carried out using a descriptive survey technique. This design method was used because it allowed questionnaire to be designed for data collection. Hence, questionnaire was designed to eliminate biases, and elicit objective answers from respondents. The population of study is one hundred and eighty (180). This comprise of fifty (50) members of CDCs, twenty-five (25) representatives of various community groups, (youth and women), twenty-five (25) CSOs and eighty (80) members of the community. Based on the size of the population, census method was used. This was done using purposive sampling where only those directly involved in community-based development projects in Rivers State, Nigeria.

The data were obtained from both the primary and secondary sources. Primary source of data is questionnaire while secondary data which were obtained from the projects' documented files, the library, journals, textbooks and the internet search. The questionnaire is designed in a manner that they show how the identified socio-economic factors affect the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects. Respondents were asked to indicate their level agreement or disagreement regarding all the statements based on their perception using the 5-point Likert Scale.

Data obtained from the respondents via questionnaire were presented using frequency tables and charts. Data analysis were done using descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis technique. The multiple regression helped to determine the level of association or how related the dependent and independent variable are in justifying the outcome (Delivery of Community Based Infrastructural Projects).

However, t-statistical result and analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the multiple regression analysis were adopted in the testing of the hypotheses formulated.

3.1 Variables for the Analysis

The variables on which the analysis was carried are classified into dependent and independent variables. Dependent variable is delivery of community-based infrastructural projects. On the other hand, independent variables include the socio-economic factors. Our study here evaluates how a combination of the factors affects community based project delivery in Niger Delta States in Nigeria.

3.2 Definition of the Variables Used in the Analysis

Yi - Delivery of Community-based Projects
X_1 – Cultural belief
X_2 – Social unrest
X_3 – Level of Vandalization
X_4 – Insincerity
X_5 - Paucity of funds

4.0 Results and Discussion

The statistics of questionnaire distribution and retrieval is shown in Table 1;

Table 1. Statistics of Questionnaire Administration

S/N	Category of Population	Number Administered	Number Retrieved
1	Members of CDCs	50	49
2	Representatives of various community groups	25	24
3	CSOs	25	25
4	Members of the communities	80	76
	Total	**180**	**174**

A total of one hundred and eighty (180) copies of questionnaire were distributed to the selected respondents, only 174 were properly completed and returned giving a response rate of 96%.

4.1 Analysis of Multiple Regression Result

The multiple regression result generated with the aid of SPSS Version 26 software. The results were used to derive a model for predicting the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects while considering the five identified socio-economic factors and to test the formulated hypotheses.

Table 2. Multiple Regression of the Community-Based Infrastructural Projects and the Socio-economic Factors

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	39.734	3.224		12.326	.000
	X1	-.189	.086	-.073	-2.197	.029
	X2	-.520	.102	-.192	-4.174	.001
	X3	-.491	.086	-.181	-4.067	.001
	X4	-.339	.073	-.141	-3.535	.003
	X5	-.798	.073	-.202	-7.346	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Y

The generated multiple regression model for predicting the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects while considering the five identified socio-economic factors from Table 2 is represented in equation 1.

$$\mathbf{Y = 39.734 - 0.189X_1 - 0.520X_2 - 0.491X_3 - 0.339X_4 - 0.798X_5 \ldots\ldots\ldots (1)}$$

The model indicates that all the socio-economic factors exhibited negative coefficients. The implication is that an increase in each of the factors will mean a decrease in the level of delivery of community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta States. Also, the coefficient value of -0.798 show that paucity of funds (X_5) poses the highest constraint on the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects (Y). This is followed by social unrest (restiveness) with a coefficient of $-0.520X_2$.

To illustrate the model, a value of $-0.189X_1$ imply that as cultural belief increase 1 unit, delivery of community-based projects decreases by 0.189. the same argument can be made regarding the other factors.

4.2 Hypothesis Testing

The t-values in Table 2 was used to test the formulated hypothesis.

> **H_{01}:** Cultural belief is not a significant constraint to the delivery of community-based projects in the Niger Delta.

From Table 2, the t-value of -2.197 is significant at 0.029, implying that at a significant level of 0.05 (5%), cultural belief is significant constraint in the delivery of community-based projects in Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The study hence, reject the null hypothesis with a conclusion that cultural belief is a significant constraint to the delivery of community-based projects in the Niger Delta.

> **H_{02}:** Social unrest cannot significantly constrain community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta communities.

With a t-value of -4.174 in Table 2., social unrest/ restiveness (X_2) is significant at a level of significant of 0.001. The meaning is that at 0.05 asymptotic value, social unrest is a significant constraint. The study reject null hypothesis, and conclude that social unrest can significantly constrain community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta communities.

> **H_{03}:** Level of vandalization cannot significantly constrain the delivery of community based projects in the Niger Delta.

With a t-value of -4.067 in Table 2., level of vandalization (X_3) is significant at a level of significant of 0.001. The meaning is that at 0.05 asymptotic value, level of vandalization is a significant constraint. The study reject null hypothesis, and conclude that level of vandalization can significantly constrain the delivery of community based projects in the Niger Delta.

H_{04}: Level of insincerity is not a significant constraining factor to community-based infrastructural projects in the region.

From Table 2, the t-value of -3.535 is significant at 0.003, implying that at a significant level of 0.05 (5%), level of insincerity is significant constraint in the delivery of community-based projects in Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The study hence, reject the null hypothesis with a conclusion that level of insincerity is a significant constraining factor to community-based infrastructural projects in the region.

H_{05}: Paucity of funds is not a significant constraint to the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects.

From Table 2, the t-value of -7.346 is significant at 0.000, the implication is that at an asymptotic level of 0.05 (5%), paucity of funds is significant constraint in the delivery of community-based projects in Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The study hence, reject the null hypothesis with a conclusion that paucity of funds is a significant constraint to the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects.

To test hypothesis six, the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) table is critical.

Table 3. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	9163.186	5	1832.637	94.744	.000[b]
	Residual	3249.619	168	19.343		
	Total	3412.805	173			

a. Dependent Variable: Y
b. Predictors: (Constant), X5, X1, X3, X4, X2

H_{06}: The collective effect of the socio-economic factors on the delivery of community-based development projects in Niger Delta States is not significant.

An F-value of 94.744 in Table 3 is significant at 0.000. The implication is that at 0.05 (5%) asymptotic level, there is a significant collective effect of the socio-economic factors on the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects. Therefore, the study rejects the null hypothesis (H_{06}) and conclude that the collective effect of the socio-economic factors on the delivery of community-based development projects in Niger Delta States is significant.

4.3 Result Discussion

Based on the findings/results, the study can infer the following:

a.) Cultural belief is significant constraint in the delivery of community-based projects in Niger Delta region of Nigeria (see Table 2). This result depicts reality as most areas in Niger Delta region are sacred to ancestral deities, hence creating a cog in the wheel of progress for most donor agencies and government to site infrastructural projects in such location. This finding corroborates with the findings of Kakogbe, et al. (2026) and Isidiho et al. (2015). Isidiho et al (2015), showed that poverty, social customs, social conflict, economic dislocation, ill health, massive unemployment among other societal ills, are the social and economic problems faced by the Niger Delta region and that it has created a dire need for social infrastructural development of the Niger Delta region. Also, Gilbert, (2017) mentioned that customary issues among other factors are contributing factor for low level of infrastructural projects in India. Clois and Joan (2009) claim that cultural norms influence community-driven development projects in India.

b.) Social unrest can significantly constrain community-based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta communities. This is also a reality because no meaningful development will take place in an environment of social conflict and youth unrest. Isidiho et al (2015) agree with this finding. Medrano (2026) identified frequent social disturbance as one of the issues confronting delivery of socio-economic projects in Philippine. However, the history of violent and youth restiveness in Niger Delta affected community based infrastructural projects which affected development of the region, despite its rich oil and gas deposits.

c.) Level of vandalization can significantly constrain the delivery of community based projects in the Niger Delta. The studies of Isidiho et al (2015), Gilbert (2017), Medrano (2026) and, Okafor, (2016) are in line with this finding. This is because, high level of theft and vandalization has been affecting project delivery, especially, rural development projects in various parts of the world. Vandalization of construction equipment and materials for implementing developmental projects should be strongly condemned and tackled by the stakeholders at every project location.

d.) Level of insincerity is a significant constraining factor to community-based infrastructural projects in the region (see Table 2). Insincerity and corruption have always been the bane of development in Nigeria. Wahab (2023) have claimed that insincerity negatively affected community based agricultural projects (ADP) in Ibadan and Fadama III projects in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

e.) Paucity of funds is a significant constraint to the delivery of community-based infrastructural projects. Adequate and prompt funding is an oil the makes project delivery smooth. However, this is not the case in most community based projects in Niger Delta region. Poor funding of projects has been pointed by many authors like: Medrano (2026); Wahab (2023); Liman and Edward (2019); Gilbert, (2017); Burtlar, (2017); Okafor, (2016); Egunjobi (2017); Isidiho et al (2015), etc. as one of the major factors affecting project delivery. The implication is that adequate and prompt funding of projects should be prioritized and ensure that funds budgeted for projects are made available for prompt delivery of projects.

f.) The collective effect of the socio-economic factors on the delivery of community-based development projects in Niger Delta States is significant. This is not a surprise as these constraints are key to successful delivery of infrastructural projects in Nigeria and Niger Delta States in particular. Hence, the derived model can be adopted in predicting the delivery of community based infrastructural projects in Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

5.0 Conclusion

Irrespective of the challenges confronting community-based infrastructural projects in Niger Delta States in Nigeria, the enormous socio-economic benefits of such projects like job opportunities, potentials for investment, etc. cannot be over-emphasized. Having analysed and discussed the challenges of socio-economic factors and delivery of community based infrastructural projects, the study concludes that;

a.) There is a high need to shelve most irrelevant adherences to cultural belief at the detriment of infrastructural growth of the communities. Some ancestral deities and cultural norms should be reformed to support socio-economic development through sound implementation of infrastructural projects.

b.) Peaceful coexistence of the Niger Delta communities should be pursued by the stakeholders in the area for proper planning and implementation of infrastructural projects. This can be achieved through setting up of intercommunity peace committee to see that peace is maintained which will allow infrastructural projects to be planned and implemented successfully. The youths must be engaged to partake in the development process by empowering them through job opportunities and self-determination thus, creating a peaceful environment that will allow successful delivery of infrastructural development projects for the socio-economic development of Niger Delta States, Nigeria.

c.) High level of theft and vandalization of project materials and equipment will be minimized through youth empowerment and self-determination. The communities can set up security committees to guard and secure project materials and equipment meant for the delivery of infrastructural projects in their communities. This will improve project success and socio-economic benefits to the communities.

d.) Government should show political will to the development of the Niger Delta region rather than mere political patronage. For example, the NDDC revealed that about N1.8trillion is being owed the NDDC by the Federal Government for the past 15years. If released, this fund will go a long way in providing projects that would improve the living conditions of the people of the Niger Delta region. Hence, transparency and honesty is needed from the Government and interventionist agencies complemented by the project benefiting communities.

e.) Adequate and prompt funding is recommended by the study. A systematic approach to the award of community based projects should be adopted by government and interventionist agencies such that only projects with available funds would be awarded. A situation where several projects are awarded and the available funds spread thin across them will not help the implementation process as we would then have several uncompleted projects which cannot be put to use with the attendant time and cost overrun.

f.) Efforts must be made to consider these identified factors for enhance delivery of community based projects. This can be done by adopting in predicting model generated in the planning and implementation of such projects in the region and other geo-political regions in Nigeria.

g.) All the stakeholders in Niger Delta region should collaborate to ensure that failed and abandoned infrastructural projects are minimized so as to improve social amenities, employment generation for the youths and business establishment for the people rather than severe discontent which precipitate violent agitations and wanton criminalities in the region. Also, names of contractors who have abandoned projects and their promoters should be published, they should be arrested and forced to go back to site or their contract revoked and made to pay back monies collected. This will eliminate fraudsters and unserious contractors. The instances of abandoned projects would also be reduced. This will go a long way in delivering the benefits of the projects to the people. An integrated Monitoring and Evaluation approach involving the beneficiaries should be adopted. Contractors and project managers would be more serious as their absence or any other activity injurious to the completion and quality of the projects would be reported. It would be difficult to beat the system as several people would be involved.

5.1 Contributions to Knowledge

The study has made the following contributions to the body of existing knowledge on socio-economic constraints for the delivery of community based infrastructural projects;

a.) The predictive model for predicting successful delivery of community based infrastructural projects in the face of the collective effect of identified socio-economic constraints.
b.) Contrary to the findings of past related studies, this study was able to establish that paucity of funds is the most critical socio-economic constraint that constrain the delivery of community based infrastructural projects in the Niger Delta States, Nigeria.

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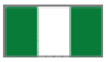

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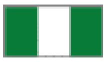

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