CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Not until recently, a lot of social developments in Nigeria were directed towards people in the urban areas while those in the rural areas that make up the bulk of the population were relatively neglected. Although the necessary materials for the development of these rural areas abound; naturally within their immediate environment, their lack of awareness and participation tend to impede community development.

The problem of social and political integration is, perhaps, one of the most intriguing to people of a developing society like Nigeria. No nation can achieve its goal of development without conscious efforts at integrating its people and mobilizing them to understand, appreciate and identify with the ideals of development. For a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse nation like Nigeria with very high level of illiteracy and unemployment, the need for public enlightenment and social mobilization is imperative.

Basic to any developmental process is man’s desire for a better life and better environment. But development, as stated in the 4th National Development Plan, “does not start with goods and things; it starts with people; their orientation, organization and discipline (4th National Dev.
Plan”). When a society is properly oriented, organized and disciplined, it can be prosperous in natural wealth.

Casting our minds back to 1970s, particularly between 1972 and 1976, when there was the oil boom, many Nigerians neglected the rural areas and fled to the urban centers, neglected agriculture and developed greater interest in white-collar jobs. Nigerians also abandoned productive activities, shunned locally produced materials and became foreign manufacturers’ representatives. There was widespread development of Western taste, for imported materials and soon, the country became a nation of contractors with a generation of nouveau riche. This could not last for too long. The period gave Nigerians false hopes about their country’s industrial production capacity and agricultural output. The economy was trapped in oil glut which brought about hardship to the citizenry.

In 1977, General Olusegun Obasanjo, the Head of the Federal Military Government launched Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) aimed at re-orientating the nation and focusing attention on agriculture. But the implementation was soon derailed and the objectives could not be realized. But in 1979, when the civilian took over power, massive importation of food began even beyond the country’s foreign exchange capacity with the attendant consequence of increasing neglect of agricultural production and
the rural economy. This neglect had reached lamentable proportions by the time the Buhari Administration assumed national leadership in 1985.

In spite of the oil boom, the condition of the rural people never changed. They had few good roads, lacked portable water, and were exposed to various types of diseases. This greatly reduced the average Nigerian morale and capacity for hardwork. Although demoralized, Babangida Administration accepted the predicament of the times with stoic equanimity.

It is in recognition of the failure of such programmes of the OFN and the Green Revolution launched by the civilian regime of Shehu Shagari that the Babangida Administration in February 1986 established the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI). This was therefore set up primarily as an organ for bridging the perceived gap existing between the passive and active rural communities in Nigeria on the one hand and between the urban and rural communities on the other hand. This was way of enlightening the rural communities in order to give them a sense of belonging to the country; to ensure a deep rooted self-sustaining development process based on effectively mobilizing mass participation, to undertake the construction and repair of roads, to facilitate communication and distribution of agricultural production.
However, the objectives of DFRRI was not fully implemented, and realizing the significance of a coherent, thorough and clearly guided and executed programme of social mobilization and political education, political Bureau Report recommended the establishment of ‘a body to be known as the National Directorate of social mobilization and Political Education. This led to the birth of the Directorate for Mass Mobilization and Economic Recovery (MAMSER). This marked the era of a comprehensive, coherent and sustained programme of social mobilization and political education for Nigeria.

In 1993, government decided to merge the Directorate with some other similar bodies so as to pool together and consolidate all the efforts and resources of the bodies in the areas of public enlightenment, mass mobilization and value re-orientation. This was what gave birth to National Orientation Agency (NOA).

The road to rural development in Nigeria had been bumpy. There had been uneven development and a glaring inequality of opportunities between the rural and urban areas. In spite of the fact that majority of Nigerians are rural dwellers, rural areas still have little or no opportunities for education and employment. Rural Nigeria is characterized by poverty and malnutrition. Other main features of rural areas in Nigeria include population explosion,
illiteracy, and unproductive agriculture with the use of poor tools, poor communication, and low level of social participation. Also noticeable was lack of health and medical care facilities, roads, water and electricity. This situation called for a change. This change can be achieved through rural development programmes in which the involvement or participation of local people is of prime necessity if success will be achieved.

However, Oji-River local Government Area of Enugu state is made up of 7 (seven) communities that have similar conditions as described above. To alleviate these conditions, governments and non-governmental organizations have in their various capacities introduced some rural development projects. This research work, therefore, is directed at showing both by detailed essay/library, documentary and field investigation, how people in the rural areas are working in partnership with government officials and agencies to develop themselves. It seeks to determine the reason(s) for their participation in projects of rural development. It also seeks to find out why they were not involved in some cases and how best they could be involved in both sponsored and community initiated rural development projects. It will as well, to some extent, compare the level of citizens’ participation between the two – the government sponsored and the community initiated projects.
1.2 Statement of the Problem

The vital role of community development as a virile instrument of social, economic change and transformation of society cannot be underestimated. Community development provides the necessary tools for transforming a stagnant or dormant community to very active one.

The traditional community development efforts involve the various communities in Nigeria in a form of voluntary exercise in which both the young and the old members of a particular community participated actively in the traditional tasks of cleaning the Igwe’s Palace, road path and compound. The participation of the people in these tasks was then largely voluntary. This was made possible by the cohesiveness and homogeneity of the people.

However, with the growing complexity of our society and community, with increase in population and urbanization, coupled with the high task of people for modern basic and social amenities and infrastructural facilities, community development activity witnessed a significant change in diversion and became more complex in process, form and scope.

Thus bringing to the fore the recognition and acceptance of the fact that meaningful development would only take place when the rural communities are well mobilized for community action. This could only be
effectively carried out when the people are actively motivated and mobilized.

Coming down to the discourse, arguments and debates have continued on academic, government and various circles on the persistence of instability and on the poor or stunted growth of rural communities in Nigeria. However, there is no denying the fact that, the rural communities make over 60% population of Nigeria and as such, remains a crucial sector in shaping the country’s future especially now with the current programme of vision 20-20-20 which is aimed at making Nigeria to among the world first twenty (20) developed economy by the year 2020.

On this note, it is not debatable that the idea of mobilizing the people for any meaningful citizens’ participation in community development would be short-lived except we actually make the people feel and contribute immensely to governments policies and programmes in and around them.

This research work addresses this problem asking questions as:

1. Is the level of citizens’ participation related to the level of community development?

2. Is community development a function of awareness on the part o the community people?

3. Could the level of literacy, influence the attitude of rural dwellers in community development?
1.3 Objectives of the Study

Community development and rural transformation was remained a burning issue in development effort, and would remain so for the simple fact that in developing economies like ours, majority and usually the overwhelming majority of the people live and find their livelihood in the local communities. Community development is now top priority of governments in many developed and developing countries. As a result of this, many scholars are asking the question if government alone should not be let to provide for the transformation of local communities using the strategy of development plans and forget about citizens mobilization and participation in the development process, whereas some others especially in developing countries like Nigeria are in support of the need for collective or cooperative efforts in the socio-economic and political transformation of local communities through adequate mobilization and participation of the people. According to Omornyi, E. O. (2001: 6), citizens’ participation in community development increases project efficiency, promoting projects effectiveness, helping to build the capacity of beneficiaries as well as enhancing and empowering the members of the community. The idea of citizen participation according to them is deeply rooted in the meaning of community development which enjoins that, whatever is done to improve
the welfare of a people must seek to elicit the enthusiasm and wholehearted involvement of such a people.

Having discovered as stated above that there is need for collective or cooperative efforts in the socio-economic and political transformation of rural communities through mass mobilization and citizens participation, the broad objective of the study therefore, hinged on ascertaining the essence of effective mobilization and participation of the people in community development, where as the specific objectives of the study are to:-

(A) Find out the function of awareness on the part of the people in community development;

(B) Examine the level of citizens participation as related to the level of community development;

(C) Identify how effective the government using available forum of community mobilization, has been able to sensitize the people in Oji-River Local Government Area and others to participate in community development processes; and finally

(D) Make recommendations to our readers based on the findings arising from this research work on how best to enhance development.
1.4 Significance of the Study

One of the justifications for studying citizens participation in community development is that, no nation can achieve its goal of development without a conscious effort aimed at integrating its people and mobilizing them to understand, appreciate and identify the ideals of development. This is because of the fact that, one major issue that continued to occur on the agenda for rapid and genuine development in Nigeria in recent times is how to secure the participation and mobilization of the people in the development process. This is because of the interesting belief that no genuine or viable and self-sustaining development can ever be, without the involvement of the people. Nowadays, the top-down approach to development which ignores the needs, aspirations, rights and inputs of the local people is not only old fashioned but is also increasingly becoming unacceptable. Consequently, it is crucial to ensure in the course of designing development programmes, the active involvement and contributions of the entire people who should be educated to share responsibility along with the benefit of development.

The involvement of the local people in development processes is being advocated for, based on the fact that people are more equipped with the indigenous knowledge of their environment in terms of all the existing
traditional resources in the area which are viewed as vital ingredient of sustainable development. Thus, participation and mobilization is the only means through which the people’s democratic culture, which often results in genuine and sustainable development, can be effectively explored.

Another important of the study is that, it draws our attention to the condition of the rural dwellers. In Oji-River Local Government Area, over eighty percent (80%) of her population lives in the rural area. This study therefore, raises issues such as those without electricity, good drinking water, good roads, good medical services, and education opportunities, etc.

Most importantly the research work provided us with information on how to sustain community development projects as well as its contribution to increased efficiency and effectiveness of administration of rural communities in Oji-River Local Government Area.

It also adds to the existing literatures in citizens participation and mobilization in community development.

1.5 **Scope and Limitation of The Study**

The scope of the study is restricted to Oji – River Local Government Area. With exception of Oji Urban by virtue as the Council’s headquarters is
more or less urbanized, five communities that made up Oji –River Local Government Area were studied.

In carrying out this research, the researcher is limited by a number of factors such as non-availability of adequate information in the communities under study as a result of low level of awareness.

It is also note worthy that the researcher is restricted from more extensive research on the subject as a result of financial constraints, i.e., he has no enough funds to finance more extensive research, but however, his lean pocket is stretched in order to set the job well done.
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Literature Review:

In this section, a review of related literature is carried out. This is done under the following categories;

- Mass mobilization and community development.
- Citizens’ participation and community development.

Mass Mobilization and Community Development

Community development is today gaining increasing recognition and attention all over the world. The past thirty years have seen such a rapid expansion of community development in Nigeria. Nearly everywhere in the country, governmental and non-governmental organizations have been trying out new forms of organization, new techniques and new methods in order to promote community development, equality and social justice.

Rural development seeks generalized increase in labor productivity, resulting in growing incomes and rural employment opportunities, sufficient enough to absorb the large number of new entrants into the rural labor force at continually rising levels of living Koscher, (1973:3). It could be seen as a process of not only increasing the level of participation income in the rural areas but also the standard of living. The standard of living, depending on
such factors as food and nutrition level, health, education, honesty, recreation and security Ijere, (1992: 6).

In pursuance of rural development, one has to take cognizance of the fact that a well–informed, enlightened and effectively sensitized citizenry is indispensable for rural development. Unless the masses have a clear understanding and awareness of government policies, programmes and activities and the importance of such programmes to their being, they would not be able to participate meaningfully in the development process (A handbook of NOA: 17).

Mass mobilization has been seen from different perspectives. Some see it from angle of politics while others see it as a total process encompassing political, social, economic and cultural processes. Bhola et al (1982: 32) assert that mass mobilization can be seen as the popular expression of the political will of the leadership. From this point of view, it should be seen that mobilization of any kind is determined by leadership.

Nwachukwu (1988: 8) affirmed that “mobilization is a strategic term of modern socio-political engineering. It connotes the process whereby people are turn away from their traditional moorings and the ‘broken’, live wild horses are broken and later inducted and socialized into new pattern of social, economic and political behaviour. Mobilization effects fundamental
normative, structural, behavioural and attitudinal changes in man and society. Normatively, it produces a certain consensus in norms and values in the society which emphasizes universalities criteria of achievement (merit) as opposed to particularistic criteria of ascription (patronage) as basis for authoritative allocation of value. A common ideology, a cognitive map which structured relation of man to man, and man to society is involved. Structurally, it leads to the development of viable, flexible and coherent institution capable of coping with multifarious demands of modern society. In summary, one can conclude that mobilization produces common norms and values, institutionalized and social organization and internalized in individuals.

According to MAMSER handbook, (1987: 24) from the perspective of the directorate, mobilization is the process of pooling together, harnessing, actualizing and utilizing potential human resources for purpose of development. It is a process whereby human beings are made aware of the resources at their disposal and also motivate and energize to collectively utilize such resources for improvement of their material condition of living. Thus, mass mobilization aims at informing and educating the generality of rural dwellers about the policies and programmes of government; it seeks to ensure that policy statements of government are better understood,
appreciated and supply by the masses by highlighting such policies and making necessary clarification on how they relate to the immediate welfare of the people and the overall interest of the nation. This is borne out of the fact that information is power and that unless the people are well informed on rural issues, they are not likely to willingly contribute their quota to community development.

According to Oyoibaire and Olangunju’s Foundation of a New Nigeria Page 56, “The potentials of Nigeria and Nigerians are great and could be attained through mobilization of individual and collective psyche through change”. Indeed, the citizenry must be fully and constantly informed on policies and programmes in order to understand and appreciate the positive effect of those policies on their lives. It is also believed that people will easily pay tax, support government policies et cetera, if they have a sense of belonging to the community and to community goals and objectives. Realizing the significance of a coherent, thorough and clearly guided and executed programme, mass mobilization has recorded commendable success in the re-orientation of the individuals for positive attitude change. Attitude change, intangible as it is, requires more skilful handling of people and this is achieved through mass mobilization, by way
of interaction with people in such small formations as trade unions, age
grades and other groups. Ijere (1992: 69) said it all by saying that

“Group activities have crystallized into the well-known age grades, dance groups, initiation ceremonies, elite secret societies, like Ekpo, Ekpe, etc. Through the society, various development projects have been executed without recourse to government interactions”.

This has proved to improve more forcefully on the people for rural development. According to the Political Bureau Report, “to mobilize a people is to increase their level of awareness of certain set objectives with a view to achieving those objectives. In fact, mobilization is a process of pooling together and harnessing the creative energies of the people for rural development.

Karl Deutsh, in his book “Social Mobilization and Political Development”, defined the term social mobilization. According to him, social mobilization is a name given to overall process of change, which happens to substantial parts of the population in countries which are moving from traditional to modern way of life. From his point of view, social mobilization denotes a concept which covers a number of more specific process of change such as change of residence, of occupation, of social setting, of face-to-face associates, of experiences, roles and way of acting, of expectations and finally, of personal memories, habits and needs.
Orjiekwe (1988) sees social mobilization as the art of awakening, teaching and guiding individuals or groups of individuals and activating, harnessing and pooling their psychological and physical resources towards achieving certain ideas and goals. Lacks of the above factors render vital government policies useless. On the other hand, if the government does not create a medium by which these citizens could be mobilized, they would be making a great mistake.

To this effect, government created some agencies. Among them and most recent one is National Orientation Agency (NOA). The main task of the agency is to provide a re-orientation for Nigerians in order to encourage them to develop positive attitude towards the Nigerian society as well as take active part in its development. Also it is also charged with the responsibility of creating political awareness in the people so that they can take active part in politics and in decision making in matters concerning their welfare or well being Omoruyi, (2001:6). Opinions expressed in dialogues held with such interest groups like local government workers, religious bodies, cultural associations and clubs, market women associations, farmers associations, age grades, etc, can influence plans, policies and implementation strategies of social mobilization.
As Okoli and Onah (2002: 133) wrote, “mobilization is a process of motivating citizens to strive for things better and higher in values, creating as well as arousing interests and enthusiasm and securing very active and willing participation of citizens in the things concerned with their being”. This implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses and resources, so as to enhance the capacity of the rural populace to cope effectively with the daily tasks of their lives and with the changes consequent upon this Mabogunje (1980: 30)

Mobilization in this way indicates that a more mobilized unit can set more work done collectively either by increasing the number of goals it realizes or by increasing the intensity with which it pursues those goals it is already realizing. Mobilization therefore, entails the capability of a unit (be it village, ward, social club, group of people, etc) to control and to use assets it did not previously control Onah Fab, (2001: 1). Therefore, it shows that with mass mobilization, the citizens are drawn out of shells and are more disposed to participate actively in the development of their areas.

Citizens Participation and Community Development

There are several elements needed for effective and successful planning, implementation, utilization and sustenance of any community
development programme and project, one such element is citizens’ participation.

Citizens participation as a concept describes the involvement of community members in the efforts or activities that are designed to enhance the development of their community. Citizen participation implies a right to something. In community development, it implies the involvement of community members in the day-to-day activities of their community.

Development is a human issue, which involves the total and full mobilization of a society. In this spirit, Nnoli (1980: 36) sees development as a dialectical phenomenon in which the individual and society interact with physical, biological and inter-human environments, transforming them for their own betterment and that of humanity at large and being transformed in the process.

This is probably why Doornbas quoted in Ezeani, (2001: 34), states that development programmes and policies cannot just be made for the people, but will have to involve the people concerned if they are to have a chance of success, without that, if the people are not involved and do not device a sense that the project they are in, is theirs, the chances are, they will also not be interested and plans handed down from the centre will remain sterile.
Newinger (1987: 44) argued that rural development strategies can realize their full potential only through the motivation, active involvement or participation and organization at the grassroot level of the society, with special emphasis on the least developed, in conceptualizing and designing policies and programmes, and in creating administrative and socio-economic institutions, including co-operatives and other voluntary forms of organizations for planning, implementing and evaluating them. He further defined community involvement as “the active involvement of the people in uplifting their economic and socio-political conditions”.

In another view by Oakley (1987: 16), most of our development programmes were planed from top and the blue-prints were distributed to the field for blind implementation. In other words, policies, programmes and plans was conceived and executed with little active involvement of the rural people with the result that at worst, they fail or at best, have only limited success.

The effect of this can be that, those at the grass roots level who are involved in the project do not own it at all, and they therefore, do not control it. They have to be accountable to the outsider for all that is done and how they are managed. Culturally, acceptable approaches are in jeopardy and the freedom to make decisions may be lost unless, of course, the outsider is open
to output from the grassroots and does not assume a top-down, west-knows-best approach.

Discussing the problems of Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) in Nigeria, Alabi (1988: 7) observed that the project has been criticized for the limited involvement of Nigerians and excessive dependence on expatriates at the top management. These expatriates did not have adequate knowledge and experience in the process of agricultural development in Nigeria. Some of them were disenchanted with the general underdevelopment of their local environment and there were personality clashes between them and the Nigerian senior staff personnel Mordi, (1988: 93). This implies that the policies and programmes will come to naught if those who implemented them do not believe in them, or do not regard them as their own.

Citizen participation implies much more than involvement. It calls for other features, namely democracy or democratic participation, self-help and education. It is based on the tradition of “free enterprises” and the rights of the community members. It emphasizes total control by government involvement.

In the light of the above, community involvement supports the fact that development should be by and with the people. Hence, development is a
response to the peoples needs. These needs can only be defined by the people themselves and that is through their own involvement in the planning and implementation.

Nyerere (1988: 4) speaking on the participation of the people in community development argued that

“participation is the process of one deciding for himself what is development and deciding in what direction it should take his society and it is by implementing those decisions that man develops himself”.

He went further to argue that man does not develop himself in a vacuum or in isolation from his society and his environment. Man’s consciousness is developed, he argued, in the process of thinking and deciding and acting.

Some people however, oppose citizen participation with the argument that not everybody can meaningfully take in decision making. However when people are not involved there may be sabotaged by those who are opposed to planning programmes, the influential may impose their interest on the masses. When few people are involved in decision making, they may not be true representatives of the cross section of the people. Elekwa (2001: 318) objected the above argument stating that citizens should have clear and direct access to the decision-making process. He argued that citizens should be involved when goals, objectives, priorities and policies are formulated.
Elekwa further argued that “they should help develop methods of communication that are effective in reaching people. Meeting places and times should be widely publicized on a regular basis”.

It has been argued that most projects have failed, because citizens were not involved as stated in paragraph nine of this section. This step to secure the participation of the citizens is to enlighten them, using say, the non-formal education strategy. Projects are not to be imposed on people. They need to be taken into confidence in the planning and implementation processes if we are to have lasting results. Citizens’ participation generates a sense of belonging, acceptance and satisfaction in the people. Rural development requires citizens participation. This means that local people should be involved in the development of their respective areas, have their objectives and priorities defined and participate actively in making decisions on matters that concern them Okoli and Onah, (2002: 162).

From our literature review therefore, we can deduce the importance of mass mobilization and citizens participation in community development. It implies that, a well-informed, enlightened and effectively sensitized citizenry is indispensable for rural development. Thus, unless the masses have a clear understanding and awareness of government policies, programmes, and activities and the importance of such programmes to their
well-being, they would not be able to participate meaningfully in the development process. On the other hand, the reasons for involving people in development planning and implementation can be termed to be ethical, functional, administrative, manipulative, educational, promotional and protective. Thus, citizens participation creates faith in common understanding among the people which enhances the possibility of success in the execution of programmes designed for better living in a rural community such as my town – Ugwuoba. This is therefore, the promotional function of citizens participation in community development.

Relating the above reviewed literatures to the actual facts on the ground in my local government council – Oji-River LGA brings to the fore, the scientific question is the level of citizens participation related in any way to the level of community development? Unfortunately, everywhere, there appear to be disparaging differences in the sum quantity and quality of people’s participation. This means that people’s participation is not yet profound in development activities in the council. The effectiveness of the involvement of the people in development programme has been marred and impeded by all forms of intrigues and negative vices on the part, of government officials, and prominent opinion leaders in the subject communities.
This research work will not be complete if the partners in community development are not mentioned. The main partners in community development are as follows:

**Community- Based Organizations (CBOs)**

These are formed by local residents who join forces to tackle or improve on some local problems such as local security, housing quality, environmental quality, basic utilities and social services. Although the distinction between CBO and NGO is blurred, CBO as noted above is organized by local residents while the NGO is normally initiated by people who originate outside the community with whom NGO collaborates. It is to be noted that because women organize the household’s access to drinking water, sanitation and waste disposal services, they play a major role in the struggle to improve service access and quality. Thus apart from their prominent role as service consumer, women play a crucial role as producers and managers of community affairs Schiibeler, (1996: 24).

**Government Organization**

These are government sponsored agencies or organizations aimed primarily at the development of the entire rural areas of Nigeria in order to
improve the quality of life of rural dwellers. Such organizations are: the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), aimed at re-orientating the nation and focusing attention on agriculture; The Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) aimed at improving the quality of life of the rural dwellers; the Directorate for Mass Mobilization Social and Economic Recovery (MAMSER) focused on social mobilization and political education of rural dwellers; The National Orientation Agency (NOA). These agencies are for social engineering expected to turn around the values and attitudes of rural dwellers and Nigerians at large and mobilize them for the positive transformation of the society—citizens participation in community development.

**Non–Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

These are “third system” between the public and private domains. NGOs are semi–autonomous, external to political power structure, and non-profit oriented. Their main roles include mediating between communities and government authorities, awareness building and mobilization, provision of technical know-how, enabling access to credit, educating community interests, consulting and occasional project management.
Private Sector Actors

These range from individuals and small-scale enterprise which are engaged at the neighborhood level to collect wastes, to large – scale enterprises which may be contracted by the government to provide selected rural services Omoruyi, (2001:9).

2.2 Theoretical Framework:

This research adopts the participatory community development theory in the examination of the constituent factors in mass mobilization and citizens participation in community development. According to Waish Bond (1991: 7) as in Abott (1995: 22), participatory theory criticized the modernization paradigm on the ground that it promoted a top down ethnocentric and paternalistic view of development. They argued that, the strategic model proposed a conception of development associated with a western vision of progress. The top-down approach of persuasion models implicitly assumed that the knowledge of governments and agencies was correct, and that indigenous population were either ignorant or had incorrect beliefs Cypher and Diethz, (1997: 87); Weyman and Fussel, (1996: 37) as in Abott (1995: 36). Dissatisfaction with the above traditional development
theories, led to a re-examination of the purpose of development towards a search for alternative conceptual explanations. A host of development scholars, (Conyers and Hills (1990:67); Roodt, (2001: 24); Pendirs, (1996: 23); Dodds (1986: 17) as in Abott, (1995:28) have began to answer this challenge, articulating concept known as participatory or “People Centered Development”. Current debates and development efforts focus on ‘bottom-up’ planning, ‘people-centered development’ and the view that ordinary people have the capacity to manage their own development. This theory encourages the involvement of all stakeholders in the process of development Conyers and Hills, (1990:78) as in Abott, (1995:273) and will be used to the development initiatives that exist in the third world countries. Thus, the participatory models in general proposed a human centered approach that valued the importance of interpersonal channels of communication in decision-making processes at the community level.

According to Conyers and Hills (1990:98) as contained in Abott (1995:56), development requires sensitivity to cultural diversity as well as other specific points that were ignored by modernization theorists. The lack of such sensitivity accounted for the problems and failures of many projects. The main essence of participatory development theory is an active involvement of people in making decisions about implementation of
processes, programs and projects which affect them. Impliedly, participatory development approach views the term “participation” as the exercise of people’s power in thinking, acting and controlling their actions in a collaborative framework.

Roodt (2001:37) and Dodds (1986:80) as contained in Abott (1995:90) have noted that, the participatory community development approach stresses the participation of the majority of the population (especially the previously excluded components such as CBOs, women, Youth and the illiterate) in the process of development approach. The approach views development as a process which focuses on community’s involvement in their own development using available resources and guiding the future development of their own community. The wishes of an individual never superimposes on those of a group. This approach emphasis concept such as: capacity building, empowerment, sustainability and self-reliance.

According to the belief of participatory development theory, the answer to the problem of successful third world development is not found in the bureaucracy and its centrally mandated development projects and programs, but rather in the community itself. This needs its capacities and ultimately its own control over both its resources and its destiny.
By this therefore, the rationale behind the emergence of the participatory development approach is that, participation and involvement of beneficiary groups, develop and strengthen the capabilities of beneficiary groups in development initiatives. This is empowering, and leads to self-transformation and self-reliance thereby ensuring sustainability Conyers and Hills, 1990 as in Abott (1995:45).

The above stated theory is considered relevant in the study because of its principles which include the followings:

**Inclusion** – of all people, or representatives of all groups who will be affected by the results of a decision or a process – for examples a development project.

**Equal partnership** – recognizing that every person has skill, ability and initiative and has an equal right to participate in the process, regardless of their status.

**Transparency** – all participants must help to create a climate conducive to open communication and building dialogue.

**Sharing responsibility** – Similarly, all stakeholders have equal responsibility for decisions that are made, and each should have clear responsibility within each process.
Empowerment – participants with special skills should be encouraged to take responsibility for tasks within their specialty, but should also encourage others to also be involved to promote mutual learning and empowerment.

Cooperation – it is very important; sharing everybody’s strength reduces everybody’s weaknesses.

2.3 Hypotheses

The following hypotheses have been formulated by the researcher to guide draw fairly empirical conclusion of his findings. They include:

Hypothesis I: The level of citizens participation is related to the level of community development in Oji-River Local Government Area.

Hypothesis II: Community development is a function of awareness of the community people

Hypothesis III: The level of literacy influences the attitude of rural dwellers in community development in Oji-River Local Government Area

Hypothesis IV: Citizens access to the decision-making process encourages participation in community development
2.4 Operationalization of the Key Concepts

Our study on ‘Mass Mobilization and Citizens’ Participation in Community Development in Nigeria’ can be explained or defined using several indices but we chose to operationalize the key concepts thus:

**Mass Mobilization:**

It is the process of gingering the people up to be part of the process of change. It is also a movement or campaign to activate the masses into the process of change. It is implies therefore that mass mobilization service as a vehicle for galvanizing the people into some kind of action, the objective of which the people must remain committed to.

This is the direction of mobilization that will be the focus in this paper.

**Citizens Participation:**

It is operationalized in this paper to mean that the people should contribute not only money materials and communal labour but also their ideas in the process of development in their communities.

**Community Development:**

United Nation which defines community development as the process by which the effort of the people themselves are united with those of
governmental and non-governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national development.

**Elites:** Elites are people of high class who have common interest. They are influential group of people that have elements of power which can be traced to many factors such as caste, class, asset-ownership, religious affiliation, political power, historically discriminated social groups, etc. They believe in elite generation. The values of the elites may be very “public-regarding”. A sense of nobles oblige may permeate elite values and the welfare of the masses may be an important element in elite decision-making. The responsibility for mass welfare rests upon the shoulders of elites, not masses.

### 2.5 Method of Data Collection and Analysis

The major sources of data used for this research are grouped into primary and secondary sources of data. Both are extensively used for the purpose of drawing an empirical conclusion or analysis of the study so as to come up with fairly objective findings.
The secondary sources of data were utilized in literature review. These were obtained mainly from textbooks, magazines, journals, published research works, seminars and workshop papers.

The primary sources of data, taking cognizance of the goals and objectives of this study, the necessary questionnaire were designed for data collection.

For the purpose of this study, a representative sample of the population of the local government area is used as the population of this study and they form the target and accessible population of this study of 200 (two hundred), 50 (Fifty) questionnaire for each of the four community under study.

The researcher used simple random sampling. This was adopted in this study because it will help to tap and gather relevant data and also to ensure even or equal chances of representation.

Consequently, each of the four communities was accorded the same number of representation by a proportionate numbers of people. In order words, 50 respondents per community. Twenty five questionnaires for adult female and youthful and the other five for male adult and youthful covering
the literates, semi-literates and the illiterates that were found in those four communities.

This therefore, ensures a greater and balanced view and the representativeness of the sample relatives to the population and guaranteed that the minority consistent of the communities are represented in the sample while error is reduced to a minimal level.

The sample size used in this study is made up of two hundred people who were drawn from the four out of seven communities that made up Oji-River Local Government Area or Enugu State. Thus, 50 each were selected for sampling size. Consequently, each community was given equal representatives in this sampling size.

Structured questionnaires were distributed to the communities under study, personal observations necessary for the study were also included as well as oral interviews coupled with what the researcher knows as an indigene of the area under study.

However, the respondents are expected to choose one of the four options that appeals to his/her feelings, that is, strongly agreed , Agree , strongly disagree , Disagree , and
very high , High , very low , low as the case may be.

A space was also left in the form as an open ended question for respondents to express their views which he/she might not have been able to express in the close-ended questions.

In order to test the hypotheses stated above, the simple percentage was used. The researcher decided to use this in order to enable him highlight the study on Mass Mobilization and Citizens Participations in Community Development in Nigeria. Thus, a cross sectional survey research design was used to work with a sample of elements from the population of interest.
CHAPTER THREE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE STUDY AREA

3.1 Brief History of Oji-River Local Government Area

Oji-River Local Government Area of Enugu State is one of the seventeen local government councils of Enugu state constituting the seven hundred and seventy four local government councils in the Nigerian federation. It was a creation of the first exercise in uniform local government administration in Nigeria. Following the state creation exercise of Late General Murtala/Obasanjo administration, was established, the Nasir Boundary Adjustment Commission. As a result of the Commission’s report, some communities which were part of the area formerly known as Awgu District in the Old East Central State became Oji-River Local Government Area and merged with Old Anambra State (which is now Enugu State).

Oji-River Local Government Area became established by Edict in 1976 with Oji-Urban as its headquarters. The council covers an area of 2,540 square kilometres. The communities that made up the local council are: Ugwuoba, Achi, Inyi, Akpagoewe, Awlaw, Agbalenyi and Oji-Urban.

Oji-River Local Government Area derives its name from the headquarters which harbours a big river called Oji which serves as a source of power supply to all the Eastern Region and Middle-Belt. The town owes
its significance to the discovery of Oji-River as a source of power supply as far back as 1920 by a team of British Engineers. The discovery of the power source in the area brought about the emergence of a permanent cosmopolitan settlement which influenced the construction of power station to serve the whole of Old Eastern Region and Middle Belt. Infact, by 1932, Oji has acquired township status and assumed strategic importance in British interest.

3.2 Geographical Location:

Oji-River Local Government Area covers an area of 2,540 square kilometers and three miles radius stretch. Situated on much of the highlands of Awgu, Udi, Ezeagu hills and rolling low lands of Ajalli River basin to the West and Mmamu River to the East. The Council is made up of seven communities bounded by five other Local Government Areas with which it shares common boundaries. It spreads southward to the borders with Awgu Local Government Area and Northward to Ezeagu Local Government Area. There is a chain of low hills running through Udi in the neighbouring Udi Local Government Area in the east. The council is made up of low land, criss-crossed numerous streams and rivulets of which the major ones are the Oji, Ozom, Mmamu, Ezu and Ajalli rivers.
3.3 The People:

Oji-River Local Government Area has a population of 241,682 according to the 2005 National Population Census. Its people are Igbo by tribe. They are widely known to be hospitable, very resourceful and hard-working. Skilled and semi-skilled manpower resources are therefore, readily available in almost every sphere of human endeavors. The vernacular spoken is Igbo but English is widely used and a visitor can make himself understood in the humblest hamlet if he can speak English.

Economically, the council is predominantly rural, and agrarian with a substantial proportion of its working population engaged in farming, although trading and services are also important. In the only urban area in the council which Oji-Urban, trading is the dominant occupation, followed by service mostly the public services (although the private sector is presently receiving tremendous impetus).

3.4 Agriculture:

Oji-River Local Government Area has rich agricultural land as a result of its location within the tropical forest and savanna belt. Consequently, almost every tropical crop thrives in the council. About 85% of the population is farmers, growing food crops such as rice, cassava, maize yam,
banana, plantain, cocoa yam and variety of fruits and vegetables. Cash crops such as cashew and palm produce are produced in large quantities. The Ugwuoba (which is one of the town in the council and my town) palm wine and tapioca (abacha) are famous throughout the country as buyers from Awka, Onitsha, Aba, Enugu, Port-Harcourt, and even Lagos regularly come to buy them from our local markets.

3.5 Tourism

Oji-River Local Government Area is endowed with a lot of tourist resources, facilities and potentials. These exist in natural features such as caves, hills, springs and cultural festivals as well as such man-made features like hotels, galleries and monumental or archaeological collections. Some of these potentials are developed, others are yearning for development. Some of the existing tourist events in Oji-River Local Government Area include:

a) Traditional Festivals

i. Mmanwu Festivals

ii. Iri-ji Festivals

There are two prominent traditional Festivals observed by the people of Oji-River Local Government Area.
i. **The Masquerade (Mmanwu) Festival**

In the primordial times, masquerades were principally used as low enforcement agents because of the general belief that they were spiritual elements. They were effective in ensuring compliance with traditional norms and values and in setting moral codes in the communities. Masquerades were also relevant as an institution for cultural entertainment. They come out in very colorful robes, accompanied by traditional dancers. The masquerade institution is very important in Oji-River Local Government Area and its annual Festival which is celebrated by each of the seven communities between the months of October and December based on their respective customs and has become one of the greatest tourist attractions in the council. The festival usually attracts tourists and vacations in large number to Oji-River Local Government Area.

ii. **New Yam Festival**

Yam is an important food crop in Oji-River Local Government Area and as a result, it has cultural significance. The harvesting of new yam is therefore, celebrated by the people between the month of August and October. The time for the celebration varies from one community to the other. The New Yam Festival is an occasion to offer special prayers to God.
for a fertile land and good harvest. It is marked with feasting and merry-making.

Other traditional festivals observed in the council include the followings:

a. Chieftaincy coronation ceremonies
b. Ozo title taking ceremonies
c. Traditional Marriage ceremonies
d. Cultural troupes, etc.

The underlisted are some of the tourist sites in Oji-River Local Government Area.

- Old European Quarters
- Ex-Biafran Veteran Quarters/Settlement
- The Oji-River Power Station
- Merry-Land Hotels Limited
- Central Quest House
- Tausky Hotel and Suites
- Nigerian Police College Sculptural Garden and Art Gallery, etc.
3.6 Administration:

At the helm of the councils administration is the chairman who runs the affairs of government within an executive council made up of Secretary to the Local Government, Heads of units/departments, and Supervisors. The present chairman is Honorable Gab. Onuzulike. Before him, there had been fifteen past chairmen, both those appointed and elected by the military and civilian administrations respectively. They are:-

1. Hon. Ernest C. Mattah
2. Mr. Vincent Nwoye
3. Prof. S.E. Mgbejiofof
4. Ozo J.J. Onuaguluchi
5. Mr. Benson Uchenna
6. Chief Ebede, E.
7. Mr. S.O. Anyalagbu
8. Chief (Barr.) J.N. Orah.
9. Mr. Laz. Ani
10. Mazi Ernest Uche
11. Hon. Obidinma Jonny
12. Dr. Eric Maduabuchi Omire Oluedo
There is also a popularly elected legislature, i.e., the council legislative body made up of councilors.

Also, Oji-River Local Government Area, administer groups of existing communities and villages (already existing and newly created autonomous communities which co-exist as the most elementary grassroot set up for the people.

In accordance with government’s developmental policy of exploring the hinterlands in a bid to reaching the people more closely with dividends of democracy and good governance, there are 3 designated local government developmental centres within the Oji-River Local Government Area. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of LGDC</th>
<th>Headquarters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Oji-River Central</td>
<td>Oji-Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Oji-River South</td>
<td>Ugwuoba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Mmamu River</td>
<td>Inyi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These three (3) Local Government Development Centres were amongst the 56 LGDCs created by the administration of Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani, former Governor of Enugu state in 2003.

3.7 Social Infrastructure

A number of infrastructures were established both by the federal and state governments to develop, utilize the abundant human and material resources and agricultural produce of the local council and also offer employment opportunities to the indigenes and also improve the living standard of the people of Oji-River Local Government Area.

Here is a resume of the infrastructural establishments in the council:-

Federal Establishments

THE Nigeria Police College

Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN)

Federal Tarnary

Federal Prisons

Federal Co-operative College

State Establishments

Greater Enugu State Water Pumping Station
3.8 **Source OF Revenue**

Apart from the monthly statutory federal allocation to the Council, its main sources of revenue are the rates from the markets and motor parks.

3.9 **Investment Opportunities**

Oji-River Local Government Area has enormous investment opportunities for both local and foreign investors in the agricultural, oil and solid minerals and industrial sectors. The Council offers irresistible incentives in form of free land allocation, tax holiday and easy repatriation of profits to investors. All foreign investors are also covered by the bilateral investment protection agreement between Nigeria and some countries. In addition, the basic infrastructure for investment such as water, electricity, reliable communication networks and cheap labour are available in the council. The highest investment potentials are in agro-allied industrial sector and solid minerals exploration.
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND FINDINGS

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data used in this research work. First, I shall give an account of how the questionnaire instrument was distributed and returned in terms of the overall number shared out to the four communities under study in Oji-River Local Government Area and the number returned, that is, the Questionnaire Accounting.

Secondly, I shall tabulate or present inform of tables the responses to each question in the questionnaire and give brief description and interpretation of them, one table after the other. I shall as well discuses the implication of findings for administrative efficiency and effectiveness in this chapter.

**Questionnaire Accounting**

Presented below is an account of the questionnaire distributed and returned by the respondents from the four (4) communities in Oji-River Local Government Area.
4.2 QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTED AND RETURNED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Questionnaire distributed</th>
<th>Questionnaire returned</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achi</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>26.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awlaw</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>24.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inyi</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>23.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ugwuoba</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011

4.3 Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 4.3.1 Mass mobilization as a factor of community development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>58.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>28.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011

From table 4.3.1 above, it is observed that a total of 118 (58.20%) of the respondents strongly agreed that mass mobilization provides enough enlightenment and moral boost to the people to embark on community development; 53 (25.04%) agreed, 4 (2.125%) strongly disagreed while 22 (11.64%) disagreed. This means that majority of the respondents strongly agreed.
Table 4.3.2: Effect of mass mobilization on people’s commitment to community development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>39.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>35.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011

From the table above, 75 (39.63%) of the respondents says that mass mobilization has changed people’s orientation and commitment to community development is very high, 65(35.45%) says it is high, 15 (7.94%) says very low while 32 (16.93%) says low.

Table 4.3.3: Mass mobilization as an inspiration factor in development project programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>27.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>35.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011
52 (27.51%) of the respondents strongly agreed that a lost of development projects /programmes have been initiated executed by the people as a result of mass mobilization, 68 (35.98%) agreed. The number that strongly disagreed is 27 (14.29%), while 42 (22.22%) disagreed. This indicates that majority of the respondents agreed to the assertion.

Table 4.3.4: The impact of imposition of programmes /projects on the rural dwellers is positive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>18.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>23.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>18.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>39.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2011*

It is shown in table 4.3.4 that, 35 (18.51%) of the respondents strongly agreed that imposition of programmes/projects on the rural dwellers is development oriented, 44 (23.28%) disagreed.

Since the majority of the respondents disagreed, it therefore implies that imposition of projects/programmes on the rural dwellers should be discouraged.
Table 4.3.5: How information dissemination affects citizens participation in community development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>61.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011

The table shows that 1 (0.54%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 29 (15.34%) agreed, 42 (22.22%) strongly disagreed while 117 (61.90%) disagreed that information dissemination does not strengthen citizens participation.

The above therefore, shows that information dissemination is a vital tool for citizens participation.

Table 4.3.6: Lack of citizens participation hinders community development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>61.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>21.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011
The above shows that 117 (61.90%) strongly agreed, 24 (12.69%) agreed, 7 (3.70%) strongly disagreed while 41 (21.69%) disagreed, implying that citizens participation brings about community development.

Table 4.3.7: Mass mobilization as a vital agent of change of people’s attitude towards community development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>17.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>58.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>18.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source:* Field survey 2011

Table 4.3.7 above shows that 34 (17.99%) of the overall response strongly agreed that mass mobilization has brought remarkable change of attitude of the people towards community development. 111 (58.73%) agreed, 9 (4.76%) strongly agreed while 35 (18.52%) disagreed.

This shows that mass mobilization has brought remarkable change of attitude of the people.
Table 4.3.8: Mass mobilization has not created awareness towards community development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>20.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>40.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>30.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2011*

Table 4.3.8 shows that (8.47%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 38 (20.16%) agreed, 77 (40.74%) strongly disagreed while 58 (30.69%) disagreed that mass mobilization has not created awareness.

Thus, the responses show that mass mobilization is a vital tool of citizens enlightenment towards community development.

Table 4.3.9: The impact of voluntarism on community development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>52.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>24.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2011*

This table shows that 28 (14.42%) of the respondents strongly says
that voluntarism contributes very high to community development, 106 (56.09%) says it is high, 9 (4.76%) says it is very low where as 46 (24.34%) says it is low.

The above description shows that voluntarism contributes to community development.

Table 4.3.10: Illiteracy affects mass mobilization and citizens participation in community development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>25.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>50.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011

In the table above, 49 (25.93%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 95 (50.27%) agreed, 12 (6.35%) strongly disagreed while 33 (17.46%) disagreed that illiteracy affects mass mobilization and citizens participation in community development.
Table 4.3.11: Response to the statement that people-oriented policies /programmes attract the interest and co-operation of the people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>46.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2011

This table 4.3.11 shows that 73 (38.62%) strongly agreed, 88 (46.56%) agreed, 5 (2.65%) strongly disagreed while 23 (12.17%) disagreed that people-oriented policies /programmes attract the interest and co-operation of rural dwellers.

The above therefore implies that people should be allowed or involved making policies and programmes.

Table 4.3.12: Reaction on the question on how far would people be willing to involve themselves in programmes that affect their well being positively

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>23.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>48.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2011*
Above, 45 (23.81%) of the respondents says very high, 93 (48.68%) says high, 10 (5.29%) says very low while 42 (22.22%) says low.

It implies that people are willing to participate in development process if the programme seeks to care for their needs.

Table 4.3.13: Response To The Question, Should People Participate In Decision-Making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Achi</th>
<th>Awlaw</th>
<th>Inyi</th>
<th>Ugwuoba</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agreed</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>27.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>35.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagreed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagreed</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>189</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2011

52 (27.51%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the people should be allowed to take parting decision making process, 68 (35.985) agreed, 27(14.29%) strongly disagreed, while 42 (22.22%) disagreed to decision making process.

The above analysis shows that majority agreed to the fact that people should have access to decision making process.
Summary of Findings

The research findings which came about as a result of collected data are summarized below:

It was found out that mass mobilization has created awareness towards community development in Oji-River Local Government Area or Enugu State. This point is sequel to the number of respondents who attested to this assertion as can be seen from Table 4.3.8.

In the same line, Table 4.3.1 reveals that mass mobilization provides enough enlightenment and morale boost to the people to embark on community development. Awareness creation can be done through the resource persons, that is, the co-operative officers in rural areas. These officers have directed touch with the masses at the grassroot level and are therefore in a position to communicate effectively with them in their respective languages. Also, is the use of mass media to disseminate information in Oji-River Local Government Area. The mass media may include radio, television, posters, etcetera.

Also found in the research was that lack of citizens participation in Oji-River Local Government Areas has hindered community development as shown in Table 4.3.6. This could be attributed to lack of enlightenment or government inability to introduce a programme that seeks to care for their
needs and interest of the people as proved by table 4.3.12.

Table 4.3.13 revealed that people should be allowed to take decision on issues and affairs concerning them. Projects are not to be imposed on the people as proved by Table 4.3.4. They need to be taken into continence in planning and implementation processes if we are to have lasting results. Involving the people generates a sense of belonging, acceptance and satisfaction in the side of rural dwellers.

**Implication of Finding for Administrative Efficiency and Effectiveness**

The leading German text book on Administrative law accordingly defines administration as the function of attending to matters by way of implementing them which means to act purposively, that is, following a set of goal, and hence adhering to a plan. Plans will essentially show the steps through which the city ought to pass, they will be the charts of a course to be steered (McLaughlin, 1973).

Unless the masses have a clear understanding and awareness of government policies, programmes and activities and the importance of such programme to their well-being they would not be able to participate meaningful in the development process. This would ensure active citizens
participation. This would ensure active citizens participation as shown in table 4.3.6 – Lack of citizens’ participation hinders community development. It therefore implies that for administrative efficiency and effectiveness, the result as shown in the table mentioned above must be strictly adhered to. While table 4.3.12 states that people are willing to participate in development process, table 4.3.8 shows that mass mobilization is a vital tool of citizen’s enlightenment towards community development – this is a function of their partnership in decision-making, hence ensure active participation by the people in its realization, that is, the programme.

No government, not even a rural local government, can survive and succeed without the active co-operation and support of its citizens. In order to obtain such vital support, government, especially those in rural area must evolve people-oriented and people-centred programmes which can captivate the interest and enthusiasm of the rural populace in the affairs that concern them.

Therefore, to ensure administrative efficiency going by the result as shown in table 4.3.13, the people should be allowed to take decision in issues and affairs concerning them. This implies that to capture the support and co-operation of the rural populace, they should be involved when goals, objectives, and policies are formulated. This will make them feel that they
own the programme and therefore, control it. As such, they would go extra miles to see to its success, thereby maintaining efficiency and effectiveness.

They above situation is against what Connolly (1967) called administrative ideology. By ideology, Connolly broadly means “An integrated set of belief about social and political environment”. Tooner (1983: 247 – 271) added “an ideology contains assumptions tested but are in some degree accepted on faith”. Thus, in situations of limited knowledge and lack of plan, ideologies fill the void of uncertainty with beliefs designed to direct and guide activities.

In the case on hand, the analysis and findings therefore imply that, if not strictly followed, would lead to a gross administrative inefficiency and ineffectiveness.
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

It is often said that the society is a reflection of the value-orientation of the individuals that constitute such a society. If this is true, it follows that, a society possessing a negative or poor value-orientation is fraught with vices and all the things negative, while that with a positive value-orientation experiences commendable growth and development.

On the basis of our analysis, it was observed that a lot of social developments in Nigeria is directed towards the urban areas, where as those in the rural areas make up the bulk of the population are neglected. A large extent, government efforts to promote development by the use of developmental organizations such as General Olusegun Obasanjo’s Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) through the present day National Orientation Agency (NOA) as well as other non-governmental agents of development, otherwise, partners in community development and their setbacks were discussed.

Inspite of all these government’s efforts to community development, development continued to be minimal. To this end, the researcher prepared a research questionnaire to seek from the rural people, the root of this
problem. Consequently, helping the researcher draw a fairly empirical conclusion on the study. The results state that:

Mass mobilization results in awareness creation towards community development in Oji-River Local Government. It therefore implies that efforts towards mass mobilization should be supported.

Any attempt to utilize the citizen the citizens in community development will tend to foster development. This means that citizens should participate in community development.

Citizens’ access to the decision-making process encourages participation. This means that people should be allowed to take decision on issues and affairs concerning them.

In order to accomplish this high level of accomplishment, the research findings should be strictly adhered to as this would promote community development. The researcher, as a result of there findings make some recommendations which may be of immense help to community development.
5.2 Conclusion

In line with the political Bureau’s view that a politically conscious, effectively mobilized and properly motivated population is the greatest deterrent to bad governance. National Orientation Agency has been comprehensive in the conception and implementation of its programmes which are based on its catalytic roles. We still need to fully transform our society. Where this has taken place in history of the world, it has been due to mass literacy, political awakening indigenous production of food and technology, a culture of sacrifice and patriotic commitment by all categories of citizens. The Oji-River Local Government Situation cannot be different. The essence of citizenship lies in its roles as the agitator and facilitator. This is to ensure that individual and collective endeavours are positive, creative and would lead to community development. The goal is, in short, a just and stable society which guarantees protection for the welfare well-being and self-fulfillment of the individual and the community at large.
5.3 Recommendations

Having enumerated the findings of the research, the researcher saw the need to make the following recommendations based on the problems facing mass mobilization and citizens’ participation in community development in Nigeria.

The constraints of mass mobilization and citizens’ participation are well known. However, the researcher would like to quickly add that, because of the limitations encountered in the process of this research work, it is believed that not enough studies have been carried out in the issue of mass mobilization and citizens’ participation in community development in Oji-River Local Government Area of Enugu State.

In the light of this viewpoint, the researcher recommends a greater study, involving large proportion of the population in this local government area, to be carried out to get more acceptable result with high validity. This is because; the researcher was able to study four (4) out of seven (7) communities in Oji-River Local Government Area, mainly due to time and financial constraints.

Other recommendations are thus:

a. Access to the decision-making process: Citizens should have clear and direct access to the decision-making process. Citizens should be
involved when goals, objectives, priorities and policies are formulated. They should help develop methods of commoditization that are effective enough in reaching people. Meeting places and times should be widely publicized on a regular basis.

b. Extent of interaction and involvement: Meaningful and effective communication needs to work both ways; citizens, in addition to being informed, should be able to respond, they should have the opportunity to help initiate and implement plans as well as react to proposals.

c. Improving communication techniques: Effective Communication produces information that is available, timely and easily understood by citizens. Information should be provided on a continuous basis and sufficiently in advance of public decisions. Technical data and other professional materials should be related to the residents so that they understand the impacts of programme options and alternatives.

d. People-oriented /people-centred programmes: No government, not even a rural local government, can survive and succeed without the active co-operation and support of its citizens. In order to obtain such vital support, they must evolve people-oriented and people-centred programme which can captivate the interest and enthusiasm of the
rural populace in the affairs that concern them. Projects are not to be imposed on the people.

e. Also, competent, efficient and dynamic leaders should be allowed to take the place of the post of community head. In this way, the rate at which community development is carried will not be slow and the people would be encouraged more to work for their community.
QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Public Administration
and Local Government
University of Nigeria
Nsukka

Dear Respondent,

I am a post graduate student of the Department of Public Administration and Local Government, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, currently conducting a research on “Mass Mobilization and Citizens Participation in community development in Nigeria”.

You are requested to kindly go through the questionnaire, respond to them honestly and return the completed questionnaire.

I assure you that any information supplied will only be used for the research purpose and would be treated highly confidential.

Thanks in anticipated co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Onuzulike, O. T.
SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA

Please tick where appropriate

1. Sex: a, male ☐ b. Female ☐

2. Town: .................................................................

3. Age Bracket 18-30 ☐ 31-50 ☐ 51 and above ☐

4. Educational Qualification:
   - Below WAEC ☐
   - WAEC ☐
   - Diploma ☐
   - Degree and above ☐

5. Occupation: (a) Student ☐, (b) Civil Servant ☐, Farmer ☐
   (d) Others (Specify)..................................................

SECTION B

1. Mass Mobilization provides enough enlightenment and morale boost to the people to embark on community development.
   Strongly Agreed ☐ Agreed ☐ Strongly Disagreed ☐
   Disagreed ☐

2. How far has mass mobilization changed people’s orientation and commitment to community development? Very High ☐ High ☐
   Very Low ☐ Low ☐

3. A lot of development projects/programmes have been initiated/executed by the people as a result of mass mobilization. Strongly Agreed ☐
   Agreed ☐ Strongly Disagreed ☐ Disagreed ☐

4. Imposition of projects/programmes on the rural dwellers is development oriented. Strongly Agreed ☐ Agreed ☐ Strongly Disagreed ☐
5. Information dissemination to the people does not strengthen participation of the rural dwellers in their own development.

6. Strongly Agreed □ Agreed □ Strongly Disagreed □ Disagreed □

7. Mass mobilization has brought remarkable change of attitude of the people towards community development. Strongly Agreed

Strongly Agreed □ Agreed □ Strongly Disagreed □ Disagreed □

8. Mass mobilization has not created awareness towards community development.

Strongly Agreed □ Agreed □ Strongly Disagreed □ Disagreed □

9. At what extent does voluntarism contribute to community development?

Very High □ High □ Very Low □ Low □

10. High rate of illiteracy among the rural dwellers affects mass mobilization and citizens’ participation in Nsukka Local Government Area.

Strongly Agreed □ Agreed □ Strongly Disagreed □ Disagreed □

11. People-oriented policies/programmes attract the interest and co-operation of rural dwellers: Strongly Agreed □ Agreed □

Strongly Disagreed □ Disagreed □

12. How far would people be willing to involve themselves in a programme that seeks to care for their needs and interests?

Very High □ High □ Very Low □ Low □

13. People should be allowed to take decision on the issues affairs concerning them.
Stronly Agreed □  Agreed □  Strongly Disagreed □
Disagreed □

14. The space below is available for any view you would like to express that is not pointed out above.

...........................................................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................
.............................................................................................................................................
BIBLIOGRAPHY


UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS


Eastern Regional Local Government’s Ordinance of 1950


**NEWS PAPER**