

Infrastructural Planning Development Projects Realized from Forest Royalties in Eyumojock Sub-Division, South West Region of Cameroon.

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Abstract

The vast expanse of forest with its valuable and rich species of timber resources in Eyumojock Sub-Division has attracted timber logging companies who come to harvest the timber logs with several species of high market value. These companies upon exploitation of timber, in turn disburse forest royalties to the local community. This study was conducted to assess the infrastructural planning development projects realized from forest royalties in Eyumojock Sub-Division. A descriptive research design was used with both primary and secondary data collected and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Results revealed infrastructures realized from forest royalties in Eyumojock Sub-Division which included educational institutions, healthcare centres, rehabilitated roads, pipe borne water and electricity supply network. These development projects realized from forest royalties were used by the local population for improved local livelihoods and amelioration of living conditions in the study area. The conclusion drawn was that royalty is statutory with the forestry law which specifies that timber logging companies are supposed to disburse annual forest royalties to local communities that adjoins the forest. Thus, timber logging companies have created significant impacts on all localities found within the Forest Management Units of 11-001, 11-005 and 11-003 in Eyumojock Sub-Division. The study recommends the ministry of finance to increase annual forestry royalties for the realization of more infrastructures from socio-economic development projects. Beneficiaries of forest royalties should ensure appropriate use for infrastructural development through the use of local building materials and labour for improved growth in the study area.

Keywords: *Infrastructural Planning, Development Projects, Forest Royalties, Eyumojock Sub-Division.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Many western nations like the United States, Canada, France and the United Kingdom as well as emerging economic power houses like China often exploit Africa's natural resources today, causing most of the value and money from the natural resources to go to the West and East Asia rather than Africa, further causing the poverty in Africa (Buncombe, 2006).

Most often, these resources are naturally found in rural communities inhabited by local inhabitants. The forest harbours timber resources that play a key role in the economic development of Cameroon and is the third most important sector after hydrocarbons and agriculture (Soh, 2016).

According to the forestry law, timber logging companies undertaking logging in a community that adjoin the forest and its timber resources are obliged to disburse annual forest royalties to the local community. Eyumojock Sub-Division abounds with timber resources. If these resources are not exploited, transformed and utilized, they cannot generate lucrative investment and wealth by timber logging companies. Forest royalties emanating from timber logging companies is important for infrastructural planning development projects of the local community that adjoin the forest. Since sustainable development involves improvements in the socio-economic and ecological arena, there is a salient need for stakeholders (forest companies, government, and civil society) to be actively engaged in the execution of infrastructures and improving the living standards of the communities (Alemagi, 2011)

From the year 2006 to 2014, the General Tax Code of 1st of January 2014 of the Directorate General of Taxation at the Ministry of Finance, Republic of Cameroon in Division II of Section 243 stated the proceeds of annual forestry royalties as 50% for the State, 40% for the Councils and 10% for the village communities. The

disbursement is pursued as expected as the local community that harbours the timber resource has 10% of forest royalties as compared to that of the State and the Councils. From the year 2015 to 2019, the General Tax Code of 1st of January 2019 of the Directorate General of Taxation at the Ministry of Finance, Republic of Cameroon in Division II of Section 243 stated the proceeds of annual forestry royalties as 50% for the State and 50% for the Councils.

However, timber resources are constantly being exploited due to the desires and anthropogenic activities of mankind. The high demand for timber resources resulting to timber logging and the insufficient infrastructural development of forest dependent communities in Eyumojock Sub-Division is an urgent call to ensure that, timber logging should improve on infrastructural development of the rural masses via forest royalties. Resource rents from timber harvests are a critical source of revenue for poor forest-dwelling communities in many tropical countries, including Papua New Guinea (Micah, Baynes and Herbohn, 2019).

According to the forestry law, timber logging companies are obliged to disburse annual forest royalties to local communities in Eyumojock Sub-Division via the Council (Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries regulations). This study aims to assess the infrastructural planning development projects realized from forest royalties in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In order to assess the infrastructural planning development projects realized from forest royalties in Eyumojock Sub-Division, the concepts reviewed in this study are infrastructural planning development projects and forest royalties.

2.1 Infrastructural Planning Development Projects

Kim *et al.*, (2006) echoed the view that estimate from forest revenues in Cambodia is based on available information on harvested wood, operable logging areas and forestry taxes. The authors estimated forest royalties for the realisation of infrastructural projects. They noted that wood product, sawn wood and veneer wood was analysed in three major forests in Cambodia and further estimated forest revenues based on royalty rates, taxes for reforestation or forest maintenance and protection, exports, customs and export license.

For comparison, revenues were analysed under three scenarios such as business as usual (BAUSU), long-term economic gains (LEGA) and climate beneficial option (CLIBO). Under the BAUSU scenario wood production in Cambodia was estimated at about 1.6 million m³ per year, of which 0.7 million m³, 0.2 million m³ and 0.6 million m³ are from evergreen, mixed and deciduous forests and estimates were within wood production previously estimated in Cambodia (Kim *et al.*, 2006). Annual forest revenues from all forests were estimated to be US \$3639, US \$5095 and US \$6550 per ha and the country's total annual revenues were estimated at US \$111.7 million, US \$156.3 million, US \$201.0 million under the BAUSU, LEGA and CLIBO scenarios and these results were also within the range of previous forest revenue estimates by independent organizations in Cambodia (*ibid*).

Therefore, royalty charged on wood product was a major source of forest revenues and Kim *et al.*, (2006) further noted that the conversion of wood to sawn wood and veneer also plays an important role in generating revenues. The study looks at the changes in the study area brought about by infrastructural planning development projects realized from forest royalties.

2.2 Forest Royalties

Mumbunan and Wahyudi (2016) pointed out that the link between forest revenue administration and under performance of revenues from legal timber have received little attention. They noted that revenues from forest royalty and reforestation fund fee comprised of two important forest non-tax revenues in Indonesia whose tropical forest had been under threat of extensive deforestation particularly from commercial timber logging. Forest royalty revenues represented 52% while revenue from reforestation fund fee was 34% and hence forest royalties play a role in alleviating poverty via the realisation of social amenities (Mumbunan and Wahyudi, 2016). This study seeks to address the influence of forest royalties on livelihoods in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

Amalu *et al.*, (2016) examined the extent to which royalties generated from forest resources contributed to community development in Boki Local Government area of Cross River State, Nigeria. They indicated a strong and positive relationship between royalties collected from forest resources and the number of planning developmental projects in the study area and more efforts should be directed towards the monitoring and regulation of forest resource exploration activities in the area to ensure that, royalties collected are directed towards the establishment of more infrastructural planning developmental projects in the area to impact more positively on the living standard of the people. This study further seeks ways to show the contribution of forest royalties from timber logging in the realization of infrastructural planning development projects in Eyumojock Sub-Division of Cameroon.

Flegt Briefing Notes (2007) defined forest royalties as a royalty payment with respect to the right to exploit forest resources including timber. Forests are a source of timber products, an ecosystem composed of trees along with myriad forms of biological diversity, a home for indigenous people, a repository for carbon storage, a

source of multiple ecosystem services and as social-ecological systems (Chazdon *et al.*, 2016). The term royalties may be defined as “any payment for the right to use intellectual property” and would specifically involve three categories, i.e. the copyright, industrial rights and know-how (Heredia, 2007).

Forest Royalties is operationalised as revenues from a logging company disburse to the local community via the council that adjoins the forest due to the exploitation of timber resources. In Cameroon, the royalty allocation is 10% for communities as enshrined in Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries regulations in Cameroon.

III. THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Study Area

Eyumojock Sub-Division is found in Manyu Division of the South West region of Cameroon. It covers a total surface area of approximately 3,442 km². It is situated some 45km from Mamfe the capital of Manyu Division and about 300km from the South West regional capital, Buea. Eyumojock Sub-Division shares its western boundary with the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in the north by Akwaya Sub-Division, Upper Bayang and Mamfe Central Sub-Division occupies the eastern boundary while the south is shared with the Mundemba and Toko in Ndian Division.

Eyumojock Sub-Division was estimated at about 35,999 inhabitants by the third General Population Census (BUCREP, 2005). With an annual growth rate of 2.6, the population of Eyumojock Sub-Division was estimated at about 50,252 inhabitants in the year 2018 (BUCREP, 2005 and Projections to 2018). Simultaneously, the population of Eyumojock Sub-Division was estimated at about 58,616 inhabitants in the year 2024 (BUCREP, 2005 and Projections to 2024).

Eyumojock Sub-Division has 66 villages with an estimated population of about 46,771 inhabitants (Eyumojock Council Development Plan, 2011). With an annual growth rate of 2.6, Eyumojock Sub-Division with 66 villages has an estimated population of about 55,974 inhabitants in the year 2018 (Eyumojock Council Development Plan, 2011 and Projections to 2018). It constitutes of one ethnic group called Ejaghams. Kembong was seen to have the highest population with 6,350 inhabitants, followed by Ossing with 4,650 inhabitants and the least populated village is Abakpa with 25 inhabitants as presented on Figure 1.

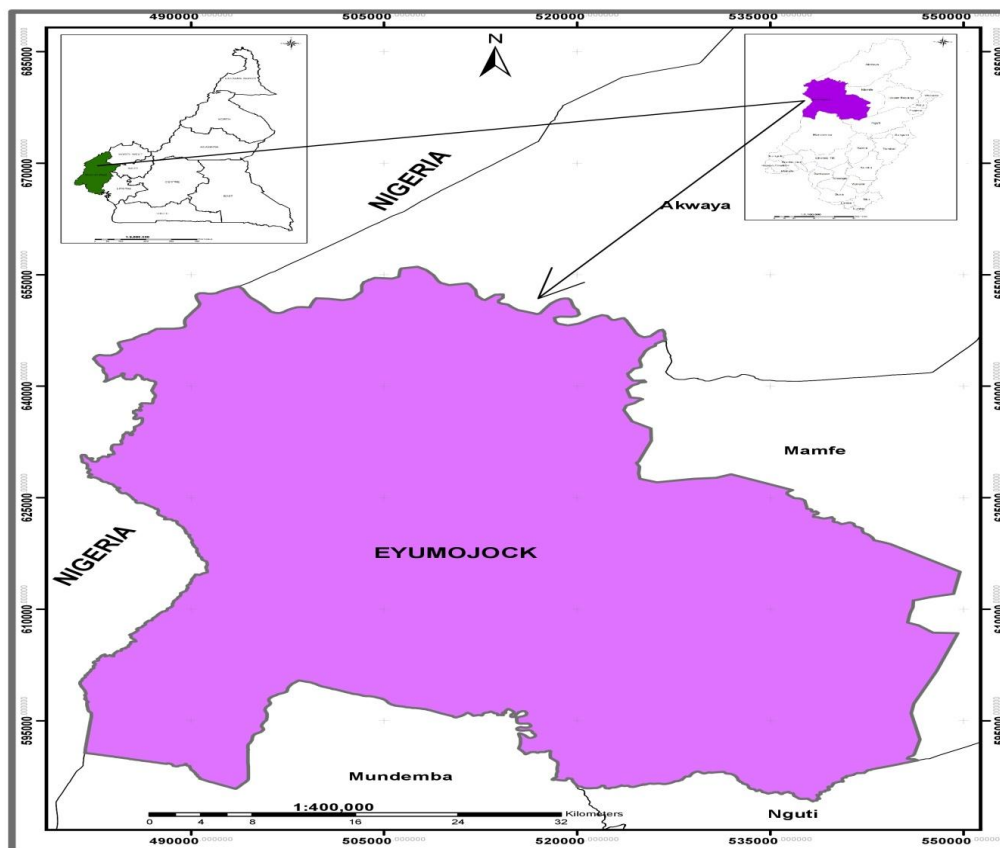


Figure 1: Location of Eyumojock Sub-Division in the South West Region of Cameroon.

Source: Buea-Douala Topographic Map NB-32-iv.

3.2 Methodology

A combination of primary and secondary data was used in this study. Primary data were gotten from a total of 700 questionnaires within 12 selected villages (Ewelle, Kembong, Mfuni, Ossing, Ndebaya, Babong, Araru, Bakut, Bakwelle, Taboh, Mbakem, Ayukaba) in the Forest Management Units of 11-001, 11-005 and 11-003. A simple random sampling was used to select villages adjoining the forest and benefiting from forest royalties. Field observations and on-the-spot appraisals provided data on the varied development projects of the study area and pictures taken to express the state of the infrastructure at present. This observation permitted a visual evaluation on the current state of educational institutions, healthcare centres, rehabilitation of roads, pipe borne water and electricity supply network in Eyumojock Sub-Division vis-à-vis infrastructure planning development. Out of 700 questionnaires that were administered, 634 questionnaires were retrieved. Available data required also provided an opportunity for an approximate appreciation of the complexity of the study area. This was complemented by secondary data and interviews with the local council authorities. Information gotten from the Council enabled the acquisition of data on the development and implementation of forestry law that outlined timber logging companies' disbursement of annual forest royalties to local communities in the study area. The data collected was treated using Excel and SPSS software and inferential statistical techniques presented on figures and tables. Chi square technique was used to describe the impacts of forest royalties on infrastructural planning development projects to improve local livelihoods in Eyumojock Sub-Division. In relation to the impacts of forest royalties on development projects, the Likert scale measurement was used to rank responses in terms of the impacts created.

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaires as a Percentage of the Total Sampled Population.

Sub-Divisions	Forest Concessions	FMUs	Villages	No. of Questionnaires administered	Total No. of Respondents	% Score of Questionnaires
Eyumojock	1086	11-001	Ewelle	70	61	87.1
			Kembong	70	65	92.9
			Mfuni	80	73	91.3
			Ossing	80	69	86.3
	1087	11-005	Ndebaya	80	74	92.5
			Babong	80	76	95
			Araru	35	32	91.4
			Bakut	25	21	84
	1089	11-003	Bakwelle	34	30	88.2
			Taboh	36	32	88.9
			Mbakem	70	65	92.9
			Ayukaba	40	36	90
Subtotal				700	634	90.6

Source: Field work, 2018.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS OF RESULTS

Planning Infrastructure Development in Eyumojock Sub-Division

According to the Forestry Law, timber logging companies undertaking logging in a community that adjoin the forest and its timber resources are obliged to disburse annual forest royalties to the local community.

As stipulated by Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries regulations in Cameroon, Chapter IV of the Financial and Fiscal Provisions on Section 67: Sub 2 stipulates that councils shall, for the exploitation of their forests, receive the selling price of forest products and the annual royalty for the forest area.

The presence of timber logging concession has greatly limited local peoples' access to non-timber forest products and hunting. To compensate for this, logging companies must disburse forest royalties for the realization of infrastructural planning development projects of the local community. From sampled opinions about the impacts of forest royalties, 71.6% of respondents opined that forest royalties have positive impact in the realization of infrastructural planning development projects in the study area. While a lesser 28.4% of respondents attested to forest royalties not creating any impact on projects realization as illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: Perception on Impacts of Forest Royalties on realization of Development Projects in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

Sub-Division	Village	Forest royalties have an impact on planning development projects				Total
		Yes		No		
		N	%	N	%	
Eyumojock	Araru	10	31.3	22	68.8	32
	Ayukaba	27	79.4	7	20.6	34
	Babong	31	40.3	46	59.7	77
	Bakut	12	57.1	9	42.9	21

	Bakwelle	30	100	0	0	30
	Ewelle	54	87.1	8	12.9	62
	Kembong	59	90.8	6	9.2	65
	Mbakem	49	79	13	21	62
	Mfuni	60	87	9	13	69
	Ndepaya	44	59.5	30	40.5	74
	Ossing	43	63.2	25	36.8	68
	Taboh	28	90.3	3	9.7	31
	Total	448	71.6	178	28.4	626

Source: Field work, 2019

This study assesses the realization of infrastructural planning development projects from forest royalties to improve local livelihoods. Some of the indicators from forest royalties were livelihoods benefits, socioeconomic projects realization, provision of opportunities to creating social facilities like pipe borne water and advantages from forest royalties have improved the local community. These variables and indicators of forest royalties were affirmed with responses from respondents were they either agree or disagree according to the Likert scale measurement.

As shown on Figure 2 in Eyumojock Sub-Division 32.4% of respondents disagreed that forest royalties are beneficial to livelihoods while a greater 64.8% agreed that forest royalties are beneficial to livelihoods thereby revealing a great significant impact to the local community. With regards to Table 3 on the benefits of forest royalties to livelihoods of the study area, the mean score is 3.27 with a standard deviation of 1.214. This implies that benefits of forest royalties to livelihoods are significant as the mean score is greater than 3.

Figure 2 in Eyumojock Sub-Division on the local livelihood's indicator of forest royalties is used for the realization of infrastructural planning development projects explained that 8.8% disagreed that forest royalties are used for the realization of projects while a greater proportion of 90.9% agreed that forest royalties are used for the realization of projects. With respect to Table 3 on forest royalties and the realization of development projects; the mean score is 3.90 with a standard deviation of 0.979. This shows that forest royalties are used for the realization of infrastructural planning development projects is significant as the mean score is greater than 3.

According to Figure 2 the local livelihood's indicator of infrastructural planning development projects achieved from forest royalties was an opportunity to provide pipe borne water said that 77.2% disagreed that projects realized from forest royalties was an opportunity to provide pipe borne water while 4.7% agreed that projects achieved from forest royalties was an opportunity to provide pipe borne water. With regards to Table 3 on infrastructural planning development projects achieved from forest royalties was an opportunity to provide pipe borne water in Eyumojock Sub-Division; the mean score is 1.87 with a standard deviation of 0.992. This shows that projects achieved from forest royalties was an opportunity to provide pipe borne water is not significant as the mean score is below 3. The effect is demonstrated with results which portray a greater 57.9% affirming how beneficial forest royalties improved livelihood as seen on figure 2.

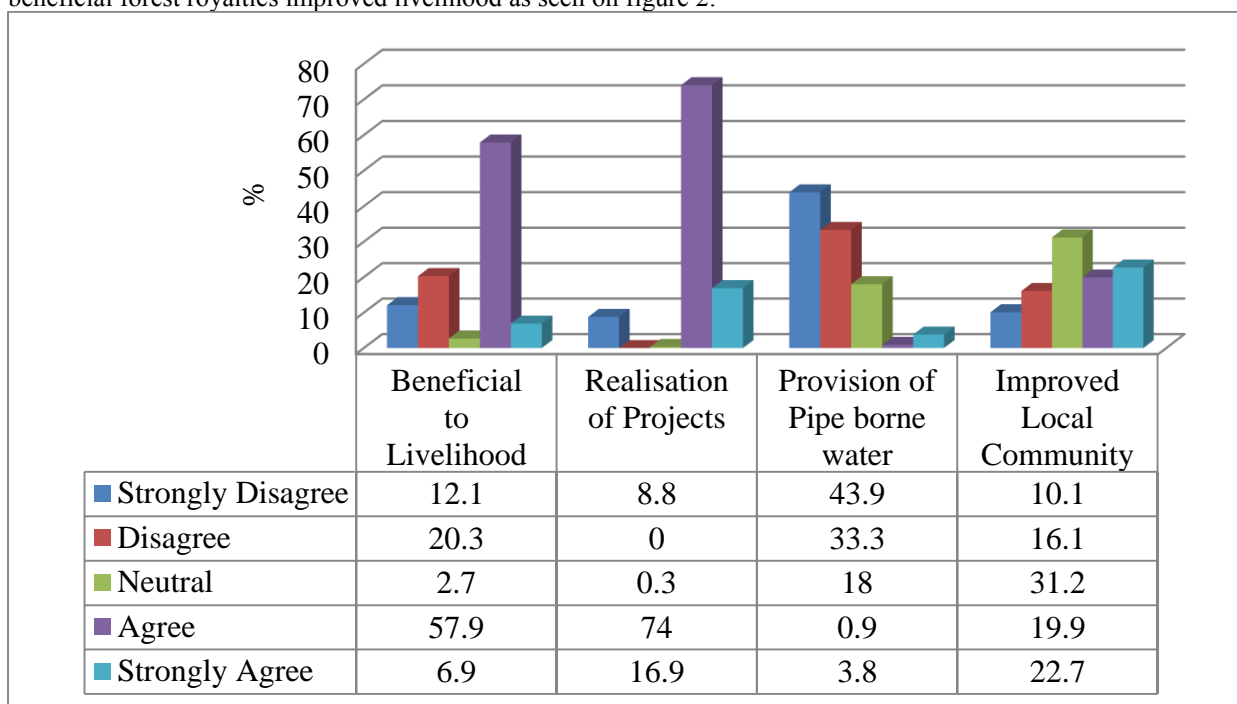


Figure 2: Impacts of Forest Royalties on Infrastructural Planning Development Projects to improve Local Livelihoods in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

Source: Field work, 2019

Figure 2 reveals that the local livelihood's indicator of advantages from forest royalties have improved the local community affirmed that 26.2% disagreed that the advantages from forest royalties have improved the local communities while 42.6% agreed that the advantages from forest royalties have improved the local community. In relation to Table 3 on advantages from forest royalties have improved the local community in the study area, indicates that the mean score is 3.29 with a standard deviation of 1.261. This reveals that the advantages from forest royalties have improved the local community is significant as the mean score is greater than 3 as presented on Table 3.

Table 3: Summary Descriptive Statistics on Impacts of Forest Royalties on Infrastructural Planning Development Projects to Improve Local Livelihoods in Eyumojock Sub-Division

Items on Impacts of Forest Royalties on Planning Development Projects to improve Local Livelihoods	N	Sum	Mean	Std. Dev	Rank	¹ Decision based on mean score
Forest royalties is managed and use for the execution of projects	634	2473	3.90	0.979	1 st	Significant
The advantages from forest royalties have improved the local community	634	2086	3.29	1.261	2 nd	Significant
Forest royalties is beneficial to my livelihood	634	2074	3.27	1.214	3 rd	Significant
The projects realised from forest royalties was an opportunity to provide pipe borne water	633	1186	1.87	0.992	4 th	Not significant

Source: Field work (September 2018-March 2019).

¹Overall mean score is 3. If an item's mean score is below 3, it is a tendency towards high disagreement (not significant); and if a mean score is greater than 3 it is tendency toward high agreement (significant) from population.

Using the Pearson chi-square at 0.05 levels of significance (2-sided), the findings revealed that there was a significant strong positive correlation between forest royalties for the realization of infrastructural planning development projects to improve local livelihoods. The findings in this study also corroborates the works of Mumbunan and Wahyudi (2016) who noted that revenues from forest royalties play a role in alleviating poverty via the realization of socio-economic amenities. Forest royalties are used for the realization of community infrastructure and development activities that support the livelihoods of the local people (Dev *et al.*, 2003).

Responses from respondents in Eyumojock Sub-Division showed that majority of the respondents (71.6%) indicated that forest royalties are used for the realization of infrastructural planning development projects that have an impact on local livelihoods. These findings are in line with the study of Kim *et al.*, (2006) who estimated that forest royalties are used for the realization of infrastructural planning development projects that have an impact on local livelihoods. Moreover, questionnaire responses from respondents in Eyumojock Sub-Division made it clear that majority of the respondents ascertained that infrastructural planning development projects realized from forest royalties were used by the local population with an impact on local livelihoods.

The main and the least infrastructures achieved in Eyumojock Sub-Division is pipe borne water (33.3%) and electricity supply network (0.79%) respectively as indicated in Figure 3.

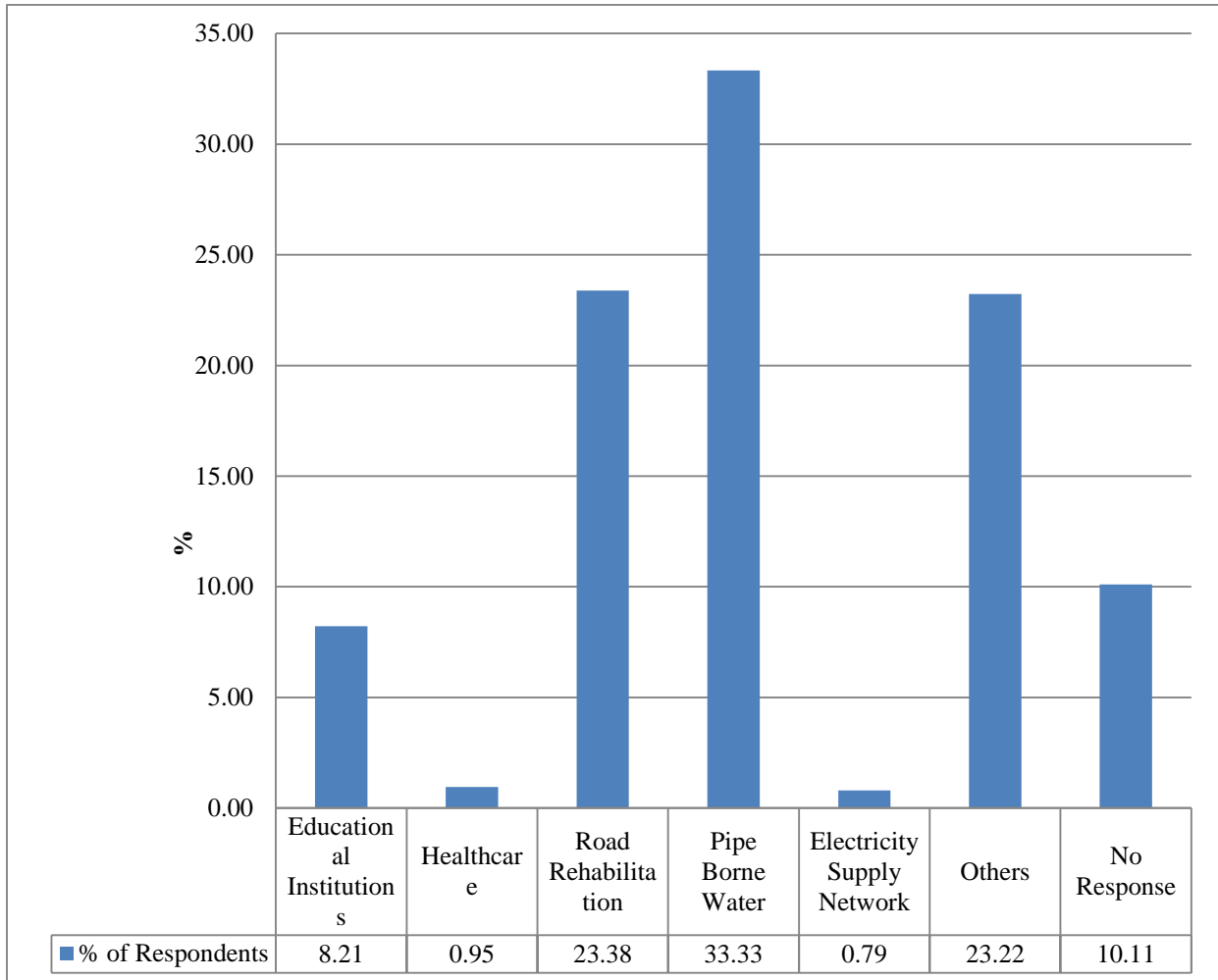


Figure 3: The Proportion of Infrastructures achieved from Forest Royalties in Eyumojock Sub-Division.
Source: Field work, 2019

✓ Educational Institutions

Figure 4 in Eyumojock Sub-Division reveals that educational institutions were achieved from forest royalties as narrated by the respondents as illustrated (Figure 4). The respondents mentioned 4.6% moderate, 45.6% little while 49.8% indicated none.



Longitude
(6°4")

Latitude
(5°3")

Elevation
(139m)

Figure 4: A Primary School constructed with wood forest resource in Mbakem village in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

Source: Field work, 2019

✓ Provision of Healthcare Centres

Figure 4 in Eyumojock Sub-Division reveal that healthcare centres were achieved from forest royalties with the use of wood which is a forest resource. The percentage of respondents and the category are 15% moderate, 8.4% little while 76.7% was none.

✓ Rehabilitation of Roads

With respect to Figure 4 in Eyumojock Sub-Division, result shows that the respondents said that rehabilitation of roads was achieved from forest royalties. The respondents said 10.6% single, 37.5% moderate, 27.4% little and 24.4% for none.

✓ Creation of Pipe Borne Water

Amongst the facilities benefited from forest royalties was the creation of pipe borne water supply in the local communities with the Forest management units as illustrated on Figure 5.



Longitude
(6°3")

Latitude
(5°1")

Elevation
(137m)

Figure 5: Construction of a Public Tap for the provision of potable water supply in Bakut village in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

Source: Field work, 2019

With regards to Figure 4 in Eyumojock Sub-Division, the result indicates that the respondents expressed that potable pipe borne water were achieved from forest royalties as illustrated in Figure 4 and 5. The respondents expressed 13.6% single, 3.6% mainly, 19.9% moderate, and 15.5% little while 47.5% for none.



Longitude
(6°4")

Latitude
(5°3")

Elevation
(139m)

Figure 6: Construction of a Bore Hole for the provision of potable water supply in Ayukaba village in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

Source: Field work, 2019.

✓ Electricity Network Supply in the Study Area

Figure 7 in Eyumojock Sub-Division made known that electricity supply network was achieved from forest royalties. The respondents explained 15.6% moderate, 27.3% little and 57.1% for none.

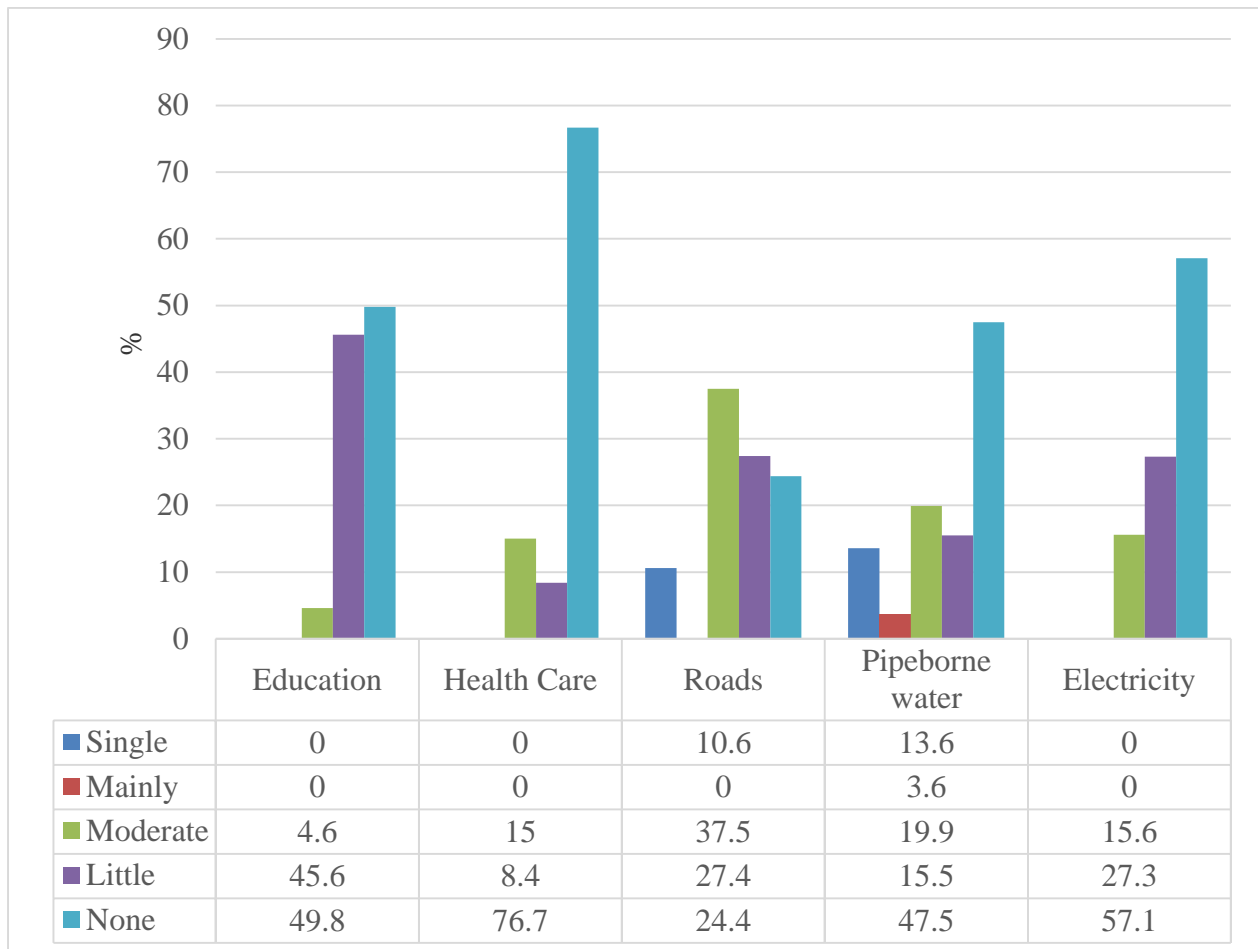


Figure 7: Respondents' views of Infrastructures achieved from Forest Royalties in Eyumojock Sub-Division.

Source: Field work, 2019.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Investigations from this study affirm that royalties from forest exploitation has contributed positively to the amelioration of living conditions and livelihood of the local community in Eyumojock Sub-Division. Majority of respondents ascertained that infrastructural planning development projects realized from forest royalties were used by the local population on diverse purposes which create positive impact on the local livelihoods. According to the findings, there was a significantly strong positive correlation between the infrastructural planning development projects realized from forest royalties and impact on local livelihoods. Forest Royalties are used in the study area for the realization of infrastructural development projects. And some of the development projects realized from forest royalties used by local populations of Eyumojock Sub-Divisions included educational institutions, healthcare centres, rehabilitation of roads, pipe borne water and electricity network supply among others. The rapid analysis of the payment of forest royalties by forest logging companies in turn to the communities in the study area reveals a sector undergoing substantial change. In this regard, the recommendations proposed are:

a) Since the village communities adjoin the forest where timber logging is carried out and are characterised with insufficient socio-economic amenities, there is the need for the Ministry of Finance to increase the annual forestry royalties of 10% for the village communities. The local community harbours the forest and its timber resource with poor living conditions. The increment of annual forestry royalties is vital to augment the level of realization of socio-economic infrastructural planning development projects to ameliorate the livelihoods of inhabitants.

b) The Councils are local planning development authorities with technical services equipped with technical skills in the domain of Town Planning, Civil, Rural and Electrical Engineering. It is the responsibility of the Council through the technical services to liaise with the local community to initiate, elaborate, realize and control the execution of infrastructural planning development projects during realization with funds from forest royalties for the benefits of the entire local community.

C) The local communities who are the beneficiary of forest royalties should ensure that the disbursed forest royalties should be properly utilized for the execution of projects to improve livelihoods. This can be achieved through the participation of the local masses in projects initiation and follow-up of execution, the use of local labour, the use of local construction materials and the training of the local population on the control execution of infrastructural planning projects to ameliorate the livelihoods of local community dwellers.

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