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An assessment of the impacts of community development initiatives in Awgbu Town in Anambra State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This research evaluates how the Awgbu community has contributed to the general development of Anambra State, how it has benefited from state government efforts, and how it has responded to demands and initiatives from the government between 2015 and 2023. Community Development (CD), Social Capital, and the Diffusion of Innovations theories are the underpinning theoretical framework of analysis used for the study. The research design used in this paper was a descriptive survey, with data collected from primary and secondary sources. Since the study was intended for the entire population of Awgbu town, Slovin's sample determination formula and the purposive random sampling technique were employed. Specifically, a sample size of 400 respondents was targeted, and 286 returned questionnaires were used for data analysis. The gathered data were displayed on the Logical Data Framework (LDF) and subjected to a quantitative statistical data analysis technique that involved weighted mean and frequency tables. The results show that the Awgbu community has significantly influenced Anambra State's growth. Through its participation in the Choose Your Project Initiative (CYPI), the community has actively reacted to requests from the government. Nonetheless, the research discovers that, among other things, inadequate money, oversight, and leadership crises impede the community's advancement.

Keywords: community, community development, development, initiatives, sustainability



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Public Interest Statement

Awgbu town is well recognized as one of the 177 Autonomous Communities in Anambra State. This study evaluates the contributions of Awgbu community to the development of Anambra state. Most scholars before had concentrated on the roles of government in community development without much concern about the community contributions to the state government. This study is out to close that gap in literature with the assessment of those areas of community contributions such as security, participation, support for education, health, and youth empowerment.

Introduction

The sustainability of community development initiatives is a global concern that transcends boundaries, affecting communities in developed, developing, and African nations, including Nigeria. In developed nations, issues often revolve around maintaining momentum and community engagement once basic needs are met, ensuring long-term relevance, and addressing changing demographics and economic challenges (Hawkins & Edwards, 2017).

Ogujiuba and Mngometulu (2022) contended that developing nations face a different set of challenges, including resource constraints, limited access to education and healthcare, and political instability, all of which can hinder the sustainability of community projects. In African nations like Nigeria, where the focus is often on overcoming poverty, health disparities, and infrastructure deficits, sustainability hinges on addressing issues like corruption, inadequate funding, and the capacity building needed to empower local communities (Franco & Tracey, 2019; Meyer, Zachmeyer, Paccione, Cardenas, Zernial & Smith, 2023). Orié (2023) argued that a comprehensive understanding of these prevalent issues across diverse contexts is crucial for designing effective strategies to ensure the sustainability of community development initiatives worldwide.

Nonetheless, Awgbu town is in Orumba North, one of the 21 Local Government Areas in Anambra State. Awgbu town is also well recognized as one of the 177 Autonomous Communities in Anambra State. The community has a rich cultural heritage, and a population primarily engaged in farming, trading, and other small-scale businesses. Like many rural communities in Nigeria, Awgbu has faced a myriad of challenges, including limited access to basic amenities, and inadequate infrastructure. Recognizing these challenges and the potential for positive change, the community leaders and members initiated a series of development projects and programs (road construction and maintenance, school buildings, security buildings, hospital renovations, buildings, and equipment). Positive change of societies have their link with democracy (Daudu, Osimen, & Ameh, 2024). These linkages enable community leaders in their contributions to their communities. These contributions have remained a great recognition of number 11 of the 17 Goals of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which emphasized Sustainable Cities and Communities. This is supported by the World Bank (WB) (2023), to eradicate extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity at the local, regional, and national levels, as well as to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, equitable, adaptive, productive, and sustainable cities and communities must be built.

However, assessing the impact and sustainability of these community development initiatives is of paramount importance for several reasons. Firstly, it allows for the identification of successful projects that can serve as models for other communities facing similar challenges. Secondly, it helps in evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies employed, providing valuable insights for future planning and resource allocation. Moreover, understanding the sustainability of these initiatives is crucial to ensure that the progress achieved is maintained over the long term, benefiting current and future generations of Awgbu

residents.

Additionally, the research makes use of the widely accepted theoretical framework known as sustainable development, which emphasises the significance of addressing present-day needs without jeopardising the capacity of future generations to address their own needs (Echendu, 2020; Raimi, 2020; Ajor, et al., 2023). The question of whether the community development programs in Awgbu are planned and carried out in a way that guarantees long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability is guided by the notion of sustainable development.

Nevertheless, according to Teshome, Shita, and Abebe (2021), community development initiatives play a vital role in the social and economic progress of regions and countries worldwide. In recent years, many local communities in Anambra State, Nigeria, have embarked on various development projects to address the pressing needs of their residents and improve their overall quality of life through the “Choose Your Project Initiative (CYPI)” implemented by the Anambra State Government in collaboration with the communities in the state which Awgbu town is not left out and has been actively involved in the development initiatives. This background information provides insight into the context, objectives, and significance of this study. Therefore, it is on this background that this study assesses the impact and sustainability of community development initiatives in Awgbu town, Anambra State, between the periods of 2015 to 2023.

Statement of the Problem

The community development initiatives in Awgbu are multifaceted one that aimed to improve infrastructure, such as road networks, schools, security, and healthcare facilities, to enhance the overall living conditions of the people, it still does not go down smoothly in many areas of implementing some initiatives in the community. Thus, this study evaluates the impact and sustainability of community development initiatives implemented in Awgbu town during this period, shedding light on the factors contributing to success and offering recommendations for future endeavors in community-driven development.

Additionally, the community development initiatives sought to empower community members economically, promote education, and create employment opportunities for the youth. The efforts of the community members also ensure orderliness and peaceful co-existence which they can achieve with the use of sanctions on individuals or groups that tend to violate their stated rules (Aluko, Apeloko, Chukwudi & Paimo, 2023). These goals were aligned with broader national and international development agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), number eleven (11), which emphasizes the importance of community-driven development to ensure sustainable cities and communities.

However, despite the commendable efforts of the Awgbu community toward the implementation of various community development initiatives, there is a pressing need to comprehensively assess the impact and sustainability of these projects. Many rural communities in Nigeria, including Awgbu, grapple with multifaceted challenges such as poor funding, lack of project continuity, leadership crises, poor management evaluation and monitoring, and communication gaps among others. Thus, while the community-led initiatives have undoubtedly brought about positive changes, their long-term effectiveness and sustainability remain uncertain. Therefore, it is against these stated backdrops that this study poses the following research questions:

- i. How has the CYPI implementation in Anambra State impacted the standard of living in Awgbu town?

- ii. To what extent do the members of Awgbu town actively participate and feel ownership of the development initiatives implemented in their community?
- iii. What are the challenges that inhibit the sustainability of the community development initiatives in Awgbu town?

Objectives of the Study

- i. To ascertain how the CYPI implemented by the Anambra State Government has impacted the standard of living in Awgbu town.
- ii. To find out how the members of Awgbu town have actively participated and feel ownership of the development initiatives implemented in their community.
- iii. To examine the challenges that inhibit the progress of the community development initiatives and projects in Awgbu town.

Hypotheses

- i. The Community Choose Your Project Initiative implemented by the Anambra State Government has impacted the standard of living in Awgbu town.
- ii. Members of Awgbu town have actively participated and feel ownership of the development initiatives and project implementation in their communities.
- iii. Poor funding, leadership crises, poor communication, monitoring, supervision, etc. are the challenges that inhibited the progress of the community development initiatives and projects in Awgbu town.

Literature Review

Community Development Initiatives and Sustainable Development

Gohori and van der Merwe (2020) established that community development initiatives are essential drivers of sustainable development in both rural and urban areas. Demkova, *et al.* (2022) demonstrated that sustainable development aims to meet the present needs of a community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Scholars like Raimi (2020) and Chan (2021) have emphasized the importance of participatory approaches in community development, where community members actively engage in planning and decision-making processes.

Additionally, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have placed a strong emphasis on community engagement and partnerships as critical factors in achieving sustainable development. A study by Teshome, Shita, and Abebe (2021) in rural Ethiopia found that community-driven development initiatives, involving the active participation of community members, significantly contributed to sustainable improvements in livelihoods, healthcare, and education.

Nevertheless, community development initiatives are the building blocks for sustainable development; thus, they are linked in the sense that the building blocks influences can be seen in the following concepts:

- i. **Capacity Building:** Enhancing an individual's, a group's, or an organization's capacity to govern and oversee all significant aspects of their lives or activities is a continuous effort. By giving communities the chance to acquire the information, abilities, and tools required to manage their own affairs, it aims to empower them. To achieve efficient administration of sustainable development, rural areas require institutional upgrading and the development of human resource

capability (Burkey, 1993).

- ii. **Self-Reliance:** Being self-reliant means taking care of oneself, remaining confident in oneself, and coming to conclusions on one's own. According to Rahman (1993), self-reliance is a mentality that views one's own material and mental resources as the main source of strength to use in the pursuit of one's goals and finds emotional fulfilment in both the achievement of the goals themselves and the fact that they were primarily attained through the use of one's resources. People need to feel and think that the process of growth is being driven by their own efforts.
- iii. **Empowerment:** In order to plan for the provision of services, community empowerment and involvement are essential components of sustainable development. When possibilities arise that were previously closed off, when one feels capable of accomplishing something they have never done before, and when one gains these new skills, one feels empowered (Theron, 2005).

Impact Assessment on Community Development

Semenenko, Halhash, and Ivchenko (2019) argued that assessing the impact of community development initiatives is crucial for understanding their effectiveness and making informed decisions for future projects. Zadawa and Omran (2020) added that impact assessments often consider multiple dimensions, including social, economic, and environmental aspects. Various methodologies, such as surveys, observation, and case studies, are used to measure and evaluate the outcomes of these initiatives.

A study by Kvartiuk and Curtiss (2019) focused on impact assessment in community-led renewable energy projects in the Ukraine. In the same vein, the research by Semenenko, Halhash, and Ivchenko (2019) highlighted the importance of not only quantifying economic benefits but also considering social and environmental impacts to provide a comprehensive assessment. The important aspects of community development are concisely discussed as follows:

- i. As an approach to using behavioural sciences for the betterment of people and the environment
- ii. As a method of taking community action that aims to effect change, particularly in the social and psychological domains.
- iii. As a social, economic, and political development program that places a focus on fundamental issues like nutrition education, health education, and agricultural advancements as a movement or progress with increased expectations and how to meet them.

Community-Based Organizations and Development in Awgbu Town

In the shape of conventional non-governmental organisations, they include legally recognised town unions, foundations, and well-organised groups that serve as agents and catalysts for community-driven projects, initiatives, and growth in the town of Awgbu. Thus, the CBOs are in collaboration with the Awgbu Progress Union (APU), while making collective efforts and contributions to local community development initiatives towards ensuring sustainable development in Awgbu, with project areas of targets to include but not limited to education, healthcare, road construction, security building, and youth development. Youth development has great impacts in ensuring community development (Ezebuilo, 2023). As part of self-help kin community development, Chukwudi, & Owoh (2024) and Chukwudi (2023) emphasised importance of town Unions support for the people and the government

Nevertheless, these CBOs have been very cooperative with the Anambra state government. They do many things to help their community and at the same time bring relief to the state government It is the duty of government to ensure stability in its environment (Osimen, Chukwudi, Oladoyin, Nnaemeka, & Dada, 2024; Chidozie, & Orji, 2024). Awgbu town has supported the Anambra state government in

various areas of the community-driven development initiatives, and projects in their town for example; provision of security as it has been very worrisome for the state government, construction of various road networks leading to other neighbouring towns, agricultural support for farmers, renovation, building, equipping and maintaining the public schools, hospitals, health centers, rural electrification, markets among others. The notable clubs, unions, and organisations in Awgbu town are:

- i. The Awgbu Ambassadors (AA),
- ii. The Golden 20 (G-20),
- iii. Awgbu Amaka Association (AAA),
- iv. Awgbu Growth and Development Initiatives (AGDI),
- v. Akwuabor Social Investment Forum (ASIF),
- vi. Ekwuogo Educational Foundation (EEF),
- vii. Igwe Michael Ezayom Foundation (IMEF),
- viii. Awgbu Ambassadors Dynamic Club International (AADCI), and
- ix. Agodi Egwuonwu Educational Foundation (AEEF) etc.

Therefore, the following constitute the core objectives of the CBOs in Awgbu:

- i. To foster peace, unity, and progress within the entire communities in Awgbu,
- ii. To ensure the safety of lives and properties by helping the state government in providing security,
- iii. To encourage sustainable development projects and initiatives targeted in their communities.
- iv. To ensure that community members are properly represented in the political landscape of the state.
- v. To act as major players, stakeholders, and link between their people and the government, etc.

Choose Your Project Initiative (CYPI) in Anambra State

The Choose-your-Project program is a completely new paradigm for governance development. Dr. Willie Maduaburochukwu Obiano, the former governor of Anambra State, launched this program. To promote community-driven development in the 181 communities spread over the 21 LGAs in Anambra State, this project initiative was launched amid Nigeria's severe economic downturn. This initiative permits each community in the state to freely choose a development project that holds special meaning for them, to be carried out by the state government at a maximum cost of N20 million. It is the exclusive duty of each community to choose what is best for them, where to locate the project, and how to provide the labor needed to carry it out. The Anambra state government merely provides the specification and ensures the strictest compliance to standards and commitment to the contractual terms of each project (Vanguardngr, 2017).

Nonetheless, it appears highly improbable that any Nigerian government will implement the Choose-your-Project program. Most state administrations appear completely unprepared to deal with the recession and have not yet come to terms with its economic reality. Governor Obiano, however, has not only taken the time to analyze it but has also launched an initiative that would force his administration to cut back on funding for projects requiring a large amount of cash. Considering this, the Choose-your-Project campaign is distinct. A daring appeal to all tiers of government to transcend the ordinary. Additionally, this program has led to several communities in Anambra State selecting various projects based on their level of preference.

Umueri, Nkpunando-Otu, Anaku, Agulu, and Awgbu are among the localities in the state that

have benefited from projects that have already been finished. While several of these projects are nearing completion, some of these communities have already begun to utilize these facilities (Vanguardngr, 2017). As a result, the CYPI was delayed mostly because certain communities could not decide what to choose or could not agree on where to cite the projects (Vanguardngr, 2017). Thankfully, most of the towns have seen success with these projects. Because of this, the majority of the community's breadwinners who work on these projects' construction can put food on the table.

Ultimately, the Choose-your-Project initiative's unique selling point is not necessarily related to when it was launched. It also doesn't include the clear advantages it offers low-income households that provide labor for the numerous building sites. What, in my opinion, makes the new state government headed by Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo stand out as the initiative that ultimately led to its continuation is the new avenue for expanding democratic administration in Nigeria.

Theoretical Underpinnings

This study draws its theoretical foundations on Community Development (CD), Social Capital, and the Diffusion of Innovations theories. This is to provide a comprehensive framework for assessing and analyzing the effectiveness and long-term viability (i.e. sustainability) of the community development initiatives in Awgbu town. The CD theory was propounded by various scholars and theorists over the years. Some prominent contributors to community development theory include Robert Chambers, Paulo Freire, and John McKnight, among others. These theorists have made significant contributions to the field of community development, each offering unique perspectives and insights into the practice and theory of community development. Community development theory emphasizes the active involvement of community members in identifying their needs, setting goals, and implementing initiatives that lead to social, economic, and environmental improvements (Franco & Tracey, 2019; Abukari & Walyosi, 2020; Chan, 2021). This theory is relevant because it aligns with the primary focus of the study, which is to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of development initiatives within the Awgbu community. The Social Capital theory also plays a significant role in this study. One of the most influential figures in the development of social capital theory was Robert D. Putnam in 1993. According to Putnam (1993), social capital theory emphasizes the role of social networks, trust, and norms in fostering community and societal well-being. Social capital theory posits that the networks, relationships, and trust within a community contribute to its overall development and resilience (Uduji & Okolo; Obasi, 2019; Ogujiuba & Mngometulu, 2022). By examining the social capital within the Awgbu community and how it influences the success and sustainability of development initiatives, the study aims to provide insights into the role of social cohesion in community development.

Additionally, the study is informed by the Diffusion of Innovations theory which was propounded by Everett M. Rogers in 1962. According to Rogers (2003), the theory assumes that the adoption and diffusion of new ideas, products, or technologies follow a predictable pattern, with innovators and early adopters preceding the early majority, late majority, and laggards. It has been widely applied to various fields to understand and promote the acceptance and utilization of innovations. This suggests that the theory explores how new ideas, practices, and technologies are adopted and spread within a community. Meyer, et al. (2023) affirmed that this theory helps in understanding the factors that facilitate or hinder the adoption and continuity of innovative community development initiatives.

Methodology

A descriptive survey research approach was used for this investigation. All residents of the five (5)

communities in Awgbu town, Orumba-North L.G.A. in Anambra State, make up the study’s population. The study gathered data from primary and secondary sources, including questionnaires, participatory observation, and in-depth interviews. Secondary data collection instruments included textbooks, journals, the internet, newspapers, magazines, and other materials. This study adopted Slovin’s sample determination formula and purposeful random sampling size technique. Four hundred (400) respondents were used as the sample size. Thus, out of the 400 copies of the questionnaire administered to the respondents in the various communities in Awgbu town, 286 copies were returned and were used for the data analysis. However, a five-point summated Likert model was used, and the data collected were presented and analyzed in a Logical Data Framework making use of the research questions key indicators thus, quantitative method of data analysis of frequency distribution table and weighted mean were used to analyze the generated data statistically.

Logical Data Framework (LDF)

S/N	Statement of the Problem	Hypotheses	Variables	Main Indicators of the Variables	Sources of data	Method of Data Collection	Method of Data Analysis
i	How has the CYPI implementation in Anambra State impacted the standard of living in Awgbu town?	The CYPI implementation in Anambra State has impacted the standard of living in Awgbu town.	(X) Community Development Initiatives	Good roads, Security, Health Centers and Hospitals, Schools, Electricity, Market, etc.	Primary Sources: Questionnaire, Observation Interview and Secondary sources : Internet sources, journals, magazines, newspapers, Reports, etc.	Quantitative Method of Data Collection.	CDD, Social Capital and the Diffusion of Innovations theories; LDF; Frequency Distribution Table, Simple Percentages, Mean and Chi-square.
			(Y) Sustainability of Projects in Awgbu town.				
ii.	To what extent do the members of Awgbu town actively participate and feel ownership of the development initiatives implemented in their community?	Members of Awgbu town have actively participated and felt ownership of their development initiatives and project implementation in their communities.	(X) Community Development Initiatives	Community Support, provision of lands for the project execution, etc..	Primary Sources: Questionnaire, Observation, etc. and Secondary sources : Internet sources, journals, magazines, newspapers, Reports, etc.	Quantitative Method of Data Collection.	. CDD, Social Capital and the Diffusion of Innovations theories; LDF; Frequency Distribution Table, Simple Percentages, Mean and Chi-square

			Sustainability of Projects in Awgbu town.				
iii	What are the challenges that inhibit the sustainability of the community development initiatives in Awgbu town?	Poor funding, leadership crises, poor communication, monitoring, supervision, etc. are the challenges that inhibited the progress of the community development initiatives in Awgbu town.	(X) Community Development Initiatives	Poor funding, lack of project continuity, leadership crises, poor management evaluation and monitoring, communication gaps, etc.	Primary Sources: Questionnaire, Observation, etc. and Secondary sources : Internet sources, journals, magazines, newspapers, Reports, etc.	Quantitative Method of Data Collection.	CDD, Social Capital and the Diffusion of Innovations theories; LDF; Frequency Distribution Table, Simple Percentages, Mean and Chi-square
			(Y). Sustainability of Projects in Awgbu town.				

Data Presentation and Analysis

Frequency and Distribution of Respondents Demographic Information

Table I: Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
Male	180	62.9	62.9
Female	106	37.1	100
Total	286	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table I shows that 180 representing 62.9% of the sample are male respondents while 106 representing by 37.1% are female respondents. Therefore, it shows that there were more male respondents than the female respondents.

Table II: Respondents by Age

Age Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
25 - 35 yrs.	65	22.7	22.7
36 - 45 yrs.	84	29.4	52.1
46 - 55 yrs.	78	27.3	79.4
56 - Above	59	20.6	100
Total	286	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table II shows that 25-35 years of age was represented by 65 respondents at 22.7%, 36-45 years were represented by 84 at 29.4%, 46-55 years were represented by 78 respondents at 27.3%, 59 years and above represented by 59 at 20.6%. Therefore, it shows that there were more respondents from the age of 36-45.

Table III: Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
Single	172	60.1	60.1
Married	114	39.9	100
Total	286	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table III shows that 172 represented 60.21% of the sample are single respondents while 114 represented 39.9% are married respondents. Therefore, it shows that there were more single respondents than the married respondents.

Table IV: Respondents by Occupation

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
Public/Civil Servants	92	32.2	32.2
Traders	86	30.1	62.3
Students	63	22.0	84.3
Farmers	45	15.7	100
Total	286	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table IV shows that, 92 represented by 32.2% are Public/Civil servants sample respondents; 86 represented by 30.1% are Traders sample respondents, 63 represented by 22.0% the Students sample respondents while 45 represented by 15.7% are Farmers respondents sample. Therefore, it shows that there were more Public/civil servant respondents among others.

Therefore; the formula for calculating **Mean (X)** is;

$$\text{Mean (X)} = \frac{\sum FX}{N}$$

Where;

X = Mean or average of response;

Σ = Summation or total number;

F = Frequency of items;

X = Individual scores or measures; and

N = Total number of respondents or cases.

Therefore, the calculation of the rating scale or cut of mean (X) using four-point scales is;

Strongly Agree (SA) = 5 points.

Agreed (A) = 4 points.

Undecided (UN) = 3 points.

Disagree (D) = 2 points.

Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1 point.

$$\text{Therefore, the cut off mean (X)} = \frac{5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1}{5} = \frac{15}{5} = 3.0$$

Decision Rule: The cut-off Mean (X) is 3.0; it simply implies that any calculated Mean (X) score exactly or above 3.0 will be “Accepted” while; any calculated Mean (X) score that is below 3.0 will be “Rejected”. Therefore, the highest calculated Mean score (X) shall be considered the Most Accepted among others thus, will be used for further inferential tests of hypotheses.

Table V: CYPI initiatives implementation in Anambra state has impacted the standard of living in Awgbu town.

Questionnaire Items	Alternative Responses					ΣFX	X=ΣFX N	Decision Rule
	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)			
1. Awgbu town has benefited from Anambra state government in the Choose Your Project Initiative (CYPI).	94 (470)	83 (332)	45 (135)	38 (76)	26 (26)	286 1036	3.6	Accepted.
2. The Choose Your Project Initiative in Anambra state has provided good good and well-equipped healthcare centers and hospitals in Awgbu town.	95 (475)	87 (348)	53 (159)	31 (62)	20 (20)	286 1064	3.7	Accepted
3. The good road network in Awgbu town was as a result of the Choose Your Project Initiatives (CYPI) in Anambra state.	99 (495)	90 (270)	60 (180)	22 (44)	15 (15)	286 1004	3.5	Accepted.
4. The secondary and primary schools in Awgbu town has undergone many renovations with newly erected structures, well-equipped laboratories, and libraries.	98 (490)	95 (380)	58 (174)	25 (50)	10 (10)	286 1104	3.8	Most Accepted.

Therefore, the **Grand Weighted Mean** is; $\frac{(3.6 + 3.7 + 3.5 + 3.8)}{4} = 3.7$

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

From the analysis in Table V which is on research question one, the questionnaire items 1, 2, 3, and 4 have their calculated mean as 3.6, 3.7, 3.5, and 3.8 respectively. Questionnaire item 4 has the most accepted

mean score with 3.8, and the grand weighted mean score calculated is 3.7 i.e. they were all accepted because their calculated mean scores were above 3.0. Therefore, the result was that the respondents thought that the CYPI initiatives implementation in Anambra state has impacted significantly on the standard of living in Awgbu town.

Table VI: Members of Awgbu town have actively participated and feel ownership of the development initiatives and projects implemented in their community.

Questionnaire Items	Alternative Responses					ΣFX	$X = \frac{\Sigma FX}{N}$	Decision Rule
	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)			
5. Awgbu people have been very cooperative with the Anambra state CYPI initiatives. Ensuring the security of the lives and properties of the people in the community and beyond.	98 (490)		95 (159)	53 (44)	22 (18)	18 286	3.8	Accepted.
6. Groups and individuals in Awgbu have created employment for the youths to reduce unemployment, insecurity and pressure on the state government.	91 (455)	70 (280)	60 (180)	35 (70)	30 (30)	286 1015	3.5	Accepted.
7. Awgbu town has assisted the state government in the continuous maintenance of schools, health centers, and hospital facilities across their communities.	94 (470)	85 (340)	42 (126)	33	32 (66)	286 (32) 1034	3.6	Accepted.
8. Awgbu people help to construct and maintain their roads, provide security and support their local farmers with funds and other farm requirements.	97 (485)	89 (356)	45 (135)	35 (70)	20 (20)	286 1066	3.7	Accepted.

Therefore, the **Grand Weighted Mean** is;
$$\frac{(3.8 + 3.5 + 3.6 + 3.7)}{4} = 3.6$$

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

From the analysis in Table VI which is on research question one, the questionnaire items 5, 6, 7, and 8 have their calculated mean as 3.8, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7 respectively. Questionnaire item 5 has the most accepted mean score of 3.8 thus, and the grand weighted mean score calculated is 3.6 i.e. they were all accepted because their calculated mean scores were above 3.0. Therefore, the result was that members of Awgbu town actively participated and felt ownership of the development initiatives and projects implemented in their community.

Table IX: Analysis of Questionnaire Responses for Research Question Three: Poor communication, limited funds, leadership tussles/crises, and poor monitoring and supervision are the challenges that inhibit the progress of the community development initiatives in Awgbu town.

Questionnaire Items	Alternative Responses					$\sum FX$	$X = \frac{\sum FX}{N}$	Decision Rule	
	SA (5)	A (4)	N (3)	D (2)	SD (1)				
9. There is a huge communication gap that results in limited feedback on the decisions made by the state government about project execution in Awgbu town	90 (450)	82 (328)	53 (159)	41 (82)	20 (20)	286 1039	3.6	Accepted.	
10. Limited funds budgeted for projects has disrupted some of the state government- Men's efforts in the execution of projects in Awgbu town.	100 (500)	88 (352)	42 (159)	33 (126)	23 (66)	268 (23)	3.7	Accepted.	
11. Leadership tussle and the crisis has Most threaten the peace and unity in Awgbu town and affected their efforts towards achieving the desired community driven development through CYPI in the state.		98 (450)	92 (328)	58 (159)	28 (82)	10 (20)	286 1098	3.8	Accepted.
12. Poor project monitoring, supervision and evaluation has led to embezzlement/ misappropriation of project budget/funds and has deterred community development in Awgbu town.	98 (490)	76 (320)	75 (150)	23 (46)	14 (14)	286 1020	3.5	Accepted.	

Therefore, the Grand Weighted Mean is; $\frac{(3.6 + 3.7 + 3.8 + 3.5)}{4} = 3.7$

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

From the analysis in Table V which is on research question one, the questionnaire items 9, 10, 11, and 12 have their calculated mean as 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.5 respectively. Questionnaire item 11 has the most accepted mean score of 3.8 thus, and the grand weighted mean score calculated is 3.7 i.e. they were all accepted because their calculated mean scores were above 3.0. Therefore, the result was that the respondents thought that poor communication, limited funds, leadership tussles/crises, poor monitoring, and supervision are the challenges that inhibit the progress of the community development initiatives in Awgbu town.

Discussion of Findings

The results of the research also illuminated the ways in which the government of Anambra State's efforts and programs have benefited the Awgbu community. These benefits include improved healthcare services, educational support, and infrastructure development. The positive impact of government interventions in Awgbu resonates with the concept of community development, where government initiatives aim to enhance the quality of life and socio-economic well-being of community members (Echendu, 2020; Raimi, 2020). The improvement in healthcare, education, and infrastructure has the potential to elevate the living standards of Awgbu residents and contribute to overall community development.

The Awgbu community has significantly contributed to Anambra State's overall growth, according to the study's conclusions. Respondents, including government personnel and Awgbu indigenes, emphasized the community's active participation in various initiatives, such as security, employment generation, healthcare, and education. These contributions align with the notion that community development relies on the collaborative efforts of residents, Indigenous clubs, foundations, and government institutions (Ukhurebor, et al. 2021). The active involvement of Awgbu people in community development initiatives reflects a sense of community responsibility and a commitment to improving the well-being of its residents and the state at large. All the peoples' efforts will in many ways impact positively on the lives of the people. Every act of development that occurs in any society is targeted at enhancing the living standard of the people (Gberevbie et al, 2017).

The findings of this study highlight the active role of the Awgbu community in contributing to community development, benefiting from government initiatives, and actively responding to government calls. However, challenges exist in this relationship, and recommendations emphasize the importance of addressing these challenges through effective leadership and collaboration. In support of these findings, Chukwudi, Gberevbie, Abasilim, and Imhonopi, (2019) and Abasilim, Gberevbie; and Adewale, (2018) posited that the leadership of any government determines its stability and success. These findings therefore have broader implications for community development and governance in Anambra State and provide valuable insights for enhancing sustainable development efforts.

The findings indicate that the Awgbu community has been actively responsive to the calls and initiatives put forth by the state government. This responsiveness extends to areas like security, healthcare, education, and economic development. Such active community engagement aligns with the principles of participatory development, where communities are actively involved in decision-making and project implementation (Semenenko, Halhash& Ivchenko, 2019; Orie, 2023). The willingness of Awgbu to collaborate with the government in addressing common challenges showcases their commitment to sustainable development.

The study found that there are several obstacles in community development activities between the Awgbu community and the state government. These challenges align with the submissions of Zadawa and Omran (2020) which include limited communication and information flow between the government and the community, leadership crises within the community, and expectations for more rapid infrastructure development. Such challenges are not unique to Awgbu but reflect common issues in community-government relationships (Ogujiuba et al., 2022). Addressing these challenges is crucial to fostering a more effective partnership between the Awgbu community and the state government.

The study's recommendations emphasize the importance of community unity, effective leadership, and communication to sustain a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the Awgbu community and the state government. In this regard, Chidozie, Aje, and Ogunnowo, (2020) maintained that accountability and responsiveness on the part of leaders are of high importance in every

development. These recommendations align with the principles of good governance and participatory development (Gohori & van der Merwe, 2020; Abukari & Mwalyosi, 2020).

Conclusion

This study has shed important light on the dynamics of community development and the interaction between the people of Awgbu and the administration of Anambra State. The community development in Awgbu is guided by community-driven development theory which emphasizes the active involvement of community members in identifying what they need, drafting their objectives, and utilizing initiatives that can cause socio-economic, and environmental upgrades. Different social groups in Awgbu have built social networks as posited by social capital theory and this has greatly added to the sustainability of all efforts toward community development and relationship with the Anambra state government.

Through a comprehensive analysis of specific contributions, benefits, responsiveness, challenges, and recommendations, several key conclusions can be drawn: Firstly, the Awgbu community plays an active and significant role in contributing to the overall development of Anambra State. This includes their involvement in security initiatives, employment generation, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development. The community's commitment to its well-being and that of the state is evident through these contributions. Secondly, the Awgbu community has benefitted from various initiatives and programs implemented by the Anambra State government. These benefits encompass improved healthcare services, educational support, and infrastructure development. The government's interventions have had a positive impact on the community's well-being and have contributed to its development. Similarly, Chidozie, Aje, and Ogunnowo, (2020) submitted that accountability and responsiveness by leaders are of great values in every development.

Finally, the Awgbu community has demonstrated a high level of responsiveness to the calls and initiatives put forth by the state government. Active engagement in areas such as security, healthcare, education, and economic development reflects their commitment to sustainable development and partnership with the government. However, challenges exist in the relationship between the state government and the Awgbu community, including limited communication, leadership crises, and infrastructure development expectations. These challenges need to be addressed to foster a more effective and mutually beneficial partnership, i.e. all the recommendations have implications for improving community-government partnerships and promoting sustainable development in Awgbu and similar communities.

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This work is not a part of any student thesis or dissertation submitted to any university for the award of a degree.

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Authorship and Level of Contribution

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