

ASSESSMENT OF THE ABIA STATE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND MODERN ENERGY

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Abstract

The study assessed Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project objectives (CSDP) in achieving sustainable industrialization and modern energy. Two research questions guided the study. Two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. The population of the study was made up of 310 stakeholders. No sampling was done. The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire titled Assessment of Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project in Achieving Sustainable Industrialization and Modern Energy Questionnaire (ASACSDPIASIMEQ), which was validated by three experts. The reliability of the instrument was carried out using 20 stakeholders in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Association of Town Unions and NGOs in Imo State. The coefficient alpha analysis yielded an internal consistency of 0.85 and 0.68. The instrument was distributed and retrieved by the researcher through the assistance of three research assistants. Mean and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were employed for data analysis. Post hoc analysis was conducted using Bonferroni test for multiple comparisons. The study found that Abia State Agency for CSDP was rated low in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all in Abia State. The study also showed that Abia State Agency for CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and innovation in Abia State to a high extent. However, different groups rated the agency as having a greater impact in achieving sustainable industrialization while the other group has relatively low opinion of the agency's provision of modern energy. It was therefore recommended that Abia State Agency for CSDP should prioritize energy sector development to address energy crises by investing in renewable energy, among others and also sustain Industrialization in the State.

Keyword: Assessment, Community development, Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project, Sustainable Industrialization and Modern Energy

Introduction

Community and social development (CSD) play a vital role in fostering sustainable growth and well-being among the citizens in any society. CSD aims

to promote living standards and participatory democracy among citizens in any nation (Kenny and Connors, 2017). CSD works towards addressing the needs of community members, focusing on the principles of empowerment, human rights, inclusion, social justice, and self-determination. Future Growth Initiative (2022) affirms that community development projects are essential for sustainable development, empowerment, inclusivity, and social justice of any society. These projects aim to address the needs of community members and uplift them by improving their living standards (Future Growth Initiative, 2022). This improves the overall quality of life of individuals by providing access to sustainable industrialization and modern energy.

The National Association of Community Development Extension Practitioners (NACDEP, in Obidiegwu, Obiozor and Eme 2026) defines community development as “a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes sustainable community development, human rights, equality, economic opportunity, and social justice through effective organization, education, and empowerment of people within their communities . Community development (CD) is a process whereby community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems (United Nations, 2015). Such common problem includes promoting inclusive, industrialization and modern energy. CD is applied by civic leaders, activists, citizens, and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities (Straza, 2023). Social development refers to a lifelong process by which individuals or groups of people learn to enhance their social and emotional skills throughout their lifespan, towards building a strong community (Green, 2015). Both community development and social development are intricately related because they aim towards continuous development. Both concepts are intricately imbued in the

socio-economic dimension of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) (Obidiegwu, 2024).

In addition, community development focuses on the ideology that people can work together to shape their own destiny if given the opportunity and necessary empowerment in a safe and healthy environment, social development aims at promoting the entire wellbeing of people, equity, and social justice, which include social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, gender equality, increased voice, participation, and education so that they can reach their full potentials (Obidiegwu, 2024). This implies that through community development, social development is achieved.

Community and social development are vital for fostering sustainable, inclusive, and equitable societies which contribute to various dimensions of well-being, including economic growth, social justice, equity, and inclusivity (Straza, 2023). Both concepts are integral to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on eradicating poverty, transforming humanity, and realizing a sustainable world. Social development is a part of community development, encompassing the overall well-being, growth, and advancement of the society which in this paper focuses on sustainable industrialization and modern energy. It involves acquiring social skills, behaviours, and attitudes necessary for functioning effectively within any society (Psychology Dictionary, 2024). Social development is the process of attaining maturity within a social setting, emphasizing social skills and the ability to meet social expectations, well-being of individuals, so that they can reach their full potential (Alex, 2014)

Globally there are progress and challenges in building, sustainable industrialization and modern energy for instance report on Sustainable and Efficient Infrastructure Market 2024 shows that only 17% of SDG targets are projected to be achieved by 2030, highlighting the need for urgent action.

In Nigeria, the government has implemented various community and socio-economic enhancement programmes to improve social and economic well-being, such programmes include: Project Bridge, a \$2 billion program to deploy 90,000 kilometers of fiber optic cables and 7,000 telecom towers, aiming to boost broadband penetration from 48% to 90% (NBS, 2024). Similarly, Lagos, now Africa's fastest growing tech hub, saw venture capital flows surge 42% year-over-year to \$252 million in 2024, reflecting rising investor interest in the sector. According to the Federal Ministry of Budget and National planning, Nigeria aims to raise its infrastructure stock to at least 70% by 2043 (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2024). It is doubtful whether Abia State Agency CSDP is achieving their mandate on industrialization and modern energy, hence the need for this study to provide evidence-based information for improvement. These Programmes are very crucial to economic development as it can lead to job creation opportunities, reduce unemployment, drive innovation, increase productivity and competitiveness, and contribute to economic growth and increases revenue generation for the people of the state, through taxes, royalties, and other sources.

In Abia state, efforts are on progress in addressing challenges of infrastructural deficit by initiating modular refinery which is expected to produce 10,000-barels of crude oil per day after completion at the Abia industrial park at Owaza, Ukwa West Local Government Area, construction of Abia Industrial Innovation Park to attract industries, leverage energy production, create an industrial hub, construction and reconstruction of over 200 kilometers road across the state.

Furthermore, Abia State is integrating climate resilience into its plan, as evident from its participation in the June 2024 UN climatic change conference in Bonn, Germany, commissioned a 188 megawatt Geometric power plant in Aba to accelerate power supply to industrial clusters. In addition, the state government is also working with multinationals like Shell and Total companies on the Abia

industrial park projects to create an industrial hub for socio-economic activities, and also green industrialization, which aims to reduce environmental degradation and promoting sustainable development (Abia State Government, 2024). According to the Federal Ministry of Budget and National planning, Nigeria aims to raise its infrastructure stock to at least 70% by 2043 (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2024).

Despite the efforts of the government of Abia State in building, resilient infrastructure and modern energy, the infrastructure deficit still stands at 40%. This deficit affects various sectors, including industrialization, energy, and water supply. It appears that more efforts are needed to address Abia State development challenges in achieving sustainable Industrialization and modern energy in Abia State.

In order to achieve these initiatives, the Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) was established by Abia State CSDP Acts No. 2 of 2009 to promote community development and improve citizens' well-being. The CSDP, a World Bank Country portfolio, adopts a Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach, aiming to enhance Abia State's social and community resources. The agency operates as an autonomous state parastatal with a mandate to achieve three primary objectives: (1) improve socio-economic conditions at the grassroots level, (2) increase community capacities to participate in development projects, and (3) ensure community participation in projects' sustainability (Abia State, 2021).

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

development (Abia State, 2021). Specifically, this study will focus on the socio-economic targets and indicators of sustainable Industrialization and modern energy.

The Agency for Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) in Abia State was established fourteen years ago and is overdue for progressive assessment in the area of SDGs which include provision and promotion of industrialization in the communities. Assessment is crucial for identifying gaps in the agency's efforts, in formulating need statements, and selecting appropriate solutions (Skidmore, 2019). Assessment involves systematically collecting and analyzing information to understand community needs, resources, and conditions in helping them plan, implement, and evaluate programmes effectively (Nelson and Dawson, 2015). Assessment can be formative or summative. Formative assessment provides continuous feedback during programme implementation and summative assessment evaluating a project's overall impact (Rossi, Lipsey, and Freeman, 2004). This study is a formative evaluation of the Abia State Agency for CSDP in the area of providing industrialization and modern energy. It is set up to assess the agency's progress and addressing challenges for improvement and development. The agency collaborates with various ministries, NGOs, and CBOs to achieve community-related SDGs. However, it is doubtful whether Abia State Agency in achieving their mandate on industrialization and modern energy, hence the need for this study to provide evidence-based information for improvement.

Statement of the Problem

Community and social development are vital components for the overall economic progress of any state or nation. They contribute to improving the quality of life and standard of living of citizens through advancements in grass-root industrialization, access to modern energy, infrastructure among others.

However, despite collective efforts to promote sustainable micro-industrialization and modern energy key indicators such as sustainable industrialization and modern energy, infrastructure deficit still stands at 40%. (NBS, 2023). This deficit affects various sectors, including industries, transportation, energy, and water supply. Consequently, the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) was established in Abia State in 2009 to promote socio-economic development. However, it appears to be falling short of fully achieving its mandate. To better understand the agency's effectiveness for necessary improvement, this study involved key stakeholders in CSD projects, to determine the extent CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and modern energy in Abia State for necessary planning decision making-objectives and overall development.

Purpose of the Study

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

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

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study;

To what extent has Abia State Agency for CSDP?

1. Built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State?

2. Ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia state.

Hypotheses

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

H0₁: Staff of Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connark Foundation and President Generals (PGs) differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

H0₂: Staff of Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President General (PGs) differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design to gather information from the Staff of the Ministry of Science and Technology, staff of Ministry of Women Affairs, Connak Foundation and President Generals on the extent to which Abia State has achieved community and social development in Abia State. The population for the study consisted of 310 stakeholders comprising of 91 staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs, 135 staff of the Ministry of Science and Technology, 14 staff of Connak Foundation and 70 President Generals. These groups are major stakeholders in community and social development activities in Abia State. No sampling was done because the population was manageable.

The instrument for data collection was a researcher made questionnaire titled “Assessment of Abia State Agency for Community and Social Development Project Questionnaire (AACSDPQ)”. The instrument was divided into two parts, A and B. Part A focused on the personal data of the respondents while part B

focused on items addressing the research questions. Each of the items has 4-point response categories as follows: Very High Extent (VHE), High Extent (HE), Low Extent (LE) and Very Low Extent (VLE) and they were assigned values of 4,3,2,1. The instrument was validated by three experts. Their suggestions were used to produce the final copy of the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was carried out using 20 stakeholders in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Association of Town Unions and NGOs in Imo State. The state was used because they share the same characteristics with the area of the study. The data collected from the pilot test were analyzed and the internal consistency of the instruments was determined using Cronbach's alpha. The coefficient alpha analysis yielded an internal consistency of 0.90 and 0.85 respectively. The researcher administered 310 copies of the instrument to the respondents with the help of four research assistants (a staff of Ministry of Science and Technology, a staff of Ministry of Women Affairs, President Generals, and a staff of Connak Foundation) who are stakeholders in community development in Abia State. The research assistants were briefed on the purpose of the study, items of the instruments and how to collect them. Mean and analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used for the analysis. Mean was used to analyze the data on the research questions. Decision for answering the research questions was based on the boundary (true) limit of the four-point response. Mean of 2.50 and above will be adjudged High Extent of performing roles and activities by the Abia State Agency for CSDP while Mean of 2.49 below will be deemed low extent. ANOVA were used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Research Question One: To what extent has Abia State Agency for CSDP built resilient infrastructure, promoted inclusive and sustainable achieved sustainable industrialization and fostered innovation in Abia State?

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

Table 1: Mean scores and SD of the respondents on the extent Abia State has achieved sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

N=300

S/N	Items on Building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	PG N = 67 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MWA N = 89 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MST N = 130 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	SCF N = 14 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Total Aver age $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Rem arks
1	Building motorable roads for rural transportation	3.07 (.77)	3.51 (.79)	3.28 (.66)	3.29 (.83)	3.29 (.74)	HE
2	Building bridges to enhance inter-community transportation	2.81 (.76)	3.39 (.65)	3.09 (.68)	3.21 (.80)	3.13 (.72)	HE
	Mitigating the impact of natural disaster on Infrastructure such as:						
3	Flood	2.49 (.75)	3.01 (.67)	2.99 (.60)	2.64 (.93)	2.78 (.70)	HE
4	Erosion	2.30 (.72)	2.89 (.86)	2.75 (.81)	2.71 (.91)	2.66 (.83)	HE
5	Tracking the value of goods produced by the manufacturing sector	2.25 (.77)	2.72 (.75)	2.70 (.67)	2.71 (.83)	2.60 (.74)	HE
6	Increasing access to information and communication technology	2.16 (.54)	3.10 (.72)	3.04 (.64)	2.50 (.65)	2.70 (.75)	HE
7	Measuring the number of people who are in paid employment	2.37 (.71)	3.00 (.78)	3.05 (.53)	2.50 (.65)	2.73 (.72)	HE
8	Enhancing low interest loan by small and medium scale industries	2.37 (.71)	3.10 (.66)	2.98 (.69)	2.57 (.76)	2.76 (.74)	HE
9	Enhancing adoption of environmentally sound technologies for industries to reduce green-house emission	2.12 (.83)	2.88 (.62)	2.88 (.58)	2.36 (.75)	2.56 (.73)	HE
10	Embarking on research for upgrading industries	2.10 (.89)	2.78 (.72)	2.82 (.70)	2.21 (.58)	2.48 (.80)	HE
	Cluster Mean Scores	2.40 (.74)	3.04 (.72)	2.96 (.66)	2.67 (.77)	2.77 (.75)	HE

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

Table 1 shows that all the items except Item 10 have mean ratings ranging from 2.56 to 3.29. This implies that all the respondents agreed that Abia State agency for CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and fostered innovation to a high extent. This is also in consonant with the cluster mean point of 2.77 which indicates that Abia State agency for CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and foster innovation to a high extent. The overall SD of (.75) shows that the respondent was not far from the mean opinion of one another, in

their responses on the extent Abia State Agency for CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

H0₁: The Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President Generals (PGs) will not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

Table 2: ANOVA on significant difference in the mean ratings of the respondents on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has Abia State has achieved sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

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

Table 2 shows that an F-ratio of 24.514 with associated exact probability value of 0.000 was obtained. This probability value of 0.000 was compared with the significant level of 0.05 and it was found to be significant because 0.000 is less than 0.05. The null hypothesis, which stated that; the Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President Generals (PGs) do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State, is therefore rejected. Inference drawn was that stakeholders differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State. A post hoc test was performed in Table 3 to show which specific groups differ significantly in their mean ratings.

Table 3: Post Hoc Test on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

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

Table 3 reveals significant differences between certain groups. Specifically, PG had significantly lower mean ratings compared to MWA (mean difference = -0.62533, $p = 0.000$) and MST (mean difference = -0.55058, $p = 0.000$). This indicates that PG has a statistically significant view point that Abia State Agency for CSDP has built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State compared to other groups. This suggests different degree of opinions among the stakeholders.

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

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

Table 4: Mean scores and SD of the respondents on the extent Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State N=300

S/N	Items on ensuring access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy	PG N = 67 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MWA N = 89 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	MST N = 130 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	SCF N = 14 $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Total Average $\bar{X}$ (SD)	Remarks
1	Ensuring equitable distribution of energy supply by making it affordable for citizens	2.13 (.46)	2.57 (.78)	2.57 (.60)	1.79 (.43)	2.27 (.66)	LE
2	Ensuring access to electricity in rural areas	2.21 (.62)	2.62 (.78)	2.58 (.60)	2.00 (.68)	2.35 (.69)	LE
3	Expanding the use of solar generated electricity	2.18 (.46)	2.84 (.82)	2.68 (.82)	2.14 (.36)	2.46 (.78)	HE
4	Facilitating energy efficiency across sectors to reduce waste and lower energy cost	2.04 (.51)	2.90 (.89)	2.75 (.79)	2.07 (.62)	2.44 (.83)	HE
5	Ensuring a stable and uninterrupted energy supply through disaster resilience measure	2.00 (.55)	2.51 (.77)	2.40 (.68)	2.07 (.63)	2.25 (.70)	LE
6	Advancing energy technologies to enhance affordability	2.03 (.55)	2.63 (.65)	2.57 (.60)	2.00 (.56)	2.31 (.65)	LE
7	Reinforcing policies which promotes affordable energy	2.16 (.69)	2.62 (.78)	2.51 (.69)	2.00 (.56)	2.32 (.73)	LE
Cluster Mean Scores		2.11 (.55)	2.67 (.78)	2.58 (.68)	2.01 (.54)	2.34 (.72)	LE

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

Table 4 shows that all the items have mean ratings ranging from 2.25 to 2.46. This implies that all the respondents agreed that Abia State agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy to a low extent. This is also in consonant with the cluster mean point of 2.34 which indicates low extent in ensuring access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all. The overall SD of (.72) indicates that the respondent was not far from the mean opinion of one another, in their responses on the extent Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy.

H0₂: The Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connak Foundation and President General (PGs) will not differ significantly in their mean

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

Table 5: ANOVA on significant difference in the mean ratings of the respondents on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State.

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

Table 5 shows that an F-ratio of 20.088 with associated exact probability value of 0.000 was obtained. This probability value of 0.000 was compared with the significant level of 0.05 and it was found to be significant because 0.000 is less than 0.05. The null hypothesis, which stated that; the Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connark Foundation and President General (PGs) do not differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State, is therefore rejected. Inference drawn was that the stakeholders differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State. A post hoc test was performed in Table 13 to show which specific groups differ significantly in their mean ratings.

Table 6: Post Hoc Test on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State.

(I) Categories of the respondents	(J) Categories of the respondents	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
PG	MWA	-.56060*	.08528	.000	-.7871	-.3341
	MST	-.46928*	.07929	.000	-.6799	-.2587
	SCF	.09854	.15494	1.000	-.3130	.5101
MWA	PG	.56060*	.08528	.000	.3341	.7871
	MST	.09132	.07254	1.000	-.1014	.2840
	SCF	.65914*	.15159	.000	.2565	1.0618
MST	PG	.46928*	.07929	.000	.2587	.6799
	MWA	-.09132	.07254	1.000	-.2840	.1014
	SCF	.56782*	.14831	.001	.1739	.9617
SCF	PG	-.09854	.15494	1.000	-.5101	.3130
	MWA	-.65914*	.15159	.000	-1.0618	-.2565
	MST	-.56782*	.14831	.001	-.9617	-.1739

Table 6 reveals significant differences between certain groups. Specifically, PG had significantly lower mean ratings compared to MWA (mean difference = -0.56060, $p = 0.000$) and MST (mean difference = -0.46928, $p = 0.000$). Additionally, SCF had significantly lower mean ratings compared to MWA (mean difference = -0.65914, $p = 0.000$) and MST (mean difference = -0.56782, $p = 0.001$). This indicates that PG has a statistically significant view point that Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State compared to other groups. This suggests different degree of opinions among the stakeholders.

Discussion of Findings

Extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has achieved sustainable industrialization and foster innovation in Abia State.

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

The findings of the study equally reveal that agency's initiatives in building motorable roads for rural transportation and bridges to enhance inter-community transportation are rated to a high extent. However, its efforts in mitigating the impact of natural disasters on infrastructure, such as flood and erosion is rated to a low extent. The agency's initiatives in promoting industrialization, such as enhancing low-interest loans for small and medium-scale industries and

embarking on research for upgrading industries, are also commendable. Additionally, the agency's efforts in increasing access to information and communication technology and measuring the number of people in paid employment are rated high. However, the agency's efforts in enhancing the adoption of environmentally sound technologies for industries to reduce greenhouse emissions is rated low.

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

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

Finding of the study shows that Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all in Abia State to a low extent. The finding is consistent with the study of Oyedepo *et al.* (2018) on the challenges of sustainable energy development in Nigeria, which found that Nigeria faces significant challenges in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. The study highlighted the need for increased investment in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and infrastructure development to address the country's energy. Similarly, a study by Adeyeye *et al.* (2020) on the role of renewable energy in promoting sustainable

development in Nigeria found that renewable energy can play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development and reducing energy poverty in Nigeria.

The study equally reveals that the agency's efforts in ensuring equitable distribution of energy supply by making it affordable for citizens and ensuring access to electricity in rural areas are achieved to a low extent. Additionally, the agency's initiatives in advancing energy technologies to enhance affordability and reinforcing policies that promote affordable energy are also rated low. However, the agency's efforts in expanding the use of solar generated electricity and facilitating energy efficiency across sectors to reduce waste and lower energy cost has not been impressive and more needs to be done to achieve significant impact. Furthermore, the agency's efforts in ensuring a stable and uninterrupted energy supply through disaster resilience measures are achieved to low extent.

The test of Hypothesis reveals that the Ministry of Women Affairs, Science and Technology, Connark Foundation and President General (PGs) differ significantly in their mean ratings on the extent to which Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State. A post hoc test performed to determine which specific groups differ significantly in their mean ratings reveals that PG has a statistically significant view point that Abia State Agency for CSDP has ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Abia State compared to other groups. This suggests different degree of opinions among the stakeholders which may be as a result of different locations, level of education and experience

Recommendations

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

1. The Abia State Agency for CSDP should sustain and build on its efforts in building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation in Abia State by investing more

in infrastructural development such as roads, bridges, and public transportation, providing support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups, and fostering partnerships between industry, academia, and government to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. They can also encourage town unions and philanthropist towards this goal.

2. The Abia State Agency for CSDP should prioritize energy sector development and explore innovative solutions to address energy crisis in Abia State by investing in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, improving energy infrastructure to reduce power outages and increase access to electricity, and promoting energy efficiency and conservation practices among households and businesses.

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