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ASSESSMENT OF ABIA STATE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

[1]Professor Obidiegwu, Uche Josephine [2]Professor Obiozor, Willams Emeka And [3]Eme, Uchechi Uchechukwu

[123]Department of Adult and Continuing Education, Namndi Azikiwe University Awka

ABSTRACT

The study assessed Abia state agency for community and social development project. Two research questions guided the study and two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study used a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study was made up of 310 stakeholders (91 staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs, 135 staff of the Ministry of Science and Technology, 14 staff of Connak Foundation and 70 President Generals). No sampling was done because the population was manageable. The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire titled "Assessment of Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project Questionnaire (ASACSDPQ)'. The instrument for the study was validated by three experts. The reliability of the instrument was carried out using 20 stakeholders in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Association of Town Unions and NGOs in Imo State. The coefficient alpha analysis yielded an internal consistency of 0.90, 0.85, 0.68, 0.84, 0.92 and 0.74 for sections A, B, C, D, E and F respectively. The instrument was distributed and collected by the researcher through the assistance of three research assistants. The data collected were analyzed using mean and analysis of variance (ANOVA). Post hoc analysis was conducted using bonferroni test for multiple comparisons. The findings of the study show that Abia State Agency for CSDP was rated to a low extent in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all in Abia State. The study however, revealed that Abia State Agency for CSDP was rated to a high extent in building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation in Abia State, by the stakeholders. Hence the study among others recommended that, Abia State Agency for CSDP should prioritize energy sector development to address energy poverty by investing in renewable energy, improving energy infrastructure, and promoting energy efficiency and conservation practices.

Keywords: Assessment, Community Development, Social Development, Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project

Introduction

Community and social development (CSD) play a vital role in fostering sustainable growth and well-being among the citizens in any society. CSD aims to promote living standards and participatory democracy among citizens in any nation (Kenny and Connors, 2017). CSD works towards addressing the needs of community members, focusing on the principles of empowerment, human rights, inclusion, social justice, and self-determination. Future Growth Initiative (2022) affirms that community development projects are essential for sustainable development, empowerment, inclusivity, and social justice of any society. These projects aim to address the needs of community members and uplift

them by improving their living standards (Future Growth Initiative, 2022). This improves the overall quality of life of individuals by providing access to basic needs such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education, which empower them for community development.

The National Association of Community Development Extension Practitioners (NACDEP, 2024) defines community development as a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes sustainable development, human rights, equality, economic opportunity, and social justice through the organization, education, and empowerment of people within their communities. Community development (CD) is a process whereby community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems (United Nations, 2015). CD is applied by civic leaders, activists, citizens, and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities (Straza, 2023). Straza further recognized that CD creates strong, diverse communities that are able to attract and keep talent, start and grow businesses, and overcome poverty and penury. CD is a planned effort which aimed at building assets to increase the capacity of residents and improve their quality of life (Green and Haines, 2015). Both concepts emphasize community ownership, participation, equity, justice, inclusivity, sustainable development, empowerment, self-determination, participative democracy, and a holistic approach to community development.

Social development refers to the process by which individuals or groups of people learn to enhance their social and emotional skills throughout their lifespan, with particular attention to childhood and adolescence (Green, 2016). Both community development and social development are intricately related because both concepts are intricately imbued in the socio-economic dimension of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) (Obidiegwu, 2024). While community development focuses on the ideology that people can work together to shape their own destiny if given the opportunity and necessary empowerment in a safe and healthy environment, social development aims at the entire wellbeing of people, equity, and social justice, which include social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, gender equality, increased voice, participation, and education so that they can reach their full potentials (Obidiegwu, 2024). This implies that through community development, social development is achieved.

Community and social development are vital for fostering sustainable, inclusive, and equitable societies. These concepts contribute to various dimensions of well-being, including economic growth, social justice, equity, and inclusivity (Straza, 2019). Both concepts are integral to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on eradicating poverty, transforming humanity, and realizing a sustainable world. Social development is a part of community development, encompassing the overall well-being, growth, and advancement of society. It involves acquiring social skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary for functioning effectively within society (Psychology Dictionary, 2024). Social development is the process of attaining maturity within a social setting, emphasizing social skills and the ability to meet social expectations. By improving the well-being of individuals, they can reach their full potential

(Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-being Research).

In Nigeria, the government has implemented various community and socio-economic enhancement programs to improve social and economic well-being. Key initiatives include the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) launched in 2016 to reduce poverty and unemployment through job training, education, health, and empowerment. Additional programs include N-power for skill development, Condition Cash Transfer (CCT) for financial support to vulnerable households, Government Enterprises and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) for microloans, Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF) for improved nutrition, Macro-economic Reforms and Social Protection for economic stabilization, Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) for empowerment, Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (CARES) for community support, Women Empowerment Initiative for women's empowerment, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) for economic growth, and Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) for agricultural development. However, despite these initiatives, the 2020 Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) survey indicates that a substantial portion of Nigeria's population still faces multi-dimensional poverty.

In Abia State, several socio-economic initiatives have been implemented by successive governments to combat poverty, reduce unemployment, achieve gender equality, and enhance innovation and industrialization. However, the effectiveness of these efforts remains to be empirically assessed. The Abia State government has introduced community development programs since 2009 to promote socio-economic growth in rural areas (Ubanagu, 2023). Equity participation measures have been taken to encourage community involvement in development projects. The government aims to empower women, ensure transparency, and foster good governance. The state encourages public participation in political processes, particularly the inclusion of marginalized groups such as rural women. Empowering women in Abia State can improve their well-being, political voices, and productivity. In line with these initiatives, the Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) was established by Law No. 2 of 2009 to promote community development and improve citizens' well-being. The CSDP, a World Bank Country portfolio, adopts a Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach, aiming to enhance Abia State's social and community resources. The agency operates as an autonomous state parastatal with a mandate to achieve three primary objectives: (1) improve socio-economic conditions at the grassroots level, (2) increase community capacities to participate in development projects, and (3) ensure community participation in projects' sustainability (Abia State, 2021).

The Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) in Abia State was established to promote a sense of belonging, well-being, and integration for grassroots communities. The CSDP's objectives include improving access to services for human development, empowering communities to plan and implement their programs, promoting sustainable and inclusive micro-projects, and enhancing local governments' capacities for community development (Abia State, 2021). Assessing the CSDP's strengths and

weaknesses is necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) before 2030. The socio-economic dimensions of the SDGs, focusing on ending global socio-economic and environmental challenges, will be used to evaluate the CSDP's first objective. Specifically, the study will focus on the targets and indicators of socio-economic goals, such as ensuring access to affordable and sustainable energy and promoting resilient infrastructure, inclusive industrialization, and innovation (United Nations, 2015).

The Agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) in Abia State was established 14 years ago and is overdue for assessment. Evaluation is crucial for identifying gaps in the agency's efforts, in formulating need statements, and selecting appropriate solutions (Skidmore, 2019). Assessment involves systematically collecting and analyzing information to understand community needs, resources, and conditions in helping them plan, implement, and evaluate programs effectively (Nelson and Dawson, 2015). Assessment can be formative or summative, with formative assessment providing continuous feedback during program implementation and summative assessment evaluating a project's overall impact (Stufflebean, 2001; Rossi, Lipsey, and Freeman, 2004). This study is a formative evaluation of the Abia State Agency for CSDP, assessing its progress and addressing challenges for improvement and development. The agency collaborates with various ministries, NGOs, and CBOs to achieve community-related SDGs. Despite collective efforts to reduce poverty, improve access to modern energy, infrastructure, and industrialization, key indicators such as GDP per capita, poverty rate, and inflation remain concerning (NBS, 2024). Evaluating the agency's effectiveness is essential for planning, decision-making, and overall development in Nigeria.

Consequently, the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) was established in Abia State in 2009 to promote socio-economic development. However, it appears to be falling short of fully achieving its mandate. To better understand the agency's effectiveness, this study will involve key stakeholders in CSD projects, such as staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, Connak Foundation, and President Generals. Their opinions and perspectives will be analyzed to determine the extent to which the CSDP's objectives are being achieved.

Statement of the Problem

Community and social development are vital components for the overall economic progress of any state or nation. These factors contribute to improving the quality of life and standard of living for citizens through advancements in life expectancy, poverty eradication, gender equality, access to modern energy, infrastructure, industrialization, and increased community participation in development projects. However, in Nigeria, particularly Abia State, the implementation of various poverty alleviation and economic enhancement programs has not resulted in steady progress across socio-economic indicators. Life expectancy remains low at 57.3%, while poverty and inflation rates have increased, with poverty rising from 30.7% in 2019 to 33.9% in 2022, and inflation increasing from 28.92% in December 2023 to 29.90% in January 2024 (NBS, 2024).

The Community and Social Development Project (CSDP), established in 2009 in Abia

State to promote socio-economic development, seems to be falling short of its mandate. Therefore, this study intends to conduct a formative assessment of the Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project to identify gaps in the CSD domain. By doing so, the research aims to contribute to evidence-based planning, decision-making, policymaking, implementation, and overall development in the state.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess the performance of the Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project by exploring the perspectives of key stakeholders in the state, with the aim of determining the extent to which the agency is achieving its mandate specifically, the study will assess the extent the Agency for CSDP has:

1. Ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia state.
2. Built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study;

To what extent has Abia State Agency for CSDP?

1. Ensured access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State?
2. Built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State?

Hypotheses

The following null (Ho) hypotheses will be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

$H0_1$: The Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connark Foundation and President General (PGs) will not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State.

$H0_3$: The Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connark Foundation and President Generals (PGs) will not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

Methodology

This study assessed Abia State agency for community and social development project by exploring the opinion of key stakeholders of community development. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to gather information from the staff of the Ministry of Science and Technology, staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs, staff of Connak Foundation and President Generals to determine the extent to which Abia-CSDP is in achieving community and social development in Abia State. The area of the study is Abia State. This study is necessary in order to determine what has been done so far in the focus areas in this study so that more efforts will be put in place towards attaining the overall objectives. The population for the study consisted of 310 stakeholders consisting of (91 staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs, 135 staff of the Ministry of

Science and Technology, 14 staff of Connak Foundation and 70 President Generals. These groups are major stakeholders in community and social development activities in Abia State. No sampling was done because the population was manageable.

The instrument that was used for data collection is a researcher made questionnaire titled "Assessment of Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project Questionnaire (AACSDPQ)". The instrument was divided into two parts, A and B. Part A focused on the personal data of the respondents while part B focused on items addressing the research questions. Each of the items has 4-point response categories as follows: Very High Extent (VHE), High Extent (HE). Low Extent (LE) and Very Low Extent (VLE) and they are assigned values of ,4,3,2,1. The instrument was validated by three experts. Their suggestions were used to produce the final copy of the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was carried out using 20 stakeholders in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Association of Town Unions and NGOs in Imo State. The state was used because they share the same characteristics with the area of study. The data collected from the pilot test were analyzed and the internal consistency of the instruments was determine using Cronbach's alpha. The coefficient alpha analysis yielded an internal consistency of 0.90 and 0.85 respectively.

The researcher administered 310 copies of the questionnaires to the respondent electronically and manually with the help of four research assistant (a staff of Ministry of Science and Technology, a staff of Ministry of Women Affairs, President Generals, and a staff of Connark Foundation) who are stakeholders in community development in Abia State. The research assistants were briefed on how to distribute the questionnaire, when and how to collect them. Mean and analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used for the analysis. Mean was used to analyzed data on research question while ANOVA was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Research Question one: To what extent has Abia State agency for CSDP ensured access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State?

Data Collected in respect to this research Question are presented in Table 4

Table 1: Mean scores and Standard Deviation of the respondents on the extent Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State

	N = 300	PG N = 67 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MWA N = 89 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MST N= 130 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	SCF N = 14 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Total Average $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Rem.
1	Ensuring equitable distribution of energy supply by making it affordable for citizens	2.13 (.46)	2.57 (.78)	2.57 (.60)	1.79 (.43)	2.27 (.66)	LE
2	Ensuring access to electricity in rural areas	2.21 (.62)	2.62 (.78)	2.58 (.60)	2.00 (.68)	2.35 (.69)	LE
3	Expanding the use of solar generated electricity	2.18 (.46)	2.84 (.82)	2.68 (.82)	2.14 (.36)	2.46 (.78)	HE

4	Facilitating energy efficiency across sectors to reduce waste and lower energy cost	2.04 (.51)	2.90 (.89)	2.75 (.79)	2.07 (.62)	2.44 (.83)	HE
5	Ensuring a stable and uninterrupted energy supply through disaster resilience measure	2.00 (.55)	2.51 (.77)	2.40 (.68)	2.07 (.63)	2.25 (.70)	LE
6	Advancing energy technologies to enhance affordability	2.03 (.55)	2.63 (.65)	2.57 (.60)	2.00 (.56)	2.31 (.65)	LE
7	Reinforcing policies which promotes affordable energy	2.16 (.69)	2.62 (.78)	2.51 (.69)	2.00 (.56)	2.32 (.73)	LE
	Cluster Mean Scores	**2.11 (.55)**	**2.67 (.78)**	**2.58 (.68)**	**2.01 (.54)**	2.34 **(.72)**	**LE**

PG = President Generals; MWA = Ministry of Women Affairs; MST = Ministry of Science and Technology; SCF = Staff of Connak Foundation

Table 1 shows all the items has mean ratings ranging from 2.25 to 2.46. This implies that all the respondents agreed that the extent Abia State agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all to a low. This is also in consonant with the cluster mean point of 2.34 which indicates low extent in ensuring access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all.

Table 2: ANOVA on significant difference in the mean ratings of the respondents on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State.

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	16.753	3	5.584	20.088	.000
Within Groups	82.286	296	.278		
Total	99.039	299			

Table 2 shows that an F-ratio of 20.088 with associated exact probability value of 0.000 was obtained. This probability value of 0.000 was compared with the significant level of 0.05 and it was found to be significant because 0.000 is less than 0.05. The null hypothesis, which stated that; the Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connark Foundation and President General (PGs) do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State, is therefore rejected. Inference drawn was that the stakeholders differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State. A post hoc test was be performed in Table 3 to show which specific groups differ significantly in their mean ratings.

Table 3: Post Hoc Test on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State.

(I) Categories of the respondents	(J) Categories of the respondents	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval Lower Bound	95% Confidence Interval Upper Bound
PG	MWA	-.56060*	.08528	.000	-.7871	-.3341
	MST	-.46928*	.07929	.000	-.6799	-.2587

	SCF	.09854	.15494	1.000	-.3130	.5101
MWA	PG	.56060*	.08528	.000	.3341	.7871
	MST	.09132	.07254	1.000	-.1014	.2840
	SCF	.65914*	.15159	.000	.2565	1.0618
MST	PG	.46928*	.07929	.000	.2587	.6799
	MWA	-.09132	.07254	1.000	-.2840	.1014
	SCF	.56782*	.14831	.001	.1739	.9617
SCF	PG	-.09854	.15494	1.000	-.5101	.3130
	MWA	-.65914*	.15159	.000	-1.0618	-.2565
	MST	-.56782*	.14831	.001	-.9617	-.1739

Table 3 reveals significant differences between certain groups. Specifically, PG had significantly lower mean ratings compared to MWA (mean difference = -0.56060, p = 0.000) and MST (mean difference = -0.46928, p = 0.000). Additionally, SCF had significantly lower mean ratings compared to MWA (mean difference = -0.65914, p = 0.000) and MST (mean difference = -0.56782, p = 0.001). This indicates that PG has a statistically significant view point that Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State compared to other groups. This suggests different degree of opinions among the stakeholders.

Research Question Two: To what extent has Abia State agency for CSDP built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State?

Data Collected in respect to this research Question are presented in Table 5

Table 4 Mean scores and Standard Deviation of the respondents on the extent built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

	N = 300	PG N = 67 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MWA N = 89 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MST N= 130 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	SCF N = 14 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Total Average $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Rem.
1	Building motorable roads for rural transportation	3.07 (.77)	3.51 (.79)	3.28 (.66)	3.29 (.83)	3.29 (.74	HE
2	Building bridges to enhance inter- community transportation	2.81 (.76)	3.39 (.65)	3.09 (.68)	3.21 (.80)	3.13 (.72)	HE
	Mitigating the impact of natural disaster on infrastructure such as:						
3	Flood	2.49 (.75)	3.01 (.67)	2.99 (.60)	2.64 (.93)	2.78 (.70)	HE
4	Erosion	2.30 (.72)	2.89 (.86)	2.75 (.81)	2.71 (.91)	2.66 (.83)	HE
5	Tracking the value of goods produced by the manufacturing sector	2.25 (.77	2.72 (.75)	2.70 (.67)	2.71 (.83)	2.60 (.74)	HE
6	Increasing access to information and communication technology	2.16 (.54)	3.10 (.72)	3.04 (.64)	2.50 (.65)	2.70 (.75)	HE
7	Measuring the number of people who are in paid employment	2.37 (.71)	3.00 (.78)	3.05 (.53)	2.50 (.65)	2.73 (.72)	HE
8	Enhancing low interest loan by small and medium scale industries	2.37 (.71)	3.10 (.66)	2.98 (.69)	2.57 (.76)	2.76 (.74)	HE

9	Enhancing adoption of environmentally sound technologies for industries to reduce green-house emission	2.12 (.83)	2.88 (.62)	2.88 (.58)	2.36 (.75)	2.56 (.73)	HE
10	Embarking on research for upgrading industries	2.10 (.89)	2.78 (.72)	2.82 (.70)	2.21 (.58)	2.48 (.80)	HE
	Cluster Mean Scores	**2.40 (.74)**	**3.04 (.72)**	**2.96 (.66)**	**2.67 (.77)**	2.77 **(.75)**	**HE**

PG = President Generals; MWA = Ministry of Women Affairs; MST = Ministry of Science and Technology; SCF = Staff of Connak Foundation

Table 4 showed all the items except 1 has mean ratings ranging from 2.56 to 3.29. This implies that all the respondents agreed that Abia State agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation to a high extent. This is also in consonant with the cluster mean point of 2.77 which indicates that Abia State agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation to a high extent.

Hypothesis Two: Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President Generals (PGs) will not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

Table 5: ANOVA on significant difference in the mean ratings of the respondents on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	18.073	3	6.024	24.514	.000
Within Groups	72.743	296	.246		
Total	90.816	299			

Table 5 shows that an F-ratio of 24.514 with associated exact probability value of 0.000 was obtained. This probability value of 0.000 was compared with the significant level of 0.05 and it was found to be significant because 0.000 is less than 0.05. The null hypothesis, which stated that; the Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President Generals (PGs) do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State, is therefore rejected. Inference drawn was that stakeholders differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State. A post hoc test was performed in Table 6 to show which specific groups differ significantly in their mean ratings

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Table 6: Post Hoc Test on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

(I) Categories of the respondents	(J) Categories of the respondents	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval Lower Bound	95% Confidence Interval Upper Bound
PG	MWA	-.62533*	.08018	.000	-.8383	-.4124
	MST	-.55058*	.07455	.000	-.7486	-.3526
	SCF	-.25877	.14568	.460	-.6457	.1282
MWA	PG	.62533*	.08018	.000	.4124	.8383
	MST	.07475	.06820	1.000	-.1064	.2559
	SCF	.36655	.14253	.064	-.0120	.7451
MST	PG	.55058*	.07455	.000	.3526	.7486
	MWA	-.07475	.06820	1.000	-.2559	.1064
	SCF	.29181	.13944	.223	-.0786	.6622
SCF	PG	.25877	.14568	.460	-.1282	.6457
	MWA	-.36655	.14253	.064	-.7451	.0120
	MST	-.29181	.13944	.223	-.6622	.0786

Table 6 reveals significant differences between certain groups. Specifically, PG had significantly lower mean ratings compared to MWA (mean difference = -0.62533, p = 0.000) and MST (mean difference = -0.55058, p = 0.000). This indicates that PG has a statistically significant view point that Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State compared to other groups. This suggests different degree of opinions among the stakeholders.

Discussion of findings

Extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State.

Finding of the study revealed that Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all in Abia State to a low extent. The finding is consistent with the study of Oyedepo et al. (2018) on the challenges of sustainable energy development in Nigeria, which found that Nigeria faces significant challenges in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

The Study equally reveals that the agency's efforts in ensuring equitable distribution of energy supply by making it affordable for citizens and ensuring access to electricity in rural areas are to a low extent. Additionally, the agency's initiatives in advancing energy technologies to enhance affordability and reinforcing policies that promote affordable energy are also rated low. However, the agency's efforts in expanding the use of solar generated electricity and facilitating energy efficiency across sectors to reduce waste and lower energy cost are somehow notable, although more needs to be done to achieve significant impact. Furthermore, the agency's efforts in ensuring a stable and uninterrupted energy supply through disaster resilience measures are to low extent'

The test of Hypothesis reveals that the Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President General (PGs) differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which

Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State. A post hoc test performed to determine which specific groups differ significantly in their mean ratings reveals that PG has a statistically significant view point that Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State compared to other groups. This suggests different degree of opinions among the stakeholders.

Extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

The study shows that the Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation in Abia State, to a high extent. This finding is consistent with the study by World Bank (2019) on building resilient infrastructure and promoting sustainable development, which found that investing in resilient infrastructure is crucial for promoting sustainable development and reducing the impact of natural disasters. Similarly, a study by Adeola et al. (2021) on the impact of infrastructure development on industrialization in Nigeria found that infrastructure development has a positive impact on industrialization and economic growth in Nigeria.

The findings of the study equally reveal that agency's initiatives in building motorable roads for rural transportation and bridges to enhance inter-community transportation are rated to a high extent. However, its efforts in mitigating the impact of natural disasters on infrastructure, such as flood and erosion, rating is low extent. The agency's initiatives in promoting industrialization, such as enhancing low-interest loans for small and medium-scale industries and embarking on research for upgrading industries, are also commendable. Additionally, the agency's efforts in increasing access to information and communication technology and measuring the number of people in paid employment are rated high. However, the agency's efforts in enhancing the adoption of environmentally sound technologies for industries to reduce greenhouse emissions are rated low.

The test of hypothesis reveals that The Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President Generals (PGs) differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State. Also, a post hoc test set to determine the degree of differences in opinion reveals that that Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State compared to other groups. This suggests different degree of opinions among the stakeholders.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made

1. The Abia State Agency for CSDP should prioritize energy sector development and explore innovative solutions to address energy poverty in Abia State by investing in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, improving energy infrastructure to reduce power outages and increase access to electricity, and

promoting energy efficiency and conservation practices among households and businesses.

2. The Abia State Agency for CSDP should sustain and build on its progress in building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation in Abia State by investing in infrastructure development such as roads, bridges, and public transportation, providing support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups, and fostering partnerships between industry, academia, and government to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

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