

**Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and Sustainable  
Development in Isoko North Local Government Area, Delta State (2017-2022)  
By**

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**Abstract**

The study set out to investigate Niger Delta Development Commission and sustainable development in Isoko North Local Government Area, Delta state (2017-2022). The deplorable conditions (gas flaring, environmental pollution and social displacement etc) that characterized the Niger Delta Region due to the activities of oil exploration in the region necessitated the establishment of the NDDC as an interventionist agency to help address the socio-economic challenges of the people in the region. However, twenty two (22) years after the agency had been established, no meaningful socio-economic gains have been recorded by the agency in the area of sustainable development. The system theory was deployed as our theoretical framework. Primary and secondary sources of data were utilized for the study. Primary source involved the use of questionnaire while secondary sources involved the use of information from textbooks, journals and seminar papers amongst others. It was observed in the study that NDDC has not fared well in the area of sustainable development such as provision of health care services, improvement in the quality of education through the award of scholarships to students and the provision of empowerment/ skill acquisition programmes for the people of Isoko North Local Government Area and indeed Niger Delta Region.

The study recommends that the Federal Government should not see the NDDC as an agency of political reward to party faithful where incompetent and corrupt politicians that lack knowledge of the plight of the people are appointed to man the affairs of the agencies but rather must appoint people with proven track records of integrity and competence to help drive the goal of sustainable development in the region.

**Keywords: Development, Sustainable development, NDDC, Education and Health**

### **Background to the Study**

The commercialization of oil in Nigeria in the 1950s resulted to high oil and gas exploration in the Niger Delta region. The Niger Delta region contributes over 95% to Nigeria's foreign exchange and 85% to annual revenue (Babatunde, 2012; Ebegbulem et al, 2013). This has brought Oil Multinational Companies who are involved in oil explorations to the area. It is believed that with the enormous financial contribution of the region to the national coffer and the presence of the oil firms (such as Chevron, Shell BP, Exxon Mobil and Agip etc) through their corporate social responsibility, the socio-economic well-being of the people will improved. Interestingly, there is no corresponding impact compared to what the region generates particularly in the area of human capital development (Obi, 2014). Oil exploration in the region has exposed the people in the region to environmental challenges such as gas flaring, oil spillage, and the discharge of toxic waste amongst others, resulting to destruction of livelihoods of the people which are basically agriculture; fishing and farming, thereby exposing the people to poverty, unemployment and general under development (Uzoh, 2013).

The inability of Federal Government to address the socio-economic problems of the people in the region created an atmosphere for social unrest; youth restiveness, militancy and kidnapping etc. These ill social vices threatened oil production as foreign expatriates in the oil and gas industry where the major victims of kidnapping. The kidnapping of foreign expatriates' couple with the vandalization of oil pipelines and other insecurity challenges in the region prompted the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission by the Federal

government in the year 2000. The NDDC was officially inaugurated on December 21, 2000 with a “vision to offer a lasting solution to the socio-economic difficulties of the Niger Delta Region and a mission to facilitate the rapid, even and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is” economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful (NDDC Act, 2000).

Ogege (2011: p. 23) noted that “although the Nigerian government has made deliberate effort through the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to adequately address the developmental failures and lapses in the region that were left unresolved by past administration and also to facilitate rapid and sustainable development within the region particularly in the area of ecological and socio-economic development, more recently, the Niger Delta Ministry was also established to assist in the formulation and co-ordination of developmental policies”. The NDDC is not the first interventionist agency to be established in the Niger Delta Region. The Federal Government of Nigeria had established the Niger Delta Development Board (NDDDB) in 1960, between 1979/83, a Presidential Task Force (popularly identified as the 1.5% Committee) was established. Also, in 1992, the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) was set up all in a bid to manage the developmental needs and challenges of the people in the region. Despite the establishment of these interventionist agencies in the region, sustainable development still elude the region. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Some of the indicators of sustainable development according to UNDP are; no to poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, and affordable and clean energy amongst others (SDG, 2015). These indicators are found wanting in the region.

It is on this basis that this paper intends to examine NDDC and sustainable development in the Niger Delta Region with emphasis on Isoko North Local Government Area, Delta state (2017-2022).

### **Statement of the problem**

The Niger Delta region is riddled with poverty, hunger, poor healthcare, clean water and affordable energy amongst others which are the core indices of sustainable development according to United Nation Development Programme (SDG, 2015). The United Nations Environment Programme (2011: p.31) noted that “people in the region are living in deplorable health conditions owing to the activities of oil exploration”. The report estimated that “after decades of repeated oil spills in Ogoni land, it would take thirty years (30) to reverse damage to public health and the regional ecosystem’ (UNEP, 2011: p.31). It further noted that “unborn and newborn infants are most vulnerable to oil-related pollution because they have not yet developed basic defense such as the blood-brain barrier, which helps protect against toxic chemicals and that mothers who ingest poisoned food or contaminated water are also at greater risk of maternal malnutrition and sickness, potentially increasing infant mortality risks” (UNEP, 2011; p.31)

On poverty, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (2022) report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), postulate on the shocking number of people living in poverty in the Niger Delta Region, comprising states such as Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Cross River, Edo, Delta, and Bayelsa (NBS, 2022). According to the report “Delta state has 2.73 million people in poverty, which is just under 50 percent of its population. Edo has 1.4 million people living in multidimensional poverty, representing 35.4 percent of its estimated 3.9 million populations. Rivers State has 4.4 million people living in multidimensional poverty which account for 62.4 percent of the state’s estimated 7.47 million inhabitants. Cross River State also struggles significantly, with 3.44 million people living in multidimensional poverty, constituting a staggering 75.6 percent of the state’s population, with 5.08 million, this represents over 71 percent of its total population of 5.451 million people while Bayelsa state has 2.61 million people living in multidimensional poverty, constituting a staggering 88 percent of the state’s estimated 2.9 million inhabitants” (NBS, 2022: p.4).

On water and sanitation, World Health Organization (2018: p. 16) reported that “inhabitants of oil and gas communities in the Niger Delta region are facing the same frightening reality: for a number of years they have been drinking water contaminated with lead which is known to cause developmental delays in babies

and children as well as a litany of health problems for adults". The report further noted that "more than a million children have been exposed to this water; this may even get bigger in young children. Lead-contaminated water causes cognitive and developmental issues that are irreversible" (WHO, 2018: p. 16)). On education, data release by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) revealed the level of educational development among the six (6) geo-political zones in Nigeria with the South south 25 percent (oil producing states), the Northwest was rated 70 per cent, Northeast 68 per cent, Northcentral 50 per cent, Southwest 19, and Southeast 20 (UNESCO, 2020). South-south geo-political zone fare better compare to Northwest, Northeast and Northcentral.

The failure of NDCC to stimulate sustainable development in the region has therefore worsened the problem of the people in the region

### **Objectives of the study**

The following objectives are formulated to guide the study

- 1.) Investigate the impact of NDDC on quality education in Isoko North LGA, Delta state
- 2.) Examine the impact of NDDC on healthcare needs of the people in Isoko North LGA, Delta state

### **Research Questions**

The study is guide by the following research questions

- 1.) What is the impact of NDDC on quality education in Isoko North LGA, Delta state?
- 2.) What is the impact of NDDC on healthcare needs of the people in Isoko North LGA, Delta state?

### **Hypothesis**

The study is guided by the following hypotheses

H01 there is a significant relationship between NDDC and education in Isoko North LGA, Delta state

H02 there is a significant relationship between NDDC and healthcare needs of the people in the region

### **Significance of the study**

The study is significant in many ways. Firstly, the study proffer measures on how to engender sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. Secondly, the work is relevant to policy makers as it unravel the factors that militate against NDDC in engendering sustainable development in the Niger Delta Region. Finally, the study is of immense benefit to the academic community, as it to contribute to existing knowledge and literature on sustainable development as it will broaden the literature

### **Literature Review and Methodology**

#### **The Concept of Development**

There is no consensus among scholars about the precise definition of development. This is because there is hardly any concept in social sciences that enjoys monopoly of definition. It is for this reason that there are myriad of definitions and explanations from scholars about what development is. The lack of agreement among scholars stems largely from the value-laden nature of the phenomenon. This perhaps motivated Alapiki (2004) to declare that development will never and can never be defined to a universal satisfaction. Despite the vast array of definition of the concept of development, it is pertinent to note that development is seen as a process, or a course of change. It is also seen as a movement usually a movement from level A to B of which B is said to be better than A

Scholars agree that the phenomenon of development is all encompassing. This implies that development covers a vast area such as political development, economic development, socio-cultural development, human development, scientific development, technical development, educational development among others. According to McLean and McMillan (2009, p.148-149), development is defined "as the fulfillment of all necessary conditions for the realization of the potential of human personality". This definition sees development as providing for the basic needs and the basic necessities of man. These basic needs will include among other things shelter, food, education, health, security among others. When these basic needs are available, then it becomes easier to realize the potential of the human personality. Development involves the improvement of certain social indicators such as life expectancy and living standards (McLean and McMillan, 2009).

Seers (1969) in his submission aver that the aim of development is to decrease poverty, inequality and unemployment. Accordingly, he noted that to determine the development status of any country, three pertinent questions must be asked and answered. The questions include:

- i What has been happening to poverty?
- ii What has been happening to unemployment?
- iii What has been happening to inequality?

He argued that if all of these three problems have declined over the period under consideration, then it has been a period of development for the country concerned. But if one or two of these problem has been growing worse especially if all three have, then the situation cannot be one of development even if per capita income had doubled over the period under consideration. This perspective thus sees poverty, unemployment, inequality as a major constraint to development and for a country or region to achieve sustainable development, these problems (poverty, unemployment and inequality) must be adequately tackled. It will therefore be correct to say that development is aimed at improving the living standard of the people.

### **The Concept of Sustainable Development**

In 1987, the Bruntland Commission published its report titled *Our Common Future*, in an effort to link the issues of economic development and environmental stability. It defined sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UNGA, 1987). Sustainable development “aims to maintain economic advancement and progress while protecting the long-term value of the environment; it provides a framework for the integration of environmental policies and development strategies” (UNGA, 1987: p. 32).

Stoddart (2011; p. 87), “noted that in the application of the definition of sustainable development, one issue concerns the substitutability of capital. There are several types of capital: social, natural, and man-made”. According to him, “the definition of weak sustainable development explains that only the aggregate level of capital matters: man-made, or manufactured, capital is an adequate alternative to natural capital” (Stoddart, 2011; p. 87). He further contended that “strong sustainability,

on the other hand, recognizes the unique features of natural resources that cannot be replaced by manufactured capital” (Stoddart, 2011; p. 87). Many ecologists and environmentalists are advocates of the robust sustainability definition. In continuation to the meaning of substitutability, this meaning of sustainability is also instituted on several other vital principles. Dernbach (1998: p. 45) stated that “within the common definition of sustainable development, intergenerational equity recognizes the long-term scale of sustainability in order to address the needs of future generations”. He further contended that “the polluter pays principle states that “governments should require polluting entities to bear the costs of their pollution rather than impose those costs on others or on the environment” (Dernbach, 1998: p. 58). Thus, government policy should ensure that environmental costs are internalized wherever possible; this also serves to minimize externalities.

According to Stoddart (2011: p.88), the key value of sustainable development underlying all others is the “integration of environmental, social, and economic concerns into all aspects of decision making”. All other principles in the SD framework have integrated decision making at their core.

UNDP identified several sustainable development goals to include; no to poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, and affordable and clean energy amongst others (SDG, 2015). This paper discuss two of these goals; health and education.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework adopted for the study is the system theory propounded by David Easton. A system conceived every phenomenon as a complex whole which is made up of inter dependent and inter related parts. Each of this part carryout specific functions for the survival and maintenance of the whole. Ekpenyong (2003, p.104) traced the origin of the system theory to David Easton (1965) and quoted him as saying that “a system is an interdependent structure in which the parts are necessary for all other part to function well and thus essential to the stability of the whole structure, it functions like a biological organism whose parts inter-relate and inter depend in such a way that what affects one part also affects the other and in fact the whole parts. Each function



must be performed to ensure the survival of the whole structure”.

The system theory is also known as input-output approach. System analyst sees the political system as consisting basically of receiving inputs from the environment or within the political system itself and converts these inputs into outputs. Easton in Ntete (2004), conceived the political system as the authoritative allocation of societal value. Inputs are made up of demand and support while outputs are made up of policies, projects and programmes. System analyst belief that as demands are made on the system, support also should be given to the political system to enable it survive. Ake (1975 in Ntete, 2004) refers to demands as articulated statements which are directed to the political system and which tends to propose that some kind of allocation should be made in a particular way. On the other hand, support may be viewed as the different ways in which individuals or groups oriented themselves favourably towards the political system (Ake ,1975 in Ntete, 2004). Support in particular refers to those actions which act as expressions of solidarity with the norms, values or basic rules of the political system.

Outputs can be seen within the context of political transaction which are initiated by or within the political system in response to inputs from within the political system or environment (Ntete, 2004). There is a feedback mechanism which is a channel of communication between the political system and it environment. Through the feedback mechanism, the political system is aware of information in its environment.

Relating and applying the system theory in understanding NDDC and sustainable development in the Niger Delta region with special reference to Isoko North LGA, Delta state, it become imperative to state that the socio-economic and environmental challenges that bedeviled the people of the Niger Delta Region resulted to the establishment of NDDC as an input, while delivering of sustainable development become the output which the agency has not engender.

### **Methodology**

**Research Design;** *the research design adopted for the study was the descriptive survey design. According to Iwariemie-Jaja (2014), it involves checking and fact-checking*

*enquiries*. Still within the descriptive framework, the survey method was employed because the study was largely dependent on the use of questionnaire

**Source of Data;** in this study, we depended on both primary and secondary sources of data.

**Primary Data;** in generating the primary data for the study, the study adopted the used of questionnaire. The essence of adopting this technique was to get the relevant data needed for the study. The questions were framed in close ended format.

**Secondary Data;** secondary source of data was also utilized for the study. Secondary source of data refer to the set of data collated or authored by another person, archives, in the form of documents collected for a purpose other than the present one in which it is being used (Asika, 2006). Selltiz, et al (1977), has declared that the usefulness of secondary sources of data lies in the fact that materials of this kind are collected intermittently. Also, gathering of information from such sources does not require the cooperation or assistance of the individual about whom information is being sought. The secondary sources of data for this study includes: magazines, textbooks and journals etc

### **Method of Data Collection**

To generate relevant data needed for the work, emphasis was placed on primary data (questionnaire). *The primary data collection method utilized was the questionnaire method. Questionnaire was used to get information from the respondents by filling in the answer in the space handed for that purpose. A structural question containing close-ended questions was used. The questions were framed in a "yes", "No" and "Unknown" manner. There were two main parts to the questionnaire; the first part contains details with regards to the personal information of the respondents. The other side of the instrument (questionnaire) centered on the applicable question that would induce useful information that was assessed and tested.*

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The simple percentage method was utilized in scrutinizing our data, while the Chi-square would be utilized in testing our hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

### Population of the Study

*The study's population consisted of both male and female indigenes of Emevor, Oweh, Ozoro, Iyede, and Elu all in Isoko North Local Government Area, Delta state who have attained eighteen (18) years and above. The population strength of Isoko North Local Government Area was reportedly being approximately 143,559 in 2006 by the National Population Commission, with an annual growth rate of 2.0% in population figures (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). The population of this study was therefore estimated at 196700 which was based on the entire population of the Local Government Area.*

### Sample Techniques

The scientific random sampling technique would be adopted in collecting samples for the study. Using this technique, 399 respondents were used to represent the whole population. The samples were drawn from oil bearing communities such as Emevor, Oweh, Ozoro, Iyede, and Elu all in Isoko North Local Government Area, Delta state.

### Sample Size

A total sample of three hundred and ninety nine (399) questionnaires would be distributed across Emevor, Oweh, Ozoro, Iyede, and Elu all in Isoko North Local Government Area, Delta state.

The sample size was statistically determined using the Tiaro Yamane's formula;

$$n = \frac{N}{K + N(e)^2}$$

Where

n = sample size

N = population of study

K = constant (1)

e = degree of error expected (0.05)

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{196,700}{1 + 196,700(0.05)^2} \\ &= \frac{196,700}{1 + 196,700 * 0.0025} \\ &= \frac{196,700}{492.8} \\ n &= 399 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the sample population is 399. This research concentrates on the residents of Emevor, Oweh, Ozoro, Iyede, and Elu. The questionnaires were administered to people who have reached the age of 18 years and above.

Table; Division of Communities

S/No	Communities	Number of Respondents
1.	Emevor	80
2.	Oweh	80
3.	Ozoro	80
4.	Iyede	80
5.	Elu	79
	Total	399

### Data Presentation

The chapter analyzed information gathered using the survey instrument (questionnaire). The chapter starts by summarizing the personal information of the respondents. The data for this was captured in the first part of the questionnaire (see Appendix A). In all, tables and frequency were used to explain demographic data. 384 of the 399 questionnaires distributed to respondents across were retrieved, accounting for 96.2% of the total distributed questionnaires. Only 15 of the distributed instruments were either irretrievable or unworkable owing to one or more issues such as inappropriate filling of the questions. Thus, the study was based on the 384 retrieved questionnaires.

### Data Analysis

This segment of the work is directed towards analyzing the questionnaire gathered by the researcher. The answers are still premised on respondents' inclinations to a particular question, and of course, their responses as it were.

**Table 1: are you aware of the existence of NDDC?**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	355	92.4%
No	28	7.3%
Unknown	3	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Sources:** Field survey, 2023

From the table above, three hundred and fifty five (355) respondents which represent 92.4% are of the view that they are aware of the existence of NDDC, while twenty eight (28) respondents which represent 7.3% said they are not aware of the existence of NDDC. Similarly, three (3) respondents which represent 0.3% said they do not know to the question.

**Table 2; has NDDC made effort in enhancing education in Isoko North LGA?**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	162	42.2%
No	216	56.3%
Unknown	6	1.5%
Total	384	100%

**Sources:** Field survey, 2023

From the above table, one hundred and sixty two (162) respondents which represent 42.2% are of the view that NDDC has made effort in enhancing education in Isoko North LGA, while two hundred and sixteen (216) respondents which represent 56.3% are of the view that NDDC has not made effort in enhancing education in Isoko North LGA. Similarly, six (6) respondents which represent 1.5% said they do not know to the question.

**Table 3; are you aware of NDDC scholarship scheme?**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	233	60.7%
No	142	37%
Unknown	9	2.3%
Total	384	100%

**Sources:** Filed Survey, 2023.

From the table above, two hundred and thirty three (233) respondents which represent 60.7% are of the view that they are aware of NDDC scholarship scheme, while one hundred and forty two (142) respondents which represent 37% said they

are not aware of NDDC scholarship scheme. Similarly, nine (9) respondents which represent 2.3% said they do not know to the question.

**Table 4; has any of your a relatives or friends benefitted from such scholarship scheme?**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	102	26.6%
No	269	70%
Unknown	13	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Sources:** Filed survey, 2023.

From the above table, one hundred and two (102) respondents which represent 26.6% said their relatives or friends have benefitted from NDDC scholarship scheme, while two hundred and sixty nine (269) respondents which represent 70. % said their relatives/friends have not benefitted from NDDC scholarship scheme. Similarly, thirteen (13) respondents which represent 3.4% said they do not know.

**Table 5: are you aware of any health center built by NDDC in Isoko North LGA?**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	94	24.5%
No	279	73%
Unknown	11	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Sources:** Field survey, 2023.

From the above table, ninety four (94) respondents which represent 24.5% said they are aware of health centre built by NDDC in Isoko North LGA, while two hundred and seventy nine (279) respondents which represent 73% said they are not aware of any health centre built by NDDC in Isoko North LGA. Similarly, eleven (11) respondents which represent 2.5% said they do not know.

**Table 6: if any, how functional are these health centers?**

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	81	21.1%
No	296	77.1%
Unknown	7	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Sources:** Field survey, 2023.

From the above table, eighty one (81) respondents which represent 21.1% hold the view that the health centres built by NDDC are functional, while two hundred and ninety six (296) respondents which represent 77.1% said the health centers built by NDDC are not functional. Similarly, seven (7) respondents which represent 1.8% said they do not know.

### Statistical analysis of hypotheses

The research hypotheses would be tested using the chi square statistical tool. Chi square statistical tool is expressed mathematically as:

$$x^2 = \frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}$$

Where:  $x^2$  = chi square

Fo = Observed frequency

Fe = Expected frequency

Level of significance = 0.05

Degree of freedom = (R – 1) (C – 1)

Where: R = Number of rows

C = Number of columns

### Decision Criteria

At 0.05 levels of significance and the degree of freedom obtained, accept the alternate hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis if otherwise.

### Statistical Analysis of Hypothesis One

**Hypothesis one:** there is a significant relationship between NDDC and education in Isoko North LGA, Delta state

**Table; a Observed Frequency (FO) (data obtained from table 2, 3 and 4)**

S/N	Yes	No	Unknown	Total
1	162	216	6	384
2	233	142	9	384
3	102	269	13	383
Total	497	627	28	1,152

**Table b Expected Frequency**

S/N	Yes	No	Unknown
1	166	209	9
2	166	209	9
3	166	209	9

$X^2 (fo-fe)/fe$

**Table c: Computation of  $x^2$**

<i>Fo</i>	<i>Fe</i>	<i>Fo - fe</i>	$(Fo - fe)^2$	$(Fo - fe)^2 / fe$
162	166	-4	4	0.02
216	209	7	49	0.2
6	9	-3	9	1
233	166	67	4489	27
142	209	-67	4489	21.5
19	9	10	100	11.1
102	166	-64	4,096	24.5
269	209	60	3600	17.2
13	9	4	16	1.8

$X^2=104.3$

$df=(r-1) (c-1)$

$df= (3-1) (3-1)$

$=2 \times 2$

$df=4$

$X_{crt}=9.49$



**Decision**

At 0.05 level of significance and four degree of freedom the calculated value of  $\chi^2$  (104.3) is greater than the critical value of  $\chi^2$  (9.49), thus, the alternate hypothesis is accepted.

This implies that there is no significant relationship between NDDC and quality education in the Niger Delta Region

**Hypothesis two:** there is a significant relationship between NDDC and healthcare needs of the people in the region

**Table d Observed Frequency (FO) (data obtained from table 5 and 4)**

S/N	Yes	No	Unknown	Total
1	94	279	11	384
2	81	296	7	384
Total	175	575	18	768

**Table e Expected Frequency**

S/N	Yes	No	Unknown
1	88	288	9
2	88	288	9

$\chi^2 (fo-fe)/fe$

**Table f: Computation of  $\chi^2$**

<i>Fo</i>	<i>Fe</i>	<i>Fo - fe</i>	$(Fo - fe)^2$	$(Fo - fe)^2 / fe$
94	88	6	36	0.4
279	288	-9	81	0.3
11	9	2	4	0.4
<b>81</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>296</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.4</b>

$\chi^2=2.3$

$df=(r-1) (c-1)$

$df= (3-1) (2-1)$

$=2 \times 1$

$df=2$

$=2$

## Decision

At 0.05 level of significance and two degree of freedom the calculated value of  $\chi^2$  (2.3) is less than the critical value of  $\chi^2$  (5.99), thus, the alternate hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between NDDC and healthcare needs of the people in the region.

## Discussion of Findings

Based on the data presented, the following findings are reach

- i) The study observed that NDDC has not done much in the area of enhancing the quality of education of the people through the award of scholarship to students. Table 2 revealed one hundred and sixty two (162) respondents which represent 42.2% are of the view that NDDC has made effort in enhancing the quality of education in Isoko North LGA, while two hundred and sixteen (216) respondents which represent 56.3% were of the view that NDDC has not made effort in enhancing the quality of education in Isoko North LGA. Similarly, six (6) respondents which represent 1.5% were undecided.
- ii) The work observed that corruption is the major obstacle to sustainable development in the Niger Delta Region. Several corruption related offences committed by NDDC officials abound. For instance, Mr Nsima Ekere who served as the managing director and chief executive officer of the NDDC between 2017 and 2018, was probed over accusations of contract inflation and award of fabricated agreements during his time in office amounting to over N47 billion. Also, Prof. Kemebradikumo Pondei past interim Managing Director of the agency in 2020 was indicted of misappropriating over 40billion naira during his reign.

## Conclusion

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is a federal agency established in 2000 to foster sustainable development in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The region has abundant rich natural resources, but its people struggle with poverty, environmental decay, and social turmoil. The NDDC Act provided for generous funding sources, including: Federal Government contribution, which was to be equivalent to 15% of the monthly statutory allocation due to member states of the Commission from the Federation Account. Oil and gas processing

companies' contribution of 3% of their total budget, 50% of the Ecological Fund Allocations due to the member states, Proceeds from NDDC Assets and miscellaneous sources, including grants-in-aid, gifts, loans and donations (Omadjohwoefe, 2011). The budgetary allocation for NDDC in 2021 was N485.7, in 2022 it was N928.2 billion, and N876 billion for 2023. Between 2001 -2019, the agency received the sum of 6trillion naira; N3, 375, 735,776,794.93 as budgetary allocation and N2,420,948,894,191.00 as Income from Statutory and Non Statutory Sources (Baghebo, 2020). It is important to note that these budgetary allocations are not fully funded in most cases. Despite these huge revenue allocated for the development of the region, poverty, diseases and hunger still ravage the people of the region.

It is important to state that NDDC has recorded some degree of success especially in the area of infrastructural development such as construction of roads, provision of pipe borne water, rural electrification, provision of drainage system and street lights amongst others. However, much gains and success have not been recorded by the agency in the area of human capital development such as provision of scholarship for students, provision of learning materials to student to improve the quality of education, building of class rooms, provision of free medical health care system and the provision of skill acquisition /empowerment programmes especially for the youths etc. these are the core elements of sustainable development which the NDDC as an interventionist agency has failed to delivered to the people of the Niger Delta Region

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made

- i) The Federal Government should not see the NDDC as an agency of political reward to party faithful where incompetent and corrupt politicians that lack knowledge of the plight of the people are appointed to manned the affairs of the agencies but rather must appoint people with proven track records of integrity and competence to help drive the goal of sustainable development in the region.
- ii) The Federal Government through the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA) should ensure the annual auditing of the finance of NDDC to

ensure that funds release to the agency are properly utilize for the purpose they are meant for.

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