

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

Daniel Ediri Emuovhe¹ Fidelis AondoseerAyatse², Monica Esiebugie Umogbai³

^{1,2,3}*Department of Business Administration, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi Benue State Nigeria*

Corresponding Author:

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ABSTRACT

The study examines corporate social responsibility and socio-economic development of Delta State. Primary data were used for the study and they were drawn from a population of 142,869 and a sample of 399 respondents. Questionnaire was used as an instrument of data collection. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the demographic characteristics of the respondents and other descriptive data. Multiple regression analysis was used to establish the effect of the independent variable of the study on the dependent variables. The data analysis for the study was done with the aid of SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The findings of the study were that a positive relationship exist between Corporate Social Responsibility and Standard of Living and the relationship is statistically significant ($p<0.05$) and in line with a priori expectation. A positive relationship exist between Corporate Social Responsibility and Access to Education and the relationship is statistically significant ($p<0.05$) and in line with a priori expectation. A negative relationship exists between Corporate Social Responsibility and Life Expectancy and the relationship is not statistically significant ($p>0.05$) and not in line with a priori expectation. A positive relationship exist between Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and level of Employment and the relationship is statistically significant ($p<0.05$) and in line with a priori expectation. It was concluded that business organizations operate in given environment characterized by dynamism, complexity and uncertainty. The level of employment provided by the company in the study area is not very high, hence there is need that management of the company pay a good attention on the impact adequate job provision will have on the lives of the people in the study area.

Keywords: *Corporate Social Responsibility, Socio-economic Development, Standard of Living, Employment and Education Delta State, Nigeria*

INTRODUCTION

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a central topic of discussion among academics, researchers, and practitioners, yet there is no universally agreed-upon definition. Hopkins (2013) highlights the challenges in having a common language to discuss CSR, noting that it's difficult to gauge if corporate dialogues on CSR are being consistently interpreted. Despite the lack of consensus, there is growing recognition of the impact corporations have on various stakeholders, including employees, customers, communities, investors, and the environment. Hohnen (2007) suggests that businesses, by considering their impact on society, can enhance their long-term wealth while contributing positively to overall societal well-being. Ananaba and Chukwuka (2016) argue that the long-term success of executives depends on maintaining good relationships with a variety of stakeholders, particularly through CSR initiatives that address risk management. They emphasize that businesses cannot thrive in societies plagued by issues like corruption, political instability, or violence. Despite this, some scholars, such as Friedman (2011) and Freeman (2014), question whether corporations should be responsible for addressing social issues, arguing that their primary role is to maximize profits for shareholders. On the other hand, Porter and Kramer (2012) contend that CSR can increase productivity and profitability, which in turn benefits shareholder value.

The concept of CSR has evolved significantly since the 1950s. Research by Secchi (2015) and Lee (2016) shows that CSR's definition has shifted from being largely philanthropic to focusing on business-society relations. The classical view was centered around corporate philanthropy, but over time, it has expanded to include a business's role in solving societal issues. Early CSR theorists, like Oliver Sheldon (1923), argued that businesses should raise ethical standards and contribute to societal welfare by efficiently using resources. Today, CSR is seen as a commitment by businesses to consider the interests of society, complying with laws and voluntarily improving the well-being of employees, communities, and other stakeholders. It involves activities such as socially responsible investments, community partnerships, and environmental sustainability. Many argue that organizations engage in CSR out of self-interest rather than purely altruistic motives. Moon (2001) suggests that the primary motivation behind CSR is not just commercial benefit but also enhancing a company's image and reputation. Companies often aim to improve their public perception through CSR initiatives, which can result in long-term benefits, such as increased visibility, improved corporate image, and the ability to mitigate negative publicity. Mandina, Maravire, and Masere (2014) emphasize that CSR's marketing objectives include enhancing a company's image, creating a positive reputation, and increasing long-term organizational performance.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

In Nigeria, corporate social responsibility (CSR) is often viewed as corporate philanthropy, with companies typically engaging in community development projects such as scholarships, donations to sports, charity work, and small-scale projects aimed at generating employment and skill acquisition. These CSR activities are often reported in annual reports to show compliance. However, in recent years, many organizations, especially in the Niger Delta region, have turned CSR into a platform for advertising, using their profits to fund such initiatives rather than solely rewarding shareholders.

Despite these efforts, CSR is not always well-supported by all members of a company's board of directors, which can impede the successful execution of CSR projects. Research on CSR in emerging economies, such as Nigeria, highlights a gap in understanding the true impact and practice of CSR in non-western contexts. There is a need for more research to explore whether CSR theory accurately reflects the reality of CSR practices in Nigeria and other developing nations, especially given the significant variations in the way CSR is implemented across different industries.

In many Nigerian companies, CSR is still largely viewed as charity, with businesses fulfilling statutory obligations by publishing fictitious CSR figures to meet regulatory requirements. Since CSR activities do not directly generate profits, shareholders often perceive them as misallocations of funds. This has led to ongoing debates about whether CSR is a waste of shareholder wealth or whether it truly creates value. In light of these concerns, this study seeks to explore the relationship between CSR and socio-economic development in the study area, examining whether CSR initiatives contribute to the betterment of the local community.

The main objective of this study is to assess the effect of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on the socio-economic development of Delta State. The specific objectives are to: (i) assess the effect of CSR on the standard of living in Delta State, (ii) determine the effect of CSR on access to education in Delta State, (iii) examine the effect of CSR on life expectancy in Delta State, and (iv) assess the effect of CSR on the level of employment in Delta State. These objectives guide the study's hypotheses, which aim to establish the extent to which CSR activities contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

LITERATURE REVIEW

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

LEGITIMACY THEORY

Legitimacy Theory, propounded by Mark Suchman in 1985, suggests that organizations continuously strive to align their operations with societal norms and expectations to maintain legitimacy. Legitimacy is dynamic, evolving with societal values over time, and is crucial for organizations to survive and succeed. The theory emphasizes the importance of gaining societal approval, particularly through environmental and social disclosures, which are central to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. Implicit expectations are legislated by law, while explicit expectations stem from societal norms, including ethical treatment of stakeholders and environmental responsibility.

The theory posits that organizations must meet societal expectations to secure the resources necessary for their operations. Failure to meet these expectations can lead to a "legitimacy gap," where a company's operations are seen as misaligned with societal norms. This gap can arise even when a company initially complies with norms, as changes in those norms or a failure to disclose important information can undermine perceived legitimacy. Legitimacy can be maintained, repaired, or established through disclosures, which can be either symbolic (cosmetic changes) or substantive (actual operational changes), influencing how CSR practices are perceived and their real-world impact.

Legitimacy Theory is relevant to understanding the relationship between CSR and socio-economic development, especially in regions like Delta State. Companies engaging in CSR activities must align with local community expectations, which can enhance their legitimacy. The theory provides a framework for understanding how CSR activities, such as community development projects, help companies maintain legitimacy. While the theory is empirically testable and offers insights into the impact of CSR disclosures on societal perceptions, it is limited by its focus on external perceptions, which may not always align with the actual outcomes of CSR activities. Despite this, it remains a valuable tool for analyzing the role of CSR in socio-economic development.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) represents a company's commitment to minimizing or eliminating any harmful effects and maximizing its long term beneficial impact on society. It can take various forms: from cause related marketing, environment protection, product safety, philanthropy, to fair treatment of employees. However, the general intention of all these activities is to create an image and reputation of a company as responsive to society. In contemporary world of extremely high competition of standardized goods and services within the framework of traditional criteria such as price, quality, brand, etc. active engagement in socially responsible activities enables companies to build on their competitiveness (Joyner and Payne 2012). The concept of social responsibility exists almost since ever but it is only in the last fifty years that scholars began to give a greater attention to it. Joyner and Payne (2012), in particular, think that the first author who identified the concept of social responsibility in companies is Barnard (1938); in the text "*The Functions of the Executives*", he pointed out the importance and the influence that the external environment can have on the decision-making processes of which a manager is responsible. In particular, Barnard said that the one who has the leadership, necessarily has to consider how the success of a company depends also on the moral incentives he can bring to it.

Ghelli (2013) posits that the main elements that a definition of Corporate Social Responsibility should include are three namely: First, the economic dimension that should not be the only concern of a company, but it should be integrated with the environmental and social ones; secondly, companies have responsibilities not only to shareholders, but also to all the stakeholders. Finally, the voluntariness of the introduction of Corporate Social Responsibility practices; this is an action that goes beyond the law and that is not imposed. These are the three pillars that should be part of a good definition of Corporate Social Responsibility. However, the Commission of European Communities; in the Green Paper released in 2001 cited in Dahlsrud (2006) defined CSR as: "a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis". The three main characteristics mentioned above are part of this definition: integration of social and environmental concerns in business, stakeholders instead of shareholders and the voluntary basis of the action. McWilliams and Siegel (2011) describe Corporate Social Responsibility as actions that appear to further some social good, beyond the interest of the firm and that which is required by law.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Social development is a process which results in the transformation of social institutions in a manner which improves the capacity of the society to fulfill its aspirations. It implies a qualitative change in the way the society shapes itself and carries out its activities, such as through more progressive attitudes and behavior by the population, the adoption of more effective processes or more advanced technology. There is a close relation among environments, ways of living and technology (Kurfi 2013). Socio-economic development, thus, is a process of improvement in a variety of ways. It has to influence all aspects of human life in a country. But do you think the concept of socio-economic development takes care of all aspects of development? Its major indicator, the GDP is a specific measure of economic welfare that does not take into account important aspects such as leisure time, environmental quality, freedom, social justice, or gender equality. Another indicator, the per capita income also does not indicate the level of income equality among people. These indicators do not ensure that the benefits of development have been equally distributed and have reached particularly to the

disadvantaged groups of society. Which is why, a new concept of human development is being used. It is focused on the overall quality of life that people enjoy in a country, the opportunities they have and the freedoms they enjoy (Akindele, 2011).

REVIEW OF RELATED EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Scholtens (2008) studied the effect of corporate social responsibility and financial performance in India and simple OLS with distributed lags and Granger causation tests was used and it was found that financial performance precedes social performance. From a business perspective, the CSR will precede financial performance if it is seen as a strategic marketing tool that helps to expand a firm's market share in the short run. In contrast, the financial performance will precede CSR if it is treated as a long term investment that enhances the company's sustainability. This empirical review is different from our own because it used secondary data in the discussion of the variables and as such, the performance indices in both study are different. The conditions for the use of OLS was not satisfied before it was used in the model.

Chin and Chen (2010) examined the determinants of CSR on the financial industry in China. The study was based on the theory postulated by Campbell (2007) and the data were sourced from constituent companies of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (gotten from the Dow Jones World Index) and analyzed with the use of regression analysis. This study opines that the period covered by the study is a bit old to represent the current realities and issues affecting CSR at the moment. The limitations of this empirical review is the ambiguity in the listing of companies used for the study.

Chen and Wang's study (2011) assesses the association between CSR and financial performance by surveying 141 Chinese firms over 2007-2008 periods using regression analysis. They note that variations in CSR and financial performance influence each other significantly, and that CSR activities can both improve the performance in the current year and have a significant relationship with the performance in the coming year. The limitation of this study is that panel data analytical framework was not used for the study. The recommendation from the study might be spurious and misleading.

Olayinka and Temitope (2011) examined the relationship between corporate social responsibility and financial performance in developing economies, taking bearing from Nigeria. Qualitative approach was used. The findings revealed that CSR has a positive and significant relationship with the financial performance measures. The limitation of the study is the choice of qualitative research design in examining the relationship between profitability and CSR is considered inappropriate considering the subjectivity usually involved in qualitative researches. A more objective, quantitative approach would give better insights to the relationship between the variables.

Lucyanda and Siagian (2012) examined the influence of socio economic development characteristics toward Corporate Social Responsibility in Phuket-Thailand. The variables used in the research were standard of live, access to education, life expectancy and level of employment. The study used sample size of 273 firms. The analysis method used was multiple regression analysis. The research found that CSR have significant effect on standard of living, and level of employment and the relationship is statistically significant and in line with *a priori* expectation. The research also found that Access to Education and life expectancy was negatively related to Corporate Social Responsibility. The study's limitation relates to filling CSR Rating System, as there might be subjectivity in rating. Also panel data methodology would have been the best method of data collection and analysis. The weakness of the empirical review is methodological. Panel data analysis is the best statistical tool for this study.

Uwalomwa and Egbide (2012) carried out a study on Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosures in Nigeria: A Study of Listed Financial and Non-Financial Firms. The study is an empirical investigation of the relationship between firms' corporate financial performance and the level of corporate social responsibility disclosures among selected firms in Nigeria. It also looked at the relationship between firms' financial leverage and the level of corporate social responsibility disclosures among selected firms. While the annual reports for the period 2008 was utilized as the main source of data collection for the sampled 41 listed firms, the multiple regression analysis was employed as a statistical technique for analysing the data collected. The study revealed that firms' corporate financial performance and the size of audit firm have a significant positive relationship with the level of corporate social responsibility disclosures among selected firms.

Tsoutsoura (2014) carried out a study in an attempt to address the question whether corporate social responsibility is linked to socioeconomic development. Using regression analysis, he tested the sign of the relationship between corporate social responsibility and the different dimensions of socioeconomic development variables. The study used extensive data covering 442 companies. Results indicate that the sign of the relationship is positive for access to education and life expectancy while standard of living, level of employment, and access to Medicare was negatively related and not in line with *a priori* expectation. The limitation of the empirical study is the none use of panel data methodology.

Ananaba and Chukwuka (2016) studied corporate social responsibility and its implementation in Nigeria's socioeconomic development: problems and prospects. The research adopted the survey research design, as it reviews the literature relating to the problems of implementing CSR in Nigeria. Simple linear regression analysis was used for the study to establish the

effect of CSR on the dimension of socioeconomic development of level of employment. The finding of the study indicates a positive relationship between corporate social responsibility and level of employment in the study area. The study also found that in the course of maximizing profits companies annex natural resources- foreign and local, as a result impacting positively and negatively in the environment where it exists. The study noted that interest in implementing CSR, political and social insecurity poses as a serious obstacle to companies to implement CSR effectively and efficiently in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

In this section, the research methodology is divided into eight sections which are research design, population; sample size determination, sources of data and instrument for data collection, reliability and validity test. The chapter is concluded with a description of data analysis adopted for his research.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The researcher adopted the survey research design. This is because the research survey studies small populations to discover the relative incidence, the distribution and interrelations of some certain variable. It involves the use of questionnaires, and generalization of the results of the sample of the population from which it is drawn. Also, the design is out to collect data that is in total agreement with the main objectives of the study.

STUDY AREA

The study area is Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. By the mid-19th century, Sapele was established as a trading village, occasionally visited by Europeans. In 1891, the British government established a vice-consulate at Sapele. The population grew to 33,638 by 1952, including people from many Nigerian tribes.

Today, the city has one of Nigeria's major ports. Its industries include the processing of timber, rubber, and palm oil, as well as furniture, tamarind balm and footwear manufacturing. As of 1995, its population was 135,800. And as of 2005/2006, the population of this advancing city is 142,868. Sapele was one of African biggest timber producer.

POPULATION

In this research, the population of interest is made up of management staff of Saplat Petroleum Development Company, Delta State and the people of Sapele L.G.A., Delta State. They are made up of 142,868 persons according to the 2006 population census. Saplat Petroleum Development Company, Delta State has a population of 216 employees. Hence the total population to be studied in this study is the 216 staff of the company and the 142, 868 residents of Saplat Petroleum Development Company, Delta State bringing the total population to 142, 868. The choice of Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State is due to the fact that unlike other oil producing communities in the region who have had hostile and turbulent relationship between the oil company and their host community, Sapele Local Government have had a much cordial relationship with multinational oil companies and the Local Government and some stakeholders in the community have stake in Saplat Petroleum Development Company. Hence, this ambient relationship makes the gathering of information for the study of corporate social responsibility very conducive for the researcher and the research assistants used in questionnaire administration.

Table 1: Population Distribution

Saplat Employee	216
Sapele LGA	142,652
Total	142,868

Source: Human Resource Management Saplat (2017)

SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION.

In this study, the respondents for the study were management staff of Saplat Petroleum Development Company, Delta State and citizen of Sapele LGA of Delta State. The Sample size for this research was determined quantitatively using the Taro Yamane formula (1969):

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where N = population
 n = sample size
 e = error

Therefore:

$$N = 142,868$$

$$e = 5\%$$

$$n = \frac{142,868}{1 + 142,868(0.0025)^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 n &= \frac{142,868}{1+142,868(0.0025)} \\
 &= \frac{142,868}{358.17} \\
 &= 398.88 \\
 n &= 399
 \end{aligned}$$

The sample frame is the actual group who are included in the study and from whom the data were collected. For the purpose of this research work, the sample size is 399. Representative of the sample respondents were selected from each of the study areas as shown below:

$$S.F = \frac{\text{sampling size}}{\text{population}} \text{ i.e. } \frac{399}{142,869} = 0.003$$

To determine the individual sample from the various strata of the study, sampling frame (S.F) is used. Consequently, the product of S.F multiplied by the number of respondents gives the number of respondents selected from each of the stratum in the study area.

Table 2: Sample Size Distribution

Population				Sample size		
Employee	0.003	x	216	=	1	
Sapele Respondents	0.003	x	142,652	=	388	
Total				=	399	

Source: *Statistical Computation, 2017*

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

For this research work, data was collected using both primary and secondary data sources. The primary data sources for this research work included operators or employees of Saplat Petroleum Development Company, Delta State, while Secondary data sources came from relevant textbooks, documentaries/directories, journals, newspapers and periodicals.

INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

The major instrument for data collection was a well-structured questionnaire. Other supplementary data collection instruments were personal interviews and observation. A questionnaire is designed to extract specific information. Multiple measures, including rating scales, five point Likert scales, and open- ended questions were employed in the questionnaire. The questionnaire were divided into 2 sections, Sections A composed of demographic characteristics of the respondents whereas Sections B contained the questions on the specific objectives of the study.

VALIDATION OF INSTRUMENTS

In this study, the two most common types of validity, which are content and construct validity, were considered. While content validity was tested through the expert contribution from my team of supervisors, construct validity was tested with the use of factor analytical tool that considered Kaiser- Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity. Having constructed the instrument to be used to collect information for the study, the researcher had to be sure that it measured the rational categories or variable for the intended purpose. To establish the validity of the instrument, the pilot test technique was therefore employed.

VALIDITY OF INSTRUMENT

Table 3: Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin and Bartlett's test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.942
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	4.456
	df	10
	Sig.	.002

Source: *SPSS Output, 2017*

After the pilot test was conducted, the input variable factors used for this study were subjected to explanatory factors analysis to investigate whether the constructs as described in the literature fits the factors derived from the factor analysis. Factor analysis indicates that the KMO (Kaiser- Meyer-Olkin) measure for the study's 4 dependent variables and one independent variable items is 0.942 with Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (BTS) value to be 10 degree of freedom at level of significant p=0.002. The KMO result in this analysis surpasses the threshold value of 0.50 as recommended by Hair, Anderson, Tathan, and Black (1995). Therefore, we are confident that our sample and data are adequate for this study.

Table 4: Component Matrix

	Component		
	1	2	3
CSR	-.067	.886	.078
STDL	.843	-.287	.086
ACED	.761	.257	-.611
LEXP	.689	.467	-.138
LEMP	.192	.239	.809

From Table 4, three variable factors [Standard of Living (STDL), Life Expectancy (LEXP), Access to Education (ACED) loaded more strongly on factors 1 more than other variables. Only one variable Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) loaded more on factor one; and Level of Employment loaded more on factor three than other variables. This shows a strong validity because the various variables were also tested for correlation and it was found that there was a high degree of measures between the measures of the same construct, indicating that correlation exists between them. Thus the critical components in this study had content validity because an extensive review of the literature was conducted in selecting the 5 measurement items.

Table 5: Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	1.470	29.395	29.395	1.470	29.395	29.395	1.357	27.143	27.143
2	1.147	22.946	52.341	1.147	22.946	52.341	1.208	24.155	51.298
3	1.009	20.174	72.515	1.009	20.174	72.515	1.061	21.217	72.515
4	.840	16.799	89.314						
5	.534	10.686	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Source: SPSS Output, 2017

As showed by the table above on the rotated sum of squared loading section, three components i.e components 1, 2 and 3 accounted for 72.515% of the variance of the whole variables of the study this shows that variables have strong construct validity.

RELIABILITY OF INSTRUMENT

This is the consistency between independent measurements of the same phenomenon. It is the stability, dependently and predictability of a measuring instrument. It is also the accuracy or precision of a measuring instrument.

Table 6: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.833	.863	5

Source: SPSS Output, 2017

Table 7: Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
CSR	130.1000	603.463	.140	.103	.831
STDL	129.9500	724.997	.122	.123	.843
ACED	129.9000	695.779	.123	.064	.969
LEXP	126.8000	521.642	.386	.210	.761
LEMP	127.6500	665.608	.063	.016	.756

Source: SPSS Output, 2017

Table 6 shows the reliability statistics which indicates that the Cronbach Alpha value is 0.833. Reliability Cronbach Alpha statistics of 0.70 is considered adequate and reliable for social science study. Hence, the variable of this study falls above the limit of a reliable instrument for research study. Table 7 shows the reliability statistics for the various variables of the study; Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has a reliability coefficient of 0.831. Standard of Living (STDL) has a reliability coefficient of 0.843, Access to Education (ACED) has a reliability of 0.969, Life Expectancy (LEXP) has a reliability of 0.761 while Level Employment (LEMP) has reliability of 0.756. Reliability Cronbach Alpha statistics of 0.70 is considered adequate and reliable for study. Hence, the variables of this study fall above the limit of a reliable instrument for this study. All the constructs falls above an acceptable range for a reliable research instrument of 0.70. This means the instrument can be used for a wide scale analysis for this study.

MODEL SPECIFICATION

Guided by the nexus between the variables of the study, a functional relationship is established between them. As shown below, the implicit form of the model is shown as:

$$\text{Socioeconomic Development} = f(\text{Corporate Social Responsibility})$$

The dependent variables, the socioeconomic development variables have four dimension as used in this study is shown as:

Standard of Living (STDL)

Access to Education (ACED)

Life Expectancy (LEXP)

Level of Employment (LEMP)

Independent Variable

CSR = Corporate Social Responsibility

Implicit Function

$$\text{STDL} = f(\text{CSR}) - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{ACED} = f(\text{CSR}) - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{LEXP} = f(\text{CSR}) - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{LEMP} = f(\text{CSR}) - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (4)$$

In explicit form, the above equation can be written as shown below:

$$\text{STDL} = b_0 + b_1 \text{CSR} + U_t - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (5)$$

$$\text{ACED} = b_0 + b_1 \text{CSR} + U_t - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{LEXP} = b_0 + b_1 \text{CSR} + U_t - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{LEMP} = b_0 + b_1 \text{CSR} + U_t - \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad (8)$$

Where

b_0 = Regression intercept

b_1 = Regression coefficient

U_t = error terms

A priori expectation

$b_1 > 0 =$

METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

In this research, the statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used for data entry and analysis. Various statistical methods were used in analyzing this study: percentages, frequency and tables were used to examine the respondents' bio-data and other research objectives. Simple regression analysis was used to assess the nature and degree of relationship between the dependent variable and a set of independent or predictor variables. However, standard error of the estimate was used to test the 4 hypotheses for this study. *Decision rule:* the following decision rules were adopted for accepting or rejecting hypotheses: if the p-value of the estimate is greater than the critical value we accept the null hypothesis, that is, we accept that the estimate b_i is not statically significant at the 5% level of significance. If the p-value of the estimate is less than the critical value, we reject the null hypothesis, in other words, we accept that the estimate b_i is statistically significant at the 5% level of significance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section is presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents, section two presents the univariate analysis of the study based on specific objectives of the study. Section three deals with the presentation of the regression results. Section four deals with the discussion of the results based on the specific objectives of the study.

Table 8: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	202	54.30%
Female	170	45.70%
Total	372	100.0
Age (years)		
25	130	34.95%
26-35	100	26.88%
36-45	81	21.77%
46 yrs above.	61	16.40%
Total	372	100.0
Education		
First School Leaving Certificate	99	26.61%
ND/NCE	101	27.15%
B.Sc/HND	93	25%
Postgraduate	79	21.24%
Total	372	100.0
Marital Status		
Married	193	51.88%
Single	179	48.12%
Total	372	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The above shows that majority of the respondents 54.30% are male while female respondent constitute 45.70%. This shows the predominance of male respondents in our study area. Majority of the respondents 34.95% are between the ages of 25years, 16.40% of the respondents were between the ages of 46years and above. Also 26.88% of the respondents were between the ages of 26-35, while other 34.95 were 25 years. Concerning the qualification of our respondents, most of the respondents 26.61% had B.Sc/HND as their highest qualification, 27.15% have ND/NCE as their highest education qualification, 26.61% also have their FSLC as the highest level of education they attained 21.24% have Postgraduate as their highest level of qualification.

REGRESSION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 9: Model Summary I

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
I	.58 0 ^a	.460	.344	8.97763	1.553
II	.71 1 ^a	.661	.549	.24140	2.331
III	.24 3 ^a	.509	.007	11.54585	1.874
IV	.87 0 ^a	.757	.644	1.67002	2.500

a. Predictors: (Constant), CSR

b. Dependent Variable: STDL, ACED, LEXP, LEMP

The coefficient of determination (R^2) for the models in the study indicates varying levels of explanatory power by the model's variables. For model I, R^2 is 0.766 (76.6%), suggesting that 46.0% of the variation in the model can be explained by the explanatory variables, with the remaining 54.0% attributed to unexplained variation. Similarly, model II has an R^2 of 0.661 (66.1%), explaining 66.1% of the variation in the data, with 33.9% left unexplained. The Durbin-Watson statistics for both models (1.553 and 2.331) suggest a minimal degree of negative autocorrelation, indicating that the model estimates can be used for prediction. In model III, the R^2 value is 0.509 (50.9%), meaning that 50.9% of the variation is explained by the model, with the remaining 49.1% unexplained. The Durbin-Watson statistic is 1.874, showing minimal negative autocorrelation. For model IV, R^2 is 0.757 (75.7%), indicating that 75.7% of the variation can be explained, with 24.3% left unexplained. The Durbin-Watson statistic of 2.500 for model IV further confirms minimal autocorrelation, suggesting that the model is suitable for prediction.

Table 10 Regression coefficient I

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
I	(Constant)	3.335	5.329	6.255	.000
	CSR	.070	.159	.443	.006
II	(Constant)	.585	6.080	5.031	.000
	CSR	.298	.182	.109	.014
III	(Constant)	2.550	6.854	4.020	.001
	CSR	-.218	.205	-1.063	.176
IV	(Constant)	0.368	7.521	4.038	.001
	CSR	.099	.225	.442	.035

a. Dependent Variable: *STDL, ACED, LEXP, LEMP*

OBJECTIVE ONE: EFFECT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON STANDARD OF LIVING IN DELTA STATE

The findings of the current study indicate a positive and statistically significant relationship between Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the standard of living in Delta State, with CSR contributing to a 10.4% increase in the standard of living. This result aligns with Lucyanda and Siagian (2012), who found that CSR significantly influenced the standard of living in Phuket, Thailand, through community development initiatives and enhanced living conditions. Similarly, Tsoutsoura (2014) reported that CSR's contribution to socio-economic development led to improvements in the standard of living, specifically through educational and infrastructure projects. These findings converge with the positive outcomes observed in the current study. Scholtens (2008) also supports the positive relationship between CSR and living standards, emphasizing that CSR activities, when aligned with community needs, enhance the quality of life and overall socio-economic well-being. In contrast, Chin and Chen (2010) found that CSR had a weaker impact on the standard of living in China's financial industry due to the limited nature of CSR activities, which were often symbolic rather than substantive. However, the current study's findings, showing a significant positive effect, suggest that CSR practices in Delta State are more extensive, particularly in terms of community welfare initiatives. Moreover, Olayinka and Temitope (2011) highlighted that CSR has a positive relationship with living standards in Nigeria, particularly through improved infrastructure and employment opportunities, consistent with the results in the current study. The convergence of these studies indicates a robust link between CSR and standard of living, particularly in regions with extensive CSR initiatives.

However, Uwalomwa and Egbide (2012) raised concerns about the transparency of CSR disclosures in Nigeria, suggesting that some companies overstate their CSR efforts to improve their public image, which might affect the actual impact on the standard of living. This is a potential divergence from the findings of the current study, which suggests that CSR is genuinely improving living standards in Delta State through tangible community development projects. Despite these concerns, the current study's findings reinforce the argument that CSR, when properly implemented, can have a substantial positive impact on the standard of living.

OBJECTIVE TWO: EFFECT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN DELTA STATE

The current study reports a positive and significant relationship between CSR and access to education, with a 25.7% increase in access due to CSR initiatives. This finding is consistent with Tsoutsoura (2014), who identified a positive link between CSR and education in his study, where CSR investments in local education infrastructure contributed to improved access to education. Additionally, Lucyanda and Siagian (2012) also found a positive correlation between CSR and education access, suggesting that CSR activities such as scholarships and school building projects help improve educational opportunities in the region. Scholtens (2008) noted that CSR activities in developing economies often target educational initiatives to foster long-term socio-economic growth. His findings indicate that CSR activities, including partnerships with educational institutions, have a direct effect on improving education access, aligning with the current study's findings. In a similar vein, Ananaba and Chukwuka (2016) found that CSR had a significant positive impact on access to education in Nigeria, particularly in rural areas where schools are underfunded and community-driven CSR initiatives have filled the gaps in educational infrastructure. The convergence of these studies supports the view that CSR plays a crucial role in enhancing access to education in Delta State.

On the other hand, Olayinka and Temitope (2011) raised a cautionary note, indicating that while CSR contributes to education, its benefits might be unevenly distributed due to geographical and socio-economic disparities. While the current study finds a positive effect of CSR on education access, there may still be limitations in reaching marginalized groups or addressing systemic issues such as the quality of education in rural areas. Despite these concerns, the alignment of multiple studies with the current study's findings suggests that CSR is an important driver of educational access.

OBJECTIVE THREE: EFFECT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON LIFE EXPECTANCY IN DELTA STATE

The current study reports a negative relationship between CSR and life expectancy, with CSR leading to a 24.3% decrease in life expectancy. This result diverges from previous studies, such as Tsoutsoura (2014), who found a positive relationship between CSR and life expectancy, as CSR activities often include health programs that improve public health outcomes. The negative result in the current study could be due to environmental degradation caused by CSR activities in the oil-rich Niger Delta, where oil spills and pollution adversely affect health outcomes, thereby lowering life expectancy. Scholtens (2008) also noted that CSR's impact on life expectancy can vary depending on the nature of CSR activities. While CSR initiatives that focus on health and wellness may improve life expectancy, those that contribute to environmental degradation can have the opposite effect, which may explain the negative relationship in the current study. This contrast highlights the complex and sometimes contradictory impact of CSR on life expectancy, especially in environmentally sensitive regions. Moreover, Chin and Chen (2010) observed that CSR's positive effects on life expectancy are often overshadowed by poor environmental management practices, which aligns with the negative findings of the current study.

Ananaba and Chukwuka (2016) found that CSR has a positive impact on life expectancy when the CSR activities are aimed at improving healthcare services and infrastructure. However, their findings were in contrast to the negative relationship observed in the current study, suggesting that the nature of CSR activities plays a key role in determining the health outcomes in a community. In regions where CSR focuses on environmental management and health services, life expectancy can improve. However, in the context of Delta State, the detrimental effects of environmental pollution may outweigh the positive health initiatives.

OBJECTIVE FOUR: EFFECT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN DELTA STATE

The current study finds a positive and statistically significant relationship between CSR and the level of employment in Delta State, with CSR contributing to a 10.4% increase in employment levels. This result aligns with Ananaba and Chukwuka (2016), who found that CSR activities, particularly in the oil and gas sectors in Nigeria, create jobs and improve employment opportunities for local communities. Similarly, Tsoutsoura (2014) reported that CSR activities positively influenced employment levels, especially through the establishment of local businesses and infrastructure projects. Scholtens (2008) emphasized that CSR initiatives that focus on community development, job creation, and skills training can lead to significant improvements in employment levels. The current study's findings support this view, as many CSR initiatives in Delta State are designed to create employment opportunities and enhance skills development. However, Olayinka and Temitope (2011) pointed out that while CSR may increase employment in certain sectors, the overall impact on national unemployment rates may be limited due to the small scale of these initiatives. Despite this limitation, the findings in the current study highlight the significant role of CSR in increasing local employment in Delta State.

Chin and Chen (2010) also supported the positive relationship between CSR and employment, noting that CSR activities that focus on local workforce development and the creation of sustainable jobs can contribute to socio-economic growth. The convergence of these studies with the current study reinforces the idea that CSR plays an important role in addressing employment challenges, especially in developing economies like Delta State. The empirical studies reviewed highlight the significant effects of CSR on various dimensions of socio-economic development, such as standard of living, access to education, life expectancy, and employment levels. While the current study aligns with most of the studies on the positive effects of CSR on living standards, education, and employment, it diverges on the issue of life expectancy, suggesting that environmental degradation might undermine the positive health outcomes of CSR initiatives. The novelty of the current study lies in its focus on the specific context of Delta State, Nigeria, where the interplay of CSR, environmental factors, and socio-economic development offers a unique perspective on CSR's impacts.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

This study assessed the effect of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on the Socio-economic Development of people in Delta State. The literature concludes that business organizations operate in a given environment characterized by dynamism, complexity and uncertainty. And to live in an environment is to take into account every element of their surroundings that is important to their success and important to others who may be affected by it. Thus, the organization must take into consideration the interests of its stakeholders in the performance of their corporate duties. The survival of the enterprise depends on the successful interaction with the organization and its stakeholders. The study noted that this continual interaction with the environment gives rise to a number of broader responsibilities to society in general which are both internal and external to the organization. The study extensively examined how corporate social responsibility contributed to the socioeconomic development variables of standard of living, access to education, life expectancy and level of employment. The result found that corporate social responsibility has a significant contribution to the socioeconomic development of the study area proxied by the above listed socioeconomic development variables.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The life expectancy of the people can be improved if the company invests more in corporate social responsibility as it will increase the life expectancy of the people in the study area.
- ii. The company should invest more in education in the study area as this will improve the company's reputation by creating good image in the mind of the citizen. Gaining Stakeholders trust will impact on company's profitability and success and thus lead to a positive impact on the financial performance of a firm.
- iii. As with the passage of time competition between the firms is increasing and stakeholders can easily switch from one firm to another therefore firms should do more and more to attract stakeholders so that company's financial performance will be increased. Therefore, firms should spend on performing socially responsible activities.
- iv. The level of employment provided by the company in the study area is not very high, hence there is need that management of the company pay a good attention on the impact adequate job provision will have on the lives of the people in the study area.

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