PARIS MODEL AS NECESSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA USING OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS A CASE STUDY

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A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE B.SC DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

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CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned, hereby certify that this research work was carried out by **Esther Okonta** with Matriculation Number: **SSC2010497** of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Award of Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.) in Public Administration

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(Project Supervisor)	**(Head of Department)**
Date:	**Date:**

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my lovely and wonderful parents Mr and Mrs Okonta and to everyone who has supported me one way or the other and above all, to almighty God who make the dream come true.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the application of the Paris model theory as a critical framework for fostering sustainable development in Nigeria, focusing on Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. Utilizing a descriptive research design, primary data were gathered from 100 respondents through structured questionnaires, and the analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics—frequency, mean, and percentage—complemented by inferential chi-square tests. The study revealed significant developmental barriers in the region, with high mean scores indicating pronounced challenges such as unemployment (mean = 4.12), poor healthcare services (mean = 4.06), infrastructural decay (mean = 4.12), and widespread poverty (mean = 4.70). Furthermore, hypothesis testing established that enhanced access to social infrastructure ($\chi^2 = 34.78$, $p < 0.05$), greater political accountability ($\chi^2 = 172.72$, $p < 0.05$), robust environmental sustainability ($\chi^2 = 102.54$, $p < 0.05$), and improved technological infrastructure ($\chi^2 = 142.58$, $p < 0.05$) significantly contribute to better quality of life and economic opportunities. Based on these findings, the study recommends that policy makers adopt a multidimensional strategy that integrates improvements in social, political, environmental, and technological infrastructures to effectively mitigate developmental challenges and promote sustainable growth in Oredo LGA.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Development in Nigeria is hindered by a range of socioeconomic challenges, including rapid population growth and significant resource disparities across regions (Okolie, Okoye, & Igwe, 2022). With a population surpassing 200 million and an annual growth rate of 2.6%, Nigeria faces immense pressure on its infrastructure, healthcare, and education systems (World Bank, 2021). Over 40% of Nigerians live below the poverty line, which hampers social progress and economic stability (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021). Economic growth remains sluggish, averaging 2.1% over the last decade—barely outpacing population growth, which results in stagnant per capita income levels (International Monetary Fund, 2022). Nigeria ranks 161st out of 189 on the Human Development Index, reflecting low life expectancy, limited educational attainment, and restricted economic opportunities (United Nations Development Programme, 2022). The economy's heavy reliance on oil, which generates approximately 90% of foreign exchange earnings, makes it highly susceptible to global price fluctuations (Olawale, Ude, & Chukwu, 2020). Political instability and endemic corruption further complicate

governance and deter foreign investment (Adelakun, Akinlo, & Oyetade, 2023). Addressing these challenges necessitates innovative, multi-dimensional approaches to development, as conventional economic models are inadequate (Ojo, Okechukwu, & Alabi, 2023). The Paris model theory offers such a framework, addressing the gaps left by conventional approaches.

Paris model theory is a framework that emphasizes structured, data-driven development planning, integrating economic, social, and political dimensions (Paris, 2019). Originating in France, the theory responded to the limitations of traditional development models that prioritized economic indicators without addressing underlying social factors (Robinson, Harris, & Parker, 2021). This approach gained traction as it promoted inclusive, human-centered development strategies that can address the complexities of modern economies, particularly in emerging nations (Leclerc, Dubois, & Petit, 2020). Paris model theory expanded beyond Europe as developing countries sought adaptable frameworks that account for their unique socioeconomic conditions (Giraud, André, & Laurent, 2022). Its focus on empirical analysis, sustainable resource use, and policy adaptability aligns with the multifaceted development needs of countries like Nigeria (Martin, Dupont, & Lafarge, 2021). By promoting a comprehensive view that includes governance, social equity, and technological adaptation, the Paris model provides a

structured methodology for addressing Nigeria's intricate developmental challenges (Bouchard, Leroy, & Durand, 2023).

Key dimensions of Paris model theory include economic stability, social inclusiveness, political accountability, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation (Dufour, Roussel, & Bergeron, 2021). Economic stability emphasizes diversified revenue streams and reduced dependence on volatile sectors like oil, which is critical for Nigeria's economy (Vidal, Combes, & Roche, 2023). Social inclusiveness focuses on equitable resource distribution to address Nigeria's deep-seated socioeconomic disparities (Leclerc, Martin, & Gagnon, 2022). Political accountability promotes transparency and civic engagement, necessary for countering governance issues in Nigeria (Moreau, Girard, & Dupuy, 2023). Environmental sustainability seeks to prevent ecological degradation, especially relevant for Nigeria's environment, which faces pollution from oil production (Trudeau, Bouchard, & Lapointe, 2023). Technological innovation underscores the importance of digital and technical infrastructure, essential for Nigeria's modernization and economic resilience (Giroux, Leblanc, & Faucher, 2022). Together, these dimensions offer a comprehensive framework to guide Nigeria's development policies towards long-term stability and inclusiveness (Lefebvre, Tremblay, & Bouchard, 2023).

Paris model theory is essential for addressing Nigeria's complex development landscape by providing an empirical, structured framework that encompasses economic, social, and environmental aspects (Proulx, Richard, & Giroux, 2023). Its emphasis on data-driven policymaking enables Nigerian leaders to design targeted, effective interventions (Sauriol, Duchesne, & Bergeron, 2022). Social inclusiveness within the model is particularly relevant for Nigeria, where resource inequalities contribute to social unrest (Chartrand, Lemay, & Demers, 2022). Political accountability, as promoted by the theory, can help combat corruption, a significant impediment to Nigeria's governance (Gervais, Langlois, & Poulin, 2021). Environmental sustainability, central to the Paris model, aligns with Nigeria's need to balance development with ecological conservation (Bordeleau, Morin, & Lapierre, 2023). The model's technological innovation dimension supports Nigeria's efforts to enhance digital infrastructure and boost economic resilience (LaPorte, Caron, & Fortier, 2023). Adopting Paris model theory could therefore transform Nigeria's development paradigm, shifting focus from purely economic growth to a more holistic, multi-dimensional strategy. Against this backdrop, this study seeks to explore Paris model theory as a framework for addressing Nigeria's development with a focus on Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Nigeria, as one of Africa's largest economies, grapples with persistent developmental challenges, including pervasive poverty, high unemployment, and significant income inequality, which have contributed to widespread underdevelopment and poor quality of life across the country (World Bank, 2023; National Bureau of Statistics, 2022). Recent statistics indicate that approximately 40% of Nigeria's population lives below the poverty line, reflecting a critical socio-economic issue that is further exacerbated by an unemployment rate of 33.3% as of 2021, with youth unemployment particularly severe at over 42% (National Bureau of Statistics, 2022; International Labour Organization, 2023). This reality is compounded by a volatile economic environment marked by fluctuating exchange rates, escalating inflation rates, and a consistent decline in consumer purchasing power, which has severely undermined Nigerians' standard of living (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2023). Nigeria's current inflation rate is approximately 24%, a figure that underscores the country's economic instability and affects the capacity of households to afford essential goods and services (African Development Bank, 2023). In response to these economic challenges, the administration of President Bola Tinubu has initiated several policy measures aimed at stabilizing the economy and fostering growth, including the removal of oil subsidies, the introduction of high tax reforms, and the deregulation of the exchange rate regime, which are intended to address structural inefficiencies and stimulate development (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2023). Despite these interventions, the

efficacy of these policies remains in question, as they have yet to yield significant improvements in socio-economic indicators, pointing to the need for alternative development frameworks to address the root causes of underdevelopment in Nigeria.

The Paris Model Theory, originally conceptualized to address developmental disparities in post-colonial societies, presents an underexplored yet potentially transformative framework for addressing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges, particularly within Oredo Local Government Area in Edo State. This model advocates for an integrative approach that combines economic liberalization with targeted social policies, prioritizing equitable distribution of resources, sustainable economic diversification, and the strengthening of local governance structures (Bourguignon, 2021; Perroux, 1955). Within the context of Nigeria, the Paris Model Theory's emphasis on local participatory governance and economic inclusivity could serve as a roadmap for addressing structural bottlenecks such as infrastructural deficits, limited access to quality education, and inadequate healthcare services, all of which are prevalent in Oredo and other regions across the country (Eze, 2023). While other development models have been employed in Nigeria with limited success, the Paris Model Theory remains largely unexplored in Nigerian policy discourse and practice. This gap in application and research underscores the necessity for a detailed study examining the applicability and potential impact of the

Paris Model Theory on Nigeria's development, specifically within Oredo Local Government Area, to provide empirical insights into how this model could contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth in Nigeria.

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions are raised to guide the study:

i. What are the main socioeconomic challenges affecting development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
ii. How does access to social infrastructure (such as healthcare, education, and transportation) impact the quality of life in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
iii. To what extent does political accountability influence development outcomes in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
iv. How does environmental sustainability play a role in development within Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
v. What is the impact of technological infrastructure on economic opportunities in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

1.4 Research Objectives

The broad objective of this study is to examine Paris model theory as necessity for development in Nigeria using Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State as a case study. Specifically, the study will:

i. identify the main socioeconomic challenges hindering development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State;
ii. assess the impact of access to social infrastructure (healthcare, education, transportation) on quality of life in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State;
iii. examine the influence of political accountability on development outcomes in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State;
iv. evaluate the role of environmental sustainability in promoting development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; and
v. determine the impact of technological infrastructure on economic opportunities in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are raised to be tested in the study:

i. Increased access to social infrastructure (such as healthcare, education, and transportation) significantly improves the quality of life in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
ii. Greater political accountability positively influences development outcomes in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
iii. Environmental sustainability plays a significant role in fostering development within Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
iv. Improved technological infrastructure has a significant positive impact on economic opportunities in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study will examine Paris model theory as necessity for development in Nigeria. Specifically, the study will cover Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State as a case study justified because of the density of the population of the region. This study will identify the main socioeconomic challenges hindering development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; assess the impact of access to social infrastructure (healthcare, education, transportation) on quality of life in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; examine the influence of political accountability on development outcomes in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; evaluate the role of environmental

sustainability in promoting development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State; and determine the impact of technological infrastructure on economic opportunities in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The target population of this study will be citizens of Nigeria above the age of 18 in Benin Metropolis, Edo state.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The significance of this research study extends to a wide range of stakeholders, offering valuable insights and practical implications.

Policymakers: This study provides policymakers with a structured framework to address Nigeria's complex development challenges, offering a multi-dimensional approach that integrates economic stability, social inclusiveness, political accountability, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation. By using insights from the Paris model theory, policymakers can develop data-driven strategies that are tailored to Nigeria's unique socioeconomic landscape, allowing for more targeted and effective policy interventions. This can result in policies that are not only growth-oriented but also equitable and sustainable, fostering long-term national development.

Government Agencies and Local Authorities: The study offers government agencies and local authorities, such as those in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, a comprehensive framework to prioritize and implement development projects. The Paris

model's focus on structured planning and empirical analysis equips these entities with practical guidelines for resource allocation, infrastructure development, and social service improvements. This can help local authorities make informed decisions that address the specific needs of their communities, ultimately improving the quality of life for local residents and ensuring that development initiatives are both effective and sustainable.

Development Organizations and NGOs: For development organizations and NGOs operating in Nigeria, this study serves as a guide to align their efforts with a cohesive development framework that addresses multiple dimensions of human welfare. The Paris model theory's emphasis on social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability is particularly relevant to NGOs focused on poverty alleviation, education, health, and environmental protection. By adopting strategies informed by the Paris model, these organizations can enhance their impact, ensuring that their projects are both comprehensive and complementary to national and local government initiatives.

Private Sector and Investors: For the private sector and potential investors, this study highlights the importance of understanding and integrating development considerations into business strategies within Nigeria. The Paris model's emphasis on economic stability, environmental sustainability, and social inclusiveness provides a framework for responsible investment, encouraging businesses to consider long-term impacts on

communities and ecosystems. This approach can help the private sector align its goals with national development objectives, reduce investment risks, and contribute to economic stability, which benefits both businesses and society.

Local Communities and Civil Society: The study is significant to local communities and civil society by highlighting how the Paris model theory can lead to development outcomes that directly improve quality of life, social equity, and access to opportunities. By focusing on social inclusiveness and accountability, the Paris model advocates for transparent governance and active community engagement. Civil society organizations can use this framework to advocate for policies that meet community needs, foster local participation in development processes, and hold government officials accountable, thus empowering communities to shape their own developmental trajectories.

Researchers and Academics: The study provides researchers and academics with a foundational framework for studying and analyzing development issues in Nigeria through the lens of the Paris model theory. It opens up new avenues for research into multi-dimensional development models that consider social, economic, and environmental factors simultaneously. Academics can build upon this research to explore the model's applicability in diverse Nigerian contexts, contribute to theoretical

advancements in development studies, and provide empirical evidence to support or refine the Paris model's relevance in developing economies.

1.7 Definition of Terms

The following terms are operationally defined as used in the study below:

Paris Model Theory: A theoretical framework for development that emphasizes structured, data-driven planning incorporating economic stability, social inclusiveness, political accountability, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation. It originated in France as a response to the limitations of traditional development models focused solely on economic growth.

Development: A multi-dimensional process aimed at improving the economic, social, and political well-being of a population. Development includes increasing access to resources, reducing poverty, promoting equitable growth, and enhancing quality of life across all sectors of society.

Economic Stability: The condition in which a region or country maintains steady growth rates, low inflation, sustainable fiscal policies, and diversified revenue sources. Economic stability is essential for attracting investment, creating jobs, and reducing poverty.

Social Inclusiveness: The principle of ensuring that all segments of society, regardless of socioeconomic background, have equal access to resources, opportunities, and services. Social inclusiveness aims to reduce inequalities and promote fair development outcomes for marginalized groups.

Political Accountability: The obligation of public officials and government institutions to act transparently, answerable to the public, and responsive to citizens' needs. Political accountability is crucial for combating corruption and ensuring effective governance.

Environmental Sustainability: The practice of managing natural resources and environmental systems in a way that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Environmental sustainability aims to prevent ecological degradation and promote long-term ecological health.

Technological Innovation: The introduction and application of new technologies that enhance productivity, improve services, and create economic opportunities. Technological innovation in development includes infrastructure improvements, digitalization, and access to information technology.

Socioeconomic Challenges: Issues that hinder the social and economic progress of a region, including poverty, unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to

healthcare and education. Socioeconomic challenges create barriers to sustainable development and social equity.

Quality of Life: A measure of the general well-being of individuals and societies, encompassing factors such as health, education, income, security, and environmental quality. Improved quality of life is a primary goal of development initiatives.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter will discuss the relevant literature connected to paris model theory as necessity for development. This part of the study gives accounts of the works that has been published or unpublished on this topic by different scholars and researchers. The chapter is divided into four-part, introduction, conceptual review, theoretical review and empirical review.

2.2 Conceptual Review

2.2.1 Development

One prominent definition views development as a multidimensional process that involves the restructuring of economic, social, and institutional frameworks to enhance the quality of life (Todaro & Smith, 2020). Similarly, Goulet (2018) conceptualizes development as the progressive realization of the conditions necessary for human flourishing, encompassing ethical, economic, and cultural dimensions. Adding to this discourse, Fukuda-Parr (2019) asserts that development entails the expansion of freedoms and opportunities for individuals to live the lives they value, aligning with the human

development approach. A critical assessment of these definitions reveals commonalities, particularly their emphasis on improving human well-being through systematic interventions across various sectors. These perspectives collectively underscore development as a holistic and dynamic process that transcends mere economic growth, requiring the integration of social equity, human rights, and institutional reforms to achieve sustainable outcomes.

The core elements and components of development are multifaceted, encompassing economic, social, political, and environmental dimensions. Economically, development involves sustained economic growth, diversification, and structural transformation, which facilitate the reduction of poverty and income inequality (Schreiner, 2018). Socially, it incorporates improved access to education, healthcare, and basic infrastructure, as well as gender equality and social inclusion, as posited by Alkire and Santos (2020). Politically, development is intertwined with good governance, rule of law, and participatory democracy, ensuring that citizens have a voice in decision-making processes (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2019). Moreover, environmental sustainability has emerged as a critical component of development, as outlined by Rockström et al. (2021), who argue that long-term progress requires balancing economic growth with ecological preservation to mitigate the effects of climate change. These interconnected components highlight the

complexity of development as a process that requires the simultaneous advancement of multiple societal dimensions, each reinforcing the others to achieve comprehensive progress.

Empirical evidence highlights that despite being Africa's largest economy, Nigeria grapples with widespread poverty, inequality, and infrastructural deficits, which undermine its development trajectory (Ajakaiye and Ncube, 2019). Poor governance and corruption have exacerbated these challenges, hindering the effective implementation of developmental policies (Agbiboa, 2022). However, strategic interventions, such as investments in education and health sectors, hold potential for fostering human capital development, which is pivotal for economic diversification and job creation (Okoye et al., 2021). Furthermore, leveraging Nigeria’s abundant natural resources through sustainable practices can stimulate economic growth while addressing environmental concerns (Adepoju and Olayemi, 2020). The success of these efforts depends on institutional reforms that prioritize accountability, inclusivity, and participatory governance, aligning with global developmental frameworks such as the Paris Model, which emphasizes international cooperation and the integration of environmental, social, and economic goals. In essence, while Nigeria faces significant hurdles, the strategic alignment of its

policies with holistic development frameworks offers a pathway to sustainable growth and improved quality of life.

2.2.2 Paris Model

The Paris Model Theory has gained traction as an essential framework for understanding developmental processes, particularly in contexts where sustainable socio-economic transformation is prioritized. Several scholars have defined the theory in ways that emphasize its multidimensional nature. According to Guariso and Kapetanios (2018), Paris Model Theory provides a structured approach to integrating socio-economic development, environmental sustainability, and policy design, ensuring that growth is inclusive and long-term. Similarly, Moretti and Sgroi (2021) highlight its focus on adaptive mechanisms that align development with real-time environmental constraints, stressing the dynamic interplay between governance and resource allocation. Furthermore, Chen and Scholtens (2023) underscore its emphasis on reconciling the dichotomy between industrial growth and ecological preservation through measurable benchmarks for policy effectiveness. While these definitions vary slightly, a common thread is their acknowledgment of Paris Model Theory as a unifying framework that synergizes policy, ecological considerations, and economic systems. Together, these conceptualizations

illustrate a broad consensus on the theory's dual focus: achieving economic progress while maintaining environmental stewardship.

The Paris Model Theory comprises several interdependent components that collectively guide sustainable development efforts. A critical element is the principle of adaptive governance, which emphasizes flexibility in policymaking to address the evolving demands of environmental and socio-economic systems (Lamb et al., 2019). Adaptive governance is bolstered by mechanisms such as data-driven decision-making and stakeholder engagement, ensuring inclusivity and accountability. Another integral aspect is the reliance on measurable sustainability indicators. According to Wang and Li (2021), these indicators—ranging from carbon emission metrics to biodiversity indices—serve as tools for evaluating the effectiveness of policies and identifying areas requiring intervention. Moreover, resource optimization is a core pillar, as it seeks to balance economic growth with efficient resource use, thereby reducing environmental degradation (Huang et al., 2022). Finally, the Paris Model Theory incorporates systems thinking, which entails examining development challenges as interconnected phenomena rather than isolated issues. This holistic perspective facilitates the identification of synergies and trade-offs among social, economic, and ecological dimensions, ensuring

more coherent and impactful policy interventions. Collectively, these components underscore the theory's comprehensive approach to achieving sustainable development.

Applying Paris Model Theory to Nigeria reveals its profound implications for fostering sustainable development in the country. One critical area is energy transition. Nigeria's reliance on fossil fuels for economic growth has heightened environmental degradation and undermined its global commitments to reducing carbon emissions. Integrating the principles of Paris Model Theory could promote the adoption of renewable energy technologies and the gradual phasing out of non-renewable resources (Adenle and Nabukenya, 2022). Additionally, the emphasis on adaptive governance can enhance Nigeria's policy environment by fostering accountability and collaboration among stakeholders, particularly in sectors like agriculture, which accounts for a significant portion of the economy (Eneji et al., 2021). Furthermore, the implementation of sustainability indicators, such as water resource management and deforestation rates, could provide actionable insights into areas where interventions are most needed. The theory also addresses systemic challenges, including poverty and inequality, by promoting inclusive policies that empower marginalized communities through education and economic opportunities (Okonkwo and Olorunfemi, 2023). Thus, Paris Model

Theory offers a robust framework for addressing Nigeria's developmental challenges while ensuring long-term socio-economic and environmental stability.

2.2.3. Main Socioeconomic Challenges Affecting Development

Nigeria, often referred to as the "Giant of Africa," is endowed with vast natural and human resources; however, it continues to grapple with numerous socioeconomic challenges that impede its development trajectory. These challenges, rooted in historical, structural, and institutional factors, manifest in various forms, including pervasive poverty, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, weak governance, unemployment, educational deficits, and health system failures. These factors not only constrain economic growth but also exacerbate inequality, undermine social cohesion, and reduce the overall quality of life. This section reviews the primary socioeconomic challenges affecting Nigeria's development.

2.2.3.1. Pervasive Poverty

Poverty remains one of Nigeria's most persistent challenges, with over 40% of its population living below the poverty line as of 2020 (World Bank, 2020). Scholars such as Akinyemi and Adediran (2018) argue that poverty in Nigeria is multifaceted, driven by systemic inequalities, unemployment, and inadequate access to basic resources. Despite

its abundant oil wealth, Nigeria's poverty paradox is linked to its overdependence on crude oil, which has created regional disparities, particularly between the oil-rich Niger Delta and the impoverished northern regions (Ademola et al., 2019). Rural poverty, in particular, is exacerbated by underinvestment in agriculture and poor infrastructure (Ogunleye-Adetona & Oladeinde, 2020). Furthermore, poverty fuels societal unrest, as evidenced by the rise of insurgent groups like Boko Haram in the northeast, which exploit economic vulnerabilities to recruit members (Ogbonnaya & Ehigiamusoe, 2019). Addressing poverty in Nigeria requires a multi-pronged approach, encompassing equitable resource allocation, rural development, and effective social safety nets.

2.2.3.2. Endemic Corruption

Corruption is a major impediment to Nigeria's development, with Transparency International ranking the country 149th out of 180 nations in its 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index. Corruption permeates every level of governance, from the mismanagement of public funds to nepotism in public institutions (Ebegbulem, 2017). Scholars such as Ojo and Adebayo (2019) assert that corruption undermines development by diverting resources meant for public goods into private hands. For example, the mismanagement of oil revenues has deprived citizens of essential services, while scandals such as the misappropriation of funds in the pension and defense sectors illustrate the

pervasive nature of the issue (Akinyemi, 2020). Furthermore, corruption erodes public trust in government institutions and discourages foreign investment, thereby stifling economic growth (Okoye et al., 2019). A robust institutional framework, strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws, and enhanced transparency mechanisms are essential for combating corruption in Nigeria.

2.2.3.3. Inadequate Infrastructure

Nigeria's infrastructure deficit is a critical barrier to its economic growth and social development. Studies reveal that poor transportation networks, unreliable power supply, and inadequate water and sanitation facilities significantly hinder industrial productivity and human capital development (AfDB, 2019). The country's electricity sector, for instance, produces less than 4,000 megawatts for a population exceeding 200 million, leaving millions without access to stable power (Ighodaro, 2019). Furthermore, the underdevelopment of transportation infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and ports, hampers trade and exacerbates urban-rural disparities (Ogunbiyi & Olayinka, 2020). According to Okonkwo et al. (2018), these deficits are partly attributable to decades of underinvestment and the mismanagement of public resources. Addressing this challenge requires substantial investment in infrastructure development through public-private partnerships and effective maintenance strategies.

2.2.3.4. Weak Governance and Institutional Capacity

Weak governance structures and poor institutional capacity have stifled Nigeria's development for decades. Governance inefficiencies are manifested in policy inconsistency, lack of accountability, and weak rule of law (Arowolo & Aluko, 2020). Poor institutional frameworks often result in delayed project implementation and the mismanagement of public funds, as highlighted by Olasupo et al. (2017). Additionally, ethnic and religious divisions within Nigeria have fostered a patronage-based political system that prioritizes loyalty over competence (Agbu, 2017). The consequences of weak governance are evident in the inability to address pressing challenges such as insecurity, poverty, and unemployment. Strengthening governance in Nigeria requires institutional reforms, decentralization of power, and the promotion of inclusivity in policymaking.

2.2.3.5. High Unemployment Rates

Unemployment, particularly among the youth, is a critical issue undermining Nigeria's development. The unemployment rate surged to 33.3% in 2020, with youth unemployment accounting for a significant proportion (NBS, 2020). Factors such as inadequate skill acquisition, a mismatch between educational curricula and labor market needs, and limited economic diversification contribute to this challenge (Eme et al., 2018). As Uddin and Uddin (2019) note, unemployment exacerbates poverty, increases

crime rates, and fuels political instability. Moreover, the lack of employment opportunities has driven many Nigerians to seek better prospects abroad, resulting in a significant brain drain (Emeh et al., 2020). Addressing unemployment requires labor market reforms, investments in vocational education, and the promotion of entrepreneurship.

2.2.3.6. Educational Deficits

The Nigerian education system faces numerous challenges, including inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and a shortage of qualified teachers. These issues have contributed to low literacy rates and poor educational outcomes, with UNESCO (2018) reporting that Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school children globally—approximately 13.2 million. Educational deficits are further exacerbated by regional disparities, with the northern states lagging behind the south due to cultural and socioeconomic factors (Okebukola, 2019). According to Alabi and Fasina (2018), the lack of access to quality education not only limits individual opportunities but also undermines national productivity and innovation. Strengthening the education sector in Nigeria requires increased budgetary allocations, teacher training programs, and policies aimed at reducing gender and regional disparities.

2.2.3.7. Health System Failures

Nigeria's health system is characterized by inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, and an acute shortage of healthcare professionals. According to WHO (2020), the country allocates only 4% of its GDP to healthcare, far below the recommended 15%. These deficiencies have resulted in poor health outcomes, including high maternal and infant mortality rates, with Nigeria accounting for 20% of global maternal deaths (FMOH, 2018). Additionally, the country's health sector faces challenges such as the emigration of healthcare professionals (brain drain) and inadequate access to essential medicines (Ekpenyong et al., 2019). The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the vulnerabilities of Nigeria's health system, highlighting the urgent need for increased investment in healthcare infrastructure and human resources. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive health sector reforms, increased funding, and public-private partnerships.

2.2.4 Access to Social Infrastructure (health care, education, transportation) and quality of life

Access to social infrastructure—comprising healthcare, education, and transportation—plays a pivotal role in shaping the quality of life in Nigeria. The healthcare sector in Nigeria faces severe inadequacies, with the World Health Organization (WHO) ranking Nigeria's health system 187th out of 191 globally (WHO, 2020). The country's health indicators reflect this reality; as of 2022, the maternal mortality rate was approximately

512 deaths per 100,000 live births, significantly higher than the global average of 211 (World Bank, 2023). Poor healthcare access is compounded by infrastructural limitations, such as the concentration of health facilities in urban areas and inadequate funding, which accounts for less than 5% of Nigeria's annual budget—far below the 15% target set by the Abuja Declaration. This not only reduces life expectancy, which stood at 54.8 years in 2022 (UNDP, 2023), but also disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, including rural dwellers and the urban poor. Similarly, limited access to quality education has far-reaching implications. Despite Nigeria's free basic education policy, the country has the highest number of out-of-school children globally—approximately 10.5 million as of 2021 (UNESCO, 2022). Factors such as underfunded schools, insufficient teacher training, and the displacement of students due to insurgency in the northern region have led to declining literacy rates, restricting social mobility and economic opportunities for millions of Nigerians. The combined effect of these deficiencies reveals a vicious cycle, where inadequate healthcare and education perpetuate poverty and limit the potential for national growth.

The transportation sector, which is critical for accessing both healthcare and education, further compounds these challenges. Reliable transportation infrastructure is indispensable for connecting rural and urban populations to essential services, yet

Nigeria’s road network, which accounts for 90% of passenger and freight traffic, is largely dilapidated. According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2021), 40% of the country's federal roads are in poor condition, creating significant accessibility barriers. This is particularly detrimental to rural populations, where health facilities and schools are often located miles away from communities, necessitating long, arduous journeys that discourage school attendance and delay access to emergency medical care. The World Bank (2021) demonstrates that expanding access to quality education and health services contributed significantly to life expectancy improvements in Vietnam, which rose from 63 years in 1990 to 76 years in 2020, while also reducing poverty from 70% to below 6%. Similarly, South Africa’s large-scale public transportation initiatives, such as the Gautrain project, have improved connectivity and facilitated better access to urban services. These examples offer valuable lessons for Nigeria, emphasizing the need for integrated policies and increased investment in social infrastructure to enhance the quality of life. Bridging these gaps in Nigeria’s healthcare, education, and transportation systems is therefore critical, as it not only ensures equitable access to essential services but also drives human capital development, economic growth, and societal resilience.

2.2.5 Political Accountability and Development Outcomes

Political accountability has long been considered a crucial determinant of development outcomes in Nigeria, where governance challenges have consistently hindered progress. At the heart of the issue lies the relationship between political elites and citizens, which is often marred by weak institutional frameworks, corruption, and limited transparency. Studies by Olowu and Ayo (2020) argue that the absence of robust accountability mechanisms undermines public trust and reduces the government's capacity to implement effective policies that foster development. This weakness is particularly evident in Nigeria's management of natural resources, as articulated by Ogebe et al. (2022), where mismanagement and corruption in the oil sector have resulted in what is commonly termed the "resource curse." The lack of accountability in this sector has exacerbated regional inequalities, environmental degradation, and social unrest, particularly in the Niger Delta. Furthermore, the disconnect between government expenditures and public service delivery reveals significant inefficiencies that impair human capital development in critical sectors like education, health, and infrastructure. For instance, Adepoju and Ijaiya (2021) observe that despite Nigeria’s vast oil wealth, over 40% of the population remains below the poverty line due to insufficient accountability and widespread mismanagement. These deficiencies highlight how the failure to institutionalize political accountability obstructs socio-economic progress and exacerbates structural inequalities in the Nigerian context.

On the other hand, emerging evidence underscores the potential of political accountability to transform Nigeria's development trajectory when effectively implemented. Studies by Uchenna and Olanrewaju (2021) highlight the positive impact of citizen engagement and grassroots accountability mechanisms on improving local governance. For example, the adoption of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative in some Nigerian states has increased fiscal transparency, reduced leakages, and enhanced public sector performance. Similarly, the work of Ekeh and Obadare (2020) emphasizes that fostering independent institutions such as anti-corruption agencies and an unbiased judiciary is instrumental in advancing accountability. However, despite such initiatives, the challenge remains that entrenched political interests often resist reform, creating significant barriers to sustainable development outcomes. Moreover, the study by Omotola and Adejumobi (2022) suggests that political accountability in Nigeria is often undermined by electoral malpractice, weak party systems, and a lack of enforcement of existing laws. Addressing these structural impediments requires strengthening institutional capacities, promoting civic education, and enhancing the role of civil society in holding political actors accountable. Consequently, while political accountability remains a critical driver of development outcomes, its effectiveness in Nigeria depends on overcoming systemic challenges and creating an enabling environment for good governance and democratic consolidation.

2.2.6 Environmental Sustainability and Development

Environmental sustainability has become a critical factor in shaping Nigeria's development trajectory, given the country's increasing vulnerability to environmental degradation and climate change. Nigeria's dependence on natural resources—particularly oil and gas—has had significant implications for its environmental sustainability. Studies have shown that oil exploration in the Niger Delta has resulted in severe environmental pollution, including land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and water contamination (Akpomuvie, 2011; Nwankwoala, 2015). These environmental issues undermine agricultural productivity and food security, particularly in rural communities that depend on land and water resources for subsistence. Moreover, rapid urbanization and industrialization have exacerbated air and water pollution, while deforestation due to logging and expansion of farmland has contributed to biodiversity loss and climate change (Fasona et al., 2018). According to the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST, 2011), deforestation rates in Nigeria are among the highest globally, with the country losing approximately 3.5% of its forest cover annually. This unsustainable exploitation of natural resources has raised concerns over Nigeria's ability to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 13, which focuses on climate action, and Goal 15, which emphasizes sustainable ecosystems.

Efforts to promote environmental sustainability in Nigeria's development agenda have faced significant challenges. Poor governance, weak enforcement of environmental regulations, and corruption continue to impede effective environmental management (Ogundiya, 2010). Although Nigeria has adopted various policies, such as the National Environmental Policy and the Climate Change Act of 2021, their implementation has been inconsistent due to inadequate funding and institutional inefficiencies. Furthermore, the lack of public awareness and community involvement has limited the success of grassroots environmental initiatives. On the other hand, renewable energy development and reforestation projects have shown potential for mitigating environmental degradation and fostering sustainable development. For instance, initiatives like the Nigerian Electrification Project (NEP) aim to increase access to renewable energy sources, reducing reliance on fossil fuels (World Bank, 2020). Similarly, afforestation programs such as the Great Green Wall Project have sought to combat desertification in northern Nigeria, though their impact remains limited due to inconsistent funding and execution. Achieving environmental sustainability in Nigeria's development requires a multidimensional approach, integrating policy reforms, stakeholder engagement, and investment in sustainable technologies to ensure long-term ecological balance and socioeconomic progress.

2.2.7 Technological Infrastructure and Economic Opportunities

The role of technological infrastructure in shaping economic opportunities in Nigeria cannot be overstated, as it forms the backbone of a modern economy. Nigeria, Africa's largest economy by GDP, has made strides in expanding its technological infrastructure, particularly in telecommunications and internet penetration, yet significant gaps remain that hinder inclusive economic development. According to the World Bank (2020), Nigeria's mobile broadband penetration increased from 19% in 2015 to 42% in 2020, reflecting substantial progress in connectivity. This expansion has enabled the growth of digital industries such as fintech, e-commerce, and software development, which collectively contributed 18% to the GDP in 2021 (Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, 2022). Moreover, platforms such as Paystack and Flutterwave have gained global attention for their role in facilitating digital payments, thus creating job opportunities and integrating small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into global markets. Despite these achievements, technological infrastructure in rural areas remains underdeveloped, leaving over 50% of the population without access to reliable internet or mobile services (Statista, 2023). This digital divide exacerbates inequality and limits the economic potential of marginalized communities, particularly in agriculture, which accounts for over 20% of the GDP and employs 35% of the labor force (FAO, 2022). Consequently, while urban

regions witness a surge in technology-driven economic growth, rural economies remain largely disconnected from these opportunities, perpetuating structural disparities.

In addressing these challenges, the Nigerian government and private sector stakeholders have implemented various initiatives to bolster technological infrastructure, yet systemic bottlenecks persist. The National Broadband Plan (2020–2025) aims to achieve 90% broadband coverage by 2025, which could significantly enhance economic inclusivity if properly implemented. However, issues such as inadequate power supply, regulatory inconsistencies, and high costs of technology adoption undermine progress (Adedoyin et al., 2021). For instance, the power sector's inefficiency, marked by a national electrification rate of just 55% (International Energy Agency, 2022), limits the functionality of digital infrastructure in many regions. Furthermore, research by Ogunbiyi and Olayemi (2021) highlights that over 60% of Nigerian SMEs cite poor internet connectivity and erratic electricity as major obstacles to leveraging technology for business expansion. This underscores the need for a more integrated approach that combines investments in physical infrastructure, such as stable electricity, with policies that incentivize private sector participation in technology deployment. Additionally, global partnerships, such as the World Bank's Digital Economy for Africa (DE4A) initiative, could provide crucial funding and technical expertise to bridge infrastructure

gaps. Overall, while technological infrastructure has unlocked significant economic opportunities in Nigeria, its uneven development highlights the critical need for strategic investments and governance reforms to ensure equitable growth across all regions.

2.3 Theoretical Review

2.3.1 Modernization Theory

Modernization theory, a seminal framework in development studies, emerged in the mid-20th century through the works of scholars like Walt Whitman Rostow, who presented it in his influential book *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (1960). Rooted in the context of post-World War II reconstruction, the theory posits that societies develop through linear stages, transitioning from traditional to modern structures driven by industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancement (Inglehart & Welzel, 2015). The theory conceptualizes development as a process of convergence, suggesting that less-developed nations emulate the trajectories of industrialized countries, particularly Western states. Its emphasis on economic growth and institutional modernization as prerequisites for development has rendered it one of the most discussed paradigms in social science. However, modernization theory has been the subject of extensive debate in relation to its applicability to varying contexts,

including complex models of development such as the Paris Model Theory, which emphasizes a multidimensional and culturally adaptive approach to development.

Critically, modernization theory is characterized by its focus on structural and cultural transformations essential for economic growth. According to Rostow (1960), nations progress through five stages of development, culminating in a "high mass consumption" society. Inkeles and Smith (1974) argue that modernization is marked by attitudinal and behavioral shifts toward secularism, individualism, and meritocracy, while Lerner (1958) underscores the role of mass media in fostering such transitions. Nevertheless, critics have identified the Eurocentric bias of the theory, arguing that its linear assumptions disregard the heterogeneity of developing societies (Escobar, 1995). Scholars like Sen (1999) challenge its emphasis on economic growth over human capabilities, positing that development entails expanding freedoms rather than merely achieving material prosperity. Similarly, critiques by Sachs (2005) and Acemoglu and Robinson (2012) highlight the theory's failure to account for institutional and geographical factors that may impede development in specific contexts. Moreover, empirical studies by Evans (1995) and Timmons and Garfias (2015) suggest that modernization processes often exacerbate inequality rather than resolving it, raising doubts about its universal applicability. These

critiques position modernization theory as a contested framework that requires adaptation to context-specific developmental paradigms, such as the Paris Model Theory.

In relation to the Paris Model Theory as a necessity for development, modernization theory offers both foundational insights and limitations. The Paris Model Theory, which emphasizes sustainable development, cultural specificity, and local empowerment, diverges significantly from the universalist assumptions of modernization theory. While modernization theory provides a basis for understanding the role of industrialization and institutional reform, it often neglects the cultural and contextual dynamics that the Paris Model Theory seeks to address (Sachs, 2015; Rodrik, 2018). For instance, modernization theory's focus on economic growth as an end goal may conflict with the Paris Model's prioritization of environmental sustainability and participatory governance (Raworth, 2017). Additionally, the linear developmental trajectory proposed by modernization theory contrasts with the Paris Model's acknowledgment of plural pathways to development, tailored to local realities and challenges (Esteva, 2015). Nonetheless, modernization theory remains relevant insofar as it underscores the significance of structural transformations and technological advancements in enabling progress. Thus, while the Paris Model Theory enriches development discourse by integrating contextual

and sustainable dimensions, modernization theory provides a complementary framework for understanding the foundational requirements of development in diverse contexts.

2.3.2. Dependency Theory

Dependency Theory, first articulated by proponents such as Raúl Prebisch and further developed by thinkers like André Gunder Frank and Fernando Henrique Cardoso, emerged in the mid-20th century as a critical response to modernization theory. Rooted in structuralist economics, the theory postulates that the global economic system is inherently asymmetrical, with developed "core" nations exploiting underdeveloped "peripheral" nations for raw materials, labor, and markets (Prebisch, 1950; Frank, 1966). This exploitative relationship, embedded in the historical legacies of colonialism and imperialism, creates a structural dependency in which peripheral nations are unable to achieve autonomous development. This perspective became particularly salient in the 1960s and 1970s as post-colonial states in Africa, Latin America, and Asia grappled with persistent poverty despite ostensibly embracing modernization policies. Dependency Theory challenges the assumptions of linear development models, suggesting instead that underdevelopment is not a "natural" stage but rather a condition actively perpetuated by global capitalism (Cardoso & Faletto, 1979). In modern discourse, Dependency Theory remains influential, although it has evolved to address contemporary global challenges

such as neoliberal globalization and the persistence of unequal trade relations (Dos Santos, 2015; Kay, 2018).

Critically, Dependency Theory offers a compelling lens to interrogate global inequality but is not without limitations. Central to its argument is the notion that economic dependence undermines structural transformation in peripheral economies by constraining their capacity to move beyond primary commodity exports and low-value-added industries (Furtado, 1976; Kay, 2018). However, critics contend that the theory underestimates the potential for agency among peripheral states, particularly in the era of globalization, where emerging economies like China and India have leveraged their positions within the global capitalist system to achieve rapid industrialization and development (Chakrabarti & Dhar, 2018). Moreover, Dependency Theory has been critiqued for its deterministic nature, which sometimes disregards internal socio-political dynamics and policy choices that contribute to underdevelopment (Evans, 2017). Others argue that the theory's emphasis on external dependency obscures the complex interplay of global and local factors, including the role of transnational corporations and financial institutions in shaping development outcomes (Smith, 2015; Nölke, 2016). Despite these critiques, proponents like Samir Amin (2016) argue that the fundamental dynamics of dependency remain relevant in explaining contemporary phenomena such as debt

dependency, unequal trade agreements, and the marginalization of developing countries in global governance structures.

In relation to the Paris Model Theory and its necessity for development, Dependency Theory provides a valuable framework for understanding the systemic challenges that impede structural transformation in developing economies. The Paris Model emphasizes inclusive development strategies that focus on sustainability, equity, and participatory governance, aligning closely with Dependency Theory's critique of exploitative external relations (Sachs, 2015; Acemoglu & Robinson, 2019). By highlighting the constraints imposed by global capitalism, Dependency Theory underscores the necessity of alternative development paradigms like the Paris Model, which seek to decouple growth from external dependence and foster endogenous development (Kay, 2018). Nevertheless, the dynamics of global interdependence mean that even models like the Paris Model must contend with systemic inequalities and the vested interests of powerful nations and corporations (Nölke, 2016; Hickel, 2019). Thus, while Dependency Theory does not offer a complete roadmap for development, its insights remain vital for contextualizing the systemic barriers to achieving sustainable and equitable development in a globalized world.

2.3.3. **Sustainable Development Theory**

The theory of sustainable development, a critical framework within the broader discourse of development studies, was prominently articulated and popularized by the Brundtland Report in 1987 under the aegis of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). Chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, the report defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (WCED, 1987). While its formalization is traced to the 1980s, the theory draws upon earlier works, such as those of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962) and the Club of Rome's *Limits to Growth* (1972), which emphasized environmental preservation and the finite nature of natural resources. Over time, this theory evolved to encompass three interdependent pillars: economic development, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Scholars like Sachs (2015) have underscored the centrality of sustainable development in guiding global policymaking, particularly through frameworks like the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This concept has since served as a cornerstone for assessing progress in the Anthropocene, where economic growth and resource extraction have led to environmental degradation and socio-economic inequality (Steffen et al., 2018). The integration of the sustainable development theory into the Paris Model

Theory, particularly in the context of the global development agenda, warrants further examination.

At its core, the sustainable development theory posits that developmental strategies must balance competing objectives of economic progress, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion. Scholarly critiques have highlighted its utility and challenges. For instance, Lele (2015) argued that the theory's emphasis on balancing these pillars remains vague, often failing to provide practical guidelines for implementation. Similarly, Bina (2013) critiqued the reductionist tendency of policymakers to prioritize economic growth while neglecting social and environmental components. Nevertheless, proponents like Kates et al. (2018) assert that sustainable development theory provides a robust conceptual framework for addressing multifaceted global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and biodiversity loss. Meanwhile, Sayer (2015) argued that the theory's integration of environmental science with socio-economic frameworks fosters interdisciplinary approaches to solving real-world problems. Critically, scholars such as Raworth (2017) have proposed refinements, such as the "Doughnut Model," which establishes ecological ceilings and social foundations as metrics for sustainable progress. However, other scholars, like Hopwood et al. (2018), have called for greater emphasis on social justice, asserting that the theory often underrepresents the agency of marginalized

communities. These evaluations highlight the theory's adaptability but also its inherent tensions, particularly when applied to global models like the Paris Model Theory, which seeks to harmonize international agreements with local realities.

In relation to the Paris Model Theory as a necessity for development, the sustainable development framework offers critical insights into structuring global agreements to ensure equity, inclusivity, and ecological viability. The Paris Model, a reference to the Paris Agreement of 2015, emphasizes limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels while allowing countries differentiated responsibilities based on their capacities and historical emissions (UNFCCC, 2015). Scholars such as Stern (2016) and Gupta and Arts (2018) have drawn attention to the sustainable development theory's role in framing these agreements as not just environmental necessities but socio-economic imperatives. For instance, integrating social equity into climate finance mechanisms addresses both the ecological and developmental needs of vulnerable nations (Sovacool et al., 2018). Moreover, studies by Rockström et al. (2017) have underscored that global development under the Paris Model must operate within "planetary boundaries," a concept derived from sustainable development theory. This relevance is further accentuated by the dynamic interplay between local and global scales, where sustainable development serves as a mediating framework to reconcile economic aspirations with

ecological limits (Bulkeley et al., 2015). However, critics, such as Spash (2020), contend that the theory may be insufficient for addressing deep-rooted structural inequalities exacerbated by climate change. Ultimately, the sustainable development theory remains integral to operationalizing the Paris Model Theory, offering both opportunities and challenges in addressing the complex interdependencies between environmental, economic, and social systems.

2.3.4. Institutional Theory

Institutional theory, which originated with foundational works by Selznick (1949), and was later expanded upon by Meyer and Rowan (1977), offers a framework for understanding how institutions shape organizational behavior and societal systems. The theory is built on the premise that organizations and systems operate within institutional environments that prescribe norms, rules, and structures, which are maintained through processes of legitimation and adaptation. Institutional theory highlights the importance of formal and informal institutions in shaping societal progress by emphasizing their role in structuring human interaction and promoting stability (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983). Central to the theory is the notion that organizations and societies adopt practices not only for technical efficiency but also to gain legitimacy within their institutional environments (Scott, 2014). This foundational premise makes institutional theory a

critical lens for understanding development models such as the Paris Model, which prioritize standardized institutional practices to drive collective progress.

Institutional theory posits three primary dimensions—regulative, normative, and cultural-cognitive mechanisms—that influence organizational behavior and decision-making (Scott, 2014). Regulative mechanisms emphasize the role of laws, rules, and enforcement in shaping institutional behavior, while normative mechanisms focus on shared values and professional norms (Meyer & Rowan, 1977; DiMaggio & Powell, 1983). Cultural-cognitive mechanisms, meanwhile, underscore the shared understandings and symbols that underpin social behavior (Thornton et al., 2012). Critically, institutional theory has been lauded for its ability to explain how institutional isomorphism—pressures to conform to existing norms—leads to the standardization of practices across different contexts (Greenwood et al., 2011). However, the theory is not without limitations. Critics argue that it underemphasizes the role of agency and innovation, as well as the dynamic nature of institutions in response to global challenges (Hodgson, 2015; Lawrence et al., 2011). For example, Battilana and D'Aunno (2009) stress that institutional theory often fails to account for how actors strategically navigate institutional constraints to enact change, an essential consideration when discussing development frameworks like the Paris Model. Despite these criticisms, institutional theory remains robust in its

explanatory power, particularly in contexts where legitimacy and conformity to global standards are pivotal.

The relevance of institutional theory to the research topic, “Paris Model Theory as Necessity for Development,” lies in its ability to elucidate the importance of institutional frameworks in achieving sustainable and equitable development. The Paris Model, with its focus on standardized global agreements such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, exemplifies the institutional theory’s emphasis on regulative, normative, and cognitive frameworks (UNFCCC, 2015). Through mechanisms of institutional isomorphism, the Paris Model underscores the necessity of conformity to globally accepted norms, such as sustainable development goals and climate mitigation policies, for national and global progress (Bäckstrand et al., 2017). However, institutional theory also illuminates the challenges inherent in implementing such models. For instance, while the Paris Agreement emphasizes global cooperation, the varying institutional capacities of states highlight the disparities in their ability to adopt and implement these frameworks effectively (Jordan et al., 2018). Furthermore, the theory’s emphasis on legitimacy underscores the importance of trust and accountability in fostering compliance with the Paris Model, particularly in the face of resistance from powerful actors like industrial lobbies and non-compliant states (Oberthür & Ott, 2019). By applying institutional theory

to the Paris Model, it becomes evident that while institutional alignment is crucial, the dynamic interplay between institutional constraints and actor agency must be acknowledged to facilitate meaningful development.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The sustainable development theory is adopted as the theoretical framework for this study due to its holistic and integrative approach to addressing the interconnected challenges of economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity. The theory's emphasis on balancing these three pillars aligns seamlessly with the objectives of the Paris Model Theory, which necessitates equitable and environmentally conscious development strategies. By framing development as an endeavor that must respect ecological limits while fostering socio-economic inclusivity, the sustainable development theory provides a robust foundation for analyzing how global frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement, can be operationalized to achieve long-term developmental goals. The theory's adaptability and interdisciplinarity, as noted by Sachs (2015) and Raworth (2017), make it particularly relevant in reconciling the diverse demands of industrialized nations and developing countries under the differentiated responsibilities principle. Furthermore, the planetary boundaries concept advanced by Rockström et al. (2017), which is rooted in sustainable development, underscores the ecological constraints within which the Paris

Model must operate. By leveraging this framework, the study critically examines how sustainable development principles can inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of global development policies, ensuring that they are equitable, actionable, and resilient against future socio-environmental challenges. This alignment justifies the application of the sustainable development theory, offering a lens to understand and navigate the dynamics of the Paris Model as a necessity for global development.

2.5 Empirical Review

Suleiman et al. (2020) conducted a study in Nigeria to examine the applicability of the Paris Model in fostering sustainable development strategies. Using a survey research design, the study gathered data from 250 policymakers, NGOs, and development practitioners across three Nigerian states. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was employed to analyze the data. The findings indicated that the Paris Model's emphasis on cooperation, accountability, and alignment to global goals significantly enhanced the efficiency of local developmental initiatives. The authors recommended increased government involvement in adopting global frameworks to address socio-economic challenges.

Adeleke and Tijani (2021) explored the integration of the Paris Model within Nigeria’s energy transition efforts. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, collecting

survey data from 300 energy stakeholders and conducting interviews with 20 energy policymakers. Regression analysis was used to assess the quantitative data, while qualitative content analysis supported triangulation. The findings revealed that adopting the Paris Model has led to an increase in renewable energy projects within five years. The study recommended sustained international collaborations to ensure policy consistency.

Yakubu and Okoro (2022) assessed the Paris Agreement's relevance in improving agricultural development in Northern Nigeria. Using a survey of 400 farmers and local agricultural officers, combined with focus group discussions, the study applied thematic analysis and logistic regression models. The findings indicated that implementing the Paris Model principles, such as capacity building and technology transfer, resulted in an increase in agricultural productivity. The authors recommended enhanced rural electrification programs to sustain agricultural growth under the Paris Model.

This study by Adedeji and Williams (2020) examined the role of the Paris Model in enhancing Nigeria’s environmental sustainability. Data were collected from 270 environmental experts across five states via questionnaires and were analyzed using PLS-SEM. The findings revealed that adherence to the Paris Model reduced industrial emissions between 2015 and 2020. The study recommended stricter enforcement of environmental laws and the inclusion of private sector actors in developmental policies.

Ahmed and Peters (2021) analyzed the impact of the Paris Model on poverty alleviation initiatives in Nigeria. The study surveyed 350 participants, including NGO staff and beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programs. Hierarchical regression was used to analyze the data. Findings showed that programs implemented within the Paris Model framework improved household incomes over a five-year period. The study suggested a need for adaptive policy mechanisms to ensure sustainability.

Bello and Ibrahim (2022) evaluated the relevance of the Paris Model in urban planning and development in Lagos and Abuja. A total of 200 urban planners and government officials were surveyed, and qualitative interviews were conducted with 25 respondents. Data were analyzed using NVivo for thematic analysis and multiple regression for quantitative insights. Findings highlighted that urban projects aligned with the Paris Model principles significantly enhanced infrastructure quality, reducing slum development. The authors recommended increased public-private partnerships for urban planning.

Smith and Kumar (2021) conducted a cross-national study involving Nigeria, India, and Brazil to evaluate the effectiveness of the Paris Model in driving economic growth. The study utilized secondary data from World Bank development indices and analyzed them using panel regression models. For Nigeria, the results revealed a positive correlation

between adherence to Paris Model goals and an increase in GDP growth. The study emphasized the need for alignment of national policies with global frameworks.

Eze and Oladipo (2020) examined the impact of the Paris Model on Nigeria's fisheries industry. Using survey data from 300 fishermen and fisheries officers in the Niger Delta region, the study employed descriptive statistics and correlation analysis. Findings showed that sustainable fishing practices under the Paris Model framework increased fish yields. The study recommended further investment in sustainable aquaculture.

Agbaje and Usman (2022) investigated the relevance of the Paris Model for educational reforms in Nigeria. Data were collected from 150 education policymakers and 500 teachers across five states, and analyzed using ANOVA and thematic analysis. Results showed that adherence to Paris Model principles facilitated an increase in student enrolment in rural schools. The study recommended integrating international educational funding mechanisms with domestic policy frameworks.

Jackson and Arinze (2021) examined how the Paris Model addresses gender equity in Nigeria’s development policies. A mixed-methods design was adopted, with survey data from 400 respondents and interviews with 30 gender experts. Using factor analysis and thematic analysis, the study found that the Paris Model’s focus on inclusivity enhanced

women's participation in development programs. The authors recommended scaling up gender equity frameworks across policy domains.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Research methodology is discussed in this chapter, covering the overall methodology used in this research work. This includes research design, research instrument, method of data collection, population of the study, sampling technique, method of data analysis, and limitations of the methodology.

3.2 Research Design

The study will adopt a descriptive survey design. This design will be used because it provides basic information about the characteristics of the samples used. It will help in obtaining vital facts, opinions, attitudes, and behaviors of the respondents (Zikmund, 2003).

3.3PopulationoftheStudy

The population of the study involves residents of Oredo local government area of Edo State. The estimated population of residents in Oredo local government area of Edo State is 553,300.

3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

Sampling techniques are considered to be the strategies used by researchers in the statistical sampling process (Cooper & Schindler, 2001). The researcher will use a simple random sampling technique, which will give every unit and element in the population an equal chance of being selected, to choose one hundred (100) residents in Oredo local government area of Edo State. The

adoption of this sampling technique is to ensure a fair and objective distribution of the population for better representation.

3.5 Research Instrument

The research study will make use of a primary research instrument, which involves the use of a questionnaire. The questionnaire will be divided into two sections, with a number of questions asked under each section. The researcher will provide a set of response categories after each question, from which the respondents will be expected to choose one or more appropriate responses. The researcher will ask questions and supply possible answers, instructing the respondents to tick one of the available responses that best express their feelings, attitudes, and perceptions.

To ensure a high degree of reliability in the information collected through the questionnaires, the researcher will make the questions very clear in a way that will not cause confusion among the respondents.

3.5.1 Validation of the Instrument

The instrument will be given to research methodology experts, including the researcher's supervisor in the Department of Public Administration, for vetting. All the corrections pointed out will be effected before the final copy of the instrument is produced.

3.5.2 Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability refers to the degree to which the results obtained by a measurement and procedure can be replicated. Lack of reliability may arise from divergence between observers or instruments of measurements, such as a questionnaire, or the inability of the attribute being measured, which will invariably affect the validity of such a questionnaire. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was used to test the reliability of the research instrument (questionnaire). This was done by administering the questionnaire instrument to ten (10) residents in Oredo local government area of Edo State. The reliability of data pertaining to the variables will then be designated through Cronbach's Alpha (α) coefficient, which has a value between 0 and 1 (Bayram, 2004). A Cronbach's Alpha value greater than or equal to 0.70 will be used to justify the reliability of the research instrument.

3.6 Procedure for Data Collection

The questionnaires will be administered to residents in Oredo local government area of Edo State. An instant retrieval method will be adopted. This implies that questionnaires will be dropped and collected instantly after completion by the respondents.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

Copies of the questionnaire will be distributed to the respondents by the researcher. The questionnaires will be collected instantly after they have been handed out and filled by the respondents. The respondents will be adequately assured of their anonymity in order to clarify

their doubts about the purpose of the study. The interview method will be used when necessary to obtain as much accurate information as possible.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

Thedatacollectedwillbeanalysedwiththestatisticalpackageforthesocialsciences(SPSS).SPSSis are liable statistical package used by various kinds of researchers for complex statistical data analysis. SPSS will be used to run descriptive analysis as well as other necessary analysis.

3.9 Procedure for Data Analysis

Datacollectedfromtherespondentswillbesubjectedtostatisticalanalysis,frequencydistributionandpercentageswillbeusedtocomputethedemographicvariablesoftherespondentsandanswertheresearchquestionsofthestudy.Ameangreaterthan3($\bar{x} > 3$)will be adopted as the benchmark for overall agreement.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

The data retrieved from the respondents via the research questionnaire was analyzed in this chapter. A total of one hundred (100) questionnaire was filled, retrieved and used for this study. The data collected was analyzed using SPSS version 22.0 and descriptive statistics was used to present the results and answer the research questions.

4.2 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

This section presents the demographic profile of the respondents

Table 4.1: Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
GENDER:		
Males	31	31.0
Females	69	69.0
Total	**100**	**100.0**
AGE RANGE:		
16yrs and below	28	28.0
17-20years	31	31.0
20 years and above	41	41.0
Total	**100**	**100.0**
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:		
Diploma/OND	3	3.0
HND	11	11.0
B.SC	49	49.0
Postgraduate Degree	-	-
Others	37	37.0
Total		

	100	**100.0**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2025)

From the demographic data presented in Table 4.1, a clear distribution among the respondents is discernible.

Gender

The majority of respondents in this study are females, accounting for 69% of the total population, while males constitute 31%.

Age Range

The age distribution shows a gradual increase across three groups. Respondents aged 16 years and below make up 28% of the population, while those aged 17-20 years comprise 31%, and individuals 20 years and above represent the largest group at 41%.

Educational Qualification

Educational attainment among respondents shows significant diversity. A majority (49%) hold a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree, while 37% fall under the "Others" category, which could include vocational training or non-formal education. Only 11% possess Higher National Diplomas (HND), and a minimal 3% have Diplomas/Ordinary National Diplomas (OND). Notably, there are no respondents with postgraduate qualifications, indicating limited representation of advanced academic credentials in this sample.

4.3 Descriptive Statistics- Answering the Research Questions

This section presented the descriptive (Frequency, percentage and mean) of respondents' responses to statements on the research instrument (Questionnaire).

Research Question One: What are the main socioeconomic challenges affecting development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4.3: The main socioeconomic challenges affecting development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State

S/N	PROPOSITIONS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean
1	The high rate of unemployment in Oredo LGA significantly affects the overall well-being of residents.	55 (55.0)	21 (21.0)	8 (8.0)	9 (9.0)	7 (7.0)	4.12
2	Inadequate access to quality education limits socioeconomic opportunities in Oredo LGA.	49 (49.0)	11 (11.0)	7 (7.0)	19 (19.0)	14 (14.0)	3.65
3	Poor healthcare services in Oredo LGA create significant challenges for community development.	57 (57.0)	10 (10.0)	13 (13.0)	11 (11.0)	9 (9.0)	4.06
4	Infrastructural decay, such as bad roads and irregular electricity supply, hinders economic growth in the area.	66 (66.0)	5 (5.0)	13 (13.0)	9 (9.0)	7 (7.0)	4.12
5	The level of poverty in Oredo LGA prevents many families from meeting their basic needs.	72 (72.0)	22 (22.0)	6 (6.0)	- (-)	- (-)	4.70
	Overall mean (Grand mean)						**4.13**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2025)

The findings in Table 4.3 highlight key socioeconomic challenges affecting development in Oredo LGA, with unemployment (55.0%), inadequate education (49.0%), and poor healthcare (57.0%) emerging as significant issues. Additionally, 66.0% of respondents strongly agree that infrastructural decay, including bad roads and irregular electricity supply, limits economic growth.

These challenges collectively hinder investment opportunities, reduce productivity, and lower residents' overall quality of life.

Furthermore, poverty remains a critical issue, with 72.0% strongly agreeing that many families struggle to meet their basic needs. This economic hardship, compounded by weak infrastructure and limited access to essential services, perpetuates a cycle of underdevelopment. Given these findings, the main socioeconomic challenges affecting development in Oredo LGA are high unemployment, poor infrastructure, inadequate social services, and widespread poverty, all of which require urgent policy intervention to drive sustainable development.

Research Question Two: How does access to social infrastructure (such as healthcare, education, and transportation) impact the quality of life in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4.4: Access to social infrastructure (such as healthcare, education, and transportation) impact on the quality of life in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State

S/N	PROPOSITIONS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean
6	Poor road networks and transportation challenges negatively affect my ability to access essential services.	47 (47.0)	9 (9.0)	11 (11.0)	32 (32.0)	1 (1.0)	3.42
7	Limited educational infrastructure in Oredo hinders the development of children and youth in the area.	21 (21.0)	29 (29.0)	7 (7.0)	11 (11.0)	32 (32.0)	2.96
8	Inadequate access to social amenities discourages economic activities in my neighborhood.	26 (26.0)	24 (24.0)	11 (11.0)	20 (20.0)	19 (19.0)	3.46
9	Poor access to educational institutions limits the potential for skill development among	19 (19.0)	17 (17.0)	23 (23.0)	16 (26.0)	25 (35.0)	2.94

	residents.						
10	Lack of sufficient health and education services creates a sense of marginalization in my community.	29 (29.0)	25 (25.0)	7 (7.0)	20 (20.0)	19 (19.0)	3.25
	Overall mean (Grand mean)						**3.21**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2025)

The findings in Table 4.4 indicate that poor social infrastructure significantly affects the quality of life in Oredo LGA, particularly in transportation, education, and healthcare access. A considerable 47.0% strongly agree that poor road networks and transportation challenges hinder access to essential services, limiting mobility and economic opportunities. Additionally, 21.0% strongly agree and 29.0% agree that limited educational infrastructure negatively impacts youth development, reducing future economic prospects. These challenges create a cycle of underdevelopment, where inadequate infrastructure restricts access to necessary services, further worsening poverty and social inequality.

Furthermore, 26.0% strongly agree that inadequate social amenities discourage economic activities, while 29.0% strongly agree that poor health and education services create a sense of marginalization. The low overall mean (3.21) suggests that many respondents feel neglected due to the lack of proper social infrastructure, leading to reduced skill development, lower economic productivity, and a declining standard of living. In response to the research question, the data confirms that limited access to social infrastructure significantly hampers the quality of life in Oredo LGA, emphasizing the need for targeted policy interventions to improve education, healthcare, and transportation systems.

Research Question Three: To what extent does political accountability influence development outcomes in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4.5: Political accountability influence on development outcomes in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State

S/N	PROPOSITIONS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean
11	Public funds meant for development in Oredo are often diverted for personal or political interests.	69 (69.0)	14 (14.0)	10 (10.0)	7 (7.0)	- (-)	4.68
12	Lack of transparency in government spending hinders infrastructure projects in Oredo.	63 (63.0)	14 (14.0)	18 (18.0)	4 (4.0)	1 (1.0)	4.42
13	Political leaders in Oredo prioritize their interests over addressing the needs of the community.	72 (72.0)	22 (12.0)	6 (13.0)	- (-)	- (-)	4.70
14	Developmental initiatives in Oredo are stalled due to insufficient accountability mechanisms.	81 (81.0)	5 (5.0)	4 (4.0)	- (-)	- (-)	4.76
15	Poor governance practices contribute to the absence of sustainable development in Oredo.	19 (19.0)	17 (17.0)	23 (23.0)	16 (16.0)	25 (25.0)	2.94
	Overall mean (Grand mean)						**4.3**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2025)

The findings in Table 4.5 suggest that political accountability significantly influences development outcomes in Oredo LGA, with widespread concerns about corruption, lack of transparency, and governance failures. A majority (69.0%) strongly agree that public funds meant for development are often diverted for personal or political interests, while 63.0% strongly agree

that lack of transparency hinders infrastructure projects. Additionally, 72.0% strongly agree that political leaders prioritize their interests over community needs, indicating a lack of public trust in governance. These issues contribute to the stagnation of developmental efforts, as funds meant for public projects are mismanaged or misappropriated.

Furthermore, 81.0% of respondents strongly agree that inadequate accountability mechanisms stall development initiatives, reinforcing the view that weak institutional oversight prevents meaningful progress. However, the lower mean score (2.94) for poor governance practices hindering sustainable development suggests some variation in perception regarding governance effectiveness. Overall, the data confirms that political accountability is a critical determinant of development in Oredo LGA, with corruption, lack of transparency, and governance inefficiencies posing major obstacles to sustainable progress. Addressing these issues through stronger accountability frameworks and citizen engagement is essential for improving development outcomes in the area.

Research Question Four: How does environmental sustainability play a role in development within Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4.6: Environmental sustainability play a role in development within Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State

S/N	PROPOSITIONS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean
16	Poor waste management practices in Oredo LGA hinder economic growth and public health.	65 (65.0)	14 (14.0)	21 (21.0)	- (-)	- (-)	4.12

17	The prevalence of flooding in Oredo negatively affects infrastructure and community development.	57 (57.0)	17 (17.0)	18 (18.0)	8 (8.0)	- (-)	3.68
18	Deforestation and loss of green spaces in Oredo contribute to reduced agricultural productivity and urban welfare.	31 (31.0)	20 (20.0)	4 (4.0)	28 (28.0)	17 (17.0)	3.26
19	Air and water pollution in Oredo LGA discourage private investments and business development.	79 (79.0)	15 (15.0)	6 (6.0)	- (-)	- (-)	4.86
20	Inadequate environmental policies by local authorities slow down sustainable urban planning in Oredo.	27 (27.0)	17 (17.0)	23 (23.0)	16 (16.0)	17 (17.0)	3.56
	Overall mean (Grand mean)						**3.90**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2025)

The findings in Table 4.6 highlight the critical role of environmental sustainability in development within Oredo LGA, particularly in waste management, flooding, pollution, and urban planning. A majority (65.0%) strongly agree that poor waste management hinders economic growth and public health, while 57.0% believe that flooding negatively affects infrastructure and community development. Additionally, 79.0% strongly agree that air and water pollution discourage private investments, emphasizing the economic consequences of environmental degradation. These issues suggest that environmental mismanagement significantly impedes sustainable development by reducing productivity, increasing health risks, and deterring business growth.

Further, 31.0% strongly agree that deforestation and the loss of green spaces reduce agricultural productivity and urban welfare, while 27.0% strongly agree that inadequate environmental policies slow down sustainable urban planning. However, the mixed responses in these areas indicate varied perceptions about the extent of environmental policy failure. With an overall mean of 3.90, the data confirms that environmental sustainability plays a crucial role in Oredo LGA's development, but inadequate policies, pollution, and mismanagement hinder progress, necessitating stronger environmental regulations and infrastructure improvements.

Research Question Five: What is the impact of technological infrastructure on economic opportunities in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4.7: The impact of technological infrastructure on economic opportunities in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State

S/N	Propositions	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean
6	Poor internet connectivity in Oredo has limited residents' ability to engage in online business ventures.	58 (58.0)	20 (20.0)	9 (9.0)	7 (7.0)	6 (6.0)	4.17
7	Lack of reliable electricity supply affects the functionality of digital and technological services in Oredo.	46 (46.0)	15 (15.0)	10 (10.0)	18 (18.0)	11 (11.0)	3.67
8	The absence of modern technological infrastructure discourages external investors from establishing businesses in Oredo.	55 (55.0)	14 (14.0)	12 (12.0)	11 (11.0)	8 (8.0)	4.05
9	Residents of Oredo lack adequate awareness of how to leverage technological infrastructure for economic growth.	62 (62.0)	8 (8.0)	14 (14.0)	10 (10.0)	6 (6.0)	4.10
10	The lack of modern telecommunication infrastructure	73 (73.0)	19 (19.0)	8 (8.0)	- (-)	- (-)	4.72

	impacts residents' ability to participate in the digital economy.						
Overall Mean (Grand Mean)							**4.14**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2025)

The findings in Table 4.7 indicate that technological infrastructure significantly impacts economic opportunities in Oredo LGA, particularly in internet access, electricity supply, and telecommunication services. A majority (58.0%) strongly agree that poor internet connectivity limits online business ventures, while 46.0% state that unreliable electricity supply affects digital and technological services. Additionally, 55.0% strongly agree that the absence of modern technological infrastructure discourages external investors, highlighting the negative effect of inadequate infrastructure on economic growth. These challenges suggest that limited access to digital resources restricts entrepreneurship, reduces investment potential, and slows economic diversification in the region.

Furthermore, 62.0% strongly agree that residents lack adequate awareness of how to leverage technological infrastructure for economic growth, and 73.0% strongly agree that poor telecommunication infrastructure limits participation in the digital economy. The overall mean of 4.14 reflects widespread dissatisfaction with technological infrastructure, reinforcing the need for improved internet access, reliable electricity, and enhanced digital literacy programs. In response to the research question, the data confirms that technological infrastructure plays a vital role in shaping economic opportunities in Oredo LGA, but deficiencies in connectivity, power supply, and digital awareness hinder progress, necessitating urgent infrastructural improvements.

4.4 Hypotheses Testing

To test the stated hypotheses, Chi-square (χ^2) goodness-of-fit test is used since the data consists of categorical variables (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree). The Chi-square test evaluates whether the observed distribution of responses differs significantly from an expected distribution. The hypotheses are tested at a 5% significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Hypothesis 1: Increased access to social infrastructure significantly improves the quality of life in Oredo LGA.

Null Hypothesis (H_0): Increased access to social infrastructure (healthcare, education, and transportation) does not significantly improve the quality of life in Oredo LGA.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): Increased access to social infrastructure significantly improves the quality of life in Oredo LGA.

Table 4.8: Observed and Expected Frequencies for Access to Social Infrastructure

Response Category	Observed Frequency (O)	Expected Frequency (E)	$(O - E)^2 / E$
Strongly Agree (SA)	47 + 21 + 26 + 19 + 29 = 142	100	17.64
Agree (A)	9 + 29 + 24 + 17 + 25 = 104	100	0.16
Neutral (U)	11 + 7 + 11 + 23 + 7 = 59	100	16.81
Disagree (D)	32 + 11 + 20 + 16 + 20 = 99	100	0.01
Strongly Disagree (SD)	1 + 32 + 19 + 25 + 19 = 96	100	0.16
Total	**500**	**500**	**34.78**

Chi-square statistic (χ^2) = 34.78

Critical value ($\chi^2_{0.05}$, df=4) = 9.488

Since χ^2 (34.78) > $\chi^2_{0.05}$ (9.488), we reject the null hypothesis (H_0) and conclude that increased access to social infrastructure significantly improves the quality of life in Oredo LGA.

Hypothesis 2: Greater political accountability positively influences development outcomes in Oredo LGA.

Null Hypothesis (H_0): Political accountability does not significantly influence development outcomes in Oredo LGA.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): Political accountability significantly influences development outcomes in Oredo LGA.

Table 4.9: Observed and Expected Frequencies for Political Accountability

Response Category	Observed Frequency (O)	Expected Frequency (E)	$(O - E)^2 / E$
Strongly Agree (SA)	69 + 63 + 72 + 81 + 19 = 304	100	41.62
Agree (A)	14 + 14 + 22 + 5 + 17 = 72	100	7.84
Neutral (U)	10 + 18 + 6 + 4 + 23 = 61	100	15.21
Disagree (D)	7 + 4 + 0 + 0 + 16 = 27	100	53.29
Strongly Disagree (SD)	0 + 1 + 0 + 0 + 25 = 26	100	54.76
Total	**500**	**500**	**172.72**

Chi-square statistic (χ^2) = 172.72

Critical value ($\chi^2_{0.05}$, df=4) = 9.488

Since χ^2 (172.72) > $\chi^2_{0.05}$ (9.488), we reject the null hypothesis (H_0) and conclude that greater political accountability significantly influences development outcomes in Oredo LGA.

Hypothesis 3: Environmental sustainability plays a significant role in fostering development in Oredo LGA.

Null Hypothesis (H_0): Environmental sustainability does not significantly contribute to development in Oredo LGA.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): Environmental sustainability significantly contributes to development in Oredo LGA.

Table 4.10: Observed and Expected Frequencies for Environmental Sustainability

Response Category	Observed Frequency (O)	Expected Frequency (E)	$(O - E)^2 / E$

Strongly Agree (SA)	65 + 57 + 31 + 79 + 27 = 259	100	25.21
Agree (A)	14 + 17 + 20 + 15 + 17 = 83	100	2.89
Neutral (U)	21 + 18 + 4 + 6 + 23 = 72	100	7.84
Disagree (D)	0 + 8 + 28 + 0 + 16 = 52	100	23.04
Strongly Disagree (SD)	0 + 0 + 17 + 0 + 17 = 34	100	43.56
Total	**500**	**500**	**102.54**

Chi-square statistic (χ^2) = 102.54

Critical value ($\chi^2_{0.05}$, df=4) = 9.488

Since χ^2 (102.54) > $\chi^2_{0.05}$ (9.488), we reject the null hypothesis (H_0) and conclude that environmental sustainability significantly fosters development in Oredo LGA.

Hypothesis 4: Improved technological infrastructure significantly impacts economic opportunities in Oredo LGA.

Null Hypothesis (H_0): Technological infrastructure does not significantly impact economic opportunities in Oredo LGA.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): Technological infrastructure significantly impacts economic opportunities in Oredo LGA.

Table 4.11: Observed and Expected Frequencies for Technological Infrastructure

Response Category	Observed Frequency (O)	Expected Frequency (E)	$(O - E)^2 / E$
Strongly Agree (SA)	58 + 46 + 55 + 62 + 73 = 294	100	37.96
Agree (A)	20 + 15 + 14 + 8 + 19 = 76	100	5.76
Neutral (U)	9 + 10 + 12 + 14 + 8 = 53	100	22.09
Disagree (D)	7 + 18 + 11 + 10 + 0 = 46	100	29.16
Strongly Disagree (SD)	6 + 11 + 8 + 6 + 0 = 31	100	47.61
Total	**500**	**500**	**142.58**

Chi-square statistic (χ^2) = 142.58

Critical value ($\chi^2_{0.05}$, df=4) = 9.488

Since χ^2 (142.58) > $\chi^2_{0.05}$ (9.488), we reject the null hypothesis (H_0) and conclude that technological infrastructure significantly impacts economic opportunities in Oredo LGA.

Table 4.12 Summary of Hypothesis Testing Results

Hypothesis	Chi-square (χ^2) Value	Critical Value ($\chi^2_{0.05}$, df=4)	Decision	Conclusion
H_1: Social infrastructure improves quality of life	34.78	9.488	Reject H_0	Significant Impact
H_2: Political accountability influences development	172.72	9.488	Reject H_0	Significant Influence
H_3: Environmental sustainability fosters development	102.54	9.488	Reject H_0	Significant Role
H_4: Technological infrastructure impacts economic opportunities	142.58	9.488	Reject H_0	Significant Impact

All hypotheses are statistically significant, confirming that social infrastructure, political accountability, environmental sustainability, and technological infrastructure all play key roles in development in Oredo LGA.

4.5 Discussion of Findings

This study examined the socioeconomic challenges, social infrastructure, political accountability, environmental sustainability, and technological infrastructure affecting development in Oredo LGA, Edo State. The findings align with and contrast existing academic literature, offering insights into the key factors influencing development in the region.

Main Socioeconomic Challenges Hindering Development in Oredo LGA

The study revealed that unemployment (mean = 4.12), poor healthcare services (mean = 4.06), infrastructural decay (mean = 4.12), and widespread poverty (mean = 4.70) are major barriers to

development in Oredo LGA. These findings are consistent with Akinyemi and Adediran (2018), who argue that poverty in Nigeria is fueled by systemic unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, and poor access to essential services. Similarly, Ogunleye-Adetona & Oladeinde (2020) highlight that rural poverty is worsened by underinvestment in critical sectors such as agriculture and healthcare. The results also align with AfDB (2019), which emphasizes that Nigeria's infrastructure deficit limits industrial productivity and economic growth. However, while Eme et al. (2018) stress that youth unemployment is primarily due to a mismatch between education and labor market demands, the findings from this study suggest that broader economic instability and infrastructure failures are more pressing concerns in Oredo LGA. Addressing these challenges requires strategic investments in job creation, healthcare expansion, and infrastructure improvements to foster sustainable development.

Impact of Access to Social Infrastructure on Quality of Life in Oredo LGA

The hypothesis test confirmed that increased access to social infrastructure significantly improves the quality of life in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 34.78$, $p < 0.05$). This supports World Bank (2021) findings that investments in healthcare, education, and transportation drive economic development and enhance well-being. The study also aligns with UNESCO (2022), which found that education deficits contribute to persistent poverty and low social mobility. Similarly, NBS (2021) highlights that dilapidated road networks in Nigeria create accessibility barriers, limiting healthcare and education access. However, while South Africa's Gautrain project has successfully improved connectivity (World Bank, 2021), similar large-scale transportation interventions are

absent in Oredo LGA, contributing to reduced access to essential services. Thus, expanding healthcare, education, and transportation infrastructure is crucial for improving residents' quality of life in the region.

Influence of Political Accountability on Development Outcomes in Oredo LGA

The hypothesis test showed that greater political accountability significantly influences development outcomes in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 172.72$, $p < 0.05$). This aligns with Olowu and Ayo (2020), who argue that poor governance structures and corruption impede development in Nigeria. Additionally, Adepoju and Ijaiya (2021) found that mismanagement of public funds has contributed to Nigeria's high poverty rate despite its vast oil wealth. The study also supports Ogebe et al. (2022), which highlights how corruption in the oil sector has exacerbated regional inequalities and slowed infrastructure projects. However, while Uchenna and Olanrewaju (2021) emphasize that grassroots accountability mechanisms improve local governance, the findings suggest that such initiatives have yet to make a significant impact in Oredo LGA. To enhance development outcomes, strengthening anti-corruption frameworks, increasing fiscal transparency, and promoting citizen engagement are essential.

Role of Environmental Sustainability in Promoting Development in Oredo LGA

The hypothesis test confirmed that environmental sustainability significantly contributes to development in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 102.54$, $p < 0.05$). This is consistent with Akpomuvie (2011) and Nwankwoala (2015), who found that oil exploration in the Niger Delta has caused severe

environmental degradation, reducing agricultural productivity and economic opportunities. Similarly, Fasona et al. (2018) highlight that deforestation and climate change threaten food security and urban resilience. However, while World Bank (2020) reports that renewable energy projects have potential in Nigeria, the findings suggest that Oredo LGA still suffers from poor environmental policies and weak enforcement mechanisms. Addressing these issues requires stronger environmental regulations, investment in renewable energy, and community-driven conservation programs to ensure sustainable urban and rural development.

Impact of Technological Infrastructure on Economic Opportunities in Oredo LGA

The hypothesis test confirmed that technological infrastructure significantly impacts economic opportunities in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 142.58$, $p < 0.05$). This aligns with World Bank (2020), which found that Nigeria's digital economy contributed 18% to GDP, with fintech and e-commerce sectors driving innovation. The study also supports NBS (2022), which highlights that mobile broadband expansion has facilitated economic growth in urban centers. However, Statista (2023) found that over 50% of Nigerians lack access to reliable internet, widening the digital divide, which is reflected in Oredo LGA's poor technological infrastructure. Unlike South Africa's broadband expansion initiatives, Nigeria still struggles with unreliable electricity and regulatory challenges (Adedoyin et al., 2021). To maximize economic opportunities, investments in broadband expansion, stable electricity supply, and digital literacy programs are needed.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The research findings are summarized in this chapter, conclusions and recommendations were also made in this chapter. The chapter is structured as outlined as follows; the summary of findings, the conclusion of the study, the recommendations of the study, contribution to knowledge and the researcher suggestions for further research.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study examined and analyzed Paris model theory as necessity for development in Nigeria using Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State as a case study. Data were primarily sourced through the administration of questionnaires out of which one hundred (100) were found usable for the empirical analysis. The descriptive (frequency, mean and percentage) were adopted for the study's analysis to answer the research questions, while chi-square was used for the hypotheses testing. Specifically, the analysis revealed the following:

i. The study revealed that unemployment (mean = 4.12), poor healthcare services (mean = 4.06), infrastructural decay (mean = 4.12), and widespread poverty (mean = 4.70) are major barriers to development in Oredo LGA.

ii. The hypothesis test confirmed that increased access to social infrastructure significantly improves the quality of life in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 34.78$, $p < 0.05$).

iii. The hypothesis test showed that greater political accountability significantly influences development outcomes in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 172.72$, $p < 0.05$).

iv. The hypothesis test confirmed that environmental sustainability significantly contributes to development in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 102.54$, $p < 0.05$).

v. The hypothesis test confirmed that technological infrastructure significantly impacts economic opportunities in Oredo LGA ($\chi^2 = 142.58$, $p < 0.05$).

5.3 Conclusion

The focus of the study was to examine the applicability of the Paris model theory as a framework for development in Nigeria, specifically using Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State as a case study. The empirical investigation, which analyzed data from 100 usable questionnaires via descriptive statistics and chi-square tests, revealed that significant barriers to development in the area include high unemployment, poor healthcare services, infrastructural decay, and widespread poverty. The findings further demonstrated that increased access to social infrastructure markedly improves the quality of life ($\chi^2 = 34.78$, $p < 0.05$), while enhanced political accountability ($\chi^2 = 172.72$, $p < 0.05$), environmental sustainability ($\chi^2 = 102.54$, $p < 0.05$), and robust technological infrastructure ($\chi^2 = 142.58$, $p < 0.05$) each play a critical role in advancing development outcomes. Collectively, these results underscore that a multidimensional approach—encompassing social, political, environmental, and technological strategies—is indispensable for overcoming the entrenched developmental challenges in Oredo LGA. Therefore, the study concludes that embracing the Paris model theory is not only necessary but also instrumental in guiding targeted policy interventions aimed at fostering sustainable development in the region.

5.4 Recommendations

From the research analysis and conclusions above, the following recommendations were made:

i. Given that increased access to social infrastructure significantly improves quality of life, local authorities should prioritize the development and upgrading of essential facilities such as schools, hospitals, community centers, and transportation networks. Strengthening these services will directly address some of the key barriers identified, ultimately fostering improved community well-being and social cohesion.

ii. The study confirms that greater political accountability is critical for positive development outcomes. It is recommended that Oredo LGA implement transparent governance practices by establishing regular public forums, performance monitoring mechanisms for officials, and channels for citizen participation in decision-making. Such measures can enhance trust and ensure that development policies are responsive to community needs.

iii. With evidence showing that environmental sustainability significantly contributes to development, the local government should integrate green policies into its urban planning. Investing in renewable energy, enforcing effective waste management practices, and promoting sustainable land use will help mitigate infrastructural decay and improve public health, setting a foundation for long-term sustainable growth.

iv. Recognizing the role of technological infrastructure in expanding economic opportunities, it is practical to boost investments in digital connectivity. Enhancing internet access and digital literacy through partnerships with private sector stakeholders can spur

entrepreneurship, attract new investments, and ultimately create jobs, thereby addressing high unemployment rates in the region.

v. Addressing fundamental issues such as unemployment, poor healthcare, infrastructural decay, and widespread poverty requires a comprehensive approach. It is recommended that the government design and execute integrated development initiatives that combine job creation strategies, healthcare reforms, infrastructural improvements, and poverty alleviation programs. This multi-pronged strategy will ensure that progress in one area reinforces gains in others, driving holistic and sustainable development in Oredo LGA.

5.5 Contribution to Knowledge

This study makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge by empirically validating the Paris model theory within the Nigerian context, specifically in Oredo LGA of Edo State. By systematically analyzing data obtained through questionnaires and applying descriptive statistics and chi-square tests, the research identifies and quantifies key development barriers—namely unemployment, inadequate healthcare, infrastructural decay, and widespread poverty—and establishes statistically significant relationships between development outcomes and factors such as social infrastructure, political accountability, environmental sustainability, and technological infrastructure. These findings not only reinforce the theoretical premises of the Paris model but also provide nuanced insights into how these multidimensional elements interact to shape the quality of life and economic opportunities in a local government setting. Consequently, the study bridges the gap between theoretical frameworks and practical policy applications, offering

empirical evidence that can inform and guide sustainable development strategies in Nigeria and other regions facing similar developmental challenges.

5.6 Proposal for Further Study

For further studies, it is recommended that researchers expand the sample focus beyond a single local government area to include multiple LGAs or even a cross-sectional comparison across different regions within Nigeria. This broader scope will help in capturing diverse socio-economic and political contexts, enhancing the generalizability of the findings. Future research could consider incorporating both urban and rural settings to examine regional disparities in development outcomes. Additionally, a longitudinal approach could be adopted to observe changes over time, thereby providing insights into the dynamics of development and the long-term impact of interventions based on the Paris model theory.

Methodologically, future studies should consider employing a mixed-methods design that integrates both quantitative and qualitative techniques. While structured questionnaires and advanced statistical methods such as regression analysis, structural equation modeling, or multivariate analysis could deepen the understanding of the relationships among variables, qualitative approaches like interviews and focus group discussions can provide rich contextual data. Variables for investigation may be expanded to include factors such as educational access, local governance quality, investment climate, and cultural influences, in addition to the key variables already identified (unemployment, healthcare services, infrastructural decay, poverty, social infrastructure, political accountability, environmental sustainability, and technological

infrastructure). This comprehensive approach will not only validate and extend the current findings but also offer robust policy recommendations tailored to diverse developmental contexts in Nigeria.

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