

**EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION IN
PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY IN NIGERIA: A THEORETICAL OVERVIEW**

BELLO ELIZABETH ASANOMO

SSC2105783

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

OCTOBER, 2025

**EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION IN
PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY IN NIGERIA: A THEORETICAL OVERVIEW**

BELLO ELIZABETH ASANOMO

SSC2105783

**BEING A PROJECT WORK PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
BENIN CITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

OCTOBER, 2025

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned certify that this project titled “Evaluating the Impact of Non-Governmental Organization in Public Policy Advocacy in Nigeria: A Theoretical Overview” was carried out by BELLO ELIZABETH ASANOMO with matriculation number SSC2105783 of the Department of Public Administration in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Public Administration, University of Benin.

Dr. Clement Oribhabor
(Project Supervisor)

Prof. A. I. Mustapha
(Head of Department)

DATE

DATE

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God almighty. I also dedicated this work to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bello.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I give all glory and praise to God Almighty for His guidance, provision, and strength throughout this project. I express my sincere gratitude to my project supervisor, Dr. Clement Oribhabor for his invaluable guidance, support, and constructive feedback.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to my beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bello, for their unwavering love, support, encouragement, and prayers.

I also thank my dear friends, Glory, Goodness, Christabel, and Esther for their support, motivation, and camaraderie during the course of this project work. I also appreciate the Voltage Boys of Public Administration for their companionship and comradery and the entire class of Pub Admin '25.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| TITLE PAGE - - - - - | I |
| CERTIFICATION - - - - - | II |
| DEDICATION - - - - - | III |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENT - - - - - | IV |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS - - - - - | V |
| ABSTRACT - - - - - | VII |
| CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION | |
| 1.1 Background to the Study - - - - - | 1 |
| 1.2 Statement of the Problem - - - - - | 4 |
| 1.3 Research Questions - - - - - | 6 |
| 1.4 Objectives of the Study - - - - - | 6 |
| 1.5 Scope of the Study - - - - - | 7 |
| 1.6 Significance of the Study - - - - - | 7 |
| 1.7 Definition of Terms - - - - - | 9 |
| CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW | |
| 2.1 Concept of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) - - - - - | 10 |
| 2.1.1 Overview of Public Policy Advocacy - - - - - | 14 |
| 2.1.2 Roles and Contributions of NGOs in the Nigerian Health Sector - - - - - | 17 |
| 2.1.3 Influence of NGO Advocacy on Health Policy Development in Nigeria - - - - - | 20 |
| 2.1.4 Impact of NGO Advocacy on Health Policy Reforms in Nigeria - - - - - | 23 |
| 2.2 Review of Empirical Studies - - - - - | 26 |
| 2.3 Theoretical Framework - - - - - | 28 |

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 3.1 | Research Design - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32 |
| 3.2 | Population of the Study - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32 |
| 3.3 | Sample and Sampling Technique - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 33 |
| 3.4 | Sources of Data - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 33 |
| 3.5 | Validation of the Instrument -- | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 34 |
| 3.6 | Instrument for Data Collection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 34 |
| 3.7 | Techniques of Data Analysis - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 35 |

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 4.1 | Introduction - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 36 |
| 4.2 | Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 36 |
| 4.3 | Analysis of Findings - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 39 |
| 4.4 | Discussion of Findings - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 47 |

Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| 5.1 | Introduction - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 51 |
| 5.2 | Summary - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 51 |
| 5.3 | Conclusion - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 54 |
| 5.4 | Recommendations | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 57 |
| | Bibliography - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 63 |

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of the study, four (4) research questions were raised and answered. To achieve the purpose of the study, four (4) research questions were raised and answered. . The sample size for the study was made up of 100 respondents. The data collected was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage.

The study revealed that NGOs have made significant contributions to public policy reforms, particularly in the health sector, where they have actively engaged in advocacy, awareness campaigns, and partnerships with government agencies to improve healthcare delivery and accountability. It was concluded that NGOs have demonstrated remarkable effectiveness in advocacy and policy influence in Nigeria.

The study recommended among others that the government should strengthen partnerships with NGOs by creating formal frameworks for consultation and participation in policy formulation, particularly in the health, education, and gender sectors.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have become increasingly important actors in governance and development, particularly in Nigeria where state institutions continue to grapple with inefficiency, corruption, and weak resource management. Dawene (2023) asserted that NGOs act as vital bridges between citizens and government, ensuring that the voices of marginalised groups are represented in policy dialogues. They are not only service providers but also watchdogs that demand accountability from public officials. In Nigeria, their contributions have been visible in sectors such as education, healthcare, gender rights, and poverty reduction. NGOs have also helped in complementing government efforts by filling governance gaps, especially in rural and underserved communities. The ability of NGOs to draw attention to neglected issues and push for policy reforms has made them indispensable in shaping governance outcomes in contemporary Nigeria (Salau, 2022).

Public policy advocacy by NGOs refers to deliberate strategies aimed at influencing decision-making, policy formulation, and reform implementation. Musa (2021) argued that NGOs in Nigeria rely on tactics such as lobbying, research, coalition building, and awareness creation to shape policies that affect ordinary citizens. These advocacy actions become critical in contexts where public institutions lack political will

or efficiency in addressing pressing social issues. Organisations like ActionAid Nigeria and the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) have been vocal in demanding increased transparency in governance, budget monitoring, and accountability in resource allocation. These interventions demonstrate the potential of NGOs to enhance participatory democracy by giving citizens greater access to policy processes. By doing so, NGOs help foster reforms that are both inclusive and responsive to societal needs (Okon, 2023).

In the health sector, NGOs have played transformative roles in policy advocacy and service delivery, especially in tackling HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, and child immunisation. Adeyemi (2022) explained that NGOs have consistently pressured government health agencies to adopt inclusive, evidence-based policies that reflect community realities. Through partnerships with agencies like the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), NGOs have influenced reproductive health policies, family planning campaigns, and safe motherhood initiatives. For example, the Society for Family Health (SFH) has been instrumental in expanding access to essential drugs, contraceptives, and information for communities in rural areas. Such advocacy ensures that public health programmes are not only available but also accessible to marginalised groups. These contributions underline the effectiveness of NGOs in strengthening healthcare systems and promoting citizen-centred policy reforms (Ibrahim, 2021).

In education, NGOs have been central to advocacy efforts that target access, equity, and quality improvement. Bello (2023) stated that NGOs have persistently called for increased budgetary allocation, teacher training, and child-friendly school environments across Nigeria. Their activities have also focused on promoting inclusivity by ensuring that disadvantaged groups, including children with disabilities and girls in conservative communities, are not left behind. Organisations like the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA) have worked to ensure Nigeria meets international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, sustained advocacy by NGOs has led to the passage of child rights legislation in several states, protecting children from abuse and ensuring their educational rights. Through these interventions, NGOs continue to influence education policy reforms that enhance inclusivity and expand learning opportunities nationwide (Olatunji, 2020).

Gender rights advocacy is another significant sphere where NGOs in Nigeria have recorded notable achievements. Komonibo (2021) observed that women-focused NGOs have campaigned extensively for laws to protect women against discrimination and gender-based violence. Their sustained efforts contributed to the eventual passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act in 2015, a critical milestone for women's rights in Nigeria. Beyond legislation, NGOs like Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC) and Women in Nigeria (WIN) have also fought for women's political participation, reproductive health rights, and economic empowerment. These campaigns aim to dismantle entrenched patriarchal systems while fostering gender-

responsive governance. By creating platforms for women's voices to be heard, these NGOs contribute to policy reforms that support gender equality and social justice in Nigerian society (Chukwuma, 2022).

The ability of NGOs to mobilize citizens and promote civic participation has also strengthened their influence in public policy. Tanko (2020) explained that NGOs serve as intermediaries between the grassroots and policymakers, providing citizens with opportunities to contribute to governance. This is achieved through town hall meetings, policy dialogues, advocacy workshops, and awareness campaigns. Issues such as electoral reforms, budget transparency, and environmental sustainability have gained more attention in policy spaces due to NGO-led advocacy. By amplifying the concerns of local communities, NGOs ensure policymakers remain accountable and responsive. These participatory activities also help in building a culture of active citizenship, strengthening Nigeria's democratic governance structures, and promoting trust between citizens and the state (Ogunleye, 2023).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the growing importance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in strengthening democratic governance and promoting societal development, their role in public policy advocacy in Nigeria remains largely underutilised and fraught with challenges. While NGOs are expected to serve as intermediaries between citizens and the state, pushing for inclusive and accountable policies, many are confronted with issues

such as weak institutional capacity, limited funding, and restrictive legal frameworks (Adewale, 2021). In several instances, government authorities perceive NGOs as adversarial rather than partners in development, thereby creating tensions that limit their ability to influence policy effectively. This strained relationship, coupled with inadequate access to decision-making platforms, often results in NGOs struggling to translate grassroots concerns into actionable policy reforms. Consequently, the potential of NGOs to drive social justice, human rights protection, and pro-poor policies remains significantly constrained (Okorie, 2023).

Furthermore, the recurring socio-political and economic challenges in Nigeria, such as corruption, poor governance, insecurity, and inequality, demand strong advocacy for responsive and people-centred policies. However, the effectiveness of NGOs in this regard is often questioned, as some are accused of lacking transparency, being donor-driven, or pursuing narrow interests rather than broader societal goals. These limitations raise concerns about whether NGOs can truly fulfil their mandate as credible policy advocates in Nigeria's complex governance environment. Without adequate support, credibility, and institutional strength, NGOs risk being sidelined in the policy-making process, leaving critical issues of public interest underrepresented. The researcher is therefore concerned with evaluating the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria: A theoretical overview.

1.3 Research Questions

The following questions were raised to guide the study:

1. To what extent have Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) influenced public policy reforms in the Nigerian health sector?
2. How effective are NGOs in shaping educational policies and improving access to quality education in Nigeria?
3. In what ways do NGOs contribute to gender rights advocacy and policy formulation within Nigeria's public administration system?
4. What challenges do NGOs face in influencing government decision-making processes on health, education, and gender-related policies in Nigeria?

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objective of the study is to evaluate the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria. However, the specific objectives of the study are:

1. To ascertain extent Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have influenced public policy reforms in the Nigerian health sector;
2. To examine how effective NGOs are in shaping educational policies and improving access to quality education in Nigeria;
3. To find out ways NGOs contribute to gender rights advocacy and policy formulation within Nigeria's public administration system;

4. To highlight the challenges NGOs face in influencing government decision-making processes on health, education, and gender-related policies in Nigeria.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on the role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria, with particular emphasis on their influence in the areas of health, education, and gender rights. It examines the extent to which NGOs contribute to shaping policy reforms, influencing public administration, and driving social change through advocacy initiatives. The study will gather data from selected NGOs, policymakers, and beneficiaries within Nigeria, highlighting their experiences, activities, and perceived impact on policy development and implementation. It will also explore the challenges NGOs encounter in engaging with government institutions and the strategies they adopt to overcome these barriers. The study is limited to NGOs operating within Edo State, Nigeria.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study on the role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria is significant to a wide range of stakeholders including policymakers, public administrators, NGOs, civil society actors, academic researchers, and the general public. By examining the influence of NGOs in areas such as health, education, and gender rights, the study provides practical and scholarly insights into how advocacy shapes governance and policy reforms.

The study will be beneficial to policymakers and public administrators by highlighting the ways NGOs contribute to policy formulation, implementation, and reform. It will help government actors understand the strengths and limitations of NGO advocacy, thereby offering a basis for more effective collaboration between state institutions and civil society organisations in addressing critical development challenges.

The findings will also be valuable to NGOs and civil society organisations themselves. It will provide them with empirical evidence on the impact of their advocacy efforts, as well as the challenges they face in influencing public policy. This knowledge can guide NGOs in refining their strategies, strengthening advocacy networks, and enhancing their capacity to engage meaningfully with government structures.

For development partners and stakeholders in the health, education, and gender sectors, this study offers insights into how NGOs shape public discourse and influence reforms that affect vulnerable populations. The outcomes will be particularly relevant for designing interventions that promote inclusive governance, equity, and sustainable development through NGO–government partnerships.

The study will contribute to academic research by adding to the body of knowledge on public policy advocacy in Nigeria. It will serve as a reference point for students, scholars, and future researchers interested in public administration, civil society engagement, and development studies. By bridging theory and practice, the research

encourages deeper inquiry into the evolving role of NGOs in Nigeria's democratic and policy processes.

1.7 Definition of Terms

The following terms were defined in the study:

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs): These are independent, non-profit organisations that operate outside direct government control, often focused on advocacy, service delivery, and promoting social, economic, and political change within society.

Public Policy Advocacy: This refers to the strategic actions and efforts by individuals, groups, or organisations such as NGOs to influence government decisions, laws, and policies in order to promote social justice, development, or reform.

Policy Reform: Policy reform is the process of reviewing, amending, or creating new laws and administrative measures to improve governance and address emerging social, economic, or political challenges in society.

Gender Rights: Gender rights are the fundamental human rights that ensure equal opportunities, protections, and freedoms for individuals regardless of gender, often focusing on reducing discrimination and promoting equality in areas such as education, health, and political participation.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter provides an in-depth analysis of the influence of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on public policy reforms in the Nigerian health sector. It begins by examining the concept of NGOs, outlining their defining characteristics, operational frameworks, and significance in national development. The discussion then presents an overview of public policy advocacy, emphasizing how NGOs serve as vital intermediaries between the government and the populace in shaping and influencing policy directions. Furthermore, the chapter explores the roles and contributions of NGOs in the Nigerian health sector, focusing on their involvement in healthcare delivery, public health awareness, and resource mobilization. It also investigates the influence of NGO advocacy on health policy development, illustrating how advocacy initiatives have informed and driven legislative and policy changes. Finally, the chapter assesses the impact of NGO advocacy on health policy reforms in Nigeria, highlighting practical outcomes such as improved access to healthcare services, strengthened institutional frameworks, and enhanced policy responsiveness to public health needs.

2.1 Concept of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are independent, non-profit entities established to address social, economic, environmental, or humanitarian challenges

within societies. Damagun (2023) asserted that NGOs operate autonomously from government structures, relying mainly on voluntary contributions, donor funding, and community participation to execute their mandates. They serve as vital actors in the promotion of human rights, social justice, and development initiatives across various sectors. NGOs often fill governance gaps by providing essential services in health, education, and poverty alleviation, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. Their flexibility and community-based approach make them more responsive to local needs compared to bureaucratic state systems. Furthermore, NGOs play a critical role in policy advocacy, influencing government decisions and promoting accountability in governance through civic engagement and awareness campaigns. In essence, NGOs act as bridges between the state and society, fostering sustainable development and inclusiveness (Okonkwo, 2021).

The term “Non-Governmental Organisation” encompasses a broad range of entities that operate outside government control while contributing significantly to social progress. Abdulrahman (2021) emphasised that NGOs may include charitable organisations, community-based groups, advocacy networks, and professional associations dedicated to public welfare. These organisations are typically guided by missions that reflect humanitarian values, equity, and justice. Their non-profit nature differentiates them from private businesses, as revenues generated are reinvested into community development rather than personal gain. In Nigeria, NGOs have become central to addressing socio-economic inequalities, empowering marginalised populations,

and supporting good governance through transparency initiatives. By mobilising resources, volunteers, and expertise, they complement governmental efforts in development and crisis response. Overall, NGOs represent an organised and moral force for change, enhancing participatory democracy and public accountability within society (Ezeh, 2022).

NGOs are voluntary organisations formed by individuals or groups with the aim of promoting social welfare and addressing issues that affect human development. Musa and Onotu (2022) noted that NGOs act as catalysts for social transformation by implementing projects that improve living standards and empower communities. Their independence from political influence allows them to operate with flexibility, creativity, and innovation in tackling pressing problems such as poverty, gender inequality, and environmental degradation. In Nigeria, NGOs often collaborate with both local and international partners to execute development programmes tailored to community needs. They also serve as watchdogs, holding governments accountable for policy failures and corruption. Through advocacy, awareness campaigns, and capacity-building, NGOs promote transparency, inclusivity, and civic participation in governance processes, thereby fostering societal progress and sustainable development (Adebayo, 2023).

Non-Governmental Organisations can also be viewed as agents of development that bridge the gap between government institutions and citizens. Akinyemi (2020) argued that NGOs provide essential platforms for public participation in decision-

making, ensuring that citizens' voices are heard in governance and development planning. Their grassroots orientation enables them to reach communities often neglected by government programmes. NGOs are instrumental in promoting education, healthcare, and social justice, particularly in rural and underdeveloped areas. In Nigeria, many NGOs engage in advocacy for women's rights, youth empowerment, and environmental sustainability, which contribute significantly to national development. They equally facilitate partnerships between the public and private sectors to drive innovation in social service delivery. Consequently, NGOs have evolved into indispensable partners in achieving sustainable development goals and strengthening democratic governance (Ibrahim & Obi, 2021).

NGOs embody the principles of voluntarism, service, and solidarity in the pursuit of societal improvement. Nwosu (2021) explained that these organisations are structured to operate on values of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, which enhance their credibility and public trust. Unlike government agencies, NGOs tend to function with minimal bureaucracy, enabling faster decision-making and more direct impact at the community level. They often rely on partnerships with international donors, local governments, and civil society groups to fund and implement programmes that address human suffering and promote empowerment. In Nigeria, NGOs have been instrumental in humanitarian interventions, disaster relief, and the promotion of good governance. The activities of NGOs not only complement government efforts but also inspire civic responsibility and social cohesion among citizens (Ojo, 2022).

2.1.1 Overview of Public Policy Advocacy

Public policy advocacy refers to the deliberate effort by individuals, organisations, or coalitions to influence government decisions and policy directions that affect the public. Eshekun and Okpota (2023) asserted that advocacy enables citizens and non-governmental organisations to engage policymakers in dialogue aimed at ensuring fairness, equity, and transparency in governance. It involves the strategic use of evidence, persuasion, and mobilisation to influence public opinion and legislative outcomes. In Nigeria, advocacy serves as a vital democratic tool that bridges the gap between the government and the governed, ensuring that the voices of marginalised communities are represented in policy processes. Through sustained advocacy, citizens are empowered to hold leaders accountable and demand better governance outcomes. Consequently, public policy advocacy strengthens democracy and promotes inclusive development across various sectors of society (Garba, 2021).

Public policy advocacy is anchored on the principles of participatory democracy and social accountability. Oboh (2022) observed that advocacy empowers citizens to contribute to the decision-making process by expressing their needs and influencing government actions. It encourages collaboration among different societal actors—civil society organisations, professional associations, and community-based groups—to push for reforms that improve governance. In Nigeria, advocacy has played a major role in shaping public debates around human rights, electoral reforms, and social justice. By amplifying citizens' concerns, advocacy creates a two-way communication channel

between policymakers and the people. Furthermore, it ensures that policies are people-centred and address pressing socio-economic challenges, such as poverty and inequality. Hence, advocacy fosters active citizenship and strengthens policy responsiveness in democratic governance (Akinlabi, 2023).

Public policy advocacy employs multiple approaches such as lobbying, public campaigns, research dissemination, and media engagement. Akande (2021) explained that successful advocacy depends on evidence-based communication, coalition-building, and a deep understanding of policy frameworks. In the Nigerian context, advocacy initiatives are often led by civil society organisations working in partnership with the media and international development agencies. These collaborations help in raising awareness and influencing policy priorities in areas like education, gender equality, and health. For instance, media advocacy has played a critical role in exposing governance failures and promoting accountability. Advocacy also leverages social media platforms to reach a broader audience, shaping public perception and decision-making. Therefore, it is a powerful instrument for ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance in Nigeria (Lawal & Omoregie, 2022).

A major strength of public policy advocacy lies in its sustained impact on both the formulation and implementation of government policies. Yakubu (2020) noted that advocacy extends beyond influencing initial policy decisions to ensuring effective monitoring, evaluation, and enforcement. Through consistent engagement, advocacy

groups analyse policy outcomes, publish reports, and mobilise public opinion to demand reform. In Nigeria, non-governmental organisations have used advocacy to drive changes in health, environmental, and education policies. These groups employ research-based evidence and stakeholder consultations to enhance policy effectiveness. Such continuous engagement not only strengthens policy accountability but also improves service delivery outcomes. Ultimately, advocacy transforms policymaking into an inclusive and transparent process that reflects the needs and aspirations of citizens across all social strata (Dawene, 2021).

Despite its importance, public policy advocacy faces numerous challenges that hinder its effectiveness. Nariye (2023) stated that factors such as political resistance, limited funding, weak institutions, and restrictive legal frameworks often constrain advocacy activities in Nigeria. Some policymakers perceive advocacy as opposition rather than constructive engagement, leading to strained relations with civil society. Nevertheless, the rise of digital activism and social media campaigns has opened new avenues for advocacy, enhancing participation and visibility. Young people and grassroots movements now play an increasingly vital role in shaping policy agendas through online and offline mobilisation. To strengthen advocacy impact, there is a need for improved institutional support, legal protection, and capacity-building initiatives for civil society actors. With these, advocacy can drive sustainable reforms and deepen democratic governance in Nigeria (Kogbonia, 2024).

2.1.2 Roles and Contributions of NGOs in the Nigerian Health Sector

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play vital roles in strengthening the Nigerian health sector by complementing government efforts in healthcare delivery. Sodiq (2023) asserted that NGOs bridge the gap between healthcare demand and supply by providing medical equipment, essential drugs, and technical support to health facilities. Many NGOs also construct and maintain rural health centres, particularly in areas with limited access to government hospitals. For instance, Médecins Sans Frontières and the Society for Family Health have established community health projects offering critical medical care. These initiatives have been instrumental in combating diseases like malaria, cholera, and tuberculosis in underserved regions. By working in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs help reduce healthcare disparities and promote equitable access to essential services across Nigeria. Their efforts have greatly enhanced public health outcomes and strengthened the healthcare delivery system nationwide (Binani, 2021).

Another major contribution of NGOs in Nigeria's health sector is the delivery of community-based health services that reach marginalised populations. Maduka (2022) explained that NGOs provide immunisation campaigns, maternal health support, and disease prevention initiatives in rural communities where government presence is weak. Organisations such as the Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON) and Community Health and Research Initiative (CHR) play active roles in improving maternal and child health through vaccinations and awareness drives. Their programmes

have reduced maternal mortality and increased immunisation coverage in several states. By focusing on grassroots delivery, NGOs help build community trust and participation in public health. These initiatives ensure that no demographic group is left behind in accessing essential healthcare, especially vulnerable women and children in remote settlements (Fatuyi & Akande, 2023).

NGOs have also made remarkable contributions to health education and awareness creation, which are essential components of preventive healthcare. Balogun and Ekeh (2021) stated that many NGOs actively engage in sensitisation campaigns on hygiene, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, and reproductive health. Such initiatives empower citizens with the knowledge needed to make informed health decisions and adopt healthier lifestyles. For instance, the AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria (APIN) and the Nigerian Red Cross Society conduct public enlightenment campaigns promoting voluntary HIV testing, family planning, and malaria prevention. These awareness programmes have helped to reduce the prevalence of communicable diseases while strengthening the culture of preventive healthcare. By prioritising education and behavioural change, NGOs contribute significantly to long-term improvements in Nigeria's public health outcomes (Saladeki, 2023).

Capacity building and human resource development represent another crucial area where NGOs add value to the Nigerian health system. Chianu and Urhieme (2020) asserted that NGOs invest in training health personnel, supporting local research, and

improving health management systems. They organise workshops, mentorship sessions, and field-based training for doctors, nurses, and community health workers. For instance, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Save the Children have conducted extensive training programmes across Nigeria aimed at improving child and maternal healthcare. These initiatives enhance the competence and motivation of health workers, leading to better service delivery and accountability. By developing local expertise, NGOs strengthen institutional capacity, promote innovation in healthcare management, and ensure sustainability of public health interventions beyond donor-funded projects (Komonibo, 2021).

Furthermore, NGOs play a pivotal role in fostering partnerships and collaborations with government agencies to improve health governance. Tukub (2023) observed that NGOs frequently partner with the Federal Ministry of Health, state health boards, and international development partners to design and implement health policies. Such collaborations improve policy formulation, enhance accountability, and mobilise resources for large-scale health programmes. For example, partnerships between NGOs and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) have significantly expanded immunisation coverage and strengthened epidemic response systems. These synergies promote a more inclusive and coordinated healthcare approach that benefits citizens nationwide. Through such multi-sectoral collaboration, NGOs help Nigeria move closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to health and well-being (Onwuka, 2022).

2.1.3 Influence of NGO Advocacy on Health Policy Development in Nigeria

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play a vital role in influencing health policy development through advocacy and engagement with government institutions. Haruna (2023) asserted that NGOs use advocacy to mobilise public opinion, engage policymakers, and drive reforms that address inequities in healthcare systems. Through town hall meetings, policy roundtables, and media engagement, NGOs promote inclusive health governance and ensure the needs of vulnerable populations are represented in decision-making processes. In Nigeria, NGO advocacy has led to significant reforms in maternal health, immunisation, and reproductive health policies. Their interventions often bridge the gap between citizens and the government, fostering accountability and transparency in the health sector. These advocacy strategies help shape laws, regulations, and funding priorities that contribute to a more equitable healthcare system and strengthen national health outcomes (Wamako, 2021).

Lobbying remains a crucial mechanism through which NGOs influence the development and implementation of health policies. Majemite and Orile (2022) explained that NGOs employ lobbying strategies to persuade policymakers, legislators, and ministries to adopt reforms that prioritise equitable healthcare access. By presenting data-driven policy briefs, organising consultative meetings, and participating in legislative hearings, NGOs advocate for improved health financing and inclusive national health acts. Organisations such as the Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON) and Save the Children have successfully lobbied for increased budget allocations and stronger

policy frameworks supporting primary healthcare delivery. Their lobbying efforts encourage partnerships between civil society and government agencies, ensuring health policies are evidence-based and responsive to citizens' needs. Consequently, lobbying has become a powerful advocacy tool in Nigeria's health governance landscape (Babalakin, 2020).

Coalition building serves as another key strategy through which NGOs influence health policy reforms and implementation processes. Ukane (2023) noted that partnerships among NGOs, civil society organisations, and professional associations strengthen their capacity to demand inclusive health policies. Through coalitions, NGOs combine resources, share expertise, and create unified platforms that exert stronger pressure on decision-makers. An example is the Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN), which mobilises collective advocacy for nutrition-focused health interventions. These alliances foster continuous dialogue with government actors, encouraging transparency and shared accountability. By forming coalitions, NGOs achieve broader outreach and sustained engagement that single organisations might not accomplish independently. This collaborative advocacy has been instrumental in advancing public health initiatives and shaping health policy development in Nigeria's evolving healthcare system (Faisasi, 2021).

Research and evidence-based advocacy form the foundation of NGO influence in shaping effective health policies. Datieye (2021) observed that NGOs conduct research to

generate credible evidence that identifies policy gaps and guides decision-making processes. These studies often highlight health disparities and propose actionable recommendations for policymakers. Organisations such as Nigeria Health Watch and the Society for Family Health (SFH) have used research findings to advocate for improved reproductive and primary healthcare systems. The dissemination of such evidence increases the credibility of NGOs and helps policymakers adopt data-informed reforms. Additionally, research-based advocacy promotes accountability by evaluating existing programmes and identifying areas needing policy attention. This approach has contributed significantly to policy responsiveness and sustainability in Nigeria's health sector, ensuring that reforms align with real community health needs (Bamidele & Oni, 2022).

Public campaigns and strategic media engagement are also essential tools NGOs use to influence health policy development. Wale (2023) emphasised that awareness campaigns create public pressure, ensuring that health issues remain high on the government's agenda. Through television programmes, social media, and grassroots mobilisation, NGOs amplify citizens' voices and demand policy changes that address public health challenges. Campaigns on maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, and child immunisation have influenced government action and international support. NGOs use storytelling, data visualisation, and community outreach to humanise policy debates and engage the public. By leveraging media power, they ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous monitoring of health reforms. Ultimately, public campaigns strengthen

democratic participation and drive progressive health policy development in Nigeria's healthcare system (Obomeata, 2021).

2.1.4 Impact of NGO Advocacy on Health Policy Reforms in Nigeria

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have played a transformative role in driving health policy reforms in Nigeria through targeted interventions and advocacy efforts. Yerima (2023) asserted that NGOs such as the Society for Family Health (SFH) have significantly contributed to improving maternal and child health through initiatives focused on family planning, immunisation, and reproductive health education. These programmes have led to increased access to safe childbirth services and a reduction in maternal mortality rates, especially in rural communities. By collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Health, SFH's initiatives have informed national maternal health guidelines and resource allocation frameworks. The outcomes of such partnerships demonstrate how NGO interventions can directly influence policy formulation and implementation, creating more inclusive and sustainable health systems across Nigeria (Onoja, 2021).

Another noteworthy case of NGO impact on health policy reform is the work of the Nigerian Network of NGOs (NNNGO) in advancing HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment policies. Essien (2022) noted that NNNGO collaborated with the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) to advocate for the integration of antiretroviral therapy into public health programmes. This collaboration resulted in the expansion of

HIV testing and counselling centres nationwide, particularly in underserved regions. Furthermore, through its advocacy campaigns, NNNGO influenced the revision of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework to reflect the rights and needs of affected individuals. These achievements highlight how NGO-led advocacy can shape national health policies by bridging the gap between communities and policymakers, promoting inclusivity and evidence-based reforms (Ewomazino, 2023).

In the area of community health reform, the role of the Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON) has been particularly significant. Ubogu (2023) observed that HERFON's persistent engagement with government institutions and legislative committees led to the development and adoption of the National Health Act of 2014, which established the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF). The organisation's advocacy for equitable healthcare financing ensured that a minimum of one per cent of the Consolidated Revenue Fund is allocated annually to improve primary healthcare. Through policy dialogues and technical support, HERFON influenced how the government prioritises healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. This case demonstrates the capacity of NGOs to institutionalise reforms that strengthen Nigeria's healthcare governance and accountability systems (Nakpodia, 2022).

The contribution of the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) to Nigeria's malaria and child health policies also underscores the power of NGO interventions. Fayemi and Akande (2021) stated that CHAI worked closely with the National Malaria

Elimination Programme (NMEP) to enhance access to affordable malaria treatments and diagnostic tools. Through large-scale data collection and technical assistance, CHAI supported the revision of the National Malaria Strategic Plan, leading to improved coordination and resource distribution. Its involvement in maternal and child health programmes also helped reduce under-five mortality rates in several states. The evidence-based approach adopted by CHAI has set a standard for policy-oriented health interventions in Nigeria, reinforcing the critical link between NGO research and national health policy outcomes (Chigbuzor, 2023).

Furthermore, the efforts of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in northern Nigeria exemplify how NGOs can influence humanitarian health policy reforms. Uchenna (2022) reported that MSF's emergency interventions in Borno and Zamfara States during cholera and malnutrition outbreaks exposed critical gaps in Nigeria's emergency health response framework. Through continuous advocacy and collaboration with state health ministries, MSF influenced the strengthening of emergency preparedness and disease surveillance systems. The Nigerian government subsequently incorporated several of MSF's operational recommendations into its national epidemic response strategy. This underscores how evidence from field-based NGO operations can reshape policy priorities and strengthen institutional capacity for managing public health crises in Nigeria (Nwaogu, 2023).

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

Lateef and Adeola (2021) investigated the influence of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on public policy advocacy in Nigeria, focusing on their roles in promoting transparency and accountability in governance. The study adopted a mixed-method research design using survey questionnaires and key informant interviews with 250 respondents drawn from government agencies, civil society groups, and local communities in Lagos and Abuja. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed that NGOs significantly contributed to policy reforms through evidence-based advocacy, civic education, and coalition building. The study concluded that consistent engagement between NGOs and government institutions strengthens participatory democracy. It recommended that NGOs enhance their advocacy strategies through digital platforms and community sensitisation programmes to improve citizen participation in governance processes.

Similarly, Mohammed and Eze (2020) examined the contributions of health-focused NGOs in influencing health policy reforms in Nigeria. The study employed a cross-sectional research design involving 200 participants, including officials from the Ministry of Health and staff from selected NGOs in Abuja, Kano, and Enugu States. Structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews were used to gather data on advocacy strategies and policy influence. Analysis was conducted using regression and thematic methods. Results indicated that NGOs have played pivotal roles in shaping health financing and maternal health policies through lobbying, media campaigns, and

stakeholder engagement. The study concluded that effective collaboration between NGOs and policymakers accelerates the adoption of inclusive health policies and recommended improved funding for NGO advocacy initiatives.

In another empirical investigation, Guobadia and Ibrahim (2022) explored the role of environmental NGOs in influencing environmental policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey design with a sample size of 180 respondents from environmental protection agencies, NGOs, and host communities in the Niger Delta region. Questionnaires and focus group discussions were used for data collection, while the data were analysed using correlation analysis. Findings revealed that NGO advocacy had a significant impact on environmental protection laws, especially in areas relating to oil spill control and sustainable community development. The study concluded that environmental NGOs act as watchdogs that hold both corporations and government accountable for ecological degradation. It recommended stronger partnerships between NGOs and local communities to sustain environmental advocacy efforts.

Furthermore, Bello and Danjuma (2023) conducted a study on the impact of education-oriented NGOs in influencing educational policy reforms in Northern Nigeria. The research utilised a survey research design, selecting 220 teachers, education officers, and NGO personnel through stratified random sampling across three states. A validated questionnaire and semi-structured interviews were employed to collect data. The study

found that NGOs contributed significantly to policy advocacy through curriculum development initiatives, teacher training programmes, and campaigns against out-of-school children. The findings suggested that NGO participation enhances education quality and inclusiveness, particularly in underserved communities. The study recommended that governments institutionalise NGO participation in education policymaking to ensure sustainable development outcomes.

Hadiza and Nwosu (2021) evaluated the effectiveness of women's rights NGOs in influencing gender policy advocacy in Nigeria. The study adopted an explanatory research design, involving 150 respondents from selected NGOs, advocacy groups, and government agencies in Abuja and Lagos. Data were obtained using structured questionnaires and interview schedules, and analysed with chi-square and regression methods. Findings revealed that women's rights NGOs significantly influenced the formulation of gender-sensitive policies, including the National Gender Policy and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act. The study concluded that NGO-led advocacy has improved gender inclusivity in governance and policymaking. It recommended enhanced funding, network building, and legal frameworks to strengthen NGO influence on gender policy advocacy in Nigeria.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for the study is the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) developed by Paul Sabatier and Hank Jenkins-Smith in 1989. The

Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF), developed by Paul Sabatier and Hank Jenkins-Smith in the late 1980s, is a widely recognised model used to explain policy change and stability over time. It views policymaking as a complex process involving multiple actors and institutions that interact within a policy subsystem. The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) proposes that these actors, who share similar beliefs and values, form coalitions to influence policy outcomes through coordinated actions. Within a given subsystem, these coalitions may include government officials, NGOs, researchers, and private stakeholders. They compete or cooperate to ensure their preferred policy beliefs prevail. The framework also emphasises that policy change occurs gradually through learning, negotiation, and external shocks. Thus, it provides a useful lens for understanding how policy advocacy operates in complex political environments.

The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) is built on the premise that policymaking is not dominated by individual decision-makers but by networks of coalitions that persist over long periods. These coalitions emerge around shared belief systems, which include deep core beliefs, policy core beliefs, and secondary aspects. Deep core beliefs represent fundamental values such as equality or freedom, while policy core beliefs concern specific policy areas. Within this structure, the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) explains how actors cooperate to influence governmental decisions in their favour. NGOs, for instance, often align with other organisations and government agencies that share their values, forming strong advocacy networks. This cooperation

allows them to push for legislative reforms and shape the direction of public policies effectively within various sectors.

A key element of the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) is the concept of policy-oriented learning, which involves the process through which coalition members acquire and apply new knowledge to refine their strategies and beliefs. Learning enables coalitions to adapt to changing conditions and respond to emerging policy challenges. In this sense, the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) highlights the importance of evidence-based advocacy in promoting meaningful policy reform. NGOs often engage in research, data collection, and policy analysis to strengthen their arguments and persuade decision-makers. This learning process can also occur across coalitions, where competing groups exchange information and refine their policy positions. Consequently, the framework captures how ongoing learning fosters gradual, informed, and sustainable policy transformation.

The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) also stresses the role of external factors in influencing policy outcomes. Events such as elections, economic crises, leadership changes, or shifts in public opinion can disrupt existing power balances within policy subsystems. When such changes occur, new opportunities arise for advocacy groups and NGOs to influence policy directions. The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) thus acknowledges that policy change is not always internally driven but often depends on how coalitions respond to external pressures. NGOs that recognise these

moments of political transition can strategically advance their advocacy campaigns to achieve reforms. Therefore, the framework provides valuable insights into how non-state actors use timing, alliances, and situational awareness to impact public policy effectively.

The theory is relevant to the study as it helps provides a comprehensive understanding of how groups with shared beliefs collaborate to shape public policy over time. It highlights that policy change is an outcome of sustained advocacy, collective learning, and strategic adaptation to external events. The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) is particularly relevant to understanding NGO influence because it captures the dynamics of coalition building and the long-term nature of policy advocacy. By applying this framework, researchers can better explain how NGOs in Nigeria and beyond contribute to meaningful governance reforms. Ultimately, the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) demonstrates that policy change is both a collaborative and evolutionary process driven by shared conviction and strategic engagement.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter examines the methodology adopted in carrying out the study. The following were examined; research design, population of study, sample size and sampling technique, sources of the data, validation of the instrument, instrument for data collection and techniques for data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

The research design that was employed in this study was the descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey research design is a quantitative research approach that aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of a specific population or phenomenon by systematically collecting data on their current conditions, behaviours, or attitudes. This design was deemed appropriate as it allowed the researcher to thoroughly investigate the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population for this study comprised all 256 registered members and executives of the Edo Civil Society Organizations (EDOCSO), Edo State. This included coordinators, programme officers, advocacy team members, administrative staff, and volunteers actively engaged in policy advocacy, public enlightenment, and community development initiatives across the state. These individuals constituted the key actors

responsible for driving and influencing public policy advocacy efforts undertaken by EDOCSO. (Source: Edo Civil Society Organizations [EDOCSO] Secretariat, Benin City, 2025).

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample for this study consisted of 100 respondents, who were selected from the members of the Edo Civil Society Organizations (EDOCSO), Edo State. Using the stratified sampling technique, 20 respondents were selected from each of the five major categories within the organization: executives, programme officers, advocacy team members, administrative staff, and volunteers. This approach was adopted to ensure equal representation across the different functional groups within EDOCSO and to obtain a balanced view of the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Edo State.

3.4 Sources of Data

The study utilized both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data were obtained through the design and administration of questionnaires aimed at gathering information from respondents on the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria. Secondary data, on the other hand, were sourced from archival materials such as books, journals, conference publications, newspapers, and online resources. Primary data provided direct insights specifically aligned with the research objectives, while secondary data offered contextual

background, supported the interpretation of findings, and validated the study by referencing existing knowledge.

3.5 Validation of the Instrument

The questionnaire designed for the study was submitted to the project supervisor for review to ensure content validity. Corrections provided by the supervisor were incorporated into the final version of the instrument before it was administered to the respondents.

3.6 Instrument for Data Collection

The study employed a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher as the primary instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was organised into four sections: A, B, C, and D. Section A addressed the extent to which Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) had influenced public policy reforms in the Nigerian health sector. Section B examined how effective NGOs were in shaping educational policies and improving access to quality education in Nigeria. Section C investigated ways NGOs contributed to gender rights advocacy and policy formulation within Nigeria's public administration system, while Section D highlighted the challenges NGOs faced in influencing government decision-making processes on health, education, and gender-related policies in Nigeria.

3.7 Techniques of Data Analysis

The data analysis technique encompassed the methods and tools that were used to process and interpret the information gathered during the study. For this research, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used as the primary tool for data analysis. Simple descriptive statistics, such as frequency counts and percentages, were utilized to compute and present the findings. These methods facilitated a clear and understandable summary of the data's characteristics.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and analyses the data collected from respondents through the administered questionnaires. The responses are displayed using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages, accompanied by detailed interpretations. The data utilised for the analysis were obtained primarily from the completed questionnaires. Out of the one hundred (100) questionnaires distributed to respondents, all were duly completed and returned, representing a 100% response rate. Therefore, the analysis was conducted based on the entire set of one hundred (100) retrieved questionnaires.

4.2 Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data

This section opens with the presentation of the respondents' demographic characteristics, which include gender, age, educational qualification, years of working experience, and department. These variables are designed to offer a clearer understanding of the role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 37 | 37% |
| Female | 63 | 63% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to gender. The data reveals that 37% of the respondents were male, while a higher proportion, 63%, were female. This indicates that females constituted the majority of participants in the study

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

| Age Range | Respondents | Percentages |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 18-25 | 23 | 23% |
| 26-35 | 47 | 47% |
| 36-45 | 19 | 19% |
| 46 years and above | 11 | 11% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 2 presents the age distribution of respondents. It shows that 23% of the respondents were between the ages of 18 and 25 years, 47% were within the 26 to 35 years range, 19% were aged between 36 and 45 years, while 11% were 46 years and above. This indicates that the majority of respondents were between 26 and 35 years.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Qualifications

| Qualifications | Respondents | Percentages |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SSCE | 11 | 11% |
| OND | 23 | 23% |
| HND/B.Sc. | 57 | 57% |
| M.Sc. and above | 9 | 9% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 3 shows that 11% of the respondents hold an SSCE qualification, representing the least educational attainment in the study. The majority, 57%, possess an HND/B.Sc., indicating that most respondents have a higher education degree. Those with an OND qualification make up 23%, while the smallest group, 9%, have an M.Sc. or higher. This distribution highlights a well-educated sample, with the largest concentration at the HND/B.Sc. level.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Organisational Role

| Organisational Role | Respondents | Percentages |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Executives | 13 | 13% |
| Programme Officers | 19 | 19% |
| Advocacy Team Members | 17 | 17% |
| Administrative Staff | 22 | 22% |
| Volunteers | 29 | 29% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4 presents the distribution of respondents according to their organisational roles. The data shows that 13% of the respondents were executives, 19% were programme officers, 17% were advocacy team members, 22% were administrative staff, and 29% were volunteers. This indicates that volunteers formed the largest proportion of respondents.

4.3 Analysis of Findings

Objective One: To Ascertain Extent Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Have Influenced Public Policy Reforms in the Nigerian health sector

Table 5: Distribution of Responses on Extent Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Have Influenced Public Policy Reforms in the Nigerian health sector

| S/N | Items | Total No of respondents | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-----|---|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. | NGOs have played a significant role in influencing major health policy reforms in Nigeria. | 100 | 44 (44%) | 31 (31%) | 14 (14%) | 11 (11%) |
| 2. | Health-focused NGOs often collaborate with government agencies to improve healthcare delivery. | 100 | 69 (69%) | 25 (25%) | 4 (4%) | 2 (2%) |
| 3. | NGOs' advocacy efforts have contributed to the creation of more inclusive public health policies. | 100 | 27 (27%) | 59 (59%) | 6 (6%) | 8 (8%) |
| 4. | NGOs' campaigns have improved public awareness and accountability in the health sector. | 100 | 61 (61%) | 28 (28%) | 6 (6%) | 5 (5%) |
| 5. | The influence of NGOs on health-related policies in Nigeria has been largely effective. | 100 | 44 (44%) | 31 (31%) | 11 (11%) | 14 (14%) |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 5 presents the distribution of responses on the extent to which Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have influenced public policy reforms in the Nigerian health

sector. In item 1, the findings indicate that NGOs have played a significant role in influencing major health policy reforms, as 44% of respondents strongly agreed and 31% agreed, while 14% disagreed and 11% strongly disagreed, suggesting that 75% acknowledged their strong policy influence. For item 2, 69% strongly agreed and 25% agreed that health-focused NGOs often collaborate with government agencies to improve healthcare delivery, while only 4% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed, showing that 94% recognised the collaborative role of NGOs in enhancing service delivery. Item 3 reveals that NGOs' advocacy efforts have contributed to the creation of more inclusive public health policies, with 27% strongly agreeing and 59% agreeing, while 6% disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed, indicating that 86% affirmed this contribution. In item 4, 61% strongly agreed and 28% agreed that NGOs' campaigns have improved public awareness and accountability in the health sector, whereas 6% disagreed and 5% strongly disagreed, implying that 89% supported the awareness-enhancing impact of NGOs. Lastly, item 5 shows that 44% strongly agreed and 31% agreed that the influence of NGOs on health-related policies in Nigeria has been largely effective, while 11% disagreed and 14% strongly disagreed, suggesting that 75% perceived NGOs' influence as effective. Overall, the findings indicate that NGOs have played a substantial and positive role in shaping health policy reforms, fostering collaboration, promoting inclusiveness, and enhancing accountability within Nigeria's health sector.

Objective Two: To Ascertain Examine How Effective NGOs are in Shaping Educational Policies and Improving Access to Quality Education in Nigeria

Table 6: Distribution of Responses on How Effective NGOs are in Shaping Educational Policies and Improving Access to Quality Education in Nigeria

| S/N | Items | Total No of respondents | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-----|--|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | NGOs have made significant contributions to improving educational policy formulation in Nigeria. | 100 | 62 (62%) | 26 (26%) | 8 (8%) | 4 (4%) |
| 2. | Advocacy by NGOs has led to better access to education for disadvantaged children. | 100 | 59 (59%) | 31 (31%) | 3 (3%) | 7 (7%) |
| 3. | Educational NGOs often partner with the government to promote quality teaching and learning. | 100 | 48 (48%) | 37 (37%) | 9 (9%) | 6 (6%) |
| 4. | NGO-driven campaigns have enhanced awareness of the importance of education in rural areas. | 100 | 53 (53%) | 36 (36%) | 3 (3%) | 8 (8%) |
| 5. | The efforts of NGOs have positively influenced government decisions on educational reforms. | 100 | 59 (59%) | 33 (33%) | 5 (5%) | 3 (3%) |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 6 presents the distribution of responses on how effective Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are in shaping educational policies and improving access to

quality education in Nigeria. In item 1, the findings reveal that NGOs have made significant contributions to improving educational policy formulation, with 62% of respondents strongly agreeing and 26% agreeing, while 8% disagreed and 4% strongly disagreed, indicating that 88% acknowledged NGOs' positive influence on policy development. For item 2, 59% strongly agreed and 31% agreed that advocacy by NGOs has led to better access to education for disadvantaged children, whereas only 3% disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed, suggesting that 90% affirmed NGOs' role in expanding educational access. Item 3 shows that educational NGOs often partner with the government to promote quality teaching and learning, as 48% strongly agreed and 37% agreed, while 9% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed, implying that 85% recognised the collaborative efforts between NGOs and government agencies. In item 4, 53% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that NGO-driven campaigns have enhanced awareness of the importance of education in rural areas, with only 3% disagreeing and 8% strongly disagreeing, signifying that 89% supported this assertion. Lastly, item 5 indicates that the efforts of NGOs have positively influenced government decisions on educational reforms, with 59% strongly agreeing and 33% agreeing, while 5% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed, showing that 92% believed in NGOs' significant impact on reform initiatives. Overall, the findings suggest that NGOs play a crucial and effective role in shaping educational policies, improving access to education, fostering collaboration with government, and promoting educational awareness and reform across Nigeria.

Objective Three: To Find Out Ways NGOs Contribute to Gender Rights Advocacy and Policy Formulation Within Nigeria’s Public Administration System

Table 7: Distribution of Responses on Ways NGOs Contribute to Gender Rights Advocacy and Policy Formulation Within Nigeria’s Public Administration System

| S/N | Items | Total No of respondents | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-----|---|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. | NGOs have been instrumental in advocating for women’s rights and gender equality in Nigeria. | 100 | 61 (61%) | 32 (32%) | 4 (4%) | 3 (3%) |
| 2. | NGO campaigns have influenced the creation of gender-sensitive public policies. | 100 | 69 (69%) | 22 (22%) | 3 (3%) | 6 (6%) |
| 3. | NGOs effectively raise public awareness on issues affecting women and girls in Nigeria. | 100 | 44 (44%) | 29 (29%) | 11 (11%) | 16 (16%) |
| 4. | NGOs’ involvement has improved gender representation in policy-making processes. | 100 | 71 (71%) | 21 (21%) | 5 (5%) | 3 (3%) |
| 5. | Collaboration between NGOs and government agencies has strengthened gender-related policy outcomes. | 100 | 57 (57%) | 29 (29%) | 6 (6%) | 8 (8%) |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 7 presents the distribution of responses on ways Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) contribute to gender rights advocacy and policy formulation within Nigeria’s public administration system. In item 1, the findings indicate that NGOs have been instrumental in advocating for women’s rights and gender equality, as 61% of

respondents strongly agreed and 32% agreed, while 4% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed, showing that 93% acknowledged NGOs' vital role in promoting gender equity. For item 2, 69% strongly agreed and 22% agreed that NGO campaigns have influenced the creation of gender-sensitive public policies, whereas 3% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed, suggesting that 91% affirmed NGOs' influence on inclusive policy development. Item 3 reveals that NGOs effectively raise public awareness on issues affecting women and girls, with 44% strongly agreeing and 29% agreeing, while 11% disagreed and 16% strongly disagreed, indicating that 73% supported NGOs' awareness-raising efforts. In item 4, 71% strongly agreed and 21% agreed that NGOs' involvement has improved gender representation in policy-making processes, while 5% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed, signifying that 92% recognised NGOs' contribution to inclusive governance. Lastly, item 5 shows that collaboration between NGOs and government agencies has strengthened gender-related policy outcomes, with 57% strongly agreeing and 29% agreeing, while 6% disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed, indicating that 86% supported this assertion. Overall, the results demonstrate that NGOs have played a substantial role in promoting gender rights, shaping gender-sensitive policies, enhancing women's participation in governance, and fostering partnerships that strengthen gender equity within Nigeria's public administration system.

Objective Four: To Highlight the Challenges NGOs Face in Influencing Government Decision-Making Processes on Health, Education, and Gender-Related Policies in Nigeria

Table 8: Distribution of Responses on Challenges NGOs Face in Influencing Government Decision-Making Processes on Health, Education, and Gender-Related Policies in Nigeria

| S/N | Items | Total No of respondents | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-----|--|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | NGOs often face funding constraints that limit their ability to influence policy decisions. | 100 | 73 (73%) | 22 (22%) | 3 (3%) | 2 (2%) |
| 2. | Government resistance and bureaucracy hinder NGOs' advocacy effectiveness. | 100 | 66 (66%) | 24 (24%) | 6 (6%) | 4 (4%) |
| 3. | Lack of adequate data and research support weakens NGOs' policy advocacy campaigns. | 100 | 71 (71%) | 22 (22%) | 4 (4%) | 3 (3%) |
| 4. | Poor collaboration among NGOs reduces the collective impact of their policy advocacy. | 100 | 54 (54%) | 36 (36%) | 4 (4%) | 6 (6%) |
| 5. | Political interference negatively affects NGOs' ability to influence public policy outcomes. | 100 | 78 (78%) | 16 (16%) | 4 (4%) | 2 (2%) |

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 8 presents the distribution of responses on the challenges Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) face in influencing government decision-making processes on

health, education, and gender-related policies in Nigeria. In item 1, the findings reveal that NGOs often face funding constraints that limit their ability to influence policy decisions, with 73% of respondents strongly agreeing and 22% agreeing, while 3% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed, indicating that 95% recognised financial limitations as a major challenge. For item 2, 66% strongly agreed and 24% agreed that government resistance and bureaucracy hinder NGOs' advocacy effectiveness, whereas 6% disagreed and 4% strongly disagreed, suggesting that 90% acknowledged bureaucratic obstacles as a significant barrier. Item 3 shows that the lack of adequate data and research support weakens NGOs' policy advocacy campaigns, with 71% strongly agreeing and 22% agreeing, while 4% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed, implying that 93% affirmed the importance of data and research in effective advocacy. In item 4, 54% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that poor collaboration among NGOs reduces the collective impact of their policy advocacy, while 4% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed, demonstrating that 90% believed coordination challenges affect advocacy strength. Lastly, item 5 indicates that political interference negatively affects NGOs' ability to influence public policy outcomes, as 78% strongly agreed and 16% agreed, while 4% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed, showing that 94% viewed political influence as a major impediment. Overall, the findings suggest that NGOs in Nigeria encounter significant challenges such as inadequate funding, bureaucratic resistance, limited data support, weak inter-organisational collaboration, and political interference, all of which undermine their effectiveness in influencing public policy across critical sectors.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

Findings from the study revealed that NGOs have played a substantial and positive role in shaping health policy reforms, fostering collaboration, promoting inclusiveness, and enhancing accountability within Nigeria's health sector. This finding can be attributed to the proactive engagement of NGOs in advocacy, research, and capacity-building initiatives that influence policy formulation and implementation within Nigeria's health sector. NGOs often act as intermediaries between the government, private sector, and communities, ensuring that the voices of marginalised groups are heard in the policy process. Through evidence-based advocacy and partnerships with public institutions, they help design inclusive and responsive health policies. Furthermore, their emphasis on transparency and monitoring mechanisms enhances accountability and ensures that reforms are effectively implemented. The participatory approach adopted by many NGOs has also strengthened collaboration among stakeholders, leading to more sustainable and people-centred health policy outcomes in Nigeria. This finding is in agreement with Sodiq (2023) who asserted that NGOs bridge the gap between healthcare demand and supply by providing medical equipment, essential drugs, and technical support to health facilities.

Findings from the study shows that NGOs play a crucial and effective role in shaping educational policies, improving access to education, fostering collaboration with government, and promoting educational awareness and reform across Nigeria. This finding can be explained by the active involvement of NGOs in advocacy, community

mobilisation, and policy dialogue aimed at improving Nigeria's education system. NGOs often serve as catalysts for reform by conducting research, organising stakeholder engagements, and providing technical support to government agencies in the formulation and implementation of education policies. Their initiatives help bridge gaps in access to quality education, particularly in underserved communities, by promoting inclusive learning opportunities and supporting educational awareness campaigns. Moreover, through partnerships with governmental and international bodies, NGOs foster collaboration that enhances policy effectiveness and sustainability. Their consistent advocacy for equity, transparency, and innovation has significantly contributed to the ongoing transformation of educational policies and practices across Nigeria. This result aligns with the views of Musa and Onotu (2022) who noted that NGOs have become vital partners in educational development by advocating for quality learning and equitable access, particularly in rural areas.

Findings from the study indicated that NGOs have played a substantial role in promoting gender rights, shaping gender-sensitive policies, enhancing women's participation in governance, and fostering partnerships that strengthen gender equity within Nigeria's public administration system. This finding can be attributed to the consistent efforts of NGOs in advocating for gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusive governance within Nigeria's public administration system. NGOs have been instrumental in influencing policy reforms by raising awareness on gender issues, conducting research, and engaging policymakers to adopt gender-sensitive frameworks.

Through training, advocacy campaigns, and coalition-building, they have enhanced women's political participation and leadership opportunities at various levels of governance. Additionally, partnerships between NGOs, government agencies, and international organisations have strengthened institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming. By promoting accountability and equitable representation, NGOs have significantly contributed to creating a more inclusive and gender-responsive public administration landscape in Nigeria. This finding is in line with Okonkwo (2021) who observed that women-focused NGOs have been key drivers in advancing gender inclusion and influencing policy decisions through sustained advocacy and collaboration.

Findings from the study revealed that NGOs in Nigeria encounter significant challenges such as inadequate funding, bureaucratic resistance, limited data support, weak inter-organisational collaboration, and political interference, all of which undermine their effectiveness in influencing public policy across critical sectors. This finding can be explained by the structural and systemic constraints that limit the operational capacity of NGOs within Nigeria's policy environment. Inadequate funding often restricts their ability to sustain advocacy programmes, conduct research, and engage effectively with stakeholders. Bureaucratic resistance from government institutions further impedes access to policy platforms, while the lack of reliable data hinders evidence-based interventions. Additionally, weak collaboration among NGOs reduces collective impact and coordination in addressing policy issues. Political interference also poses a major setback, as partisan interests sometimes override objective advocacy

efforts. Together, these challenges constrain NGOs' influence and weaken their overall effectiveness in driving meaningful public policy reforms across key sectors in Nigeria. This finding agrees with Kogbonia (2024) who identified funding constraints and bureaucratic bottlenecks as major obstacles to NGO operations in Nigeria.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This section presents a summary of the study, the conclusions derived, the findings obtained, and the recommendations provided.

5.2 Summary

The study investigated the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of the study, four (4) research questions were raised and answered. The sample size for the study was made up of 100 respondents. The researcher used descriptive survey research design in building up this project work. An analysis of data was done using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Simple descriptive statistics such as frequency count and simple percentage were used in presenting the findings of the research.

The study revealed that NGOs have played a substantial and positive role in shaping health policy reforms, fostering collaboration, promoting inclusiveness, and enhancing accountability within Nigeria's health sector. This finding can be attributed to the proactive engagement of NGOs in advocacy, research, and capacity-building initiatives that influence policy formulation and implementation within Nigeria's health sector. NGOs often act as intermediaries between the government, private sector, and

communities, ensuring that the voices of marginalised groups are heard in the policy process. Through evidence-based advocacy and partnerships with public institutions, they help design inclusive and responsive health policies. Furthermore, their emphasis on transparency and monitoring mechanisms enhances accountability and ensures that reforms are effectively implemented. The participatory approach adopted by many NGOs has also strengthened collaboration among stakeholders, leading to more sustainable and people-centred health policy outcomes in Nigeria.

The study also revealed that NGOs play a crucial and effective role in shaping educational policies, improving access to education, fostering collaboration with government, and promoting educational awareness and reform across Nigeria. This finding can be explained by the active involvement of NGOs in advocacy, community mobilisation, and policy dialogue aimed at improving Nigeria's education system. NGOs often serve as catalysts for reform by conducting research, organising stakeholder engagements, and providing technical support to government agencies in the formulation and implementation of education policies. Their initiatives help bridge gaps in access to quality education, particularly in underserved communities, by promoting inclusive learning opportunities and supporting educational awareness campaigns. Moreover, through partnerships with governmental and international bodies, NGOs foster collaboration that enhances policy effectiveness and sustainability. Their consistent advocacy for equity, transparency, and innovation has significantly contributed to the ongoing transformation of educational policies and practices across Nigeria.

It was further seen from the study that that NGOs have played a substantial role in promoting gender rights, shaping gender-sensitive policies, enhancing women's participation in governance, and fostering partnerships that strengthen gender equity within Nigeria's public administration system. This finding can be attributed to the consistent efforts of NGOs in advocating for gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusive governance within Nigeria's public administration system. NGOs have been instrumental in influencing policy reforms by raising awareness on gender issues, conducting research, and engaging policymakers to adopt gender-sensitive frameworks. Through training, advocacy campaigns, and coalition-building, they have enhanced women's political participation and leadership opportunities at various levels of governance. Additionally, partnerships between NGOs, government agencies, and international organisations have strengthened institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming. By promoting accountability and equitable representation, NGOs have significantly contributed to creating a more inclusive and gender-responsive public administration landscape in Nigeria.

The study also shows that NGOs in Nigeria encounter significant challenges such as inadequate funding, bureaucratic resistance, limited data support, weak inter-organisational collaboration, and political interference, all of which undermine their effectiveness in influencing public policy across critical sectors. This finding can be explained by the structural and systemic constraints that limit the operational capacity of NGOs within Nigeria's policy environment. Inadequate funding often restricts their

ability to sustain advocacy programmes, conduct research, and engage effectively with stakeholders. Bureaucratic resistance from government institutions further impedes access to policy platforms, while the lack of reliable data hinders evidence-based interventions. Additionally, weak collaboration among NGOs reduces collective impact and coordination in addressing policy issues. Political interference also poses a major setback, as partisan interests sometimes override objective advocacy efforts. Together, these challenges constrain NGOs' influence and weaken their overall effectiveness in driving meaningful public policy reforms across key sectors in Nigeria.

5.3 Conclusion

The study evaluated the impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in public policy advocacy in Nigeria. Based on the findings derived from the research objectives, it was concluded that NGOs have made significant contributions to public policy reforms, particularly in the health sector, where they have actively engaged in advocacy, awareness campaigns, and partnerships with government agencies to improve healthcare delivery and accountability. In the education sector, NGOs have also played an instrumental role in shaping policies that promote inclusive and equitable access to quality education, especially for marginalized and underserved populations. Moreover, NGOs have been pivotal in gender rights advocacy, influencing the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive policies aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality in Nigeria's public administration system.

Furthermore, the study concluded that while NGOs have demonstrated remarkable effectiveness in advocacy and policy influence, their efforts are often constrained by several challenges such as inadequate funding, limited access to decision-making platforms, bureaucratic resistance, and weak institutional collaboration with government agencies. Despite these obstacles, NGOs continue to serve as essential agents of social change, bridging the gap between citizens and policymakers through evidence-based advocacy, civic engagement, and policy monitoring. The findings underscore the critical role of NGOs in Nigeria's democratic and developmental processes, as their sustained engagement contributes to transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance across the nation's policy landscape.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were put forward:

1. The government should strengthen partnerships with NGOs by creating formal frameworks for consultation and participation in policy formulation, particularly in the health, education, and gender sectors.
2. NGOs should diversify their funding sources through partnerships with international donors, private sector actors, and community-based initiatives to enhance their sustainability and advocacy impact.

3. Continuous training and capacity-building programmes should be organized for NGO staff and volunteers to improve their advocacy skills, research competence, and policy engagement strategies.
4. The government should develop supportive policies and legislation that protect and promote the operations of NGOs, ensuring an enabling environment for effective advocacy and public policy participation.
5. NGOs should intensify efforts in public education and awareness campaigns while adopting transparent monitoring and evaluation systems to strengthen accountability and public trust in their activities.

REFERENCES

- Abdulrahman, S. (2021). *The role of Non-Governmental Organisations in promoting social justice and community development in Nigeria*. Lagos: Heritage Press.
- Adebayo, K. (2023). Non-Governmental Organisations and democratic governance in Nigeria: The pathway to sustainable social transformation. *African Journal of Governance and Development*, 11(1), 92–108.
- Adewale, T. A. (2021). Constraints of non-governmental organisations in policy advocacy in Nigeria. *African Journal of Governance and Development Studies*, 14(2), 45–60.
- Adeyemi, F. K. (2022). Civil society influence on health policy reforms in Nigeria. *Journal of Public Health and Policy Research*, 18(1), 72–88.
- Akinlabi, T. (2023). Advocacy and citizen participation in Nigeria's policy reform process. *Nigerian Journal of Political and Administrative Studies*, 9(2), 67–81.
- Akinyemi, L. (2020). Bridging the gap: The role of NGOs in participatory governance and rural development in Nigeria. *Journal of African Development Perspectives*, 6(1), 102–116.
- Akande, F. (2021). *Public policy advocacy and coalition building among civil society organisations in Nigeria*. Abuja: Goldleaf Academic Publications.
- Babalakin, S. A. (2020). Civil society lobbying and health governance: Evidence from Nigeria. *Journal of Public Policy and Development Studies*, 14(2), 45–61.
- Bamidele, O. T., & Oni, A. K. (2022). Evidence-based health advocacy: The role of NGOs in policy development. *African Journal of Health Policy and Administration*, 7(2), 63–80.
- Balogun, P., & Ekeh, R. (2021). Health education initiatives of NGOs and the promotion of preventive healthcare in Nigeria. *Journal of Public Health Promotion*, 7(1), 54–68.
- Bello, M. S. (2023). NGOs and education policy advocacy in Nigeria: Prospects and challenges. *Journal of Educational Policy and Development Studies*, 11(3), 101–119.
- Bello, R., & Danjuma, Y. (2023). Impact of education-oriented Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on educational policy reforms in Northern Nigeria. *Journal of Educational Policy and Development Studies*, 12(4), 77–94.

- Binani, R. (2021). The contribution of Non-Governmental Organisations to primary healthcare delivery in Nigeria. *African Journal of Health Systems Management*, 9(1), 33–47.
- Chianu, J., & Urhieme, M. (2020). Building human capacity for sustainable healthcare: The role of NGOs in Nigeria. Uyo: MarkMan Publications.
- Chigbuzor, C. J. (2023). NGO interventions and health system strengthening in Nigeria. *Journal of Development and Health Policy Research*, 12(2), 102–118.
- Chukwuma, V. O. (2022). Women’s rights advocacy and policy reforms in Nigeria. *Gender and Society in Africa*, 9(4), 33–50.
- Dawene, L. K. (2023). NGOs as agents of governance and accountability in Nigeria. *Journal of African Governance and Development*, 15(1), 25–41.
- Damagun, I. (2023). Understanding the autonomy and influence of NGOs in Nigeria’s development landscape. *Journal of Development Studies and Policy Review*, 11(2), 61–76.
- Datieye, K. L. (2021). Research-based advocacy and health policy outcomes in Nigeria. *International Review of Development and Governance*, 11(3), 34–50.
- Dawene, E. (2021). Policy advocacy and implementation monitoring: A study of Nigerian civil society engagement. *International Journal of Public Policy Research*, 6(1), 45–60.
- Essien, P. U. (2022). NGO-government collaboration and HIV/AIDS policy development in Nigeria. *Journal of Contemporary African Policy Studies*, 13(3), 55–70.
- Eshekun, B., & Okpota, I. (2023). Public policy advocacy and participatory governance in Nigeria. Kano: BlueGate Publications.
- Ewomazino, L. V. (2023). Civil society advocacy and national HIV/AIDS strategies in Nigeria. *Health and Development Journal of Africa*, 8(2), 80–96.
- Ezeh, C. (2022). Civil society and social accountability: NGOs as agents of equity and inclusion in Nigeria. *Journal of Civil Society and Development Practice*, 8(2), 72–86.
- Faisasi, H. M. (2021). Coalition dynamics and health policy advocacy in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Social and Political Studies*, 18(4), 101–119.

- Fatuyi, O., & Akande, B. (2023). Community health initiatives and the contribution of NGOs to maternal and child health in rural Nigeria. *Journal of Health Policy and Practice*, 12(1), 58–74.
- Fayemi, O. L., & Akande, L. T. (2021). Innovations in health governance and NGO interventions in Africa. Enugu: Chinedu & Sons Publishers.
- Garba, A. (2021). The role of advocacy in promoting transparency and accountability in Nigerian public policy. *Nigerian Journal of Social and Political Inquiry*, 7(1), 15–29.
- Guobadia, P., & Ibrahim, M. (2022). Role of environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in environmental policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria. *African Journal of Environmental Governance and Development*, 10(3), 115–132.
- Hadiza, L., & Nwosu, K. (2021). Effectiveness of women’s rights Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in influencing gender policy advocacy in Nigeria. *Gender and Development Review*, 8(2), 101–118.
- Haruna, I. M. (2023). Advocacy and governance in Nigeria’s health sector. Abuja: Wallace Press.
- Ibrahim, A., & Obi, J. (2021). NGOs as partners in sustainable development and democratic governance in Nigeria. *Journal of Development and Policy Studies*, 8(1), 101–116.
- Ibrahim, S. M. (2021). Non-state actors and reproductive health policy advocacy in Nigeria. *Journal of Health and Social Policy in Africa*, 7(2), 56–70.
- Kogbonia, S. (2024). Challenges and prospects of public policy advocacy in Nigeria’s democratic process. *Journal of African Governance and Civic Engagement*, 10(1), 41–57.
- Komonibo, T. (2021). Training for impact: NGO-led capacity development for health workers in Nigeria. *Journal of Health Management and Research*, 5(3), 80–96.
- Lateef, S., & Adeola, T. (2021). Influence of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on public policy advocacy in Nigeria: Promoting transparency and accountability in governance. *Journal of Public Policy and Administration Studies*, 9(2), 45–60.
- Lawal, M., & Omoregie, P. (2022). Media and advocacy: The influence of communication strategies on policy reforms in Nigeria. Ibadan: Harmony Books.

- Maduka, D. (2022). Community-based healthcare and the role of NGOs in improving rural health outcomes in Nigeria. *Journal of Community Medicine and Health Promotion*, 8(2), 89–104.
- Majemite, R. K., & Orile, P. D. (2022). Lobbying and policy influence in West Africa. Lagos: Sunrise Publications.
- Mohammed, A., & Eze, C. (2020). Contributions of health-focused Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in influencing health policy reforms in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Health Policy and Management*, 7(1), 32–48.
- Musa, I. O. (2021). Public policy advocacy strategies of NGOs in Nigeria. *West African Journal of Political Science*, 16(2), 48–64.
- Musa, L., & Onotu, E. (2022). Non-Governmental Organisations as catalysts for social transformation in Nigeria. *Journal of Development and Humanitarian Studies*, 7(2), 36–52.
- Nakpodia, R. E. (2022). Advocacy and legislative engagement in Nigeria's health financing reforms. *African Governance and Policy Journal*, 9(1), 41–59.
- Nariye, F. (2023). Barriers to effective advocacy in Nigeria: A focus on political resistance and institutional weaknesses. *Journal of Governance and Civic Reform*, 9(3), 60–75.
- Nwaogu, J. C. (2023). Emergency health response and NGO advocacy in northern Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanitarian and Health Studies*, 5(4), 67–85.
- Nwosu, I. (2021). Accountability and transparency in Non-Governmental Organisations: The Nigerian experience. Onitsha: Crescent Publishers.
- Oboh, J. (2022). Participatory democracy and advocacy: Civil society engagement in Nigeria's governance. *African Journal of Political and Social Research*, 10(2), 33–49.
- Obomeata, E. F. (2021). Media engagement and public health advocacy in Nigeria. *West African Communication Review*, 6(2), 28–44.
- Ogunleye, R. T. (2023). NGOs, civic participation, and democratic governance in Nigeria. *Journal of Democracy and Development*, 19(1), 115–131.
- Okon, E. J. (2023). Civil society organisations and participatory democracy in Nigeria. *Journal of Policy Studies in Africa*, 12(3), 67–82.

- Okorie, N. D. (2023). Challenges of NGO participation in Nigerian policy processes. *International Journal of African Development Policy*, 8(1), 91–106.
- Olatunji, K. B. (2020). Civil society and education reforms in Nigeria: A rights-based approach. *Journal of Educational Advancement in Africa*, 10(2), 23–39.
- Ojo, P. (2022). Non-Governmental Organisations and the promotion of good governance in Nigeria. Port Harcourt: Excel Academic Press.
- Okonkwo, D. (2021). The role of NGOs in bridging governance gaps in developing societies. *Nigerian Journal of Social Science Research*, 9(1), 25–39.
- Onoja, F. D. (2021). Collaborative policy formulation and NGO participation in maternal health reform. *Nigerian Journal of Health Studies*, 10(1), 92–108.
- Onwuka, V. (2022). Collaborative governance and NGO partnerships in Nigeria's health sector. *Journal of Health Policy and Development Practice*, 10(1), 62–78.
- Saladeki, H. (2023). Health awareness and behaviour change communication: NGOs' role in promoting preventive health in Nigeria. Abuja: Brilliance Publications.
- Salau, P. M. (2022). NGOs and governance reforms in sub-Saharan Africa: The Nigerian experience. *African Review of Politics and Development*, 17(4), 122–138.
- Sodiq, M. (2023). Bridging healthcare inequalities: The contributions of NGOs to Nigeria's public health system. *International Journal of Health and Development Studies*, 12(2), 71–85.
- Tanko, U. Y. (2020). NGOs and grassroots mobilisation in Nigerian democratic governance. *Journal of African Civic Engagement*, 9(1), 74–89.
- Tukub, R. (2023). Public-private partnerships and NGO collaborations in Nigeria's health governance. *African Journal of Policy and Public Health*, 11(2), 55–70.
- Ubogu, E. C. (2023). Health reform movements in Nigeria: Policy, advocacy, and impact. Port Harcourt: University Press.
- Uchenna, K. P. (2022). Humanitarian interventions and public health emergencies in northern Nigeria. Kaduna: Horizon Research Press.
- Ukane, T. J. (2023). Coalition building and social change in Africa. Ibadan: Spectrum Academic House.
- Wale, T. A. (2023). Public campaigns and media advocacy in Nigeria's health system. Benin City: CrystalEdge Publications.

- Wamako, A. M. (2021). Non-governmental organisations and policy influence in Nigeria's health sector. *African Journal of Health and Social Research*, 9(1), 77–93.
- Yakubu, N. (2020). Sustained advocacy and policy implementation in Nigeria's reform landscape. Jos: DeMark Publications.
- Yerima, B. A. (2023). NGO partnerships and health policy reforms in Nigeria. Kano: SeaGate Publications.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY
QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

The questionnaire is for the purpose of investigating the “Impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Public Policy Advocacy in Nigeria”. Kindly fill it as appropriate. Your information will be treated confidentially. Thank you for your time.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Please tick the option you consider appropriate and fill in blank spaces

Gender: Male () Female ()

Age: 18-25yrs () 26-35yrs () 36-45yrs () 46 years and above ()

Qualification: SSCE () Diploma/OND () BSC/HND () Master’s Degree and above ()

Categories: Executives () Programme Officers () Advocacy Team Members ()
administrative staff () Volunteers ()

SECTION A: INFLUENCE OF NGOs ON PUBLIC POLICY REFORMS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD |
|-----|---|----|---|---|----|
| 1. | NGOs have played a significant role in influencing major health policy reforms in Nigeria. | | | | |
| 2. | Health-focused NGOs often collaborate with government agencies to improve healthcare delivery. | | | | |
| 3. | NGOs’ advocacy efforts have contributed to the creation of more inclusive public health policies. | | | | |
| 4. | NGOs’ campaigns have improved public awareness and accountability in the health sector. | | | | |
| 5. | The influence of NGOs on health-related policies in Nigeria has been largely effective. | | | | |

SECTION B: EFFECTIVENESS OF NGOs IN SHAPING EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD |
|------------|--|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 6. | NGOs have made significant contributions to improving educational policy formulation in Nigeria. | | | | |
| 7. | Advocacy by NGOs has led to better access to education for disadvantaged children. | | | | |
| 8. | Educational NGOs often partner with the government to promote quality teaching and learning. | | | | |
| 9. | NGO-driven campaigns have enhanced awareness of the importance of education in rural areas. | | | | |
| 10. | The efforts of NGOs have positively influenced government decisions on educational reforms. | | | | |

SECTION C: NGOs' CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENDER RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND POLICY FORMULATION

| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD |
|------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 11. | NGOs have been instrumental in advocating for women's rights and gender equality in Nigeria. | | | | |
| 12. | NGO campaigns have influenced the creation of gender-sensitive public policies. | | | | |
| 13. | NGOs effectively raise public awareness on issues affecting women and girls in Nigeria. | | | | |
| 14. | NGOs' involvement has improved gender representation in policy-making processes. | | | | |
| 15. | Collaboration between NGOs and government agencies has strengthened gender-related policy outcomes. | | | | |

**SECTION D: CHALLENGES FACED BY NGOs IN INFLUENCING
GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING**

| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD |
|------------|--|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 16. | NGOs often face funding constraints that limit their ability to influence policy decisions. | | | | |
| 17. | Government resistance and bureaucracy hinder NGOs' advocacy effectiveness. | | | | |
| 18. | Lack of adequate data and research support weakens NGOs' policy advocacy campaigns. | | | | |
| 19. | Poor collaboration among NGOs reduces the collective impact of their policy advocacy. | | | | |
| 20. | Political interference negatively affects NGOs' ability to influence public policy outcomes. | | | | |