

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF  
EDO STATE**

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**BENIN CITY**

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**BEING A RESEARCH PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF  
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ADMINISTRATION.**

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## CERTIFICATION

We certify that this project was carried out by **Osuzoka Alexander Ndubisi** with Matriculation number **SSC1910381** in the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin.

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated first to God the Almighty.

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“Gloria in excelsis Deo” Glory be to God in the highest. My thanks goes to God, the almighty who’s infinite and sustaining grace has never been lacking, during the course of my journey. My special thanks and unreserved appreciation goes to my project supervisor Prof. D.A Tonwe, who in his tight schedule and duty bound engagement was generous enough to undertake the moderation of this long essay.

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## ABSTRACT

*The study was designed to examine the role of Local Government in Rural Infrastructural Development: A Study of Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. The objectives of the study include the following: to examine the roles of Egor Local Government Area in road infrastructural development, to investigate the impact of skilled workers in road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area, to ascertain if the issue of funding affects road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area, and to proffer necessary recommendations to the issues of infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area. The study adopted survey research design. The Population of this study is drawn from all the communities that make-up the Egor local government. These communities includes the following among many; Agidigbi Camp, Egor, Oghedaivbiobaa, Oghokhugbo, Ugbighoko, Urunmwon, and Uwelu. The total number of population of these communities as reviewed by the 2006 census figure is 339,899 (National Population Census, 2023). In getting the sample size for the study the Taro Yamane sampling size technique was adopted. Furthermore, the simple random sampling techniques was used in selecting the respondent in the local government especially those that have direct bearing with the impact of road construction to community development within the context of Egor Local Government Area, Edo State. The instrument used for the collection of data was the questionnaire which was administered to the study sampled respondents. The study discovered amongst others that Egor Local Government Council do contribute to some extent to road infrastructural development of its rural areas. Furthermore, policy recommendations were adopted which include amongst others that there is need for the council to procure tractors and other machineries that will help in the maintenance of road in Egor Local Government Area.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1 Background of Study

The need for a decentralization of administration to facilitate efficiency, effectiveness and good governance is already enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, hence the birth of the third tier of government which is the Local Government Administration. This creation is necessitated by the expediency to bring about grassroots rural infrastructural development to the people and their environment (Okoye and Eneh, 2018). The reason for this is not far-fetched that local governments are seen to be the most closest and set of authority to the local people as an administrative council in local setting (Chidierbere & Ndaguba, 2018). The local government is also guided by law but with some limitations in their operations and more importantly being under the controlled of the States. As a local government represents a tier of the State government, it performs an enormous role of ensuring maintenance of law and order within the grassroots setting of administration. It also ensures the provision of structural platform of social facilities that guarantee the social wellbeing of the people around the community (Imhanlahimi, 2011). Therefore, it then becomes a mandate for the local governments to ensure unification, cooperation and participation of the people fundamentally by encouraging them so as to develop and improve their living standard (Orewa, 2018). In other to bring about the realization of this objective, the

local government is bound by law to ensure that infrastructural development is provided in the territory of their local government, and when the geographical area is still rural in nature, then, rural infrastructural development would be anticipated by the rural dwellers who live in such locality. Little wonder, Lawal (2006) noted that the development of rural dwellers has been concerned of every responsive and responsible local government. Development remains insignificant if development does not positively affect the lives of the people in the society. He further asserts that despite the constitutional provisions for Local Government in Nigeria to embark on the provision of infrastructural that would make for the grassroots, lack of adequate, affordable and reliable infrastructural facilities persists at the local level. Federal, State and Local roads are in bad states. Thus, it becomes pertinent to note that the importance of Local Government in the development process is based on the imperative to tackle local socio-economic problems and to manage grassroots development through the provision of basic infrastructure such as good road network (Awa, 2008).

Rural infrastructural development works often consist of a large number of comparatively small sub-projects dispersed over a geographical large area. It is however unfortunate that larger percentage of local governments in Nigeria lack basic infrastructures such as roads, hospitals/healthcare, electricity, school, and market needed to engender development (Adepoju, 2017). It is against this

background, that the researcher seeks to evaluate the role of local government in rural infrastructural development, using Egor Local Government Area of Edo State as a study.

In the light of the above thought, the researcher seeks to evaluate Egor Local Government Area of Edo State and to find out if the Local Government is really impacting positively on the rural infrastructural development of the locality, knowing fully well that Local government administration is created not just for a political purpose of compensation for government loyalists but to ensure grassroots infrastructural development of the local government area. Ipso facto, the research would employ the use of an empirical analysis to arrive at a conclusion as well as providing a recommendation for Egor Local Government Area of Edo State to study and implement the improvement of rural infrastructures in the local government area.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The researcher has been to many local communities situated within the geographical boundary of Egor Local Government Area. He observed from the visitations that the rural infrastructural development in the various localities or communities within Egor Local Government Area was in bad shape. More so, popular opinion observe that despite all the programmes designed to improve rural development, such as epoch-making, Directorate for Food, Road and Infrastructural (DFFRI), River Basin

and Rural Development Authorities (RBADAS), Agricultural Development Project (ADP), Better Life Programme for Rural Women (BRP, and the Family Support Programmes, etc. The rural dwellers still complain of low per-capital income, lack of basic roads, pipe-borne water, electricity, health centers. The lack of these basic amenities of life affects their wellbeing as human beings.

In view of the above foundational problems, this research study raises the question, why is there gross lack of rural infrastructural development in the rural areas under study? Is the Local government not in existence to provide the needed basic infrastructures for the people who live in the localities or communities under study?

In view of the above militating problems on the role of local government in rural infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, the researcher proposes the following research questions for this study as follows: What are the roles of Egor Local Government Area in road infrastructural development? Does skilled workers impact on road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area? Does the issue of funding affects road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area? What are the necessary recommendations to the issues of infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

This study intend to achieve the following goals:

- i. to examine the roles of Egor Local Government Area in road infrastructural development.
- ii. to investigate the impact of skilled workers in road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.
- iii. to ascertain if the issue of funding affects road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.
- iv. to proffer necessary recommendations to the issues of infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

#### **1.4 Research Hypotheses**

In consideration of the research question and relevant research literatures, the researcher formulates the research hypothesis as follows:

**H<sub>0</sub>1:** There is no significant relationship between the role of Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development.

**H<sub>r</sub>1:** There is a significant relationship between the role of Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development

**H<sub>0</sub>2:** There is no relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Hr2:** There is a relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Ho3:** There is no significant relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Hr3:** There is a significant relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area

### **1.5 The Scope of the Study**

The scope of this research work is restricted to an evaluation of the role of local government in rural infrastructural development with particular reference to Egor Local Government Area of Edo State.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study is as follows; to guide all students of Public administration in the issue of local Government Administration as well as the administrative team, to enable the people of Egor Local Government Area to know the contents of Local government and its role in rural infrastructural development. When this knowledge is passed to these categories of persons, they will be able to assess the performance of Egor local government council in terms of her rural infrastructural development, to provide a theoretical framework for the

understanding of the role of local government in rural development in Nigeria, to help researchers who may want to research on such topic or related topics on development in the academia in the future, the society organization on how best to organize and promote rural infrastructural grassroots development, to assist local government administrators and those who implement policies on rural infrastructural development in Nigeria to know the problems faced by the local government which would assist greatly in checking the lapses of previous administration and help in ensuring that Nigeria is able to establish strong local governments that are capable of achieving the triple objectives of promoting political participation, delivering efficient service and mobilizing local resources.

## **1.7 Operational Definition of Terms**

### **Local Government**

Local government is a generic term for the lowest tiers of public administration within a particular sovereign state. It refers specifically to a level of administration that is both geographically-localized and has limited powers. Thus, local governments generally act only within powers specifically delegated to them by state laws and/or directives of a higher level of government which is State. Local government has authority to determine and execute measures within a restricted area inside of a whole State.

## **Rural Dwellers and Projects**

Rural dwellers are the people who live in a rural area, that is, in an area of land outside the densely populated urban areas in a town or city. This area is usually the remote areas of a country and lack basic infrastructures like good road network, pipe borne water, electricity, good hospitals/healthcare, schools, markets etc. The term refers to the ordinary people who are far from political decision making process at the centre. These groups includes small scale farmers, tenants, and others alike who seek livelihood in the rural areas.

## **Rural Infrastructural Development**

The term grassroots/rural infrastructural development as used in the context of this research work is the act or process of developing and empowering the well-being of the vast majority of the rural dwellers through the provision of basic infrastructures. Seers (1969) sees this grassroots development as an advancement that makes life more meaningful in all its entirety, whether political, economic, socio-cultural and infrastructural.

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## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.0 Literature Review**

In Nigeria, like in many developing countries, rural areas suffer from inadequate infrastructural development. This lack of development hinders economic growth and social welfare. However, local governments are expected to play a crucial role in addressing these challenges. This literature review aims to explore the role of local government in rural infrastructural development, focusing on Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria.

Local government plays a vital role in the development of rural areas. According to Ahmed and Owolabi (2018), local governments are the closest tier of government to the grassroots and are, therefore, best positioned to understand the needs of rural communities. They argue that local governments have the responsibility to provide basic infrastructures such as roads, water supply, electricity, health facilities, and educational institutions to improve the standard of living in rural areas.

Moreover, Oladejo, Olusanya, and Onakoya (2018) state that the development of rural infrastructure by local governments is essential for poverty reduction, economic growth, and sustainable development. They argue that rural

infrastructure development enhances agricultural productivity, promotes rural industrialization, and facilitates the movement of goods and services, thus stimulating economic activities in rural areas.

## **2.1 Evolution of Local Government in Nigeria**

The precursor of local government was the native administration established by the colonial administration. Native Administration was designed to adapt to purposes of local government the tribal institutions which the native people have evolved for themselves so that the latter may develop in a constitutional manner from their own past, guided and restrained by the traditions and sanctions which they have inherited, moulded or modified as they may be on the advice of the British officers. It is an essential feature of the system, within the limitations, the British Government rules through these native institutions which are regarded as an integral part of the machinery of Government with well-defined powers and functions recognized by Government and by law and not dependent on the caprice of an executive officer (Cameron 1934).

The Native Administration was charged with the collection of taxes, maintenance of law and order, road construction and maintenance, and sanitary inspection, especially in township areas. This system of government, which was modelled after the

Millsian ideal of local representation, generated two types of conflicts among the fledging ethnic groups in Nigeria.

The first arose in cases where two or more ethnic groups were ‘lumped together’ in one native administration. Given what Post and Vickers (1973) have aptly called the ‘differential incorporation’ of Nigerian peoples into Nigeria, some groups who had earlier access to the British and had acquired some education tended to dominate the Native Administration. If such domination could be justified, as the British did, on the grounds of the opportunity it afforded the privileged group to groom others in the art of governance, the superimposition of the paramount ruler of one group as permanent native authority even when there was no pre-colonial history of dependent relations, encouraged local separatism. Most of the groups joined in such non-consensual matrimony agitated for separation and independence.

Regardless of nomenclature, local government is a creation of British colonial rule in Nigeria. It has overtime experienced change in name, structure and composition. Between 1930s and 1940s, for instance, local government was known as chief-in-council and chief-and-council, where traditional rulers were given pride of place in the scheme of things. In the 1950s, election was introduced according to the British model in the western and eastern parts of the country with some measure of autonomy in personnel, financial and general administration Nwabueze, (1982:20-21). It was on this premise that the rising tide of progress, growth and development

experienced in the local governments in these areas was based. The pace of this development was more noticeable in the south than in the north.

During this period, heterogeneity was the hallmark of local government as there was no uniformity in the system and the level of development was also remarkably different. The introduction of 1976 reforms by military administration of General Obasanjo brought about uniformity in the administrative structure of the system. The reforms introduced a multi-purpose single-tier local government system (Ajayi, 2000:70).

As Igbuzor, (2005:147), noted “in 1976, the federal government embarked in collaboration with the state government embarked on extensive reform on which were outlined as follows:-

- a) To make appropriate services and development activities responsive to local wishes and initiatives by devolving or delegating them to local representative bodies.
- b) To facilitate the exercise of democracy self-government close to the Grass root of our society.
- c) Mobilization of human and materials through the involvement of members of the public in their local government.

d) To provide a two way channel of communication between local government  
(both state and federal)

For the first time in history of local government in Nigeria a uniform system was developed for the whole country. According to the then chief of staff, supreme headquarters, Brigadiers Shehu Yardua in his forward to the reform stated thus, “Was essentially motivated by the necessity to stabilize and nationalize government at the local level.

Unlike the previous reform measures which were restricted in scope and range. The 1976 local government reform conceptualized local government as the third tier of government operating within common institutional framework. The intentions of 1976 reforms were debated by the constitution drafting committee (CDC) and the constituent assembly in 1978 and were enshrined in the 1979 constitutions. The Dasuki reform of 1984 and 1988 reform further consolidated the position of local government in the country. Hence, they have all been incorporated in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria 1999. The reform went further to enshrine the principle of participatory democracy and of political responsibility to every Nigerian. The reforms also introduced population criterion under which a local government could be created. Consequently, a population of within 150,000 to 800,000 was considered feasible for a local government. This was done to avoid the creation of

non-viable local council and for easy accessibility. There was provision for elective positions having the chairmen as executive head of local government with supervisory councilors constituting the cabinet. This was complemented by the bureaucrats and professionals, such as Doctors, Engineers, etc., who were charged with the responsibility of implementing policies (1976 Guidelines).

In 1985, during the World Wide Association of Local Government 27<sup>th</sup> Congress, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) defined local government as: that level of government with constitutional defined rights and duties to regulate and manage public affairs which are also constitutionally defined for the exclusive interest of the local population. These rights and duties shall be exercised by individuals that are freely elected on periodical basis by equal, universal suffrage while its chief executive shall be elected or appointed with the full participation of the elected body”

In 1991, a major landmark reform was introduced as the system had legislative arm. In addition, the Babangida administration increased the number of local government from 301 in 1976 to 453 in 1989 and 589 in 1991. The Abacha regime also increased the number to 774 local councils that we have today and the administrative structure also underwent some changes (Ajayi, 2000:71).

In summary, it can be said that no public institution in Nigeria has been so subjected to frequent reforms than local government. Nearly every successive administration introduces one administrative change or the other. Apart from the celebrated 1976 reforms, state government officials have also introduced various manipulations.

## **2.2 Local Government and Rural Infrastructural Development**

Communal effort has not been a recent phenomenon. It dates back to the time of primitive communalism when people searched for their living communally. In the early state of man, he always sought ways of conquering nature. Bryne (1983:55) argues that the concept of community development is not new, that rather it is an old ideology. The reality in Bentham's assertion that community development is a man in the society can be sustained by the fact that communities throughout history constructed and maintained their roads, bridges, square, sunk their well for good drinking water supply, and constructed their markets, village churches and village halls by community efforts.

Lawal, (2008:56) community development is not new in Nigeria, that what is actually new nowadays in community development are techniques and methods through which new pattern of leadership emerges from the rank and file.

Dare, (1989:38) in his own contribution argues that though local government is a veritable vehicle for community development, most local government have not made

appreciate impact in this direction. He attributes the problem to the myriad of functions allocated to local government without commensurate financial backing.

Ogunna (1980:44) attributed the low performance of local government to the following factors; inadequate revenue, low executive capacity, poor and inadequate working materials, incompetence and ineptitude of existing staff and excessive control by the state government which result in delays and red-tapism. The solution, he suggested, lies in the review of the local government system particularly in areas of financial relationship with the state government and personnel. This control of local government was made clear in the implementation, guideline on the application of the civil service. Reform in the local government service.

Okunade, (1988:).expressing his own idea, state that the spread of counties has provided the awareness among rural dwellers, and has provided the existence for a concept of the process of community development and of project which have been set in motion since the United National Organization development its concepts since thirty years ago. Community development draw greater inspiration from the desire for a change and in the ability of man to learn and charge through the voluntary method, (that is, free from coercion) and through the participation of individuals and groups in the development process for the achievement of some definite goals.

According to Sehinde, (2008:9) community development is a process of education by which people of all ages and interest in the community, learn to share their thoughts, their ideas, the participation, their joys and their sorrows and in a large measure to mould and shape the communal destiny for themselves. It is a process of self-discovery by which the people of a community learn to identify and solve their community problems.

A firm grasp at their beliefs and value system will throw light on what the community accepts as good and bad, as right or wrong. In turn, changes achieved by community effort can influence the beliefs and value system of a community. It is necessary to stimulate the self-help spirit of the people by mobilizing them for communal efforts, which should be sustained with the assistance of the government. Blue Print for rural development, argues that for effective implementation of strategies for community development the town and community unions, age grades, etc should be linked with government. This idea he said is to involve the community people fully through their union, age grades and other similar policies that are designed to improve their economic, social, political and cultural development. He stated that this would enable them to make positive contributions to both rural and national development. The community union and age grade in every community have usually served as point of articulation and fully aware of the needs of the people.

However, if they are fully integrated into the planning stage of development project, a lot will be achieved.

Writing on rural development in Nigeria, Mabogunje, (1992:191) in his book “leading issues in Nigerian Rural Development” accused successive Nigerian government at being previous regimes, rather than developing the rural areas. He content that this is the general pattern all over the third world countries. Mabogunje, remarked that many strategies such as “authoritarian hand out” from the administration which prescribed the facilities suitable for the rural areas and two, the so-called development from below have been tried in the past, in the attempt to solve rural poverty in Nigeria. These strategies have however not proved successful; he looks at rural development problem such as lack of co-ordinated community development programmes, manpower problems of infrastructure, problem of relevant rural education. He suggest solutions to these problems, which include clear understanding of the concept community development, an integrated development programmes, provision of infrastructure, relevance at rural education to the peculiar need and aspiration of the rural areas.

Local government and rural development in Nigeria, Olowo, et al., and (1991) describes government approach to rural development as a more sham. According to him, government has succeeded in imposing development programme on the rural masses, such programme he argues, only benefited a few rich and powerful urban

elite. He calls for a model of rural development, which involves the genuine participation of the rural people. Such he continues will be relatively independent of centralized urban-oriented bureaucratic machines.

Nwaka, (1999:33-36) on his part argued that government imposition of rural development programme on the communities have been Cog in the wheel of rural development. As he put it, government have often set community development; priorities without the participation of the target or relevant communities. He suggests that since government, communities are the engines of growth; government should play down its excessive control in betting out development goals and priorities for local communities.

Nnoli, (1980) sees self-help, as a strategy for rural [infrastructural] development as a form of exploitation because, according to him, for the rural people it is viewed as the task resort to their survival due to government neglect. According to him, the community development process arises from the crying need of the rural population for social welfare services, unwillingness of the rural class to provide these amenities, the exploitation of the ruling class of the competition among communities for those social artefacts which are deemed to reflect social progress, and the exploitation by the ruling class at the tendency by Nigerians to invest more time, energy and resources and those tasks approved by their communities than those sanctioned by the national collectively via-the-state.

Okoli, (2000) in his book contends that the British colonialists in Nigeria hatched community development ideology in order to under develop the people through his negative manipulation strategy. He regrets that his strategy has continued to be employed by indigenous rulers in the post-colonial state. He further contends that this strategy predicated upon the colonial policy of economic exploitation of the local area in an instrument used to sustain the self-interest of the ruling classes while the rural communities suffer under poor, hash and stagnated conditions.

Aborisade (1988) in his book highlighted the various development programmes designed by successive governments in Nigeria, which aimed at developing the rural communities. He gives an example of River Basin and Rural Development Authorities established in 1975 to promote rural development. He laments that in practice the scheme bloated bureaucracies feeding on mega million naira contracts for irrigation and other agricultural projects while the rural areas for which they are meant seemed to have recorded deeper in debilitating poverty.

Last but not the least of the review of literature are scholars like Akpan, (1982), Olisa (1992) and Olowu (1988) who regretted that rural infrastructural developmental activities and programmes of the past decades of national independence have not transformed the country's rural areas in the modern, well supplied contended that prosperous population envisaged are the beginning of national sovereignty. They concluded that in terms at the number of programmes

identification pursued, rural development in Nigeria has made little transformatary impact. They cited basic social services, public utilities and other essential infrastructures as still being woefully inadequate in almost all corners of the country.

### **2.3 Inadequate Finance and Rural Infrastructural Development**

One of the perennial problems which has not only defied all past attempts at permanent solution, but also has a tendency for evoking high emotions on the part of all concerned (each time it is brought forth for discussion or analysis) is the issue of equitable revenue allocation in Nigeria. It is an issue which has been politicized by successive administrations in Nigeria both Military and civilian regimes. Indeed, in virtually all country in which the constitution shares power between the central and regional or state governments and, for each level to be “within a sphere co-ordinate and independent” (Wheare 1963:93) enough resources need be allocated to each tier to justify their existence.

There is also a consideration of the adequacy of the total revenue profile of LGs, from all sources, for their operations. In the works of Ikelegbe, (2005) and Aghayere, (2008) they are of the view that local governments obtain adequate revenue for their operations. However, as Ikelegbe (2005:54), for example, puts it, there is ‘tremendous strengthening of local government funding, structuring, autonomy and

democratization. Adequate finance is an indispensable tool for local government administration and the execution of project for which it was not up.

According to Orewa (1968:225) the *raison d'être* of local authority is to collect it revenue efficiently and to use such revenue to provide many social service as possible for its tax payers while at the same time maintaining a reasonable amount reserve tide it over any period of financial stringency. Hence the ability of local authorities to generate revenue to manage it properly. Blau and Scout as a cited by Mukoro, (2001:1) in their local government have noted that they do not exist but in communities and societies and have roots in large social system.

Furthermore, the basic environment of a local government in Nigeria with regard to revenue generation can be identified based on the provision at chapter (vi) (c) of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria which deals with public revenue and the fourth schedule there provides functions of a local government council section 162 (of chapter (vi) such section 3,5,6,7 and 8) provide that “Any amount standing to the credit of the federation account and shall be distributed among the federal and state government council in such state on such terms and in manner as may be presided by the National Assembly.

According to Okoli (1998:125), despite the elaborate provision made in both decree No. 36 of 1998 and 1999 constitution for the financial autonomy of the local

government doubt still remains as to the financial relationships among the three tier of government for one thing the direct funding of the local government which has been jettisoned by the ambiguities in the provision of 1999 constitution as far as finance of the local government are concerned.

The financial crisis of most local government in developing counties is worsened by the fact that they are located in the rural areas. As a result of rural poverty, they are unable to generate enough internal revenue. They, therefore, rely mainly on statutory allocation from the federal government which is usually inadequate for any meaningful development activity. As aptly stated in the local government Yearbook (1998:18).

Adedeji (2000:96) asserts that the success or failure and the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of local government depends on the financial resources available to the individuals local authorities and the way the resources are utilized indeed the problem associated with inadequacy of finding continue to remain quite high among factors most frequently of local government to effectively perform their statutorily developed function.

Akpan, (1965:126) argued that the bottom line in judging the effectiveness of local government is the amount of funds at their disposal. He notes that “the success of a local authority is often measured in terms of its ability to provide services to the

public. These services cost money”, which the local government do not have sufficiency.

Ogbonnia (2004:34) opines that other sources of local government revenue depend on the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the council. He further explains that, there are several ways the council can generate funds but the major problems lies in the ability of the chairman to look inwards to create means of generating funds for the council.

The inadequacies of operational and capital funds constitute a set-back on local government implementation of regular services and investment programmes. Consequently, most local government can only pay workers’ salaries and take care of recruitment expenditure. In the case of Nigeria, the financial crisis in the local government has been worsened by the failure of the Federal Government to recognize the new local government created by some states. The state governors new use part of statutory allocations meant for the newly created ones, which in Enugu referred to as development centres (Ezeani, 2004).

#### **2.4 Paucity of Skilled Manpower and Rural Infrastructural Development**

When we are talking about manpower, we are referring to human resources. Manpower to often taken as the most important resources of an organization because other resources are harnessed to meet the need to men. This problem has been a

major constraint to the effectiveness and efficiency of local government in Nigeria, with Egor local government in particular.

Adewumi (198), Nkala (1985), Onah (1995) and Nkala (1985), noted that at the inception of democratic local government system in the former Eastern region of Nigeria in 1950, early recruits into the local government service were mainly “Sons of the soil”. Orewa and Adewumi (1983) rightly stated that recruitment based on patronage, have created problems of redundancy in local governments where stern measures like termination of appointment and suspension of staff are rarely contemplated.

There is no doubt that the effectiveness of any organization to a large extent depend on the calibre of its staff. The local government does not have enough graduates employed in its services. The people who work in the local government are employed based on favouritism and not on merit. Most of the staffs or the council don't know what is expected of them as local government staff. Most of them did not go beyond primary school, and therefore cannot perform well. They don't even know the function of the department they found themselves let alone the work they expected to perform, and this contributes in affecting the rural development.

Staff training and development is another important aspect that has been neglected in local councils. According to Blum and Mayor (1976), effective training programmes

can result in increased production, reduced labour turnover, and greater employee satisfaction.

The people who work in the community development department because of lack of skills for the nature of their job use wrong approach or measure in appealing to the communities to contribute and take part in community development.

According to Onah (1995:114), the inability to provide management training in areas of operations other than finance and general administration such as engineers, architects, accountant, doctors, nurses, agriculture extension workers etc continues to militate against effective performance in most local governments in Nigeria.

## **2.5 Challenges Hindering Rural Infrastructural Development in Nigeria**

Despite the importance of rural infrastructural development, several challenges hinder the effective performance of local governments in Nigeria.

- **Inadequate Funding:**

Olatunji (2019) highlights inadequate funding as one of the major challenges facing rural infrastructural development in Nigeria. He argues that most local governments in Nigeria are financially incapacitated and heavily dependent on the federal and state governments for funding. This heavy reliance on external sources of funding severely limits the capacity of local governments to provide essential infrastructures

in rural areas. Insufficient funds hinder the implementation of projects aimed at improving roads, water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions in rural communities.

- **Corruption and Poor Governance:**

Corruption and poor governance are significant obstacles to rural infrastructural development in Nigeria. Olatunji (2019) suggests that corruption diverts funds allocated for infrastructural projects, leading to the abandonment of projects or the use of substandard materials. Additionally, poor governance practices such as lack of transparency, accountability, and effective project management contribute to the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of infrastructural development projects in rural areas.

- **Lack of Political Will:**

Another critical challenge identified by Olatunji (2019) is the lack of political will to prioritize rural infrastructural development. Often, local government officials are more focused on projects in urban areas, neglecting the needs of rural communities. This lack of political will leads to a disparity in infrastructural development between urban and rural areas, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment in rural communities.

- **Lack of Community Participation and Accountability:**

Agbalajobi (2018) identifies the lack of community participation and accountability as major challenges affecting rural infrastructural development in Nigeria. Without the active involvement of rural communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of infrastructural projects, the effectiveness and sustainability of such projects are undermined. Community participation ensures that projects are tailored to meet the specific needs of rural communities, while accountability ensures that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

## **2.6 Importance of Rural Infrastructural Development**

Rural infrastructural development plays a crucial role in improving the standard of living, promoting economic growth, and enhancing social welfare in rural communities. Adequate infrastructure such as roads, water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions are essential for rural development (Ahmed & Owolabi, 2018).

- **Improving Standard of Living:**

Access to basic infrastructure directly impacts the quality of life in rural areas. Improved road networks, for example, facilitate transportation, making it easier for people to access markets, schools, and healthcare facilities. Reliable water supply

and electricity enhance daily living conditions, while better healthcare facilities contribute to improved health outcomes.

According to Ahmed and Owolabi (2018), rural infrastructural development leads to increased access to essential services, reducing poverty and improving living standards in rural communities. When basic needs such as clean water, electricity, and healthcare are met, the overall well-being of rural residents improves significantly.

- **Promoting Economic Growth:**

Adequate rural infrastructure is essential for economic growth and development. Good road networks, for example, facilitate the movement of goods and services, connecting rural areas to urban centers and international markets. This promotes trade, enhances market access for rural farmers, and stimulates economic activities in rural communities.

Access to reliable electricity and water supply is crucial for rural industrialization and agricultural productivity. Improved infrastructure encourages investment in rural areas, leading to job creation and income generation. Additionally, better educational institutions enable the development of human capital, providing the necessary skills for economic growth and innovation.

- **Enhancing Social Welfare:**

Rural infrastructural development also enhances social welfare by improving access to essential services such as education and healthcare. Accessible and quality educational institutions in rural areas ensure that children have the opportunity to receive an education, empowering them to break the cycle of poverty.

Similarly, improved healthcare facilities and services reduce the prevalence of diseases and improve overall health outcomes in rural communities. Access to clean water and sanitation facilities also plays a significant role in reducing waterborne diseases and improving hygiene practices, thereby enhancing the overall well-being of rural residents.

## **2.7 Theoretical Framework**

The theory which informs our discussion of an evaluation of the role of local government in rural infrastructural development and using Egor Local Government as a case study is the general systems theory. The scholar most associated with this theory is Easton (1965). He “sees the political system as a set of interrelated and reciprocally regulated patterns of actions and orientation, pattern that cluster together in equilibrium and that have certain needs of maintenance and survival. It is a phenomenon of whatever type, including physical, biological, social, political, etc., which is an organized whole with identifiable, interrelated structures delineating it

from the environment (supra system) in which it is located and with which it interacts, processing the inputs from it into outputs for it.

The general systems theory seeks to argue that every system, including political system, has subsystems which make up the entire system. They are assigned functions and provided with enabling empowerment, including resources, appropriate authority, etc. to enable them discharge their responsibilities optimally. Ipso facto, there is said to be homeostasis (stability) in the political system. On the other hand, instability reigns in the political system where the contrary is the case and the subsystems and entire system are also unable to function optimally.

Input and output analysis of a political system is very important. A political system is said to obtain its inputs (demands, supports, liberty or autonomy, cooperation, criticisms, resources, information, direct labour, etc.) from the environment. These inputs are what the subsystems employ to discharge their responsibilities, so that the political system can send out its outputs into the environment and obtain further inputs for its operations.

### **Application of the theory**

Applying this theory of the systems analysis to the local government system, the local government system in the country constitutes the sub-system. They must be well handled in terms of being fed with adequate inputs, so that they can contribute

appropriately to the optimality of the whole (country) political system, as well as its homeostasis. If the reverse is the case, that is, if the local government system do not have the required inputs to operate on.

According Apter (1963:15) the political system has two elements viz input (made up of demand support) and output (made up of authoritative decisions). By input, he meant those factors which emanated from the environment and go into decision making. They are those demands that come out from the society. Outputs are results that emanates from the demand and support made at the level of input.

Egor local government council is a system which carries out these functions by receiving inputs from the people and converting it into output. The citizens are involved in such demands above. This demand on the system is in inform of appeal to the council authority to provide some basic infrastructures like good road network, pipe borne water, health facilities, ultra-modern markets etc. Support on the other hand could be people's participation in decision making process or voting in community development project as well as financial support, in form of tax, rates paid by the people including grant from Edo State and Federal Government of Nigeria. Though, this means they provide raw material on which the system acts, so as to produce output. This in turn will influence the environment of the system and consequently generate continued demand which in turn creates a feed back and the whole process continues on a cyclical pattern.

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## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study shall adopt the survey research design. According to Tonwe et al (2007), survey research has become popular in modern times as a scientific method of discovering the impact and inter- relationships of social and psychological variables from given population.

#### **3.2 Method of Data Collection**

According to Cohen and Manion (1980:26) methods refer to the approaches used in research to gather data which are to be used as a basis for inference and interpretation for explanation and prediction. There is no doubt that the quality of data is inextricably tied to the methods and techniques used for gathering the data. Thus to generate relevant data for this study, the researcher shall utilized the survey technique. Obasi, (1999:169) defined methodology as a purposefully planned and systematically executed act of watching or looking at the occurrence of events, activities and behaviour which constitute the subject of focus of research or study. The relevance of observation method to this research work is obvious since it yield data that pertain directly to typical behavioural situations; assuming, of course, that

they are applied to such situations (Selltiz et al, 1977). Given the nature of this study especially the type of data required to interrogate our hypotheses, we utilized primary (interview through questionnaire) and secondary sources of data. Secondary sources of data refer to a set of data gathered or authored by another person, usually information from the available data, archives, textbooks, journals, seminar paper, newspapers and magazines, internet printouts, government documents and other relevant documents on local government and rural infrastructural development in Nigeria or survey results and code books collected for a purpose other than the present one (White,1983:233; Ikeagwu, 1998: 211; Asika, 2006: 27). As articulated by Selltiz et al, (1977: 317).

The advantages of secondary sources of data lie in the obvious fact that information of this sort is collected periodically. This makes the establishment of trends and consistent patterns over time possible. Again, the gathering of information from such sources does not require the cooperation or assistance of the individual about whom information is being sought.

### **3.3 Instrument**

The instrument used in collecting data for this study are questionnaire and oral interview. Although the major one will be the questionnaire. It will be used to elicit pertinent information from the subjects. The questionnaire has two sections. Section

A will be used to entail the personal characteristics of the respondents while section B will help to elicit information about the role of local government and rural infrastructural development in Egor local government area.

### **3.4 Population of the Study**

The Population of this study is drawn from all the communities that make-up the Egor local government. These communities includes the following among many; Agidigbi Camp, Egor, Oghedaivbiobaa, Oghokhugbo, Ugbighoko, Urunmwon, and Uwelu. The total number of population of these communities as reviewed by the 2006 census figure is 339,899.

### **3.5 Sample Size**

From a total of 339,899 population for the local government, according to the 2006 National Census figure, the researcher adopted the Taro Yamane formula for calculating sample size;

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

Based on the aforementioned formula, the sample size for the study is 399.5 which is approximated 400.

### **3.6 Sampling Technique**

The researcher utilized Simple Random Sampling to draw the study sample from the population of the study. The use of simple random sampling helped to elucidate the research analysis. Simple Random Sampling gives equal chances of opportunity to the entire Universe in the population and reduces the rate errors.

### **3.7 Method of data Analysis**

Two statistical tools of data analysis shall be deployed in the analysis of data derived from the field. They are the simple percentage and the Pearson's Correlation Coefficient. The simple percentage which is a descriptive tool for statistics was used for initial analysis, while the Pearson's Correlation Coefficient which is an inferential tool was employed in testing the hypotheses generated from the survey. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 21) will be used to analyze data gotten from the field.

### **3.8 Validity and reliability of the instrument**

The instrument was validated by my supervisor. That is, the questionnaire was first given to the supervisor which he thoroughly vetted. After going through it, corrections and suggestions were made. To ensure reliability of the instrument used for this study, the content of the questionnaire captured the interest of the

respondents in the sampled areas. This also helped to check the ambiguities of the questions before the researcher administered it to the actual subjects.

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## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The presentation of data and analysis is examined in this chapter. As indicated in the study methodology, 400 respondents were sampled and same numbers of questionnaires were distributed to the targeted respondents of the study. In the retrieval process, the study observed that, out of the 400 questionnaires distributed to the study sampled respondents, only 351 were retrieved by the researcher thus, changing the study analysis total sample to 351, which has 87.8% retrieval rate. Furthermore, in analyzing the data quantitatively, the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS; version 22) was employed. Firstly, in the data analytical process, a descriptive analysis was carried out on respondents' bio-data and respondents' answers on each of the questions. Also, in testing the study hypotheses, the Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient ( $r$ ) analytical tool was deployed.

## 4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis

**Table 4.1: Sex Distribution**

**Sex**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	189	53.8	53.8	52.8
Female	162	46.2	46.2	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024.

Table 4.1 above reveals that 189 respondents representing 53.8% of the sampled population are male, while 162 respondents representing 46.2% are female. Thus, the aforementioned analysis indicates that more male respondents took part in this study.

**Table 4.2: Age Distribution**

**Age**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18 - 35 years	45	12.8	12.8	13.2
36 - 53 years	192	54.7	54.7	64.9
54 years and Above	114	32.5	32.5	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024.

Data in table 4.2 shows that, 45 respondents covering 12.8% of the study sampled respondents are 18 - 53 years of age, 192 respondents representing 54.7% are 36 – 53 years of age, while the remaining 114 respondents covering 32.5% are 54 and above years of age. This signifies that, respondents between 36 – 53 years old participated more in this study.

**Table 4.3: Marital Distribution**

**Marital Status**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Single	98	27.9	27.9	31.3
Married	223	63.5	63.5	85.8
Divorced	30	8.54	8.54	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.3 reveals that 98 respondents representing 27.9% of the study sample population are single, 63.5% covering 223 respondents are married, while 30 respondents representing 8.5% are divorced. Thus, indicating that, more married respondents participated in this study.

**Table 4.4: Occupational Status**

**Occupational Status**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Farming	73	20.8	20.5	52.1
Trading	63	17.9	17.9	15.0
Artisan	58	16.5	16.5	31.1
Civil Servants	109	31.5	31.5	82.0
Others	48	13.7	13.7	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.4 shows that 118, sampled respondents covering 25.0% are Farmers, 18.2% of the study sampled respondents are Traders, 19.3% are Artisans, 17.6% of the sampled respondents are civil servants, while 19.9% are within the “others” category. Therefore, the above data signifies that respondents who are Farmers participated more in this study.

**Table 4.5: Educational Distribution**

**Educational Status**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No Formal Education	63	17.9	17.9	15.0
Primary	58	16.5	16.5	31.1
Secondary	73	20.8	20.8	52.1
Tertiary	109	31.5	31.5	82.0
Others	48	13.7	13.7	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

The study discovered in table 4.5 above that 63 respondents covering 17.9% of the sampled population have no formal education, 58 respondents representing 16.5% are primary school certificate holders, 73 respondents covering 20.8% of the sampled population are secondary school certificate holders, 109 respondents representing 31.5% are tertiary school certificate holders, while the remaining 48 sampled respondents representing 13.7% have “other” form of certification. It thus indicates that, respondents that are tertiary certificate holders participated more in this research.

## SECTION B

In this section, the various responses obtained from the survey questionnaire were analyzed descriptively in consonant with the research questions and objectives.

**Table 4.6:** The main aim of establishing Egor Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people.

### Question One

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	86	24.5	24.5	21.6
Agree	180	51.3	51.3	66.5
Disagree	61	17.4	17.4	83.9
Strongly Disagree	24	6.8	6.8	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.6 shows that, 24.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that the main aim of establishing Egor Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people, 51.3% of the sampled respondents agreed, 17.4% respondents disagree, while the remaining 6.8% strongly disagree that the main aim of establishing Egor Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people. The analysis

thus reveals that, majority of the sampled respondents agreed that the main aim of establishing Egor Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people.

**Table 4.7:** Egor Local Government Council does not contribute substantially to road infrastructural development of its rural areas.

**Question Two**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	52	14.8	14.8	12.9
Agree	76	21.7	21.7	35.6
Disagree	142	40.5	40.5	71.8
Strongly Disagree	81	23.1	23.1	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.7 shows that 14.8% of the respondents strongly agree that Egor Local Government Council does not contribute substantially to road infrastructural development of its rural areas, 21.7% agreed, 40.5% disagreed, while the remaining 23.1% sampled respondents strongly disagreed that Egor Local Government Council does not contribute substantially to road infrastructural development of its rural areas. It therefore shows from the above analysis that majority of the sampled respondents

disagreed that Egor Local Government Council does not contribute substantially to road infrastructural development of its rural areas.

**Table 4.8:** Roads are constructed by Egor Local Government Council for ease of movement.

**Question Three**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	60	17.1	17.1	20.8
Agree	186	53	53	71.8
Disagree	50	14.2	14.2	87.3
Strongly Disagree	55	15.7	15.7	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

As regards question three, table 4.8 reveals that 17.1% of the respondents strongly agree that roads are constructed by Egor Local Government Council for ease of movement, 53% agreed, 14.2% disagreed, while the remaining 15.7% strongly disagreed that roads are constructed by Egor Local Government Council for ease of movement. The analysis thus reveals that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that roads are constructed by Egor Local Government Council for ease of movement.

**Table 4.9:** Egor Local Government Council does not have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance.

**Question Four**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	40	11.4	11.4	14.8
Agree	58	16.5	16.5	32.0
Disagree	170	48.4	48.4	77.3
Strongly Disagree	83	23.6	23.6	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.9 reveals that 11.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that Egor Local Government Council does not have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance, 16.5% agreed, 48.4% disagreed, while the remaining 23.6% strongly disagree that Egor Local Government Council does not have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance. It therefore shows from the above analysis that majority of the sampled respondents disagreed that Egor Local Government Council does not have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance.

**Table 4.10:** Egor Local Government Council has skilled workers for infrastructural development.

**Question Five**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	73	20.8	20.8	19.9
Agree	204	58.1	58.1	75.4
Disagree	45	12.8	12.8	93.9
Strongly Disagree	29	8.3	8.3	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

In relation to table 4.10, it was observed that 20.8% of the respondents strongly agree that Egor Local Government Council has skilled workers for infrastructural development, 58.1% agreed, 12.8% disagreed, while the remaining 8.3% strongly disagreed that Egor Local Government Council has skilled workers for infrastructural development. It therefore shows from the above analysis that majority of the respondents agreed that Egor Local Government Council has skilled workers for infrastructural development.

**Table 4.11:** Skilled workers at Egor Local Government Council are trained on occasional bases.

**Question Six**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	56	16	16	18.2
Agree	200	57	57	70.6
Disagree	63	18	18	89.8
Strongly Disagree	32	9.1	9.1	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Also, in table 4.11 it was discovered that 16% of the respondents strongly agreed that skilled workers at Egor Local Government Council are trained on occasional bases, 57% agreed, 18% disagreed, while the remaining 9.1% strongly disagreed that skilled workers at Egor Local Government Council are trained on occasional bases. It therefore shows from the above analysis that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that skilled workers at Egor Local Government Council are trained on occasional bases.

**Table 4.12:** Egor Local Government Council skilled staff are drafted into the process of road construction alone side expatriates.

**Question Seven**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	60	17.1	17.1	20.6
Agree	200	57	57	75.4
Disagree	60	17.1	17.1	91.3
Strongly Disagree	31	8.8	8.8	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.12 reveals that 17.1% of the respondents strongly agree that Egor Local Government Council skilled staff are drafted into the process of road construction alone side expatriates, 57% agreed, 17.1% disagreed, while the remaining 8.8% sampled respondents strongly disagree that Egor Local Government Council skilled staff are drafted into the process of road construction alone side expatriates. It therefore shows from the above analysis that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that Egor Local Government Council skilled staff are drafted into the process of road construction alone side expatriates.

**Table 4.13:** Egor Local Government Council is well funded by the state and federal government.

**Question Eight**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	61	17.4	17.4	17.2
Agree	180	51.3	51.3	68.4
Disagree	70	19.9	19.9	84.5
Strongly Disagree	40	11.4	11.4	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

In table 4.13 it was discovered that, 17.4% of the study sampled respondents strongly agreed that Egor Local Government Council is well funded by the state and federal government, 51.3% agreed, 19.9% disagreed; while the remaining 11.4% strongly disagreed that Egor Local Government Council is well funded by the state and federal government. It therefore shows from the above analyses that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that Egor Local Government Council is well funded by the state and federal government.

**Table 4.14:** Egor Local Government Council generates enough funds for road infrastructural development.

**Question Nine**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	50	14.2	14.2	18.9
Agree	229	65.2	65.2	75.4
Disagree	44	12.5	12.5	91.1
Strongly Disagree	28	8	8	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.14 shows that 14.2% of the respondents strongly agree that Egor Local Government Council generates enough funds for road infrastructural development, 65.2% agreed, 12.5% disagreed, while the remaining 8% strongly disagree that Egor Local Government Council generates enough funds for road infrastructural development. It therefore shows from the above analyses that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that Egor Local Government Council generates enough funds for road infrastructural development.

**Table 4.15:** Funds generated by Egor Local Government Area are not utilized for infrastructural developmental purposes.

**Question Ten**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	60	17.1	17.1	16.5
Agree	190	54.1	54.1	73.9
Disagree	60	17.1	17.1	88.3
Strongly Disagree	41	11.7	11.7	100.0
Total	351	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.15 reveals that, 17.1% of the sampled respondents strongly agreed that funds generated by Egor Local Government Area are not utilized for infrastructural developmental purposes, 54.1% of the respondents agreed, 17.1% of the respondents disagreed, while 11.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed that funds generated by Egor Local Government Area are not utilized for infrastructural developmental purposes. It therefore shows from the above analysis that majority of the sampled respondents agreed that funds generated by Egor Local Government Area are not utilized for infrastructural developmental purposes.

### 4.3 Hypotheses Testing

In ascertaining the relationship between the variables under review in this study, the Pearson’s Correlation analytical tool was deployed in testing the different hypothetical statement as highlighted in chapter one.

#### Hypothesis One

1. Ho: There is no significant relationship between the role of Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development.

H<sub>R</sub>: There is a significant relationship between the role of Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development.

**Table 4.16:** Correlation between the role of Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development.

#### Correlations

	Egor Local Government Council	Road Infrastructural Development
Egor Local Government Council	1	.927**
Pearson Correlation		.000
Sig. (2-tailed)		
N	351	351
Road	.927**	1
Pearson Correlation		

Infrastructural	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
Development	N	351	351

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.16 reveals that, there exist a significant relationship between Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development with a correlation coefficient  $R$  value of 0.927, indicating that Egor Local Government Council has a strong influence on road infrastructural development. Furthermore, with the  $p$ -value (Sig = 0.000) less than ( $<$ ) 0.01, the study thus rejected the null hypothesis (there is no significant relationship between Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development) and accept the research hypothesis (there is a significant relationship between Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development).

### **Hypothesis Two**

2. Ho: There is no relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

H<sub>R</sub>: There is a relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Table 4.17:** Correlation between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Correlations**

	Skilled Workers	Road Infrastructural Development
Skilled Workers	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.883**
	N	.000
		351
Road Infrastructural Development	Pearson Correlation	.883**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	1
	N	.000
		351

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Data from table 4.17 shows a significant relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area. With a correlation coefficient value of 0.883, the table above reveals a very strong correlation between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area. The study thus rejects the null hypothesis (there is no

significant relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area) due to the  $p$ -value (sig = 0.000) less than 0.01, and accept the research hypothesis (there is a significant relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area).

### Hypothesis Three

3. Ho: There is no significant relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

H<sub>R</sub>: There is a significant relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

**Table 4.18:** Correlation between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

### Correlations

		Funding	Road Infrastructural Development
Funding	Pearson Correlation	1	.961**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	351	351

Road	Pearson		
Infrastructural	Correlation	.961**	1
Development	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	351	351

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.18 analysis reveals a positive relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area due to the high rate of *R* coefficient which is 0.961, hence signifying a strong relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area. The data from table 4.18 also reveals a *p*-value (sig = 0.000) which is < 0.01, indicating that the research rejects the null hypothesis which state that, there is no significant relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area, and accepts the research hypothesis which states that, there is a significant relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

#### **4.4 Discussion of Findings**

The study discovered that there exists a significant relationship between Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development with a correlation

coefficient  $R$  value of 0.927, indicating that Egor Local Government Council has a strong influence on road infrastructural development. Furthermore, with the  $p$ -value (Sig = 0.000) less than ( $<$ ) 0.01. Buttressing the study findings, Dennis (2006); Akinbobola, Oderinu and Olayiwola (2022) opined that, one of the indices of growth, is the quality of life, which is determined by access to basic necessities of life, such as basic infrastructure of which government at the local level becomes key to the achievement of this goal. As a result, improvements in such infrastructure would go a long way toward assisting any country's growth and development. Public infrastructure is a critical tool in the economic process, particularly in underdeveloped countries, where rigidities in the structure, weak support systems and institutional structure, decreasing growth, high levels of corruption, and policy uncertainty characterize these countries. World Bank (1994) stated that infrastructure provision in the right quality and quantity determines a country's success or failure in many aspects of the economy. The importance of government spending on infrastructure as well as the availability of infrastructure may help to foster the concerned country's growth and development.

Literature like Hasselgren (2013), and Babatunde (2018), have shown that the government has been solely responsible for infrastructure provision even from the time of classical economists due to its huge capital requirement. Mundle (1998) as cited by Ekpung (2014), states that certain public goods, such as protection of

citizens, governance, and a safe environment, cannot be offered by the market because no customer is exempted from its consumption once these services are provided. Though encouragement of the participation of the private sector in economic activities has been part of the recommendation of previous studies to boost developing countries economic growth, the cost of providing infrastructure is high and has therefore weakened their participation in helping out to make available basic infrastructures and therefore the reason for the unattractiveness of all infrastructural sub-sector. Year after year, huge public expenditures for infrastructure were provided for by the government in the budget.

The divergent view has however been obtained from past studies as to the effects of Nigeria's government spending on infrastructural development. In their study on the joint effects of government recurrent and capital spending on the economic growth of Nigeria, Oni, Aninkan and Akinsanya (2014), asserts that the effect of recurrent spending on growth is higher and faster than that of capital expenditure. Previous studies like Devarajan, Swaroop, and Zou (1996), and Mohsen and Nafise (2016) have also shown that expenditure on infrastructure increases seems not to have a significant impact on the economy, especially in poor countries where the level of its availability has not met the need of the citizens. The Nigerian government has over the past decades increased her spending on infrastructure in the yearly budget.

Despite these continuous increases in government spending in Nigeria, the level of infrastructural development that can be physically accounted for does not seem to correlate with the rate of government spending on infrastructure. Citizens especially those in the rural areas do not have easy access to potable water, good road and electricity supply is not reliable (Raheem, Ayana, & Fashedemi, 2014). However, the trend and pattern of government spending are dictated by various factors like population, degree of urgency of public need, inflation, tax revenue, public debt, and government era, which is, civilian and military era as the case is in Nigeria.

The study also discovered that there is a significant relationship between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area with a correlation coefficient  $R$  value of 0.883, and a  $p$ -value (Sig = 0.000) which less than ( $<$ ) 0.01. Supporting the aforementioned findings, Chiou-Wei, Chen & Zhu (2008) investigated the connection between road infrastructure and community development as skilled workers one of the variables between 1971 to 2011. The study revealed a relationship between road construction and development especially in the rural area. Olorunfemi in 2008 investigated the relationship between infrastructural services and Nigerian manufacturing production, using Vector Auto regressive model (VAR) and granger causality test, as well as time series data from 1981 to 2005. His work reveals that transport and electricity services did not

granger-cause growth in the manufacturing sector, however, there was a strong correlation between governmental capital expenditure and economic growth.

Batterman, Eisenberg and Hardin (2009) also argued that inadequate road infrastructure is a major challenge facing majority of developing countries and concluded that providing this key infrastructure will not only foster economic development, but it will also reduce the rate of diseases in the sub-Saharan Africa. Gbadebo and Okonkwo (2009) in their research into the impact of energy infrastructure on Nigeria's economic growth between 1970 and 2005 adopting the co-integration approach documented that the current period's energy use and economic growth have a positive relationship. Gbadebo and Okonkwo (2009) using the co-integration approach in their research into the impact of energy infrastructure on economic growth in Nigeria from 1970 to 2005, that the current period's energy use and economic growth have a positive relationship. Wagner in his law explains “that economic growth is relative to the size of government”. The law explains that as an economy's per capita income rises, so does the size of the public sector grow as well (Obiechina, 2010).

Umar and Zakari (2011) with the use of Auto-regressive distributed lag (ARDL) bounds testing procedure as well as time-series data between 1980 to 2010, examined the relationship between energy infrastructure and Nigeria's economic growth. The study revealed that the use of petroleum, gas, and electricity has a long-

term relationship with economic growth. Bolaane and Ikgopoleng (2011) in studying the connection between road infrastructure and economic accessibility in Botswana, found that there is a need for adequate water facilities to protect human health, and enhance the environment and improve cultural values.

Furthermore, the study reveals a significant relationship between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area with a correlation coefficient  $R$  value of 0.961 and a  $p$ -value (Sig = 0.000) less than ( $<$ ) 0.01, indicating that funding has a strong influence on road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area. Supporting the aforementioned findings, Nurudeen and Usman (2010) looked into the relationship between funding for rural road infrastructure and community development, using the error correction method and co-integration approach. They observed that maximum funding for effective implementation has a strong impact on community development. Samli (2011), stated that a reasonable quality of life is guaranteed through infrastructural development which has its source from the masses as this helps to expand the markets and hence, economic growth. Edame (2014) used ECM to investigate the factors that influence public infrastructure expenditure in Nigeria he discovered that the pace of external reserves, urbanization, government revenue, population density, and the form of government all have an effect on public infrastructure spending.

According to Uma, Onwusogbulu, and Enwere (2014), infrastructure repositioning is a viable strategy for long-term growth. According to the study, adequate investment in transportation infrastructure is critical for Nigeria's competitiveness. Nwaka and Onifade (2015) also observed that, in few African countries' community growth and the size of government are positively related. Iheanacho (2016) looked into the role of government spending in Nigeria and discovered a positive effect and long-term relationship between recurrent spending and infrastructural development. Shobande & Etukomeni (2016) in their study titled *Infrastructural Investment and Industrial growth: A Private Investment Led Approach*, using Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bound testing approach, examined the impact of infrastructural investment on industrial growth in Nigeria, with the availability of the annual time series data obtained from the statistical bulletin of Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) from 1960 to 2015, suggests the variables exhibit a long run relationship while a 1% rise in industrial output is accounted for by an increase in infrastructural, industrial relationship between government and labor growth in the short run. They therefore conclude that in the industrial sector, infrastructural investment is a necessary but insufficient condition the recovery of the economy especially when structural transformation does not take into consideration the relationship between other essential economic sectors that would encourage growth recovery and quicken industrialization rate in Nigeria.

Kolawole (2019) asserts that government spending is successful in advancing road infrastructure in West Africa. However, a regional perspective cannot capture the impact of government spending on infrastructure as effectively as a country-based analysis Kolawole (2020).

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary

The study was designed to examine the role of Local Government in Rural Infrastructural Development: A Study of Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. The objectives of the study include the following: to examine the roles of Egor Local Government Area in road infrastructural development, to investigate the impact of skilled workers in road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area, to ascertain if the issue of funding affects road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area, and to proffer necessary recommendations to the issues of infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

The study adopted survey research design. The Population of this study is drawn from all the communities that make-up the Egor local government. These communities includes the following among many; Agidigbi Camp, Egor, Oghedaivbiobaa, Oghokhugbo, Ugbighoko, Urunmwon, and Uwelu. The total number of population of these communities as reviewed by the 2006 census figure is 339,899 (National Population Census, 2023). In getting the sample size for the study the Taro Yamane sampling size technique was adopted. Furthermore, the simple random sampling techniques was used in selecting the respondent in the local

government especially those that have direct bearing with the impact of road construction to community development within the context of Egor Local Government Area, Edo State. The instrument used for the collection of data was the questionnaire which was administered to the study sampled respondents. The data collected were presented quantitatively using simple frequency tables, percentages and the hypotheses was tested with the Pearson Correlation Coefficient ( $r$ ) via the use of the statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 22.

The study discovered amongst others that Egor Local Government Council do contribute to some extent to road infrastructural development of its rural areas. It was also observed that Egor Local Government Council do have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance. The study also discovered that Egor Local Government Council has skilled workers for infrastructural development. The study also noticed that Egor Local Government Council skilled staff are drafted into the process of road construction alone side expatriates. Also the study observed that funds generated by Egor Local Government Area are not utilized for infrastructural developmental purposes.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

With the aforementioned findings of the study in the summary section, the study concludes that, there exist a positive significant relationship between Egor Local Government Area and road infrastructural development. The study also depicts

that there exists a strong positive correlation between skilled workers and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area. Furthermore, the study shows that there exists a correlation between funding and road infrastructural development in Egor Local Government Area.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The researcher recommends that effort should be made by the council to revive revenue drive in the council and reward dedicated and honest staff. There is also need to procure additional vehicles to help revenue personnel to discharge their duty efficiently and effectively. We recommend that the council should use direct labour in executing of projects rather than the use of contractors, money paid to contractors can be channeled into other developmental projects in the area.

There is need for the council to procure tractors and other machineries that will help in the maintenance of road in Egor Local Government Area.

The present situation whereby development is concentrated in the local government headquarters to utter neglect of the rural communities does not give the other communities a sense of belonging. A change is required in this regard. It is important for the Federal and State to review the allocation of local governments, because the provision of primary education and health facilities will be improved upon when there is better allocation from the Federal and State governments.

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**APPENDIX**  
**Questionnaire**

Department of Public  
Administration,  
Faculty of Social Science,  
University of Benin,  
Benin City.

Dear Sir / Madam,

**REQUEST FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THIS  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am an undergraduate student of the above-mentioned Department and University. As part of the programme, I am presently conducting a research on the topic “An Evaluation of the role of Local Government in Rural Infrastructural Development: A Study of Egor Local Government Area of Edo State”. This questionnaire is therefore designed to collect the relevant data for the study. Your response to the questions will not be used for any other purpose other than the one stated above.

Furthermore, you are kindly requested to respond as sincerely as possible to all the questions as stated in the questionnaire. Please, tick (✓) in the space provided in the most appropriate column on each of the item.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**SECTION A: BIODATA**

Please, kindly tick the box that best fit the information given below:

1. Sex: Male ( ) Female ( )
2. Age: 18 – 35 years ( ), 36 – 53 ( ), 54 and above ( )

3. Marital Status: Single ( ), Married ( ), Divorced ( )
4. Occupational Status: Farming ( ), Trading ( ), Artisan ( ), Civil Servants ( ), Others ( )
5. Educational qualification: No formal education ( ), Primary ( ), Secondary ( ), Tertiary ( ), Others ( )

## SECTION B

**KEYS: SA-Strongly Agree; A – Agree; SD-Strongly Disagree; D – Disagree**

Please tick the space that best fit your view

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD
	<b>Relationship between the Role of Egor Local Government Area and Road Infrastructural Development</b>				
6	The main aim of establishing Egor Local Government Council is to bring development to the rural people.				
7	Egor Local Government Council does not contribute substantially to road infrastructural development of its rural areas.				
8	Roads are constructed by Egor Local Government Council for ease of movement.				
9	Egor Local Government Council does not have tractors/caterpillars for road maintenance.				
	<b>Relationship between Skilled Workers and Road Infrastructural Development in Egor Local Government Area</b>				
10	Egor Local Government Council has skilled workers for infrastructural development.				
11	Skilled workers at Egor Local Government Council are trained on occasional bases.				

12	Egor Local Government Council skilled staff are drafted into the process of road construction alone side expatriates.				
	<b>Relationship between Funding and Road Infrastructural Development in Egor Local Government Area</b>				
13	Egor Local Government Council is well funded by the state and federal government.				
14	Egor Local Government Council generates enough funds for road infrastructural development.				
15	Funds generated by Egor Local Government Area are not utilized for infrastructural developmental purposes.				