

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF
EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

BY

**Anne Osiriameh ETHIKUMI
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ABSTRACT

This study examined the role of local government administration in promoting socioeconomic development in Nigeria, using Egor Local Government Area as a case study. The research specifically investigated how policy implementation effectiveness, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development influence socioeconomic outcomes within the area. A descriptive and explanatory survey research design was adopted. Data were collected from 200 respondents, including residents, local government officials, and community leaders, through structured questionnaires and interviews. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis.

The results revealed a strong positive relationship between local government administrative functions and socioeconomic development ($R = 0.894$, $R^2 = 0.799$, $p < 0.05$). Specifically, policy implementation ($\beta = 0.364$, $p = 0.000$), provision of social amenities ($\beta = 0.342$, $p = 0.000$), and infrastructure development ($\beta = 0.328$, $p = 0.000$) each had significant effects on socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government. The findings indicate that effective policy execution, adequate provision of social services, and sustainable infrastructural projects collectively account for approximately 79.9% of the variation in the area's socioeconomic growth.

The study concludes that efficient and transparent local government administration is vital for enhancing living standards, promoting economic productivity, and achieving grassroots development. It recommends that Egor Local Government strengthen policy implementation mechanisms, increase investment in social amenities, promote infrastructural sustainability, and enhance transparency and community participation to foster inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Local government administration has generally been recognized as a major determinant of Nigeria's socioeconomic development. Being the third tier of government, local governments are tasked with moving governance closer to the people by delivering basic services, developing infrastructure, and implementing policies for enhancing the welfare of the citizens (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). The quality of life of the people directly relates to the performance of local government administration, particularly in urban areas like Egor Local Government in the state of Edo.

Policy enforcement, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure are the main areas used to assess the impact of local government administration (Oladipo, 2022). Effective policy enforcement translates local government plans into actual benefits to the citizens in terms of greater access to healthcare, education, water supply, and sanitation. These social facilities are crucial in raising living standards and reducing poverty. Infrastructure development, for example, road network, drainage system, and public buildings facilitates economic activity, enhances trade, and enhances community health (Abubakar, 2023).

Despite the constitutional provision, Nigeria's local governments are faced with various challenges that restrict them from achieving these objectives. Underfunding is a common occurrence, with the majority of the local governments being over-dependent on the federal government in terms of funds in the form of allocations rather than internally generated revenue (Eze & Adamu, 2020). Corruption and misplanning are also in the way of service delivery, with incomplete infrastructure projects and an insufficient number of social amenities being the outcome. In addition, the limited institutional capacity and lack of technical know-how in the workforce hinder the proper application of policies (Onwuka, 2021).

Egor Local Government Area in Edo State offers a particular setting under which to discuss these challenges. As there is the growing population with urbanization, effective local government administration is needed to meet the social and economic needs of residents (Adebayo, 2022). While there has been limited progress in the construction of roads and construction of public facilities, gaps continue to exist in the provision of quality healthcare, education, and sanitation services. The same patterns exist in other Nigerian local governments, where administrative inefficiency, policy inconsistency, and budget constraints have continued to limit development at the grassroots level (Okafor & Chukwu, 2023). Understanding the extent to which Egor local government administration aids socioeconomic development is thus important in an effort to improve governance and sustainable development. Through the implementation of policy, social amenity provision, and infrastructure advancement, this study aims to establish both the weakness and strength of local government administration and provide recommendations for its improvement..

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nigerian local governments are constitutionally mandated to spearhead development at the local level, yet they have consistently been accused of inefficiency, ineffectiveness in service delivery, and poor administrative structures. Okoye and Nwankwo (2021) state that while local governments are meant to implement policies that stimulate socioeconomic development, the majority of them are ineffective in timely project execution, hence making minimal impact in community welfare. Similarly, Eze and Adamu (2020) observed that inadequate funding and mismanagement of local government funds have frustrated the delivery of basic social

services, such as healthcare, education, and sanitation, thus resulting in deep-seated poverty and underdevelopment. Oladipo (2022) also noted that infrastructural deficiencies, including poor road networks, absence of public buildings, and ineffective drainage systems, continue to hamper economic activities and lower the standard of living of the population in most Nigerian local government councils.

Though these studies provide insightful information on local government issues, they are mostly premised on general observation in a collection of local governments or urban centers. There are limited studies that have specifically examined the combined effect of policy execution, supply of social amenities, and infrastructure development on socioeconomic progress in individual local governments like Egor. In addition, literature tends not to reflect contextual realities of the local governance of rapidly urbanizing areas of Edo State, leaving a gap in localized, evidence-based understanding of how the management of local government directly influences community well-being. The current research seeks to fill this gap by focusing on Egor Local Government, assessing the quality of its policy implementation, how adequate social amenities provided are, and the degree of infrastructural development. By examining these variables in combination, the research seeks to achieve an overall view of the local government administrative function in promoting socioeconomic development, making practical recommendations on how governance and human well-being can be improved in Egor.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the role of local government administration in promoting socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government.

Specifically, the study aims to:

1. Assess the effectiveness of policy implementation by Egor Local Government in driving socioeconomic development.
2. Evaluate the provision of social amenities by the local government and its impact on community welfare.
3. Examine the role of infrastructure development in enhancing socioeconomic outcomes in Egor Local Government.
4. Identify challenges hindering effective local government administration and suggest strategies for improvement.

1.4 Research Questions

To guide the study, the following research questions will be addressed:

1. How effective is policy implementation by Egor Local Government in promoting socioeconomic development?
2. To what extent does the provision of social amenities by the local government enhance community welfare?
3. How does infrastructure development by Egor Local Government influence socioeconomic outcomes?
4. What challenges impede the effectiveness of local government administration in Egor?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

The study will test the following hypotheses:

H0₁: Policy implementation by Egor Local Government has no significant impact on socioeconomic development.

H0₂: The provision of social amenities by Egor Local Government does not significantly influence socioeconomic development.

H0₃: Infrastructure development by Egor Local Government has no significant effect on socioeconomic development.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will provide valuable insights for policymakers, local government authorities, and the citizens of Egor Local Government. For policymakers, it highlights areas requiring policy intervention and improved administrative practices. For local government authorities, it identifies strategies to enhance service delivery, infrastructure development, and policy effectiveness. For the community, the study emphasizes the importance of accountable governance in improving living standards, access to social amenities, and overall socioeconomic development.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the administration of Egor Local Government and its influence on socioeconomic development. The research specifically examines policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development. The

scope is limited to Egor Local Government to allow a detailed, context-specific analysis of local governance practices and their effects on community development.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

This study acknowledges several potential limitations that may affect the research process. First, access to official records on policy implementation and infrastructure projects may be limited, as some documents may be confidential or not readily available for public scrutiny. Second, there is a possibility that respondents may be reluctant to provide candid opinions regarding the performance of local government authorities, particularly on sensitive issues such as corruption or mismanagement, which could influence the accuracy of the data collected. Finally, constraints in time and research resources may restrict the scope of the study, limiting data collection to selected wards and communities within Egor Local Government. Despite these limitations, the study will employ appropriate research strategies to ensure that the findings are as reliable and valid as possible.

1.9 Definition of Key Terms

- **Local Government Administration:** The organization and management of local government functions, including planning, execution of policies, and service delivery.
- **Policy Implementation:** The process through which local government policies are executed and monitored to achieve development objectives.

- **Social Amenities:** Basic services provided to improve community living standards, such as healthcare, education, water supply, and sanitation.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Construction and maintenance of essential physical facilities such as roads, bridges, public buildings, and drainage systems.
- **Socioeconomic Development:** Improvement in the economic and social well-being of a community, measured by access to services, infrastructure, and quality of life.
- **Egor Local Government:** A local government area in Edo State, Nigeria, serving as the case study for evaluating local government administration.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of relevant literature on local government administration and its role in promoting socioeconomic development in Nigeria, with a focus on Egor Local Government. The review examines key concepts, theories, and empirical studies related to policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development—the three primary dimensions of local government administration in this study. Additionally, the chapter identifies gaps in the existing literature, providing the foundation for the current research.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

2.2.1 Socioeconomic Development

Socioeconomic development refers to the process through which living standards, well-being, and general quality of life for residents are improved. It is a multidimensional notion with dimensions such as employment, earnings, education, health facilities, access to infrastructure, and overall welfare (Eze & Adamu, 2020). Effective local government administration is central to turning such realities into a reality as it directly impacts the delivery of basic services alongside the implementation of development policies.

At the national level, Nigeria continues to grapple with actual issues in achieving balanced socioeconomic development. For instance, the rates of unemployment and underemployment remain high, particularly within youth groups, affecting the

incomes of households and limiting access to important services (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). Similarly, regional disparities in infrastructure and public service provision continue to limit socioeconomic progress, wherein cities have better access to roads, electricity, and schools compared to rural regions (Oladipo, 2022).

In Egor Local Government, studies indicate that the performance of administration directly affects socioeconomic outcomes. Provision of adequate social amenities such as health facilities, schools, water supply, and sanitation facilities has been associated with improved community well-being (Adebayo, 2022). Also, development of infrastructure such as road networks and public buildings improves economic activities and increases the mobility of inhabitants, and improves access to markets, employment opportunities, and social services (Abubakar, 2023). In comparison, LGAs that prioritize effective policy implementation, social amenities availability, and robust infrastructure more regularly possess greater socioeconomic development compared to LGAs with less secure administrative systems (Okafor & Chukwu, 2023). For example, areas where local governments effectively implement policies and there are operational roads and utilities more regularly experience greater economic involvement and enhanced living conditions for citizens. On the other hand, weak governance, weak service delivery, and poor infrastructure are accompanied by lower socioeconomic levels, including low employment rates, lower income levels, and limited access to education and health (Onwuka, 2021). Finally, it is in the capacity of the administration of local government to enforce policies, provide essential social amenities, and build infrastructure that socioeconomic advancement in Egor Local Government is implicated. It is important that these linkages be understood in order to decide on how to improve community welfare and translate local governance into measurable achievements in living standards of the populace.

2.2.1.1 Policy Implementation Effectiveness

The effectiveness of local government policy is the main engine of socioeconomic development because it will guarantee effective resource allocation, program completion, and fulfillment of community needs. Successful and timely policy implementation translates governments' plans into tangible outputs, enhancing living standards and community welfare (Eze & Adamu, 2020). For example, a good healthcare policy is able to increase access to healthcare services, reduce disease levels, and increase the productivity of inhabitants.

The local governments in Nigeria are prone to having issues that affect the implementation of policies, including weak funding, minimal staffing, and weak institutional frameworks (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). All these constraints will cause delays, stalled projects, and reduced public service quality. Research has shown that weak monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, weak administrative capacities, and weak stakeholder engagement further constrain policy implementation (Oladipo, 2022).

In Egor Local Government Area, there have been variable success of policy implementation. While in some instances, education and health interventions have been effectively delivered to communities, in others, bureaucratic inefficiencies and inadequate resources have undermined them. There is evidence that supervision lapses, inadequate funding, and absence of adequate staff often short-circuit the impact of policy interventions on socioeconomic indicators (Adebayo, 2022). For instance, local health and education programs are at times delayed due to delayed disbursement of funds and weak monitoring, which dilutes the expected benefits to locals. By contrast, LGAs with strong administrative systems, adequate funding, and

effective monitoring mechanisms are better placed to formulate and execute policies with more efficacy, resulting in more beneficial socioeconomic outcomes. Effective policy implementation in such places has been linked with enhanced job opportunities, higher incomes, better access to healthcare and education, and better infrastructure (Abubakar, 2023). Conversely, places with weaker governance systems observe slow socioeconomic progress and lower welfare. Lastly, the efficiency of policy implementation is a critical determinant for socioeconomic progress in Egor Local Government. Institutional development, strengthening monitoring mechanisms, adequate funding, and policy harmonization with local needs are critical in enhancing service delivery and maximizing developmental effects.

2.2.1.2 Provision of Social Amenities

The provision of social amenities forms an integral function of local government administration due to the fact that it has a direct impact on the health and socioeconomic welfare of the people. Social amenities entail facilities and services such as schools, hospitals, water supply, sanitation, electricity, and recreational facilities. Their availability and quality are essential in building human capital, poverty reduction, and the general well-being of the people (Oladipo, 2022).

Population with consistent access to education and health care services usually maintains greater literacy rates, improved health status, and increased productivity. For example, studies show that areas with well-functioning primary health facilities usually have lower infant and maternal mortality rates, while quality access to schools is attributed to literacy and skill acquisition among the population (Eze & Adamu, 2020). Similarly, consistent water supply and sanitation services restrict the incidence of waterborne diseases, while public health and labor productivity are increased.

In Nigeria, availability of social amenities remains unequal between local governments. National data show that a mere 61% of the population has access to improved water supply, and power supply is still irregular in most urban and rural areas (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). In Edo State, and especially in Egor Local Government, provision of social amenities has experienced moderate improvement in the last decade, but issues still abound. Studies show that approximately 68% of Egor LGA homes report access to functional primary schools, whereas 55% report regular access to health facilities (Adebayo, 2022). Such figures reflect that service delivery disparities remain to shape human development processes at the local level. Compared to local authorities that place importance on social amenities, the latter experience better socioeconomic performance. For instance, LGAs with satisfactory educational facilities experience better employment and literacy levels, while those with adequate healthcare and sanitation facilities record lower disease prevalence and higher life expectancy (Abubakar, 2023). Local governments that fail to deliver basic amenities, on the other hand, experience stunted growth, increased poverty, and social unrest. Enhancement of social amenities in Egor LGA requires strategic investment, effective planning, and people's involvement. Provision of equitable distribution of facilities, regular maintenance, and service quality monitoring will contribute significantly to enhancing the living standards of the inhabitants and promoting sustainable socioeconomic development.

2.2.1.3 Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development is a key function of local government administration and a significant driver of socioeconomic progress. It entails physical facilities such as roads, drainage, public buildings, electricity, and transport systems, all of which

facilitate economic activities, promote social mobility, and enhance the well-being of communities (Abubakar, 2023). Good infrastructure reduces transaction cost, enables access to markets, promotes trade, and creates employment opportunities, all of which translate to better living standards.

At the national level, Nigeria continues to struggle with infrastructural deficits that weaken socioeconomic progress. For example, road networks remain poorly maintained in most urban and rural cities, and public transport is often unreliable, limited by economic activities and access to basic services (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). Literature shows that inadequate drainage systems and poorly planned urban designs are to blame for recurring flooding and environmental degradation with disproportionate effects on low-income groups and stifles development (Eze & Adamu, 2020).

There has been minimal improvement in the development of infrastructure in Edo State, but with broad gaps, particularly in the local government areas such as Egor. Surveys indicate that an aggregate of approximately 63% of the roads in Egor LGA are tarred but only 58% are in good condition, with the majority of them experiencing degradation due to poor maintenance (Adebayo, 2022). Similarly, access to functional public buildings, including schools, health centers, and administrative offices, is unevenly distributed, affecting service delivery and community health. Transportation systems in Egor LGA are mainly by road with little or no alternative, and this may restrict mobility for both business and residents. Comparatively, LGAs that invest in comprehensive infrastructure development tend to register higher economic activity and improved social outcomes. For instance, local governments with well-maintained road networks, efficient drainage systems, and well-maintained public facilities have

been reported to register higher employment rates, greater business activity, and enhanced access to education and health (Oladipo, 2022). In contrast, areas with poor infrastructure register suppressed economic development, limited social mobility, and reduced quality of life.

In order to enhance socioeconomic development, the local governments of Egor LGA must give high priority to planning for infrastructure, making sufficient provisions for it, and timely provision of maintenance of facilities. Investment in drainage systems, roads, and public buildings, as well as sustainable urban planning, can enhance trade, reduce environmental risks, and render basic services more accessible to residents, thereby resulting in overall development of the community.

2.2.3 Local Government Administration

Local government administration constitutes the third tier of government in Nigeria, with the mission of bringing government closer to the people, facilitating easier implementation of policies, delivery of services, and community development (Eze & Adamu, 2020). It serves as the administrative organ responsible for the execution of national and state policies at the local level, management of resources, and ensuring that the welfare of citizens is accorded paramount importance. Good governance of local governments enhances accountability, transparency, and efficient delivery of social services, all of which are fundamental to socioeconomic development.

The degree to which local governments function in Nigeria varies considerably depending on differences in administrative capacity, finance, and institutional frameworks. The literature indicates that the majority of local governments have structural and functional issues, including poor revenue generation, poor personnel

management, corruption, and inadequate technical capacity (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). For instance, national data reveal that only marginally 42% of the LGAs consistently meet their annual development targets, while delays in project completion are witnessed in over 60% of the surveyed LGAs (Oladipo, 2022). These failures have a significant effect on the provision of social amenities, infrastructural development, and policy implementation, ultimately hindering local socioeconomic progress.

In the instance of Edo State and Egor Local Government Area, governance has exhibited progress but also perennial problems. Research identifies that Egor LGA has made progress in education, health, and road networks; however, administrative inefficiency and financial constraints compromise the overall success of the initiatives (Adebayo, 2022). For example, though the local government invested in primary school rehabilitation and health outreach programs, delays in policy implementation and lack of monitoring systems reduced their effects. In contrast, LGAs that are high in administrative capacity and resource management achieve better development outcomes. Studies show that LGAs with efficient management have better service delivery, higher citizen satisfaction, and boosted economic activity (Abubakar, 2023).

Good governance in local government in Egor entails constructing institutional capacity, creating accountability, and enhancing the participation of citizens in decision-making. Policy directives that encourage openness, timeous release of funds, and tracking of development projects are essential in augmenting the outputs of governance. Moreover, capacity development for staff and investment in electronic management systems can enhance efficiency, do away with bureaucratic bottlenecks, and guarantee better planning and execution of projects (Okafor & Chukwu, 2023).

Conclusively, local government administration is at the epicenter of achieving socioeconomic development. Its performance in policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructural development indicates the well-being and quality of life of the people. Improvement in administrative capacity, management of resources, and participatory governance are therefore necessary to ensure that local government actions are transformed into concrete development outcomes in Egor LGA and Nigeria as a whole.

2.2.3.1 Efficiency of policy execution and implementation timelines

The efficiency of policy implementation and prompt compliance with implementation timelines are an important measure of the performance of local government administration. Successful implementation ensures that development policies and programs are executed within time, the utilization of resources is ensured, and intended impacts are realized in the target populations. Delayed policy implementation, however, leads to the wastage of resources, abandoned development projects, and less public confidence in local government (Eze & Adamu, 2020).

In Nigeria, policy implementation inefficiency at the local government level is well established. Evidence indicates that approximately 57% of local government development projects experience bureaucratic hindrances, low budgets, and inadequate coordination between administrative units (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). Moreover, local education and health program evaluations indicate that a majority of programs miss critical milestones, which results in incomplete service delivery and diminished community influence (Oladipo, 2022).

In the case of Egor Local Government Area specifically, the efficiency of policy implementation varies by sector. Research has shown that about 65% of social service and infrastructural projects are completed within the planned time, while the remaining 35% are delayed because of late release of funds, lack of effective project monitoring, and a lack of technical personnel (Adebayo, 2022). For instance, road maintenance and school rehabilitation programs have at times overstretched in time, reducing the expected benefits to residents. In contrast, LGAs with project management structures and strict adherence to meeting deadlines have demonstrated improved socioeconomic outcome, such as increased employment levels, improved educational levels, and more effective access to health services (Abubakar, 2023).

In comparison to this, well-functioning local governments that deliver policies in a timely and schedule manner are in a better position to translate resources into actual development outcomes. Timely delivery, apart from creating satisfaction and trust among citizens, also stimulates private sector investment and public engagement and enhances the development impacts. Conversely, delayed delivery leads to loss of confidence, increases project costs, and diminishes the overall impact of local government interventions (Okafor & Chukwu, 2023).

To improve the efficiency of policy implementation in Egor LGA, proposals include improving project planning and monitoring structures, ensuring timely release of funds, and increasing the technical capabilities of workers who implement projects. Implementing computerized project management applications and establishing responsibility structures also enhance the timeliness and quality of policy delivery, ultimately resulting in improved socioeconomic development.

2.2.3.2 Quality and availability of social amenities provided

The quantity and availability of social amenities provided by local government councils are key determinants of socioeconomic development. Social amenities, including schools, hospitals, water supply, electricity, sanitation facilities, and recreational facilities, have a direct impact on the living standards, health, education, and overall welfare of citizens (Oladipo, 2022). Local governments whose provision and maintenance of these amenities are regular can better achieve human capital development, reduce poverty, and enhance the well-being of the community.

At the national level, disparities in the accessibility of social amenities are still a major issue in Nigeria. For instance, while the urban environment could have access to 70–80% of essential facilities such as primary schools and health facilities, rural and peri-urban communities access less than 50% (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). This disparity contributes to differences in human development indices in the regions, including literacy rates, life expectancy, and employment rates.

In Egor Local Government Area (LGA), quality and access to social amenities are in moderate progress but still poor. Studies show that approximately 68% of the homes in Egor LGA have access to functional primary and secondary schools, and 55% have good access to health facilities (Adebayo, 2022). Safe water is accessed by only 60% of the homes, and sanitation facilities become poor or inadequate. Electricity power supply, although better than some LGAs in Edo State, remains irregular, and routine power outages affect both household and business activities (Eze & Adamu, 2020).

Compared to this, local governments that focus on the quality and accessibility of social amenities have higher levels of citizen satisfaction, healthier indicators, and healthier educational outcomes. For instance, LGAs with well-facilitated hospitals, appropriately staffed schools, and constant water and electricity supply tend to have

lower disease incidence, better literacy rates, and higher labor productivity (Abubakar, 2023). Conversely, local governments with poor or poorly serviced facilities record sluggish social and economic growth, increased public health risks, and lower quality of life. Enhancing the quality and accessibility of social facilities in Egor LGA requires strategic investment, planning, and monitoring. Mechanisms for fairly distributing, maintaining, and efficiently using facilities should be enforced by local governments. Community participation in planning and monitoring can also make services more responsive to the needs of their residents, hence improving the overall contribution of local government administration to socioeconomic development (Okafor & Chukwu, 2023).

2.2.3.3 Extent and quality of infrastructure development

Infrastructure development remains among the central functions of local government administration as it influences the socioeconomic development by inducing economic activities, social mobility, and access to essential services (Abubakar, 2023). The quality and availability of infrastructure like roads, drainage, public buildings, electricity, and transport networks determine the effectiveness of service delivery and the overall welfare of the inhabitants. Well-planned and well-maintained infrastructure enables trade, promotes employment opportunities, and enhances the health of communities, whereas substandard or poorly maintained infrastructure constrains development (Oladipo, 2022).

In Nigeria, infrastructural deficiency is a thorn in the flesh of local governments, and the majority of localities are characterized by poor roads, substandard public buildings, and an insecure power supply. Figures at the national level indicate that over 60% of local government projects are overdue or underperforming because of poor-quality

infrastructure planning and maintenance (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). These shortages affect economic productivity, diminish access to education and healthcare, and decrease overall living standards, particularly in rapidly developing urban centers.

In Edo State, and particularly in Egor Local Government Area, the quality and degree of infrastructural development record mixed fortunes. Studies show that approximately 63% of the roads in Egor LGA are tarred, but only 58% of them are in top condition, with the majority deteriorating due to a lack of regular maintenance (Adebayo, 2022). Public amenities such as schools, health centers, and administrative buildings exist but are irregularly distributed and of differing quality, limiting their effectiveness. Drainage is often inadequate, causing seasonal flooding and environmental hazards, and electricity supply is unreliable, affecting both domestic and commercial operations.

Compared to others, strategic investments of LGAs in infrastructure and its upkeep on a regular basis show better socioeconomic outcomes. For example, well-maintained public buildings and well-built roads have better commercial activity, better access to healthcare and education, and better citizen satisfaction (Eze & Adamu, 2020). Conversely, LGAs with low-quality infrastructure have lower economic activity, higher operating costs for businesses, and worse access to basic services (Okafor & Chukwu, 2023).

Enhancing infrastructure development in Egor LGA requires careful planning, adequate provision of resources, and continuous monitoring. Prioritization of priority infrastructure projects, implementation of efficient maintenance schedules, and engagement of participatory community involvement in monitoring can significantly improve the quality and scope of infrastructure. In addition, incorporating technology-

based management systems can improve project execution, reduction in delays, and ensuring that infrastructure development materializes as socio-economic gains to residents (Abubakar, 2023). In aggregate, the quantity and quality of infrastructure development are essential to the performance of local governments and economic development. Proper planning, financing, and maintenance of infrastructure projects can strengthen the delivery of services, increase economic opportunities, and enhance the overall well-being of the people in Egor LGA and other LGAs.

2.3 Theoretical Review

This study relies on the Development Administration Theory that emphasizes administrative competence, implementation of policy, and institutional capacity in the achievement of development objectives (Eze & Adamu, 2020). As provided by the theory, in order for the governments, particularly local governments, to effectively drive socioeconomic development, they must have functioning governance systems, adequate deployment of resources, competent personnel, and efficient policy implementation mechanisms. It also contends that results of development are not only determined through policy making but rest wholly on the effectiveness of administrative machinery to translate policies into tangible benefits for society.

Development Administration Theory emerged in response to the need for practical applications in achieving rapid development in post-colonial countries using administrative reforms, capacity building, and visionary governance in addressing socio-economic challenges. At its center is the belief that institutional effectiveness and strategic planning are the key pillars in translating resources and policies into measurable improvement in education, health, infrastructure, and economic opportunities (Abubakar, 2023).

Using this theory to analyze the case of Egor Local Government, the framework offers a paradigm to examine how practices of local governance such as policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development directly affect citizen well-being and community growth. For example, efficient policy implementation ensures that development programs like healthcare schemes, educational reforms, or sanitation schemes are implemented on schedule and in a timely manner, with maximum delivery of benefits to the quality of life of residents (Oladipo, 2022). Similarly, the adequate provision and maintenance of social facilities, such as drinking water, power supply, and schools, demonstrate administrative competence and utilization of resources, the fundamental pillars of the theory.

Empirical facts confirm the relevance of Development Administration Theory in local governance. In Nigeria, Local Governments (LGAs) with emphasis on administrative efficacy, open resource management, and efficient monitoring policies consistently outshine those hampered by bureaucratic inefficiencies and coordination gaps (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021). For example, LGAs with structured planning and capacity building programs enjoy higher citizen satisfaction, improved infrastructure, and better educational and health indicators (Adebayo, 2022).

Moreover, the theory itself points to the interdependence of governance action and development performance. Delayed project implementation, under-funded programs, and missing technical expertise are some of the issues presented in Egor LGA which allude to administrative capacity deficiencies. With the aid of the Development Administration Theory, it becomes possible to systematically investigate these gaps, getting some insight into how government strengthening, human resource competence improvement, and resource allocation can be linked to measurable socioeconomic

improvement. Generally, the Development Administration Theory is a good conceptual and analytical device via which to understand the politics of local government administration in Egor. It emphasizes that the efficiency of the implementation of policy, the standard of social facilities, and the range of the provision of infrastructures are not segmented processes but intertwined elements that cumulatively determine the socioeconomic progress of communities. By placing this research within theory, the study identifies those mechanisms through which local governance may be optimised for sustainable development advantages.

2.4 Empirical Review

Adetoye (2016) examined state creation political economy and its implications for socioeconomic development in Nigeria using a longitudinal historical research. The study interpreted how state creation exercises were perceived as tools for galvanizing development in previously underdeveloped areas. Government officials and agitators of state creation alike viewed the exercise as a means of distributing socioeconomic facilities and opportunities more evenly, particularly among capital cities, urban towns, and rural areas. The study, however, revealed that the benefits of past state creation exercises were not equitably distributed. Development interventions were concentrated in urban centers, especially new capitals and towns, while rural areas lagged behind. The urban-biased priority aggravated rural-urban migration and consolidated spatial inequalities in access to infrastructure, social facilities, and economic opportunities. Adetoye (2016) argued that although state creation ought to catalyze socioeconomic development, its achievement is undermined by the concentration of resources and planning on urban areas at the

expense of rural residents. The study emphasizes the need for deliberate policy interventions to ensure that structures of governance and development initiatives benefit rural and urban societies equally.

Adetoye (2016) examined the political economy of state formation and its contribution to socioeconomic growth in Nigeria employing a longitudinal historical analysis. The research questioned the comprehension of state formation exercises as measures of promoting development in the previously underdeveloped areas. Government administrators and proponents of state formation conceived the exercise as a way of distributing socioeconomic comforts and opportunities more equally, particularly between capital cities, urban towns, and rural areas. However, the study confirmed that successes in earlier exercises in state creation were irregular. Development concentration was mainly aimed at urban regions, particularly new capital cities and towns, while rural regions were often excluded. This urban bias helped to promote rural-urban migration as well as consolidate spatial inequalities in infrastructure accessibility, social facilities, and economic opportunities. Adetoye (2016) concluded that despite state creation being intended to be a socioeconomic development driver, it is hindered by resource and planning priorities in urban centers at the expense of rural citizens. The study suggests that there must be deliberate policy measures to ensure that governance structures and development programs benefit both urban and rural communities equally to propel equitable socioeconomic development.

Wilson and Idoniboy-Obu (2019) researched the application of local government autonomy as a tool to promote socio-economic development in rural communities of Nigeria. The study emphasized that local governments have the

primary mandate of the development of rural communities, but their ability is often hampered by external interference from other levels of government. The authors emphasized that there is a need to give political, financial, and administrative autonomy to local governments to function efficiently and develop rural communities effectively. Using a combination of primary and secondary data, the study spanned 400 questionnaires in two local governments within each of four selected states and gathered 390 valid responses. Data were analyzed using tabular and percentage frequency measures. The study utilized the Sustainable Development Theory to frame its discourse on the importance of seeking socio-economic development for today's rural population without compromising future generations' requirements. The findings showed that the lack of autonomy limits local governments to formulate policies, administer resources, and deliver basic services efficiently. The study determined that local governments must be accorded sufficient political, financial, and administrative autonomy to lead rural sustainable development. This autonomy would enable them to plan, execute, and monitor developmental programs more efficiently, which would eventually lead to improved infrastructure, social amenities, and overall welfare of rural people (Wilson & Idoniboy-Obu, 2019).

Akande (2022) analyzed the impact of governance policy on Nigeria's socioeconomic development, highlighting the long-standing gap between the country's vast human and natural resources and the widespread poverty among its citizens. The study aimed to explore the impacts of government governance policies on socioeconomic indicators and provide strategic policy suggestions for improvement. Following the Institutional Analysis Development (IAD) framework, the study focused its activity on understanding the influence of policy-making, administration, and implementation on development outcomes. Drawing on

qualitative methodology, the study engaged 12 development and policy practitioners in semi-structured interviews, double-checking data against field notes, journals, and archival policy documents. Member checking was applied for credibility and trustworthiness enhancement. Analysis elicited fourteen overarching themes of governance and policy influence including poor planning in governance, inadequate budgeting and planning, political interference, centralization of powers leading to the collapse of local governance, poor decision-making processes, lack of inter-agency coordination, and poor leadership. The study demonstrated that non-governance policies, together with mismanagement and non-strategic implementation, have limited socioeconomic progress in Nigeria. In contrast, the study showed that efficient policy formulation, effective implementation, and participatory governance mechanisms could also significantly reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, and enhance the standard of living (Akande, 2022). This study underscores the importance of well-designed policy, administrative responsibility, and strategic governance at all levels, from local government to the top, towards tangible developmental successes.

Ibietan and Ndukwe (2014) examined local government administration in Nigeria as a catalyst for community development based on the Efficiency Services Theory. The Efficiency Services Theory posits that local governments are efficient actors responsible for delivering services that are local in focus, and it emphasizes administrative capability and service delivery interdependence. The study, which was done nearly entirely using secondary data complemented with practical experience and analytical models, determined that the performance of local governments in Nigeria, particularly in the Fourth Republic, was generally poor. The spheres of leadership quality, policy impact, and political/administrative climate were found to be weak, hence local governments to be perceived as failed institutions. The authors

observed that poor policy execution, inadequate planning, and lack of accountability contributed to the failure of the local governments in offering effective community development.

Ibietan and Ndukwe (2014) had encouraged synergism and collaboration as a strategy to local development, emphasizing the crux of bridging theory and practice in policy making and implementation. By advocating for cooperation between the authorities of the local governments, the community stakeholders, and other actors, they argued that service efficiency could be enhanced, which would be reflected in improved socio-economic performances at the grassroots level. The study emphasizes the central place of effective leadership, administrative capacity, and institutional transformation in the quest for sustainable community development.

Adeoye, William, Oludolapo, and Oladoyin (2024) looked at the role of local government towards Nigeria's socio-economic development and whether it plays its constitutional role. They emphasized that local government as the third tier of government is supposed to deliver good governance in the grassroots level and be a medium of the application of government policies and programs to people at the grassroots level. The study unearthed several challenges that hinder local governments to effectively implement their constitutional mandate. Top of these challenges are the unconstitutional state-local government relationship and pervasive corruption. Employing a survey research design with quantitative methods, the study analyzed both primary and secondary data and employed simple regression analysis in interpreting results. The findings revealed that Ijebu-Ode Local Government Area had not performed well in infrastructure and other key services provision, reflecting project implementation inefficiencies and ineffective utilization of resources. The

authors inferred that the failure of Nigeria's local governments remains primarily caused by corruption as well as the ineffective institutional link between state and local governments, which diminishes autonomy and responsibility. While the study limited infrastructure provision to one LGA, it is highlighting broader systemic issues that affect the ability of local governments to deliver socio-economic development (Adeoye et al., 2024). The study is advocating for improved governance structures, enhanced transparency, and a greater level of administrative decentralization to facilitate efficient discharge by local governments of their developmental roles.

Agbodike, Igbokwe-Ibeto, and Nkah (2014) examined local government administration and sustainable development issues in Nigeria. They reaffirmed that the administration of local government is a fundamental instrument of rapid and sustainable rural development, political education, mobilization, and community participation. Efforts have been made since then to transform the traditional local administration into local governments with viable political and economic autonomy. Employing the Basic Needs Approach (BNA) framework, the study investigated the issues of local government administration and its role in sustainable development. The authors highlighted that local governments are confronted by grave issues, including interference by the federal and state governments in constitutional responsibilities, and use of the local government structures as avenues of political patronage to party loyalists. These issues, they argued, render the local governments ineffective in delivering efficient governance and democratic dividends to the populace. Drawing lessons from both the developing and developed world, Agbodike et al. (2014) argued that unless there are structural reforms, local government administration in Nigeria cannot effectively address sustainable rural development. These include going back to true federalism, strengthening positive leadership founded on the rule of law,

transparency, accountability, and administrative probity, economic self-sufficiency via internally generated revenue, and embracing good governance practices and global best practices. The study underscores the importance of institutional capacity, policy implementation, and the quality of governance in achieving sustainable development at the local level.

Okafor, Chukwuemeka, and Udentia (2015) examined developmental local government as a model for Nigeria's grassroots socio-economic growth. To them, over the past half-century, administration of local governments in Nigeria has transitioned from colonial local administration with special systems to the integrative and uniform system of the present day, constitutionally recognized as the third level of government. As the third tier, state governments are constitutionally funded statutory amounts from national revenue and are responsible for exercising functions that are peculiar to local needs. The study indicated a pertinent point: the Constitution vests state governments with authority over the organization and responsibilities of local governments, which significantly constricts local autonomy and administration at the local level. The writers argued that state government misuse of these constitutional provisions and low local development commitment and inadequate monitoring and evaluation adversely affected grassroots socio-economic development. Subsequently, local communities experience high poverty, unemployment, poor social infrastructure, and low economic activity. To address the issues, Okafor et al. (2015) proposed a developmental local government model with Local Economic Development (LED) as its core mandate. The LED approach requires local governments to stimulate economic activity, reduce poverty and unemployment, and promote socioeconomic welfare through collaboration with the private sector and civil society. The model requires active engagement of local governments as drivers of economic growth and community

development, focusing on administrative effectiveness, resource mobilization, and stakeholder involvement in promoting sustainable local development.

2.5 Research Gap

Notwithstanding the great research work on the administration of local government and development, there are some research gaps in the literature. The majority of the research generalizes data for many local governments without presenting detailed localized analysis of some locations such as Egor Local Government (Okoye & Nwankwo, 2021; Abubakar, 2023). Moreover, existing research is also found to focus on a single function of local government administration—either policy implementation, social amenities, or infrastructure development—without looking at their combined impact on socioeconomic development (Oladipo, 2022). In addition, few empirical research studies have explored how the interaction between policy implementation, the quality and accessibility of social amenities, and infrastructure development in general impacts the welfare of the people, particularly in rapidly urbanizing local governments in Nigeria. This is the gap in understanding the overall impact of local government operations on community welfare and citizen well-being. The current study aims at filling the mentioned loopholes through providing an all-encompassing and localized assessment of Egor Local Government. Specifically, it examines how policy management, provision of social amenities, and development of infrastructure work together to facilitate socioeconomic development, thus contributing insights that are contextual but applicable towards local governance improvement.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a descriptive overview of the procedures, processes, and methods used in conducting this study. It outlines the research design, population,

sample population, sampling technique, sources of data, research instrument, validity and reliability, model specification, variable operationalization, and data analysis procedures for examining the role of local government administration in promoting socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government.

3.2 Research Design

The study employs a descriptive and explanatory survey research design. The descriptive aspect is used to characterize how Egor Local Government administers policies, provides social amenities, and develops infrastructure. The explanatory aspect examines the relationship between local government administrative functions and socioeconomic development outcomes. This design is suitable for systematically investigating patterns and determining the degree to which policy implementation effectiveness, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development influence socioeconomic development. A quantitative approach is employed, with structured questionnaires serving as the primary instrument for data collection.

3.3 Study Population

The study population consists of residents and key stakeholders within Egor Local Government who are directly impacted by the activities and policies of the local government. This includes registered voters, local government officials and administrators, as well as community leaders and representatives of civil society organizations. Collectively, these groups offer a comprehensive perspective on the

performance, challenges, and overall influence of local government administration on socioeconomic development in the area.

3.4 Sample Size

The sample size is determined using **Taro Yamane's (1967) formula**:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where:

n = Sample size

N = Population size (estimated at 400 for this study)

e = Desired precision level (0.05)

Substituting the values:

$$n = \frac{400}{1 + 400(0.05^2)}$$

N ≈ 200

For manageability, the study will use a **sample of 100 respondents**, comprising 70 registered voters and 30 local government officials, community leaders, and civil society representatives. This distribution ensures representation of both general public perceptions and expert insights.

3.5 Sampling Technique

A stratified and purposive sampling technique will be employed. Egor Local Government will be stratified into its wards. From each ward, registered voters will be selected using simple random sampling to ensure fairness. Local government officials, community leaders, and civil society actors will be purposively selected due to their specialized knowledge of local government administration. This combination provides a balanced representation of public opinion and expert perspectives.

3.6 Research Instrument

The primary instrument for data collection in this study is a structured questionnaire, which has been carefully designed to gather comprehensive information from respondents. The questionnaire is divided into two sections. Section A focuses on collecting demographic information such as age, gender, occupation, educational background, and length of residency within Egor Local Government. Section B contains close-ended questions presented on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree, and is designed to assess respondents' perceptions of key study variables, including the effectiveness of policy implementation, the provision of social amenities, infrastructure development, and the socioeconomic outcomes of local government activities. In addition to the questionnaire, semi-structured interview guides will be employed to gather qualitative insights from local government officials and community leaders, providing deeper contextual understanding of local government administration in Egor.

3.7 Instrument Validity and Reliability

Validity of the instrument will be ensured through review by public administration and social science research experts. A pilot study will be conducted with 10 respondents outside the sample to refine the questionnaire. Reliability will be assessed using Cronbach's Alpha, with a minimum acceptable value of 0.70.

3.8 Model Specification

The study employs a multiple regression model to evaluate the influence of local government administrative variables on socioeconomic development. The model is specified as:

$$SED = f(\text{PIE}, \text{PSA}, \text{ID})$$

Expanded, the regression equation is:

$$SED_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{PIE}_i + \beta_2 \text{PSA}_i + \beta_3 \text{ID}_i + \mu_i$$

Where:

SED = Socioeconomic Development (dependent variable)

PIE = Policy Implementation Effectiveness (independent variable)

PSA = Provision of Social Amenities (independent variable)

ID = Infrastructure Development (independent variable)

β_0 = Intercept

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ = Coefficients of independent variables

μ_i = Error term

3.10 Operationalization of Variables

S/N	Variable	Type	Measurement	Source
1	Policy Implementation Effectiveness (PIE)	Independent	Measured by respondents' perception of timely and efficient execution of local government policies	Questionnaire items
2	Provision of Social Amenities (PSA)	Independent	Availability and quality of schools, healthcare, water, electricity, and sanitation	Questionnaire items
3	Infrastructure Development (ID)	Independent	Extent and quality of roads, drainage, public buildings, and transportation networks	Questionnaire items
4	Socioeconomic Development (SED)	Dependent	Measured by employment rate, income level, education, health access, and general living standards	Questionnaire composite index

Source: Researcher's Compilation (2025)

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents, analyzes, and interprets the data collected for the study titled “Local Government Administration in Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of Egor Local Government.” The purpose of this chapter is to provide empirical insights into how the administrative functions of Egor Local Government—such as policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development—contribute to socioeconomic development within the area.

The chapter begins with an analysis of the demographic characteristics of the respondents, followed by a descriptive analysis of the major variables of the study: policy implementation effectiveness, provision of social amenities, infrastructure development, and socioeconomic development. Subsequently, inferential statistical techniques are employed to test the hypotheses formulated in Chapter One, in order to determine the nature and strength of the relationship between local government administrative functions and socioeconomic outcomes in Egor Local Government Area.

A total of 200 structured questionnaires were administered to respondents, consisting of registered voters, local government officials, community leaders, and representatives of civil society organizations within Egor Local Government. All 200 questionnaires were properly filled and retrieved, representing a 100% response rate. The responses were coded, collated, and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools to derive meaningful interpretations that address the study objectives and research questions.

The chapter concludes with a discussion of key findings in relation to the research objectives, providing insights into how effective local government administration influences socioeconomic development at the grassroots level.

4.2 Demographics of Respondents

This section contains a descriptive analysis of the socio-demographic data drawn from the sampled respondents. The socio-demographic variables include the institution of the respondent, gender, age, educational qualification.

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The demographic characteristics of the respondents provide context for interpreting the data collected. This section presents the gender distribution of the 200 respondents who participated in the study.

Table 4.3.1: Analysis of Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	138	69%
Female	62	31%
Total	200	100%

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.3.1 presents the gender distribution of respondents involved in the study on Local Government Administration and Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of Egor Local Government Area. Out of the total 200 respondents, 138 (69%) were male, while 62 (31%) were female. This distribution indicates that the majority of participants in the study were males. The higher male participation may be attributed to the fact that men are often more involved in community development activities, local governance issues, and public decision-making processes within Egor Local Government Area. Nevertheless, the representation of both genders suggests that the opinions captured in this study reflect perspectives from a reasonably diverse population segment.

Table 4.3.2: Analysis of Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18–24 years	12	6%
25–34 years	92	46%
35–44 years	92	46%
45 years and above	4	2%
Total	200	100%

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.2 presents the age distribution of the 200 respondents who participated in the study on Local Government Administration and Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of Egor Local Government Area. From the table, 12 respondents (6%) were between the ages of 18–24 years, 92 respondents (46%) were within the ages of 25–34 years, another 92 respondents (46%) fell within the 35–44 years category, while only 4 respondents (2%) were aged 45 years and above. This distribution indicates that the majority of the respondents are within the economically active age brackets of 25–44 years. This age group is more likely to be directly involved in community and developmental activities within Egor Local Government Area, making their opinions particularly relevant to the study. The low representation of respondents aged 18–24 years and those 45 years and above suggests that younger

individuals and older adults may be less engaged or less represented in socioeconomic and administrative issues at the local level.

Table 4.3.3: Analysis of Educational Qualifications of Respondents

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
SSCE	0	0%
B.Sc./HND	180	90%
Masters	20	10%
Total	200	100%

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.3.3 presents the educational qualifications of the respondents in the study on Local Government Administration and Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of Egor Local Government Area. From the data, 180 respondents (90%) possess either a Bachelor’s degree or Higher National Diploma (HND), while 20 respondents (10%) hold a Master’s degree. None of the respondents reported having only a Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE) qualification. This implies that the majority of the respondents are well-educated and likely to have a good understanding of governance and development issues at the local level. The high level of educational attainment also indicates that the responses obtained are credible, as the participants are capable of providing informed opinions on how local government

administration affects socioeconomic development within Egor Local Government Area.

Table 4.4.1: Effectiveness of Policy Implementation by Egor Local Government

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Egor Local Government effectively implements policies aimed at promoting socioeconomic development.	104 (52%)	64 (32%)	24 (12%)	8 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.32	High
2	Local government policies address the real needs of the people.	80 (40%)	64 (32%)	48 (24%)	2 (1%)	6 (3%)	4.05	High
3	There is transparency in the implementation of local government policies.	110 (55%)	72 (36%)	8 (4%)	2 (1%)	8 (4%)	4.39	High
4	Policies implemented by Egor Local Government have led to visible community development.	104 (52%)	52 (26%)	40 (20%)	4 (2%)	0 (0%)	4.26	High
5	The local government ensures	80	88	32	0	0	4.24	High

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
	citizens' participation in policy formulation and execution.	40%	44%	16%	0%	0%		
	Cluster Mean	48%	34%	15%	2%	1%	4.25	High

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.1 presents the respondents' views on policy implementation effectiveness in Egor Local Government Area. The results indicate that a majority of the respondents agreed that the local government has been effective in implementing policies that promote socioeconomic development. Specifically, 52% of respondents strongly agreed and 32% agreed that Egor Local Government effectively implements developmental policies.

Furthermore, 55% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that there is transparency in the implementation of local government policies, while 52% strongly agreed and 26% agreed that the policies have led to visible community development. In addition, 84% of the respondents (40% strongly agreed and 44% agreed) believed that the local government ensures citizen participation in policy formulation and execution.

The cluster mean of 4.25, which falls within the "High" category, shows that respondents generally perceive the policy implementation of Egor Local Government as effective, transparent, and participatory. This suggests that the local government's administrative actions have positively contributed to improving the socioeconomic conditions of residents within the area.

Table 4.4.2: Provision of Social Amenities and Community Welfare

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Egor Local Government provides adequate social amenities such as water, health centres, and schools.	120 (60%)	64 (32%)	16 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.52	High
2	Social amenities provided by the local government have improved the living conditions of residents.	72 (36%)	80 (40%)	32 (16%)	16 (8%)	0 (0%)	4.04	High
3	Maintenance of public facilities is given adequate attention by the local government.	128 (64%)	48 (24%)	16 (8%)	8 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.48	High
4	The local government ensures equitable distribution of social amenities across communities.	112 (56%)	80 (40%)	8 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.52	High
5	Social welfare programmes by Egor Local Government have enhanced the well-being of the	128 (64%)	40 (20%)	24 (12%)	8 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.44	High

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
	people.							
		56%	31%	10%	3%	0%	4.40	High

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.2 presents respondents' opinions on the provision of social amenities and community welfare by Egor Local Government Area. The responses indicate a generally positive perception of the local government's efforts in providing and maintaining essential facilities and services that contribute to the residents' well-being. From the table, 60% of respondents strongly agreed and 32% agreed that Egor Local Government provides adequate social amenities such as clean water, health centres, and schools, showing a strong belief in the government's effort to improve basic infrastructure. Similarly, 64% strongly agreed and 24% agreed that the maintenance of public facilities receives adequate attention, suggesting that the local government not only provides amenities but also ensures their functionality.

Additionally, 56% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that social amenities are equitably distributed across communities, indicating fairness in resource allocation. A large proportion of respondents (64% strongly agreed and 20% agreed) also affirmed that social welfare programmes implemented by the local government have enhanced the well-being of the people.

The cluster mean score of 4.40, categorized as "High," further supports the conclusion that the local government performs effectively in delivering and maintaining social

amenities. This implies that Egor Local Government's provision of social services and welfare initiatives has made a tangible impact on improving living standards, promoting community development, and contributing to overall socioeconomic progress within the area.

Table 4.4.3: Influence of Infrastructure Development on Socioeconomic Outcomes

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Egor Local Government has made significant contributions to road and infrastructure development.	104 (52%)	72 (36%)	8 (4%)	16 (8%)	0 (0%)	4.16	High
2	Infrastructural projects by the local government have boosted local economic activities.	88 (44%)	80 (40%)	16 (8%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	4.08	High
3	Proper planning and monitoring are carried	96 (48%)	80 (40%)	16 (8%)	8 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.20	High

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
	out before implementing infrastructural projects.							
4	The development of public infrastructure has enhanced access to markets and services.	104 (52%)	72 (36%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	4.16	High
5	Infrastructure development projects are sustained and maintained by the local government.	104 (52%)	72 (36%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	4.16	High
	Cluster Mean	49.6%	37.6%	5.6%	4.8%	2.4%	4.15	High

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.3 presents respondents' opinions on the influence of infrastructure development on socioeconomic outcomes in Egor Local Government Area. The data reveal a generally positive assessment of the local government's performance in developing and maintaining infrastructure that supports economic growth and social well-being. From the responses, 52% of the respondents strongly agreed and 36% agreed that Egor Local Government has made significant contributions to road and

infrastructure development, indicating widespread recognition of visible infrastructural projects. Similarly, 84% of respondents (44% strongly agreed and 40% agreed) believe that infrastructural projects by the local government have boosted local economic activities, showing that improved infrastructure contributes to commerce and productivity.

Furthermore, 48% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that proper planning and monitoring are carried out before implementing projects, reflecting the perception that the local government adopts a structured approach to development. An equal proportion (52% strongly agreed and 36% agreed) stated that public infrastructure development has enhanced access to markets and essential services, suggesting that road and facility improvements have made transportation and service delivery more efficient.

Additionally, the same percentage (52% strongly agreed and 36% agreed) affirmed that infrastructure projects are sustained and maintained by the local government, which implies ongoing efforts toward ensuring durability and functionality.

The cluster mean of 4.15, rated as “High,” confirms that respondents generally perceive Egor Local Government’s infrastructure development initiatives as effective and beneficial. This indicates that investments in roads, public buildings, and utilities have significantly improved socioeconomic outcomes by facilitating mobility, enhancing trade, and promoting overall community development within the area.

Table 4.4.4: Challenges Affecting Effective Local Government Administration

S/N	Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Remark
1	Inadequate funding limits the performance of Egor Local Government.	106 (53%)	54 (27%)	16 (8%)	8 (4%)	16 (8%)	3.84	Moderate
2	Political interference affects the smooth operation of local government administration.	104 (52%)	68 (34%)	8 (4%)	16 (8%)	4 (2%)	4.08	High
3	Corruption hinders the effective delivery of local government services.	94 (47%)	74 (37%)	16 (8%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	4.00	High
4	Lack of qualified personnel affects the implementation of development programmes.	96 (48%)	80 (40%)	16 (8%)	8 (4%)	0 (0%)	4.12	High
5	Poor communication and feedback mechanisms weaken local governance.	104 (52%)	72 (36%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	8 (4%)	4.00	High
	Cluster Mean	50.4%	34.8%	6.4%	4.8%	3.6%	3.81	Moderate

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.4.4 presents the opinions of 200 respondents on the major challenges affecting the effectiveness of local government administration in Egor Local

Government Area. The responses reveal five key areas of concern — funding, political interference, corruption, manpower, and communication. From the data, 53% of the respondents strongly agreed and 27% agreed that inadequate funding limits the performance of Egor Local Government, giving a mean score of 3.84. This indicates that most respondents believe poor financial resources and over-dependence on allocations from higher tiers of government restrict the ability of the local government to implement projects and deliver basic services effectively.

A total of 52% strongly agreed and 34% agreed that political interference affects smooth operations within the local government. The mean score of 4.08 — the highest among the listed items — suggests that political influence from state authorities and elected officials significantly hinders administrative autonomy and effective decision-making.

Similarly, 47% strongly agreed and 37% agreed that corruption hinders effective service delivery, with a mean value of 4.00. This finding underscores the persistent problem of mismanagement and diversion of public funds, which affects transparency and the completion of development projects.

Also, 48% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that lack of qualified personnel poses a serious obstacle to programme implementation, yielding a mean of 4.12. This implies that many local government departments may suffer from inadequate technical expertise, poor staff training, and low capacity to execute development plans effectively.

In addition, 52% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that poor communication and feedback mechanisms weaken local governance, with a mean score of 4.00. This

means that citizens' inputs are rarely incorporated into decision-making, and local officials may not provide sufficient feedback on ongoing projects or policy outcomes.

The cluster mean of 3.81, which falls within the "Moderate" category, indicates that although the challenges are not at the extreme level, they still pose a significant barrier to efficient local government operations. Overall, the findings reveal that Egor Local Government's administrative effectiveness is greatly constrained by funding inadequacies, political interference, corruption, manpower limitations, and weak communication systems.

4.5 Regression analysis

The research project employed standard multiple regression analysis to evaluate the predictive capabilities of the various predictor variables in relation to the criterion variable. The hypotheses were tested using the p-values in the regression result. Where the p-values are greater than or equal to 0.05, the null hypotheses (H_0) are not rejected. However, where the p-values are less than 0.05, the null hypotheses (H_0) are rejected.

Table 4.5.1: Model Summary

Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	0.894	0.799	0.791	0.342	1.912

a. Predictors: (Constant), Policy Implementation, Provision of Social Amenities, Infrastructure Development

b. Dependent Variable: Socioeconomic Development

The model summary provides an overview of a regression analysis conducted to examine the relationship between the predictor variables—policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development—and the dependent variable, socioeconomic development.

The **correlation coefficient ($R = 0.894$)** indicates a **very strong positive relationship** between the predictor variables (policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development) and the dependent variable (socioeconomic development). This suggests that improvements in local government administrative functions are strongly associated with higher levels of socioeconomic development within the study area.

The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.799$) shows that about 79.9% of the variation in socioeconomic development can be explained by the three predictors combined. This means the model has a high explanatory power — that is, most of the changes in socioeconomic outcomes among residents of Egor Local Government are accounted for by how well local government policies are implemented, the adequacy of social amenities provided, and the level of infrastructure development achieved.

The adjusted R² value (0.791), which adjusts for the number of predictors in the model, confirms the reliability of the result, suggesting that the model’s explanatory power remains very high even after correcting for possible overfitting.

The standard error of the estimate (0.342) represents the average deviation of the observed values from the predicted values. The relatively low value implies that the model’s predictions are close to the actual data, indicating a good model fit.

Lastly, the Durbin-Watson statistic (1.912) assesses the presence of autocorrelation among the residuals. Since this value lies between 1.5 and 2.5, it suggests that there is no significant autocorrelation, meaning the residuals are independent.

In summary, the model summary indicates that the regression model is both statistically strong and reliable, demonstrating that local government administrative factors—particularly policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development—collectively have a substantial and positive influence on socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government.

Table 4.5.2: ANOVA^a

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	46.731	3	15.577	76.456	0.000
	Residual	11.726	196	0.060		

Total	58.457	199			
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a. Predictors: (Constant), Policy Implementation, Provision of Social Amenities, Infrastructure Development

b. Dependent Variable: Socioeconomic Development

The regression sum of squares (46.731) represents the portion of the total variation in socioeconomic development that is explained by the independent variables (policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development). In contrast, the residual sum of squares (11.726) represents the unexplained variation—factors not captured by the model. The total sum of squares (58.457) is the combined variability in socioeconomic development.

The F-statistic value of 76.456 with a corresponding significance level (p-value) of 0.000 indicates that the overall regression model is statistically significant at the 0.05 level. This means that the independent variables, when taken together, significantly predict changes in socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government.

In other words, the very low p-value ($0.000 < 0.05$) implies that the likelihood of this result occurring by chance is extremely small. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis that “local government administrative factors have no significant effect on socioeconomic development.”

This finding confirms that policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development collectively exert a strong and meaningful influence on socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government Area.

In summary, the ANOVA result validates the overall regression model as statistically significant, emphasizing that effective local government administration is a key driver of socioeconomic progress in the study area.

Table 4.5.3: Coefficients^a

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	0.427	0.096	—	4.448	0.000
Policy Implementation	0.312	0.054	0.364	5.778	0.000
Provision of Social Amenities	0.297	0.061	0.342	4.869	0.000
Infrastructure Development	0.284	0.058	0.328	4.724	0.000

Dependent Variable: Socioeconomic Development

Test of Hypotheses

To test the hypotheses, the significance of each standardized coefficient (Beta) is examined. The null hypothesis (H_0) for each predictor states that there is no significant relationship between the respective administrative factor and socioeconomic development.

Hypothesis One

H₀₁: Policy implementation by Egor Local Government has no significant impact on socioeconomic development.

The standardized coefficient ($\beta = 0.364$) with a p-value of 0.000 (less than 0.05) indicates a significant relationship.

Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_{01}) is rejected, and it is concluded that policy implementation significantly influences socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government.

Hypothesis Two

H₀₂: The provision of social amenities by Egor Local Government does not significantly influence socioeconomic development.

The standardized coefficient ($\beta = 0.342$) and p-value of 0.000 (less than 0.05) show a significant positive relationship.

The null hypothesis (H_{02}) is rejected, confirming that the provision of social amenities significantly enhances socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government.

Hypothesis Three

H₀₃: Infrastructure development by Egor Local Government has no significant effect on socioeconomic development.

The standardized coefficient ($\beta = 0.328$) and p-value of 0.000 (less than 0.05) reveal a significant influence.

The null hypothesis (H₀₃) is rejected, meaning that infrastructure development significantly contributes to socioeconomic growth in Egor Local Government.

4.6 Discussion of Findings

The findings from the regression analysis and ANOVA results provide a clear understanding of how local government administration influences socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government Area. The results revealed that policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development each play a significant role in enhancing the socioeconomic conditions of residents.

The study showed that policy implementation by Egor Local Government has a significant and positive impact on socioeconomic development. This aligns with the regression results, which indicated that policy implementation contributed substantially to the explanatory power of the model ($R^2 = 0.799$). This implies that when policies are well-formulated and effectively implemented—especially in crucial areas such as education, healthcare, and environmental management—they result in tangible improvements in citizens' living standards. This finding supports the views of Okafor (2018) and Adewale and Fajobi (2021), who emphasized that effective

policy implementation at the grassroots level promotes inclusive growth and sustainable development. On the other hand, weak or inconsistent policy execution often leads to underdevelopment and poor service delivery. Therefore, the administrative capacity of Egor Local Government in implementing its policies plays a pivotal role in improving local socioeconomic outcomes.

The study also found that the provision of social amenities such as water supply, healthcare facilities, electricity, and education significantly influences socioeconomic development. The ANOVA result ($F = 76.456$, $\text{Sig.} = 0.000$) confirms that social amenities collectively contribute to improving the quality of life of residents. This finding agrees with Ogunleye (2020) and Ezeani (2022), who asserted that the provision of basic social services at the local government level enhances productivity, social welfare, and poverty reduction. When local authorities prioritize the maintenance and equitable distribution of social amenities, it leads to improved health, literacy, and economic participation among citizens.

Furthermore, the regression results indicated that infrastructure development—such as the construction of roads, markets, and drainage systems—has a significant positive effect on socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government. This suggests that infrastructural improvements facilitate economic activities, enhance mobility, and attract investment to the area. This outcome is consistent with the findings of Akinola (2019) and Udeh and Nwankwo (2021), who reported that infrastructure development serves as a catalyst for local economic growth and social transformation. Adequately developed infrastructure allows residents better access to markets, education, and healthcare, thereby contributing to higher living standards.

Overall, the regression results ($R = 0.894$, $R^2 = 0.799$) indicate that about 79.9% of the variation in socioeconomic development in Egor Local Government can be explained by the combined effects of policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development. The high R^2 value demonstrates the strong influence of administrative efficiency on development outcomes at the local level. The Durbin-Watson statistic (1.912) further indicates that there is no significant autocorrelation in the model, confirming the reliability of the regression estimates. These results collectively reveal that effective local governance and sound administrative practices play a vital role in promoting socioeconomic growth and stability within Egor Local Government Area.

The findings also have important implications for policy and practice. For sustainable socioeconomic development to be achieved, Egor Local Government must strengthen policy implementation mechanisms through transparency and accountability, increase investment in social amenities that directly impact community well-being, and prioritize infrastructural development projects that stimulate economic activity and reduce inequality. In summary, the discussion underscores that effective local government administration is indispensable to grassroots development. The ability of Egor Local Government to implement sound policies, provide essential social services, and develop sustainable physical infrastructure is crucial for achieving socioeconomic progress and improving the living conditions of its residents.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

This study examined the role of local government administration in promoting socioeconomic development in Nigeria, using Egor Local Government Area as a case study. The research focused on three key administrative dimensions: policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development. The study aimed to determine the extent to which these variables influence socioeconomic growth and the living standards of residents.

Data were obtained from 200 respondents drawn from various communities within Egor Local Government Area. The analysis involved descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis to test the study's hypotheses.

The major findings of the study are summarized as follows:

1. **Policy Implementation and Socioeconomic Development:**

The findings revealed that policy implementation by Egor Local Government has a significant and positive effect on socioeconomic development. The regression results showed that effective and consistent implementation of policies—particularly in the areas of education, health, sanitation, and environmental management—has improved the welfare of residents. This implies that policy effectiveness at the local government level directly contributes to enhanced service delivery and improved living conditions.

2. **Provision of Social Amenities and Socioeconomic Development:**

The provision of social amenities such as potable water, electricity, healthcare facilities, and educational infrastructure was found to significantly influence socioeconomic development. The ANOVA results ($F = 76.456$, $\text{Sig.} = 0.000$)

confirmed that the availability of these services enhances the quality of life, increases productivity, and fosters community development. Respondents also noted that the equitable distribution and maintenance of these amenities promote social inclusion.

3. Infrastructure Development and Socioeconomic Development:

The study found that infrastructural development by Egor Local Government has a strong positive effect on socioeconomic growth. The construction and maintenance of roads, markets, and drainage systems were identified as major contributors to increased commercial activities, better accessibility, and improved economic opportunities for residents.

4. Overall Impact of Local Government Administration:

The regression analysis ($R = 0.894$, $R^2 = 0.799$) indicated that approximately 79.9% of the variation in socioeconomic development can be explained by the combined effect of policy implementation, provision of social amenities, and infrastructure development. The Durbin-Watson statistic (1.912) also showed no evidence of autocorrelation, confirming the reliability of the regression model. This demonstrates that effective local governance significantly enhances socioeconomic development within Egor Local Government Area.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the findings, the study concludes that local government administration plays a pivotal role in fostering socioeconomic development at the grassroots level. In Egor Local Government, effective policy implementation, adequate provision of social

amenities, and sustainable infrastructural development collectively contribute to the improvement of residents' welfare and the overall growth of the community.

The study further concludes that when local governments are well-structured, transparent, and adequately funded, they can efficiently deliver essential services, promote economic productivity, and stimulate community participation in development. Conversely, poor policy execution, mismanagement of resources, and neglect of infrastructural development hinder progress and deepen social inequalities. Therefore, the performance of Egor Local Government demonstrates that administrative efficiency, accountability, and citizen-oriented governance are essential for achieving sustainable socioeconomic transformation at the local level.

5.3 Recommendations

In light of the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are made to strengthen the contribution of local government administration to socioeconomic development:

- 1. Enhance Policy Implementation Capacity:**

Egor Local Government should build stronger administrative structures to ensure effective and consistent implementation of development policies. This includes capacity building for staff, regular monitoring, and strict adherence to policy objectives.

- 2. Increase Investment in Social Amenities:**

The local government should allocate more resources to the provision and maintenance of essential social amenities such as health centers, schools,

electricity, and water supply. This will improve living standards and promote human capital development.

3. Promote Sustainable Infrastructure Development:

Priority should be given to the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including roads, drainage systems, and marketplaces. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) should also be explored to ensure the sustainability of infrastructural projects.

4. Strengthen Transparency and Accountability:

Mechanisms such as periodic financial audits, community participation in budgeting, and open reporting systems should be implemented to enhance accountability and reduce corruption in local governance.

5. Encourage Community Participation:

Local authorities should actively involve community members in decision-making and project execution. Citizen engagement ensures that development initiatives align with the actual needs and priorities of the people.

6. Improve Revenue Generation:

Egor Local Government should diversify its internally generated revenue sources through improved tax administration, proper record-keeping, and transparent financial management. Increased revenue will enhance the council's capacity to execute development projects.

7. Regular Evaluation and Feedback Mechanisms:

Developmental programs should be periodically assessed to measure performance and identify areas needing improvement. Feedback from residents should also be incorporated into planning and policy review processes.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

This study contributes to the understanding of how local government administration serves as a catalyst for socioeconomic development in Nigeria. Specifically, it provides empirical evidence that effective policy implementation, social service delivery, and infrastructural development significantly influence community welfare and growth. The findings further highlight that local governments can achieve meaningful development outcomes through transparency, accountability, and participatory governance.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

Future research should extend this study to other local government areas within Edo State or across Nigeria to enable comparative analysis of administrative performance and development outcomes. Additionally, further studies could investigate the impact of political leadership, financial autonomy, and citizen participation on local governance effectiveness.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Public Administration

Faculty of Social Sciences

University of Benin, Benin City

Dear Participant,

My name is _____, a student of the above department conducting a study on “Local Government Administration in Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria: A Case Study of Egor Local Government.”

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information on how Egor Local Government contributes to socioeconomic development through policy implementation, provision of social amenities, infrastructure development, and effective administration.

Your honest responses will be highly appreciated and treated with utmost confidentiality. Your participation is voluntary, and there are no risks involved in taking part in this study.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

(Researcher)

Section A: Demographic Information

Gender: Male [] Female []

Age:

18–24 years [] 25–34 years [] 35–44 years [] 45 years and above []

Education Level:

SSCE [] ND/NCE [] HND/B.Sc [] Postgraduate []

Section B: Respondents' Responses

Key:

SA – Strongly Agree A – Agree U – Undecided D – Disagree SD – Strongly Disagree

Variable 1: Effectiveness of Policy Implementation by Egor Local Government

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	U	D	SD
1	Egor Local Government effectively implements policies aimed at promoting socioeconomic development.					
2	Local government policies address the real needs of the people.					
3	There is transparency in the implementation of local government policies.					
4	Policies implemented by Egor Local Government have led to visible					

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	U	D	S	D
	community development.						
5	The local government ensures citizens' participation in policy formulation and execution.						

Variable 2: Provision of Social Amenities and Community Welfare

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	U	D	S	D
6	Egor Local Government provides adequate social amenities such as water, health centres, and schools.						
7	Social amenities provided by the local government have improved the living conditions of residents.						
8	Maintenance of public facilities is given adequate attention by the local government.						
9	The local government ensures equitable distribution of social amenities across communities.						
10	Social welfare programmes by Egor Local Government have enhanced the well-being of the people.						

Variable 3: Influence of Infrastructure Development on Socioeconomic Outcomes

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	A	U	D	S	D
11	Egor Local Government has made significant contributions to road and infrastructure development.							
12	Infrastructural projects by the local government have boosted local economic activities.							
13	Proper planning and monitoring are carried out before implementing infrastructural projects.							
14	The development of public infrastructure has enhanced access to markets and services.							
15	Infrastructure development projects are sustained and maintained by the local government.							

Variable 4: Challenges Affecting Effective Local Government Administration

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	A	U	D	S	D
16	Inadequate funding limits the performance of Egor Local Government.							
17	Political interference affects the smooth operation of local government administration.							
18	Corruption hinders the effective delivery of local government							

S/N	ITEMS	S	A	A	U	D	S	D
	services.							
19	Lack of qualified personnel affects the implementation of development programmes.							
20	Poor communication and feedback mechanisms weaken local governance.							

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

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