

## **Activities of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency (EB-CSDA) in the Development of Ebonyi State, Nigeria (2009-2014)**

*B. O. Ezeali*  
*M. E. Uwadi*  
*C. K. Nwaowu*

### **ABSTRACT**

*This survey evaluates the activities of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency in the development of Ebonyi State. The study anchors on the Progressive Social Theory propounded by Rank (2004). The population comprises all residents in the 13 Local Government Areas of Ebonyi State. Primary data are collected using structured questionnaire that are administered to a sample of 400 respondents drawn from the population. Two hypotheses are formulated and tested using chi-square statistical tool. The findings indicate among others things that EB-CSDA's programmes and projects are participatory in that the Agency utilizes community driven development approach in project identification, implementation and monitoring. The implication is that sustainable and socially inclusive multi-sectoral micro-projects in Ebonyi State will be enhanced if the Agency is granted increased budgetary allocations to expand its scope. Provision of adequate funds, accountability and transparency in the management of community projects, among others are recommended.*

**Keywords:** *Community development, standard of living, infrastructural facilities, micro-projects, rural dwellers.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Since the end of Nigeria's civil war in 1960, the country has been faced with the challenges of providing rural infrastructural facilities such as roads, schools, hospitals, health centers, bridges, potable water, markets, civic centers and rural electrification to improve the living standards of the rural dwellers (Ezeali, 2013). According to the

---

**B. O. Ezeali** (B.Sc, MPA, M.Sc, Ph.D, ACIA, AMNIM, FCIN) is the Rector, **M. E. Uwadi** (B.Sc, M.Sc) is a Lecturer in the Department of Public Administration, while **C. K. Nwaowu** (B.Sc.) is of the Department of General Studies, Sure Foundation Polytechnic, Ikot Akai, Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. E-mail: [ezealiben@yahoo.com](mailto:ezealiben@yahoo.com), [johnmartin4justice@gmail.com](mailto:johnmartin4justice@gmail.com).

---

United Nations (1956), as cited in Nkwede (2009), Community Development is the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of the governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation to enable them contribute fully to national progress. Successive federal governments in Nigeria have introduced several programmes and projects to induce community development for the benefits of the inhabitants. Also, after the creation of Ebonyi State in 1996, various administrations have introduced several strategies to provide infrastructural facilities for socio-economic development of the State. These include establishment of Ebonyi State Agricultural Development Programme (EBADEP), Ebonyi State Community and Poverty Reduction Agency (EB-CPRA), Micro-Credit Scheme, Local Government Development Centers among others (EB-CSDA, 2010). These strategies have failed to yield the desired results due to the top-down supply-driven approach adopted (Ezeali, 2013).

The quest for service delivery mechanisms that are demand-driven, participatory, covering multiple sectors and depending on specific community determined needs continued. The federal government of Nigeria and World Bank, in collaboration with the State governments, as part of the 2005-2007 Country Partnership Strategies (CPS), harmonized Community Development Projects towards reducing poverty in the rural communities, such as Local Empowerment and Environment Management Project (LEEMP) and the Community Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP) as a Social Community Driven-Development while the National Fadama Development Project (Fadama 11 & III) became Economic Community Driven-Development. This led to the establishment of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency in April 2009 to empower communities through participatory planning with more resources and the authority to use them flexibly (EB-CSDP, 2010). The Agency empowers communities to plan, part-finance, implement, monitor and maintain sustainable and socially inclusive multi-sectoral micro-projects such as construction and rehabilitation of roads, schools, culverts, bridges, boreholes, health facilities, potable water, rural electrification, classrooms, laboratories, VIP toilets, civic centers, water, transportation, vocational training centers and drainages system (EB-CSDP, 2010).

Despite the effort of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency (EB-CSDA) on Community Development in Ebonyi State, the conditions of many communities in some Local Government Areas in terms of the living standards of the inhabitants are poor and ridiculous. While some communities lack health centers and good road network, others have no electricity, good drinking water, classroom blocks and market stalls for income generation.

Since the creation of Ebonyi State, different administrations have introduced several forms of poverty alleviation projects and programmes to improve the living standards of the rural communities (EB-CSDA, 2010). Despite the numerous projects and programmes, community development efforts have remained abortive while life in rural communities has been unattractive, deplorable and devoid of the desired socio-economic development. Many reasons have been attributed to the problem of community development and poverty alleviation. This includes lack of community participation in project identification, and implementation (EB-CSDA, 2010). This has led to imposition of projects through top-bottom approach with little or no inputs from the grassroots. Also, most of the community development projects and programmes in the past were regime specific and lack continuity hence die with the demise of the regime that initiated them (Ezeali, 2013).

Furthermore, it appears that EB-CSDA has not improved the standard of living of rural communities in Ebonyi State despite its community-Driven Development approach due to inadequate funds, lack of competent technical staff, corruption and distrust among officials, poor citizen education and inadequate information of the agency programmes (Ezeali, 2013). Therefore, the study will evaluate the activities of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency (EB-CSDA) in the development of Ebonyi State, Nigeria. However, the specific objectives of this study include:

- a. To examine the extent to which rural dwellers in Ebonyi State participate in the EB-CSDA's projects and programmes.
- b. To find out the extent to which the Agency has improved the standard of living of rural dwellers in Ebonyi State.
- c. To ascertain whether inadequate funds affects EB-CSDA on the provision of rural infrastructural facilities in Ebonyi State

The study formulated and tested the following hypotheses:

- H<sub>0</sub>1: There is no positive participation of rural drivellers in the EB-CSDA's projects and programmes.
- H<sub>0</sub>2: EB-CSDA has not improved the standard of living of the rural dwellers in Ebonyi State.

### **Concept of Community Development**

Community Development has been a universal concept applied to national programmes for development. It has to do with development of the rural people. The concept has been defined by different scholars such as Oyaide (2010), as all kinds of cooperative actions by every member of a particular community to improve the well being or welfare

of town members such as construction and rehabilitation of rural roads, schools, hospitals and health centers, villages halls, markets, and garri processing machines. Okoli and Onah (2002), asserts that community development mode of operation is made up of three essential elements like participation by the people as well as local organization management ability; the provision of technical and other services which encourage initiative and strengthens the community as an entity and improve the living standard and popular participation. It involves building the critical thinking and planning abilities as well as concrete skills of community members so as to take control of its own development. Community development involves grass-roots participation. This means that the local people consult themselves and get involved in the identification of local needs and implementation of projects aimed at self-reliance and related development. For Ezeali (2013), community development is a socio-economic development arrangement in which externally generated inputs, processes, ideas and materials are expected to assume secondary status.

Community development projects are always associated with rural areas where participatory development is encouraged. This is because, rather than development impetus originating from top to down, development is undertaken by communities in relation to their felt needs. Ukwu (1986), observes that the main objective of community development in Nigeria is to raise the quality of life of the rural communities by harnessing voluntary private efforts to supplement government efforts. The concept also involves indigenous technique employed by rural communities in solving their problems. This entails community participation in project planning and implementation. Such local participation enables the rural people to identify problems, prioritize them and design locally acceptable solutions. Idiode (1989) as cited in Okoli and Onah (2002) defines it as all strategies, interventions or coordinated activities at the community level aimed at bringing social and economic development.

### **Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency (EB-CSDA):**

Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency (EB-CSDA), was established by the Ebonyi State of Nigeria Law No. 004 of 2009 as an autonomous agency of government with the core mandate of improving the socio-economic conditions of the rural dwellers (EB-CSDA, 2010). It is empowered to primarily finance Community Development Plan not exceeding ten million naira (N10m) on micro-projects initiated by communities with 10% resource contributions either in cash, kind, materials or a combination of all (EB-CSDA, 2010). These micro-projects include construction and rehabilitation of roads, schools, hospitals and health centers, markets,

civic centers, bridges, potable water and rural electrification (EB-CSDA, 2010). EB-CSDA is anchored on community-Driven Development Strategy which discourages top-bottom approach in project identification, design, implementation and monitoring. This empowers communities to initiate projects based on their felt-needs. The Agency has four departments such as Administration, Finance/Accounts, Operation and Internal Audit for effective achievement of its mandate in the 13 Local Government Areas of the State namely Ishielu, Izzi, Ohaukwu, Ebonyi, Abakaliki, Ezza North, Ezza South, Ikwo, Afikpo North, Afikpo South, Ivo, Ohaozara and Onicha. The 13 LGA's is also divided into three Senatorial Zones (North, Central and South) for administrative convenience.

It has institutions that facilitate the attainment of community and social development project objectives such as State Level institutions (State Agency Board, State Agency and relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies); Local Government Level institutions (Local Government Area, Local Government Review Committee (LGRC) and Local Government Desk Office); and Community Level Institutions (Community Development Association/Town Union, Community Project Management Committee and Sub-committees) for various functions (FGN, 2011). While the State Agency act as a disbursing instrument for support to community development efforts, the Community Project Management Committee is responsible for the facilitation, formulation, implementation and management of projects. Community Development Associations are empowered to identify and prioritize projects in a participatory and gender sensitive manner and to elect a Community Project Management Committee (CPMC) that will develop a Community Development Plan and submits to the Local Government Desk Office with Bank Account evidence of 10% counterpart fund for desk appraisal by the Local Government Review Committee (LGRC). The LGRC submits to the State Agency for field appraisal of the Community Development Plan, funding approval and training workshop. The next stage will be Micro-project launch, disbursement of first tranche, signing of agreement and implementation of the project (FGN, 2011).

### **Objectives of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency**

The objectives of EB-CSDA in line with its mandate include:

- a. To improve the living standards of the citizens in the rural communities especially those demands that are not fulfilled by other programmes of the State.
- b. To empower rural communities through Community-Driven Development to enable them play a role in project identification, design, implementation and evaluation.

- c. To help communities develop, implement and enhance comprehensive system of community and social development based poverty reduction projects.
- d. To strengthen the development capacities of the informal sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and grass-root Community Based Organizations (CBOs).
- e. To make funds readily available and easily accessible to Community Development Associations for Community Development Projects

### **Conundrums of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency**

Despite the numerous achievements of EB-CSDA in the development of communities in Ebonyi State, there are several conundrums confronting the performance of the Agency. These include according to Ezeali (2013):

- a. **Inadequate Funds:** Inadequate funds resulting from poor budgetary allocations have limited the scope of the Agency's Programmes and Projects. This has also contributed to non-release of government counterpart funds for implementation of approved community Developmental Projects.
- b. **Lack of Competent Technical Manpower.** The Agency does not have the required competent technical manpower to perform its functions in many communities. This has affected effective implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of micro-projects in the State.
- c. **Lack of Transparency and Accountability:** There is lack of transparency and accountability resulting from corrupt practices and distrust among the officials of the Agency and members of the Community Project Management Committee (CPMC). The Officials issue false interim payment certificates or demands gratifications from communities before their applications are approved while members of the CPMC inflate contract figures, embezzle project funds and present unsatisfactory accounts.
- d. **Political Interference and Marginalization:** Political Officers and Senior Public Officers in the State also interfere with the day-to-day activities of the Agency through their political influence and position of authority in government for the benefits of their communities and at the detriment of others. This has promoted political marginalization and ethnocentrism in the approval of micro-projects and release of counterpart funds to communities for project implementation.

Iduma (2012) indicates that many communities have not benefited from Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency due to lack of awareness, inadequate funds, intra and inter-communal crises and corrupt practices among officials. Iduma

(2012) recommends increases sensitization and enlightenment programmes, provision of adequate funds and appointment of honest and transparent leaders for effective projects management supporting the contributions of Ebonyi State community and Social Development Agency in poverty alleviation. Okwuibe (2014) argues that EB-CSDA has impacted positively on sustainable development. He, however, recommends adequate funding and expansion of its programmes for rapid grass-roots development.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study adopted Progressive Social Theory as postulated by Rank (2004). According to the theory, the focus of poverty on individual deficiencies is misplaced and misdirected. This is because poverty stems from the structural failures of the economic, political and social system of a particular country. It is the system distortions or discrimination that causes the citizens to have limited opportunities and lack income generation capacities for improved standards of living regardless of individual capabilities. Therefore, Rank (2004) suggests that since the problem of poverty in communities is in the system, a community development intervention into the system becomes imperative at the grass-roots level to force desired change. These interventions according to him can occur through the policy process, social movement or establishment of alternative institutions that adhere strictly to Community-Driven Development approach and principles of inclusion, equal partnership, transparency, empowerment, cooperation and sharing of power and responsibilities. This explains the role of government autonomous agency in community development through the provision of rural infrastructural facilities for rapid socio-economic development of the State.

### **METHOD**

The study adopted survey research design. The population of the study comprises all inhabitants of the thirteen (13) Local Government Areas of Ebonyi State. The study covers the activities of EB-CSDA from 2009 to 2014 in the entire 13 Local Government Areas in the following sectors: Education, Health, Transport, Water, Rural Electrification, and Environmental and National resources. For sample size determination, Taro Yamane's formula (1964) as cited in Chukwuemeka E. and Chukwuemeka N. (2012) was used thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n = Sample size  
 N = Population of the study  
 1 = Constant  
 e = Level of Significance (0.05)

Therefore, the sample size of the study is 400. However, the number of questionnaire to be administered to each Local Government Area was determined through stratified sampling technique using the Bowley's proportional allocation formula as cited in Omesonye (2013).

$$N_h = \frac{n \times N_h}{N}$$

**Where** nh = Number of questionnaire allocated to each LGA  
 n = Total sample size  
 Nh = Population of each LGA  
 N = Total Population

**Table 1:** Sampled Local Government Areas in Ebonyi State

S/N	Local Government Areas	2006 Census Population	Sample
1	Abakaliki	149,683	28
2	Afikpo North	156,649	29
3	Afikpo South	157,542	29
4	Ebonyi	127,226	23
5	Ezza North	146,149	27
6	Ezza South	133,625	25
7	Ikwo	214,969	40
8	Ishielu	152,581	28
9	Ivo	121,363	22
10	Izi	236,679	43
11	Ohaozara	148,317	27
12	Ohaukwu	195,555	36
13	Onicha	236,609	43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,176,947</b>	<b>400</b>

**Source:** National Population Commission 2006; Survey, 2017

Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were gathered from respondents through questionnaire structured in a 5 point likert scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), undecided (U), Disagreed (D), and Strongly Disagreed (SD). To make sure that the instrument applied in this work is valid, the researchers ensured that the instrument measured the concept it was suppose to measure. Also, face and content validity was used to authenticate the questionnaire.





The instrument was subjected to evaluation for which necessary corrections were made before distribution. Out of the 400 copies of questionnaire administered on the respondents in the thirteen Local Government Areas, 380 copies were returned (response rate of 95%), 20 copies were not returned (non-response rate of 5%). The questionnaire was tested for reliability using Cronbachs coefficient alpha ( $\alpha$ ) and the result obtained was 0.702 which is above the acceptable level of 50. The result showed that the instrument was reliable and has a high internal consistency. Data collected were analysed using and frequency tables and simple percentage while chi-square statistics was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 (5%) significant level.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Form table 2, 65% of the respondents are males while 35% are females. Table 3 shows that 7% of the respondents are between the age of 18 – 22 years, 8% are between 32 – 27 years, 13% are between 28 – 32 years, 20% are between 23 – 37 years, 18% are between 38 – 43 years, while 34% are between 43 years and above. From the analysis in table 4 of the list of completed micro–projects, communities and costs, it is clear that the agency has promoted community and socio-economic development of Ebonyi State through the provision of over 288 micro-projects in 135 communities covering the entire 13 local government areas. The infrastructural facilities provided include potable water, rural electrification, classrooms, schools, laboratories, VIP toilets, hospitals and health centers, markets, construction and rehabilitation of feeder roads, culverts and bridges. These have increased the number of children in schools, provided access to good drinking water, reduced diseases, infections, maternal and infant mortality rate and contributed positively to the socio-economic development of Ebonyi State. Also, it has improved social facilities in communities, strengthened sustainable environmental management and improved access of poor people to social and natural resources infrastructure.

From the analysis in table 5, 53% of the respondents strongly agreed that EB –CSDA allowed their Community Development Associations to identify and implement projects based on their felt-needs, 41% Agreed while 1% was undecided, 4% disagreed and another 1% strongly disagreed. Also, responses on item 2 reveal that 66% of the respondents strongly agreed that VIP toilets, classrooms, markets, boreholes, hospitals, feeder roads, culverts, bridges and rural electrification executed in their communities are identified and implemented by members of their communities, 29% agreed, 1% undecided and disagreed respectively while 3% of the respondents strongly disagreed. Responses on item 3 show that 41% of the respondents strongly agreed that construction

of health centers by EB-CSDA has improved rural health care and reduced maternal and infant mortality in their communities, 53% agreed, 5% disagreed while 1% strongly disagreed.

Responses from item 4 reveal that 68% of the respondents strongly agreed that provision of rural electrification in their communities has improved socio-economic lives of their people while establishment of small and medium enterprises in their communities have increased their income generation, 21% agreed, 1% undecided, 3% disagreed while 7% strongly disagreed. Responses from item 5 show that 30% of the respondents strongly agreed that construction and rehabilitation of feeder roads, culverts and unity bridges by EB-CSDA have made movement of citizens and harvested agricultural produce from communities to urban markets easily accessible, 62% agreed, 2% undecided, 4% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. Responses from item 6 reveal that 53% of the respondents strongly agreed that provision of VIP toilets and motorized boreholes by EB-CSDA in their communities have improved environmental sanitation and reduced diseases, and poor hygiene of the citizens, 41% agreed, 1% undecided, 4% disagreed while another 1% strongly disagreed.

Also, the analysis on item 7 reveals that 66% of the respondents strongly agreed that there is still inadequate infrastructural facilities in their communities in spite of EB-CSDA projects and programmes, 29% agreed, 1% undecided and disagreed respectively while 3% strongly disagreed. The summary of the responses on the instrument, items 1 to 2 show that rural dwellers in Ebonyi State participate in the EB-CSDA's projects and programmes, questionnaire items 3 to 6 suggest that the Agency has improved the standard of living of the rural dwellers through its projects and programmes in Ebonyi State while item 7 reveals that there is inadequate funding of EB-CSDA, hence, the need for increased budgetary allocations.

Table 7 reveals computed value of chi-square as 466 which is greater than the table value of 9.49, hence, the null hypothesis that there is no significant positive participation of rural dwellers in EB-CSDA projects and programmes is rejected. Table 8 shows that at 0.05 level of significance, the calculated chi-square value of 602 is greater than the critical value of 9.49. Therefore, the study rejects the null hypothesis that EB-CSDA has not significantly improved the standard of living of the rural dwellers in Ebonyi State. From the test of hypotheses using chi-square statistical tool, it is revealed that there is high level of participation of rural dwellers in Ebonyi State in the EB-CSDA's projects and programmes. Secondly, there is significant improvement in the standard of living of the rural dwellers in Ebonyi State through provisions of infrastructural facilities such as markets, rural electrification, health centers, VIP toilets, bridges, culverts, motorized and hand pump water boreholes, classrooms and feeder

roads. The findings are in agreement with the empirical work of Okwuibe (2014) on impact of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency in Sustainable rural Development in Ezza North Local Government Area and Iduma (2012) on the role of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency on Capacity Building in Ebonyi State (2009 – 2011).

**Table 2: Gender classification of respondents**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	246	65
Female	134	35
Total	380	100

*Source:* Field survey 2017

**Table 3: Classification of Respondents by Grouping**

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 22	25	7
23 – 27	30	8
28 – 32	50	13
33 – 37	75	20
38 – 43	70	18
43 and above	130	34
Total	380	100

*Source:* Field survey, 2017

**Table 4: Analysis of EB-CSDA Projects, Communities and Costs in 13 LGAs (2009 -2014)**

S/N	LGA	Community	Micro-projects	Amount(₦)
1	Abakaliki	Ndegu, Okpuitumo	Extension of electricity Mini bridge 3 Mini bridges, examination hall with 120 sets of desks.	
		Okpuitumo	Mini bridge, 5 hand pump water boreholes and extension of electricity.	
		Azuoffia Edda	7 hand pump water boreholes	
		Edda	Extension of electricity	
		Izzi Unuptu	4 classroom blocks, extension of electricity	
		Amagu	1 Hand pump water borehole, 4 classroom blocks with desks, extension of electricity.	
		Amagu Izzi	Extension of electricity	
		Ndiebor-Amachi	1.4km road, 5 culverts, 2 Hand pump water borehole, furnishing 2 village civic centres, double extension of electricity.	
		Ndiechi-Amachi	3 Hand pump water borehole, examination hall, civic centre with furniture	
		Ndiegu-Amachi	A health centre staff quarter, 2 Hand pump water borehole, 6 classroom blocks with VIP toilets.	102,700,000

2	Afikpo North	Afikpo	2 motorized boreholes, 6 classroom blocks	<b>70,400,000</b>
		Amasiri	A motorized borehole, 4 classroom blocks with two laboratories,	
		Unwana	Block of 14 lock up stores, 4 VIP toilets	
		Ibii Ozizza	4 classroom blocks with furniture, renovation and extension of primary school block	
		Itim	2 blocks of VIP toilet, 3 mini bridges and 3 culverts	
		Ohaisu	A health centre and equipment, a civic centre, a block of 11 lock up market stalls	
		Nkpoghor	4 classroom blocks with furniture, extension of electricity.	
3	Afikpo South	Nguzu Edda	Renovation of 2 sec. sch. Block, 5 VIP toilets, 10 lock up market stalls.	<b>74,800,000</b>
		Ebunwana	Reticulation of water from existing source, a civic/skill acquisition centre	
		Owutu Edda	Completion of town hall, extension of electricity	
		Amangwu	A culvert, extension of electricity	
		Oso Edda	Examination hall with 120 set of desks, a civic/ skill acquisition centre and furniture.	
		Ekoli Edda	6 classroom and admin block for a sec. sch.	
		Ebiri Edda	A town hall, 4 classroom blocks for a sec. sch.	
Iduma Edda	A town hall, 9 hand pump water boreholes.			
4	Ebonyi	Agalegu Ishieke	2 mini bridges, 4 hand pump water boreholes.	<b>88,300,000</b>
		Ndiegu Ishieke	2 box culvert, extension of electricity.	
		Nkaleke Echara	11 hand pump water borehole, 5 mini bridges/culvert, extension of electricity.	
		Unuphu	Sch. Examination hall, 4 pri. sch. classroom blocks, a mini bridge	
		Onuenyim	A mini bridge, 2 hand pump water boreholes, 6 classroom block with furniture.	
		Mbeke Ishieke	Renovation of pri.sch. 4 classroom blocks, mini bridge, 10 hand pump water boreholes	
		Ishieke	Extension of electricity, a hand pump water borehole.	
5	Ezza North	Amauda	Extension of electricity, 4 classroom block with 80 set of desks	
		Umuogara	A box culvert, 6 hand pump water boreholes, mini bridge, 8km earth road.	
		Umuezekoha	Mini bridge, 4 blocks of 14 lock up shops, civic centre with chairs.	

	Ekwetakwe	Extension of electricity, 2 water pump boreholes.	
	Okposhi Umuogara	Extension of electricity, 11 hand pump water boreholes.	
	Orieuzo	1km earth road; extension of electricity.	
	Ekkaa	5 classroom blocks, extension of electricity.	<b>134,200,000</b>
6	Esza South		
	Ikwaato Idembia	A civic/skill acquisition centre with equipment, 2 blocks of 20 lock up shops.	
	Amaezekwe	A civic/skill acquisition centre and equipment, 5 hand pump water boreholes, 4 classroom block.	
	Echara	A mini bridge, 2 ring culvert, 6 classroom blocks with 5 VIP toilet.	
	Ezzama	A mini bridge, civic centre with chairs	
	Amaizu	2 hand pump water boreholes, 4 box culvert, 3km grading of road, extension of electricity.	
	Ameka	Extension of electricity, a hand pump water Borehole	
	Okoffia	4 classroom blocks, 2 hand pump water borehole, 158km earth road	
	Nsokkara	Extension of electricity, a health centre and equipment.	<b>72,000,000</b>
7	Ikwo		
	Enyibuchiri	6 classroom block with Principal office and VIP toilet. A mini bridge and 2 ring culverts	
	Noyo Alike	14km earth road and 7 culverts, 2 blocks of 20 open market stalls each.	
	Ndiagu Echara	Extension of electricity, 5 hand pump water boreholes.	
	Echi Alike	Grading/laterting of 8km road, 2 culverts, a ring culvert, extension electricity.	
	Ndufu Alike	A mini bridge, a civic/skill acquisition centre and equipment.	
	Igbudu	Extension of electricity, 6 classroom blocks	
	Inyimegu	A civic/skill acquisition centre with equipment. 3 blocks of 20 market stalls each.	
	Amagu Ndufu	A mini bridge, 4 culvert, a motorized borehole with over head tank and reticulation.	
	Eka-Awoke	2 hand pump water boreholes.	
	Ndiagu Amagu	10km earth road and 8 culvert, 2 hand pump water boreholes.	<b>107,300,000</b>
8	Izzi		
	Ndieze Echi	2 mini bridge, 16 hand pump water boreholes	
	Ndiebor Esza Inyimegu	8 culvert, extension of electricity.	
	Esza Inyimegu	Extension of electricity, 3 hand pump water boreholes, 3 classroom block.	
	Agbaja	4 classroom block with 80 sets of desks, 8 hand pump water boreholes.	
	EszaOlu	A hand pump and a motorized boreholes, skill acquisition centre equipment and fencing.	
	Igbeagu	A hand pump water borehole, extension of electricity.	
	Mgbalukwu	A bridge with 12 culverts, 2 hand pump water boreholes	
	Ikeoha	A motorized and a hand pump water boreholes, skill acquisition centre equipment.	<b>93,300,000</b>

9	Ivo	Umuohe	A hand pump water borehole, 4 sec. sch. Classroom blocks, examination hall.	<b>45,000,000</b>
		Ogwor	A town hall, a health centre with basis equipment	
		Ihie	A civic/skill acquisition centre, a health centre and equipment, renovation of sec. sch. Science laboratory.	
		Ishiagu	A civic/skill acquisition centre and equipment, a health centre and equipment.	
10	Ohozara	Mgbam N Achara	11 hand pump water boreholes, examination hall with 60 desks.	<b>81,000,000</b>
		Ugwulangwu	6 hand pump water boreholes, 3 blocks of 10 lock up shops each.	
		Umunuka	Extension of electricity, 6 classroom blocks with 120 sets of desks.	
		Eweze Uburu	Clearing/grading of 5km road, extension of electricity, a health centre with basic equipment.	
		Unuka	4 ring culverts, 10 hand pump water boreholes, extension of electricity.	
		Mebuokpa/Ameke Ikposi Okwu	Extension of electricity, a town hall. 2 blocks of 10 lock up shops each, 10 hand pump water boreholes.	
		Etiti Uburu	A pri. sch. 6 classroom block storey building, 6 hand pump water boreholes.	
		Uburu	3 motorized water boreholes, with over head tank, 5km earth road, 4 ring culverts, a box culvert	
		Enu Uburu	A motorized borehole with over head tank, examination hall with 60 desks.	
		11	Ohaukwu	
Ukwagba	A town hall, a mini bridge, extension of electricity.			
Umuakpu Ogwawa	5 hand pump water boreholes. Examination hall with 240 sets of desks, 5 hand pump water boreholes, extension of electricity.			
Umuezeka	4 hand pump water boreholes, extension of electricity.			
Umuogodo Akpu	4 VIP toilets, extension of electricity, a mini bridge, 3 culverts, 3km earth road, 4 hand pump water boreholes.			
Umuechata Ezzamgbo	4 VIP toilets, 2 hand pump water boreholes, 20 open shops, 20 lock up shops.			
Okposhi Eshi	Earth road/ mini bridge, a health centre and equipment.			
Umugadu Okposhi Ebeku	Extension of electricity, a mini bridge. Grading of 60km road, extension electricity.			
Ntsurakpa	7 hand pump water boreholes, town hall/skill acquisition centre.			
Amoffia	6 classroom blocks and furniture, 10 hand pump water boreholes.			
Ekwashi	Extension of electricity, 2 hand pump water boreholes.			

12	Ishielu	Logbo jokpo	Grading of 10km road, reticulation of water, 12 box culverts.	
		Nkalagu	4 hand pump water boreholes, extension of electricity	
		Ohafia Agbai	A school science laboratory block and equipment, 2 hand pump water boreholes, 2 blocks of 20 open market stall each with a unit of VIP toilet.	
		Ntezi	A box culvert, 5km earth road, extension of electricity.	
		Amaozara Ezilo	A bridge, 4 hand pump water boreholes.	
		Obeagu	6 classroom block with VIP toilets, 3 blocks of 20 open market stalls each.	
		Azuinaba	3 blocks of 20 open market stall each, 6 classroom sec. sch. block.	<b>33,000,000</b>
13	Onicha	Igboeze Onicha	Extension of electricity, 2 hand pump water boreholes.	
		Isu	2 hand pump water boreholes.	
		Ukawu	2 blocks of 12 units each of lock up shops, 4 compartment of VIP toilets and a civic centre	
		Abaomege	A motorized water borehole, extension of electricity.	
		Anioma	3 hand pump water boreholes, extension of electricity.	
		Onicha Igboeze	2 hand pump water boreholes, extension of electricity.	<b>79,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,140,551,225</b>	

*Source:* Field survey 2017/EB-CSDA list of projects 2014

**Table 5:** Distribution of Responses for the Questionnaire

Questionnaire Item	SA	A	U	D	SD	TOTAL
1. EB-CSDA allowed your Community Development Associations to identify and implement project(s) based on felt needs.	200 (53%)	155 (41%)	5 (1%)	15 (4%)	5 (1%)	380 100%
2. VIP toilets, classrooms, Markets, boreholes hospitals, feeder roads, Culverts, bridges or Rural electrification executed in your community were identified and implemented by members of the community.	250 (66%)	110 (29%)	5 (1%)	5 (3%)	10 (1%)	380 100
3. Construction of health Centers by EB CSDA has improved rural health care and reduced maternal and infant mortality your community	155 (41%)	200 (53%)	20 (5%)	50 (1%)	380 (100%)	
4. Provision of rural Electrification and markets in your community have improved socio-economic lives of the people through establishment of small and medium enterprises for increased income generation.	260 (68%)	80 (21%)	5 (1%)	10 (3%)	25 (7%)	380 (100%)
5. Construction and rehabilitation of feeder roads, culverts and unity bridges by EB-CSDA have made movement of citizens and harvested agricultural produce from communities to urban markets easily accessible.	115 (30%)	236 (62%)	8 (2%)	15 (4%)	6 (2%)	380 (100%)

6. Provision of VIP toilets and motorized boreholes by EB CSDA in your community have improved environmental sanitation and reduced diseases, infections and poor hygiene of the citizens.	200 (53%)	155 (41%)	5 (1%)	15 (4%)	5 (1%)	380 (100%)
7. There is still inadequate infrastructural facilities in your community in spite of EB-CSDA projects and programmes.	250 (66%)	110 (29%)	5 (1%)	5 (1%)	10 (3%)	380 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2017

**Table 6:** Response rate to questionnaire items 1 and 2

Options	Frequency		Percentage	
	Q <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>2</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>2</sub>
Strongly Agreed	200	250	53	66
Agreed	155	110	41	29
Undecided	5	5	1	1
Disagreed	15	5	4	1
Strongly disagreed	5	10	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field survey, 2017

**Table 7:** Chi-square computation for Hypothesis one using questionnaire item 1

Options Q <sub>1</sub>	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	Fo - Fe <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
Strongly agreed	200	76	124	15376	202
Agreed	155	76	79	6241	82
Undecided	5	76	-71	5041	66
Disagreed	15	76	-61	3721	49
Strongly disagreed	5	76	-71	5041	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35420</b>	<b>466</b>

Source: Field survey, 2017

**Table 8:** Computation of Hypothesis Two

	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	Fo - Fe <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
Strongly agree	260	76	184	33856	495
Agree	80	76	4	16	0.21
Undecided	5	76	-71	-5041	-66
Disagree	10	76	-66	-4356	-57
Strongly disagree	25	76	-51	-2601	-3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45870</b>	<b>602</b>

Source: Field survey, 2017



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the study, EB-CSDA has played significant roles in the development of rural communities of the 13 Local Government Areas in Ebonyi State through the use of Community Driven Development Approach in the provision of infrastructural facilities such as classroom blocks, feeder roads, bridges, culverts, hospitals, health centers, motorized and hand pump water boreholes, markets, rural electrification and VIP toilets to enhance the quality of life of the rural people. Also, EB-CSDA Projects and programmes have contributed immensely in poverty alleviation and promotion of better standard of living among the rural dwellers of the benefiting communities in Ebonyi State. Therefore, citizens opportunity for increased involvement in the developmental activities of their communities should be encouraged through decentralized and participatory planning system to ensure spirit of togetherness, commitment and communalism.

Government should provide adequate funds through increased budgetary allocations to the Agency to address the problem of inadequate funds. This will help the Agency to expand the scope of its projects and programmes as well as execute projects beyond the sum of ten million naira (₦10,000,000). Recruitment of more competent technical and managerial staff should be encouraged to enable the Agency have the required and qualified manpower for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of micro-projects in rural communities especially in the field of Engineering, surveying and building.

EB-CSDA should always ensure that projects executed in rural communities reflect political equity, justice and fair play in the selection of projects in the three senatorial zones of Ebonyi State. This will eliminate the problem of marginalization and ethnocentrism in the approval of projects and release of funds. Corrupt practices and distrust among the Agency officials and Community Project Management Committee (CPMC) should be discouraged through sensitization, enthronement of transparency and accountability in its activities, value re-orientation and appointment of transparent and honest leaders into the Community Project Management Committee (CPMC). Also, the institutional framework should be strengthened and any officer involved in corrupt practices handed over to ICPC and EFCC for prosecution. This will serve as deterrent to others.

## REFERENCES

- Chukwuemeka, E. E. O. and Chukwuemeka, N.** (2012). A Pedagogical Analysis of Labour and Management Relations in Nigerian Local Government System: A Study of Enugu State. *Agricultural Journal*, 7(1): 42-52.
- Ezeali, B.** (2013). Challenges of Community Development in Ebonyi State. A study of EB-CSDA. A Ph.D seminar paper presented to the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki.
- EB-CSDA** (2014). List of Micro-Projects/Completed Projects/Communities, and Costs. A publication of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency. Abakaliki: Ebonyi State Government.
- EB-CSDA** (2010). Word Bank Assisted Manual on Operational Modalities for Community and Social Development Projects. Abakaliki: Optinal Press, 2 – 10pp.
- FGN** (2011). Community and Social Development Project: A Project Implementation Manual at State and Community Levels, Federal Government Press: Abuja.
- Iduma, E.** (2012), Capacity Building in Ebonyi State: The Role of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency (2009 – 2011). A research submitted to the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of B.Sc Degree in Public Administration.
- NPC** (2006). Population Census Report by the National Population Commission, Federal Government Press: Abuja.
- Ndukwe, C.** (2005). Issues in Rural and Community Development, Enugu: John Jacob's Classic Publishers Ltd, 13-23pp.
- Nkwede, V.** (2009). Community Development and Urbanization in Nigeria: Theories and Applications, Onitsha: Chambers Books Ltd, 17-53pp.
- Oyaide, O.** (2010). Rural Development in Nigeria. The Role of Government and Community Associations, *Nigerian Journal of Development Policy Analysis*, 6 (3), 152-157.
- Omesonye, E.** (2013). Importance of Community Development Strategy for Socio-economic Transformation in Nigeria: Abia State Experience, *Journal of Strategic Development and Management*, 5 (4), 114-121.

- Okwuibe R.** (2014). Impact of Ebonyi State Community and Social Development Agency on sustainable Rural Development: A Study of Ezza North Local Government Area (2009-2012), A Research submitted to the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of B.Sc Degree in Public Administration.
- Okoli, F. and Onah, F.** (2002). *Public Administration in Nigeria: Nature, Principles and Application*. Enugu: John Jacob's Classic Publishers Ltd.
- Rank, M.** (2004). *One Nation, Underprivileged*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ukwu, U.** (1986). Rural Development in Nigeria: Foundations of Sustainable Economic Recovery. Seminar Paper, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, 48 – 56pp.