Needs Assessment Survey of Communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas in Rivers State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to conduct extensive needs assessment survey of communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas in Rivers State, Nigeria with emphasis on their real needs, felt needs in their order of priority and the possible intervention strategies. The population for this study consisted of five respondents drawn from each community in the two Local Government Areas. Adult women and men and youth indigenes of the communities investigated constituted the population for the study. The sample size of 23 communities is the representation of 30% of 50 identified communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas. The sample size of 230 respondents (that is 10 persons from each community) was used for this study. Stratified simple random sampling method was used to select the sample size. The stratification was on the basis of adult women and men and youth citizens of the communities. Community Needs Assessment Rating Scale (CoNARS) was developed and used for data collection for this study. Descriptive analysis technique was adopted to analyze the data and frequency scores of respondents' responses were extracted and used in the analysis in order to answer the research questions and presented as the results of the study. The symbol **I** represents the Community Needs while the symbol **O** represents the Community Non-Needs. It was discovered that most of the communities investigated were faced with the following needs: transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare, security problems, embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty. Effort should be intensified by the Federal Government of Nigeria, Rivers State Government and Local Government Councils, NGOs within and outside Nigeria and the donor-agencies such as UNESCO, NEPAD, IFAD, WHO, foreign countries etc., to come to the aid of the communities.

Key Words: Need Assessment, Kaufman's Needs Assessment Model, Coffing's Client Needs Assessment Model, real needs, felt-needs, Rural Development, socio-economic and political life

1.   Introduction

Development of rural areas is a specific context of the development process. This informed the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) to see to the need of creating the third tier government referred to Local Government Areas mainly for the purpose of rural development of which Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro local Government Areas are not excluded. Also, the creation of

Federal Constituencies is a further step geared towards radical rural development. According to Adewale (1990:31), rural development is an embodiment of the mechanisms and processes by which change to improved level of economic and social life is brought to rural inhabitants. It is the process of bringing improved level of living to the rural populace.

Nigeria's approach to rural development has largely taken the form of agricultural development and provision of social amenities such as rural electricity, portable pipe borne water, roads, school buildings, etc. Olatunbosun (1975:145) lamented that the process of bringing improvement level of living to the rural population of the country has not had a coordinated programme for effective rural development, It has rather taken a unilineal conception of rural development, the aim of which is essentially that of modernizing agriculture (Girigiri, 2000) and other infrastructural development, and Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro local Government Areas are not left out of this problem. This lack of rural development has led people in these two local government areas to face untold economic hardship. Today, it is worrisome that despite the developmental strides of the present administration, some communities in these local government areas seem to be suffering from one form of rural development problem or the other. This ranges from agricultural and educational needs to ecological problem, poverty, illiteracy, economic set-back, youth unemployment, transportation problem, lack of roads, creeks and coastal problems, economic empowerment, lack of health care programmes, etc. These problems may be one of the variables that have resulted to the problems of youth restiveness, sea piracy, cases of stealing and insecurity in the area.

Communities in these two local government areas need developmental supports from Federal Government of Nigeria, Rivers State Government, Local Government Councils, NGOs (within and outside Nigeria), donor-agencies (UNESCO, NEPAD), IFAD, WHO, etc.), multi-national companies such as Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, Total E & P Nigeria Limited, AMINI Petroleum Company Limited, Chevron Nigeria Limited as well as foreign countries to be able to improve on its present conditions to desired conditions. This is because the general objective of rural development is to bring about improvement in the quality of the socio-economic and political life of the rural people. However, the specific objectives of rural development are:

- Infrastructural development: to provide the rural poor with social amenities: good water, roads, electricity and housing.
- Agriculture development: to increase the production of foods so as to eliminate hunger
- Job creation: to empower the rural poor in order to reduce illness and hunger.
- Health development: this is targeted at providing the rural poor with affordable health facilities.
- Educational development; this stimulates light and dispels ignorance, diseases and even poverty.
- Comfortable life: this refers to improvement of qualify of life of the rural people through promise of social amenities.

Just as individuals have needs, so also do communities have their different needs. These could be programmes and projects needed to take adequate care of their needs. Each community operates under certain constraints. Some of these constraints are limited financial resources. On the other hand, communities are besieged by numerous pressing needs competing for these scarce resources. These pressing needs could be to provide solutions to the agricultural and educational needs, ecological problem, poverty, illiteracy, economic set-back, youth

unemployment and transportation problem, lack of roads, creeks and coastal problems, economic empowerment, lack of health care programmes. Therefore, this scenario calls for needs assessment of all the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas.

Needs assessment is an aspect of evaluation (Dike, 1998). It is a process for determining and addressing needs, or gaps between current conditions and desired conditions often used for improvement projects in education, training, organization, or communities. Needs assessment is the mechanism that has been put in place in order to prioritize all the needs of a given community or organization on a scale in order to identify the most pressing ones and to come up with alternative solutions that are cost effective (Dike, 1998). If needs assessment survey is conducted, it will guide the authority concerned to systematically determine the problem area between existing and desired levels of the provision of developmental programmes with respect to their specific goals for which they were implemented.

Suowari (2005) conducted felt-needs assessment of community projects in Bayelsa State and discovered that the existing community projects were not adequate and could not meet the needs of the people. If this scenario is the true position of the state of our communities, then there is the need to conduct the needs assessment survey in communities to enable the discrepancy that exists between the existing needs and the desired needs be determined for a lasting solution.

There are a number of needs assessment models available to researchers and evaluators for use in assessing community needs. Although there are many needs assessment models, the two (2) reviewed are the most substantive and have better application and relevance to the present study. They are therefore presented and discussed below:

(a) Kaufman's Needs Assessment Model: Kaufman (1975) stated that a need is not something we want; it is not a process we desire or a favoured solution; it is a gap between our current outcomes and our required outcomes. According to Lennings ((1980),

> needs is a necessity or desired condition, or situation whether it be an end result that is actually (met need) or a discrepancy that should be closed between a current or projected actuality and a necessity or highly desirable and result (unmet need) as judged by a relevant person or group using multiple objective criteria that has been previously agreed upon.

Kaufman (1975) observed that the educational system of any nation is faced with many problems. Most often, educators concentrate on how to solve a problem without determining what that problem is. Most often educators think out a solution to a problem without understanding what the problem is all about. Education has three partners, namely, learners, teachers and the community. According to Kaufman, often these three partners are in conflict over the means of attaining an end and not over an end itself. Some educational problems and means are lack of facilities and equipment for effective instructional delivery. According to Kaufman, when we are in conflict with other educational partners it is usually over means. Scarcely do we talk about the results emanating from the means. But for effective programme execution, we should spend more time determining the goals. Thus, in conducting needs assessment we should first of all be clear about the results/goals; that is, we should shift our

focus from specifying the means to determining appropriate goals (Kaufman, 1975:14). It must however, be stressed that specifying the goals does not really ensure the application of the correct means. This is why part of needs assessment entails evolving alternative means for attaining specified goals. But the essence of specifying the objectives at the commencement of needs assessment is that it helps us to determine any discrepancy that may exist between such objectives and the status quo. For meaningful needs assessment to be carried out there must be a consensus of standards by the three partners in education as shown in Kaufman's Needs Assessment Model matrix in Figure 1. The aim of collecting data from these three partners is to determine if any discrepancy exists between an ideal situation and a status quo.

(b)   Coffing's Client Needs Assessment Model: Coffing's and Kaufman's models are similar in the following ways:

1. They both are discrepancy models concerned with "harvesting" the gaps between ideal situation and the status quo.
2. They both insist on prioritizing these gaps.
3. Both are geared towards educational change using available resources and involving the three partners in education although Coffing calls these partners "clients"
4. Both models are cyclical in nature though Coffing lays more emphasis on this than Kaufman. Coffing's Needs Assessment Model is represented in Figure 2.

Coffing's (1973) Model differs from Kaufman's Model in that it lays emphasis on decision making, whereas Kaufman's Model emphasizes problem solving. However, there is a slight distinction between the two approaches, which arises not out of distinct methodologies, but out of the attitude of mind of their users. It is Lee (1973) in Dike (1998) who in explicating his own needs assessment model has helped to clarify this distinction between problem solving model and decision making model. According to him:

> There are several differences between the problem solving approach suggested in this model and the more usual approach to dealing with problems in educational systems. There is an attempt to shift many of the emphasis of the traditional school management model. The approach to problems in this model is from the maintenance needs of the students not from the maintenance needs of the evaluation system rather than attempting to avoid problems and resolve them before they become significant or of crisis proportions. Monitoring devices should be planned into the system to identify problems at the earliest possible opportunity.

The essence of using needs assessment for decision making is not to allow a problem to surface but to use needs assessment to monitor a programme and to make decisions which will lead to the avoidance of a problem. What needs assessment for decision making is saying is that allowing a problem to accumulate can be dangerous and expensive. It can be dangerous in that once a problem has arisen it may also be quite expensive to solve such a problem whereas if needs assessment is conducted on a regular basis, it can help an organisation to become aware of causes of a problem and to take remedial actions. Consequently, Kaufman's Needs Assessment Model was employed in conducting the needs assessment survey of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

It is necessary that every community should have continuous awareness of its needs. This will enable such community to continuously make decisions based on input data derived from needs assessment. With this explanation, we tend to see a distinction in the roles of needs assessment as a problem solving technique and as a decision making technique.

2.   Statement of the Problem

Life in the rural setting has become something that every reasonable adult should stimulate solutions to the problems faced by rural communities in order to better the lives of rural dwellers. Some projects embarked upon such as building of schools, roods, hospital and pipe-borne water, were built with inferior materials. And those who secured these jobs do not follow the specification and standards. Most often than not the rural dwellers or the villagers were not carried along, so they do not participate in planning, execution, and evaluation stages evaluation as to make the project peoples involving (orientated).

3.   Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to conduct extensive needs assessment survey of communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas in Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study attempted to:

i.   Ascertain the real needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas.
ii.   Identify the felt needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas in their order of priority.

iii.   Identify the possible intervention strategies to satisfy the needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas.

4.   Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

i.   What are the real needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local   Government Areas?

ii   What are the felt needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local   Government   Areas   in their order of priority?

iii   What are the possible intervention strategies to satisfy the needs of the communities in   Andoni   and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas?

5.   Method

This study adopted mainly survey research design. Survey research design was used because the study elicited information from the respondents about the needs assessment of developmental variables for their communities. Several needs assessment models exist for conducting needs assessment study but the particular model used in this study was the Needs Assessment Model developed by Kaufman in 1975. Kaufman's Needs Assessment Model consists of three partners in community development, namely: adult women and men and youths in the communities. The choice of Kaufman's Needs Assessment Model for this study is based on the fact that it is comprehensive, flexible and thorough.

The study was carried out in communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The communities are Ngo Town, Ataba, Unyeada, Egbomung, Isiodum, Dema, Samanga, Ibotirem, Ajakajak, Inyonoron, Oronija, Asarama, Ikuru Town, Ebukuma, Akaradi, Agana, Ekede, Unyengala. Okoroboile, Oton-Okpon communities in Andoni Local Government Area and Opobo Town, Queens Town, Kalaibiama, Epellema, Kalasunju, Minima, Iloma, Oloma, Okpukpo, Ekereborokiri, Abazibie, Nkoro and Olom Nkoro in Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area. The justification for this area of study is based on the fact that these communities constitute the Andoni/Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency in the Federal House of Representative in Nigeria.

The population for this study consisted of five respondents drawn from each community in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State. Adult women and men and youth indigenes of the communities investigated constituted the population for the study. The justification of using the entire adult women and men as well as youths of the communities as the population size is informed of the fact that they are major stakeholders of the communities.

The sample size of 23 communities, which the needs assessment survey was carried out, is a representation of 30% of 50 identified communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas in Rivers State. Also, the sample size of 230 respondents (that is 10 persons from each community) was used for this study. Stratified simple random sampling method was used to select the sample size. The stratification was on the basis of adult women, adult men and youths citizens and indigenes of the communities.

A research instrument known as Community Needs Assessment Rating Scale (CoNARS) was developed and used for data collection for this study. The research instrument, which is of Likert's four-point type of scale was designed and used to elicit information from the adult and youth citizens residing in the rural communities of Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State concerning the extent to which they rate their communities' developmental needs. Also, Community Hall Meeting where group discussions were held was also organized to gather more information about the Communities' Felt Needs. The research instrument was administered by members of the Rural Development Sub-Technical Committee. Members of the Committee visited the communities to personally administer copies of the research instrument to the respondents and also held the Community Hall Meeting with the participants in order to ensure that information sought for was adequately gathered for the study. Descriptive analysis technique was adopted to analyze the data for the study. Frequency scores of respondents' responses were extracted and used in the analysis in order to answer the research questions and presented as the results of the study. The symbol **I** represents the Community Needs while the symbol **O** represents the Community Non-Needs

6.   Results

Research Question 1: What are the real needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas?

Table 1 shows that Ajakajak Community is faced with transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty. Table 1 reveals that Akaradi Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security

problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Table 1 indicates that Asarama Community is faced with transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, standard

market for marketing activities, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 1 shows that Ataba Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Table 1 reveals that Ebukuma Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 1 shows that Egbormung Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Table 1 reveals that Ekede Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 1 reveals that Ibotirem Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Table 1 reveals that Ikuru Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 1 also reveals that Ngo Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty.

Table 1 reveals that Okoroboile Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty.

Table 1 shows that Oronija Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Table 1 indicates that Oyorokoto Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty. Table 1 reveals that Unyeada Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Table 2 shows that Opobo Town is faced with transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education,

eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty. Table 2 reveals that Queen's Town is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Table 2 indicates that Epelema Community is faced with transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, standard market for marketing activities, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 2 shows that Minima Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Table 2 reveals that Kalasunju Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 2 shows that Kalaibiama Community is faced with transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Table 2 reveals that Iloma Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 2 reveals that Nkoro Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Table 2 reveals that Olom-Nkoro Community is faced with transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems. The table also indicates that the community needs embankment, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Research Question 2: What are the felt needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas in their order of priority?
Ajakajak Community's felt needs are transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems, creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty. Akaradi Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems, embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Asarama Community's felt needs are transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, standard market for marketing activities, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Ataba Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, rural hosing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Ebukuma Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare, security problems, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Egbormung Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills

acquisition and security problems, embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Ekede Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Ibotirem Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Ikuru Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Ngo Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty.

Okoroboile Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty. Oronija Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems, embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Oyorokoto Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty. Unyeada Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Opobo Town's felt needs are transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems, creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty. Queen's Town's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems, embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Epelema Community's felt needs are transportation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, creeks rehabilitation, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, health care delivery, standard market for marketing activities, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Minima Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Kalasunju Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Kalaibiama Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition and security problems, embankment and shore protection, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy and landing jetty.

Iloma Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic. Nkoro Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment,

unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, rural electrification, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, education, eradication of illiteracy, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Olom-Nkoro Community's felt needs are transportation, ecological, creeks rehabilitation, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare and security problems, embankment, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, standard market for marketing activities, health care delivery, rural housing scheme, landing jetty and mobile clinic.

Research Question 3: What are the possible intervention strategies to satisfy the needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas?

The possible intervention strategies were identified to satisfy the needs of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas. They are funding of the projects, construction of these Projects, provision of facilities, The Federal Government of Nigeria, Rivers State Government, Local Government Council, NGOs Within and Outside Nigeria, and Donor-agencies (UNESCO, NEPAD), IFAD, WHO, etc.) and multi-national companies should be able to fund the projects if contacted.

7.   Discussion

The problems confronting the rural communities could be diagrammatized into present situation and designed situation. Figure 3 presents an indicator of the plight of the rural poor people in the constituency. Most, of the interventional agencies such as federal, states, or local government, hardly meet the desired needs of the rural people.

8.   Conclusion

It is the conclusion of this study that most of the communities investigated were faced with the following needs: transportation, ecological, economic empowerment, unemployment, poverty, agriculture, skills acquisition, social welfare, security problems, embankment and shore protection, tourism centre, rural water supply, road construction, education, eradication of illiteracy, rural housing scheme, mobile clinic and landing jetty. While commending efforts of Federal and state governments for their developmental stride as well as their vision in transforming Andoni/Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas, it is our believe that if adequate measures are put in place for the realization of the vision, there would be massive development of the two local government areas in a nearer distant time.

9.   Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

1.   The projects should be executed in phases based on their order of priorities

2.   Fishermen should be encouraged by provided fishing gargets such as trawling fishing boats, engines and storage facilities.

3.   Effort should be intensified to approach Federal Government of Nigeria, Rivers State Government and Local Government Councils to fund the provision of some of the   projects for the communities.

4.   Effort should be intensified to approach NGOs within and outside Nigeria to fund the provision of some of the projects for the communities.

5.   Donor-agencies such as UNESCO, NEPAD, IFAD, WHO, foreign countries, multi-national companies etc., should be   consulted to come to the aid of the communities.

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Table 1: Tally presentation of Responses about the real needs of the communities in Andoni Local Government Area

(N=140)

	AJ	AK	AS	AT	EB	EG	EK	IB	IT	NG	OK	OR	OY	UN
1	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
2	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
3	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
4	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
5	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
6	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
7	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
8	O	O	I	I	I	O	O	I	I	I	O	O	O	I
9	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	I	O	O	O	O
10	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	I	O	I	O
11	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	I	O	O	O	O	I
12	I	I	I	O	I	I	I	I	O	O	I	I	I	I
13	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
14	O	I	O	I	I	I	O	O	O	I	I	I	I	O
15	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	O	I	I	I	I	O
16	I	I	I	O	I	I	I	I	O	O	O	I	I	I
17	O	O	O	O	O	O	I	O	I	I	I	O	I	O
18	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
19	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
20	O	O	I	I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I
21	O	O	I	I	I	O	O	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
22	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
23	O	O	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
24	O	O	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I

KEY

AJ	Ajakajak	AK	Akaradi	AS	Asarama
AT	Ataba	EB	Ebukuma	EG	Egbomung
EK	Ekede	IB	Ibotirem	IT	Ikuru Town
NG	Ngo	OK	Okoroboile	OR	Oronija
OY	Oyorokoto	UN	Unyeada			

Table 2: Tally presentation of Responses about the real needs of the Communities in Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area

(N=90)

	OT	QT	EP	MI	KL	KA	IL	NK	ON	
1	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1
2	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	2
3	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	3
4	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	4
5	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	5
6	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	6
7	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	7
8	I	1	I	I	O	O	O	I	O	8
9	I	I	I	I	O	O	O	I	O	9
10	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	10
11	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	11
12	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	12
13	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	13
14	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	14
15	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	15
16	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	16
17	O	O	I	I	I	O	O	I	O	17
18	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	18
19	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	19
20	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	20
21	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	21
22	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	22
23	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	23
24	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	24

KEY

QT	Queens Town	KL	Kalasunju	KA	Kalaibiama
MI	Minima	EP	Epelema	IL	Iloma
OT	Opobo	NK	Nkoro	ON	Olom Nkoro

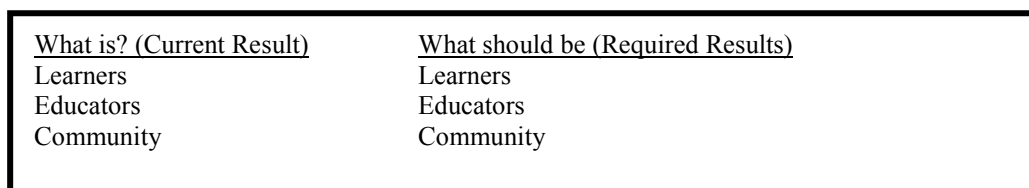| What is? (Current Result)	What should be (Required Results)
Learners	Learners
Educators	Educators
Community	Community

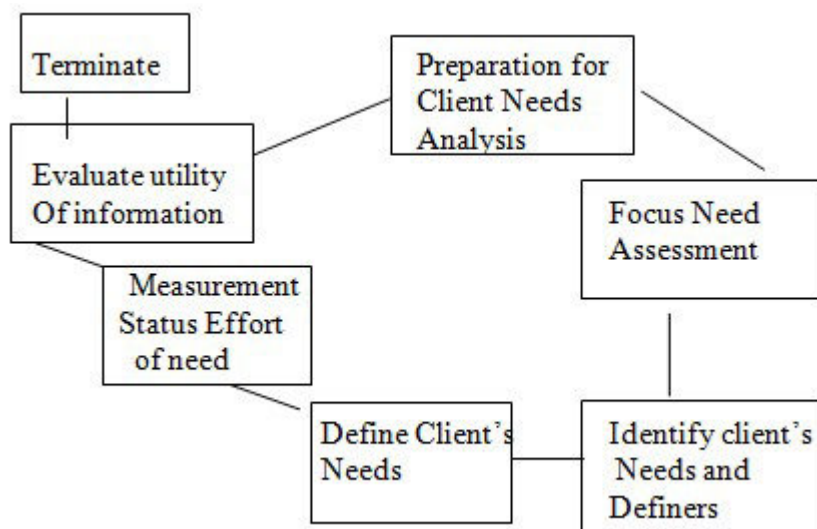Figure 1: Kaufman's Needs Assessment Model
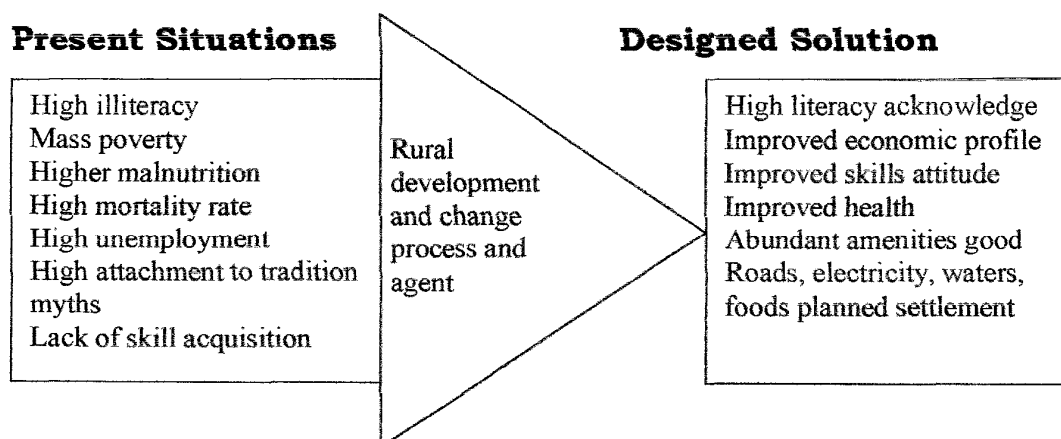
Figure 2: Coffing's Needs Assessment Model

Figure 3: Rural Development Process (Field work 2012).

Dr. William James Ubulom was born at Okoroboile Town in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria on 5th March, 1961. He became a member of the Association of Business Educators of Nigeria in 2002, a member of the Nigeria Institute of Management in 2001, Institute of Management Consultants in 2001 and a member of the Nigeria Association of Educational Researchers and Evaluators in 2008. He attended the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt where he obtained his B.Sc. Degree in Business Education in 1990. He also attended the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria where he obtained his M.Ed. Degree in Educational Measurement and Evaluation in 1997. Dr. Ubulom further attended the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where he obtained his Ph.D. Degree in Science Education (Measurement and Evaluation Option) in 2006.

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