



The Influence of Youth Movement on Development in Local Communities: A Case Study of Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State

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ABSTRACT

The study was to examine the influence of youth movement on the development of local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State. The research adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 6,758 residents in all the local communities in the local government area. The sample of the study was drawn using multi-stage sampling technique. It comprised seventy-two residents of four local communities in the study area. Questionnaire was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by two experts in the Department of Library and Information Science in Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. A pilot test was conducted on twenty residents of Ogbe-Ijoh community in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State. Cronbach alpha method was used to establish the reliability of the instrument, and this produced an alpha value of 0.87. Eighty copies of the draft of the validated questionnaire were administered on the residents of four local communities in Warri South Local Government Area. Out of this number of questionnaires distributed, seventy-two copies of the questionnaire were properly completed, retrieved and found usable for data analysis. This yielded a response rate of 90%. Data were analysed using mean, standard deviation and linear regression analysis. Findings revealed that, while youth movement activities had positive but insignificant influence on infrastructural development and promotion of literacy in the communities, their activities did not have positive and significant impact on improving the health of the people and promoting gender equality in the communities. The study recommended that youth movements should expand their operational scope and lobby local government to obtain government support to facilitate their developmental initiatives.

Keywords: impact, youth movement, development, local communities

INTRODUCTION

A country consists of groups of communities which are united by some common bond and other elements. Anyanwu (2007) as cited in Mela and Bello (2023) defines a community as a social group occupying a more or less defined geographical area, and based on the feeling that people have for one another. In terms of geographical location, two types of communities could be identified: urban and local or rural communities. An urban community is a community that is situated at the central parts of a place of human habitation with a remarkable level of development in terms of economic development, social amenities and levels of literacy. On the other hand, a local or rural community may be defined as a community which is located at the outskirts of a place of human habitation or a community characterised by low level of development, high levels of illiteracy and poverty, and poor social amenities. While local communities have their respective leadership, they are all led by a constituted authority called a local government.

A local government can be defined as a team of people who have been recognized by law and appointed to run the affairs of local communities. Ola (2019) views a local government as a form of government whose

primary goal is to address the needs of its constituents at the local level. However, recent administrative style of local governments in Nigeria has been marked by negligence of their constitutional duties, such as provision of basic amenities, including secure roads, quality healthcare, standard education, etc, and lack of adequate involvement of young people in running political affairs. This has left the rural young people unhappy and detached from the government, causing them to migrate to urban areas in search of a better standard of living (Ilo et al., 2023; Oduor & Muriu, 2013; United Nations, 2014). This group of individuals are usually referred to as youths. Youths are defined as people whose age ranges between 15 and 24 years (United Nations, 2015) or between 15 and 29 years (Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, 2019). Nigeria has over 200 million people and more than half of this population is youth (Akinyemi & Mibolaji, 2022).

Nigerian youths have generally not been happy with the administrative style of government at nearly all levels. Thus, they have been devising several ways to draw the attention of the government to their plight and to resist the ills of the government. It is observed that these young people have started to create alternative avenues to express their views and effect change in the society and regularly advance new approaches to tackling inequalities (United Nations, 2014). A major means adopted by the Nigerian youths to enable them improve their plight is to form organised groups called “youth movement”. It is defined as a movement for fairness that seeks to empower a socially-marginalized group by protecting the rights of all people to self-representation and self-determination (James & McGillicuddy, 2001). Youth movements are said to have been caused by the quest for freedom, state policy, unemployment, deprivation and injustices, education system, generation gap, social background, alienation and use of quick information system like internet (Patel et al., 2017). In responding to the administrative style of government, youth are holding government accountable for their actions and policies, resisting same, demanding greater participation in government and adopting modern ways to express themselves, and to contribute to societal change. An increasing number of youths have personally taken the initiative to provide solutions to development problems that affect them and other members of the society through advocacy, lobbying, volunteering, or engagement in community-based or civil society organizations (United Nations, 2014).

Youth movements could be religiously, politically, educationally and socially-inclined. Some of the politically-oriented youth movements in Nigeria which are designed to create political awareness and boost political participation include the “Nigerian Youth Parliament”, the “Not Too Young to Run”, and the “Bring Back Our Girls” (Amodu & Olajide, 2017). Others include the “Ijaw Youth Council”, the “Catholic Youth Association”, “Youths for Human Rights and Transparency Initiative”, “Hope Behind Bars Africa”, etc. However, youth movements are generally designed to promote and protect the interests of youths and other marginalized people in the society. At the local level, these movements are known to contribute to development of local or rural communities around the world. Udensi et al. (2013) opine that community development is a dynamic process that involves all segments of the community, including the youth.

Statement of the Problem

In recent times, youth movements have become instrumental to community development in different countries of the world. They are particularly important to local or rural communities in developing countries which are often marginalized and whose interests and needs are often neglected by local governments. Local communities tend to gain a great deal of benefits when these movements are alive to their mission and vision. This is because youth movements have become a formidable force for advocating and projecting the needs of local community members to local governments. However, preliminary investigation by the two researchers in this study shows that youth movements are yet to be properly established in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. This could have led to the underdevelopment of some local communities in the area. A critical examination of literature reveals to the best of knowledge of the researchers that no study has been executed to unravel the impact of the activities of youth movements on development of local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. Hence, this study examined the influence of youth movement on development of local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What is the influence of youth movement activities on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?
2. What is the influence of youth movement activities on improvement of health in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?
3. What is the influence of youth movement activities on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?
4. What is the influence of youth movement activities on promotion of gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance were formulated to guide the study:

H₀₁: The activities of youth movements do not have a significant impact on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

H₀₂: The activities of youth movements do not have a significant impact on improvement of health in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

H₀₃: The activities of youth movements do not have a significant impact on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

H₀₄: The activities of youth movements do not have a significant impact on promotion of gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Impact of Youth Movement Activities on the Infrastructural Development of Local Communities

A number of studies have established how youth movement operations impact the development of local communities (Gbedi, 2019; Iwuchukwu et al., 2015; Okoloko, 2010; Umeh and Odom, 2011 etc). In assessing the role and constraints of youth association in agricultural and rural development in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria, using a sample of 100 youth associations, Umeh and Odom (2011) discovered that youth associations in the area contribute greatly to rural development in terms of construction and rehabilitation of rural roads and supply of labour for community self-help projects. In investigating the roles of youth groups in rural community development in Ebonyi State, Nigeria, using a sample of sixty youths from the state, Iwuchukwu et al. (2015) found that majority (89.50%) of the youths belonged to Afikpo Youth Organisation and their major roles included town hall building (86.40%), school development (81.40%) and market building (74.60%). In another research which examined the developmental strategies of the “Not-Too-Young-to-Run movement” in Bayelsa State, Nigeria, it was discovered that the movement has brought about welcome development in the provision of basic social amenities in local communities in Southern Ijaw Local Government of Bayelsa State, Nigeria (Gbedi, 2019). Okoloko (2020) reported that the Niger Delta Association has brought relief to the people of rural communities in Abua/Odua Local Government Area of Rivers State by building public toilets, water supply systems and donating funds to the communities to renovate the government-owned primary and secondary schools in the communities. The same year, Clifford (2020) came up with the finding that the “Nigerian Youth Parliament” has positively transformed the face of local communities in Ahoada Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria, by influencing the policies and programmes of the government in the area of establishing public primary and secondary schools. Despite this positive result, the impact was not found to be significant. Okafor (2022) found that the “Youths for Human Rights and Transparency Initiative” has been instrumental to influencing the policies of Ughelli North Local Government in building access and street roads in villages in the local government area. In another study, the same movement was found to have contributed positively to the provision of solar power supply in rural communities in Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State of Nigeria (Ojoboh, 2022). The study, however, demonstrated that the contribution was not significant.

Impact of Youth Movement Activities on Enhancement of Health in Local Communities

Empirical studies and expert opinions (Benjamin, 2018; Eze, 3018; Green Growth Knowledge Platform, 2021; Lawson, 2017; Okpaka, 2017 etc.) suggest that the interventions of youth movements play a critical role in improving the health of inhabitants of local communities. Green Growth Knowledge Platform (2021) observes that youth organisations can be a good source of information for young people to stay healthy. Lawson (2017) opines that social media has become a source of attraction for teams of young people and it has served to provide them with good tips for healthy living. Literature provides some studies which give an idea of how youth movement activities impact the health of local people. For instance, Okpaka (2017) found that the Devatop Centre for Africa Development has not changed the health status of people of local communities in Nkwere Local Government Area of Imo State, Nigeria. In the following year, Benjamin (2018) provided the understanding that the activities of the Ijaw Youth Council have not positively influenced the health status of the residents of villages in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State of Nigeria. Eze (2018) found that the operations of the Catholic Youth Organisation of Nigeria have had a positive effect on improving the personal hygiene of people of rural communities in Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra State of Nigeria.

Impact of Youth Movement on Promotion of Literacy in Local Communities

There are studies which provide a clue to the effect of youth movement operations on promotion of literacy in rural communities. Okuta (2017) reveals that the “Not Too Young to Run” movement has enhanced the level of education of rural secondary school students in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Nigeria. Findings from a subsequent study by Umahi (2018) shows that the “Youth for Human Rights Protection and Transparency Initiative” has enabled poor young people of local communities in Nembe Local government of Bayelsa State, to have access to quality education by providing them with educational facilities such as instructional materials such as textbooks, calculators, school uniforms etc. The same year, Bassey (2019) discovered that the Nigerian Youth Parliament is yet to make any impact on literacy among local residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. In another research, Hassan (2019) demonstrates that the “Hope Behind Bars Africa” has been facilitating the process of bridging the literacy gap among internally-displaced persons in selected communities of Konduga Local Government Area of Borno State of Nigeria through the provision of reading materials such as school textbooks and light reading materials such as fiction. Yusuf (2020) generated the result that the “Bring Back Our Girls” movement had a positive influence on reintegrating rural out-of-school female students into schools and helping to offset the financial burden of their education in Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria.

Impact of Youth Movement on the Promotion of Gender Equality in Local Communities

A few expert observations and empirical research (Abdullahi, 2018; Taft, 2011; UNFPA, 2018; United Nations, 2014, etc.) suggest how youth movement operations affect issues of gender imbalance in rural communities. United Nations (2014) maintains that the meaningful participation of young people in reducing inequality can be highly transformational. Taft (2011) opines that young American girls are taking control of their lives and forming organized groups to explore opportunities that would help them compete favourably with their male counterparts. UNFPA (2018) observes that organized youth groups could be a watchdog on violence against young girls and could serve as a vehicle for enabling young girls overcome gender frustrations. Result from the study by Abdullahi (2018) indicates that the “Bring Back Our Girls” movement is yet to narrow the gender gap between boys and girls in Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State of Nigeria. MacNeil (2013) notes that communal conflicts have widened the gender gap in local communities in the Republic of Congo and the efforts of youth groups have not helped to reverse the trend. A study by Akufo (2019) demonstrates that the “Girls’ Guide” has significantly narrowed the gender imbalance existing between young boys and girls in Ghana.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The study was conducted in Warri South Local Government Area, which is one of the twenty-five Local Government Areas in Delta State, Nigeria. There are ten local communities in the local government area and these include Aja-Igba, Egbokodo, Inorin, Jelu, Obodo, Ode-Itsekiri, Orugbo, Ubeji, Ugbo-dede and Ugbo-uwangue. The population of these communities

mainly comprise the Itshekiris and the Urhobos. The larger proportion of the residents of the local government area engages in agriculture and other self-employment activities such as artisanship, trading and business, while the rest are in public service. The population of the study consisted of 6,758 residents of the ten local communities (National Population Commission, 2022).

The sample of the study, that was drawn using multi-stage sampling technique, composed of seventy-two local residents. Firstly, four local communities in the local government area that were found to have consistently benefited from the activities of youth movements for the last five years, were purposively selected. The population of these four communities was 3,961. Convenience sampling technique was then employed to select two wards from each of the four selected communities. This comprised eight wards. Systematic sampling technique was then adopted to select 20 residents from two districts in each ward by choosing ten residents from each selected district. The pattern of selection involved picking only residents from houses on the right hand side in a street in each district. The process involved choosing one resident from the first house in a street, followed by selecting two residents from the fourth house, then selecting three residents from the 10th house and finally selecting four persons from the 13th house in the street. This consisted of 80 residents selected from the four wards. The selection process gave both male and female local residents an equal chance to participate in the study so as to enable the researchers properly assess the influence of youth movement activities on the promotion of gender equality in the communities. This resulted in the selection of a total of 40 male residents and 40 female residents. The choice of multi-stage sampling technique in this study was based on the assertion by Ajoku (2013) that multi-stage sampling technique is a sampling method that is carried out in stages, and is employed when the distribution of the population is so complex that it requires a researcher to adopt more than one sampling procedure to select a sample. The sample used for this research was drawn from local communities whose inhabitants are complex in terms of socio-demographic characteristics. This necessitated the adoption of multi-stage sampling procedure in this study.

The instrument for data collection was a self-designed structured questionnaire titled “Youth Movement Influence on Local Community Development Questionnaire (YMILCDQ)”. It contained two sections: section A and B. Section A elicited personal data while section B consisted of nine clusters: cluster A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I. Cluster A dealt with youth movement activities in local communities, B with infrastructural development in local communities, C with health of people of local communities, D with literacy of people of local communities, E with gender equality in local communities, F with influence of youth movement activities on infrastructural development in local communities, G with influence of youth movement activities on improvement of health of people of local communities, H with influence of youth movement activities on promotion of literacy in local communities and I with influence of youth movement activities on promotion on gender equality in local communities. All questionnaire items in all the clusters of the instrument were weighted on a four-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1). The instrument was validated by two experts in the Department of Library and Information Science, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State. A pilot test of the instrument was conducted on twenty local residents of Ogbe-Ijoh community in Warri South-West Local Government of Delta State. Cronbach Alpha method was used to establish the internal consistency of the instrument, yielding an Alpha value of 0.87.

Eighty copies of the draft of the validated questionnaire were then administered to the selected local residents of the four local communities to fill in. Out of the eighty copies of the questionnaire distributed, seventy-two copies of the questionnaire were properly completed, retrieved and found usable for data analysis. This produced a response rate of 90%. There were thirty-two male respondents and forty female respondents. Weighted mean and standard deviation were employed to analyse data to answer the research questions, whereas linear regression analysis was adopted to analyse data to test the hypothesis of the study. The decision rule adopted was that questionnaire items with weighted means less than 2.50 were regarded as ‘disagreed’ or ‘negative’ while items with weighted means equal to or greater than 2.50 were considered as ‘agreed’ or ‘positive’. In determining the appropriateness of the R^2 , Sarstedt and Mooi (2014) acknowledged the prevalence of R^2 values which are equal to or greater than 0.90 in longitudinal studies, R^2 s values of 0.30 in cross-sectional designs and R^2 values of 0.10 in exploratory studies using cross-sectional data. The authors

further observe that marketing-oriented studies tend to view R² values of 0.75, 0.50 and 0.25 as substantial, moderate and weak respectively. This study adopted the last criterion, that is, where R² values of 0.75, 0.50 and 0.25 are regarded as substantial, moderate and weak respectively.

RESULTS

This section of the study presented the results of the research in line with the research questions and hypotheses earlier formulated to guide the study.

Research Question 1: *What is the influence of youth movement activities on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?*

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of responses on influence of youth movement activities on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

S/N	Items	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	Youth movement activities have brought more infrastructures to my community.	2.45	0.25	Negative
2.	It has not increased the infrastructures in my community.	2.55	0.24	Positive
3.	It has improved the old social amenities in my community.	3.78	0.38	Positive
4.	It is yet to enhance the social amenities in my community	2.26	0.23	Negative
	Grand Mean and Standard Deviation	2.76	0.27	Positive

\bar{X} =Mean; SD=Standard Deviation

Table 1 shows that the grand mean is 2.76, which is greater than the cut-off point of 2.50. This suggests that it is positive. Thus, youth movement activities have a positive impact on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 1: The activities of youth movement do not have a significant influence on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Table 2: Summary of linear regression analysis of the significance of the impact of the activities of youth movement on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

ANOVA						
Model	Sum of square	DF	Mean Square	F-Cal	F-Crit	Sig.
Regression	0.401	1	0.401	1.099	3.978	0.05
Residual	25.530	70	0.365			
Total	25.930	71	0.766			
R = 0.124, R Square = 0.015, Adjusted R Square = 0.001, β = 0.124, St. Err. Est. = 0.604						

Table 2 indicates that the R^2 is 0.015. This is much less than the criterion point of 0.75 which is regarded as substantial R^2 (Sarstedt & Mooi, 2014). The activities of youth movement account for just 0.124 or 1.50% of the total variance in infrastructural development in the communities. Thus, the hypothesis is upheld. Hence, activities of youth movement do not have a significant impact on infrastructural development in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Research Question 2: *What is the influence of youth movement activities on improvement of health of people in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?*

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation of responses on impact of youth movement activities on improvement of health of people in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

S/N	Items	X	SD	Remark
1.	Youth movement activities have helped me to enjoy better health.	2.46	0.25	Negative
2.	It has not helped me to enjoy good health.	2.50	0.24	Negative
3.	It has enabled me to know how to stay healthy.	2.49	0.25	Negative
4.	It has not made me familiar with healthy-living tips.	2.52	0.24	Negative
	Grand Mean and Standard Deviation	2.49	0.24	Negative

X=Mean; SD=Standard Deviation

Table 3 reveals that the grand mean of 2.49 is less than the criterion point of 2.50. Hence, the operations of youth movement do not improve health of people in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2: The activities of youth movements do not have a significant impact on improvement of health of people in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Summary of linear regression analysis of significance of the impact of youth movement activities on improvement of health of people in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

ANOVA						
Model	Sum of square	DF	Mean Square	F-Cal	F-Crit	Sig.
Regression	0.556	1	0.556	0.877	3.978	0.05
Residual	44.346 70	70	0.634			
Total	44.902 71	71	1.19			
R =0.111 R = Square =0.012, Adjusted R Square =-0.002, β =0.111, St. Err. Est. = 0.796						

Table 4 shows that the R^2 is 0.012. This is far less than the cut-off point of 0.75 which is considered as substantial R^2 (Sarstedt & Mooi, 2014). The activities of youth movement are responsible for a minimal 0.111 or 1.20% of the total variance in improvement of health of people in the communities. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted. Consequently, activities of youth movements do not have a significant impact on improvement of health of people in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Research Question 3: *What is the impact of youth movement activities on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?*

Table 5: Mean and standard deviation of responses on influence of youth movement activities on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri-South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

S/N	Items	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1	Youth movement activities have helped me to read and write better	2.98	0.30	Positive
2	It has not enabled me to read and write better.	2.25	0.23	Negative
3	It has made me more educated.	2.79	0.28	Positive
4	It is yet to advance my educational level	2.12	0.21	Negative
Grand Mean and Standard Deviation		2.54	0.26	Positive

\bar{X} =Mean; SD=Standard Deviation

Table 5 discloses that the grand mean of 2.54 is greater than the criterion point of 2.50. Thus, activities of youth movements have a positive impact on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 3: The activities of youth movements do not have a significant influence on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Table 6: Summary of linear regression analysis of significance of the impact of the activities of youth movements on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

ANOVA						
Model	Sum of square	DF	Mean Square	F-Cal	F-Crit	Sig.
Regression	0.020	1	0.020	0.059	3.978	0.05
Residual	23.642	70	0.338			
Total	23.662	71	0.358			
R =0.029, R Square =0.001, Adjusted R Square =0.013, β =0.029, St. Err. Est. = 0.581						

Table 6 points out that the R^2 is 0.001. This is far less than the cut-off point of 0.75 which is viewed as substantial R^2 value (Sarstedt & Mooi, 2014). The activities of youth movement account for 0.029 or 0.10% of the total variance in promotion of literacy in the communities. This clearly shows that activities of youth movements do not have a significant influence on promotion of literacy in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. Hence, the null hypothesis is upheld.

Research Question 4: *What is the influence of youth movement activities on promotion of gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria?*

Table 7: Mean and standard deviation of responses on influence of youth movement activities on promotion of gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

S/N	Items	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
1.	Youth movement initiatives have helped me to favorably compete with my opposite sex.	2.47	0.25	Negative
2.	It is yet to empower me to measure up to my opposite sex.	2.51	0.24	Positive
3.	It has not enabled me to rid myself of my sense of inferiority.	2.50	0.24	Positive
4.	It has boosted my self-esteem.	2.42	0.27	Negative
Grand Mean and Standard Deviation		2.48	0.25	Negative

\bar{X} =Mean; SD=Standard Deviation

Table 7 shows that the cluster mean of 2.48 is less than the cut-off point of 2.50, indicating that it is negative. Therefore, the activities of youth movements do not promote gender equality in communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 4: The activities of youth movements do not have a significant impact on promotion of gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta, Nigeria

Table 8: Summary of linear regression analysis of significance of the influence of youth movement activities on promotion of gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta, Nigeria

ANOVA						
Model	Sum of square	DF	Mean Square	F-Cal	F-Crit	Sig.
Regression	1.009	1	1.009	0.751	3.978	0.05
Residual	94.072	70	1.344			
Total	95.081	71	2.353			
$R = 0.103$, $R \text{ Square} = 0.011$, $\text{Adjusted } R \text{ Square} = -0.004$, $\beta = 0.103$, $\text{St. Err. Est.} = 1.159$						

Table 8 indicates that the R^2 is 0.011. This is much less than the criterion point of 0.75 which is regarded as substantial R^2 (Sarstedt & Mooi, 2014). The activities of youth movement account for only 0.103 or 1.10% of the total variance in promotion of gender equality in the communities. Therefore, the null hypothesis is upheld. So, the operations of youth movements do not have a significant effect on promotion of gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta, Nigeria.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study demonstrates that youth movement activities have a positive influence on the infrastructural development of local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. The result is consistent with Umeh and Odom's (2011) findings which reveal that youth associations in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria, immensely contribute to rural development by building and rehabilitating rural roads and providing labour for community self-help projects. It also agrees with the result of the study by Iwuchukwu et al. (2015) which shows that the Afikpo Youth Organisation in Ebonyi State, Nigeria, has played critical community development roles such as town hall building, school development and market building. Furthermore, it is in line with the findings by Clifford (2020). The researcher identifies the "Nigerian Youth Parliament" with positively but insignificantly changing the outlook of local communities in Ahoada Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. It also aligns with that of the research by Ojoboh (2022) which acknowledges that the "Youths for Human Rights and Transparency Initiative" has positively contributed to the provision of solar power supply in local communities in Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State of Nigeria. That youth movement activities have a positive influence on infrastructural development in the communities could be because most of their interventions are based on less expensive projects.

The research also reveals that the activities of youth movements do not improve the health of people in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. This is in consonance with the fallout of the study by Benjamin (2018) which shows that the activities of the Ijaw Youth Council do not have a positive impact on improving the health status of the residents of villages in Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State of Nigeria. It also agrees with a subsequent finding which reveals that the Rotary Club of Nigeria is yet to positively improve the health status of people of local communities in Sapele Local Government Areas of Delta State of Nigeria. On the contrary, it differs from that of the investigation by Eze (2018) which suggests that the activities of the Catholic Youth Organisation of Nigeria have positively impacted the personal hygiene of people of local communities in Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra State of Nigeria. Moreso, the activities have insignificant impact on promotion of the

people's health. Most of the interventions of youth movements seem to be designed to meet the daily needs of the local people and not necessarily on enhancing their health. This could explain why their activities do not impact the health of the people.

The research further indicates that activities of youth movements positively promote literacy in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. It is in line with that of the study by Yusuf (2020) which provides the understanding that "Bring Back Our Girls" movement has positively enhanced the level of literacy of out-of-school female students in Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria. However, it is contrary to the finding by Bassey (2019) which suggests that the Nigerian Youth Parliament has not yet made much impact on literacy among local residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. That youth movement activities have insignificant positive effect on literacy in the communities could be because most of their interventions are tailored towards providing basic reading materials for primary and secondary school students. The materials could be responsible for some improvement in their level of literacy but the materials appear not to be relevant enough to make a tremendous impact on their literacy.

The investigation also found out that activities of youth movements do not promote gender equality in local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. The result agrees with that of the research by Abdullahi (2018) which suggests that the "Bring Back Our Girls" movement is about to bridge the gender gap between boys and girls in Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State of Nigeria. On the other hand, it varies from that of the study by Akufo (2019) which indicates that the "Girls Guide" has significantly reduced the gender inequality existing between young boys and girls in Ghana. Youth movement initiatives are often intended to improve the plight of the local people. This could explain why their activities are yet to address gender imbalance in the communities.

CONCLUSION

The study assessed the impact of youth movement on the development of local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State of Nigeria. Youth movement has become an integral part of local communities in Nigeria. Its activities are known to contribute to changes in local communities. As regards local communities in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, the operations of youth movements exert insignificant positive effect on infrastructural development and literacy in the communities. On the contrary, their activities have not had a positive as well as a significant impact on improving the health of local people and correcting gender inequality in the communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings of this research, the following recommendations were made:

1. Youth movements should partner with health-oriented non-governmental organisations and global health organisations such as World Health Organisation (WHO) to positively impact the health of people of local communities.
2. Promotion of readership campaigns could be employed by youth movements to improve the level of literacy of people in local communities;
3. Youth movements should lobby local government to obtain government support to enable them make tremendous contribution to community development; and
4. Youth movements should collaborate with national and international youth organisations to support their cause and enable them achieve their objectives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The researchers wish to express deep appreciation to Tetfund for sponsoring this research through the Academic Planning Unit of the College of Education, Warri, Delta State, Nigeria.

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Appendix
Sample Distribution of the Study

S/N	Names of Communities	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Aja-Igba	18	25%
2.	Egbokodo	18	25%
3.	Obodo	18	25%
4.	Ode-Itsekiri	18	25%
	Total	72	100%
