

**EVALUATING THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURAL
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF OVIA NORTH EAST LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE**

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BENIN CITY**

OCTOBER, 2025

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by **Favour Ekhator** with matriculation number SSC2105798 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Sciences degree in Public Administration.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to God almighty for his guidance, protection and good health throughout my period of study. I also extend my Dedication to my beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ekhaton

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I sincerely acknowledge the Almighty God for His divine guidance, protection, wisdom, and strength throughout the course of this research work and my academic pursuit. His grace has been my constant source of inspiration and success.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page									
Certification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	i
Dedication		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ii
Acknowledgements		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iii
Abstract		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iv
Table of contents		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	v
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION									
1.1	Background to the Study		-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem		-	-	-	-	-	-	10
1.3	Objective of the Study		-	-	-	-	-	-	12
1.4	Research Question		-	-	-	-	-	-	12
1.5	Significance of the Study		-	-	-	-	-	-	13
1.6	Scope of the Study		-	-	-	-	-	-	14
1.7	Limitation of the Study		-	-	-	-	-	-	14
1.8	Organization of the Study		-	-	-	-	-	-	15
1.9	Definition of Terms		-	-	-	-	-	-	16
	References		-	-	-	-	-	-	18
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW									
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY									
3.1	Research Methodology		-	-	-	-	-	-	57
3.2	Research Design		-	-	-	-	-	-	58
3.3	Sources of Data		-	-	-	-	-	-	59
3.4	Population of the Study		-	-	-	-	-	-	60
3.5	Sample Size		-	-	-	-	-	-	61
3.6	Sample Technique		-	-	-	-	-	-	61
3.7	Instrumentation		-	-	-	-	-	-	61
3.8	Validity of the Instrument		-	-	-	-	-	-	62
	References		-	-	-	-	-	-	64
CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA									
4.1	Analysis of Data by Respondents		-	-	-	-	-	-	65

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1	Summary	-	-	-	-	-	-	85
5.2	Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
5.3	Recommendations	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
	Bibliography	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
	Appendix	-	-	-	-	-	-	94

ABSTRACT

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Infrastructure in the Merriam Webster Dictionary is conceptualized as the resources (personnel, building and equipment) required for an activity. Majority of persons have the view that infrastructure just pertains to the school building, the architectural monument or aesthetic beauties of the school building itself. But from the Dictionary definition, it is viewed that even human resources and school facilities (audio-visual aids, school computers, laboratory, library, etc.) are all school infrastructures.

The local government is the closest tier of government to the people and one of man's earliest political institutions. The earliest form of local government existed in the form of clan and village meetings. In fact, democracy itself originated and developed along the lines of local governance initiatives in Africa and particularly in Nigeria. Though there have been changes in name, structure and composition, the system has been in operation differently all over the country (Agagu, 2004).

With the advent of independence in 1960, local government in Nigeria became a de facto agent of administering communities infrastructure and programmes at the local level (Diejomaoh & Eboh, 2010). Local government provides an existing frame work not only for decision making with respect to community, but also for coordinating assistance from other tiers of government, especially the central government (state or federal) and even from other agencies.

Local government and infrastructural development are two closely related concepts. They are both primarily concerned with the development of local area. However, over the years the two concepts have been institutionally separated. One of the aims of the 1976 Local Government reform sponsored by the federal Military Government was to integrate community development into local government. The status of community development in Nigeria presently and its relationship to national development remain a serious subject for debate.

The local government as the third tier of government in the Nigeria federal scheme is crucial to national development. One major objective of the local government

is to mobilize human and material resources towards the infrastructural development of the rural communities. It plays various significant roles in rural development and the execution of national policies, plans and programmes at the local communities.

Local government and infrastructural development have a common goal: the development of local (especially rural) communities through the local initiatives and some form of federal government support. The definition of local government and development emphasized the common themes of felt needs, local initiatives, participation and an integrated community approach to development in concert with higher level of government. The only difference between local government and development is that, local government is an institution while infrastructural development is a process, thereby making integration easier at the conceptual level.

Infrastructural development, ideally, thus become a process whereby the local government, in concert with higher levels of governments brings about comprehensive improvement in the lives of the people within its area of jurisdiction. As an instrument of local development, local government is founded upon the premise as the smallest unit of government to stimulate popular developmental activities. It thus elicits enthusiasm and fosters concentration of energies of the locality thereby enriching national policies and making national development plans more real for local needs and circumstances. In the quest for effective local government system in Nigeria, various efforts and reforms have been introduced and carried out from early self-government in the 1950s and 1960s.

However, the most far-reaching reform was the 1976 local government reforms which were embarked upon by the Murtala Regime.

The 1976 local government reforms can be said to be the best thing that has happened to the local government administration. That reform brought a uniform local government system all over the country. Before the 1976 reforms, local government administrative system was not uniform in all parts of the country, each region or states has its own peculiar system of local administration. Local government systems were named variously viz: in Kano it was called “development area”. In Bendel state (now Edo and Delta State called it “development council” (Eghomwan, 1984).

From there above therefore, and in line with the local government reforms that made the local government in Nigerian a third tier government placing on it extensive development responsibilities. It is in the line with this cardinal objective that effort is being made in this long essay attempted an evaluation of the role of local government administration in rural infrastructural development. It focuses on Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Local Government can also be defined as that tier of government closest to the people, “which is vested with certain powers to exercise control over the affairs of people in its domain” (Lawal, 2000). Local government foremost responsibility is infrastructural development of their locality or engages in activities that will ameliorate the people suffering. A lot depends on the leadership of the local government authorities. Over the

years, the Ovia North East Local Government authority as well as the leadership has been struggling to develop it. Social services like motorable roads, electricity, good health facilities and portable water are not being enjoyed by the people in the locality. While there is much literature that look or examine local government and the local people under on their watch, they always do so collectively without actually examining infrastructure development in that local government area. Hence, no written literature has been solely dedicated to Ovia North East Local Government Area. It is against this background that this long essay will evaluate the role of local government administration in rural infrastructural development, a focus on Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This research long essay will evaluate the role of local government administration in rural infrastructural development, a focus on Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State. This research objective will include:

- i. To examine establishment of local government in Nigeria.
- ii. To identified rural infrastructural development in Ovia North East Local Government Area.
- iii. Evaluate the role of local government administration rural infrastructural development on Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. What is the origin of local government in Edo State?
- ii. Is there any rural infrastructural in Ovia North East Local Government Area?
- iii. What role has local government administration played in rural infrastructural development in Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This long essay will be significant in the following ways: The local government council and the rural dwellers after the completion of this study would benefit much from each other and enhance the co-operation and coexistence. The study is of high importance because the result will go a long way in exposing the ways through which local government councils have helped to improve the life of the inhabitants in Ovia North East and other local government councils in Nigeria.

Apart from being of help to the researches as essential requirements for certification and broadening the researcher's knowledge, it may also become handy to others for writing future essays of this nature especially as a reference material on this topic. It is intended to feed potential readers with facts that could motivate the government to lay more emphasis on developing local government system. The knowledge of the various activities and operations of the local government council will be of immense help if the government can analyze and determine the extent of its impact to its citizen and thereby make transformational reforms that will improve service delivery.

Finally, the information supplied here will be of immense benefit to the government and regulatory bodies responsible for the total reform of the local government council activities.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This long essay will focus on an evaluation of the role of local government administration in rural infrastructural development on Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State. The study will be likely constrained by limited time, financial resources, oath of office and apathy to supplying needed data regarding infrastructural development in Ovia North East, Edo State.

1.7 Definition of Terms

The following key terms used in the study are given the meanings contextually ascribed to them as follows:

Local government: a political and administrative unit that is empowered by law to administer any locality. In Nigeria, the 3rd constitutional tier of government so empowered.

Infrastructure: This is any the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities such as buildings, roads, power supply, telecommunication needed for the operation of a society and enjoyment of live. It includes educational facilitates learning in and outside the classroom building in the school.

Development: the structural transformation and acceleration/growth of the economy, society, politics and culture of the state that permits the self-generating and self-

perpetuating use of the people's potentials and the reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty.

Effect: a change of result that happens because of an event or action (Longman Dictionary).

Grassroots: ordinary people remote from political decision making, but who are affected by those decisions.

Modernization: conceptualized as a complex change in institutions or societies for the betterment of the citizens whether these changes can be in traditional or modern societies politically, socially or otherwise.

Political education: a systematic turning and development of the individual's abilities and character politically. It connotes a political consensus formation rural development- the desire for economic, social political consensus formation.

Role: Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus defines role as the character assigned or assumed to individual, by a socially expected behaviour pattern usually determined by an individual's status in a particular organization or Society.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK

Concept of Local Government

The concept of local government involves a philosophical commitment to the idea of democratic participation in the governing process at the grassroots level. This according to Appadorai (1975) and Borhaug (1994) implies legal and administrative decentralization of authority and power by a higher level of government to a local community with a will of its own, performing specific functions as within the widest national framework.

Local government operates in a restricted geographical area within which the local community enjoys “local” self-government. This is to say local self-government makes local government an ‘empire within an empire’. The term is used in the sense that local government can make bye-laws to enable it to perform specific functions, control its finances, recruit and disciplines its staff and formulate developmental programmers within the national framework.

A democratic local government is self-government of the local community for the local community by its elected local inhabitants. This is participatory democracy in the sense that local communities manage their own defined local affairs within the legal framework thereby arousing the political consciousness among the local citizens. As grassroots democracy, local government teaches the local citizens the act of self-government. Though the local communities pay taxes and rates to jointly provide the local common services which would have been impossible for the local inhabitant to provide individually by themselves. By implication the effectiveness of local government is measured by the quality and quantity of development projects, which would be viewed as efficiency and the social amenities it provides for the well-being of the local communities it services.

Over the years, many scholars of political science have undertaken the study of the development and activities of local government with the aim of accessing their performance and achievement and their impact on the people of the localities where they operate. However, many scholars of political science have tried to explain and define the

concept of local government. Among such scholars is Eghonmwan (1984). He defined local government as a form of decentralization with its distinctive characteristics explained in the principle of locality, authority and viability. He went further to add that local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within defined areas. The derivation is that local government is a form of devolution in public administration, which prescribes that a situation where all powers and functions are concentrated at the central either at the federal or state level, does not help the grassroots populace.

The United Nations Office for Public Administration defines local government as a political sub-division of national or (in a federal system), state which is constituted by law, and has substantial control of local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purposes. The governing bodying of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected.

The above definition has widely accepted as reasonably embracing both the Cambridge (UK) Conference on Local Government in Africa and the United Nations Conference at the Hague in 1961 respectively. They considered and adopted the United Nations definitions.

Appadorai (1975) in his book says that it suggests two things which need constantly to be borne in mind. First, that local government is an “organism” something that cannot be contained forever or even for very long in a particular set of status rules and regulations, but which is constantly adapting itself to new circumstances; and

secondly, that it relates to habits, models of “life and surrounding”. What he is pointing out is that local government differs from one country to another or even within one country. For example, it was different in Northern Nigeria from Southern before the great reforms of 1976.

In Africa, the term local government covers political questions such as the function of native authorities, the composition and methods of appointment of councils and the constitutional position of traditional rulers, chiefs, the finance of such communities and so on.

The 1976 local government reforms in Nigeria defined local government as:

Government at the local levels exercised through a Representative council established by the law to exercise powers within defined areas. These power should give the council substantive control over local affairs as Well as staff and constitutional and financial power to initiate and direct the provision of services and so to determine and implement projects so as to complement to activities of the state and federal government in their areas and to ensure through development of functions of councils and through the active participation of the people and their traditional constitutions that the local government initiate and response to local needs and conditions are maximized.

Under the reforms of 1976, there were some new changes in the local government system. The first striking new element in the local government reform was the intervention of the Federal Government affairs.

For a very long time, the Federal Government had been inactive or unconcerned about local government councils especially in the area of finance. Another innovation of

the reforms was the emergence of local government as a meaningful third level of government in Nigeria. What this implies is that local government was by hierarchical structure recognized as the third tier or level of government. It was given adequate power, finances, and human resources to discharge their functions and those functions and powers were clearly though not exhaustively spelt out.

Again Akpan (1976) says local government implies the breaking down of a country into small units or localities for the purpose of administration in which the inhabitants of different units or localities concerned play a direct and full part through their elected representatives, who exercise power to undertake functions under the general authority of the national government. However, a definition which is generally referred to as comprehensive though not totally exhaustive is that given by Whalen (1977: 19-93) as cited in Mawhood (1983) According to him,

Each unity of local government in a given system is assured to possess the following characteristics, a given territory and population, an institutional structure for legislative, executive and administrative purposes a separate legal identify: With a delegation from the appropriate central or ambit of such delegation autonomy, subjects always at least in Anglo – America tradition to the limitations of common laws such as the test of reasonableness.

From the above definition it is clear that local government is seen as a sequence of a nation being divided into units for development, efficiency and convenience and whose primary intention is to bring development or efficient services to the local

(grassroots) population. Its existence is also to ensure the execution of development projects in the communities and their traditional government in those areas. Furthermore, it adds value to the communities and through the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions initiate and respond to local needs and conditions maximally.

In contemporary time, local governments have become a focus of attention and interest. This has taken place out of the concern for grassroots development, and the key role of local government in rural transformation vis-à-vis development. Consequently, upon these, local governments since the period of transition. These changes have been targeted at improving the efficacy, organization and operation of local governments to enhance effectiveness in relation to goals to goals within the socio-economic and political scheme.

The continuing puzzle however is the question of survival, given their antecedent, present efforts and expectation. Conceptions of local government differ but they generally relate to constitutions of local institutions that display the characteristics of authority to manage effectively local affairs, through the local people and to administer a limited range of responsibilities and services at the grass root level; direct the provision of services, and design and execute projects to satisfy needs whereby the impact will be felt by the people. They generally motivate local creativity, discretion and response to local needs, conditions and popular participation in the management of local needs and problems.

These responsibilities portray the character of local governments. They provide grassroots governance, through popular participation and involvement of local people by way of political education and mobilization and of local efforts and resurgences for development. The fundamental fact is that local government invariably implies and enhances some other factors, which are actually considered as the rationalization or justification for their existence or participatory democracy, administrative efficiency, and effective and efficient service delivery, resources mobilization and political autonomy.

The factors and rationalization for local government vis-à-vis their impacts are important for various reasons. First, they are what local government responsibilities should be: that is, resource mobilization and administrative efficiency in the provision of services. Secondly, they are what local governments should represent or entails; that is, local participation, political education and representation and autonomy. These factors should constitute the basis for the judgment whether local governments are making any impacts or whether they are swimming or on the contrary they are drowning.

Having looked at the attempts to define local government, it needs to be pointed out that there are principally two conceptual theories of local government. The first theory attempts to justify the existential need for local governments on the basis of it been essential in a democratic dispensation or for political and administrative purposes like responsiveness, accountability and control. The second theory somehow conflicts with the tendency of arguing that an effective local government system contradicts the functions of a democratic administration.

John Stuart Mill (1776) in his contention justified local government from three main perceptions. The first was that there is specific concern or interest which only a section of the community has in common and it is convenient as well as advisable that only those who share this community of interest should administer them. The second reason was that local government is one of the free institutions which provide political education on behalf of the citizens. The third reason is that of accountability whereby there are separate executive officers required for purely local duties with a separate organ exerting control over those officers.

Jeremy Bentham as cited in Mackenzie (1961), regarded local government as a training or nursing ground for national politicians as did (Harold, 1968). Local government can also be viewed from the developmental angle. It can be viewed as placing greater emphasis on how local government in the developing world can be effective agent or catalyst of a better life, an improved means of living, socially and economically and a leeway to a better proportion in the national wealth. It is a more pragmatic approach to local governance (Agagu, 2004).

Ola (1984), postulating from the development angle, contends that local government can promote national integration and national consciousness. The socio-economic and developmental aspect includes the provision of sanitary facilities, latrines, public health care centers, parks and incinerators among others.

Implicit in the above assertion is the fact that whatever form of existence the local government may have, it is regarded essentially as the most veritable path to and guarantor of administrative efficiency, effective service delivery and development of local community.

Functions of Local Government

On what amounts to the functions of local governments, Aghayere (1996:47) pointed out that all local governments generally but specifically in Nigeria are established to revolve around the following;

- Those functions, which required detailed local knowledge for efficient performance.
- Functions in which success depends on communities' responsiveness and participation.
- Functions which are of personal nature requiring provision close to where the individual affected lives; and
- Functions in which significant use of discretion or understanding of individual is needed.

It is important to note however that Section 7(2)(b) of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended) requires that in defining the geographical area of local government, regard is to be paid to:

- The common interest of the community in the area,
- Traditional association of the community, and
- Administrative convenience.

Sequel to the above, local governments can participate in economic planning and development to the area referred to in section 7(2)(b) above.

However, since the local government reforms of 1976, and particularly in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which itself is made pursuant to section 7(5) of the said 1999 Constitution, the functions of local governments are divided into two categories – those which are exclusive to it and others which they may perform concurrently with state governments. The functions exclusive to local governments include:

- i. Markets and motor parks;
- ii. Sanitary inspection, refuse and night soil disposal.
- iii. Control of vermin, slaughter houses, slaughter slabs;
- iv. Public Conveniences;
- v. Burial grounds, registration of births, deaths and marriages, provision of community and local recreation centres;
- vi. Parks, gardens and public open spaces, grazing grounds, fuel plantations, licensing, regulation and sale of liquor.
- vii. Licensing, supervision and regulation of bicycles, hand carts and of hoardings, advertisements, use of loud-speakers in or near public places, and drumming, use of roads and streets and numbering of plots/buildings, control and collection of revenue from the forest, collection of vehicle parking charges, collection of property and other rates, community tax and other designated revenue sources.

The functions which local governments can perform concurrently with state governments include the following:

- Health centres, Maternity centres, dispensaries and health clinics, ambulance services, leprosy clinics and preventive health services; Abattoirs, and meat inspection; Nursing, primary and adult education; information and public enlightenment; provision of scholarships and bursaries; provision of public libraries and reading rooms; Agricultural extension, animal health and extension services and veterinary clinics.
- Rural and semi-urban supply; fire services, provision of roads and streets, their lighting, drainage, control of water and atmospheric pollution; control of beggars, prostitution and repatriation of destitute, the infirm and orphans; provision of public utilities except where restricted by other legislation specifically including provision of road and inland transport. Public housing programmes; operation of commercial undertakings, control of traffic and parking; regulation and control of buildings; town and country planning as well as piped sewage system. (4th Schedule, CFRN 1994 as amended).

Coming into the issue of development, various scholars have attempted to offer their opinions. Development generally is an area that has attracted to the attention of many scholars especially in the areas of education, provisions of infrastructures, provision of health facilities etc.

Concept of Rural Community

Rural development refers to the provision of social or public goods that will promote socio-economic wellbeing of the citizens. Public services offered by government are numerous and may include the provision of public utilities, security, economic development projects, and the enforcement of the law and so on. The delivery of public goods and services at the local government level or the grass root is aimed at moving the standard of living of the populace to the next level (Angahar, 2013). Consequently, the efficient and effective provisions of basic amenities and social infrastructures for the people at the grass root are key factors to the existence of any government (Bolatito & Ibrahim, 2014).

In sequel to the above, the Nigerian constitution assigns community development responsibilities to the three tiers of government with states and local government playing the most significant role in the delivery of basic services. Some of the services expected from local government authority include education, health, housing, water, rural electricity, waste disposal services, roads, transport, and so on (Adeyemi, 2013; Agba, Akwara, & Idu, 2013). Thus local government councils are required to serve the public interest in areas of constructing roads, public markets, healthcare centres, drainages, transportation, motor parks, building primary schools, among others (Bolatito & Ibrahim, 2014).

In support of this position, Agba, Akwara, & Idu (2013) contends that as agents of rural development, local governments are to use funds made available to them by both federal and state governments and their internally generated revenue to improve on the

lives of the people within their areas of operations through initiating and attracting developmental projects to the local government such as provision of access roads, water and rural electricity. Apart from being available political and administrative organ for the transformation of rural communities, local governments also act as the training ground for the breeding of the grassroots democracy fundamental in national development (Adeyemo, 1995; Lawal and Oladunjoye, 2010).

Concept of Development

Nwabueze (1973) sees development as a type of social change in which new ideas are introduced into a social system in order to improve the levels of living through more modern production methods and improve social organization. Lawal & Oladunjoye (2010) say real development involves a structural transformation of the economy, society, polity and culture of the state that permits the self generating and self-perpetuating use and development of the people's potential.

From the above postulations about development, it will be realized that the concept is not an easy concept to understand. It is approached from the perspectives of different writers. It therefore, can be said to have very many dimensions, including local, state, federal, economic, political, social and personal perspectives. This is why one may be right if not very correct to say that, the concept of development could be likened to the theory of life itself. This conception about development being likened to a theory of life is because the current conception of development looks at it aggregately. This means that a complex factor

of man's life includes that wielded together in transforming the locality where the local populace lives in order to give a realistic of development.

It is in the above light that Harsh (1993) conceives of development on a holistic basis as encompassing all aspects of a nation's life. Development therefore can be conceived of as a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes and national institutions, as well as acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of absolute poverty. Development in its essence must represent the whole gamut of changes by which an entire social system, turns to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within that system, and moves away from a condition of life widely perceived as unsatisfactory and towards a situation or condition of life regarded as materially and spiritually better.

It is worth mentioning at this stage that development should be seen as an advancement which makes life more meaningful in all its entirety or ramifications, including local, state, federal, economic, political, social, cultural and personal aspects. The generality of consensus therefore, among those who believe in this school of thought is that development should be the watchword government administration or system.

With regard to effectiveness and/or efficiency, a good number of scholars have played down the democratic and participatory role stressed by the earlier school described above. To them the essential function of local government is not the bringing about of democracy, nor is it the provision of a base for political participation and political education.

To them local government exists to provide services, and it must be judged by its success in providing services up to a standard measured by a national inspectorate.

Going by or into issues of efficiency, various scholars have noted that hardly can local government functions be carried out without bringing up the element of efficiency. Two of these scholars are Woodrow Wilson and Augustus Adebayo. According to Woodrow Wilson as cited in Ola (1996), “the task of local government administration’ was to straighten the parts of government to make its business less- unbusiness – like; to straighten and purify its organization and to crown its duties which is dutifulness”.

Adebayo (1981) did not fail to make his own point in stressing the inter-relationship between local government administration and efficiency. he wrote:

The keynote is the study of local government administration is the emphasis on the concept of efficiency is so central to local government, then it is very vital to highlight on it.

Almond (1960) identified basic features which he considered to be common to all political systems. First among them is that all political systems have political structures; that is the existence of more less ensuring patterns of interaction. Secondly, all political systems perform the same functions form one political system to another.

Almond (1960) moved to identify two basic functions which a political system must perform. The political and the government; the political functions more or less encompasses what goes into the system (the input dimensions) and includes political socialization, recruit interest articulation) interest aggregation, and political

communication. The government function (the output dimension) includes rule making, rule application and rule adjudication.

In this respect, local government is a sub-unit or system of Nigeria's political structure and for the local government to be able to mobilize resources towards development, it has to participate and contribute, meaningfully in solving the problems of the rural populace. It is important therefore for both the federal and state governments to work hand in hand with the local government. For isolationism of local government by the remaining two tiers of government i.e. federal and state will by all means affect the performance of local government negatively in the process of improving the quality and viability of local government, judging from the principle the approach.

It is in the light of structural functional approach that local government can be well accessed as an agent of development in any political system. This does not mean that a local government has to perform all these functions spontaneously before it could be adjudged as development. It is often than not a matter of emphasis.

Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State

There are seven local government councils in the Edo south Senatorial district. They include Oredo, Egor, Ovia South West, Orhionmwon, Ovia North East, Ikpoba-Okha and Uhumwonde local government councils respectively. The size of each of these local government areas in terms of population and geographical size differ markedly (Abedi-Lartey, 2016).

Ovia North-east Local Government is one of the seven (7) Local Governments Council Areas that makes up Edo-South senatorial District and was created in 1991 from the old Ovia Local Government. The area is inhabited by people of diverse ethnic groups- the Benins, Urhobos, Ijaws, Itsekiri, and they have been coexisting for centuries to this day. The Local Government has its headquarters at Okada. (Coker et al, 2015).

The Role of Local Government towards Rural Development in Nigeria

In Nigeria, local government is the third tier of government whose major responsibility is to provide commensurate services to the rural dwellers. Everywhere in the world, irrespective of the system of government, local government is created to ensure efficient services at local level.

Local government as an agent of development is to use the fund made available to them by both central and state government and the internally generated revenue (IGR) to improve on the live of the people at the grassroots within the local government council's area of operation by initiating and attracting developmental projects to the local councils such as provision of access roads, water, and rural electricity: communal services such as the construction of roads, bridges, and personal welfare in such area as education, housing, and health care service delivery system (Ola, 1984).

In line with the above, the 1976 Nigerian Local Government Reform Guidelines stated the principal aims of local (government as follows:

- a) To make appropriate services and development activities responsible to local wishes and initiatives by developing or delegating them to local representatives bodies:

- b) To facilitate the exercise of democratic self government close to the local levels of our society, and to encourage initiative and leadership potential;
- c) To mobilize human and material resources through the involvement of members of the public in their local development;
- d) To provide a two-way channel of communication between local communities and government (both state and federal).

From the objectives above, one of the major reasons for creating local government is to provide services using human and financial resources at its disposal to facilitate development at the grassroots. Local government is the lowest in the governmental hierarchy within the concept of federalism. The federal government is the sovereign national, the state government, a quasi sovereign and local government infra-sovereign, subordinate and subject to the control of the state government; yet it is a separate legal unit being a body corporate having a common seal, with powers to sue and to be sued, mainly providing obligatory municipal services (Samihah and Adelabu, 2011)

Challenges of Rural Development at Local Government in Ovia North East

Local government is the closet tier of government to the people in Nigeria, yet the resident population in it is denied the benefits of its existence. This is evident in the poor environmental state, deteriorating public school building, poor market facilities and lack of health centers (Olusola, 2011). It was put in place for reasonable purposes ranging from political, social, and economic reasons. These reasons are captured in section 7 (2)

of the Nigeria constitution (Iguisi. 2010). It is quite disturbing over the years; that these purposes have not been fully realized.

There has been a sustained argument that the 774 Local Government Areas, which form the third tier of government in Nigeria, are contributing little to national development to justify their existence. Local government has not really facilitated rapid development at the grassroots, which is the essence of their creation (Amaechi. 2012).

The concept of bringing governance closer to the people through a third-tier participatory form of government has not materialized in Nigeria. Lack of capacity of local government to fulfill the aspirations of their communities are caused by lack of adequate resources, including inappropriate fiscal base, the usurpation of its power to raise internal revenue and the manipulation of the state joint local government account (John, 2012).

This development according to Mimiko in (Aborisade. 2012) has made people to see the councils as a place where top administrators' engage in corruption and an environment where supposed professional had little or no idea of what the councils should be doing. Another reason for the failure of local government in area of community development is the role of the state governors in the affairs of local government. The governors are found of taking over their financial allocation, taxes counterpart and refuse to conduct Local government elections, but instead ruling local government with appointed administrators, most of whom are party loyalists and their friends and relations

turning the entire process of local governments into irrelevance schemes of things (Ukonga 2012).

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Fiscal Decentralization

Fiscal decentralization comprises the financial aspects of devolution to regional and local government. It is the fashionable term; the alternative description —central-local (or intergovernmental) fiscal relations‖ and —fiscal federalism‖ are often used. According to Davey (2003) fiscal decentralization theory covers two interrelated issues. The first is the division of spending responsibilities and revenue sources between levels of government (national, regional, local etc). The second issue is the amount of discretion given to regional and local governments to determine their expenditures and revenues (both in aggregate and detail). These combined dimensions have a significant impact on the reality of decentralization in its broader political and administrative sense. How much power and responsibility regional and local governments actually exercise depends substantially on;

- i) What range of public services they finance
- ii) Whether their revenues are commensurate with these responsibilities
- iii) How much real choice they have in allocating their budget to individual services
- iv) Whether they can determine the rates of their taxes and charges (both allowing them to vary their spending level and making them answerable to the taxpayers). The network of the theory posits that local finances involve the following variables/concepts

- i) Spending responsibility
- ii) Local taxes
- iii) Intergovernmental transfer
- iv) Capital finance
- v) Local discretion
- vi) Beneficiary of the government service (public)

The network of the theory posits that local finances involve the following variables/concepts

Spending Responsibility

Local Discretion

Capital Finance

Local Taxes

Service Delivery

Intergovernmental Transfer

The above theory is very important in this study for that it explains how internal and generated revenue helps local government in infrastructural development of Ovia North local government. These services may range from primary health care, basic education and social welfare, development agriculture among other services that are within the constitutional functions of local government. The above discussed theory is relevant and applicable to this research. It tends to relate local taxes and intergovernmental transfer with infrastructural development with the former being a

discretion of local government council. Thus, as stated by the theory the extent to which services are delivered depends on not only the local taxes collected and intergovernmental transfer but also the spending responsibility, capital finance and local discretion of the Ovia North local government council.

2.3 EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Udensi, Daasi, Emah and Zukbee (2013), community development anywhere in the world is facilitated by the extent to which the local people can mobilize their resources to address local needs. The author explained that the role of the youths to fast-track community development programmes has been recognized, particularly, in local communities where they have played pivotal role in education, health, environmental sanitation, mass mobilization, religious activities etc. Their study exposes that through active participation and encouragement; youths can be effective instrument for community development programmes and may take ownership as well. With field-based data from Cross River State, South-South Nigeria, the study examines the extent and strategies to which the youth can be meaningfully engaged in community development programmes and presents an evaluation of the challenges facing them in that direction.

Iwuchukwu, Ogbonna and Agboti (2015), examines the roles of youths groups in rural community development in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. The study identified types of youth groups and their roles in rural community development; constraints to effective participation of youth in rural community development and strategies to improve effective participation of youths in rural community development. Multi-stage sampling

procedure was used to select 60 respondents for the study. Data were analysed with frequency count, percentages and mean scores. Result shows that greater percentage (60.0%) of the youths was male and had mean age of 24 years. Majority (89.50%) of the respondents belonged to Afikpo youth organisation and their major roles included town hall building (86.40%), school development (81.40%) and market building (74.60%). Constraints to effective participation of youth in rural community development included limited access to finance (M=2.14; SD=0.88), inadequate skill (M=2.00; SD=0.76) and limited material benefit for the participants (M=2.14; SD=0.86). It was suggested therefore that the youths should be provided with skill (M=1.62; SD=0.63), sponsored (M=1.34; SD=0.58) and employed (M=1.32; SD=0.72).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this chapter is to show the methodology used in carrying out this research work that is to evaluate the system of explicit rules and procedure upon which the research is based.

3.1 Research Design

This research long essay evaluated the role of local government administration in rural infrastructural development, a focus on Ovia North East Local Government Area,

Edo State. This research design thus provides the framework or plan which will guide the collection as well as analysis of data collected. On the basis of this, data for this study will come from two sources viz: primary and secondary sources.

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design, which is a non-experimental method. The purpose of descriptive research is to describe that which exists as accurately and clearly as possible. This design is appropriate as it allowed the researcher to thoroughly investigate the federal character principle in and its impact.

3.2 Population of the Study

The sample frame for this study was the entire population in Ovia North Local Government Area in Edo State. The population is estimated to be around 234,706 using the 2006 Census figures.

3.3 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

To arrive at a manageable number of subjects for the study, a combination of multistage and stratified random sampling technique was adopted. This technique is important and reliable because it gives all subjects within the study population ample opportunity of been chosen. The result is that whatever population we will pick from the larger population for the study is a representative of the entire population and thus makes the findings arrived at a reliable and valid since subjectivity and bias are eliminated in the selection process.

Since it was not practicable to get responses from every member of the population defined above a sample size of 399 respondents will be randomly selected from one community in Ovia North East Local Government Area.

3.4 Sources of Data

- **Primary Sources of Data:** Primary sources of data for this study will come from responses elicited from the respondents that will be use in the study from the target population. Primary data will be especially important and useful in this research because such data is not only reliable but is also valid since the researcher will elicit it directly from those who are affected or possess the information needed for this study.
 - **Secondary Sources of Data:** Secondary source of data will include all data obtained from such material and source like publications, books, journals, indices, news bulletins, pamphlets and such other sources which are not direct.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

As noted above, data for this study was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources involve the responses obtained from the subjects sampled. A questionnaire will be designed and administered to the respondents and the responses elicited will be analyzed. The basic research instrument that will be used in collecting data for this study will be questionnaires. The questionnaire will be designed to

be simple and easily understandable by each and every respondent irrespective of his level of education.

3.6 Validity of Research Instrument

To ensure that findings from the study will be valid and reliable, the questionnaire after design will be given to the project supervisor who will examine it and approved it for use after making the necessary corrections and thus validity the questionnaire.

3.7 Administration of Instrument

The research will personally administer the questionnaires to the respondents in the community and will first explain the purposed of the mission and how they will completes the questionnaires. Thereafter, the researcher will administered them.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

The questionnaires will be analyzed using simple percentages. The totals and average numbers of the participants that responded to the questions will be analyzed.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF DATA AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This study evaluated the role of local government administration in rural infrastructural development in Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State. This chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of information gathered through the use of questionnaire distributed to the respondents. During the survey, three hundred

and ninety nine questionnaires were administered and three hundred and fifty were returned completed.

The results of the analysis are tabulated below:

4.1 Analysis of Respondents Characteristics

Table 1: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
25	39	11.14
26-35	64	18.29
36-45	86	24.57
46 and above	161	46
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The tables above shows that 39 respondents representing 11.14% is at the age of 25 years, 64 respondents representing 18.29% is at the age of 26-35 years, while 86 respondents representing 24.57% is 36-45 years of age while 46% is 46 years and above

Table 2: Gender of Respondents

Option	Numbers of respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	198	56.57
Female	152	43.43
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 2 showed that 56.57% of the respondents constitute male while 43.43% were female.

Table 3: Survey of Respondents by Qualification

Option	Numbers of respondents	Percentage(%)
WAEC/SSCE/GCE/NECO	150	42.86
OND/NCE	78	22.28
HND/B.Sc	96	27.43
M.SC/MBA/PH.D	26	7.43
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 3 shows that 22.28% of respondents are OND/NCE having, 27.43% of respondents constitute of HND/B.Sc, and 42.86% of respondents constitute of WAEC/SSCE/GCE/NECO, and 7.43% of respondents of M.Sc/MBA/PH.d.

RQ: WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EDO STATE?

Table 4: Local Government is met to bring government near to the people

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	99	28.29
Agree	90	25.71
Undecided	9	2.57
Strongly Disagreed	74	21.14
Disagree	78	22.29
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 4 reveals that 54% of the respondents agree that local government is met to bring government near to the people, 2.57% of the respondents were not sure, while 43.43% disagree.

Table 5: Local government can established basic amenities in communities

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	79	22.57
Agree	109	31.14
Undecided	54	15.43
Strongly Disagreed	8	2.29
Disagree	100	28.57
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 5 reveals that 53.71% of the respondents believes that Local government can established basic amenities in communities, 15.43% of the respondents were not sure, while 30.86% believed it does not.

Table 6: Local government due to its localness understands its environment, people and needs more than other tiers of Government

Option	Number of Response	Percentage(%)
Strongly Agree	83	23.71
Agree	91	26
Undecided	42	12

Strongly Disagreed	80	22.86
Disagree	54	15.43
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 6 revealed that 49.71% of the respondents believed that Local government due to its localness understands its environment, people and needs more than other tiers of Government. 12% of the respondents were not sure, while 38.29% believed it has not.

Table 7: The roles of local government include making decisions on different issues affecting the community that require integrated approach.

Option	Number of Response	Percentage(%)
Strongly Agree	68	19.43
Agree	119	34
Undecided	20	5.71
Strongly Disagreed	71	20.29
Disagree	72	20.57
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 7 revealed that 53.43% of the respondents believed that the roles of local government include making decisions on different issues affecting the community that require integrated approach, 5.71% of the respondent were not sure, while 40.86% believed it cannot.

Table 8: local government enforcing government laws such as tax and rate payments through dialogue and persuasion

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	26	7.43
Agree	129	36.86
Undecided	71	20.28
Strongly Disagree	40	11.43
Disagree	84	24
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 8 revealed that 44.29% of the respondents believed local government enforcing government laws such as tax and rate payments through dialogue and persuasion, 20.28% of the respondents were not sure, while 35.43% believed it cannot.

Table 9: Ovia North East Local governments enhance the democratic process and community development

Option	Number of Response	Percentage(%)
Strongly Agree	180	57.43
Agree	119	32
Undecided	0	0
Strongly Disagree	50	14.29

Disagree	1	0.29
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 9 revealed that 91.43% of the respondents believed that Ovia North East Local governments enhance the democratic process and community development, 0% of the respondents were not sure, while 14.58% believed it is not.

Table 10: Ovia North East Local Government is effective in provision of healthcare delivery infrastructure

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	63	18
Agree	81	23.14
Undecided	54	15.43
Strongly Disagree	73	20.86
Disagree	79	22.57
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 10 revealed that 41.14% of the respondents believed that Ovia North East Local Government is effective in provision of healthcare delivery infrastructure, 15.43% of the respondents were not sure, while 43.43% believed it is not.

Table 11: Ovia North East Local Government is effective in provision of education infrastructure

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	68	19.43
Agree	89	25.43
Undecided	31	8.86
Disagree	76	21.71
Strongly Disagree	86	24.57
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 11 revealed that 44.86% of the respondents agree that Ovia North East Local Government is effective in provision of education infrastructure, 46.28% believed it is not, while 8.86% were not sure.

Table 12: Local Government is effective in provision of employment and skill acquisition infrastructure

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	85	24.28
Agree	74	21.14
Undecided	8	2.29
Disagree	63	18
Strongly Disagree	120	34.29
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 12 revealed that 45.42% of the respondents agree that the Local Government is effective in provision of employment and skill acquisition infrastructure, 52.29% believed it is not, while 2.29% were not sure.

Table 13: Ovia Northeast Local government has established sporting centres

Option	Number of Response	Percentage(%)
Strongly Agree	58	16.57
Agree	72	20.57
Undecided	10	2.28
Disagree	64	18.29
Strongly Disagree	146	41.71
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 13 revealed that 34.17% of the respondents agree Ovia Northeast Local government has established sporting centres, 60% believe it does not, while 2.86% were not sure.

Table 14: Ovia Northeast Local government has established primary recreation centres

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	65	18.57
Agree	67	19.14
Undecided	70	20
Disagree	73	20.86
Strongly Disagree	75	21.43
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 14 revealed that 37.71% of the respondents agree that Ovia Northeast Local government has established primary recreation centres, 42.29% believed it does not, while 20% were not sure.

Table 15: Ovia Northeast Local government has provide portable water

Option	Number of Response	Percentage(%)
Strongly Agree	102	29.14
Agree	15	4.29
Undecided	0	0
Disagree	56	16
Strongly Disagree	177	50.57
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 15 revealed that 33.43% of the respondents agree believed that Ovia Northeast Local government has provide portable water, 66.57% disagree while 0% it not sure.

Table 16: The local leaders play crucial roles in community development programmes

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	199	56.86
Agree	12	3.43
Undecided	27	7.71
Disagree	65	18.57
Strongly Disagree	47	13.43
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 16 revealed that 60.29% of the respondents agree the local leaders play crucial roles in community development programmes, 32% believed it is not, while 7.71% were not sure.

Table 17: Ovia Northeast Local government provide and maintain motorable roads

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	85	24.29
Agree	39	11.14
Undecided	14	4
Disagree	201	57.43
Strongly Disagree	11	3.14

Total	350	100
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Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 17 revealed that 35.43% of the respondents agree Ovia Northeast Local government provide and maintain motorable roads, 60.57% believed it not while, 4% it does not.

Table 18: Ovia Northeast Local government has build and maintain market

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	91	26
Agree	63	18
Undecided	37	10.57
Disagree	157	44.86
Strongly Disagree	2	0.57
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 18 revealed that 44% of the respondents agree that Ovia Northeast Local government has build and maintain market, 45.43% believed it is not, while 10.57% were not sure.

Table 19: Ovia North East local Government provide sanitation equipment to your community

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	103	29.43
Agree	79	22.57
Undecided	51	14.57
Disagree	87	24.86
Strongly Disagree	30	8.57
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 19 revealed that 52% of the respondents agree that Ovia North East local Government provide sanitation equipment to your community 33.43% disagreed, while 14.57% were not sure.

Table 20: Ovia North East local Government provide electricity infrastructure in your community

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	58	16.57
Agree	61	17.43
Undecided	44	12.57
Disagree	49	14
Strongly Disagree	138	39.43
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

Table 20 revealed that 34% of the respondents agree Ovia North East local Government provide electricity infrastructure in your community, while 12.57% were not sure and 53.43% disagree.

Table 21: Ovia North East local Government provide and encourage agriculture

Option	Number of Response	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	114	32.57
Agree	88	25.14
Undecided	19	5.43
Disagree	37	10.57
Strongly Disagree	92	26.29
Total	350	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 21 revealed that 57.71% of the respondents agree Ovia North East local Government provide and encourage agriculture 36.86% believed it will not, while 5.43% were not sure.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This chapter is designed to encapsulate the total research by summarizing the findings therefore, draw conclusions from the findings and make necessary recommendations about the study.

The research work was carried out in order to find out the effect, if any, of local government and community participation in national development using the Ovia North East Local Government as a case study.

A summary of the major findings which emanated from an analysis of the data collected, presented and analyzed is as follows:

- That one of the factors that could enhance local government and community participation in national development is the judicious use of funds allocated to local governments.
- The study also found that funds allocated to local governments are misapplied or embezzled by politicians and other officials of the councils without paying any attention to developmental projects where community participation would be required.
- It was equally discovered that community participation in national development is a present feature in all communities and virtually in all local governments across the country. Such community participation is locally found in communal

projects such as erection of electricity poles, sinking of boreholes, setting up of health centres and grading of roads among others.

- It was also a finding from the study that local government participation in the provision of social amenities is not commensurate with the funds allocated to them for developmental purposes.

- Also, the study found that due to the mismanagement and embezzlement of funds, national development has been stunted at the grass roots. Facts gathered during the study showed for example that although the local government is supposed to have rural water and electricity programmes, residents and people in the area studied provided their own water and electricity by sinking private boreholes and powering their homes with privately acquired generators. Other findings discovered in the course of this research work are:

- Local government usually get higher percentage of their total revenue from federal/state Government.

- Ovia North East local government has lived up to expectation in Edo State.

- The causes of local government failure can easily be ascertain in Nigeria.

5.2 CONCLUSION

From the analysis of data collected from both primary and secondary sources in this work, the following conclusion was arrived at. First and foremost, this researcher identifies with Diejomaoh and Eboh (2010:22) and humbly draws the conclusion that as presently constituted, the local governments in Nigeria have “muted powers and leverage in the

areas of revenue creation, spending autonomy and development functions.” Not only have that, the capabilities for fiscal policy, public spending, serviced delivery and policy development is weak at the local government level.

This researcher equally aligns with Sehinde (2008) in his conclusion on the fact that:

Local authorities construct operate, and maintain economic, social, and environmental infrastructure, oversee planning process, establish local environmental policies and regulations, and assist in implementing national and sub-national environmental politics and level of government closets to the people, play a vital role in educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable development.

While the above is an ideal which is yet to be achieved in Nigeria, it is excellent place to conclude the discussion on local government as agent of governmental and national development. This is due to the fact that has been viewed in respect of providing urban and rural responsibility for the health and well-being of a nation. The reality is that, it is a bottom of the national legal and administrative system (including constitutions, laws and administrative regulations, are seen to be determined by the local government’s authority and scope of action. As we have in the unitary states, the national government directly controls the local government while in federal political systems there appear to be an additional state level of bureaucracy weighing down upon the local government.

This research has also shown local government’s indispensability in attaining regional and national development goals is not a matter to be debated. It is the effective

administration of its plan in the realization of its duties as an agent of development that has been the subject of concern. This is because of resources. Given the amount of attention focused on public officers in recent time, it is important for local government officials to consider explicitly the values and ethical standard that will guide decision making bearing in mind that the citizens have high expectations of moral conduct on the part of both the elected and the appointed managers.

Local governments therefore need to establish a very vital planning and implementation committees which will serve as a coordinating link between programmes and the local populace whose instance. So that the way, with which the elected officials or managers of the local government working as agent for development and qualitative improvement will reflect in the standard and quality of life at the grass roots level.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

From the findings and conclusions drawn from this study, this researcher makes the following broad-based recommendations:

- That for local government to develop and improve more in its social service, more funds should be given to them. Federal statutory allocation to local government should be given to them. Federal statutory allocation to local government should rise from the present 24% to 30% to enable the local government have enough funds to perform .However, in doing this, the structure of intergovernmental transfer may be fashioned to strengthen incentives for better allocation of public resources.

- That the federal government should give to local government large areas of revenue sources, where the local government can collect revenue for their development. Also, the internal revenue generation effort of the local government should be invigorated so that every nook and cranny is touched in the revenue generation effort.
- That transparency i.e. probity and accountability should be applied to local government so that the little fund available to the local government could be judiciously used. In this regard, the anticorruption campaign of the Good luck Jonathan administration should be vigorously pursued by empowering the anti _corruption agencies.
- It is also recommended that the present effort to amend the 1999 Constitution to provide for autonomy for local governments is a step in the right direction and should be pursued to its logical conclusion by the National Assembly.
- It is also recommended that the issue of oversight would need to be clearly addressed. These functions may need to be entrusted to be an independent body and not the sate of federal governments. If this is done, this researcher believes that issues of corruption will be identified here and resolved accordingly.
- It is equally recommended that there should be a systematic capacity building for the local governments. Such a programme should be designed and implemented with external technical assistance and in conjunction with both the state and federal governments
- This researcher equally recommends that local government officials should be equipped with better education and training and a sound orientation about value systems and

democratic culture so as to make them truly democratic administrators, real service providers, efficient decision makers and dynamic grassroots transformers.

- Finally, it is recommended that institutional reforms should also be undertaken by the National Assembly to clarify and align local governments' roles and responsibilities in a manner that earns public confidence, intergovernmental credibility and unequivocal accountability.

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**EVALUATING THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF OVIA
NORTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE**

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

1st October 2025.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an undergraduate student of the Department of Public Administration, University of Benin, Benin City. As part of the requirements of the programme, I am undertaking a study on the “evaluating the role of local government administration in rural infrastructural development: a case study of Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State”.

In this regard therefore, I attach herein a questionnaire for your attention. I shall be very grateful if you could kindly assist by answering the questions therein as frankly as possible.

Be assured that your response will be treated with strict confidentiality and will be used solely for the stated academic purpose.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Favour Ekhaton
Researcher.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Instruction:

Kindly complete this questionnaire by ticking (✓) in the appropriate box(es) provided or simply write in your response as appropriate.

SECTION A: Personal Data

1. **Sex:** Male (), Female ()
2. **Age:** Below 25 (), 26 – 35 (), 36 – 45 (), 46 and above ().
3. **Academic Qualification:** WAEC/SSCE/ GCE/ NECO (), OND/NCE (), HND/BSC (), MSE/MBA/ PHD. ()

SECTION B: Personal Data

Please tick where appropriate in the spaces provided using any of options below.

- 1 Strongly Agree (SA)
- 2 Agree (A)
- 3 Undecided (U)
- 4 Disagree (D)
- 5 Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	QUESTIONNAIRE	SA	A	U	D	SD
RQ1	What is the origin of local government in Edo state?					
1	Local Government is met to bring government near to the people					
2	Local government can established basic amenities in communities					
3	Local government due to its localness understands its environment, people and needs more than other tiers of Government					
4	The roles of local government include making decisions on different issues affecting the community that require integrated approach.					
5	local government enforcing government laws such as tax and rate payments through dialogue and persuasion					
RQ2	Is there any rural infrastructural in Ovia North East					
6	Ovia North East Local governments enhance the democratic process and community development					
7	Ovia North East Local Government is effective in provision of healthcare delivery infrastructure					

8	Ovia North East Local Government is effective in provision of education infrastructure					
9	Local Government is effective in provision of employment and skill acquisition infrastructure					
RQ3	What role has local government administration played in rural infrastructural development in North East					
10	Ovia Northeast Local government has established sporting centres					
11	Ovia Northeast Local government has established primary recreation centres					
12	Ovia Northeast Local government has provide portable water					
13	The local leaders play crucial roles in community development programmes					
14	Ovia Northeast Local government provide and maintain motorable roads					
15	Ovia Northeast Local government has build and maintain market					
16	Ovia North East local Government provide sanitation equipment to your community					
17	Ovia North East local Government provide electricity infrastructure in your community					
18.	Ovia North East local Government provide and encourage agriculture					