

## Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Programmes for Sustainable Community Development in Rivers State

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### ABSTRACT

The study investigated “trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state” Three objectives, three research questions and hypotheses were tested in the study. The design used for the study was a descriptive survey. The population of the study was all rural community leaders and non-governmental organizations officers in Rivers State. Statistics showed that there were 1,170 community leaders in Rivers state. The sample size of the study was 342 community leaders and 89 non-governmental organization officers. The instrument used in the study was a close ended questionnaire titled “Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Programmes for Sustainable Community Development”. The instrument was validated and tested for reliability using Kuda-Richardson 21, whereby 0.83 reliability coefficient was obtained. Mean and Standard Deviation was used as statistical tool for data analysis and z-test was used to test hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

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## INTRODUCTION

The issue of over-dependence on external resource for community sustenance has consistently raised concern for development in rural communities. The rural area is often considered the poorest area of a nation because of the low quality of life which depicts the level of under-development and poverty in the rural areas. The idea of community development is geared towards ensuring that the problems in the rural areas are collectively tackled for the aim of improving the quality of life and wellbeing of the people. Community development is a method for empowering communities to take collective control and responsibility for their own development (Kenny, 2011). Louisiana Community Network (2011) described community development as a process through which people develop the ability to collectively help themselves and reduce reliance on external resources. Community development, could be seen the act of growing, expanding or making more effective groups of people who share common interests. Although community development foster improving the lives of people, however it is carried out based on a prescribed set of assumptions, values and beliefs and is practiced according to a set of principles that guide action and conduct.

Many authors are of the view that community development is based upon the belief that people can work together to shape their own destiny if given the opportunity to participate in a free, open and non-threatening environment. Hence, community development could be described as a planned and organized process whereby community member learns how to collectively tackle a problem and improve their quality of life. The sustainability of community development focuses on the immense benefits of present generation without jeopardizing the abilities of future generations to benefit from the same expectations of this great concern makes people custodians of hope in sustainable community development in various communities in the society (Aruma & Uzoagu, 2018). According the them, sustainable community development is stimulated by promise and requires collaborative efforts of all relevant stakeholders to maintain the works of development within the community. Schalkwyk (n.d) posited that increase in local economic diversity, self reliance, reduction of energy consumption, protection of biodiversity and careful stewardship of natural resources and social justices are the five dimensions of sustainability of community development.

A sustainable community development ensures a living environment which support quality of life, healthy ecosystems, effective governance and economic security (Institute for Sustainable Communities, 2012). This includes basic human needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education and health care. Community with sustainable development pays attention to areas like health care, financing, building, public safety, Energy, Water and mobility to improve the life quality of people from generation to generation (Peabody, n.d). Successful community development will make the community attractive to executives looking for a new business location or to young entrepreneurs looking to build a company from the ground up. It will create a quality of life that is attractive to current and potential residents of all ages and interests

(Louisiana community Network, N.D). Sustainable community development seems not to be very easy because it involves the consistent coordination of people with specific knowledge and skills to facilitate the process. Community development fosters active citizenship whereby individuals work together to improve human conditions and provide quality basic needs of the people (Kenny, 2011).

Community development approach is on instituting those interactive processes that help communities to take autonomous decisions on meeting their needs and addressing issues that affect their life the most. It promotes collective action rather than an individualized approach and thus can be differentiated from approaches that focus on individual well-being (Goel, 2014). Largely community development is being practiced through non-government organizations (NGOs) also known as the third sector that includes nongovernment organizations, not-for-profit, non-profit, voluntary organizations/ associations, community-based organizations, civil society that work autonomously from governmental control or semi-autonomously. These various forms of community-based organization are the basis of organizing communities, working with communities to effect change processes. NGOs are defined as development actors that can contribute to the strengthening of social relations and cross-networks that can serve as a foundation for collective action and increased democratic participation (Abiddin, Ibrahim & Abdul Aziz, 2022).

According to Werker and Ahmed (2007), Non-governmental organizations are organization that are largely staffed by altruistic employees and volunteers working towards ideological, rather than financial, ends. Their founders are often intense, creative individuals who sometimes come up with a new product to deliver or a better way to deliver existing goods and services. They are funded by donors, many of them are poor or anonymous. NGOs often come up with programmes and projects that benefits the people without requiring recompensation of any kind. However, that programmes and projects that are carried out by NGOs are funded by donors or the founder and also require volunteers/employees for delivery. It is in this, that community needs to be fully engaged in ensuring that NGO programmes are efficiently delivered to the rural people to increase their life quality. NGOs are majorly considered as an institution for spreading democratic institutions and liberal values, or saving the environment, the bulk of funds flowing through NGOs remains focused on basic humanitarian assistance and development: delivering goods and services in poor countries using resources from rich countries (Werker & Ahmed, 2007).

Willets (2002) classifies NGOs into two broad categories: operational and campaigning. Operational NGOs are non-governmental organizations whose primary mission is to carry out development projects for underserved populations such as the poor, disabled, elderly, and oppressed. Meanwhile, campaigning NGOs are organizations whose primary objective is to influence a country's policymaking process. Understandably, operational NGOs require resources in the form of financial support, equipment, or volunteer labour to carry out their projects and programs. In comparison to operational NGOs, campaigning NGOs rely on more intangible resources to mobilize the activities

they manage, such as ideas, experience, expertise, and time from other members and individuals. NGOs are sometimes referred to civil society organizations, are established on community, national, and international levels to serve a social or political goal such as a humanitarian cause or the protection of the environment (Folger, 2022). To ensure sustainable development, community member could collectively sponsor the NGO programmes and project in terms of fund and volunteerism.

According to Folger (2022) posited that community could engage in support services of NGOs organized for educational, religious, literary purposes, or to support certain sports and scientific testing for public safety by exempting them from income tax on all their funding. NGOs that engage in political activities may receive some tax benefits for income they receive from the public, membership dues, and fundraising events. Through this fundings, NGO programmes such as health, agricultural, education and safety programmes are carried out for human benefits. NGO agricultural programmes are those programmes that are organized and planned for the sustainability of rural farmer productivity. NGOs around the world run programmes for farmers and other stakeholders. Programmes such as capacity building, livelihood development, watershed development, market linkage, farm productivity improvement, increase farm income are some of the concerns of NGOs. These are transformed into agricultural programmes carried out in rural communities for sustainable development. The findings of Iwuchukwu, Nwankwo and Igbokwe (2014) holds that NGOs indicated that they have contributed to rural development in agricultural sector through provision of farming skills to farmers by organizing seminars and workshops for farmers, organizing food security programmes, sensitization of farmers on natural phenomenon like climate change, erosion etc and provision of inputs like fertilizers to farmers.

However, monitoring progress and co-ordination of volunteers remain the major challenge for NGO working with rural farmers. This could be the gap that community participation in NGO programmes are significant. The contribution of NGOs in health of the people in the rural areas covers the areas of building health centres, provision of drugs, sensitization programmes on general health maintenance, disease control and prevention and free medical care (World Bank, 2002). Even in the education aspects, their activities to reduce illiteracy level involves sometimes building of schools, provision of education materials, provision of skill and literacy centres, provision of community library, scholarship to rural indigenes among others. Therefore, World Bank (2001) opined that NGOs tends to pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, and/or undertake community development. Studies of Iwuchukwu et al (2014) indicated that communities needs to be engaged in planning, organization, controlling, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of community development programmes. Unfortunately, their studies showed that rural communities participate less in NGO programmes carried out in the community.

Eze, (2005) observed that effective participation of rural people in programme can be achieved by tackling on their felt needs as well as giving consideration to their existing basic culture elements which makes the success of the programme a reality. Also, Butt et al (2011) stated that the government must initiate rural youth supportive policies to activate youth in agro-based income generation activities and to generate self-employment and improve household income. This can be accomplished by providing training opportunities for rural youth to equip them with the latest, innovative, and advanced skills to play an active role in sustainable community development programmes (Yaseen et al., 2015). The present study therefore intends to investigate trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state.

## THEORETICAL REVIEW

### *Purpose of the Study*

The purpose of the study was to determine the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state
2. Examine the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state
3. Determine the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state

### *Research Question*

The following research questions guided the study

1. What are the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state?
2. What are the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state?
3. What are the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state?

### *The Following Hypotheses were Tested at 0.05 Level of Significance*

1. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of community leaders and non governmental organization officers on the trajectories for

- engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state
2. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of community leaders and non governmental organization officers on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state
  3. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of community leaders and non governmental organization officers on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state

## **METHODOLOGY**

In the course of this research, the researcher employed a descriptive survey research design. The design was considered appropriate for the study because the researcher intends to obtain the views of the respondents on the subject matter. According to Amadi (2020), descriptive survey design is needed when the researcher seeks to describe a situation using the opinion and views of people and possibly draw a conclusion based on the finding. The study was carried out in Rivers State. The population of the study was all rural community leaders and non-governmental organizations officers in Rivers State. Statistics showed that there were 1,170 community leaders in Rivers state. The researcher could not lay hold of the numbers of NGO officers in Rivers State therefore convenience sampling was adopted to engage 89 non-governmental organization officers who are into community and human capacity development especially in the rural areas of Rivers State.

Simple random sampling was used to select 342 community leaders in Rives State. Hence the sample size of the study was 342 community leaders and 89 non-governmental organization officers. The instrument used in the study was a close ended questionnaire titled "Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Programmes for Sustainable Community Development (TERCNGOPSCD)". The instrument was structured in four-point rating scales of Strongly Agree (SA-4), Agree (A-3), Disagree (D-2), Strongly Disagree (SD-1). The instrument elicited responses on the each of the research questions. The questionnaire was subjected to face and content validity by three experts in community development. Their suggestions were utilized to produce a valid questionnaire suitable for the study. The instrument was further tested for reliability using Kuda-Richardson 21, whereby 0.83 reliability coefficient was obtained. Mean and Standard Deviation was used as statistical tool for data analysis and z-test was used to test hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

## **RESULTS**

### *Research Question 1*

What are the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state?

Table 1. Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Health Programmes for Sustainable Community Development

S/N	Items	Community leaders=342			NGO officers=89		
		Mean	S.D	Rmrk	Mean	S.D	Rmrk
1	Mobilizing qualified youth volunteers as community health workers in rural programmes	3.47	0.46	Agree	3.21	0.73	Agree
2	Providing community health facilities for NGOs to use	3.11	0.81	Agree	3.12	0.81	Agree
3	Encouraging community members to actively participate in NGO health programmes	3.29	0.88	Agree	3.27	0.84	Agree
4	Providing financial aids for NGO health programmes to improve rural health conditions	3.20	0.72	Agree	3.35	0.74	Agree
5	Enforcement of health literacy policies in rural environment	3.52	0.61	Agree	3.48	0.69	Agree
6	Minimizing barriers of access to the rural communities	3.41	0.60	Agree	3.25	0.81	Agree
7	Collaboration with community health coalition and networks	3.72	0.51	Agree	3.27	0.70	Agree
8	Involvement of health experts in the rural communities	3.59	0.63	Agree	3.46	0.68	Agree
9	Engaging Community development committee to understand the health challenges of the people	3.22	0.74	Agree	3.12	0.71	Agree
10	Rural people are used for health programme evaluation by the NGOs	3.41	0.82	Agree	3.47	0.81	Agree
	<b>Grand Mean and S.D</b>	<b>3.39</b>	<b>0.68</b>		<b>3.30</b>	<b>0.75</b>	

The opinion of the respondents on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development revealed that items 1-10 were indicated agreed because their means were above the criterion mean (2.50). This implies that mobilizing qualified youth volunteers as community health workers in rural programmes (3.47 & 3.21), providing community health facilities for NGOs to use (3.11 & 3.12), encouraging community members to actively participate in NGO health programmes (3.29 & 3.27), providing financial aids for NGO health programmes to improve rural health conditions (3.20 & 3.35), enforcement of health literacy policies in rural environment (3.52 & 3.48), minimizing barriers of access to the rural communities (3.41 & 3.25), collaboration with community health coalition and networks (3.72 & 3.27),

involvement of health experts in the rural communities (3.59 & 3.46), engaging Community development committee to understand the health challenges of the people( 3.22 & 3.12), rural people are used for health programme evaluation by the NGOs (3.41 & 3.47) are trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development.

*Research Question 2*

What are the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state?

Table 2. Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Agricultural Programmes for Sustainable Community Development

S/N	Items	Community leaders=342			NGO officers=89		
		Mean	S.D	Rmrk	Mean	S.D	Rmrk
1	Collaborating with commercial farmers within the communities to improve subsistence farming	3.22	0.83	Agree	3.52	0.69	Agree
2	Encouraging farmers' gathering in NGO agricultural programmes	2.76	1.03	Agree	3.09	0.77	Agree
3	Monitoring of farmers improvement in the adoption of new farming methods	3.42	0.57	Agree	3.49	0.71	Agree
4	Involving rural experts as volunteers in NGO agricultural programmes	3.12	0.92	Agree	3.31	0.62	Agree
5	Availing rural facilities for agricultural programmes	3.10	0.81	Agree	3.16	0.75	Agree
6	Assessing agricultural needs and challenges rural farmers	3.24	0.76	Agree	3.24	0.73	Agree
7	Initiation of rural youth supportive policies in agricultural programmes carried out within the communities	3.56	0.60	Agree	3.41	0.68	Agree
8	Equipping youths with innovative skills in agriculture to play active role in agricultural programmes in rural areas	3.42	0.63	Agree	2.82	1.03	Agree
9	Involving rural people in agricultural programme evaluation	3.04	0.89	Agree	2.96	0.74	Agree
10	Engaging rural people in the design of agricultural projects that	2.94	1.02	Agree	3.01	0.72	Agree

	could address the needs of farmers						
	<b>Grand Mean and S.D</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>0.81</b>		<b>3.20</b>	<b>0.74</b>	

Table 2 presents the mean responses of the respondents on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers State. Based on the criterion mean, the study showed that collaborating with commercial farmers within the communities to improve subsistence farming (3.22 & 3.52), encouraging farmers' gathering in NGO agricultural programmes (2.76 & 3.09), monitoring of farmers improvement in the adoption of new farming methods (3.42 & 3.49), involving rural experts as volunteers in NGO agricultural programmes (3.12 & 3.31), availing rural facilities for agricultural programmes (3.10 & 3.16), assessing agricultural needs and challenges rural farmers (3.24 & 3.24), initiation of rural youth supportive policies in agricultural programmes carried out within the communities (3.56 & 3.41), equipping youths with innovative skills in agriculture to play active role in agricultural programmes in rural areas (3.42 & 2.82), and involving rural people in agricultural programme evaluation (3.04 & 2.96), engaging rural people in the design of agricultural projects that could address the needs of farmers (2.94 & 3.01) are trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development

### Research Question 3

What are the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state?

Table 3. Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization education Programmes for Sustainable Community Development

S/N	Items	Community leaders=342			NGO officers=89		
		Mean	S.D	Rmrk	Mean	S.D	Rmrk
1	Use of community professionals and experts in education programmes	3.75	0.38	Agree	3.35	0.78	Agree
2	Translating NGO officers' messages to local dialects for proper comprehension	3.66	0.52	Agree	3.86	0.32	Agree
3	Obtaining information from on the education needs of rural people	3.81	0.32	Agree	3.69	0.62	Agree
4	Helping to reach rural people who needs literacy programme	3.44	0.59	Agree	3.21	0.68	Agree
5	Availing school facilities for effective delivery of education programmes	3.52	0.48	Agree	3.61	0.52	Agree

6	Engaging rural school teachers in NGO literacy programmes	3.63	0.51	Agree	3.84	0.42	Agree
7	Providing instructional resources for NGO educational programmes	3.77	0.42	Agree	3.48	0.63	Agree
8	Evaluation of NGO education programmes	3.51	0.62	Agree	3.31	0.57	Agree
	Grand Mean & S.D	<b>3.64</b>	<b>0.48</b>		<b>3.54</b>	<b>0.58</b>	

Table 3 presents the mean responses of community leaders and non-governmental officers on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development. Based on the mean decision rule, the findings showed that use of community professionals and experts in education programmes (3.75 & 3.35), translating NGO officers' messages to local dialects for proper comprehension (3.66 & 3.86), obtaining information from on the education needs of rural people (3.81 & 3.69), helping to reach rural people who needs literacy programme (3.44 & 3.21), availing school facilities for effective delivery of education programmes (3.52 & 3.61), engaging rural school teachers in NGO literacy programmes (3.63 & 3.84), providing instructional resources for NGO educational programmes (3.77 & 3.48) and evaluation of NGO education programmes (3.51 & 3.31) are trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development.

#### *Test of Hypotheses*

There is no significant difference between the mean responses of community leaders and non-governmental organization officers on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state

Table 4. Z-Test Analysis on Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Health Programmes for Sustainable Community Development

Respondents	N	Mean	S.D	LOS	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
Community leaders	342	3.39	0.68				
NGO officers	89	3.30	0.75	0.05		1.96	Accept

Table 4 shows the z-test analysis on trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development. The analysis revealed that at 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom 429, the z-crit was 1.96. Since the z-cal value is less than the z-crit the hypothesis was accepted. This implies that the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of community leaders and non governmental organization officers on

the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state

Table 5. Z-Test Analysis on Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Agricultural Programmes for Sustainable Community Development

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>LOS</b>	<b>z-cal</b>	<b>z-crit</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Community leaders	342	3.64	0.48				
NGO officers	89	3.54	0.58	0.05		1.96	Accept

Table 4 shows the z-test analysis on trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development. The analysis revealed that at 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom 429, the z-crit was 1.96. Since the z-cal value is less than the z-crit the hypothesis was accepted. This implies that the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference between the mean responses of community leaders and non governmental organization officers on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state

Table 6. Z-Test Analysis on Trajectories for Engaging Rural Communities in Non-Governmental Organization Education Programmes for Sustainable Community Development

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>LOS</b>	<b>z-cal</b>	<b>z-crit</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Community leaders	342	3.18	0.81				
NGO officers	89	3.20	0.74	0.05		1.96	Accept

Table 6 shows the z-test analysis on trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development. The analysis revealed that at 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom 429, the z-crit was 1.96. Since the z-cal value is less than the z-crit the hypothesis was accepted. This implies that the null hypothesis of no significant difference between the mean responses of community leaders and non-governmental organization officers on the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state was upheld.

## DISCUSSIONS

Firstly, the study found the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development. Findings showed that mobilizing qualified youth volunteers as community health workers in rural programmes, providing community health facilities for NGOs to use, encouraging community members to actively participate in NGO health programmes, providing financial aids for NGO health programmes to improve rural health conditions, enforcement of health literacy policies in rural environment, minimizing barriers of access to the rural communities, collaboration with community health coalition and networks, involvement of health experts in the rural communities, engaging community development committee to understand the health challenges of the people are trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization health programmes for sustainable community development. This finding is in line with the Studies of Iwuchukwu et al (2014) indicated NGO health programmes would be successful and achieve its aims when community people effectively participate in the planning, organization, controlling, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of community development programmes. This will enable them structure the programme in the area that will be directly beneficial to them. In line with this findings World Bank (2001) has it that mobilization of community resources for health programmes will significantly help in achieving the goals of community development programmes of NGOs.

Secondly, the study shows the trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development. Findings revealed that collaborating with commercial farmers within the communities to improve subsistence farming, encouraging farmers' gathering in NGO agricultural programmes, monitoring of farmers improvement in the adoption of new farming methods, involving rural experts as volunteers in NGO agricultural programmes, availing rural facilities for agricultural programmes, assessing agricultural needs and challenges rural farmers, initiation of rural youth supportive policies in agricultural programmes carried out within the communities among others are trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization agricultural programmes for sustainable community development. This finding is consistent with Eze (2005) who stated that effective participation of rural people in agricultural development programme can be achieved by tackling on their felt needs as well as giving consideration to their existing basic culture elements which makes the success of the programme a reality.

Lastly, findings revealed that the use of community professionals and experts in education programmes, translating NGO officers' messages to local dialects for proper comprehension, obtaining information from on the education needs of rural people, helping to reach rural people who needs literacy programme, availing school facilities for effective delivery of education programmes, engaging rural school teachers in NGO literacy programmes, providing instructional resources for NGO educational programmes and

evaluation of NGO education programmes are trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization education programmes for sustainable community development. This finding agrees with Economic Commission for Africa (2007) who stated that education programme cannot be effective without active participation of the community people who are the major target of the programme. This because there is need to identify their areas of intervention, implementation procedure of the programme and evaluation of the programme.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that involving rural experts as volunteers in NGO agricultural programmes, availing rural facilities for agricultural programmes,, evaluation of NGO education programmes, engaging community development committee to understand the health challenges of the people, mobilizing qualified youth volunteers as community health workers among others are trajectories for engaging rural communities in non-governmental organization programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state. The study recommended that:

1. Government should provide funds for NGO programmes through community leaders/heads so as to facilitate community development programmes in the rural areas
2. Government should build physical education facilities in the rural areas to encourage participation rural people in NGOs educational development programmes.
3. Community leaders should mandate rural farmers to actively engage in agricultural programmes of NGOs so as to improve their methods of farming and agricultural productivity

## **FURTHER STUDY**

The researcher recommends the following for further study:

1. Assessment of non-governmental organizational programmes for improving rural community conditions in Rivers state
2. Impact of non-governmental organizations on community development in Rivers State
3. Enhancing rural non-governmental organization involvement in agricultural programmes for sustainable community development in Rivers state

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